

Case Study B

This case focuses on how cash-based interventions (CBIs) can contribute to protection outcomes – preventing and mitigating child protection risks – when embedded within a comprehensive program including other activities and services.

There are 600,000+ registered Barian refugees in Celestia. They have fled conflict in neighboring Baria. 85% of refugees are living in host communities. 30% are female-headed households. Barian refugees do not have the legal right to work. Humanitarian aid covers only a small portion of their needs, and many seek to earn income illegally in Celestia.

Your response agency is responsible for protection assistance to 5,000 Barian families in a major city in Celestia, displaced from the conflict in Baria.

You are considering CBIs as part of a child protection response program.

You've conducted an assessment on child protection amongst Barian refugees. Protection monitoring reports have indicated that early marriage for girls, an issue even before the conflict, has increased. Interviews with Barian refugees indicate that families are concerned about unmarried girls becoming targets of abuse, or are driven by economic hardship. Child labour and school drop-outs is an issue for both girls and boys, with most cases being economically driven, but there are some instances of boys and male youth aspiring to support their families and work alongside older male family members.

Colleagues from Celestia confirm that child labour and early marriage are also an issue amongst the poorer segments of the local population.

The intervention being considered consists of a cash transfer, child protection case management and discussion groups with men, women, girls and boys -- but resources are limited. The objective is to increase women and children's safety and reduce negative coping mechanisms. Your agency would like to use cash to reduce school dropouts, early marriage and child labour.

A market study has yet to be undertaken to determine the preferred delivery mechanism – cash, electronic card, mobile phone, etc.

The major donor in the area is pushing your agency to lead a one-time, one-rate (same amount to all) cash transfer to all asylum-seekers and refugees that are female-headed or include school-age girls.