

# Ghana LEAP 1000 Qualitative Evaluation

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# Ghana LEAP 1000

- Targets households with children under one year of age and pregnant women
- Integrating multiple interventions
- Focus on nutrition outcomes that occur in the first 1000 days of life

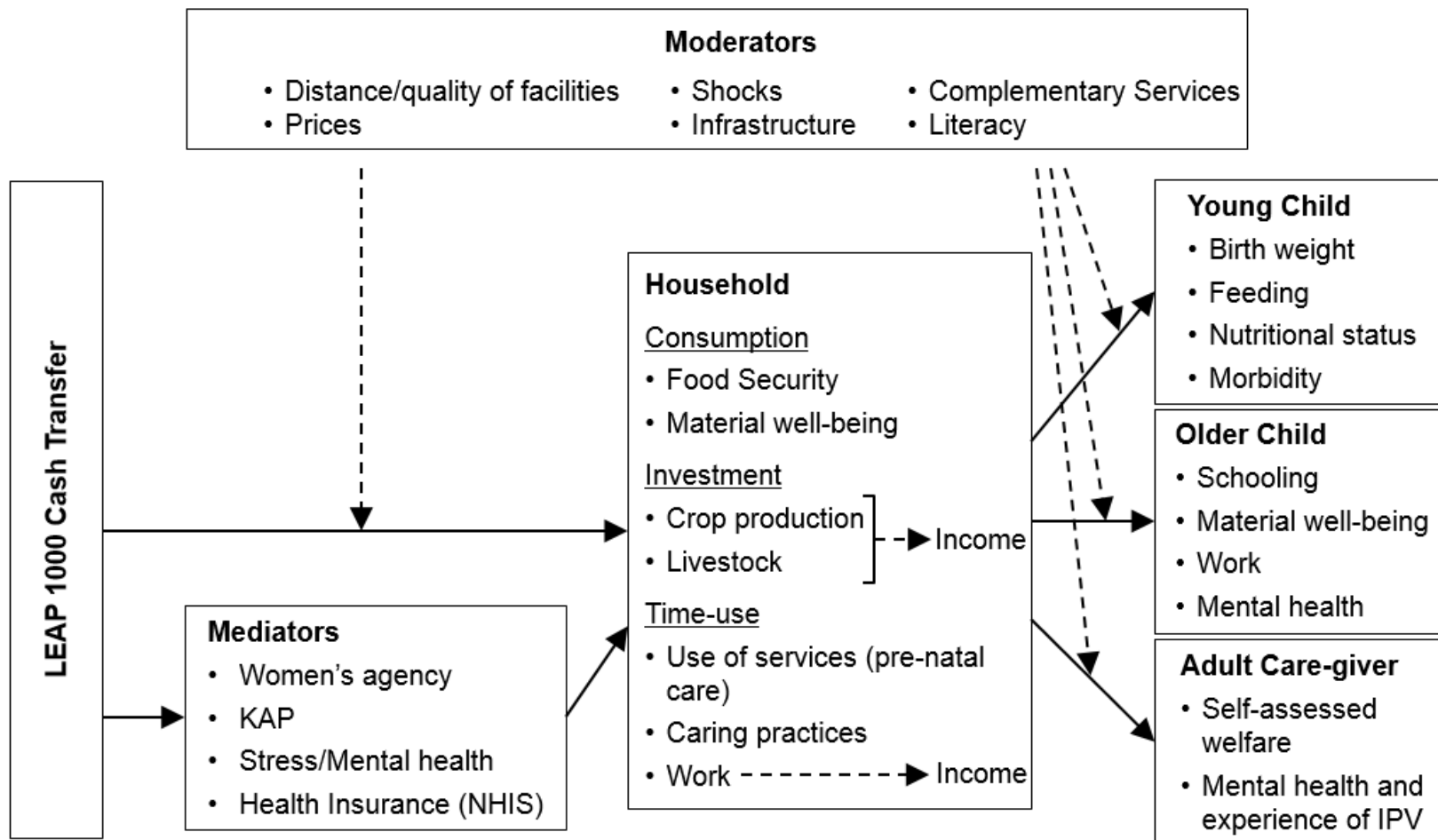


# Qualitative evaluation questions

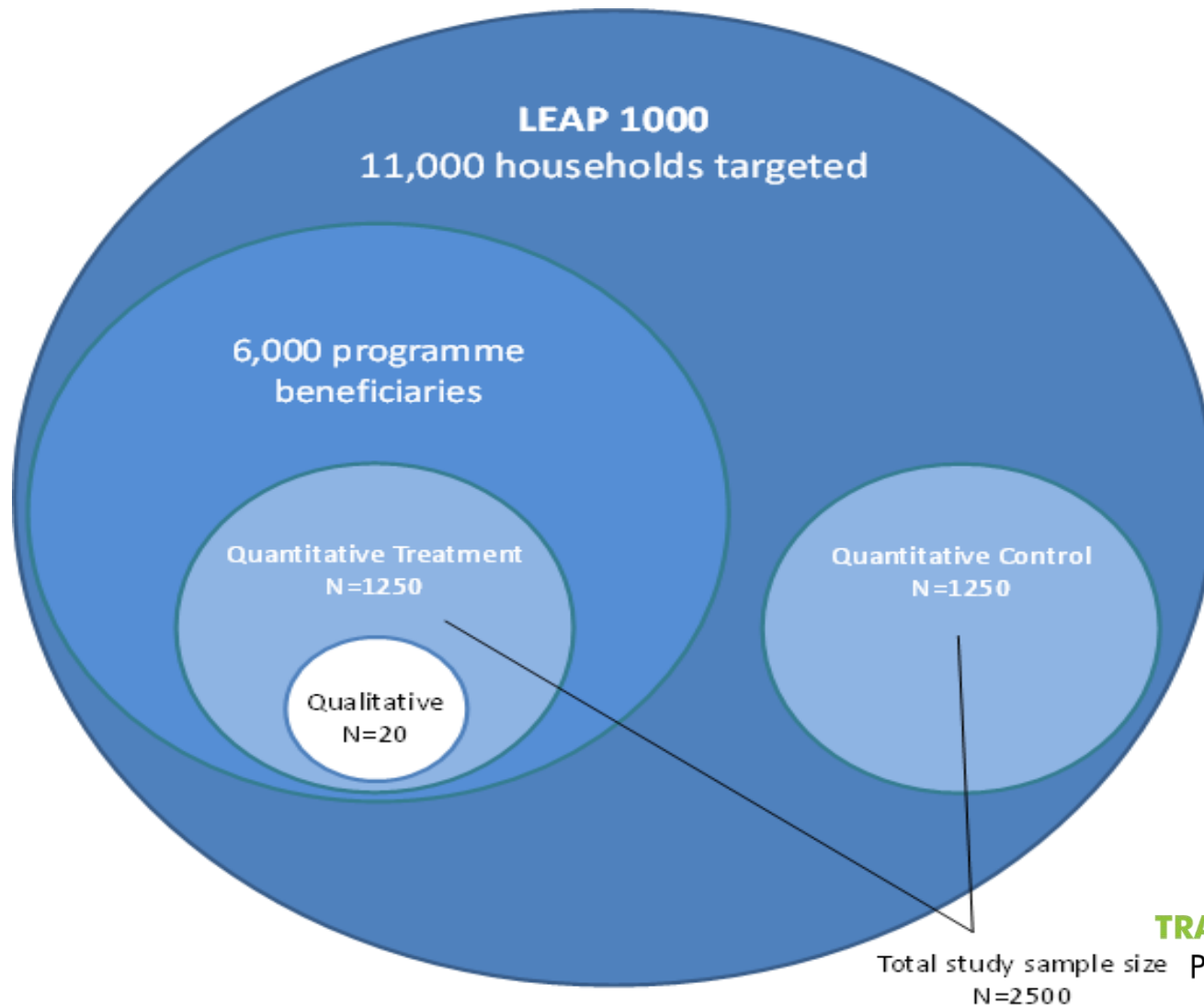
- **Identify the mechanisms and processes** of impact or that impede impact.
- **Describe the context** in which the program operates to facilitate a holistic interpretation of impact.
- **Determine the subjective meaning** of this program for participants, beyond the objective determination of the degree of impact.



# Theory of Change



# Evaluation sample



# Data collection and analysis

- In-depth interviews with mothers
- Audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim
- Community observations documented with detailed field notes
- Structured fieldnotes to facilitate rapid analysis
- Narrative summaries, comparative matrices, and systematic coding for analysis



# 3 key themes

- Health insurance
- Food insecurity
- Social support



# National Health Insurance Scheme

- While coverage is high overall (66%), nearly half of participants in the qualitative interviews had expired coverage
- Lack of money is main reason for not renewing
- Men least likely to be enrolled

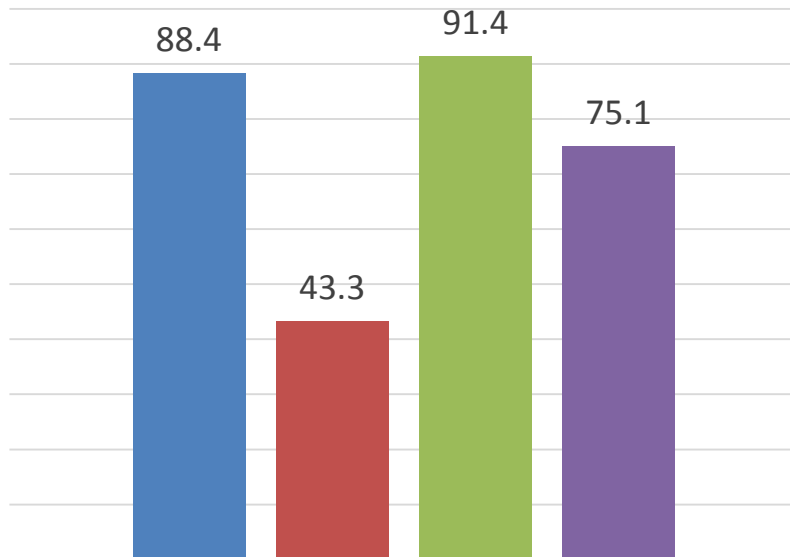
*I: How did you treat him or where did you take him for treatment?*

*P: His health insurance expired so (my mother) fetched some groundnut and went and sold and got money and took him to a drug store.*



# Food insecurity

Food insecurity in last 4 weeks



- Sometimes/always worry about food
- Household member went all day without food
- Children under 5 not always nutritious food
- Children under 5 not always given enough food

*"It worried me because there is no food, you don't even know what to do to yourself."*

# Worry

*When there is no money in the house and you wake up you don't know what to do, as an adult I can endure, but with the children they can go out and see other children with food and they will come back crying that they want food and you don't have money to buy the food for them, so it's a worry for you.*



# Worry causes anger

*I: How is it like in this household when there is no food and there is no money to buy food, how do you feel?*

*P: There is always anger, when there is no food and you ask what we will eat she (mother) will get angry. That she knows that there is no food so it's always a problem and we will be shouting at each other.*



# Inventory of social support

Name	Relationship to participant	Types of support provided and received
	Mother-in-law	She provides food for the house, takes care of my child. I wash her clothing and work for her.
	Father-in-law	Gives money and guinea fowl eggs to eat.
	Sister-in-law	Takes care of my child, gives me food. I wash her clothing and help her to cook.

# Polygamous support

- In all 4 polygamous households participants described reciprocal exchanges of support with co-wives
  - Taking care of each other's children
  - Food preparation and other chores
  - Advice, spiritual guidance
  - Money

# Reciprocal polygamous support

**P:** *(Co-wife 1) takes care of my child when I am going to cook, gives me salt, magi and anything I want to cook, represents me in school PTA. If we are going to farm, she takes care of the house and the children for us to go, advises me to be patient in my marital home and raises my children very well and because of all these I am not worried in this house much, I trust her in that regard.*

**I:** *And what do you do for her?*

**P:** *I support her like: fetching water for her, because we are cooking in one pot, we rotate the cooking two days, two days. She is my first co-wife and she starts the cooking for two days and the second co-wife will also cook for two days before I also cook for two days.*



# Lack of male support

**P:** *Eeeeeer! Village men don't support their wives.*

**I:** *I am not talking about only money, it can be money, farming or advice. How does he support you?*

**P:** *He doesn't support me financially.*

**I:** *What about farming?*

**P:** *We are all working on our own farms.*



# Social capital

- Most described positive community dynamics
- There was greater awareness of community groups than actual participation
  - Some communities lacked any groups
  - Most involvement was in savings groups, women's groups to support births/deaths, farming groups
  - Older women more involved than younger





# Positive community dynamics

*I: Can you tell me how [community name] is like. The people here, how are they like?*

*P: They are human beings here, they have good hearts. If you get to them and ask that you are going somewhere they will direct you there. They are respectful and they will ask you whose house you are going to and then direct you there.*

*I: How do you relate with each other?*

*P: We relate well, we don't fight, we cooperate to do things. When there is something that requires [community name] people to go and do, we all come together and go and do it.*



# Negative community dynamics

*I: How this community is, how the people are?*

*P: Everybody is staying in his house and you can't go to somebody's house and do something and nobody can come to your house and do something, or you can't just go to somebody wanting something and they will give it to you....The way this community is you can't be friendly with everybody, we don't love each other. We argue and fight each other so it's not everybody I am friendly and converse with, everybody is always in his house.*



# Conclusions

- Integrating qualitative and quantitative data provides a richer understanding of outcomes
- Qualitative data on stress and social support and capital provide context for understanding lived experiences and impact
- Qualitative data raises new issues and scenarios not anticipated or previously understood



# Coping with food insecurity

## Eating less

*“In the farming season it’s easy to get food and we were even able to cook in large quantity to eat well, but in the lean season it is hard for us to get food and we cook in small quantity in order to ration the food we have or leave it for the children alone to eat.”*

## Relying on extended network

*“When the food stock finishes and we have money we buy from the market and if we don’t have money we borrow from other people and pay back after harvest in the next farming season”*



# Example of family support

*The support I get from her is that when I dropped out of school and got pregnant until I delivered I wasn't working so she said I should learn how to sew so she bought a sewing machine and together with my father they assisted me to learn how to sew so that is the support they gave to me. And also catering for me and my baby in everything; in sickness, the food we eat, our clothes and footwear.*



# Qualitative sample

- Purposive, stratified sample of 20 households
  - 1 first-time mother, 1 mother of 3+ children per community

Region	UPPER EAST										NORTHERN									
District	Bongo										Karaga									
Community	1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5					
Household/Woman	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10