


# In-depth findings on child labor in Malawi and Zambia

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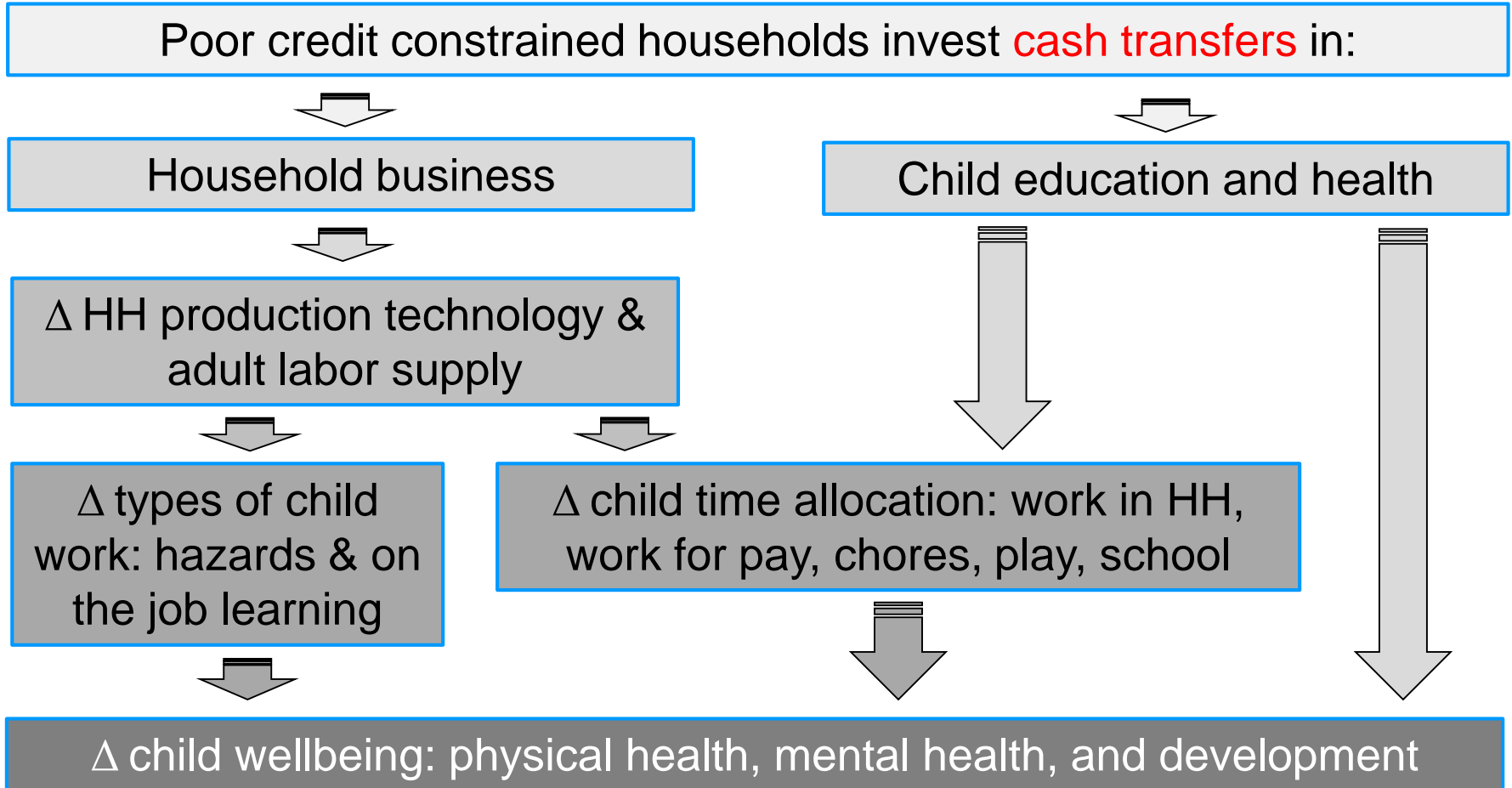


# Research questions

Unconditional cash transfer programs can increase household productive activity

- Do we observe a concomitant increase in child productive activities?
- If so, what are the implications for child wellbeing?
- What role does family composition play?

# Theoretical framework







# Some innovations

- Quantitative measurement (Malawi SCT & Zambia MCP):
  - Sub-activities
  - Hazards
  - Excessive working hours
- Qualitative triangulation and photovoice (Malawi SCT):
  - Activities and hazards
  - Learning by doing
  - Perceptions





### Household agricultural production

#### Household owns livestock

- Malawi 30% → 62%
- Zambia 46% → 70%



### Impact on child work on household farm

#### Livestock (past week)

- Malawi 4% → 10%
- Zambia 3% → 7%

Similar for other activities



# Substitution patterns

## Malawi:

- Limited overall net effects: shift out of **informal work for pay**

## Zambia:

- Net increase of **+4pp, +3h/week**:
  - No drop in **informal work for pay**
  - Increased engagement in **household chores**





# Work-related hazards in Malawi

## Quantitative:

- |                       |     |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| ▪ Heavy loads:        | 4%  | 8%  |
| ▪ Dangerous tools:    | 14% | 18% |
| ▪ Dust, fumes, gas:   | 21% | 26% |
| ▪ Extreme cold, heat: | 16% | 22% |

Driven partly by prod. technology

## Qualitative:

- Hazards are **minor in nature** but not negligible



# Excessive working hours and education

## Quantitative:

- Limited impacts on “excessive” working hours
- Pronounced improvements in schooling (next presentation)

## Qualitative (Malawi):

- Parents prioritize work only in case of real need







## Perceptions, gender, and on the job learning (Malawi qual)

- Mixed perceptions of economic activities, but mostly positive:
  - Pride
  - Opportunities
  - Coercion
- Pronounced gender pattern in household chores
  - Male siblings
  - Learning experience

# Broader changes in child wellbeing

- **Illness or injury**
  - **Malawi:** slight reduction
  - **Zambia:** unchanged
- **Material wellbeing**
  - **Blanket:**
    - **Malawi:** 36% → 60%
    - **Zambia:** 81% → 94%
  - **Similar for pair of shoes & for 2 sets of clothes**



# Conclusions

- Children part of **household production** and investment
- **Substitution** determines net impacts
- Household **investment** can affect exposure to hazards
- Households take **hazards and education** seriously
- Limited on the job **learning** & downsides of child work not negligible
- **Overall program impact** on children likely to be positive
  
- Reflections on mixed methods:
  - **Quant** for impacts
  - **Qual** for context and depth

# Thank you



Photo Credit: Mangochi Village 3 Participant Number 5.