

Cash transfers in non-traditional family settings: exposing adaptation challenges through qualitative research

Dr. Tendai Nhenga-Chakarisa, Africa
University

Dr. Deborah Fry, University of Edinburgh

Study and Context

- Long history of cash transfer programme in Zimbabwe
- Impact evaluations were conducted
- After 24 month impact evaluation, government, academics, and CSO partners reviewed the theory of change and re-oriented towards a 'cash plus' model
- Mixed methods study including a quantitative household survey of 2,092 young people aged 13-24 years from 2,825 households. The sample consisted of 1,048 males and 1,044 females.
- And a comprehensive qualitative study with 350 cash and non-cash transfer adult and adolescent beneficiaries was conducted in five districts using participatory methods

What we aimed to measure/change

- We were interested in understanding how injections of cash in the household through the HSCT programme impacts (with a particular focus on the risk and protective factors for violence) on:
 - Different family constellations and types of children including the impact on child protection for children with disabilities
 - Family dynamics and parenting
 - Adolescent relationships outside the family

Adaptation Challenges

- Theory of change originally developed but not by the people leading/involved with implementing the programme
- Tricky history of who 'leads' the programme— child protection or social policy and their associated ministries
- Impact evaluation data analysis were done outside the country
 - Very little discussion of using the impact evaluations for guiding implementation
 - Very little data within the impact evaluations that could actually help child protection programming

Main Findings

- The importance of INSPIRE strategies working together (the “Plus Cash” Model)—cash on its own will not prevent violence.
- Schools as key protective spaces for children and the intersections of cash in the home on violence children experience in schools.
- The importance for child protection of children’s involvement in decision-making around the use of HSCT cash.
- The impact for adults and children living with disabilities as well as caregivers.

Recommendations for Future

- Different family constellations require different focused programming to address key risk factors for violence (e.g. family stress, community stigmatisation, paternal alcohol abuse, etc) to ensure that the cash recipients are also supported to have the best child protection, health and wellbeing outcomes.
- “Cash Plus” models need to build on the INSPIRE framework.
- More discussion and intervention work is needed on children’s participation in Income and Economic Strengthening programmes