Social Protection and Childhood Violence: Expert Roundtable

Know Violence in Childhood
UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti

12-13th May, Firenze
Outcomes For Children From Household Economic Strengthening Interventions: A Research Synthesis
- Objectives
- Define ES
- Methodology
- Findings
Objectives

• Examine the success of different HES approaches in improving child well-being

• Understand potential negative impacts

• Mediating factors (sex, age, etc.)

• Gaps in the evidence base
ES = “Livelihood programs”

- Skills training
- Income-generation projects
- Cash transfers
- Agricultural development
- Small business development
- Financial education

- Microcredit
- Savings accounts
- Job development
- Cash-for-work
- Food-for-work
- Value chains
Randomized Control Trials

- Randomized Treatment and Control Groups
- Both measured before and after and intervention
Search strategy

• 1990-2014
• English only
• Developing countries
• Economics, public health, development, etc.
• Children 0-18
• No large-scale cash programs
Search Results

- 40,000+ preliminary returns
- Narrowed down to 46 reports
Country Distribution of Study Sites by Geography
Analysis

• All types of ES studied have had one or more positive effects for children

• No clear “winner” among ES types
In many outcome categories, researchers could find no impact on children from ES at all.
More than 20% reported at least one negative impact on child wellbeing.
Why negative impacts?

*No consistent pattern*

- Microcredit in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused adolescents to spend more time working in family business, less time in school. *Augsburg et al. (2015)*
Why negative impacts?

No consistent pattern

• Adolescents in a schooling-conditional CCT in Malawi where funds provided to parents reported psychological stress. *Baird et al. (2011b)*

• In Colombia, targeting children for CCT by age can cause families to spend more on the child in that qualifying age category. *Barrera-Osorio et al. (2011)*
No single mediating factor had a strong detectable effect on child outcomes
Sex of direct beneficiary may not matter for children’s outcomes?
Gaps in the research

- Mixed-methods
- Cost-benefit comparisons
- Humanitarian context studies
Gaps in the research: indicators

- Exposure to violence
  - GBV
- Child-family separation
Urgent need

Include children’s outcomes in standard indicators for ES program evaluation and M&E.
CHILDREN AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS
MAXIMIZING BENEFITS AND MINIMIZING HARM

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