Impact Evaluation of Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme

Background

- Malawi SCTP started in 2006 in Mchinji District and currently operated in 7 districts. 4 districts at "full scale".
- Objective: poverty reduction + improvement of nutrition, health, school attendance.
- Targeted population: ultra poor + labor constraint HH(10% of total population)
- Rigorous impact evaluation conducted in 2007/08 with highly positive results on wellbeing of households.
- Opportunity of expansion of SCTP:
 - In 2012 KfW (German development bank) support design and implementation of MIS and finance SCTP at all 7 districts.
 - EU's commitment to support SCTP- funding support will allow reaching another 6-8 districts from 2013.
- New impact evaluation financed jointly by KfW, UNICEF and FAO

Objectives of new impact evaluation

- KfW- Evaluate SCTP with their funding support
- FAO- Measure impact of SCTP on production and model village local economy through business survey
- UNICEF
 - Build stronger business case to invest in SCTP
 - Identify design/operational aspects to be improved
 - Identify area of intervention to strengthen linkages with other social services to maximize outcome of SCTP on children and caregivers

Scope of new impact evaluation

- Measure impact of SCTP on children and caretakers (health, nutrition, school attendance, violence/maltreatment of children and women at home, etc.) Disaggregated by gender, age, status of disabilities.
- Analyze service availability/accessibility of social services (health, school, ECD centers, agriculture, communication, other social protection programmes, etc.) and identify why they are not receiving services.

Scope of new impact evaluation

- Analyze behavior change: food preparation, food distribution in HH (who gets meat), health seeking, hygiene practice, sexual behavior, fertility, power and gender dynamics in HH, savings and investment, spending pattern, risk sharing, etc.
- Measure impact of SCTP to maintain or retain children (orphan and biological).
- Change of payment cycle and its impact on SCTP outcome (monthly-bimonthly-quarterly)

Proposed methodology

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Treatment households from 2 districts which are currently implementing SCTP in pilot scale (new beneficiaries with KfW support)
- Control households from a district where currently SCTP not running but slated by GoM for expansion

Expected timeline

- Tendering to start in March-April 2012
- Baseline in Q4 of 2012
- Follow up survey 12 month after baseline (Q4 in 2013)
- Possibility to conduct second follow up survey 24 month or 36 month after baseline (based on funding availability)