Global Perspectives on Adolescent Health and Economic Strengthening Conference: Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa

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Issues in Economic Strengthening and Health Functioning
Research for Children and Adolescents:
Social protection’s role in economic strengthening
as a response to HIV and AIDS

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Social protection programmes have emerged in countries all across sub-Saharan Africa over the past 15 years.

2000
9 countries,
25 programs

2010
35 countries,
120 programs

2012
41 countries,
245 programs

SOURCE: Garcia and Moore (2012)
Social protection’s role in economic strengthening as a response to HIV and AIDS

Broad-based HIV-sensitive social protection policies and programmes

- Increased developmental awareness
- Direct access to vital goods and services
- Income protection and economic strengthening
Social protection’s role in economic strengthening as a response to HIV and AIDS

Broad-based HIV-sensitive social protection policies and programmes

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- Direct access to vital goods and services
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- Reduced risky behaviour
- Greater economic power for vulnerable groups
- Improved educational outcomes
Social protection’s role in economic strengthening as a response to HIV and AIDS

**Broad-based HIV-sensitive social protection policies and programmes**

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- **Direct access to vital goods and services**
- **Income protection and economic strengthening**
- **Reduced risky behaviour**
- **Greater economic power for vulnerable groups**
- **Improved educational outcomes**

- **Increased Care and Support**
- **Reduced new infections (particularly for girls and young women)**
- **Reduced mortality and morbidity**
- **Better treatment and improved health outcomes**
The Transfer Project’s quantitative evaluation demonstrates important impacts reducing poverty and promoting human development as well as reducing behaviours that increase youth risk to HIV infection:

- Significantly reduced likelihood of early sexual debut
- Significant reductions in unprotected youth sexual activity, particularly for females
- Significant reduction in young females’ sexual activity with multiple partners over a twelve month period

Related qualitative work is lending insight into the transmission mechanisms of impact

Micro-simulation of targeting performance at national scale indicates the programme is substantially more likely to reach HIV-vulnerable households than non-vulnerable households—demonstrating the HIV-sensitivity of inclusive targeting approaches

Similar ongoing work in Ghana, Malawi, Lesotho and Zimbabwe
Kenya’s OVC cash transfer strengthens prevention outcomes through multiple pathways

HIV-prevention results from an evaluation of Kenya’s OVC Cash Transfer

SOURCE: Adapted from Handa (2014)
Evidence from South Africa’s Child Support Grant

- Government and UNICEF’s integrated qualitative-quantitative impact assessment of the Child Support Grant
  - Impacts on educational outcomes and indirect effects on prevention
  - Direct impacts in terms of reducing a range of risky behaviours
    - Drug abuse
    - Alcohol use
    - Youth sexual activity
  - Role of early childhood enrolment in the programme
School enrollment impacts among secondary age children strong, equal to those from CCTs in Latin America.
Evidence from social protection programmes in Africa document significant health impacts in many countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Impact Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana LEAP</td>
<td>20pp increases in health insurance coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho CGP</td>
<td>15pp decrease in illness among children 0-59 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberia SCT</td>
<td>20pp increase in curative care seeking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya CT-OVC</td>
<td>12pp increase in well-baby clinic attendance after 4 years; 25% increase in health spending</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malawi SCT</td>
<td>12pp decrease in illness among children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa CSG</td>
<td>9 pp decrease in illness (boys only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia CSG</td>
<td>5pp reduction in diarrhea among kids 0-59 months</td>
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Cash transfers lead to income multipliers across Africa

Production constraints can limit local supply response, which may lead to higher prices and a lower multiplier.
HIV-sensitive social protection should be embedded within a comprehensive and integrated developmental policy framework.

- Cross-sectoral interventions are likely to be more efficient and effective
- A broader set of impacts generates greater political support and potentially expands available resources
- The returns to HIV-sensitive social protection depend on investments in complementary interventions.
HIV-sensitive social protection should be embedded within a comprehensive and integrated developmental policy framework.

- Livelihoods Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), Ghana’s social protection programme for households in extreme poverty, automatically enrolls beneficiaries into the National Health Insurance Scheme and waives their fee through a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health.

- By 2012 90% of LEAP households were enrolled in NHIS. In this way, cash promotes health (through nutrition and money for transport to health services, for example) while health insurance promotes their ability to access treatment for health shocks, thereby promoting their livelihoods.
The pilot directly aims to promote financial inclusion of poor households, as measured by increased savings by participants.
Over the longer term, savings may finance investment in further and higher education and livelihoods development.

Theory of change: longer term developmental impacts
Initial SAIL results demonstrate both savings impacts and impact on a leading indicator of developmental impact.

% of households saving

# of missed school days
Emerging evidence that transfers enable safe-transition of adolescents into adulthood

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Reductions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya CT-OVC</td>
<td>8pp reduction in sexual debut among 15-25 year olds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5pp reduction in probability of depressive symptoms 15-21 year olds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6pp reduction in pregnancy among 15-21 year olds</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa CSG</td>
<td>53% reduction in odds of transactional sex girls 10-18;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Cluver et al)</td>
<td>63% reduction in age-disparate sex girls 10-18;</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa CSG</td>
<td>16pp reduction in sexual debut;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(EPRI)</td>
<td>Receiving grant at earlier ages reduces likelihood of alcohol and drug use in teenage years;</td>
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Spillover or ‘bonus’ effects of social cash transfers;
Illustrates the transformative potential of social protection--exciting;
Similar research ongoing in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe