

A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, smiling broadly. The girl is in the foreground, wearing a pink shirt, and the boy is behind her, wearing a white shirt. They are standing in front of a brick wall. In the background, there are other people and buildings, suggesting a village or community setting.

# Setting the Scene: Social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa

From Protection to Production Project  
(Technical Workshop)

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unite for  
children

unicef 

# Presentation Overview

- UNICEF strategic interest in PtP
- Policy Commitment- global, regional and country levels
- Expansion of Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Programme Design characteristics; new patterns
- Emerging evidence in SSA: The Transfer Project
- Current challenges



# UNICEF strategic interest in the PtP Project

- Strategic actor in SSA, supporting countries in policy development, design/expansion of programmes and impact evaluation
- UNICEF Approach to SP: *Integrated Systems* : to address multiple vulnerabilities at individual , household and community levels
  - Linkages with and between sectors, including productivity – critical for overall outcomes
- Acknowledging that children’s development *and* resilience depend on overall household and community capacity
  - Importance of households’ economic activity for children’s well-being



# Expansion of Social Protection and Cash Transfers in sub-Saharan Africa

# Policy Commitment and expansion of CTs

Growing political commitment around social protection

- **Global level:** Social protection is recognized at the highest international forums as a critical strategy to reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion. Important milestones to support this
- **Regional level:** Social protection is increasingly being recognized by African heads of state as an integral component of national development, inclusive growth and poverty reduction agendas

# Expansion of SP programs

- Based on a recent WB mapping, there are **123** Cash Transfer programs in Sub-Saharan Africa (as of 2009)
- This does not take into account however, *other types* of interventions, such as user fee removal, health insurance, legislation reform, etc.
- Well established programmes in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana
- Expansion and consolidation of programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa; Increasing new programs in Western and Central Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Niger)



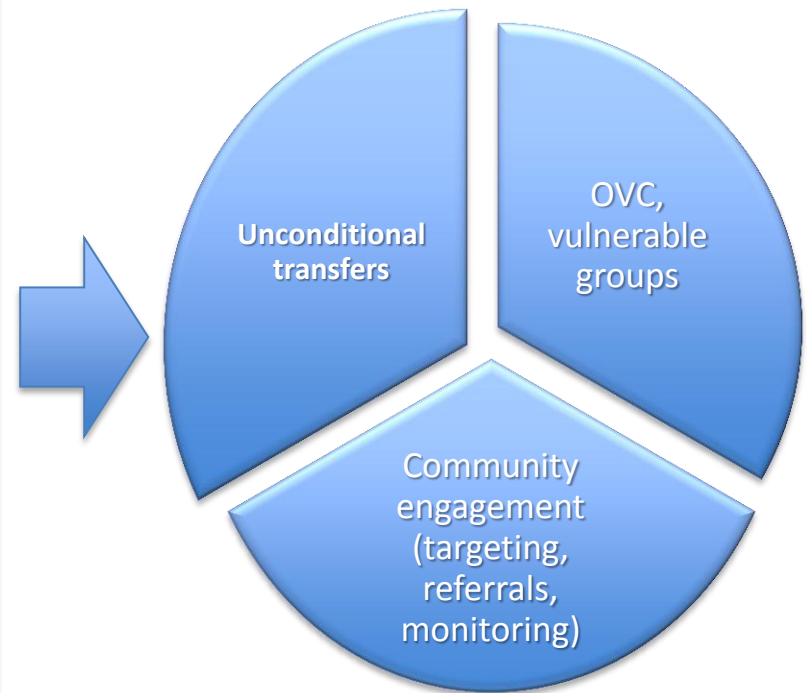
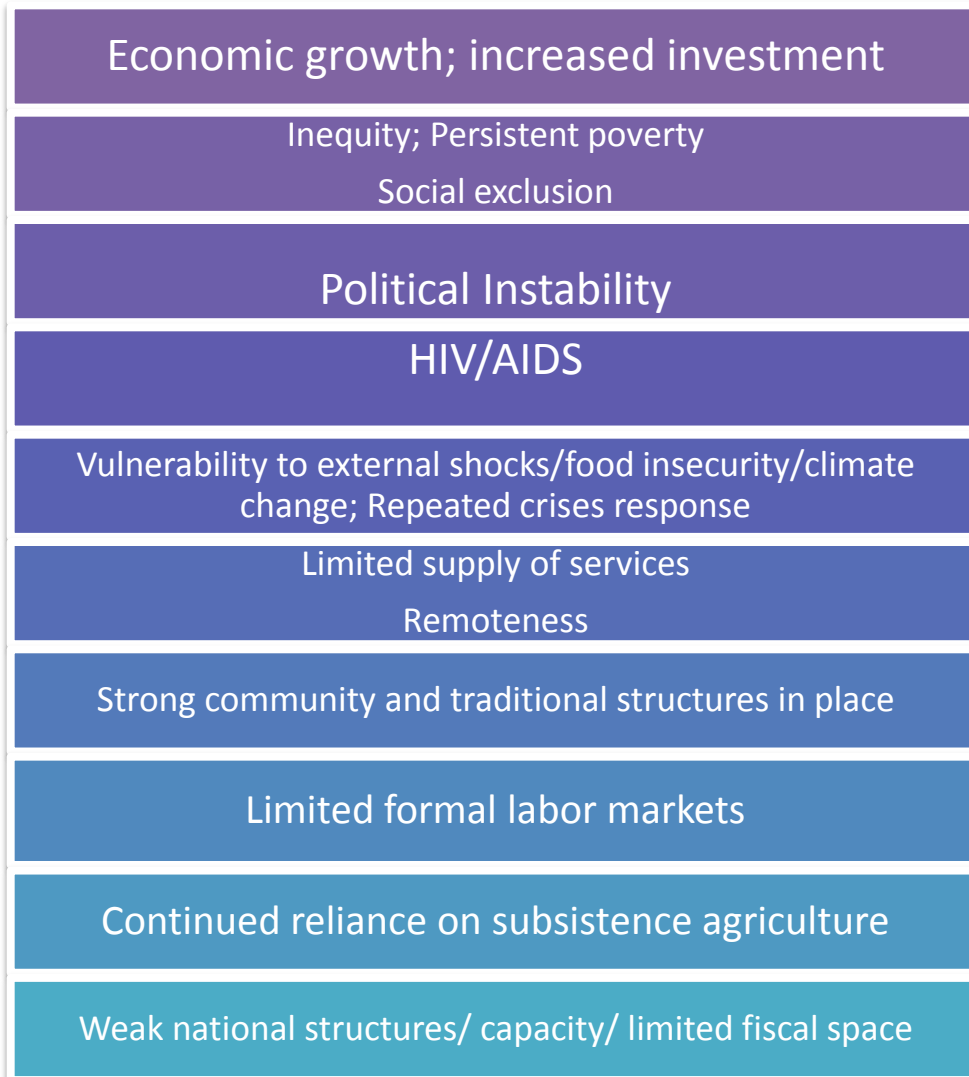
# Characteristics of Cash Transfers in the Region

# What is the landscape? Typology of Programmes

- **Universal programs in (wealthier) Southern Africa**
  - Universal old age pensions and near universal child grants: (South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland , Zambia )
- **Targeted programs to specific vulnerabilities**
  - Multiple vulnerabilities: ultra-poor, labor constrained, OVC, children <5 (Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique)
- **Cash for work for able bodied; links with productive sector**
  - Linked to productive activities (Ethiopia, Rwanda)
- **A few conditional programs**
  - Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Nigeria
- **Cash in emergency settings** (Niger, Somalia, Mali)



# Design responsive to African context



Plus...  
Strong donor presence/funding

# Emerging trends

- **Move from fragmented/silo donor-supported projects to nationally owned social protection SYSTEMS**
  - Ghana
  - Lesotho
  - Kenya
- **Move from cash transfer for people effected by emergencies ('emergency cash transfers') to social protection frameworks/programmes**
  - Niger
  - Somalia

# Systems approach to Social Protection

- Main message out of UNICEF and World Bank Framework/strategies
- Supporting countries in the development and strengthening of comprehensive systems: *a coordinated portfolio of interventions to address different dimensions of poverty and deprivation, aiming to reduce vulnerability across the life-cycle and ensure cumulative benefits across generations*
- Countries in the region are starting to move towards systems as an effective way to address multiple vulnerabilities, at different levels...

# Operationalization of systems: Examples

- **Ghana: Linking Cash Transfers and Health**

- National Social Protection Strategy
- Explicit linkages between Cash transfer (LEAP) and other sectors (education, health)
- Common targeting systems between LEAP and health insurance. Beneficiaries of LEAP are automatically enrolled in national health insurance
- Technical Working Group on Social Protection: Coordinate Policy Interventions of Ministries, Departments and Agencies for Vulnerable/Excluded Citizens; ensure compliance at decentralized levels.

- **Zimbabwe: HIV, violence and poverty as key drivers of vulnerability. Integrated Response: Cash transfers, protection services and links to basic social services**

- National Plan, Child Protection Fund and **M&E Framework**
- Specific Monitoring and information systems to link programs: identification and follow-up processes for child protection which are built in to the Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) targeting mechanisms and through the engagement of child protection committees as HSCT focal persons and community watchdogs. The HSCT MIS also collects data on reported child protection violations and generates local lists for Department of Social Services follow-up

# Operationalization of Systems (cont.)

- **Ethiopia: National Social Protection Policy**

- Five core focus areas for action: social safety nets; livelihood and employment schemes; social insurance; addressing inequalities in access to basic services; and addressing violence and abuse and providing legal protection and support.
- Explicit links between social protection, resilience and disaster risk management
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the focal government ministry to coordinate the implementation of the policy.
- National Social Protection Steering Committee (NSPSC), to ensure inter-ministerial coordination; members from all relevant ministries and institutions.

- **South Africa: National Integrated Social Information System-linking social assistance and social insurance**

- Database of households Living in Poverty : comprehensive data- Integration of administrative data sources (municipal, provincial, national); mechanisms in place for information sharing between programs;
- Service delivery monitoring
- Service referrals Systems: Provides mechanism for coordinated action across departments, tiers of governments and NGOs – links between social assistance and social insurance programs



# Impact Evaluations & State of the Evidence

# Cash transfer program impact evaluations in Sub Saharan Africa (19 in 13 countries)

- 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
  - 2012
- Ethiopia
  - PNSP, 2006-2010
  - Tigray SPP, 2012-2014
- Ghana LEAP
  - Pilot, 2010-2012
- Lesotho, CGP
  - 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

# Summary of Results: Human Development/Child Outcomes

	Schooling	Morbidity	Health care	Anthro.	ECD
Ghana LEAP	x	NS	X		
Kenya CT-OVC	x	x*	X*	NS	
Lesotho					
Mlw Mchinji	X	X	X	?	
RSA CSG	X		NS		
Zam CGP	X				X
Zam Monze	x	NS	NS		
Zam MCP					
South Africa /CG	X		X	X	X

     Not collected    x=significant    empty=pending    NS=not significant



# Summary of Results: Economic Outcomes

	Consumption	Food security	Assets	Production
Eth PSNP	x	x	x	x
Ghana LEAP	NS	X	NS	NS
Kenya CT-OVC	X	X	x	NS
Lesotho				
Mlw Mchinji	X	X	x	x
RSA CSG		X		
Zam CGP	X	X	x	x
Zam Monze	NS	NS	x	x
Zam MCP	x	x	x	x

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# Transition to adulthood

	Sexual debut	Mental health	Early pregnancy	Violence	Other risks
Kenya CT-OVC	x	x	x		NS
RSA CSG	x		x		X
Mlw SCT					
Zam MCP					
Zim HSCT					

[REDACTED] Not collected   
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# SP and HIV Outcomes

- New Literature review on impact of Social Protection on HIV outcomes
  - **Prevention:** Social protection can potentially impact on factors that contribute to HIV risk including inequality, education levels, poverty and exclusion/ Impacts on increase uptake of preventive measures such as such as PMTC treatment and counseling.
  - **Access to treatment:** Removal of financial and social barriers to access treatment (direct and indirect costs)
  - **Care and support:** Mitigation of negative effects of HIV/AIDS
- Outstanding questions—
  - What are the casual pathways for these specific impacts?/ How to sustain these impacts
  - What are the most effective mix of intervention's given a specific epidemic context
  - What are the most effective targeting methodologies to reach children and families affected by HIV and AIDS

# The Transfer Project: Partners and Motivation

- Growing practice in SSA on cash transfers; limited documentation (and sharing) on lessons, experience and impact evaluation
- Institutional Partnership between **FAO, UNICEF, Save the Children, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill**
- Working in close collaboration with regional, country level counterparts, including national governments, and research institutions



# The Transfer Project: Objectives

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



# The Transfer Project:

## Supporting learning and evaluation in SSA

### Pillars:

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

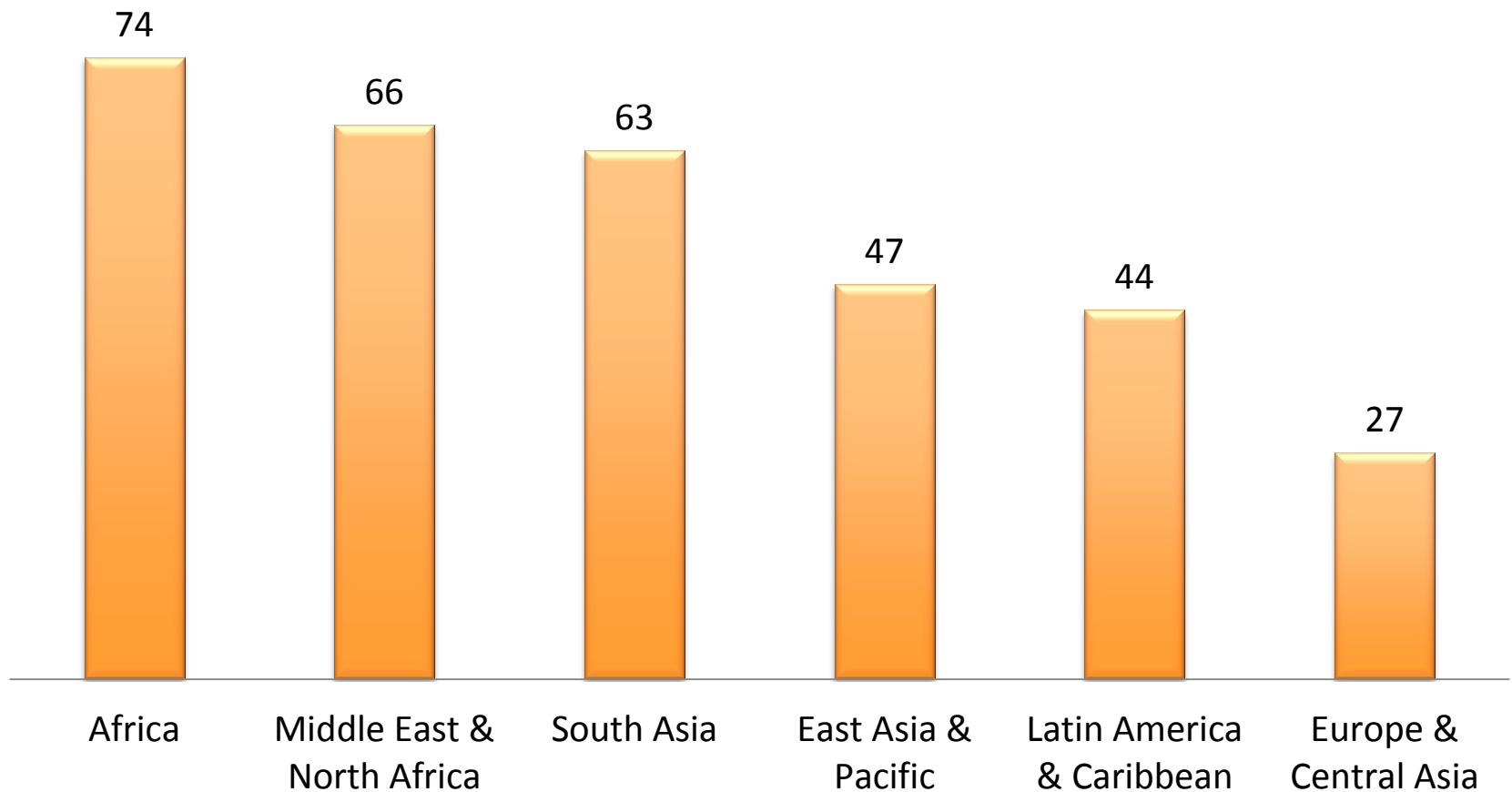




# Outstanding Gaps and Challenges

# Systems: Challenge of Coverage

Percentage of 20% poorest families receiving no social protection transfers





# Key challenges

- **Sustainability**
  - Expansion of coverage; increased government take up of financial commitments– how to sustain investments?
- **Systems approach- linkages with different sectors: Health, education, agriculture, others**
  - How to operationalize key linkages to provide a comprehensive approach
  - What are the incentives for coordination?
  - Competing budgets?
- **Social protection not a silver bullet– what other interventions are critical to bring people out of poverty in a sustainable manner**
  - Linkages with livelihood promotion; agricultural policies; microfinance, business development

# Key challenges (2)

- **Clear understanding and awareness among policy makers around existing evidence around social protection impacts on children and families in Sub-Saharan Africa**
  - UNICEF/Transfer Project 'Big Splash' International Conference
  - Academic Paper
  - Policy Advocacy Publication

**..... stay tuned!**

# Thank you

## The Transfer Project

[www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer)

## UNICEF- Social protection

[www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_socialprotection.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_socialprotection.html)

[www.unicef.org/socialprotection/framework](http://www.unicef.org/socialprotection/framework)

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