

# Gender - Responsive Cash-Based Intervention



In 2020, Bangladesh faced a double disaster – Cyclone and COVID-19

with Khulna and Satkhira districts amongst the hardest hit. Thousands of families lost their livelihoods and incomes overnight.

While the government provided direct assistance to those affected,

**Many Women  
And Girls  
Fell Through  
The Cracks**



At the onset of the pandemic, UN Women expanded the group of NGOs that it worked with and created

**The Gender  
Monitoring  
Network  
(GMN)**

a network of 28 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's rights organizations.

**Identify Those  
Most in Need  
of Assistance**

Organizations from the Gender Monitoring Network supported UN Women in identifying vulnerable groups of women and girls including transgender and sex workers, for unconditional cash assistance. Those of whom lost their livelihoods during the pandemic.



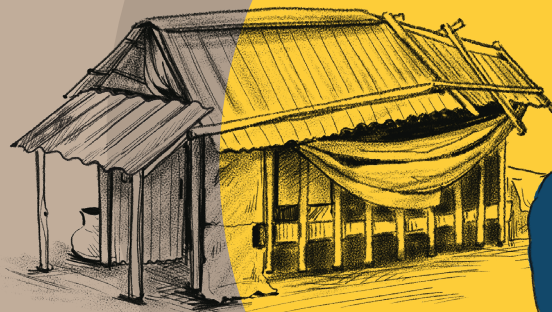
**Safe and Secure  
Digital Transfer**

Money was transferred digitally through mobile banking. This ensures transactions are secure and transparent, while beneficiaries could remain at home to avoid mass gathering.

**Ensuring  
Women's  
Access**

After the cash transfer, volunteers would call the beneficiaries or visit them at home to check if they had received the money.

Along with cash assistance, beneficiaries also received COVID preparedness messages via sms, posters, leaflets and door-to-door visits.



**Cash-for-Work  
Assistance**

Apart from Unconditional Cash grants, UN Women also provided Cash-for-work assistance to returnee women migrants for their work in mask production and emergency COVID health and hygiene kit packing.



**Economically  
Independent  
through Skills Training**

UN Women in partnership with local civil society organizations is also providing various skills trainings to survivors of violence to help them become economically independent.

Participants of skills training are provided with a 'cash grant' and financial literacy knowledge as well as placed in a suitable job after successful completion of trainings.



I lost everything to the Cyclone and the pandemic. I used to earn BDT 700-900 (9-11 USD) per day running a small tea stall next to my home.

I used the cash support from UN Women to buy household essentials and kitchen utensils. I want to build back what I had.

**I am taking baby-steps and will not give up my dream to be self-employed and empowered again.**



**Easing  
The Strain**

When I received the money I cried tears of joy because now I could take my children to the market and buy something for them with the money earned from packing hygiene kits.