

A Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Report

On

Cash Grant Support to School Enrolled Girls

Cohort 4

October 2023

Background

People in Need (PIN) has been implementing the **Leave No Girl Behind** (LNGB) 'Aarambha' project funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's (FCDO) Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) since 2018 in partnership with Aasaman Nepal and Social Organization District Coordination Committee (SODCC) in Rautahat and Bara district of Madhesh Province. 'Aarambha' works with out-of-school (OOS) adolescent girls, seeking to improve the life choices and opportunities of the girls by providing literacy, numeracy, and life skills sessions, and by mitigating the adverse effects of early marriage, and addressing harmful social and gender norms.

The Aarambha project provided life skills workshops for married and unmarried out-of-school adolescent girls (OOS) in community learning centers (CLCs). After receiving a coaching session, girls created life plans of their own choice. Among these, 2043 Girls made a life plan on formal education and 386 made one on vocational skills. Among the developed life plan on school enrolled 2017 girls enrolled in School. The project provided cash to 2009 girls (1st installment) & 1995 (1st & 2nd installment) in line with the project's Cash Grant Manual to pursue their life plans.

Objectives

After 3 weeks of Cash distribution to school-enrolled girls of cohort 4, a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey was conducted to collect information on various aspects of the distribution process. The purpose of the PDM is to ensure the distribution protocol, beneficiary selection process, and utilization status of the grant provided. Similarly, the purpose of the assessment is to evaluate the satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the distribution process and to gather suggestions to improve the future grant distribution process.

Methodology

The post-distribution data collection exercise was conducted over a period of 9 days between 7th -15th October 2023. The data was collected from Cohort 4 school enrolled cash grant received beneficiaries of the Rautahat and Bara districts. The sample covered 5 local levels of Bara (Pheta, Bistrampur, Simraungadh, Parsauni & Mahagadhimai) & 4 local levers from Rautahat (Garuda, Gadhimai, Paroha & Baudhimai). A quantitative data collection method was applied for the PDM survey, collected by 15 trained enumerators from PIN's enumerators' roster. A stratified simple random sampling technique was used to draw at least 30% (n=600) sample with a 95% confidence level and 3.5% margin of error from a total population of 1995 beneficiaries. It was ensured that the proportion of gender, age, disability, and ethnicity was well maintained throughout the enumeration period.

Key Findings

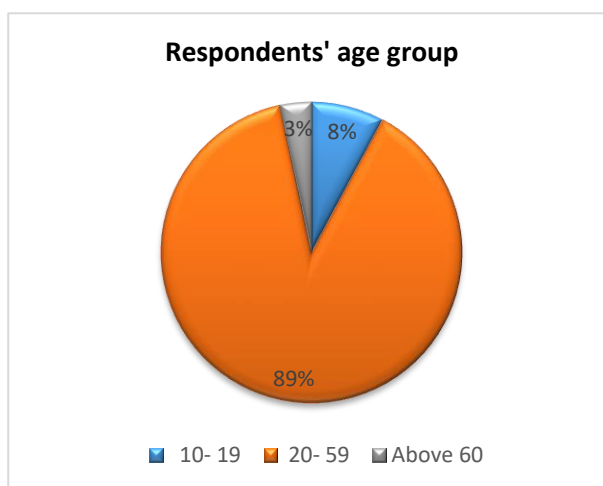
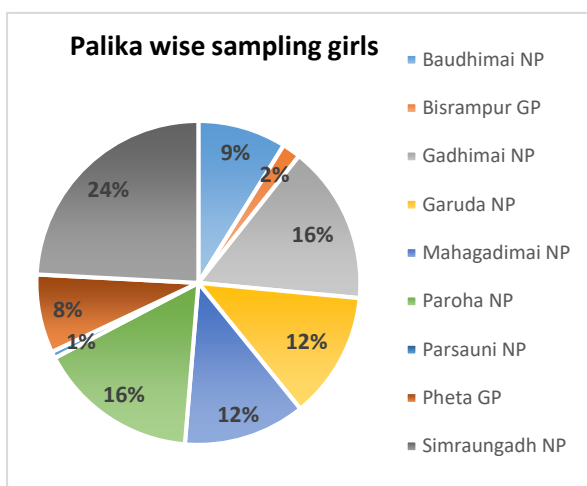
- The survey report shows that 75% of beneficiaries received cash through a bank transfer and out of the total 98% of beneficiaries received 100% (NPR.10000) amount.
- The report reveals that 68% of beneficiaries were aware that attending school is one of the integral parts of beneficiary selection criteria.
- In total 98% of beneficiaries were fully satisfied with the beneficiary selection process.
- Regarding the distribution center, 18% of beneficiaries had to travel over 1 hour to reach the distribution center, while 36% traveled for approximately 30-60 minutes.
- 16% of beneficiaries had to stay in the queue at the distribution center to collect the cash grant. Among that 37% of beneficiaries waited 30-60 minutes, 26% waited 1-2 hours, 11% waited 3-4 hours and 23% waited below 30 minutes and 3% waited more than 4 hours to receive cash.
- The study shows that 12% of the cash was received by the girls themselves, 22% receiver were from family members, and 64% by household heads.
- The study indicates that only 81% of beneficiaries fully spent the provided cash, while 9% of beneficiaries have spent only 51%-75%.
- The study shows that 86% of household head decides to use cash, 63% of girls themselves and 26% make joint decisions with family members.
- The survey respondents reported the top three priorities for spending are Education (97%), followed by clothing (41%) and food (23%).
- About half (41%) of the beneficiaries reported that other cash transfer modalities were more suitable for them such as bank transfers (41%) and cash envelopes (56%).
- The study shows that 94% of the girls' families support to continue their education.
- A total of 89% of respondents reported that family support would help them to continue to school, followed by 67% that additional teaching and learning materials support would help them continue their education.
- The survey found that 67% of the respondents were aware of the Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM). Among them, 91% are aware of Toll-free numbers followed by 55% suggestion boxes and 12% direct report to staff.
- The study shows that 5% of the respondents have used the CFRM channel and 7% of respondents want to make complaints to the organization. The majority (21%) of the respondents who wanted to lodge feedback requested to re-operate the CLC.

General Findings

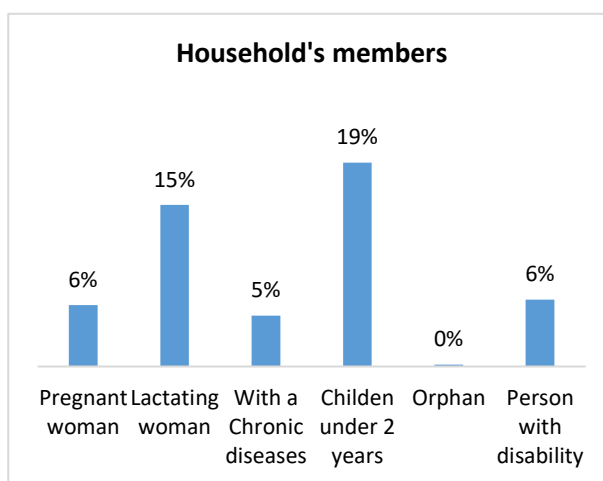
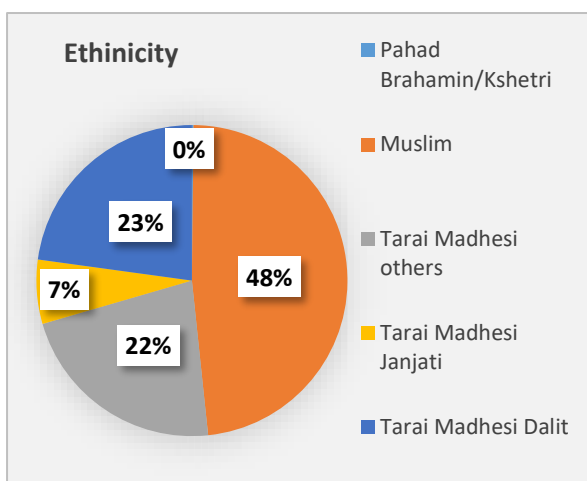
Demographic information

The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) covered all local levels of the LNGB Cohort-4 working areas. Out of the total surveyed girls, 53% girls were from Rautahat and the remaining 47% were from the Bara district. Among the sampled girls from Rautaha district, 13% girls were from Garuda NP, 16% were from Gadhimai NP, 16% were from Paroha NP, and 12% were from Baudhimai NP. Similarly, 24% of girls from Simraungadh NP, 12% from Mahagadhimai NP 8% from Pheta GP, Bistrampur GP 2% and 1% Parsauni NP in Bara district.

A majority of survey respondents (88%) were women while the remaining 12% were male respondents from girl's households. Similarly, the survey has significant participants from the 20-59 years age group representing about 89%, followed by 8% years of age group 10-19 years and 3% above 60 years age group.



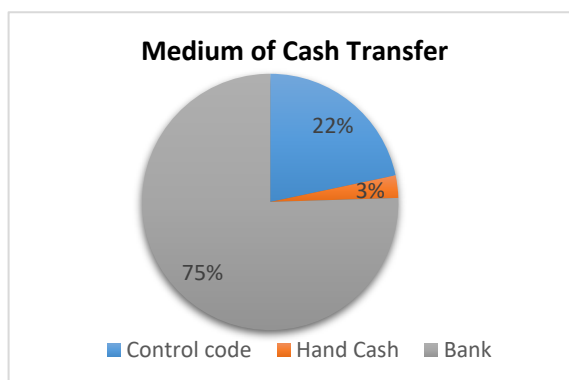
Almost half (48%) of the respondents are Muslim, 23% are Madhesi Dalit, and 22% are Madhesi others. The majority of respondents (44%) come from families with 6-18 members.



The assessment findings indicate that 19% of households have children under 2 years old, 15% have lactating women, 6% have both lactating women and persons with disabilities, and another 6% have a person with a disability. Additionally, 5% of households have a member with a chronic disease.

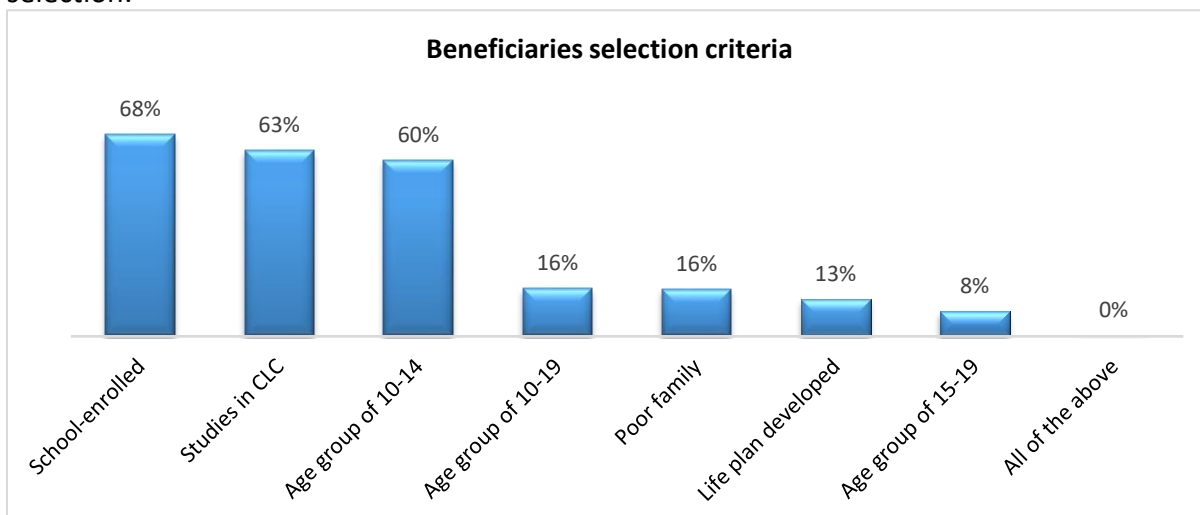
A. Cash transfer modality and amount

The study reveals that 76% of beneficiaries received cash through bank transfer, 22% through a control code and only 3% received cash directly in hand. A study indicates that 589 (98%) out of 600 girls received NPR.10,000 (100%) cash while 8 girls received 5000 only, and another 3 girls received varying amounts: 1 received 8,000, 1 received 9,000, and 1 received 9,750.



B. Beneficiaries' selection process

The study data shows that the majority of respondents (68%) reported school enrolment as an important criterion for beneficiary selection of the Aarambha project's cash grant support. Similarly, enrolling in the Aarambha project CLC was recognized by 63% and the age group 10-14 was recognized by the 60% of the beneficiaries as the essential criteria of beneficiaries' selection.

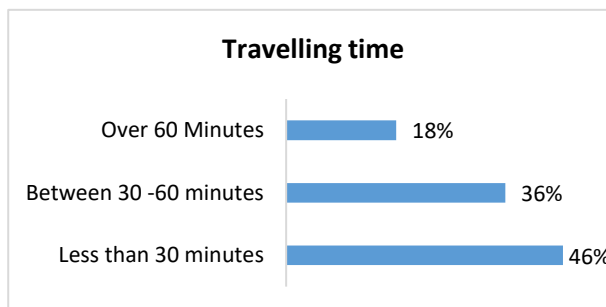


In total 98% of beneficiaries were fully satisfied with the selection process and rest were partially. Among the selection process, they suggested to increase additional grant support.

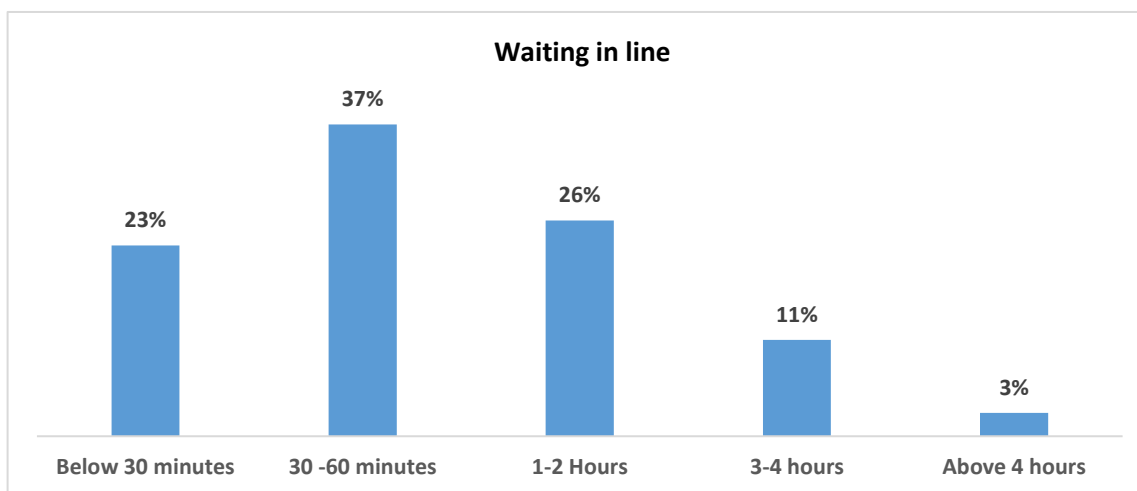
C. Cash Distribution Date, time and location

Regarding the dissemination of information regarding the date, time, and location, 97% of beneficiaries received timely information. Among these, 98% received information from Aasaman staff, while the remaining 2% received information from community members.

The study shows that 46% of beneficiaries had traveled for less than 30 minutes to reach the distribution center from their residence. Likewise, 36% of beneficiaries had traveled between 30-60 minutes and 18% had traveled for more than 1 hour.

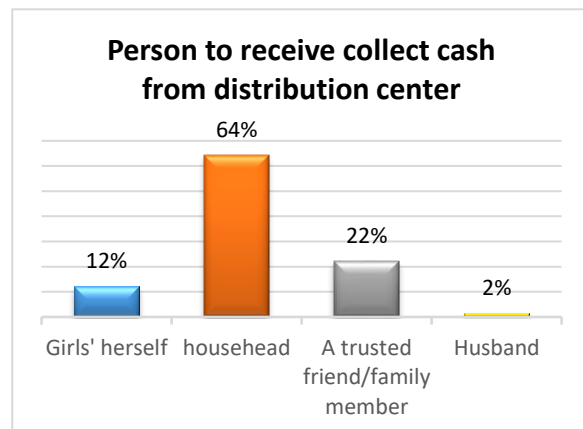


The assessment reveals that 16% of the beneficiaries had to stay in the queue at the distribution center to collect the cash grant. Among those who stayed in the queue, 3% of respondents reported that they had to stay in the queue for more than 4 hours, 11% waited for 3 to 4 hours, 26% waited for 1-2 hours, 37% waited in between 30-60 minutes and 23% of beneficiaries stayed in queue for less than 30 minutes.

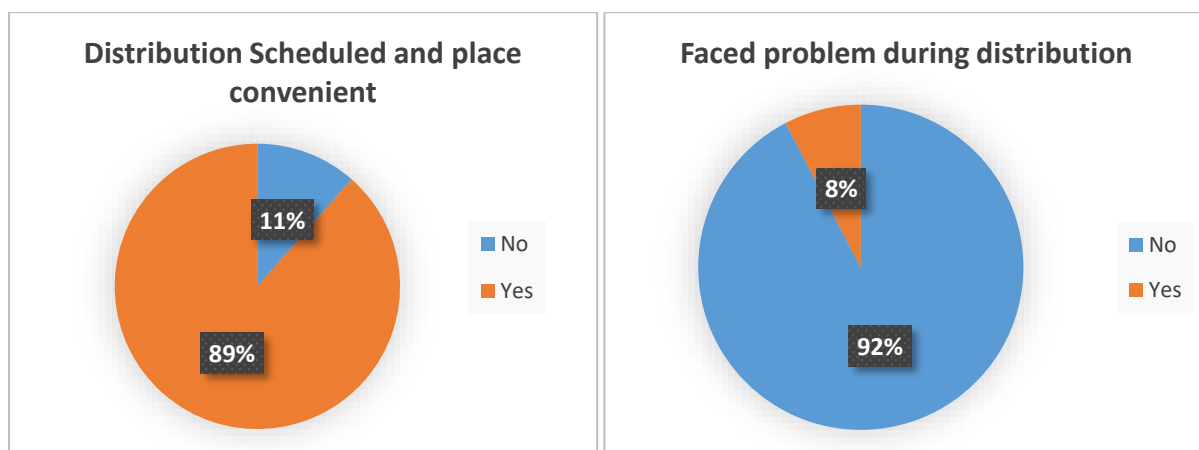


A total of 98.5% of the beneficiaries felt respect from the organization's staff while the rest felt disrespectful behaviour from the bank staff during the distribution.

The study shows that more than half (64%) of cash grant recipients from the distribution centre were household head, 22% were family members and their trusted friends and 12% were girls themselves. Regarding the respondents who were asked if anyone requested goods, payments, or services in return for the transfer received, none of the beneficiaries reported that anyone made such demands.

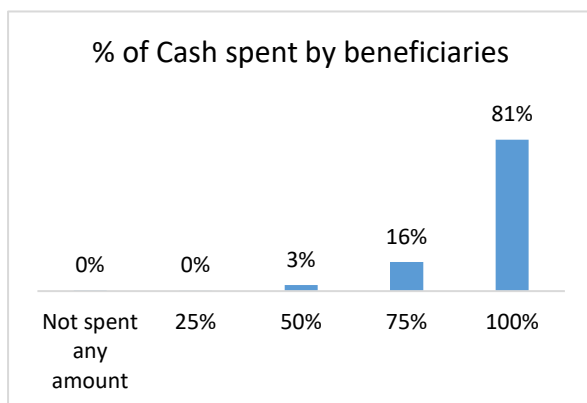


The assessment indicates that 89% of respondents felt the distribution schedule, and place was convenient for them. Similarly, 8% reported they faced problems during distribution, among them most of them faced problems being in too long queues and faced difficulty in traveling to reach the distribution center. In the same way, 78% of beneficiaries said, there were no additional facilities provided to vulnerable, lactating/pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and elder person.



Overall, more than 94% of respondents were fully satisfied with the distribution process and others were partially satisfied. Those who were partially satisfied due to the crowd as all beneficiaries were called at the same time, and the distribution center was too far for a few of the beneficiaries requiring a long time to travel, same line for women and men.

D. Use of Cash Assistance

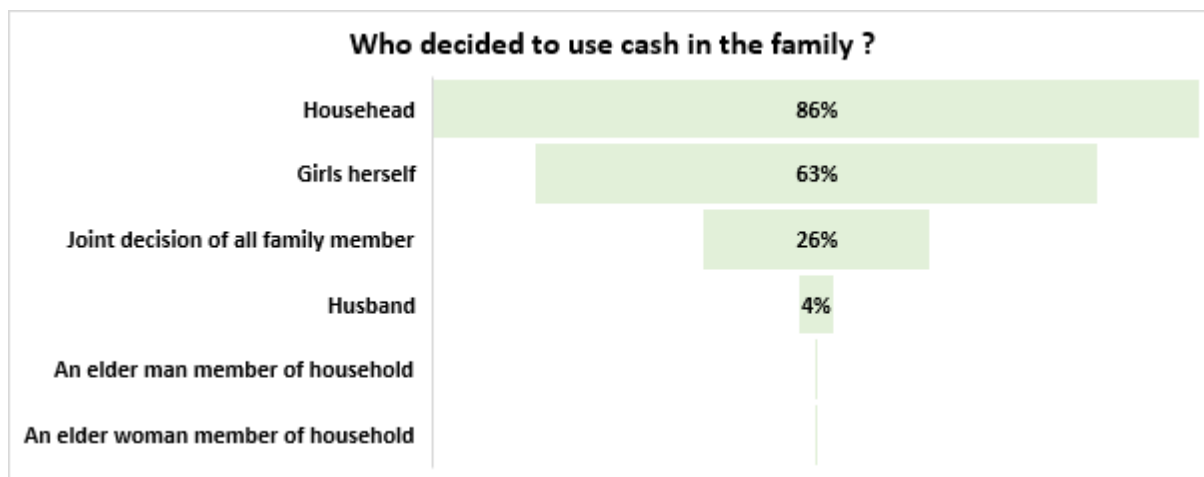


The study reveals that only 81% of beneficiaries have spent 100% of the cash grant provided, 16% of beneficiaries have spent only 75% amount, 3% of beneficiaries spent 50% and less than 1% (2) have not spent any of the amount provided.

Regarding the top three priorities of spending cash, study shows that 97% of beneficiaries spent cash to their education such as school's uniform, stationary and few spent in their coaching fee. Similarly, 41% of beneficiaries spent cash to buy their and families clothes and 22% were spent in food.

Top three priority areas of spending	# of girls	%
Education (e.g. school fees, uniform, books, etc.)	580	96.67%
Clothing	247	41.17%
Food	137	22.83%
Saving	79	13.17%
Transport (including movement of shelter items)	65	10.83%
Hygiene products (personal or household)	57	9.50%
Medical expenses (e.g. doctor's fees, prescriptions, medications, lab test, hospitalization)	52	8.67%
Other (e.g.: rent, water, communications, fuel for cooking, utilities)	34	5.67%
Household items (e.g. utensils, cooking items, blankets)	17	2.83%
Gave money to friends/relatives (as loan or permanent)	3	0.50%
Paying debts (includes interest)	2	0.33%

Majority of the respondents (86%) said that the head of the household decided to use the cash received and 63% of the girls herself decided .

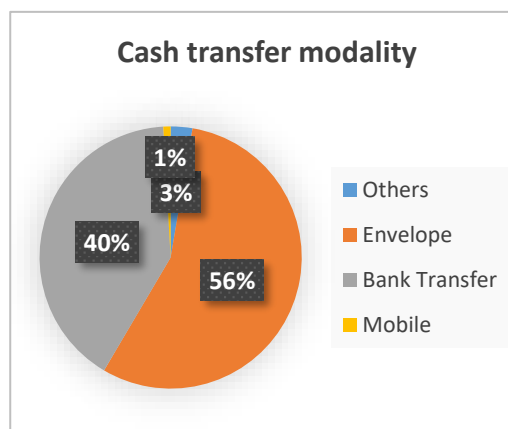


A total of 97% of the respondents reported that cash grant is used for girls' life plans, about 3% for their family's needs, and less than 1% (2 girls) for saving money.

Overall, 97% of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the amount received while the rest were not satisfied. They said that NPR. 10,000 will not be enough for the purchase of educational materials.

E. Modality of Cash Distribution

During the survey, 41% of respondents reported that the cash transfer modality is inappropriate for them, and they preferred different modalities. Out of those, 40% preferred bank transfer, 56% cash in an envelope, 3% preferred others and 1% mobile payment.



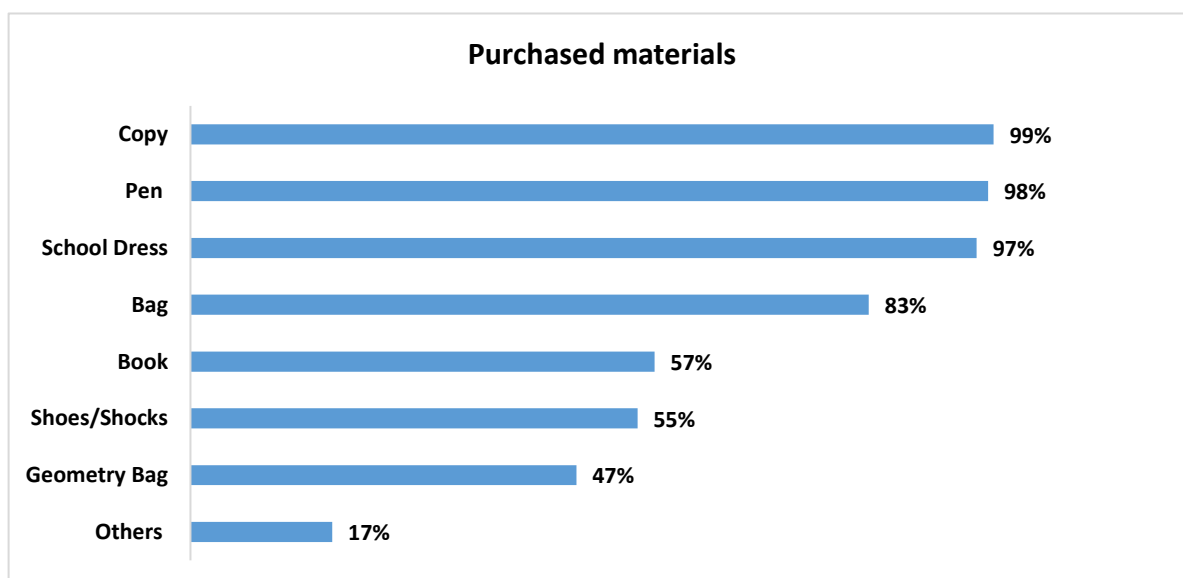
F. Girls' regularity in School

The report shows that 87% of girls were regularly attending school and the rest 13% were irregular. The major causes of irregularity are household chores 49%, followed by needs to work, earn money, or help at home 18%, and school is too far away 17%. In the same way, one of the main reasons is marriage and waiting for Gauna 13%.

Reason of irregularity	# of girls	%
Household chores-no time to go to school	38	49%
Needs to work, earn money or help at home	14	18%
School is too far away	13	17%
Not allowed to go school	11	14%
Marriage/married and waiting for Gauna	10	13%
Teased by teachers/Friend	10	13%
Not interested to study	8	10%
Others (went Madarasha & out of home town)	6	8%
Look after/take care of family members- no time for school	6	8%
Due to health condition	6	8%
Peer influence	5	6%
No transport facility to go to school	4	5%
Unsafe travel/ and in school	3	4%
Person with disabilities	2	3%

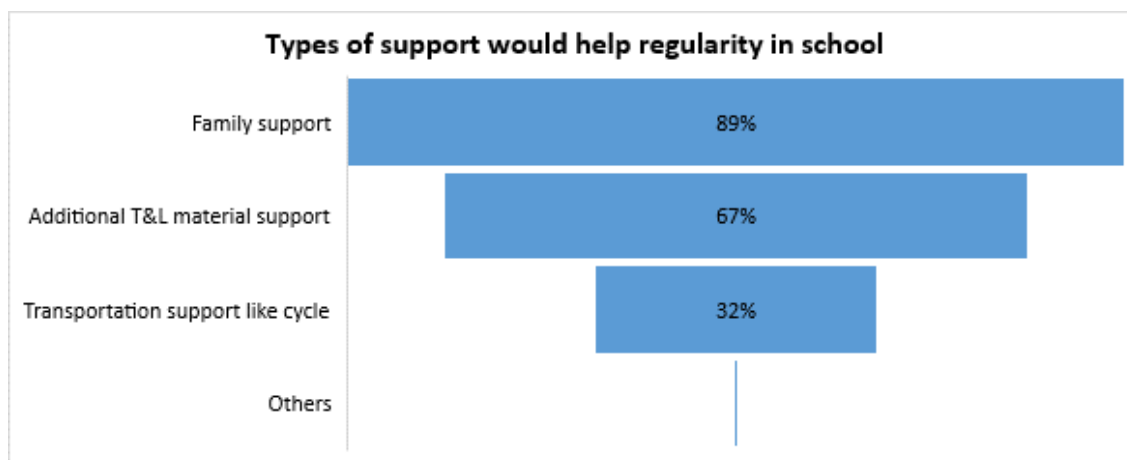
Regarding family support, 94% of the respondents informed that girls are getting family support to go to school.

Assessment findings discover that 96% of girls purchased stationery items from cash assistance for their education. Out of the total materials purchased, 99% bought copies, 98% pens and 97% school uniforms, 83% bags, and 17% girls purchased other materials. Among these 94% brought cycles for their transportation to go school.



The major motivational factors for the continuation of education is family support 89%, and 67% reported additional teaching and learning materials would help them to continue going to

school. Likewise, 32% respondent reported that transportation like cycle support them to continue their school.



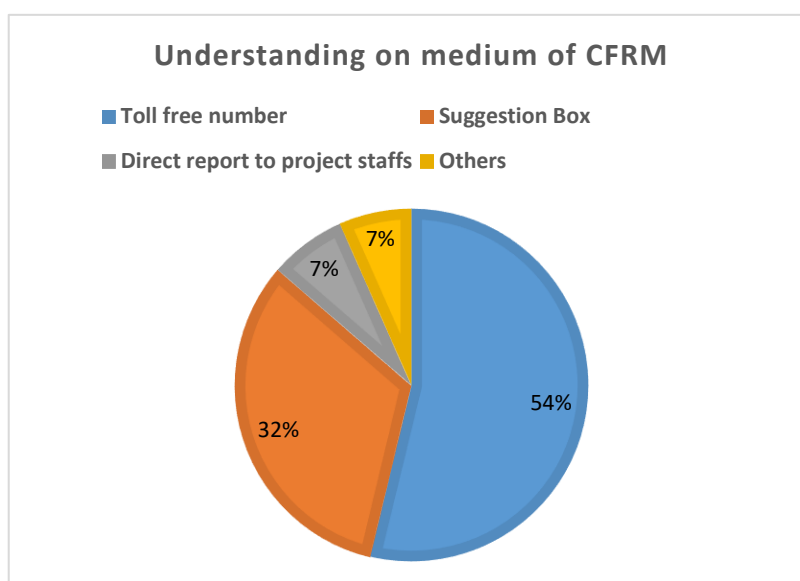
G. Conflict

The survey indicated that 1% of beneficiaries reported conflict in the family due to cash grants and same percentage beneficiaries reported of having negative effects on the community or being jealous because of cash received.

H. Understanding of CFRM and reporting mechanism

The survey shows that 67% of respondents were aware of community feedback and response mechanisms. Among them 54% of beneficiaries were aware of the Toll-free Number, 32% were aware of the suggestion box and 7% stated direct report to partner's staff.

Most (95%) of the beneficiaries have not used CFRM or provided any feedback to the organization. Out of the total respondents, 83% said that they do not use CFRM because they do not have to complain and any suggestions to the organization, and 14% reported they don't have any idea about CFRM.



Out of the total respondents, 5% have used the CFRM channel and they were aware of how to report cash assistance problems

More than half (67%) of the respondents were aware of CFRM but only 7% had some issues that they wanted to report to PIN / ASN. The beneficiaries who would like to complain to PIN/ASN is given in the following table.

Feedbacks/Complaints	No.	%
Re-operate CLC	8	21%
Didn't receive full amount (requesting full amount)	6	15%
Increase coaching duration	5	13%
Provide additional amount	5	13%
Need monitoring in Bridging class by project staff	4	10%
Additional amount for stationary purchase	3	8%
Bad behaviour of staff	3	8%
Treatment support to girls	3	8%
Provide Hand cash	2	5%
Grand total	39	

Recommendations:

- Some of the beneficiaries did not receive the full amount; it seems to be due to the amount given through the control code for hand cash. Still, 25% of the beneficiaries have received the amount through the control code/hand cash till PDM, therefore, to reduce this, we recommend our beneficiaries to open their own bank accounts.
- To manage the crowd and make the cash distribution process smooth and fast, it is recommended to increase the number of outlets and inform the beneficiaries to be available at different times at the distribution centre.
- Most of the respondents (86%) indicated that the decision to use cash is household head; the project should promote the meaningful participation of all family members from the beginning of life plan preparation regarding the utilization of grants.
- Still 13% of girls are irregular in school, 49% of them are busy with household chores and 14% are not regular in school because their parents do not allow them to go to school. It is essential to ensure that parents of those irregular girls are attending the parental education classes in the community to make aware them of the importance of girls' education.
- Only 5% of the respondents used CFRM during the distribution. Hence, the Project must encourage an increase in the dissemination of the CFRM information to our beneficiaries and stakeholders.

THE END