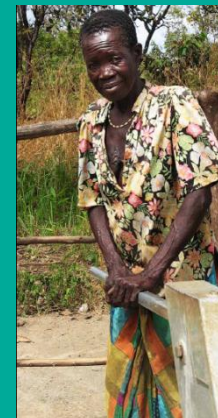


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Walking the Talk – the Impacts of Cash Transfers on Gender Relations

A report commissioned by Oxfam & Concern

Rationale for the Research



- **Trend towards targeting women in CT**
- **Assumptions, not evidence, behind this**
 - **Aligns with women's reproductive role**
 - **Implicit/explicit assumption that men are irresponsible with cash**
 - **Empowerment: cash can improve status of women**



Objectives

- **A. To assess the changes in gender relations within households and in the community, as a result of emergency CT programmes**
- **B. To review the processes followed by agencies in emergency CT programming and analyse their adequacy from a gender perspective**

Location and Context



Indonesia (rural)	Kenya (urban)	Zimbabwe (rural)
Sudden onset – earthquake 2010	Sudden onset – food price rise 2009-10	Protracted crisis – food insecurity 2010
Shelter and basic needs	Food security and basic needs	Food security and basic needs
Not empowerment	Not empowerment	Not empowerment
One-off CT (\$84-168) plus community grant	Monthly CT (~\$6) 8-12 months	Monthly CT (~\$6.5) 5 months
6000 (women)	5000 (mostly women)	19000 (women)
Gender analysis	No gender analysis	No gender analysis
Blanket coverage	Vulnerability criteria & random checks	CBT
Delivered in envelopes	Mobile money transfer	Delivered in envelopes



Methodology

- **Qualitative approach**
 - **Interviews: Staff, partners, key informants**
 - **Focus group discussions: Men; women; joint**
 - **Literature review**

Findings

A. To assess the changes in gender relations within households and in the community, as a result of emergency CT programmes



Positive Social Impacts

- **Many at HH level:**
 - **Reduced HH tension**
 - **Self esteem for women unused to cash**
 - **Acceptance by men of women's capability**
 - **Reduced negative coping**

IT ADDED TO LOVE
IN THE HOUSEHOLD
(MALE RESPONDENT,
ZIMBABWE)

SOME MEN ARE
CONSULTING
THEIR WOMEN ON
HOW TO SPEND
INCOME FROM
OTHER SOURCES'
(FEMALE
BENEFICIARY,
ZIMBABWE)

Limitations



- **Positive impacts do not equal ‘empowerment’**
- **Delivering cash in this way cements gender stereotypes**
 - **Promoted as means for women to perform their traditional roles**
 - **Kenya: Short term ‘hand out’ accepted v larger transfers contested by men**

**WE WERE WORRIED
WOMEN WOULD
BECOME THE
HOUSEHOLD
HEAD...**

**IT IS NOT
HAPPENING. WE
ARE USED
TO IT NOW.**

**(MALE FOCUS
GROUP
DISCUSSION,
ZIMBABWE)**



Negative Impacts - Community



- **Community disempowerment – this limits legitimacy and potential of CT**
 - **Non-sharing**
 - **Jealousy**
 - **Potential damaging effect on traditional coping mechanisms**

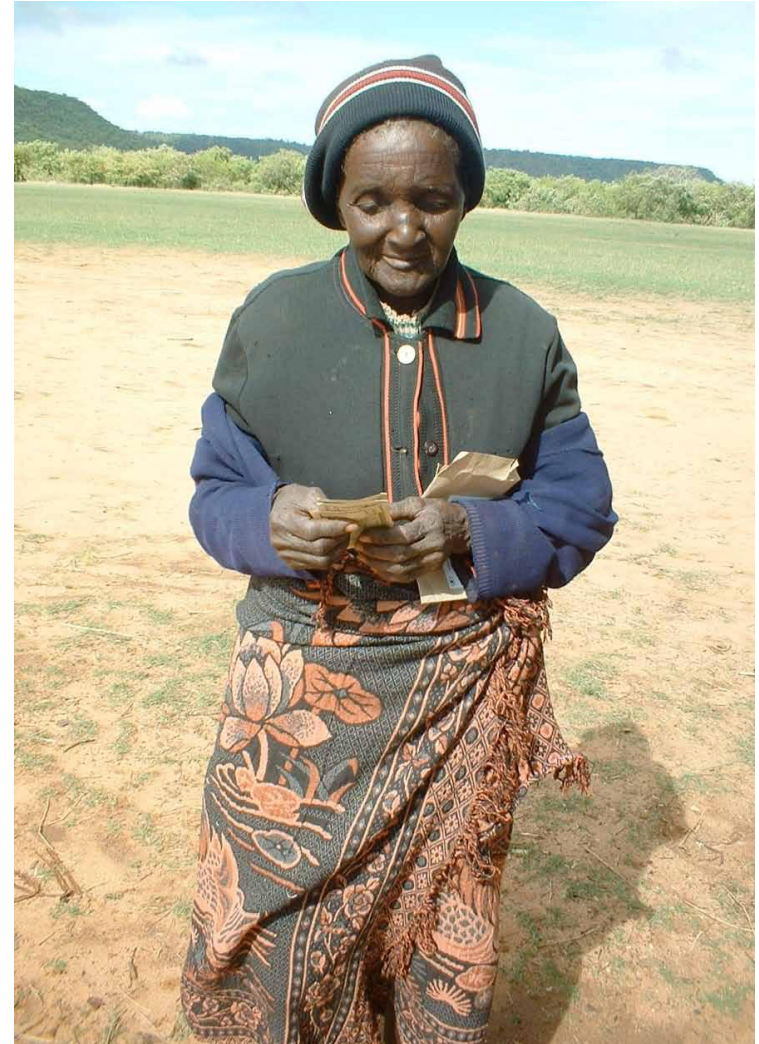
IF ONE CO-WIFE IS RECEIVING AND OTHERS NOT IT WOULD CAUSE A LOT OF PROBLEMS. USUALLY CASH IS NOT SHARED BETWEEN WIVES.

(FEMALE BENEFICIARY, ZIMBABWE)



Lessons

- **B. To review the processes followed by agencies in emergency CT programming and analyse their adequacy from a gender perspective**



1: Design Excludes Men

- **Potentially reinforcing women's reproductive role**
- **BUT danger of legitimising men not fulfilling their productive role or sharing responsibility for HH welfare**

WE WERE TOLD BY STAFF THAT MEN ARE IRRESPONSIBLE AND HAVE MANY THINGS THEY SPEND MONEY ON THAT DO NOT BENEFIT THE HH.

WE DON'T KNOW WHY CONCERN PREFERS WOMEN. WE WERE EVEN WORRIED ABOUT WHY THEY DO.

(MALE RESPONDENTS, ZIMBABWE)

2: Agency Gender Commitments not Followed Through



- **Lack of understanding at field level**
 - **Meaning of ‘gender’ and ‘empowerment’**
 - **Rationale for targeting women**
- **Lack of buy in to these concepts**
 - **‘empowerment’ was non-controversial only when seen as supporting women to perform their HH roles”.**



3: Flawed Logic of Rationale

- **Many women still defer to men on expenditure decisions**
- **Men not irresponsible**
- **Not removing the power relationship – women must find ways to hold onto cash**

SOME MEN CAME TO DELIVERY POINTS DEMANDING TO GET THEIR SHARE.

SOMETIMES WE WERE FORCED TO GIVE A DOLLAR OR SO, SO WE COULD GO

(FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION, ZIMBABWE)

4: Gender Impacts not Evaluated

- **The assumed ‘benefits’ to women from the receipt of the cash are not followed through to analysis in the log frame**
- **A gendered approach has social implications: should be monitoring ‘do no harm’ at least**

Recommendations: Practitioners



- **Operationalise commitment to gender**
- **Gender analysis in contingency planning**
- **Targeting rationale: Clarity (staff; partner; men); based on FACTS**
- **Realistic: Efficiency > Structural change**
- **Evaluate ALL assumed benefits (at very least do no harm)**



Recommendations: Donors



- **Admirable intention to acknowledge cross cutting issues but need to have realism in short term, ER programmes:**
 - **Do no harm > positive impact**
- **Make real your commitment:**
 - **Go beyond 'box ticking'**
 - **Demand/fund social analysis**



Thank You



- **Paper available on Oxfam and Concern Worldwide websites from 9th May 2011**
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