

MENA Regional Cash Technical Forum CVA for Child Protection Outcomes



July 31st, 2024

Agenda

I. Objective

II. Scope & Methodology

III. Deep dive into 2 case study

- Egypt
- Lebanon

IV. General findings across countries

- Intra-household dynamics
- Child labor
- Family Separation
- School drop-out
- Child marriage

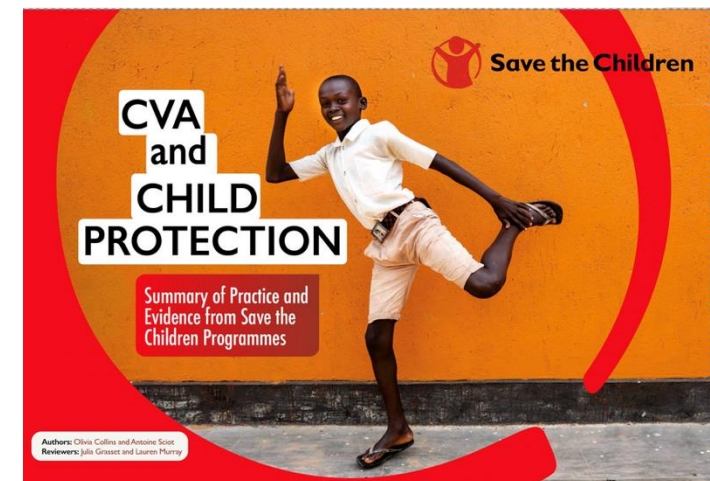
V. Key Take Aways & Recommendations



Objectives

- Assess and highlight the **impact** that different forms of CVA have on Child Protection (CP) outcomes
- Identify **evidence gaps**
- Document **best programmatic practices**

This is the second report of a series of evidence gathering reports on CVA and CP ([link](#) to first report)



Scope & methodology

The analysis has been conducted on three different types of programs:



CVA programs with no complementary CP activities



CVA programs with complementary activities (Cash +), such as CP activities, MHPSS, nutrition or livelihoods provided to some or all CVA recipients



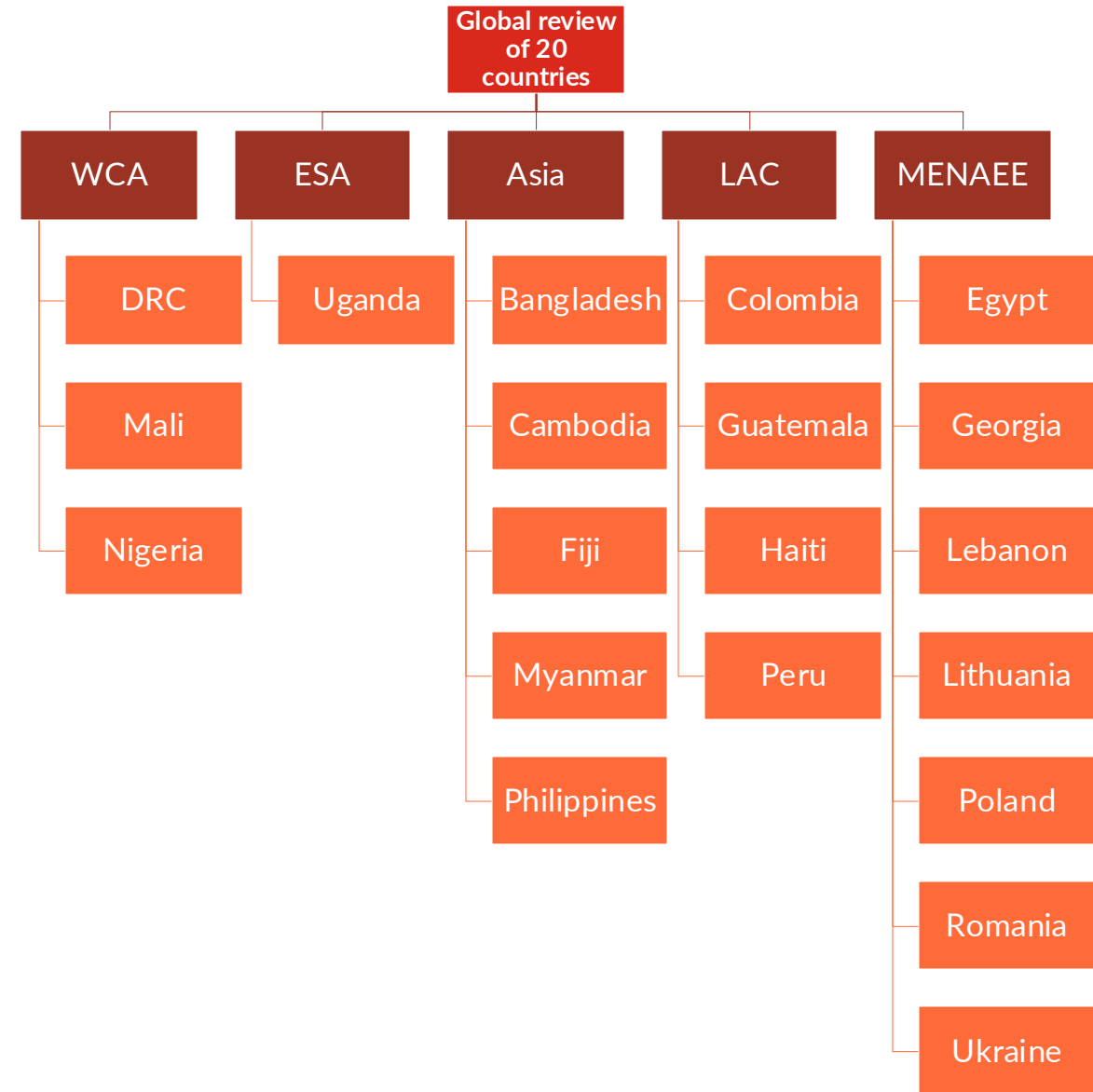
CVA programs integrated with CP (i.e. CVA for Protection), where CVA was integrated into CP activities, with a primary CP objective

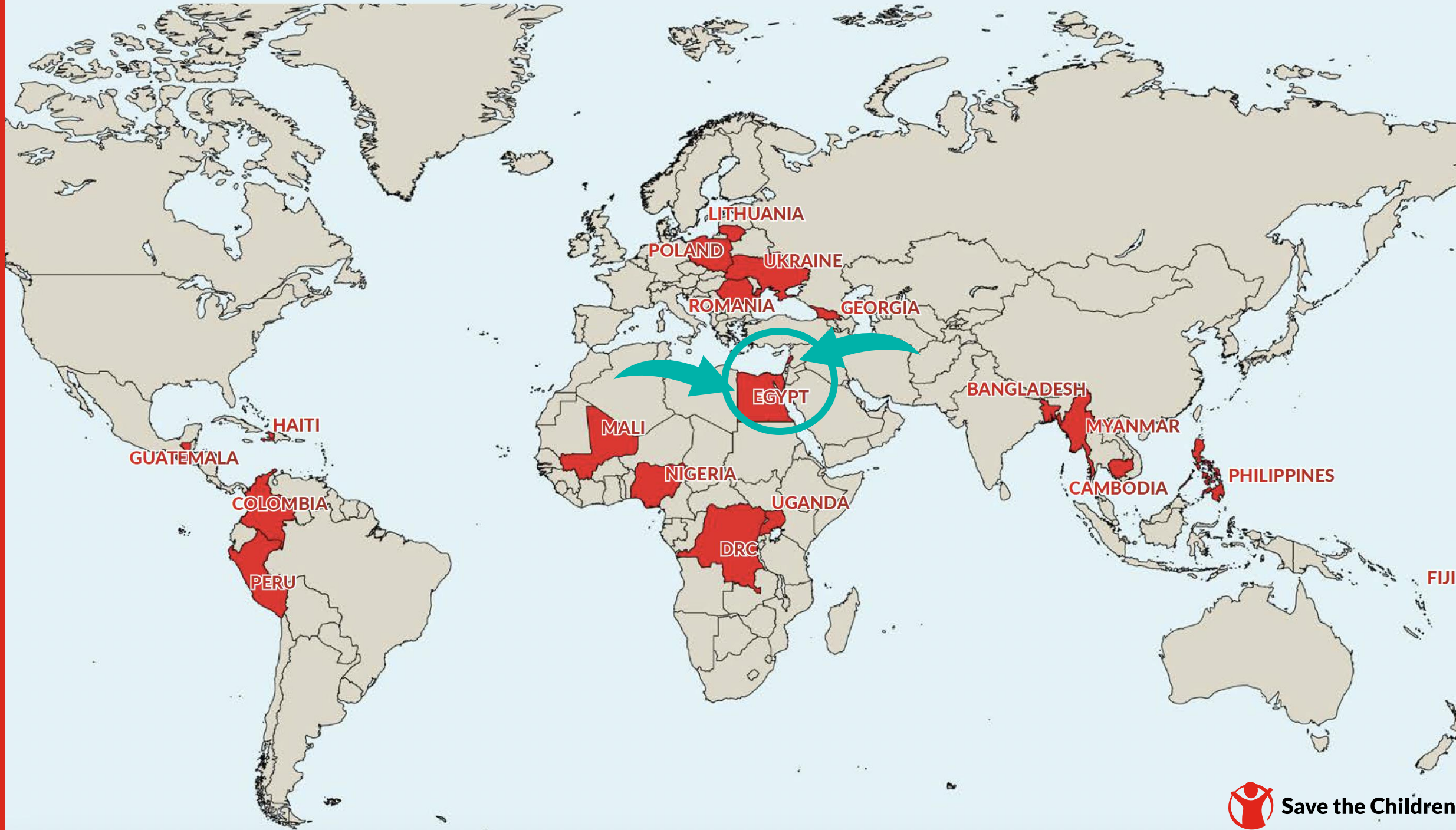
Review of 20 programs that were completed, on-going, or that had recently started

Scope & Methodology

For each case study, the report presents:

- **Programme design:** how CVA program design intended to contribute to child protection outcomes, in conjunction with other forms of assistance
- **CVA delivery and protection mainstreaming:** how potential child protection risks, linked to the delivery of CVA, are mitigated against
- **Emerging evidence:** what does monitoring data show so far?





Overall Key Findings

	% CHANGE*	BANGLADESH	CAMBODIA	COLOMBIA RESEARCH	DRC	EGYPT	FIJI	GEORGIA	GUATEMALA 2022-2023	GUATEMALA 2023-2024	HAITI	LEBANON RESEARCH	LEBANON	LITHUANIA	MALI	MYANMAR	NIGERIA	PERU PHASE 1	PERU PHASE 2	PHILIPPINES	POLAND	ROMANIA	UGANDA	UKRAINE
CHILD LABOUR	77%																							
SCHOOL DROPOUTS	67%																							
CHILD WELL-BEING	100%																							
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	94%																							
HOUSEHOLD WELBEING	98%																							
SENSE OF SAFETY (CHILD)	75%																							
FAMILY SEPARATION	56%																							
CHILD MARRIAGE	75%																							
CAAFAG	50%																							



EGYPT

—

Case Study



Implementation & MEAL timeline



Total project cost

\$100,000

* Mobile money to cash-out over the counter

Unconditional
-
Unrestricted

Total cash distributed



\$89,194

To

Total beneficiaries



229 HHs

Via



Cash in hand/ Mobile money*

Delivery mechanism

5 cash transfers for 4 months - up to \$221/ 3 weeks /HH4

March 2023

Sept. 2023

Previous CVA project



Case management



Basic budget management
(Money Matters toolkit)

Baseline
209 HHs
+ FGD+KII
March 2023

PDMs
310 HHs in total
July - Sept. 2023

x3

Endline
135 HHs
+ FGD+KII
Sept. 2023

Follow-up
78 HHs
+ FGD+KII
Nov. 2023

The findings showcased on these pages should be read while considering Egypt's recent economy crisis, characterized by double digit inflation rates and a massive currency devaluation that considerably reduced the purchasing power of the general populations during the project implementation while further constraining the capacities of already vulnerable households to cover their most essential needs.

Children under 14 or 15 old

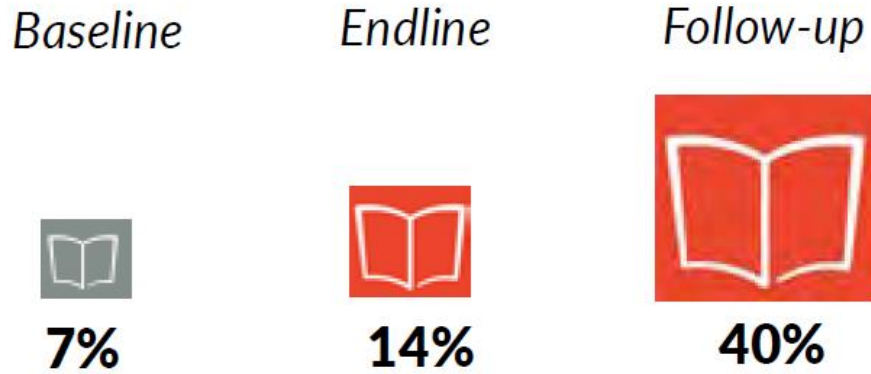
	Baseline	Endline	Follow-up
% of households reporting children under 14 years old having to work in the last 30 days			
UASC respondents	2%	1%	2%
Caregiver respondents	24%	8%	12%
% of households who report relying on their children's (under 15 years old) income to cover the household basic needs			
Both respondents	61%	25%	44%

Children between 14-15 and 18 years old

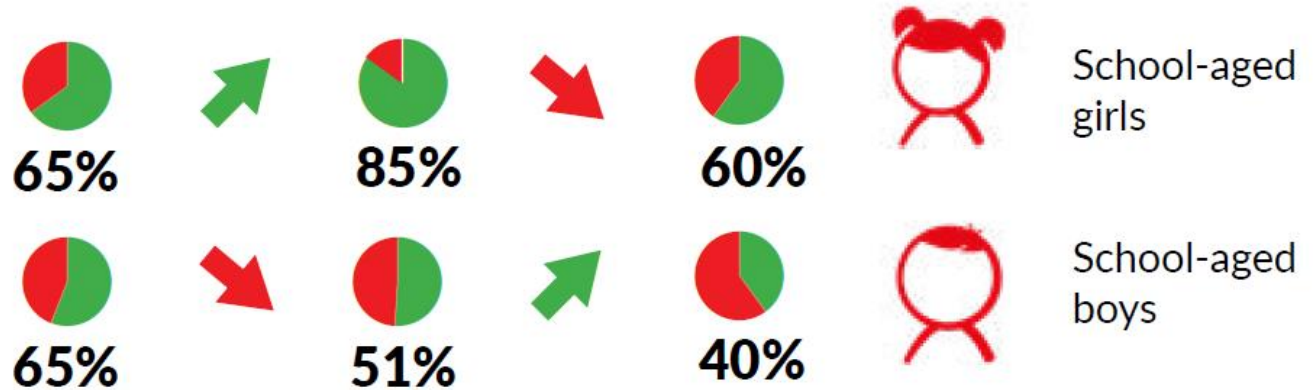
	Baseline	Endline	Follow-up
% of households reporting children between 14 & 18 years old having to work in the last 30 days			
UASC respondents	35%	24%	43%
Caregiver respondents	54%	56%	80%
% of households who report relying on their children's (between 15 and 18 years old) income to cover the household basic needs			
Both respondents	63%	56%	92%

SCHOOL DROPOUTS

% of households reporting having taken their children out of school in the last 30 days **increased from:**



% of households where all the children are registered to school or in a training program **fluctuated from:**



88% of parents and caregivers who did not have to withdraw children from school over the last month acknowledged that the CVA helped children stay in school either by reducing the number of hours they had to work (32%) or by covering the school fees (38%) or materials (18%)

EFFECT ON HOUSEHOLD

47%

reported a **significant improvement on their children's safety** (0% in follow-up)

62%

reported that their **children's well-being improved a lot** in comparison to before the cash (0% in follow-up)

Family separation

At endline, **all households reported that they had the same number of children** as 3 months ago. 66% of them also declared that the CVA helped all children stay with the household, explaining that the assistance made the whole family feel safer.



LEBANON – Case Study




Implementation & MEAL timeline


Unconditional
-
Unrestricted



6 monthly cash transfers - \$87/ monthly/ HH on a rolling basis



 CVA + CP intervention group

 CP only comparison group

Baseline
253 HHs

Rolling basis - April 2022 / Feb 2023

Endline
253 HHs

Rolling basis - Oct. 2022 / Oct. 2023



CP only
comparison group



CVA + CP intervention
group

CHILD LABOUR

*Households reporting
children engaged in income
generating activities*



10%



4%



16%



10%

*Average age when child/ren
starting working*

8,4 y.o.

Baseline

8,5 y.o.

Endline

10,4

Baseline

10,6

Endline



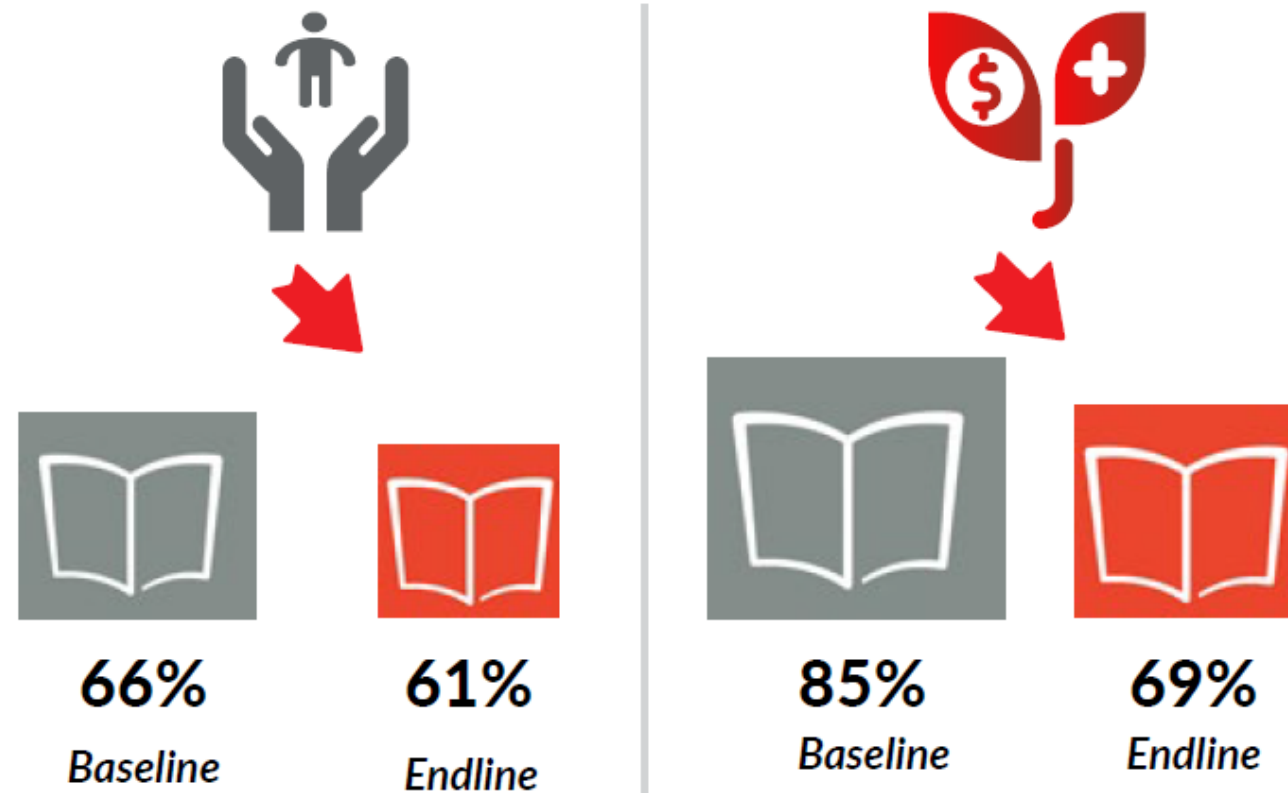
CP only
comparison group



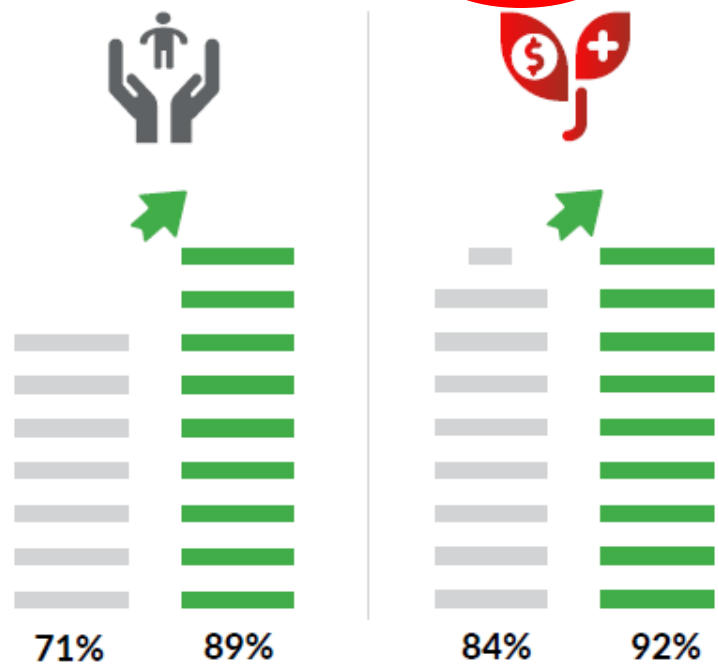
CVA + CP intervention
group

CHILD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

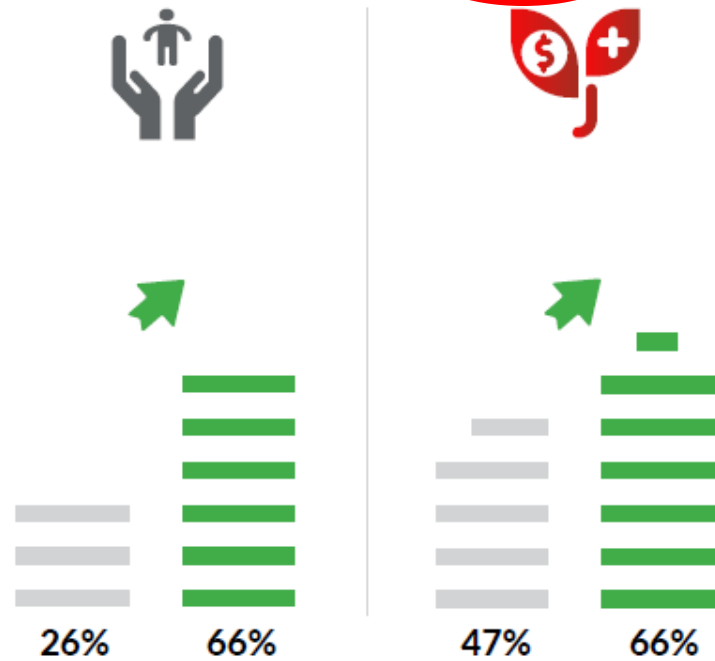
*% of households reporting
children attending school /
education program*



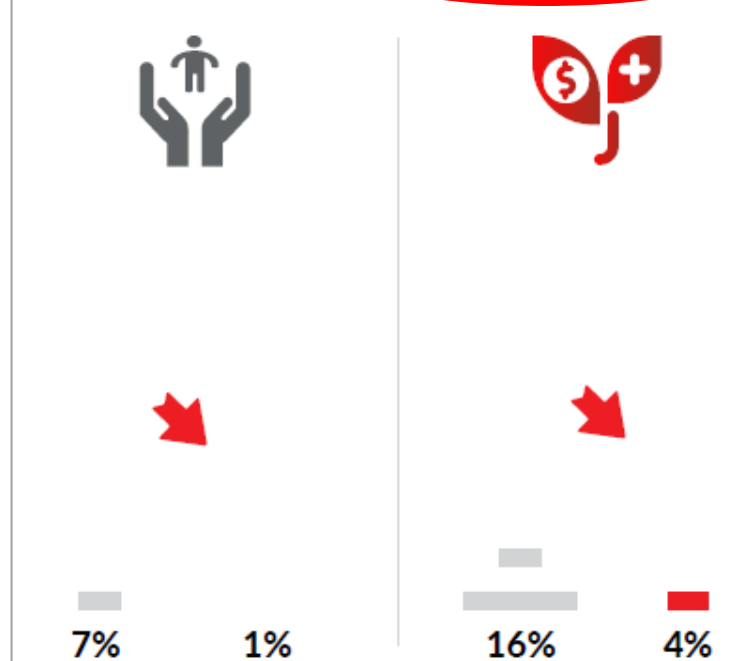
% of households reporting that their children are safe **at home**



% of households reporting that their children are safe **at school**



% of households reporting that their children are safe **in their community**



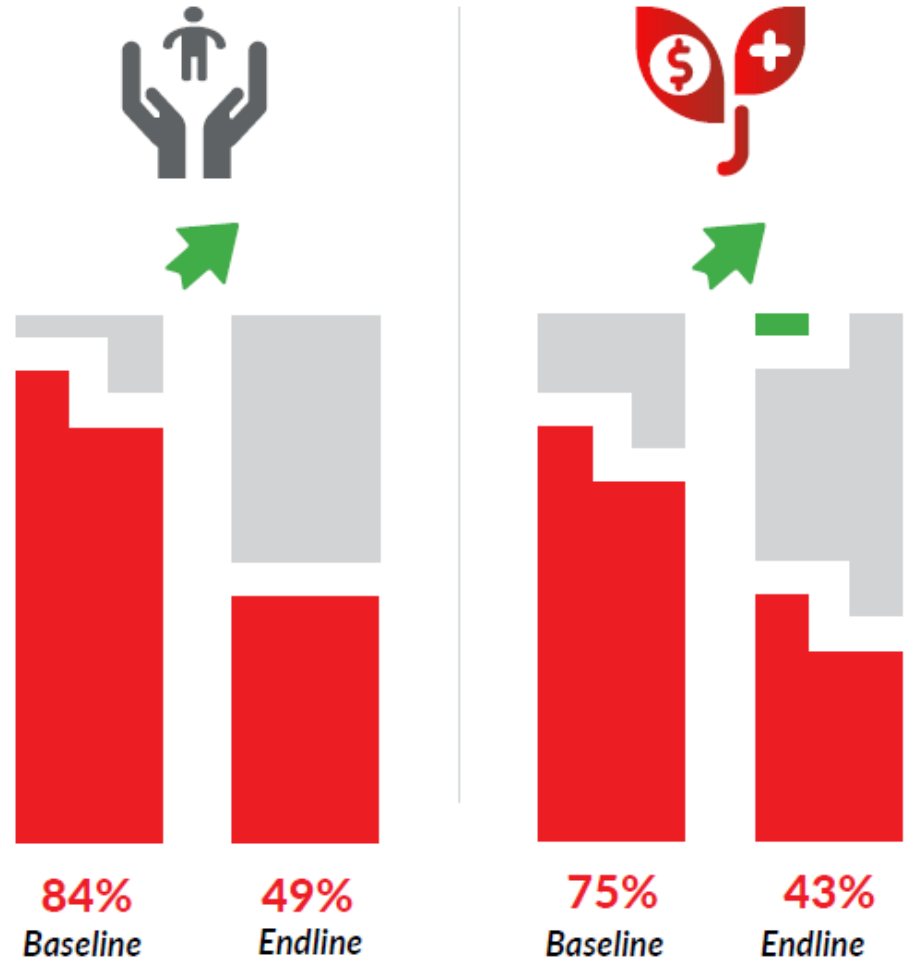
Very poor or poor (###%)

Average

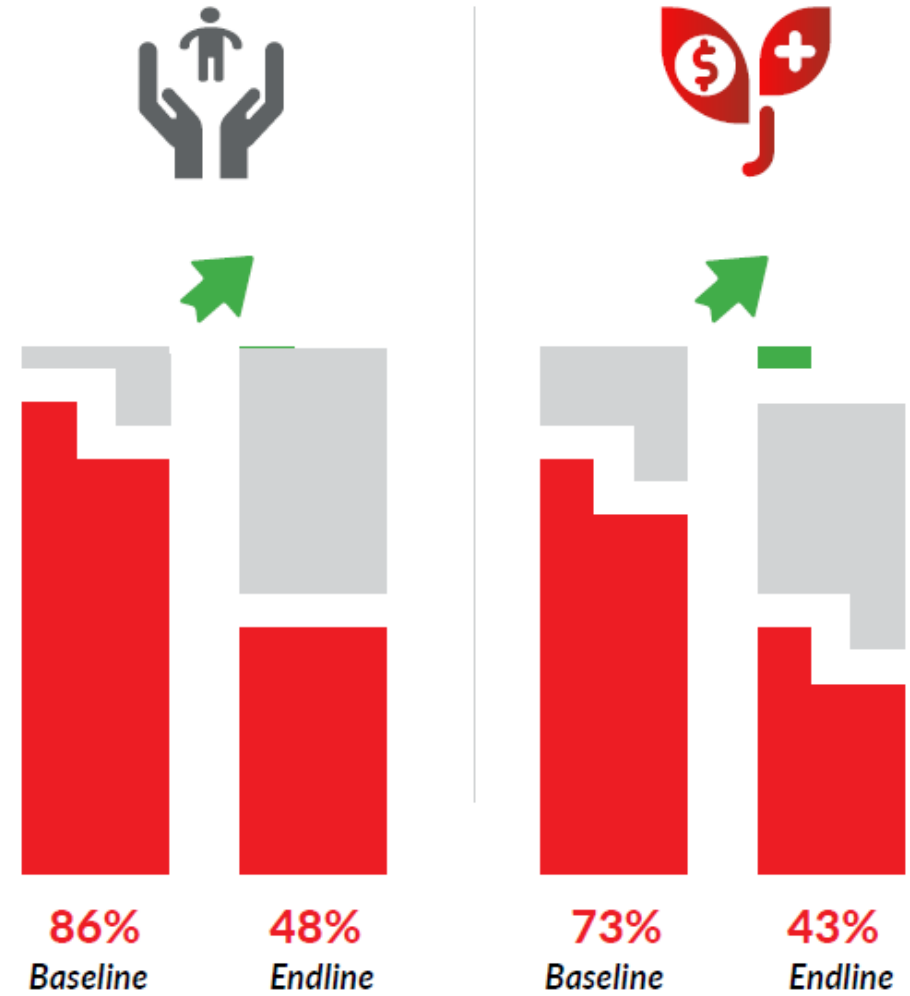
Good or very good

EFFECT ON SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

General well-being of children



General well-being of household



Very poor or poor (###%)

Average

Good or very good

Overall analysis



Key Findings on intra-household dynamics



CVA can have **unintended multiplier effects** on intra-household dynamics that positively impact child protection outcomes

Child well-being

CVA had a positive in all countries where it was measured (7 countries)

Family Relationships

CVA had a positive in all countries where it was measured (12 countries; 1 neutral)

Household well-being

CVA had a positive in all countries where it was measured (10 countries)

Cambodia: levels of stress and tensions within the household reduced from 36% to 1%;

DRC: 90% of households reported a decrease in violence against children and 88% a decrease in child neglect at community level;

Colombia: program participants having received CVA as a complement to child protection interventions experienced greater improvements on their children's safety in schools and in their community compared to those having participated in child protection interventions only or having received CVA only.

Egypt: 47% reported a significant improvement on their children's safety and 62% on children's well-being by the end of the CVA program;

Lithuania: 75% of households reported that the CVA improved relations/reduced tensions between family members. All the 13 monitored signs of child distress within the household in Lithuania decreased from baseline to endline and 8 of them were still below baseline levels two months after the end of the assistance.

Key Findings on Child Labor

➔ CVA reduced risks of child labor in almost all contexts where it was measured (11 out of 13 countries)

Bangladesh

Child labor rates decreasing **fivefold**

Nigeria, DRC, Colombia, Uganda and Egypt

Child labor rates decreasing up to **twofold**

Guatemala, Lebanon, Peru and Georgia

Child labor rates **decreased significantly**

Cambodia

% of HH reporting a lack of money as the reason children had to work reduced **from 100% to 54%**

➔ Child labor primarily affects boys rather than girls

Key Findings on School Dropout

➔ Significant decrease in the majority of projects

% of HH reporting child dropping out in the previous 30 days

DRC	Philippines	Guatemala	Haiti	Uganda
from 60% to 24%	from 20% to 5%	from 12% to 3%	from 29% to 6%	from 6% to 1%

➔ Child withdrawal from school primarily due to a **lack of financial resources**

➔ In countries where school dropout rates did not decrease (I.e. Peru, Egypt or Lebanon) the primary reasons were **seasonal** (data collected during summer holidays) or were linked to **exogenous factors** (economic crisis or shock throughout the implementation)

Key findings continued

Child marriage: When designed for intentional protection outcomes, combined with CP case management, **CVA had a positive impact** on the reduction of the risk of child marriage (in Philippines, and DRC to a lesser extent). Further interventions such as **social behavioural change** and **longer duration of cash assistance** may further increase impact. Further research is recommended to define the most effective response modalities.

CAAFAG: **The risk of recruitment into armed groups/armed forces** (only measured in the DRC) has been perceived by the large majority of households as having **decreased since the CVA became integrated into child protection case management**. 80% of households reported that child recruitment decreased since the start of the project, and the % of households reporting that child recruitment is very frequent in their community reduced from 30% at baseline to 8% three months after the last cash disbursement;

Family Separation: Many households across contexts reported that the **cash assistance played a part in preventing family separation**. CVA also contributed positively to a number of **cases of family reunification**. Child separation from caregiver decreased from 14% to 1% across 2 years in Cambodia

Child well-being: CVA contributed to **reducing risks of violence against children**, by positively impacting **household relationships**, decreasing the level of **stress**, and improving the **psychosocial well-being** of children and caregivers.

The feeling of children safety has **improved** in the vast majority of case studies where it was measured.

Key Take-Aways

There is a **direct correlation between the ability to meet basic needs and reductions in child protection risks.**

CVA amounts and duration directly impact on CP outcomes ; **Intentionally designed CVA programs** (transfer value meeting basic needs as well as specific protection risks) directly and positively impact child protection outcomes.

CVA is particularly effective when delivered **in a complementary manner** (Cash+)

Even programs that were not explicitly designed to address child protection outcomes saw positive effects within the timeframe of humanitarian response.

CVA is majoritarily **spent on children**

Key recommendations

Contextualize CVA project design and **tailor** CVA interventions based on the findings from the situation analysis

Deliver **CVA as a complement** to other interventions, such as livelihoods, to address complex CP issues

Recognize the **unique needs of different demographics** and adapt the program accordingly

Transfer value should be calculated to address specific risks identified and include protection services:

- refrain from using a 'standard' MEB not adapted to the context
- consider including expenses related to shelter, education (including school fees, supplies, uniforms and transportation to school), health and WASH etc.
- Include a 'child protection top-up' to the amount calculated for basic needs coverage
- Consider a livelihoods top-up for more sustainability

Consider the **sustainability and minimal length/amount** of the assistance to ensure that positive outcomes are maintained beyond the project duration: plan for sustainable exit strategies, consider options to build the community resilience and ensure that project duration and amount of assistance is sufficient and is adjusted to the rise in prices (i.e. hyper inflation)

MEAL: ALMOST SYSTEMATICALLY INTEGRATE CP INDICATORS as even programs that were not explicitly designed to address child protection outcomes saw positive effects within the timeframe of humanitarian response

Improve CP indicators to measure the aforementioned and other CP risks better and more consistently as this is critical to building the evidence base



Thank you !

Any Questions ?