

Setting the scene

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Workshop on the Protection to Production project

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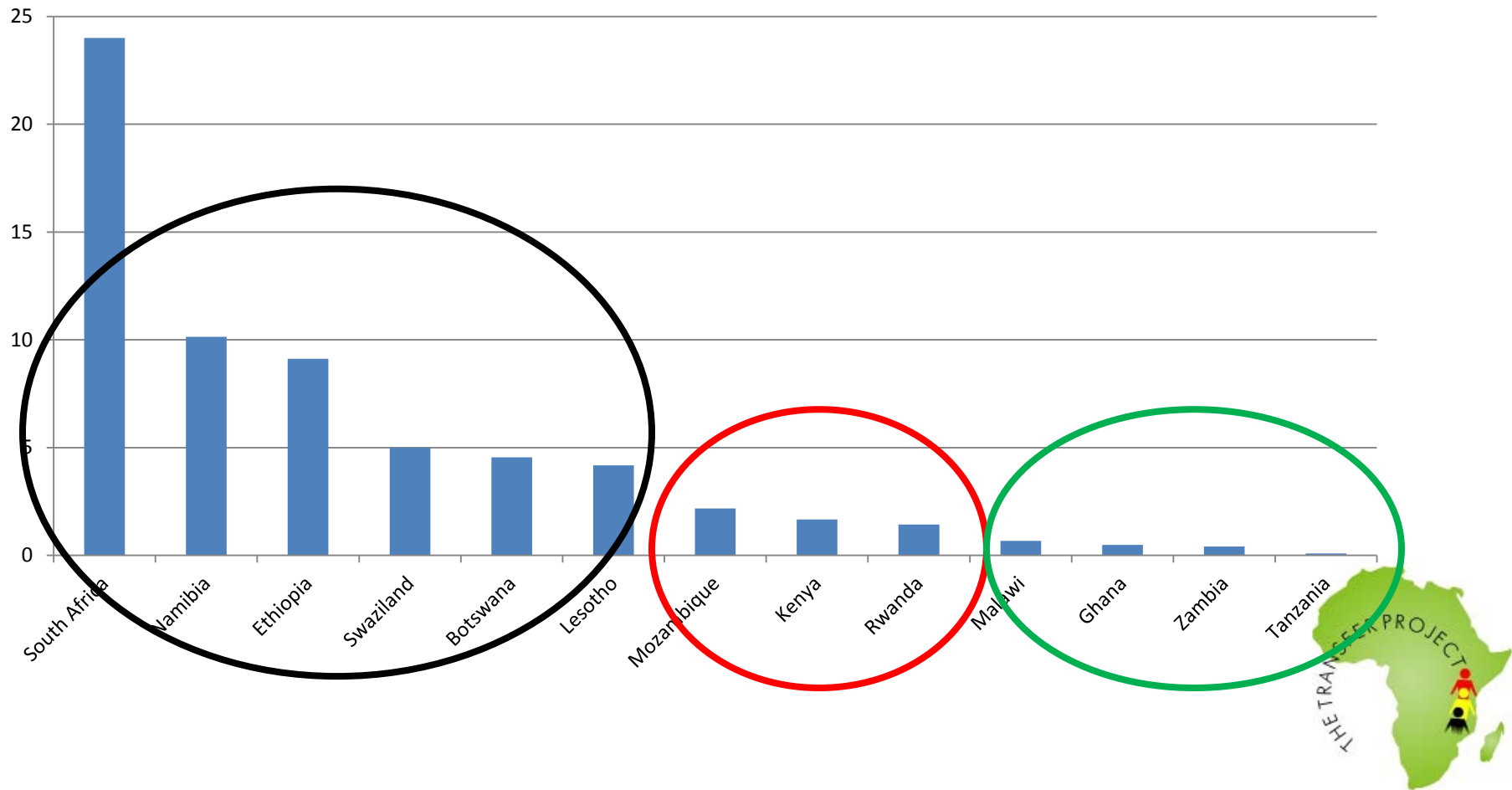
Rapid expansion of government-run cash transfers in Sub Saharan Africa

- Approximately half of the countries of SSA have some kind of government-run CT program
 - And others have multilateral/NGO-run CT programs
- Some programs are national
 - Others scaling up
 - Some recent pilots



Cash transfers national scale up (as of end 2010)

% of population covered by cash transfer program



Wide range of designs

- Universal programs
 - Old age pensions, child grants
- Targeted programs
 - Focus on ultra poor, labor constrained; OVC and other specific vulnerabilities
- Unconditional (for the most part)
 - “Soft” conditions and strong messages
- Cash for work for able bodied
 - Often explicitly linked to productive activities (PSNP, VUP, Somalia)
- Prominent role of community in targeting



What's particular about the context of cash transfers in Sub Saharan Africa

Higher risk and
vulnerability



- HIV/AIDS
 - Economic and social vulnerability
- Widespread poverty
- Continued reliance on subsistence agriculture and informal economy
 - Exit path from poverty is not necessarily through the labor market
 - Poorly developed markets and risk, risk, risk

Weaker institutions



- Less fiscal space---donors play a stronger role
 - Dependent on bilateral, multilateral support
- Still missing consensus among national policy makers
- Weaker institutional capacity to implement programs
- Weaker supply of services (health and education)



Impact evaluation plays a central role in improving program design and implementation

- Conditional cash transfer revolution in Latin America and the Caribbean heralded new prominence and acceptance of applying rigorous impact evaluations to social programs
 - Radically advanced state of knowledge on CCTs, improving program implementation and methodology, technique, design, sampling and analysis of impact evaluation data
- Rigorous impact evaluation has become defining characteristic of cash transfer programs in Sub Saharan Africa—rivaling the experience of Latin America



1st and 2nd generation cash transfer program impact evaluations in Sub Saharan Africa (20 in 14)

- Malawi SCT
 - Mchinji pilot, 2008-2009
 - Expansion, 2013-2014
- Kenya
 - CT OVC, Pilot 2007-2011
 - CT OVC, Expansion, 2012-2014
 - HSNP, Pilot 2010-2012
- Mozambique PSA
 - Expansion, 2008-2009
- Zambia
 - Monze pilot, 2007-2010
 - Child Grant, 2010-2013
- South Africa CSG
 - Retrospective, 2010
- Burkina Faso
 - Experiment, 2008-2010
- Sierra Leone
 - Pilot, 2011-2012
- Ethiopia
 - PNSP, 2006-2010
 - Tigray SPP, 2012-2014
- Ghana LEAP
 - Pilot, 2010-2012
- Lesotho, CSP
 - Pilot, 2011-2013
- Uganda, SAGE
 - Pilot, 2012-2014
- Zimbabwe, SCT
 - Pilot, 2013-2015
- Tanzania, TASAF
 - Pilot, 2009-2012
 - Expansion, 2012-2014
- Niger
 - Begins in 2012



Main evaluation topics in the 1st generation

1. Food security and consumption
2. Nutritional status
3. Health: use of services, morbidity
4. Education: enrollment, attendance, age of entry to school
5. Targeting



What's new in the 2nd generation

1. Mitigation of HIV risk
 - a. Sexual behavior and perceptions
2. Psycho-social status (PSS), mental health, preferences
3. Conditionality
4. Productive activities and economic growth
 - a. Household and community level
 - b. Simulation modeling
5. Networks of reciprocal exchange
6. Continued focus on targeting



What is exciting about these impact evaluations

- Impact evaluations of government-run programs—not experiments
 - National ownership and direct link to policy and program design
 - Experiments such as recent Zomba provide important insights into program design, but what is external validity?
 - Randomized control trial as ideal, but as rigorous as feasibly possible given logistical, policy and political constraints
 - Large role of community in targeting poses particular challenge to randomization



As a result, continuum of designs

- Randomized control trials combined with perfect mimicking in targeting (Lesotho, Zambia)
- Less robust experimental designs, with fewer units of randomisation and/or approximate mimicking in targeting (Malawi, Kenya)
- Variety of non experimental designs
 - Longitudinal designs with matched controls (Mozambique, Zimbabwe)
 - Controls from national datasets (Ghana)
 - Retrospective impact evaluations of existing programs, with matched controls (Ethiopia, South Africa)
- Most use mixed methods, integrating econometric and qualitative approaches, and more recently, model simulation approaches



The Transfer Project

- Emerges in context of expansion of impact evaluation of cash transfer programs
- Begun by UNICEF and Save the Children UK, later joined by University of North Carolina and FAO, in coordination with national governments and research partners
 - Currently “self” funded
- From Protection to Production project falls under Transfer Project umbrella



Transfer Project: Objectives

- **Provide evidence** on the effectiveness of cash transfer programs in achieving impacts for children
- **Inform** the development and design of cash transfer **policy** and programs
- **Promote learning** across the continent on the design and implementation of cash transfer evaluations and research



Transfer Project: The 3 Pillars

1. Regional learning, information exchange and network/ community of practice
2. Technical assistance on design and implementation of impact evaluation and identification of research areas
3. Synthesis of regional lessons on programme design



Transfer Project activities in impact evaluation

- Research Network
 - Annual workshops (January 2011, February 2012; in Kenya)
 - Share results and experiences on design and implementation of cash transfer impact evaluations
 - Build lines of communication among evaluators and clients
 - Virtual network of researchers
- Support to impact evaluations
 - UNC (with partners) leading impact evaluations in Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe
 - PtoP supporting impact evaluations in Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe
 - Only piece of funded cross country, thematic research
 - Technical assistance to design and supervision of 12 impact evaluations in 9 countries
- Diffusion of results
 - Special issue of J of Development Effectiveness (Spring, 2012)
 - Policy briefs



Transfer Project activities in operations

- Community of Practice: UNICEF, with recent collaboration with World Bank
 - Under UNICEF leadership, first face to face meeting in Lesotho September, 2010
 - Implementers listserv to exchange ideas and experiences
 - Under World Bank leadership, virtual exchange among ‘mature’ programs as of December, 2011, with face to face meetings in April (Tanzania) and October (Kenya), 2012

