



Concept Note: Transfer Project Workshop

Promoting Equity and Resilience:

Cash Transfer Evidence for Action in a Poly-Crisis World

21-23 June 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

Motivation: A 10th Transfer Project Gathering for Research and Learning

The Transfer Project will hold its 10th workshop to showcase new research and evidence on government cash transfer programs in Africa, under the theme: **Promoting Equity and Resilience: Cash Transfer Evidence for Action in a Poly-Crisis World**. At this workshop, government officials, development partners, and researchers will reflect on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us about the ability of national cash transfer and social protection systems to respond to diverse crises and implications for 'poly-crises' that the region faces. The workshop will also showcase the latest evidence from national cash transfer programs in the region across a variety of themes, touch on innovative ways to gather data, provide rapid feedback on program operations and how to use evidence to advocate for sustainability and investment within the context of increasing debt and competing budget priorities.

Objectives and Priorities

The workshop targets key government technical staff, in addition to senior managers and decision-makers implementing or planning to implement cash transfer programs, who are evidence champions and advocates within their own sectors, alongside development partners and aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- Provide participants with the space to **explore the challenges of designing and implementing cash transfer programs** that are 'fit for purpose' in a context of 'poly-crises' stemming from pandemics, climate change, conflict and macro-economic instability;
- **Share evidence** on how integrating cash transfer programs with broader social protection systems, including their articulation within sector policies and programs geared toward poverty reduction, can help achieve health, social and economic impacts for poor and socially marginalized populations;
- **Facilitate cross-country learning** by building a cadre of influencers with a strong understanding of the available evidence on cash transfer programs impacts and improve influencers' ability to translate and share findings with non-specialist audiences, including through strategic advocacy to decision-makers;

Additional priority topics include: Cash plus approaches, including social and economic components; Protection, violence and gender; Long-term effects and sustainability; Human capital; Dignity and equity; Learning from implementation; Data collection and evaluation methods; Evidence informed advocacy.

Meeting Outputs

1. Publicly available presentations, papers and materials – which can be shared with other stakeholders (see outputs from the [Transfer Project workshop in Arusha 2019](#));
2. Key conclusions and action-oriented recommendations for policymakers, researchers, media influencers and program implementers;
3. Networks, ideas and inspiration for carrying forward 'evidence to action' on national cash transfer programs (**guaranteed or your Ksh back!*).

* Individual invitations are forthcoming, for all other inquires, please get in touch with [Audrey Pereira](#) with your UNICEF or FAO regional advisor in copy (if applicable).



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Background: The Transfer Project

Since 2008, the [Transfer Project](#) has supported the accumulation of evidence on cash transfers in Africa. The initiative is led by UNICEF, FAO and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), with key partners—governments and national research organizations—that support research use in the design, scale-up and ongoing sustainability of national cash transfer programs. The overall aim of the initiative is to assist governments to create better policies and programs by supporting long-term, multi-country impact evaluation research and promote the use of evidence across the region. Sharing evidence is a key component of the bi-annual workshops allowing countries to learn from each other and respond to new and emerging topics of interest. As with previous meetings, the 2023 Transfer Project workshop will bring together governments, researchers and development partners from across sub-Saharan Africa (and beyond) to provide an opportunity for regional learning and exchange. Countries with similar contexts and evidence needs will be able to discuss approaches, gain insights from others' experiences and strengthen social protection strategies through south-south learning.

Logistics and Organizational Aspects

Location: Nairobi, Kenya (conference hotel: [Emara Ole Sereni Hotel](#)).

When: 2.5 days – June 21st-23rd (two full days with a last half day).

Who: Participants include government partners (policymakers, technical and implementing staff, senior managers), including ministries of social protection, agriculture, statistics offices, finance, gender, children and family; UNICEF, FAO and other development partners; civil society; researchers; donors; journalists and media.

Costs: UNICEF and FAO country offices are expected to fund their own travel costs and that of government counterparts; other funding is available for select external invited participants and junior scholars. Breakfast, snacks and lunch will be provided during the workshop.

Languages: The meeting's primary language will be English, with French translation for plenary sessions and key workshop outputs.

Your Participation: What to Contribute and How to Share Learnings

Country offices should express interest in participating and/or nominating government counterparts to their regional social policy advisor. Additional ways you can contribute to the agenda (please get in touch with [Audrey Pereira](#) with copy to your regional advisor):

- **Propose a poster!** We will have a poster session to showcase new research and programming—please get in touch to propose a poster;
- **Propose a presentation or case study for a small group discussion:** We will have a group discussion on key thematic topics—please get in touch if you would like to volunteer to lead a group or contribute a case study;
- **Participate in a pre-workshop session:** We will have a pre-workshop session on June 20th deep diving on social protection and violence against women and children (please contact [Amber Peterman](#) for more information).

We thank [generous donors](#), including the American Institutes for Research, the Hewlett Foundation and the Swedish International Development Agency for their support to this workshop.