



Newsletter, number 1, 2017

The Community of Practice (CoP) of Cash Transfer (CT) programs in Africa is a learning platform, which is completing six years of successful activity. To ensure language adequacy members are grouped into Anglophone and Francophone groups. The member countries of the Anglophone group are: Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The members of the Francophone group are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon,

Comoros, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo.

This Newsletter captures the highlights of the first semester of 2017, including the main activities, publications, events and other news. Bi-annual newsletters will continue to be prepared as part of the CoP, including topics around social protection and cash transfer programs. Please keep an eye on email notifications. If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please contact [insert contact to be agreed].

CoP Activities – January-June, 2017

Steering Committee Meetings: The Steering Committee (SC) and the Facilitation Team for the Anglophone CoP met three (three) times during the first half of 2017 and in a face-to-face meeting in February, 2017 in Accra. The SC is increasingly taking over the leadership of the CoP and discussions have mainly focused on discussing the progress made so far in the CoP and agree on way forward. discussing the governance of the CoP, as well as ways to diversify topics of upcoming videoconferences and other modalities of engagement with CoP members. Discussions have also been held around plans for the a next face-to-face meeting, including potential funding sources, timing and venue.

❖ **How to better engage with Africa CoP members:**

As part of the efforts to reinvigorate the CoP and enable us achieve our objective, a videoconference held on May 17. The discussions were focused around on how to better engage with the CoP members. Some of the ideas aimed to bring concrete solutions to foster the learning exchange among members and increase the value added of the community.

During the first semester, the Anglophone group also organized a videoconferences to discuss :

❖ **Gender and social inclusion presentation:**

Amber Peterman, from UNICEF Office of Research—Innocenti presented research and policy implications from evaluations conducted under the

Transfer Project. The presentation focused on gender and social inclusion, including a focus on research findings in Zambia's Child Grant Program, and touching on case studies from Ghana, Niger, Kenya and others. The presentation was very useful for those members seeking to monitor, evaluate or understand the literature around gender-sensitive social protection in the region.

We are also pleased to provide you a quick update on the recent 6th Transfer Project Research Workshop on “**The State of Evidence on Social Cash Transfers in Africa**”. From June 7-9, 2017 the Transfer Project convened a major international workshop for policymakers, researchers, and UN experts in Dakar, Senegal. Objectives of the meeting included 1) increased awareness among participants of cross-regional evidence; 2) identification of gaps for further research; and 3) evidence-based recommendations for governments in Africa and beyond and supporting organizations in how to improve the design and implementation of social protection policies and (further) integration of cash transfer programmes.

The workshop was hosted by UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO), UNICEF Innocenti and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with Transfer Project partners from across UNICEF, FAO's From Protection to Production (PtoP) Project, Save the Children UK and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill leading various sessions.

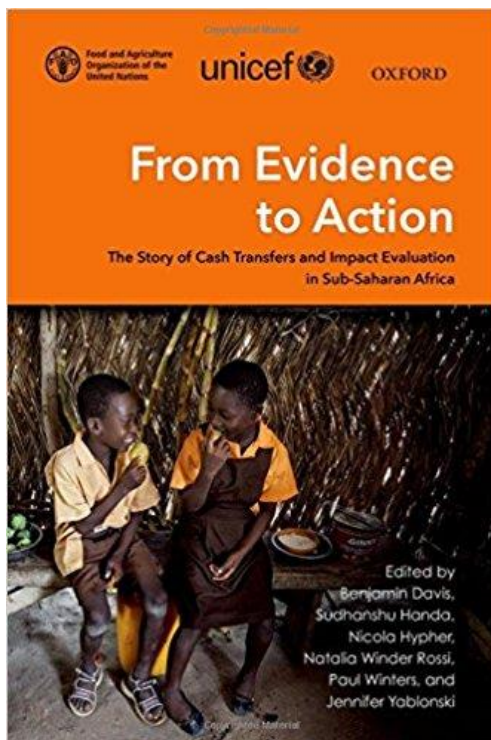
The Dakar meeting happened at a strategic time when social protection initiatives – especially cash transfers – continue to gain steam throughout the world. Giving cash has been shown as an effective strategy in developing contexts and is being scaled-up in humanitarian and fragile settings. Additionally, albeit controversially, governments are experimenting with the idea of providing a universal basic income in industrialized countries as well.

By providing participants with practical and actionable recommendations, the workshop demonstrated how experts can come together to effectively exchange information and work on research uptake to improve the lives of children and their families and contribute to the realization of global development goals.

From the English speaking members of our CoP were Tanzania Social Action Fund, Ethiopia PSNP, Ghana LEAP, Liberia, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia Social Welfare Dept-CT. The Francophone CoP was represented by - Burkina Faso, Burundi, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Gabriel Fernández, coordinator of the Liberia National Social Protection Program, represented our CoP presenting with the following poster:

Publications

From Evidence to Action: The Story of Cash Transfers and Impact Evaluation in Sub-Saharan Africa



Cash transfers have become a key social protection tool in developing countries and have expanded dramatically in the last two decades. However, the impacts of cash transfers programmes, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, have not been substantially documented. This book presents a detailed overview of the impact evaluations of these programmes, carried out by the Transfer Project and FAO's From Protection to Production project. The 14 chapters include a review of eight country case studies: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as a description of the innovative research methodologies, political economy issues and good practices to design cash transfer programmes. The key objective of the book is to enhance the understanding of these development programmes, how they lead to a broad range of social and productive impacts and also of the role of programme evaluation in the process of developing policies and implementing programmes.

<https://www.unicef-irc.org/article/1443/>

How Conditional Cash Transfers Work: Good Practices after 20 Years of Implementation is a fundamental reflection on 20 years of experience with conditional cash transfer programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Best practices and useful knowledge regarding the different dimensions of these programs were rigorously collected, organized and analyzed, making this book

invaluable to everyone interested in how these programs transformed social protection systems.

<https://publications.iadb.org/bitstream/handle/11319/8159/How-conditional-cash-transfers-work.PDF?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>

This paper summarizes evidence on six perceptions associated with cash transfer programming, using eight rigorous evaluations conducted on large-scale government unconditional cash transfers in sub-Saharan Africa, under the Transfer Project. Specifically, we investigate if transfers: 1) induce higher spending on alcohol or tobacco; 2) are fully consumed (rather than invested); 3) create dependency (reduce participation in productive activities); 4) increase fertility; 5) lead to negative community-level economic impacts (including price distortion and inflation), and 6) are fiscally unsustainable. We present evidence refuting each claim, leading to the conclusion that these perceptions – insofar as they are utilized in policy debates – undercut potential improvements in well-being and livelihood strengthening among the poor, which these programmes can bring about in sub-Saharan Africa, and globally. We conclude by underscoring outstanding research gaps and policy implications for the continued expansion of unconditional cash transfers in the region and beyond.

https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/IWP_2017_06.pdf

Events

Putting children first: Identifying solutions and taking action to tackle poverty and inequality in Africa

This three-day international conference aims to engage policy makers, practitioners and researchers in identifying solutions for fighting child poverty and inequality Africa, and inspiring action towards change. The conference offers a platform for bridging divides across sectors, disciplines and policy, practice and research. The conference aims: to identify, debate and advocate proven solutions to end child poverty in Africa; to share and discuss new research on who and where poor children are, why they are poor and what tailored approaches to address their situation may look like; to discuss particular policy and programming challenges and how they can be addressed; to build links and networks between researchers, policy makers and practitioners; to stimulate learning on particular skills that may help to move research to action.

<http://www.theimpactinitiative.net/event/event-putting-children-first-identifying-solutions-and-taking-action-tackle-poverty-and>

11th Annual Poverty and Social Protection Conference

The 11th Annual Poverty and Social Protection Conference will take place from March 9th - 11th 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Conference is organized by Tomorrow People Organization - internationally recognized non for profit organization with head quarters in Belgrade, Serbia.

The official language of the conference in English. Attendance of delegates from more than 40 countries is expected.

The 2018 Poverty and Social Protection Conference (PSPC 2018) will address questions regarding the role and importance of equal distribution of resources and

social inclusion. The potential roles and impacts less-developed countries have on politics, business, education and the public sector. In addition, major social and economic trends and their potential for poverty reduction.

<http://www.pspconference.org/dates--location.html>

Also stay tuned for further information about the forthcoming South- South Forum on adaptive social protection that will take place in Dakar, Senegal during the second semestre of 2017. The Africa CoP is planning to organize the next Face to Face meeting the week before the South-South Forum

Video

Tanzania's Conditional Cash Transfer Program Helps Reduce Extreme Poverty

"We have been empowered by this program," said Masigazwa, a single mother of seven children. "We were behind but we have made good progress."

Masigazwa's family is just one of more than one million families, the majority of them headed by women, who exemplify the success of the conditional cash transfer program in Tanzania. According to a recent impact evaluation using 7,400 randomly-selected households in Tanzania and Zanzibar, the program has contributed to the reduction of extreme poverty, especially among female-headed households who constitute 54% of beneficiaries. It has also contributed to the improved consumption of food and access to health and education services, enhancing and protecting the human capital investment in children.

Building on the pilot's successes as well as the lessons learned, the government embarked on the implementation of a wider Productive Social Safety Nets (PSSN) program in 2012. In August 2015, the program achieved a massive scale up to reach 1.1 million households across 10,000 villages nationwide, making it the second largest government-run CCT program in Africa, after Ethiopia's.

This video provides insight into the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqAvTY-asPM>