



The Transfer Project is a multi-country research initiative to build the evidence base on the impacts of social cash transfers (SCTs) in Africa in order to contribute to the improvement of programme design and implementation.



INTRODUCTION: The Transfer Project is an innovative research initiative led by UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Save the Children-UK, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and national governments. National governments and local research organizations are key partners in all stages to assure research is utilized to inform the design and scale-up of national social cash transfers (SCTs). The Transfer Project supports learning and innovation on SCTs in Africa by:

- Designing and implementing impact evaluations of national programmes;
- Promoting learning on the impacts of SCTs;
- Contributing to the expansion of the knowledge base on technical aspects of impact evaluation design and implementation by sharing tools, protocols and instruments; and
- Sharing rich primary impact evaluation data sets.

INNOVATION IN APPROACH: The Transfer Project's main activity is designing and implementing impact evaluations of national programmes in collaboration with government actors. Evaluations utilize the most rigorous methods possible, including randomized controlled trial designs, within the constraints of programme operations. Evaluations are not conducted outside of government, nor are small experimental interventions independently pursued. The Transfer Project engages in theory based evaluation in order to understand why a programme works and identify the areas that need further strengthening in order to inform future designs and implementation. Evaluations begin with a specification of a complete causal chain from cash to outcome or impact, and then measure indicators along the chain according to the programme log-frame.

INNOVATION IN DESIGN: There are three major innovations in the evaluation design of the Transfer Project. First, since many of the focus countries have generalized HIV epidemics, evaluations include a dedicated youth survey to examine the ability of SCTs to facilitate safe transitions to adulthood and reduce HIV risk behaviors.



Second, under the leadership of FAO, through the project From Protection to Production (PtoP), enterprise surveys are administered and non-beneficiaries are included in the samples in order to assess local-economy spillover effects and household level economic and productive effects of SCTs. Third, the methodology incorporates a mixed method approach, integrating quantitative, qualitative, and simulation models in evaluation designs and analyses.

CURRENT FOCUS COUNTRIES: This map depicts the ten countries we have been engaged in through the Transfer Project in Africa. Evaluations are at varying stages of completion, with ongoing data collection up of up to four-year longitudinal panels.



Focus Countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

INNOVATION IN INDICATOR MEASUREMENT: Beyond assessing the impact of SCTs on their intended objectives—typically poverty, food security, education, child labour, health and nutrition—specific survey items are included to capture psychological indicators, such as time preference, risk-aversion, mental health, perceived stress, subjective well-being and happiness. We also use a detailed economic activity and time-use module to understand the productive impacts of SCTs, an under-studied area in cash transfer evaluations. Qualitative work explores community wellbeing, social networks and risk-coping at the household level, friendships, peer relationships, perceptions and aspirations through in-depth interviews with individual youth and focus group discussions with both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

WHERE DOES TRANSFER PROJECT FUNDING COME FROM?

Current core funding for the Transfer Project comes from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as from staff time provided by UNICEF, FAO, Save the Children-UK and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Evaluation design, implementations and analysis are all funded in country by government and development partners. Top-up funds for extra survey rounds have been provided by: **3IE** - International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (Ghana, Malawi, Zimbabwe); **DFID** - UK Department of International Development (Ghana, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe); **EU** - European Union (Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe); **Irish Aid** (Malawi, Zambia); **KfW Development Bank** (Malawi); **NIH** - The United States National Institute of Health (Kenya); **Sida** (Tanzania, Zimbabwe); and the **SDC** - Swiss Development Cooperation (Zimbabwe); **USAID** - United States Agency for International Development (Ghana, Malawi); **US Department of Labor** (Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia).

The Transfer Project is currently seeking for donors to fund an expansion of our core activities in research on system linkages (sometimes referred to as “cash plus”), gender and evaluations in fragile settings as well as knowledge management, secondary research and comparative case studies. In addition, partners are being sought to help continue longitudinal panels in order to turn them into laboratories for global learning.

WANT TO READ MORE ABOUT NEW IMPACT RESULTS FROM AFRICA?

Please visit the Transfer Project website at transfer.cpc.unc.edu to see the latest publications, reports and instruments. The site is updated frequently, releasing results to the public as soon as permission is obtained from government partners. If you would like to have updates delivered directly to your inbox, please go to the website to subscribe to our newsletters.

The Transfer Project outputs can also be found on the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti website: www.unicef-irc.org where contributions are included as part of the Innocenti series of working papers and briefs. For results on the local economy and economic impacts, see the FAO PtoP website: www.fao.org/economic/ptop.

LOOKING AT THE YEAR AHEAD: The table below summarizes our planned evaluation activities for 2017:

Quarter	Country	Activity
Q1	Malawi	Stress measurement pilot study
Q2	Tanzania	Wave 2 follow-up data collection for impact evaluation of PSSN on youth well-being
	Ghana	Stress measurement pilot study
Q3	Tanzania	Youth cash plus baseline data collection
	Tanzania	Qualitative data collection: child labour
	Ghana	Wave 2 follow-up LEAP 1000 quantitative data collection
	Zimbabwe	Wave 3 follow-up data collection for HSCT
Q4	Zambia	Wave 6 follow-up data collection for CGP

LEAP: Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (Ghana), **HSCT:** Harmonized Social Cash Transfers (Zimbabwe), **PSSN:** Productive Social Safety Net (Tanzania), **CGP:** Child Grant Programme (Zambia)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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