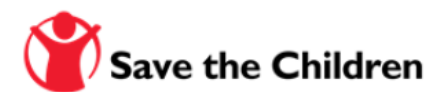




The Transfer Project

Origins, progress and impact to date

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Overview

- The Transfer Project: An introduction
- Impact of the Transfer Project
- Setting the scene of this workshop
 - How has context evolved?
 - Looking forward – defining the “Next Generation”
- Review workshop objectives & agenda



The Transfer Project: An Introduction

In the beginning

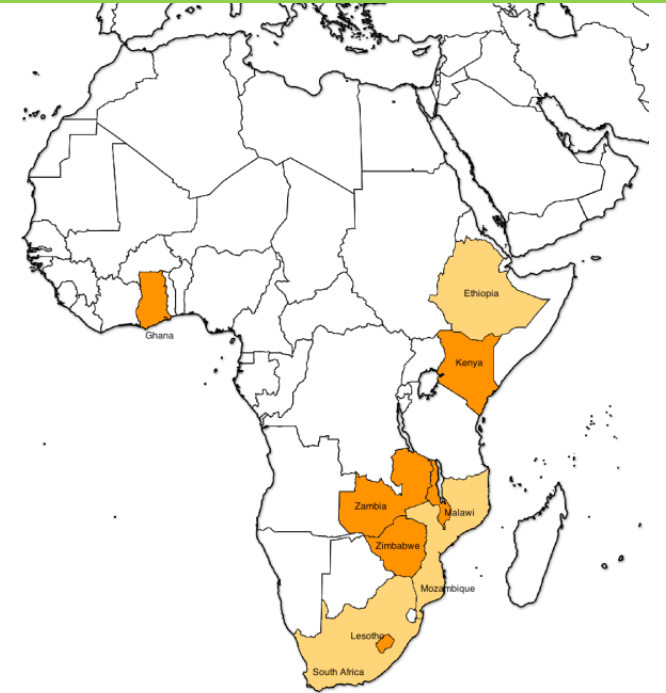
- A number of fledgling government programmes and growing practice in SSA on cash transfers (2008)
 - Some with plans for scaling up
 - Most with models that were different from the well-known Latin American programmes
 - .. And very different contexts
- Little evidence from SSA
 - A few programmes rolling out quantitative evaluations
 - Others with evaluations but not rigorous methodology
 - limited documentation and sharing on lessons, experience and impact evaluation
- **High demand for evidence to answer policy and programme questions**
- **And to influence and inform scale-up**

Transfer Project: Partners and Motivation

- Originally 6 countries, but expanded given broader interest
 - Currently: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Institutional Partnership between **FAO, UNICEF, Save the Children, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill**
- Working in close collaboration with national counterparts, including national governments and research institutions
- In 2010, Protection to Production (PtoP) began to evaluate the economic and productive impacts
 - Under the umbrella of the Transfer Project, “piggy-backing” model
 - Collaboration between FAO, UNICEF and national governments

Transfer Project: Objectives

- ***Provide evidence*** on the effectiveness of social cash transfer programs in achieving impacts for children
- Inform the ***development and design*** of social cash transfer policy and programs
- ***Promote learning*** across the continent on the design and implementation of social cash transfer evaluations and research



Transfer Project: Supporting learning and evaluation

Pillars:

- Regional learning, information exchange and network/ community of practice
- Technical assistance on design and implementation of impact evaluation and identification of research areas
- Synthesis of regional lessons on programme design

Transfer Project: The Model

- Focus on supporting impact evaluations of national programmes and research-policy interface
- Impact evaluations as part of broader evidence/learning agendas and policy processes at national and regional level
- Mixed methods: quantitative, qualitative and local economy impacts simulation

Model in three stages: I- Design of impact evaluation

- At national level, close collaboration between policy makers and programme implementers, development partners and researchers to:
 - Identify priority questions and match with objectives of programme
 - Dovetail impact evaluation with roll-out plans of programme
 - Role of UNICEF offices which were already engaged in ongoing dialogue on social protection
- At regional level, consultation by researchers with national governments and other stakeholders from inception on key questions, including those common across countries
- Role of Transfer Project as ‘honest broker’

II- Implementation and Analysis

- Collaborative, consultative process; multiple partners and stages
- Some key processes:
 - Collective definition of timeline
 - Training of enumerators; Field work; data entry; analysis- Baseline and follow-up surveys
 - Presentation of findings to key stakeholders
 - Baseline: what results can be expected?
 - Follow-up surveys:
 - Did we get the results expected?
 - What other unintended impacts can we see?
 - Linking of different methods to produce a common story of what was happening and why: quant, qual, simulation

III. Use of Results and Dissemination

- National policy events to present draft and final results
 - With programme implementers, senior officials, and public events as ongoing process
 - Some production of national policy briefs
- Some popularization and communication of findings – video, media (particularly with PtoP results), communication materials for participants
- Regional meetings
- Technical meetings
- Web dissemination

Thematic Innovations

- Adolescent well being and HIV Risk
- Economic and productive impacts, including local economy impacts
- Mixed methodology



**Impact of Transfer Project: Contributions to research,
programme & policy**

Impact of the Transfer Project

At global level: Contribution to strengthening the evidence-based case for promoting social protection as a poverty reduction instrument

Generation of evidence on the **broad range impacts of social cash transfers**

- **Poverty impacts:** child and household level
- **Social impacts:** education, access to health, Nutrition-Sensitive indicators, food security
- Addressing economic and social determinants of **HIV risk: adolescent wellbeing**
- **Building the economic case:** economic and productive impacts at household level; Impacts to beneficiaries and to local economy

Impact of the Transfer Project (cont.)

At regional level: Social cash transfers can work in low-income contexts, including Sub-Saharan Africa; can be affordable; are a worthwhile investment

- **Strong evidence base on impact of cash transfers is now available in Sub-Saharan Africa.** No need to go to other regions to find models.
- **Context-specific design and implementation** (home grown models, community participation, unconditional transfers, economic and social dimensions of poverty, etc)
- Contribution to evidence on specific instrument: **unconditional transfers:** impacts on sector outcomes comparable to conditional transfers
- Contribute to strengthen evidence-based to feed to regional important processes (AU commitments, etc)
- Contribution to changing the discourse: **SP as an investment, not a cost**

Impact of Transfer Project (cont.)

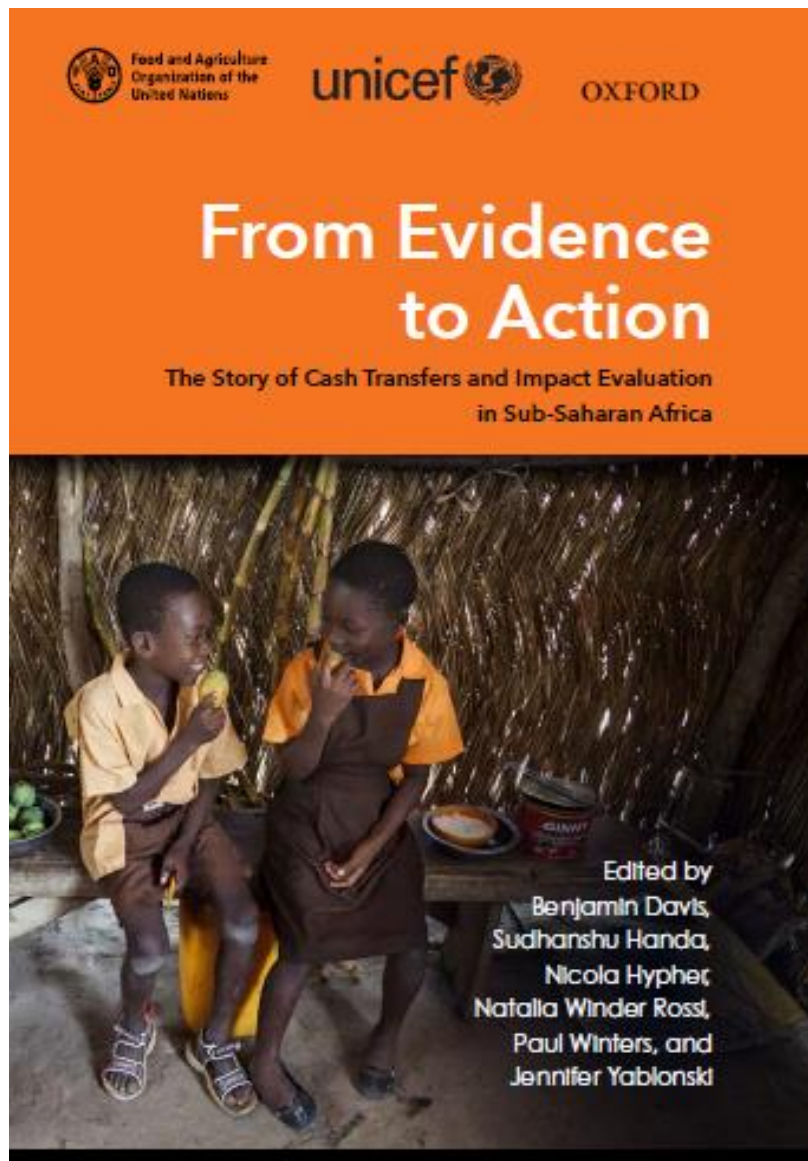
At country level: Results from impact evaluations have influenced design of programs and contributed to strategic policy decisions

- Adjustment to programme design and implementation (targeting, transfer size, etc)
- Moving from cash to cash+ (specifically in terms of nutrition, agriculture and HIV/AIDS)- cash is important, but not sufficient
- Contribute to **build and strengthen the case for scale-up** and expansion:
 - Impact evaluations instrumental in strengthening reputation of social cash transfer programs, and confidence with which policy-makers decide scale up
 - Economic and productive impacts: addressing concerns regarding dependency and contribution of the poor to inclusive growth

Key factors

- **Evidence generation** imbedded in national policy process, involving government, national researchers, and international partners (UNICEF, FAO, etc)
- **Timing:** Evidence (impact evaluation, targeting analysis and other) available at critical moments of policy-making
- Solid and **technical quality** of impact evaluation- credibility of results
- **Learning agenda:** impact evaluation and also use of data for other critical analysis (financing, design, etc)
- **Broad scope of the evaluation:** Scope of the evaluation [consumption, poverty, human capital, production, labor, community impacts, economic multiplier] enhanced understanding and appreciation of cash transfers among a traditionally skeptical audience: social *and* economic case
- **Government champions,** political commitment and influence

... and all of this you can find in the Book!



Stay tuned

Forthcoming,
Summer of 2016



Setting the scene for this meeting

What has changed?

Different context... significant progress

- Global **political commitment** reflected in in SDG target 1.3 on expanding coverage of SP systems
- SSA is a global leader in the **production of evidence** and regional learning on CTs, including cutting edge research
- Programme & policy focus on **SP systems**, and “cash plus”
- Increasing interest of new countries/ regions in the TP model

Looking forward: Defining the new generation

- Given the changing context...what are the questions we should discuss in the coming days as we look forward?
- What are the next 'big questions' that the Transfer Project can help answer and inform? But still stay focused/bring added value?
 - Are there common questions across countries (including new sets of countries), where cross-country evidence and learning would be useful?
- Expansion to other regions/countries....

Looking forward: research agenda

Systems agenda: Cash plus!

- What exactly do we mean by cash plus? (and do we mean the same thing)
- What are specific elements of “plus” and/or implementation modalities that policy makers want to measure?
- How to maximize synergies with other sectors, e.g. agriculture, rural development, nutrition
- Do we need new methodologies, approaches, partners?

The workshop

- Focus on one key aspect of the TP: Impact Evaluation Learning Agenda
- Discuss the results of the current research agenda, focusing on broad impact of cash
- Discuss the emerging new research agenda around ‘cash plus’

Specific Objectives:

- to share **evidence on impacts** of government cash transfer and ‘cash +’ programs across a range of domains - protective, social, economic and productive;
- To present and discuss **evaluation design options and associated policy and research questions** in countries at the early stages of developing an impact evaluation, with a particular emphasis when possible of integrated cash transfer programs;
- to present experiences on how to construct **‘impact monitoring’ systems** into large-scale on-going programs which can provide evidence on impact as well as responding to dynamic monitoring needs on a routine basis.

Thank you

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The Transfer Project

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer>

From Protection to Production Project

<http://www.fao.org/economic/PtoP/en/>