

An overview of social cash transfers in sub Saharan Africa

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**Experiencing sharing workshop on social cash transfers
in sub Saharan Africa**

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Social protection is big: Regional initiatives gathering steam

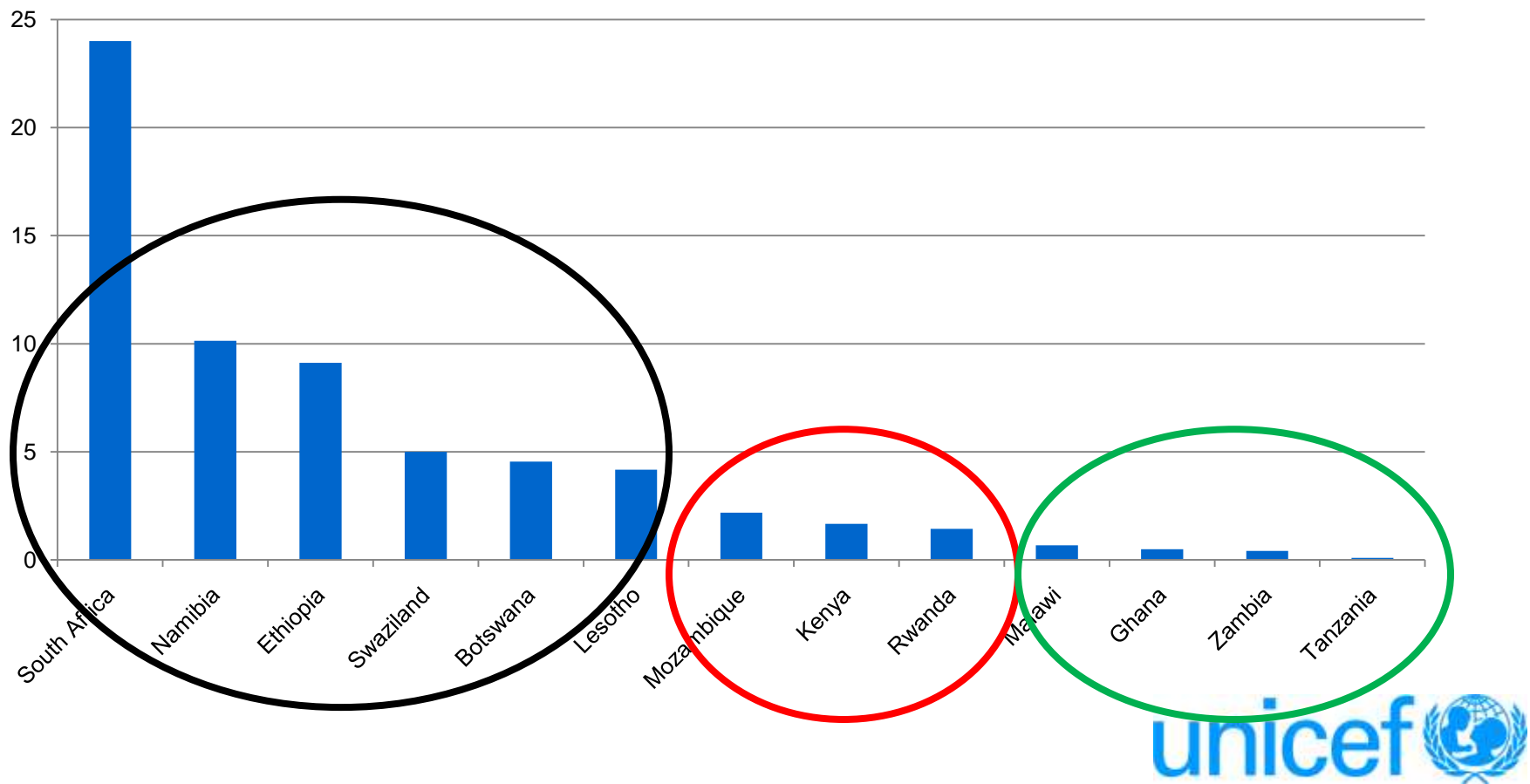
- National commitment to Social Protection among 13 countries (2006), ie, the Livingston initiative
- Social Policy Framework for Africa (2008)
 - Increased political commitment from AU on social protection
- SADC, EAC, IGAD all forging ahead on social development/protection regional policy frameworks
- Proliferation of workshops and conferences
- Emerging consensus on cash transfers as central component of minimum package

Mixed results at country level

- Lot going on; much cross-country variation
- Relationship between policy and programs not linear;
 - some countries have great policies, poor programs, and vice versa
- A few countries have overarching social protection frameworks; development underway in about 11 countries of ESA
- In middle of all this, an explosion in social cash transfers

Social cash transfers: A veritable explosion

% of population covered by social cash transfer program



A wide variety of experiences (1)

- Universal old age pensions
 - South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland
 - (and pilots in Zambia, Kenya, Uganda,)
- Near universal child grants
 - South Africa (poverty), Namibia (OVC), pilot in Zambia

A wide variety of experiences (2)

- Poverty targeted (community) grants for OVC
 - Kenya, Lesotho
- Poverty targeted (community) household grants
 - Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
 - Ultra poor, labor constrained
 - Ethiopia, Rwanda
 - Direct assistance for labor constrained poor
 - Cash/food for work for non labor constrained poor
 - Graduation into productive activities
 - Mozambique
 - Incapacitated, primarily elderly
 - Ghana, Tanzania
 - Verification with proxy means
- Experimenting with different options
 - Kenya HSNP
 - Community, dependency ratio, old age
 - Uganda
 - Community, old age

What's different about social cash transfers in SSA

- Context
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Economic and social vulnerability
 - More diffuse nature of poverty
 - Continued reliance on subsistence agriculture
 - Exit path from poverty is not through the labor market
 - Less fiscal space---donors play a stronger role
 - Dependent on bilateral support
 - Weaker institutional capacity to implement programs
 - Weaker service supply
- Program design
 - Universal old age pensions; near universal child grants
 - Unconditional
 - Prominent role of community in targeting
 - Focus on OVC and other specific vulnerabilities

Challenges facing social cash transfers in SSA

- Future is not assured
 - Assuring political and financial sustainability
- How to better link with other components of social protection
- Assuring efficient implementation
 - Targeting
 - MIS
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Building capacity and institutions
- How to better share wealth of experiences across countries