

## Social Protection “Plus” Workshop, Dar es Salaam

February 11-12, 2016

### Summary Brief

**Workshop objectives:** In February 2016, UNICEF convened a group of stakeholders, including government, United Nations (UN), non-governmental organization (NGO) implementers, researchers and experts, and members of the donor community to assess options for a social protection “plus” (or cash plus) intervention within the framework of Tanzania’s Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN), a conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme. The concept of “cash plus” encompasses layering of services, interventions or messaging onto cash transfer programmes in an effort to leverage the cash and amplify its impacts. The rationale is that cash alone is not always sufficient to reduce the broad, interrelated social and economic risks and vulnerabilities that vulnerable populations face, and that additional support may be needed. The aim of this workshop was to discuss options for a “plus” component aimed at and facilitating safe transitions to adulthood and reducing violence and exploitation experienced by adolescents. Specifically, workshop members reviewed and discuss the evidence for three “plus” options, including 1) adolescent economic and related empowerment bundled interventions; 2) parenting interventions; and 3) social norm change interventions. In addition to reviewing the evidence presented by experts and in the background paper, workshop aims included making recommendations on intervention components and deciding on next steps for the planning process (moving from concept to action).

**Opening and Participants:** *Maniza Zaman*, the UNICEF Tanzania Representative, opened the workshop, highlighting the urgency of issues facing adolescents in Tanzania and welcoming the workshop as a means to assist the government and prioritize and scale-up evidence-based programmes. Next, *Omari Malilo*, TASAF Conditional CCT Manager, presented an overview of the PSSN programme, and *Carol Watson*, Consultant, presented an overview of the background paper. The workshop was well-attended by over 30 key stakeholders, who were actively engaged in discussions. Participants included government officials from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; academics; UN staff from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF; World Bank; development partners including Sida, DFID, USAID; Oak Foundation; the Global Fund; and international NGOs including BRAC, Sonke Gender Justice, and Population Council.

### Content Summary:

**Day 1** focused on presentation of the existing evidence around interventions targeted to adolescents and their ability to facilitate safer transitions to adulthood, including reductions in violence, abuse and exploitation. These evidence overviews were presented by researchers, and

then implementers from NGOs had the opportunity to discuss findings from their own interventions, as well as lessons learned and recommendations for future interventions.

**Adolescent economic empowerment and related interventions:** *Andrew Gibbs*, University of KwaZulu, gave an overview of the existing evidence, while *Eunice Muthengi*, Population Council (Nairobi) and *Reajal Chowdry*, BRAC (Tanzania), presented case studies from Eastern Africa.

- *Dr. Gibbs* summarized evidence from economic and social empowerment interventions, including microfinance, savings groups, vocational skills trainings and livelihood skills training, most of which also included gender training. He emphasized the importance of engaging men and boys to reduce backlash in the form of increased violence, which can also be reinforced by the exclusion of men from economic systems. He reiterated the importance of tailoring interventions to suit specific groups, highlighted the lack of evidence on adolescents specifically in the existing literature, and noted that microfinance has been shown to work well among adult women but may increase risks among adolescent girls. He also stated that there is a general need to shift from focuses on empowerment as it relates to specific skills and instead teach girls how to navigate relationships, livelihoods, and jobs.
- *Dr. Muthengi* outlined the Population Council's Asset model, which focuses on three broad types of assets, namely health, social, and economic. Population Council has used a variety of asset strengthening interventions, which have included mentoring and safe spaces for girls with promising results, but also cautioned that economic strengthening without simultaneous strengthening of health and social assets may put girls at increased risk of violence. She further emphasized the importance of addressing the enabling environment.
- *Dr. Chowdry* discussed evidence from BRAC's Economic and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) programme from Tanzania and Uganda (also being implemented in South Sudan and Sierra Leone, but no findings available yet). He discussed how there were promising findings from Uganda, but that the programme had no protective impacts in Tanzania, likely due to a lack of adaptation for the Tanzanian context, a slow roll-out, and some resource constraints.

**Parenting interventions:** *Franziska Meink*, Oxford University, gave an overview of the evidence as well as a case study from Sinovuyu in South Africa, and *Heidi Loening*, UNICEF, gave supporting case study evidence from South Africa.

- *Dr. Meink* highlighted that the evidence to date shows promising results around parenting programmes' ability to reduce violence in the home, but that this evidence is largely based on programmes targeted to parents with young children, and that programmes focusing on adolescents were still being tested.

- *Heidi Loening* gave an in-depth case study of parenting programmes and related evaluations in South Africa, including that of Sinovuyo Teen, and emphasized the importance of training and capacity of facilitators, as well as sustainability of programmes.

**Social norms interventions:** *Carol Watson*, Consultant, gave an overview of the evidence on social norm interventions, while *Andre Lewaks*, Sonke Gender Justice (South Africa), and *Andrew Gibbs*, University of KwaZulu Natal/Stepping Stones, presented case studies from South Africa.

- *Dr. Watson* outlined how community sensitization interventions are based on an ecological model, which extends beyond focus on the individual adolescent, couple or family and targets the enabling environment. She highlighted that much of the evidence to date on the ability of these programs to reduce violence and facilitate safe transitions to adulthood is derived from small pilot studies or from studies without comparison groups (and thus limited ability to conclude causal impacts), and more research is needed.
- *Mr. Lewaks* discussed Sonke's experience engaging men in South Africa given the well-established link between inequitable gender norms and violence. These programmes, which include sexual and reproductive health groups, training of health care workers, and community mobilisation have shown promising results around increasing condom use and gender equitable norms, however Mr. Lewaks noted that challenges included contextual factors such as lack of employment options and resistance of other community members when participant men demonstrate alternative gender norms.
- *Dr. Gibbs* shared a case study from Stepping Stones and Creating Futures, a combined gender transformative and livelihood strengthening intervention for young, out of school individuals. The programme reduced women's reporting of IPV, but men's perpetration remained constant. Dr. Gibbs highlighted the importance of recruiting and/or engaging networks which are important for survival and security but can either support or hinder change. Underscoring a clear theme from the overall workshop, Dr. Gibbs again highlighted the importance of facilitators' capacity and understanding the delivery process.

More detailed summaries of these interventions and related findings can be found in the background paper for this workshop. At the end of the day, government officials, including *Mr. Omari Malilo* of TASAF, *Dr. Subilaga Kaganda* of TACAIDS, and *Ms. Margaret Mussai* of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, reflected on the content of the presentations.

**Day 2** comprised sessions discussing on-going related programming in Tanzania and capacity of government and local NGOs by *Birgithe Lund-Henriksen* and *Tulanoga Matwimbi*, UNICEF Tanzania; evaluation considerations for an eventual cash plus intervention presented by *Tia*

*Palermo*, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti; implementation and coordination with researchers and government partners by *Heidi Loening*, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti; and a moderated panel of government officials, UNICEF, and Oak Foundation to reflect on the evidence presented in the light of the Tanzanian context and the specific features of the PSSN in order to suggest the best option for a “plus” component for the PSSN.

The following is a brief summary of some of the reflections and points made by the panellists and other workshop participants:

- Participants stressed the importance of piloting and contextualization for context (within Tanzania, but also separately for urban and rural areas).
- There was a strong reminder of the importance of including men and boys in programming.
- Youth are now a national priority and national economic strengthening objectives include youth, so the livelihood and economic empowerment option is a good entry point for this “cash plus” intervention.
- Within TASAF’s PSSN, there are community education sessions at the time of delivery and the programme includes a livelihood component, while previous phases of TASAF have included community savings groups, so these offer strategic opportunities to deliver a “plus” intervention to adolescents in TASAF households.
- Some key challenges identified are that TASAF is not in all communities and that there is fragmentation of the social protection system. Moreover, TASAF and development partners cautioned against over-burdening TASAF on the ground.
- Government and development partners were keen to utilize existing government frameworks for delivery of the “plus” component to increase the likelihood of sustainability, while many academics in the room advocated for first testing the efficacy of interventions delivered by NGOs to understand how the programmes could work under ideal delivery situations.

### **Decisions and next steps:**

As noted in the reflections above, there was considerable consensus that economic empowerment/livelihoods interventions bundled with sexual and reproductive health and gender information would be the most strategic entry point for the “plus” component for adolescents, creating synergies with existing plans for the PSSN around the livelihood component. There is a strong desire to implement within existing government frameworks to ensure sustainability, but also recognition that civil society may still play an important role in training and facilitation. It was agreed that a steering committee would be established. UNICEF is currently in talks with donors about a planning phase for this project, with a larger intervention and evaluation potentially beginning in 2017.