



International
Labour
Organization

Call for Papers: Documenting the Qualitative and Quantitative Impact of Cash Transfer Programmes on traditional solidarity, community sharing and reciprocity mechanisms in Eastern and Southern Africa

Background

Implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) with the financial assistance of Irish Aid, the Project on “Inclusive Growth, Social Protection and Jobs” comprises assistance to target countries (Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique) in the region with specific economic feasibility studies, legal expertise, support to national dialogue processes and advice on the governance and administrative aspects of implementing national social protection floors, reflecting the principles of ILO Recommendation R.202 (2012) on National Floors of Social Protection. Grounded in a regional peer learning process, the project has a three pronged approach premised on ensuring that target countries have: i. Policies and innovative strategies for the implementation of social protection floor tailored to national circumstances. ii. Improved legal, administrative and governance frameworks for the extension of social protection in line with international social security standards and iii. Improved knowledge base and monitoring capacity on the implementation of Social Protection Floors in the three countries

This call for papers aims to contribute to building the evidence base on the impact of non-contributory cash transfer programmes on social and community dynamics in Southern Africa. Cash transfers have become a prominent instruments in the regional social protection policy space since the end of 2000s. As Honorati et al. (2015) report, 40 countries (out of 48 in the region) had unconditional cash transfers in 2015, approximately double since 2010.

In the recent past a large number of rigorous impact evaluations were conducted in Southern Africa, aiming at documenting the impacts of cash transfers on a range of poverty and human development indicators. Based on experimental or quasi experimental impact evaluation designs, quantitative evidence of the impact of unconditional cash transfers was gathered for programmes in Kenya (HSNP and OVC-CT), Ghana (LEAP), Lesotho (CGP), Zimbabwe (HSCT), Zambia (SCT), Uganda (SAGE), Malawi (SCT) and Ethiopia (PSNP). Qualitative evidence has also been used to enrich and complement the quantitative findings as well as explore additional research questions (Barca et al, 2015).

The great wealth of information collected has contributed to draw lessons both at country at regional level about. Recently the available evidence has been synthesized in both a regional focussed publication (Davis et al. 2016) and a global review of the impact of cash transfers (Bastagli et al, 2016). The evaluation findings documented across countries in Southern Africa have a strong focus on socioeconomic outcomes, with the analysis primarily centred on effects on: poverty and consumption expenditure, food security and nutrition, access to health and education. A number of studies have also made a strong attempt to documenting of social cash transfers effects on livelihood and economic activities, labour supply, productive investment and access to finance.

A good number of studies conducted in the region have also collected qualitative as well as quantitative data on the effects of social cash transfers on community level reciprocity and sharing mechanisms, such as the exchange of food, cash assistance, labour or inputs through family and social networks within the community. Informal social solidarity and community reciprocity mechanisms are widespread in SubSaharan Africa, particularly in rural areas (Devereux and Getu, 2013; Calder and Tanhchareun, 2014). In some countries cash transfers and other formal safety nets interventions have

been justified as a means to alleviate the excessive burden on traditional solidarity mechanisms caused by the HIV-AIDS epidemics.

Results on the effects of social cash transfer have been analysed for a number of countries individually: Lesotho (Pellerano et al., 2014), Uganda (Merttens et al., 2015), Kenya (Merttens et al., 2012), Ghana (Handa et al., 2014), Malawi (Angeles et al., 2016), Zambia (Seidenfeld et al., 2016). Contrary to a possible prior hypotheses the evidence does not seem to support the case for public social transfers to crowd out private transfers. Instead results from some countries seem to suggest that cash transfer may enable beneficiaries to more actively engage in community reciprocity arrangement from which they were otherwise excluded. To date little effort has been put in documenting country findings in a cross-country comparative perspective and drawing some common lessons. The call for papers comes to respond to this evidence gap.

Objectives of the paper

- Review literature on the impact of Cash Transfer programmes on community reciprocity and sharing mechanisms in Sub Saharan Africa, with a specific focus on Eastern and Southern Africa
- Develop a theory of change in regards to the possible effect of cash transfer programmes on community sharing and reciprocity mechanisms
- Document and synthesize regional qualitative and quantitative evidence on effects of cash transfers on informal social protection, solidarity and reciprocity mechanisms, with a particular focus on the exchange of food, cash assistance, labour or inputs through family and social networks
- Draw conclusions and policy implications

It is expected the paper will draw at least from qualitative and quantitative evidence from at least 4 countries in the region.

Deliverables and Timeframe

- First draft of the paper by 30th June 2017
- Second draft of the paper by 31st July 2017

It is expected that the lead researcher will submit the paper to a peer-reviewed economic/international development journal during the second half of 2017.

Research Team

The contract will be assigned by ILO CO-Lusaka to one or two individual researchers, so to ensure good balance of qualitative and quantitative insights on the subject. The paper will be co-authored by one member of the ILO CO-Lusaka team.

Expression of Interest

The following documentation should be sent to hamusimbi@ilo.org by 24th April 2017 14:00 Lusaka time: • Draft abstract • CV and Bio researcher • Proposed daily fee rate in USD

References:

Barca, V., Brook, S., Holland, J., Otulana, M. & Pozarny, P. "Qualitative research and analyses of the economic impacts of cash transfer programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa - Synthesis Report" PtoP project report, FAO, Rome - January 2015

Bastagli, F, Hagen-Zanker, J, Harman, L, Sturge, G, Barca, V, Schmidt, T, and Pellerano, L (2016), "Cash transfers: what does the evidence say? A rigorous review of programme impact and of the role of design and implementation features", ODI: London.

Calder, R. and Tanhchareun, T. (2014) "Informal social protection: Social relations and cash transfers", DFAT Davis, B. et al (eds.) (2016), "From Evidence to Action: The Story of Cash Transfers and Impact Evaluation in SubSaharan Africa", Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Devereux, S. and Getu, M. (2013) Informal and Formal Social Protection Systems in SubSaharan Africa. Addis Ababa: Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)

Handa, S., Park, M., Osei Darko, R., Osei-Akoto, I., Davis, B. & Daidone, S. "Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Program - Impact evaluation report", Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina - February 2014

Honorati, M., Gentilini, U., Yemtsov, R.G. (2015) The state of social safety nets 2015. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/07/24741765/state-social-safety-nets-2015>

Merttens, F. et al. (2012), "Kenya HSNP Monitoring and Evaluation Component: Impact Analysis Synthesis Report", Oxford Policy Management for DFID and the GoK. Available at: <http://www.opml.co.uk/publications/kenya-hsnp-monitoring-and-evaluation-component-impact-analysis-synthesisreport>

Merttens, F., Pellerano, L., O'Leary, S., Sindou, E., Attah, R., Jones, E. and Martin, S. (2015), "Evaluation of the Uganda Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) Programme - Midline Report Summary", Oxford Policy Management for DFID and GoU. Available at: <http://www.opml.co.uk/publications/evaluation-ugandasocial-assistance-grants-empowerment-sage-programme-midline-report>

Pellerano, L., Moratti, M., Jakobsen, M., Bajgar, M. and Barca, V. (2014), "The Lesotho Child Grants Programme Impact Evaluation: Follow-up Report", Oxford Policy Management, Government of Lesotho, UNICEF/FAO. Available at: <http://www.opml.co.uk/publications/cgp-impact-evaluation-follow-report-executive-summary>