

Cash Transfers and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Low- and Middle-Income Settings

A Joint Research Agenda to Inform Policy and Practice

The Cash Transfer & IPV Research Collaborative and Innovations for Poverty Action, with input from the research and practice community¹

1. Motivation and Background

Over the last five years, there has been increasing interest from global stakeholders in the relationship between cash transfers and gender-based violence, and in particular, intimate partner violence (IPV). Interest has grown both within the development and humanitarian spaces, although empirical research is mainly concentrated in the former. A mixed-method review paper published in 2018 found that, across 22 quantitative or qualitative studies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), the majority (73%) showed that cash decreased IPV; however, two studies showed mixed effects, and several others showed heterogeneous impacts (Buller et al. 2018). A more recent meta-analysis of 14 experimental and quasi-experimental cash transfer studies found average decreases in physical/sexual IPV (4 percentage points (pp)), emotional IPV (2 pp) and controlling behaviors (4 pp) (Baranov et al. 2021). A feature of this literature is the high representation of evaluations from Latin America, primarily government conditional cash transfer programs. In addition, programming was generally focused on poverty-related objectives, and none of the programming was explicitly designed to affect IPV or violence outcomes more broadly.

¹This research agenda was drafted by Amber Peterman and Shalin Roy, with inputs from Melissa Hahnsoe, Lucy Billings, Tia Palermo, Clare Barrington, Meghna Ranganathan, Ana Maria Buller and Lori Heise (Cash Transfer and IPV Research Collaborative), Pace Phillips and Ellen Bates-Jefferys (IPA), as well as workshop participants at the 'Cash Transfers and IPV: Sharing Evidence & Aligned Research Agendas to Inform Policy' event held on October 29-30, 2020 (see Annex C). We gratefully acknowledge the support from an anonymous donor. For questions or comments: Amber Peterman (amberpeterman@gmail.com) and Shalin Roy (s.roy@ipa.org).

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