



CASH TRANSFERS AND EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS

Social Protection & Jobs
Core Course
May 2018

AGENDA

I. Why invest in the early years (EY)?

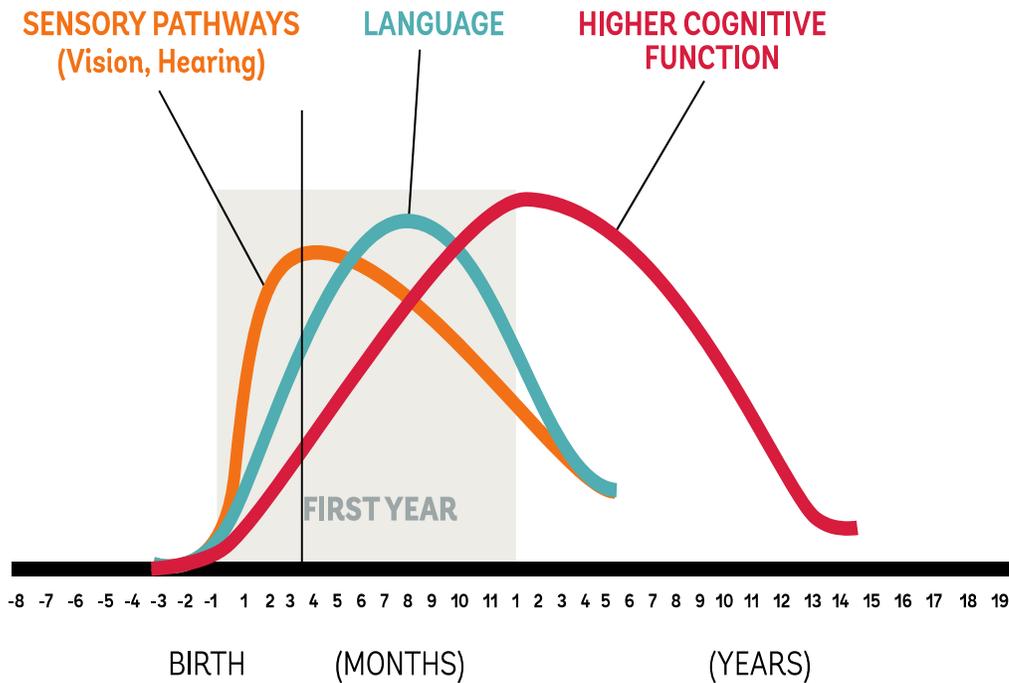
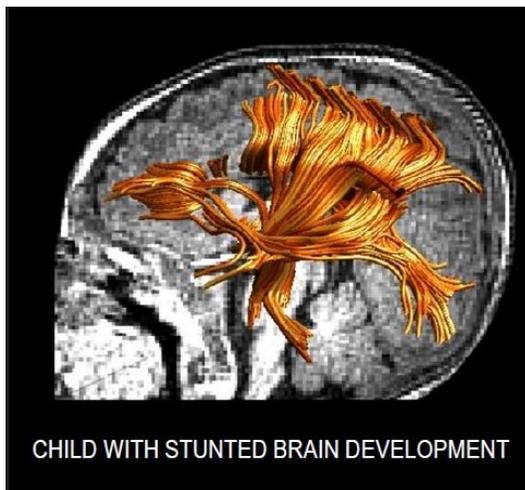
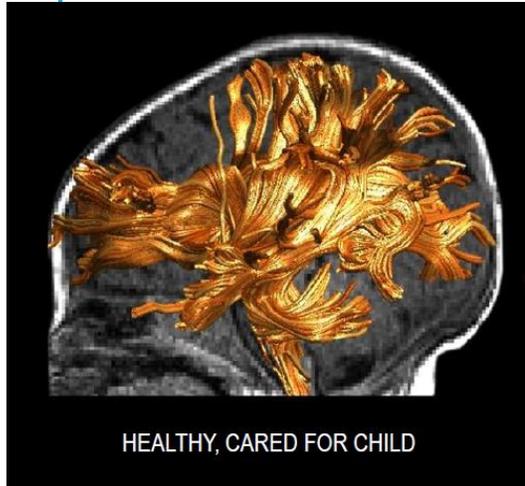
II. Why the EY is an important agenda for SPJ?

III. How is SPJ promoting early years investments?

IV. Key messages & conclusions

I. WHY INVEST IN EARLY YEARS?

...INVEST FOR HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT



C. Nelson, in *From Neurons to Neighborhoods*, 2000

The first 1000 days is a “window of opportunity”.

Early disadvantage can permanently and profoundly impact the brain.

If we miss this opportunity, remediation is expensive and more difficult later.

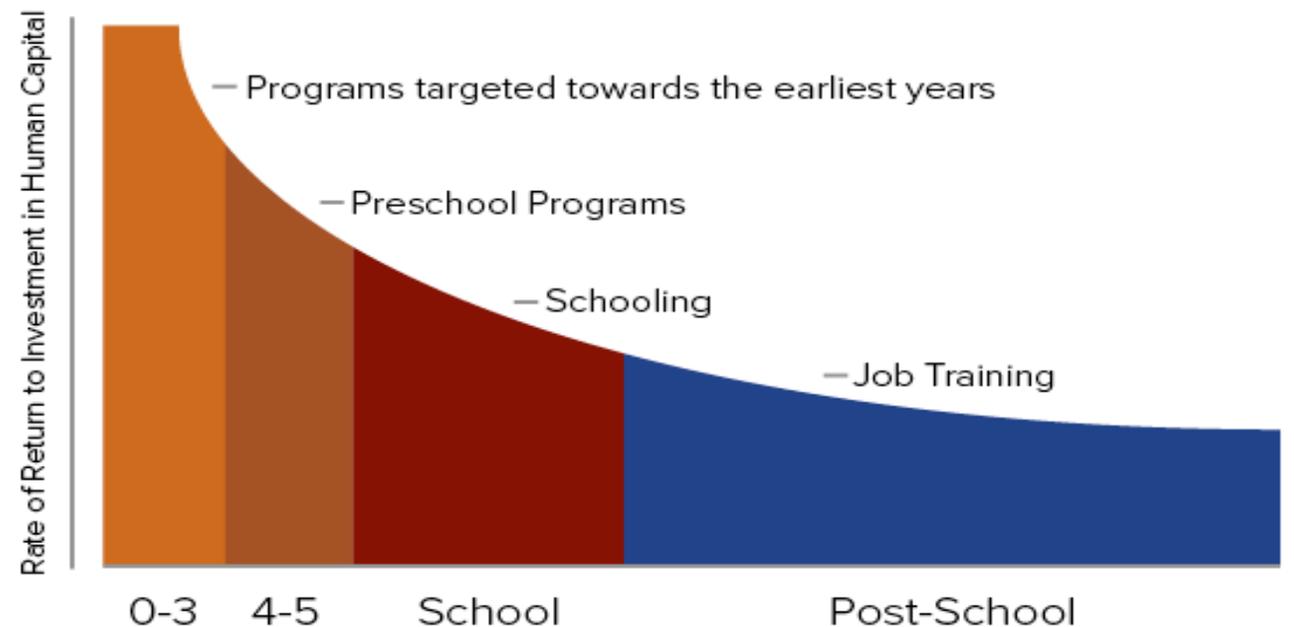
I. WHY INVEST IN EARLY YEARS?

...INVEST FOR HIGH RATES OF RETURN

“The highest rate of return in early childhood development comes from investing as early as possible, from birth through age five, in disadvantaged families. Starting at age three or four is too little too late, as it fails to recognize that skills beget skills in a complementary and dynamic way. Efforts should focus on the first years for the greatest efficiency and effectiveness.”

—James J. Heckman,
December 7, 2012

Figure 2: Returns to a Unit Dollar Invested are Highest in Earliest Years

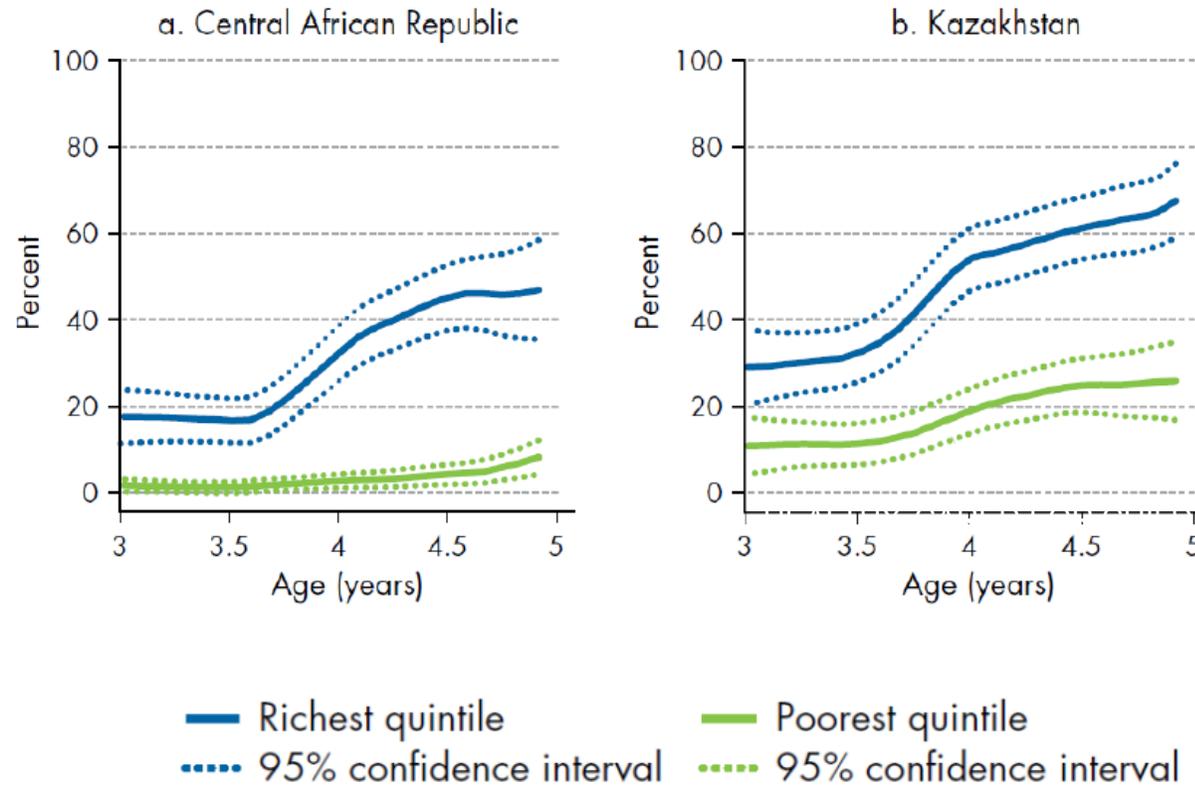


Source: Heckman and LaFontaine (2007)

I. WHY INVEST IN THE EY?

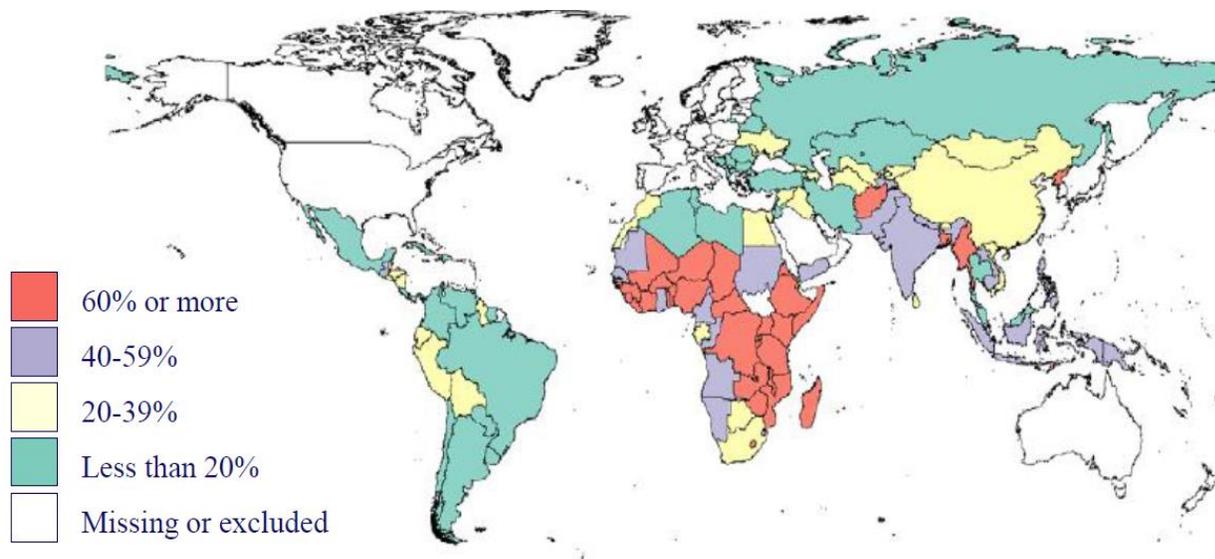
...COMBAT INEQUALITY

Percentage of children ages 3–5 who can recognize 10 letters of the alphabet



II. WHY THE EY IS AN IMPORTANT AGENDA FOR SPJ? ...EY RISKS DISPROPORTIONALLY AFFECT THE POOR

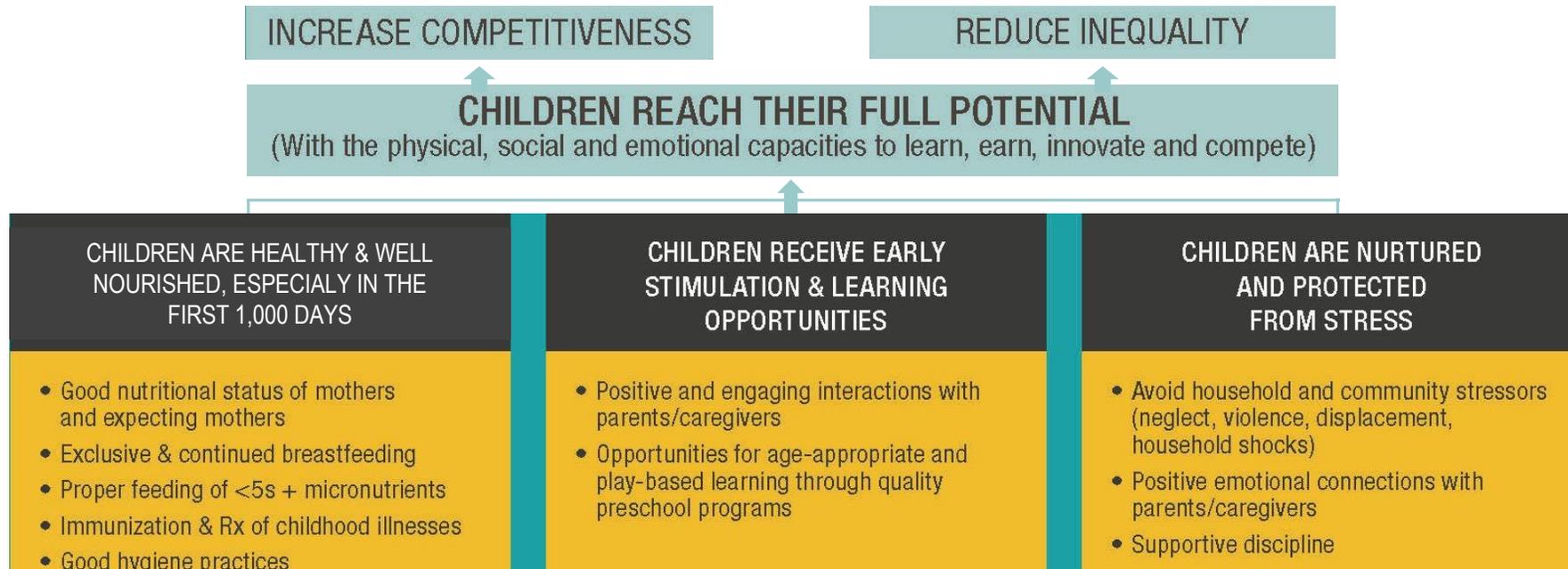
Children Under 5 at Risk of Suboptimal Development



- An estimated **250 million** children <5 live in low- and middle-income countries are at **risk of suboptimal development due to poverty and stunting.**
- A poor start in life can lead to poor health, nutrition, and inadequate learning, resulting in low adult earnings as well as social tensions.

II. WHY THE EY IS AN IMPORTANT AGENDA FOR SPJ?

...SPJ CAN PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR CRITICAL INVESTMENTS

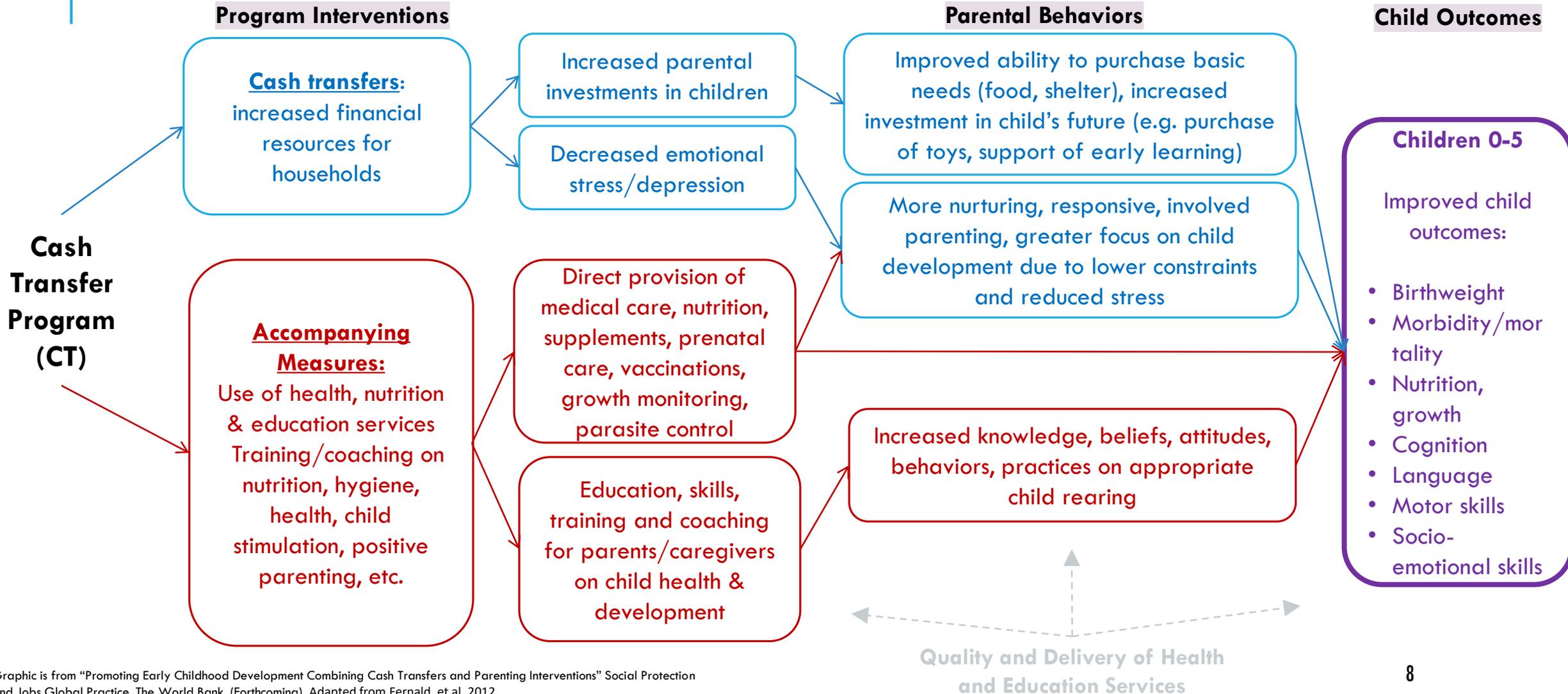


DELIVERING ON THE ESSENTIAL INTERVENTIONS ABOVE REQUIRE EFFORTS ACROSS SECTORS

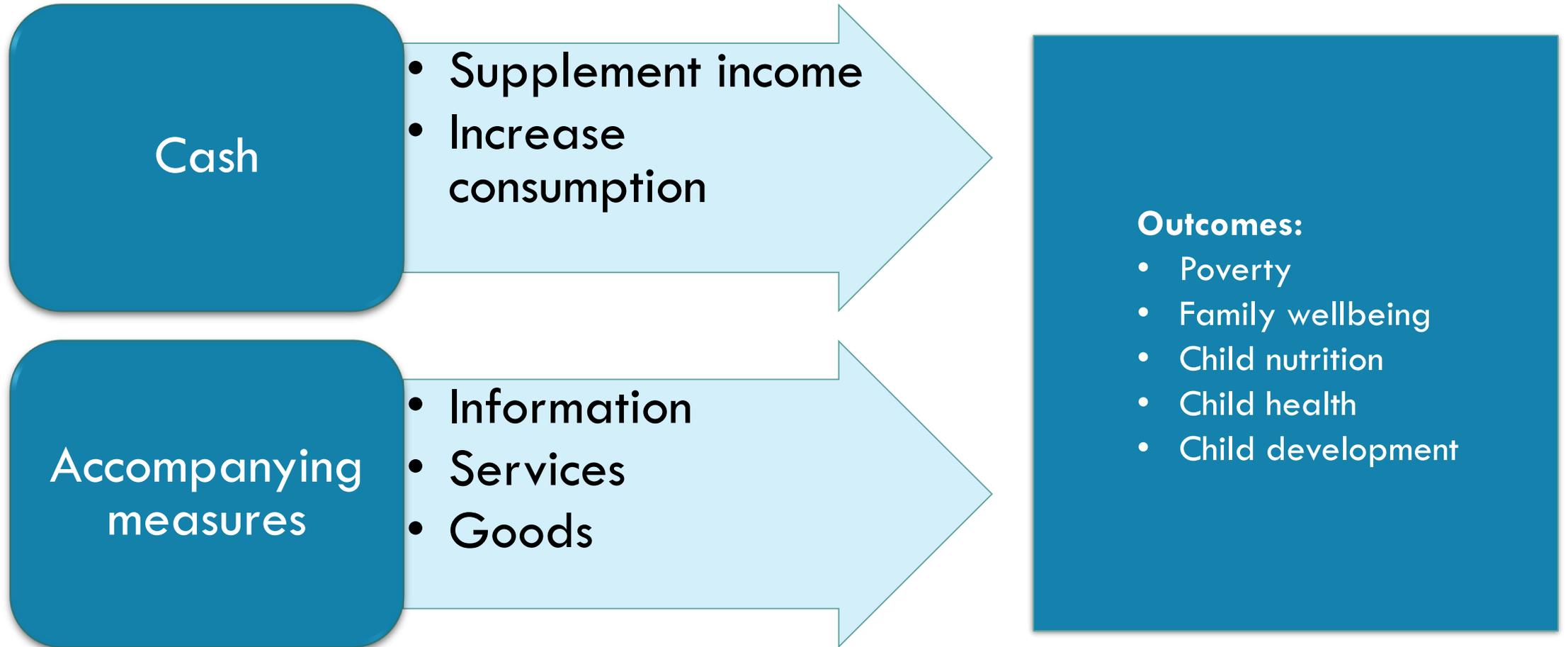


II. WHY THE EY IS AN IMPORTANT AGENDA FOR SPJ?

... HOW CASH TRANSFERS PROMOTE EARLY YEARS



III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS?



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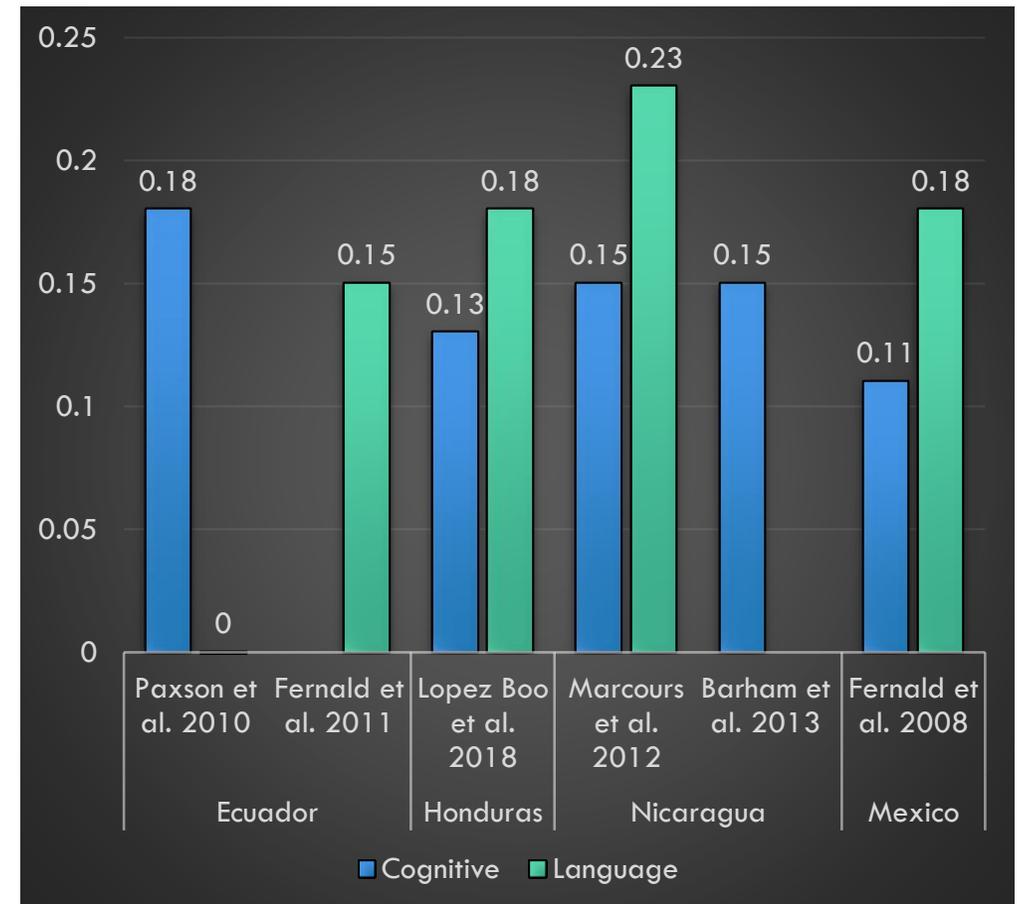
- **Protection:** Safety nets provide protection from shocks (ex-post and potentially ex-ante). Safety nets can mitigate a large fraction of the negative impact of early life shocks (food supplementation in Indonesia during the financial crisis (Giles, Satriawan 2015) and *Prospera* in Mexico (Adhvaryu et al 2017))
- **Promotion role:** Safety nets provide a platform to reach families at risk of malnutrition. Poverty is a risk factor for child development
 - Caveats 1) targeting is challenging (Brown et al 2017). Analysis of the DHS/MICS in Sub-Saharan Africa show that $\frac{3}{4}$ of underweight women and undernourished children are not found in the poorest 20 percent of households.
 - Caveat 2) injection of cash can generate potential general equilibrium effects on food prices (negative spillover Philippines)
- **Behavioral change through conditionalities/accompanying measures:** positive shifts in food composition and use of preventative care (Fiszbein and Schady 2009)

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS?

... THE EVIDENCE OF CASH TRANSFERS ON EARLY YEARS

Evidence shows...

1. Cash Transfers promote the use of **health services** of pregnant women and young children
2. Cash Transfers can improve **food consumption** and in some cases improve nutritional outcomes (stunting, wasting)
3. Cash transfer can mitigate negative impact of **early life shocks**
4. Cash Transfers can reduce **morbidity** and in some cases **infant mortality**
5. Cash Transfers can improve **child development** (cognition, language)
6. Cash Transfer can improve **family wellbeing** (enhancing household environment for child development)



III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ... CASH TRANSFERS + ACCOMPANYING MEASURES

Parenting



Nutrition



III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ... PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

What is a parenting intervention?



Interventions or services aimed at enhancing parent-child interactions, parenting knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and parenting practices through training, support, and coaching.

What topics does it cover?



- nutrition, health, hygiene,
- child stimulation,
- positive parenting,
- a combination.

How is it delivered?



- Home visits
- Community-based group meetings
- Primary health care facility or health care center
- a combination.

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ... NUTRITION SPECIFIC AND SENSITIVE INTERVENTIONS

Micronutrients, macronutrients



- Vitamins, minerals
- Protein, fats, carbohydrates

Nutrition education



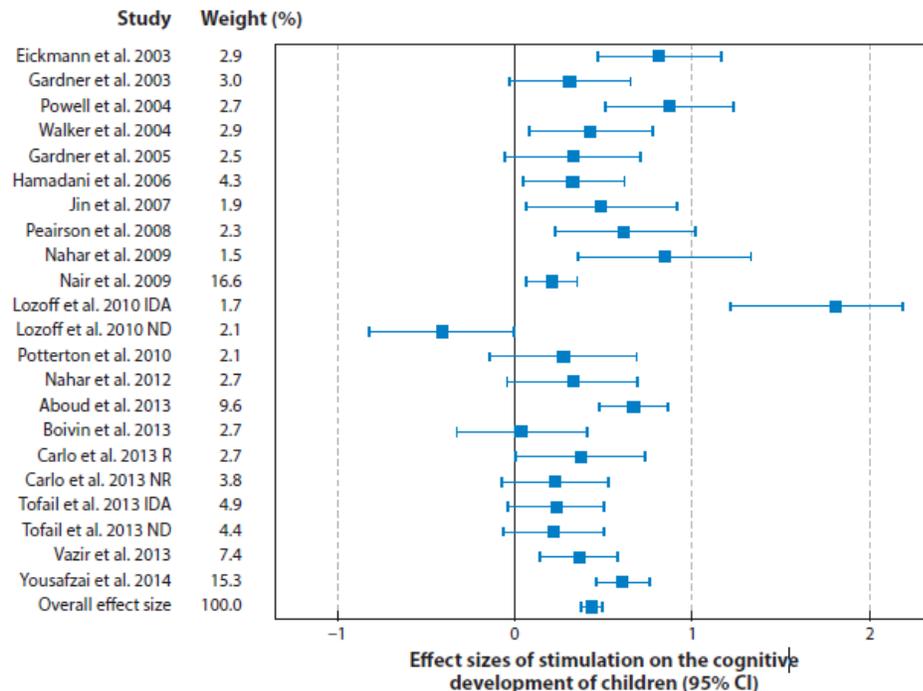
- Breastfeeding
- Complementary feeding / dietary diversity

Water and Sanitation, Health, Agriculture

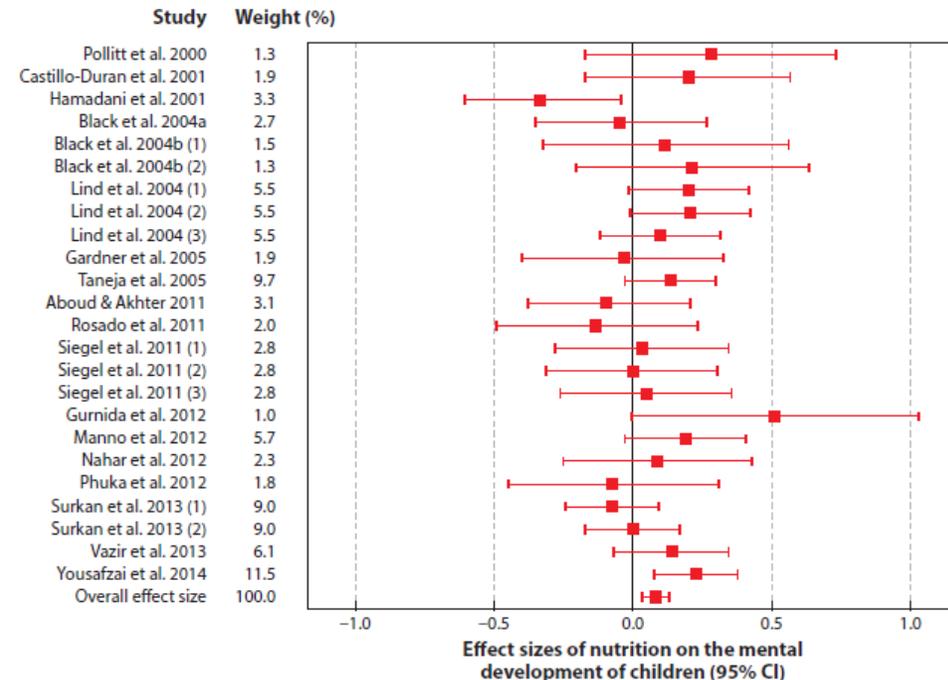


- Maternal nutrition and health
- Protection from illness (vaccination, deworming)
- Access to clean drinking water and sanitation
- Biofortification

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ... EVIDENCE OF NUTRITION AND PARENTING INTERVENTIONS



Average effect of parenting on cognitive development: 0.42 SD



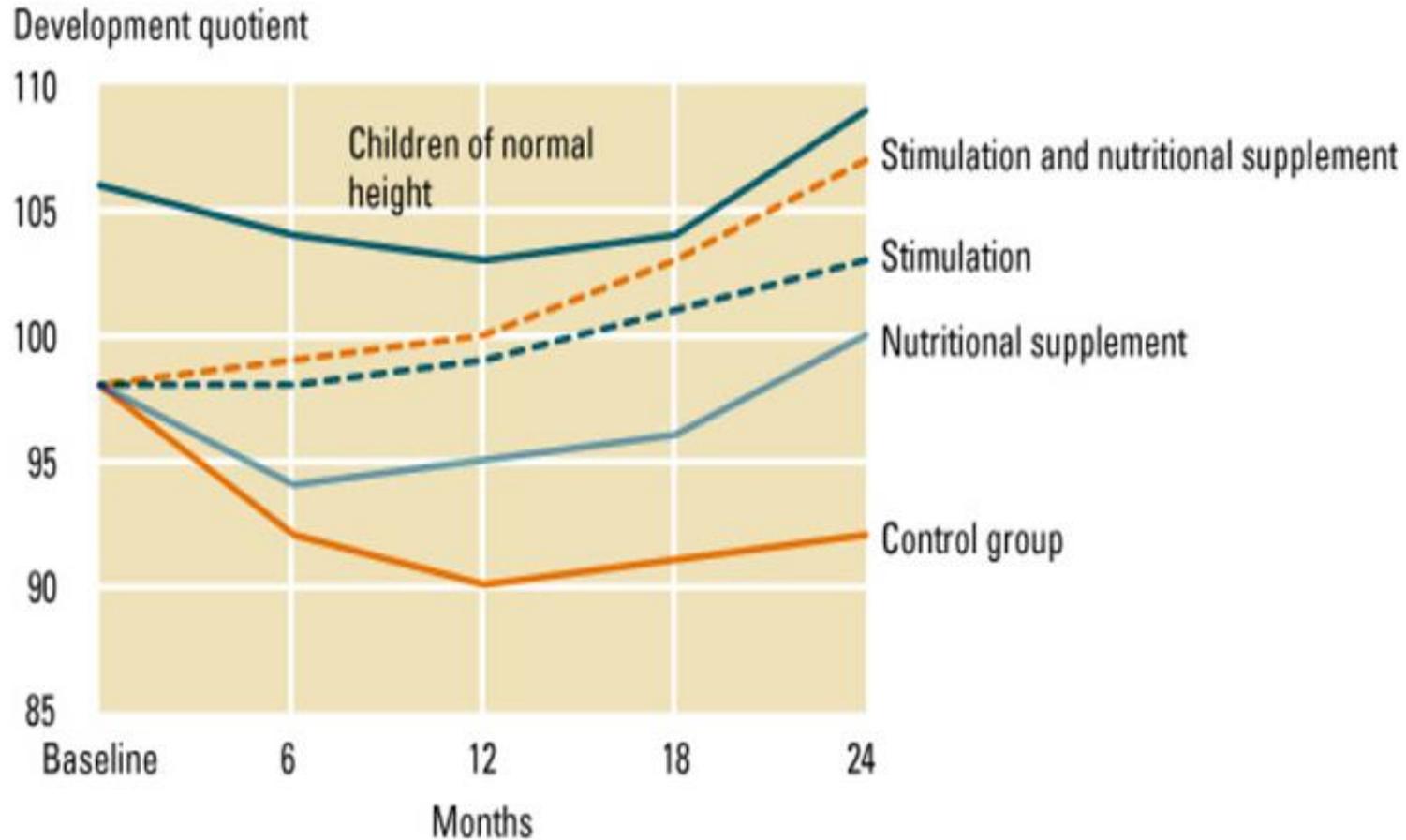
Average effect of nutrition interventions on mental development: 0.09 SD

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ... EVIDENCE OF EFFECTS OF PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

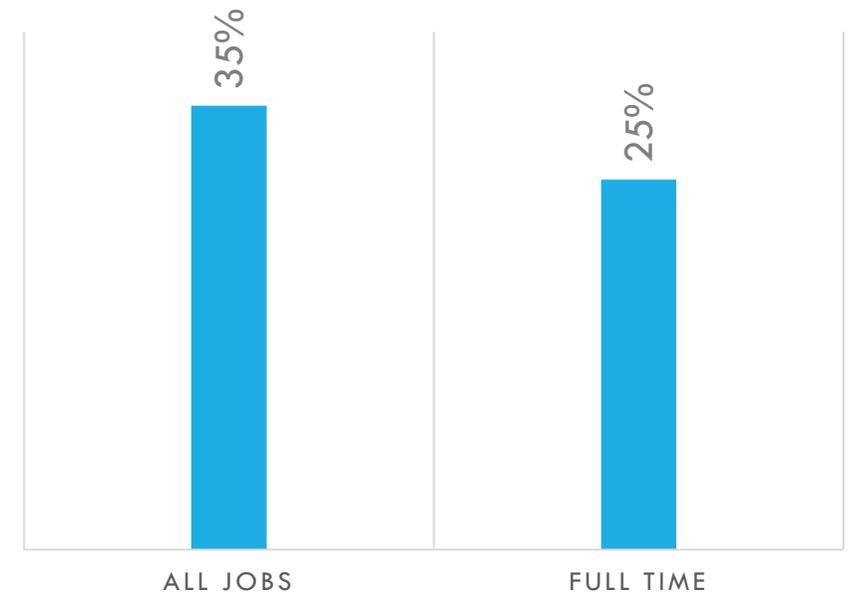


- Parenting interventions have shown positive impact on improving parenting practices and home stimulation environment in developed and developing countries.
- Several studies shown positive impact on cognition and language and in some cases on fine motor skills or socio-emotional skills. But most of the evidence is from efficacy studies and home visiting programs in developing countries.
- In most cases, no impact on nutritional outcomes.

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ...LONG TERM IMPACT: JAMAICA HOME VISITING



IMPACT ON AVERAGE EARNINGS (AGE 22)

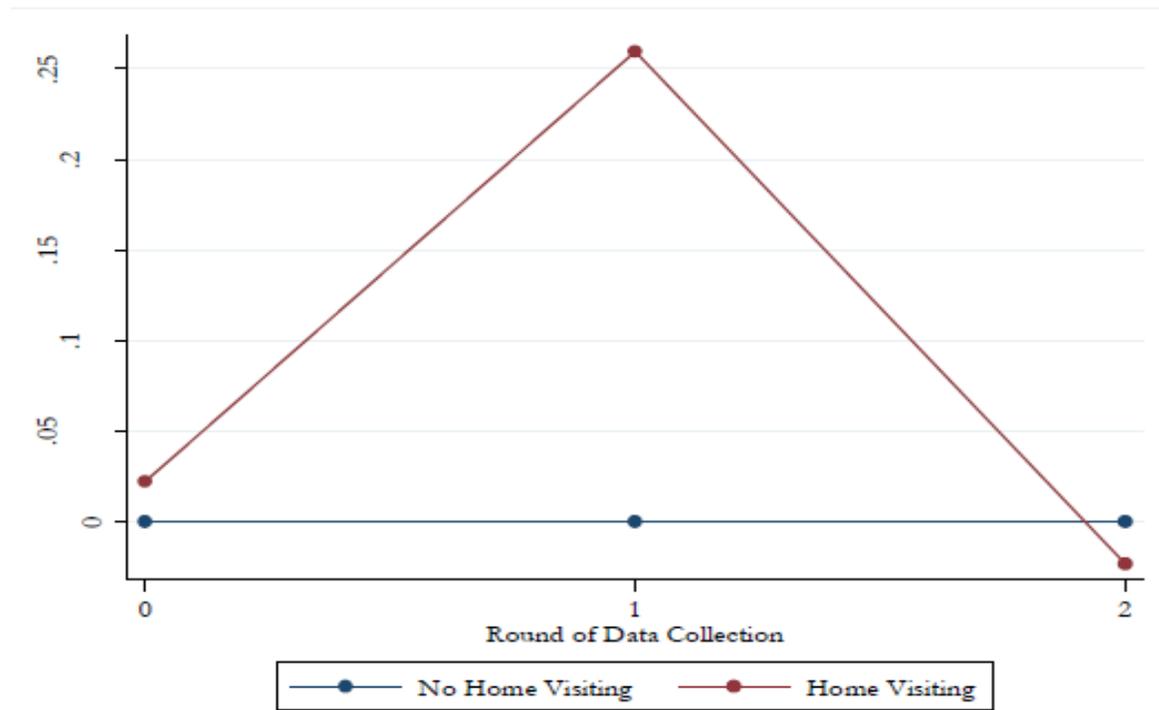


Source: Grantham-McGregor et al. 1991, Lancet

Source: Gertler et al. 2014, Science

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ...DIFFICULT TO REPLICATE AT LARGER SCALE

Cognitive development by psychosocial stimulation status



Source: Attanasio et al. 2014, BMJ.
Andrew et al. 2018, PLOS.

Colombia:

- Adapted Jamaica home visiting program for children 12-24 months.
- Intervention lasted 18 months
- Positive short-term impact on child development and parental practices (age 2.5-3.5)
- No medium-term impact on child development or parental practices (age 4.5-5.5)

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS?

...RESULTS ON CASH TRANSFERS + PARENTING

Colombia

- CCT
- Parenting - home visits
- (+) cognition and language short term but not medium term

Niger

- UCT
- Parenting - home visits
- (+) socio-emotional skills

Peru

- CCT targeted areas
- Parenting - home visits (Cuna Mas)
- (+) cognition and language

Mexico

- CCT
- Parenting - Group meeting (Educ Inicial)
- (+) cognition and language

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ... 4 MODELS OF PROGRAMS THAT COMBINE CT AND PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

Architecture	The relationship by which the CT and a parenting intervention is designed and delivered.
(1) Integrated	The parenting intervention is managed by the CT.
(2) Managed Convergence	Different agencies/actors converge to bring the inputs required to the same households. CT beneficiary households with young children also participate in a parenting intervention managed and delivered by another program/agency.
(3) Alignment	CT and a parenting program align with each other in some manner, but continue to operate completely independently.
(4) Piggybacking	CT framework is mounted onto an established program, such as the PHC network to deliver cash.

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS?

... EXAMPLES OF 4 TYPES OF PROGRAMS THAT COMBINE CT AND PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

Typology/Int. Architecture	Example
(1) Integrated	<p>In Bangladesh's Jawtno CCT program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beneficiaries receive nutrition services, regular growth monitoring + individual and small group counseling sessions @ health clinics. Counseling sessions are provided by the CT.• Attendance to counseling session is a condition to receive the cash transfer.
(2) Managed Convergence	<p>In Indonesia's Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CT program implemented by Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Social Affairs.• Social services are decentralized to local district social welfare offices, where health and nutrition services, schools, and community workers converge to provide services to the household.
(3) Alignment	<p>In Peru's Juntos CCT Program & the early childhood development program Cuna Más :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operated completely independently, but Cuna Mas (with a parenting intervention) targeted the same target districts of the CT.
(4) Piggybacking	<p>In Senegal's Rapid response child- focused social cash transfer program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used the PHC network to deliver cash to complement a successful nutrition and care focused intervention.

III. HOW IS SPJ PROMOTING EARLY YEARS INVESTMENTS? ...

LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTATION CT + PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

Content

- Tailor content to child's developmental stage.
- Take into account cultural relevance and situations of conflict/disaster.
- Content of intervention should target both parents (mother and father) and other caregivers
- Use "active learning" approaches to train parents.

Delivery

- Invest in strong program protocol and materials.
- Strengthen social support among participating parents.
- Build on existing delivery platforms that the target population is already using.

Workforce

- Ensure adequate workforce training with access to necessary material.
- Take into account the pros and cons of paid vs voluntary work.
- Establish a strong and supportive supervision scheme including on-the-job training and coaching for field staff.

Basic building blocks

- Design the intervention with a solid "logical framework".
- Invest in a M&E system for quality assurance and to identify most effective modalities.

IV. KEY MESSAGES & CONCLUSIONS

1. The highest rate of return comes from investing as early as possible, from birth through age five (Heckman, 2012)
2. SPJ can provide a platform targeted to the poor working across sectors → can serve to tackle different dimensions of risks during the EY.
3. CT programs can promote EY by increasing the use of health services of pregnant women and young children, raising consumption and in some cases improves nutritional, health, and child development outcomes.
4. Accompanying Measures in parenting and nutrition can boost these results.
5. Parenting interventions have shown positive impact on improving parenting practices and home stimulation environment in developed and developing countries

IV. KEY MESSAGES & CONCLUSIONS

6. In practice 4 models that combine CT and parenting interventions: Integrated, managed convergence, alignment, piggybacking.
7. Limited evidence and mixed on results on child development from combining Cash Transfers with Parenting interventions. Theoretically, combination of CT and accompanying measures in parenting makes sense, but caution is required to scale up interventions that were successful at small scale.
8. Must be careful on design and implementation science and the evaluation.
9. Nutrition: Timing along critical/sensitive windows of first 1000 days. Many CCT/UCT target the poor/school-age children missing the critical windows.
10. Nutrition is a complex outcomes that requires the alignment with the supply side/other sectors (prenatal/health care (Mexico, Philippines) align with WASH).
11. Focus on the quality of the messaging of the accompanying measures.



THANK YOU!