



The
World Bank



Human Development
Network



Spanish Impact
Evaluation Fund

www.worldbank.org/hdchiefeconomist

Evaluating Impact: Turning Promises into Evidence

Impact Evaluation of the Child Support Grant in RSA

Raphaahle, George, Maureen & Thabani

Accra, Ghana

29 May 2010

1. Background

- ❑ Child Support Grant implemented since 1998 in a phased-in approach
- ❑ The largest RSA government poverty alleviation programme – a targeted and means tested
- ❑ Currently reaches more than 9million children of ages between 0 to 16 years (R250 each month)
- ❑ Enrollment relatively well – about 80% of eligible children
- ❑ Need to evaluate impact – to answer questions around the means test; ‘conventional impacts’; pathways; unexpected impacts

2. Results Chain



- Funding
- Staff

- Design programme
- Training of staff
- Contracting
- Instituting payment systems
- Information campaign
- Extension of Grant to older children

- Cash grants to primary care givers of children under 18
- Functioning Paypoints
- Functioning payment system through banks and post offices
- Informed public
- Consistent applications

- Increased household expenditure on basic needs of children
- Utilisation of public services
- Improved child health among under 5
- Less risky behaviour among adolescents
- Improved school attendance
- Improved dietary intake

- Reduced household poverty
- Improved child nutrition among under 5s
- Improved learning among under 17
- Greater role of women in decision-making

3. Primary Research Questions

1. What is the impact of early versus late versus no enrolment on children (9 - 11 year olds: early treatment vs treatment from age 5) (vs No enrolment)?
 - Measures of schooling and cognitive ability
 - Measures of health and nutrition
 - Measures of diet quality
 - Absence of the worst forms of child labour

Primary Research Quest... Cont

2. What is the impact of the CSG on recipient households?
 - Asset accumulation
 - Labour supply
 - Remittances and private transfers
 - Intra-household decision-making

Primary Research Quest... Cont

3. What is the impact of CSG extension

on critical life course events of adolescents (school continuation, labour force initiation, delay in take-up of risky behaviours)

- Measures of schooling
- Labour force participation
- Risky behaviours

Research Question	Outcome Indicators	Sample/Data
<p>1. How has early vs late enrolment affected the well being and cognitive development of children? (Implications for the inclusion of not enrolled??)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Measures of schooling and cognitive ability •Measures of health and nutrition •Measures of diet quality •Absence of the worst forms of child labour • What are the unexpected impacts of the CSG? 	<p>Children receiving CSG aged 8-9 years and enrolled (i) within 15 months of birth (ii) and those only enrolled at 5-7 years of age (late)</p>
<p>2. How are critical life course events of adolescents affected by the extension of the CSG?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of schooling • Measures of labour force participation • Measures of risky behaviours affected •What are the unexpected impacts of the CSG? 	<p>Adolescents immediately below the age threshold receiving the CSG and those right above the age threshold</p>
<p>3. What is the impact of the CSG on recipient household?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset accumulation •Labour supply •Remittances and private transfers •Intra-household decision-making 	<p>Samples from question 1 above (for marginal impact of long term receipt) and question 2 above for short term impacts</p>

Research Question	Outcome Indicators	Identification strategy
<p>1. How has early vs late enrolment affected the well being and cognitive development of children? (Implications for the inclusion of not enrolled??)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Measures of schooling and cognitive ability •Measures of health and nutrition •Measures of diet quality •Absence of the worst forms of child labour • What are the unexpected impacts of the CSG? 	<p>Children receiving CSG aged 9-11 years and enrolled (i) within 15 months of birth (ii) from 5-7 years of age:</p> <p>a) early group (enrolment at 0-15 months) vs</p> <p>b) Comparison group: late entrants; matching</p>

Critical Questions

1. Does using the 8-9 years a good index for age for young children? We are considering the following issues:
 - The duration of exposure among the treatment group
 - The extent to which we can confidently attribute the impacts only to the enrolment to CSG only
 - But the early years had low take-up rates, perhaps reflecting a situation where unobservable characteristics dominate selection
2. What are the implications of excluding children who never enrolled to the CSG among the younger children? i.e. should we consider looking at early versus late versus no beneficiaries
 - Concern: logistical issues in locating the non-beneficiaries

Research Question	Outcome Indicators	Identification strategy
<p>2. How are critical life course events of adolescents affected by the extension of the CSG?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of schooling • Measures of labour force participation • Measures of risky behaviours affected • What are the unexpected impacts of the CSG? 	<p>Adolescents immediately below the age threshold receiving the CSG and those right above the age threshold: regression discontinuity</p>
<p>3. What is the impact of the CSG on recipient household?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset accumulation • Labour supply • Remittances and private transfers • Intra-household decision-making 	<p>Samples from question 1 above (for marginal impact of long term receipt) and question 2 above for short term impacts</p>