



Evaluating
efforts to tackle
child poverty -
lessons learned

Jenn Yablonski
Social Protection
Specialist



3
reasons why
we care
about child
poverty



1

Children suffer disproportionately the impact of poverty in all its dimensions



385 MILLION
CHILDREN

LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY

ON LESS THAN \$1.90 a DAY

2

In nearly every country in the world, children are more likely to live in poverty than any other group

POPULATION LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY BY AGE

19%



CHILDREN

9%



ADULTS

2

In nearly every country in the world, children are more likely to live in poverty than any other group



3

We have proven solutions to address child poverty, but we need to keep pushing

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS **CHILD** **POVERTY**

#ENDchildpoverty



**MEASURING CHILD
POVERTY**



**IMPROVING ACCESS TO
QUALITY SOCIAL
SERVICES**



**CHILD-SENSITIVE
SOCIAL PROTECTION**



INCLUSIVE GROWTH

For more information see: Putting Children First: A Policy Agenda to End Child Poverty by the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty (2016).

Available at: www.endchildhoodpoverty.org/nes/

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS **CHILD** **POVERTY**

.. But what have we learned about where impacts are greatest, and why or why not?

How do we work to ensure the greatest benefits for children, and their families and communities?



CHILD-SENSITIVE
SOCIAL PROTECTION

We know social protection works to address multi-dimensional child poverty.

Summary of the impact evidence: social protection & child poverty

Quantity & Quality of evidence:	High	Mixed	Low or Limited
Type of Social Protection Programme/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash Transfers (including pensions, unconditional and conditional transfers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public works • School feeding • Health & education fee removal • Health insurance, subsidies, exemptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Welfare Services
Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America • Sub-Saharan Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Asia • Southeast Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle East • North Africa • Central Asia
Dimension of Child Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection

Summary of the evidence on social protection & child poverty

Dimension of Child Poverty	Available Evidence	Impact on outcomes
Monetary Poverty	Yellow	Green
Health	Green	Yellow
Nutrition	Green	Yellow
Education	Green	Green
Child Protection	Red	Yellow
HIV	Yellow	Green

THE TRANSFER PROJECT



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



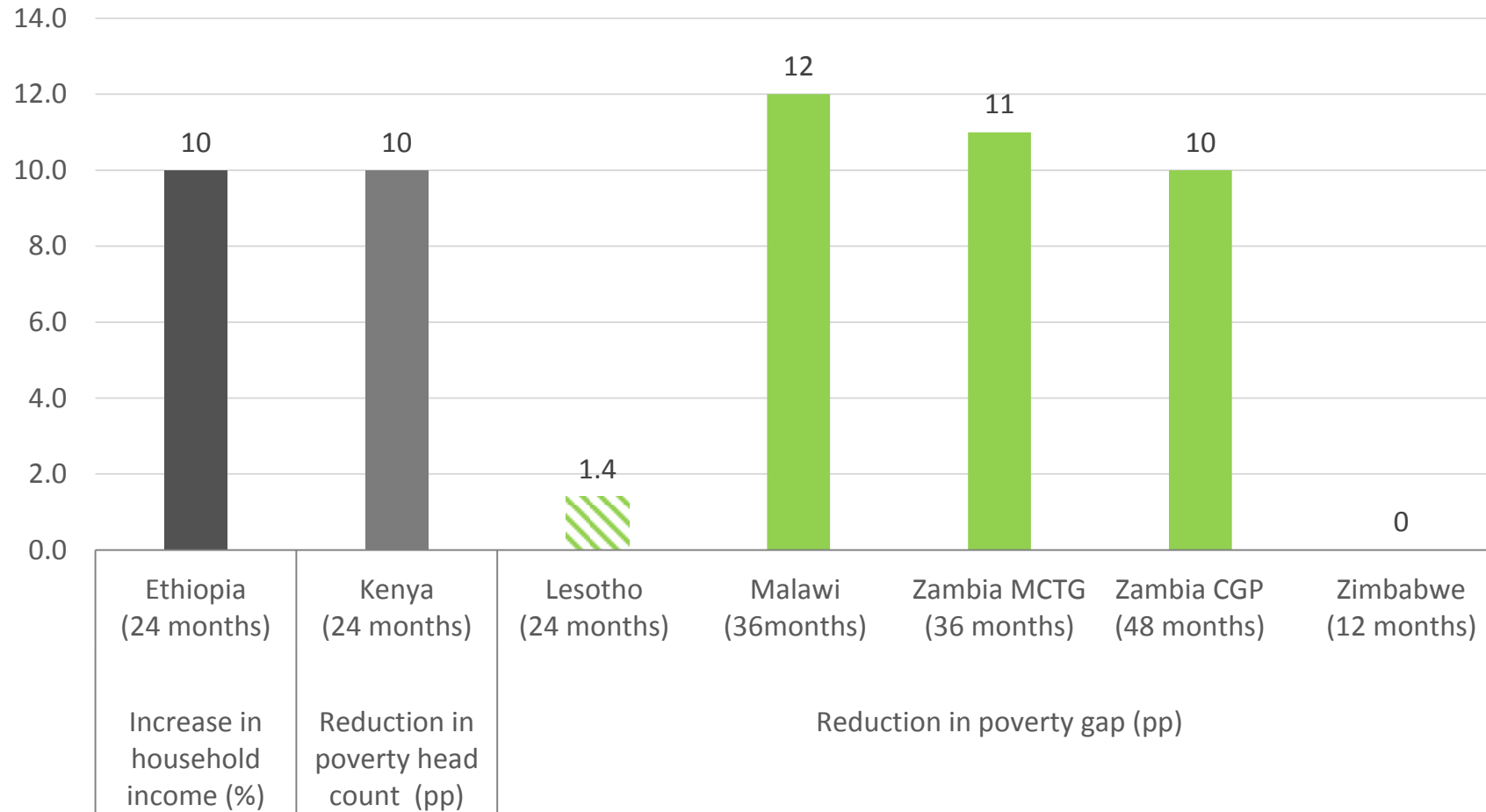
UNC
CAROLINA
POPULATION
CENTER



Summary of the impact evidence: 7 African impact evaluations

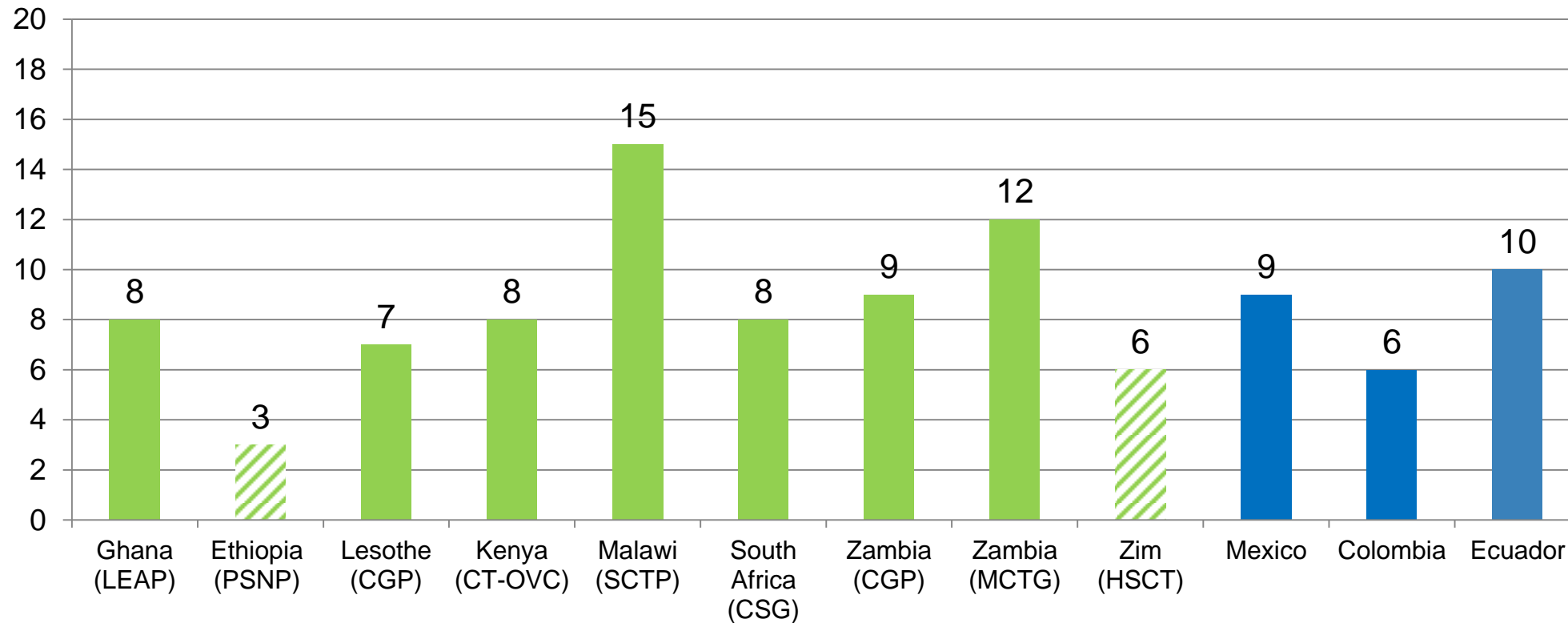
Domain of impact	Evidence
Food security	Green
Alcohol & tobacco	Red
Subjective well-being	Green
Productive activity	Green
Secondary school enrollment	Green
Spending on school inputs (uniforms, shoes, clothes)	Green
Health, reduced morbidity	Green
Health, seeking care	Yellow
Spending on health	Yellow
Nutritional status	Red
Increased fertility	Red

Reductions on poverty measures



Solid bars represent significant impact, shaded insignificant.
Impacts are measured in percentage points, unless otherwise specified

School enrollment impacts (secondary age children):



Primary enrollment already high, impacts at secondary level. Ethiopia is all children age 6-16.
Bars represent percentage point impacts

Where is evidence the weakest in terms of impact?

Young child health and morbidity

Regular impacts on morbidity, but less consistency on care seeking

	Ghana LEAP	Kenya CT-OVC	Lesotho CGP	Malawi SCTP	Zambia CGP	Zimbabwe HSCT
Proportion of children who suffered from an illness/Frequency of illnesses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Preventive care	✓				✓	✓
Curative care	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Enrollment into the National Health Insurance Scheme	✓					
Vitamin A supplementation		✓				

Supply of services typically much lower than for education sector.
More consistent impacts on health expenditure (increases)

Green check marks represent positive protective impacts, black are insignificant and red is risk factor impact. Empty is indicator not collected

Across-the-board impacts on food security

	Ethiopia SCTP	Ghana LEAP	Kenya CT- OVC	Lesotho CGP	Malaw i SCTP	Zambia MCTG	Zambia CGP	ZIM HSCT
Spending on food & quantities consumed								
Per capita food expenditures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Per capita expenditure, food items	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Kilocalories per capita	✓				✓			
Frequency & diversity of food consumption								
Number of meals per day					✓	✓	✓	
Dietary diversity/Nutrient rich food	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Food consumption behaviours								
Coping strategies adults/children	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Food insecurity access scale						✓	✓	✓

Green check marks represent significant impact, black are insignificant and empty is indicator not collected

Where is evidence the weakest in terms of impact?

No impacts on young child nutritional status (anthropometry)

- Evidence based on Kenya CT-OVC, South Africa CSG, Zambia CGP, Malawi SCTP, Zimbabwe HSCT
- However, Zambia CGP 13pp increase in IYCF 6-24 months

- Some heterogeneous impacts
- If mother has higher education (Zambia CGP and South Africa CSG) or if protected water source in home (Zambia CGP)

- Possible explanations...
- Determinants of nutrition complex, involve care, sanitation, water, disease environment and food
- Weak health infrastructure in deep rural areas
- Few children 0-59 months in typical OVC or labor-constrained household

Emerging evidence that effect of cash larger depend on supply side factors

- **Example 1:** Skilled attendance at birth improved in Zambia CGP, only among women with access to quality maternal health services
- **Example 2:** Anthropometry in Zambia CGP improved among households with access to safe water source
- **Example 3:** Impacts on schooling enrollment in Kenya CT-OVC are largest among households which face higher out of pocket costs (uniform/shoes requirement, greater distance to school) [program offsets supply side barrier]

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS **CHILD**

POVERTY

Social protection works - need to increase coverage of children and families

Design & implementation matter!

Effective social protection systems, not just programmes

Real coordination across social sectors is critical to address multidimensional



CHILD-SENSITIVE
SOCIAL PROTECTION

So what are the policy implications?

Thank you

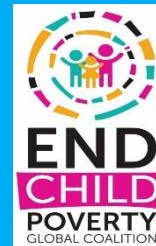


Jenn Yablonski, Social Protection Specialist
jyablonski@unicef.org

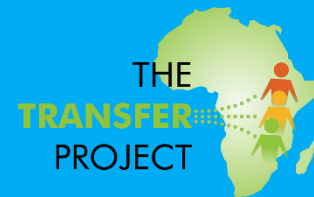
United Nation's Children Fund

Three United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

www.unicef.org



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www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer