More than money?: Are cash transfers the solution to addressing adolescent girl’s vulnerability to HIV in sub-Saharan Africa?

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Where are we on the HIV prevention landscape for girls?

• Growing expertise but mixed evidence on how to address adolescent girl’s HIV vulnerability
• Zomba CCT trial in Malawi showed significant impact on HIV and HSV-2 & illustrates the importance of money
  – No difference in HIV impact between conditional & unconditional intervention arms
  – Main HIV impact through reductions in numbers and age difference in partners
  – Likely that impacts linked to a reduction in transactional sex
• Important questions
  – How important is conditionality of payments to girls? Was the impact a result of poverty reduction?
  – How can HIV impact be sustained? Is giving money to girls temporary or transformative?
  – What model of intervention works for girls who are not in school?
  – Could additional or longer term benefits be achieved by combining economic & empowerment project components?
• Can learn from interventions that have been shown to impact on gender & violence, including IMAGE intervention in rural South Africa that showed a 55% reduction in partner violence

*Dupas 2009, **Baird et al 2012
IMAGE study found that micro-finance (MF) alone reduced poverty but did not empower women or impact on violence. Combined MF + gender training had broader impacts.
More than money likely to be needed to achieve a sustained impact on adolescent HIV risk

Adapted from: Brady, Martha. Population Council, 2005.

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