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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.

**Economic indicators**

- Food security
- Household assets
- Improvements to home
- Ability to pay back debt
- Savings group membership
- Basic needs
- Bank account
- Perception of household economic well-being
- No begging in past month

**Empowerment indicators**

- Self confidence
- Financial confidence
- Challenges gender norms
- Supportive partner relationship
- Autonomy in decision making
- Perceived contribution to household
- Greater social network membership
- Greater sense of community support
- Greater solidarity in a crisis

**Violence**

- Attitudes condoning IPV
- Past year experience of controlling behaviour
- Past year experience of violence

**HIV**

- Household communication
- Collective action
- Condom use with non-spousal partners

*All aRR for indicators represented as bar graphs on a logarithmic scale*

**Source:** Kim et al 2008 WHO Bulletin
More than money likely to be needed to achieve a sustained impact on adolescent HIV risk

Information & social power

HIV prevention technologies that work for girls & women

Money, economic skills & opportunities

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

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