

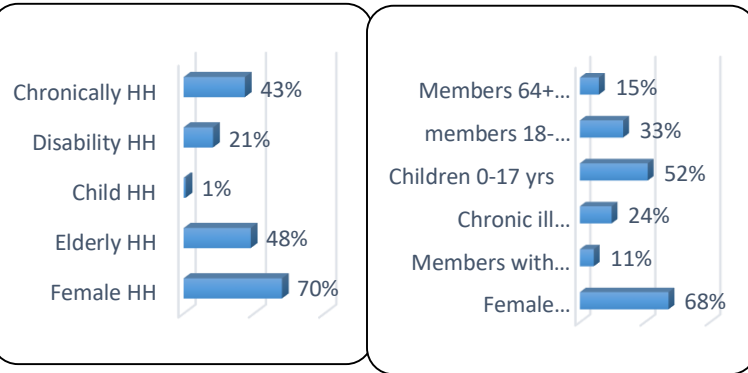


Social Cash Transfers, Transitions to Adulthood among Youth: Evidence from End-line Evaluations of national programs in Malawi



SCTP Outlook

Covers country wide (28 Districts) 280,820 HH, and 1,176,890 members



Motivation & Research Questions

Motive: evidence to suggest a protective effect of SCT but is understudied area, particularly in relation to unconditional SCTs and in sub-Saharan Africa.

A key question of the evaluation: is whether or not the SCTP affects the safe transition into adulthood among youth

six broad categories of youth outcomes:

- 1) sexual debut, marriage, and pregnancy,
- 2) risky sexual behaviours among youth who had ever had sex, including experience of forced sex,
- 3) mental health and well-being (including future aspirations),
- 4) HIV risk perceptions,
- 5) alcohol and tobacco use, and
- 6) social support

Methods & Impact Evaluation Results

- **Model:** Baseline, Midline and end-line evaluation
 - Control and Treatment groups (age 13-19 BL, 14-21 ML and 15-22 EL)

The SCTP has a 6.2 pp impact (significant at the 1% level) on decreasing the probability of sexual debut at midline, however by endline this impact dissipates.

- Among males, the programme results in an 8.5 pp decrease in sexual debut, whereas the magnitude for females is 3.9 pp and is insignificant.

Among the 13 to 19 year olds at baseline, 20 per cent of female youth in T households and 24 percent of female youth in C households had experienced a first pregnancy by the endline follow up.

- Study did not find an overall impacts on the probability of delaying first pregnancy due to the programme in either midline or endline

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- For the younger sample, there are no significant programme impacts.
- For the older youth (aged 15 to 24, bottom panel), we see a 1.8 pp decrease in early marriage at midline due to the programme—however this impact dissipates by endline

Sexual experiences study find that at end-line

- approximately 48 per cent and 46 percent of the T and C samples report having given or received money for sex;
- 52 per cent and 47 percent of the T and C samples report using a condom at last sex

We find no meaningful impacts on alcohol consumption, and find that the programme significantly decreased the cigarette smoking by 1.3 pp (5% level significance) at midline.

There were no overall programme impacts on any of the indicators of social support at midline (even a negative impact on family member contact), by end-line

Summary of results

- basic needs met including clothes and food have allowed beneficiaries to focus mentally on school but also to feel good socially without shame and embarrassment
- Evidence is largely lacking on SCTs' abilities to prevent the transmission of HIV.

The inconsistent use of family planning and HIV prevention methods highlights the limits of cash interventions and linkages or integrate other structural and behavioral HIV prevention and reproductive health strategies into the SCTP in order to improve these outcomes

Implications

- The program has been scale out to all districts following the positive results of the impact evaluation.
- Introduction of the Linkages and Referrals to other services to supplement the cash given to the beneficiaries.
- Graduation pilots are implemented and thought processes underway on how offboarding beneficiaries are handled post retargeting processes.
- Vertical expansion in lean periods in some districts



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