



The
World Bank



Human Development
Network



Spanish Impact
Evaluation Fund

www.worldbank.org/hdchiefeconomist



Evaluating Impact: Turning Promises into Evidence

Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme

Cyrus Jeke, Benjamin Kayala, Ezekiel Luhanga & Tayllor Spadafora

Accra, Ghana

May 2010

1. Background

❑ Designed to

- Reduce poverty, hunger and starvation in all households living in the pilot area which are ultra poor and at the same time labour constraint₁;
- Increase school enrolment and attendance of children living in target group households;

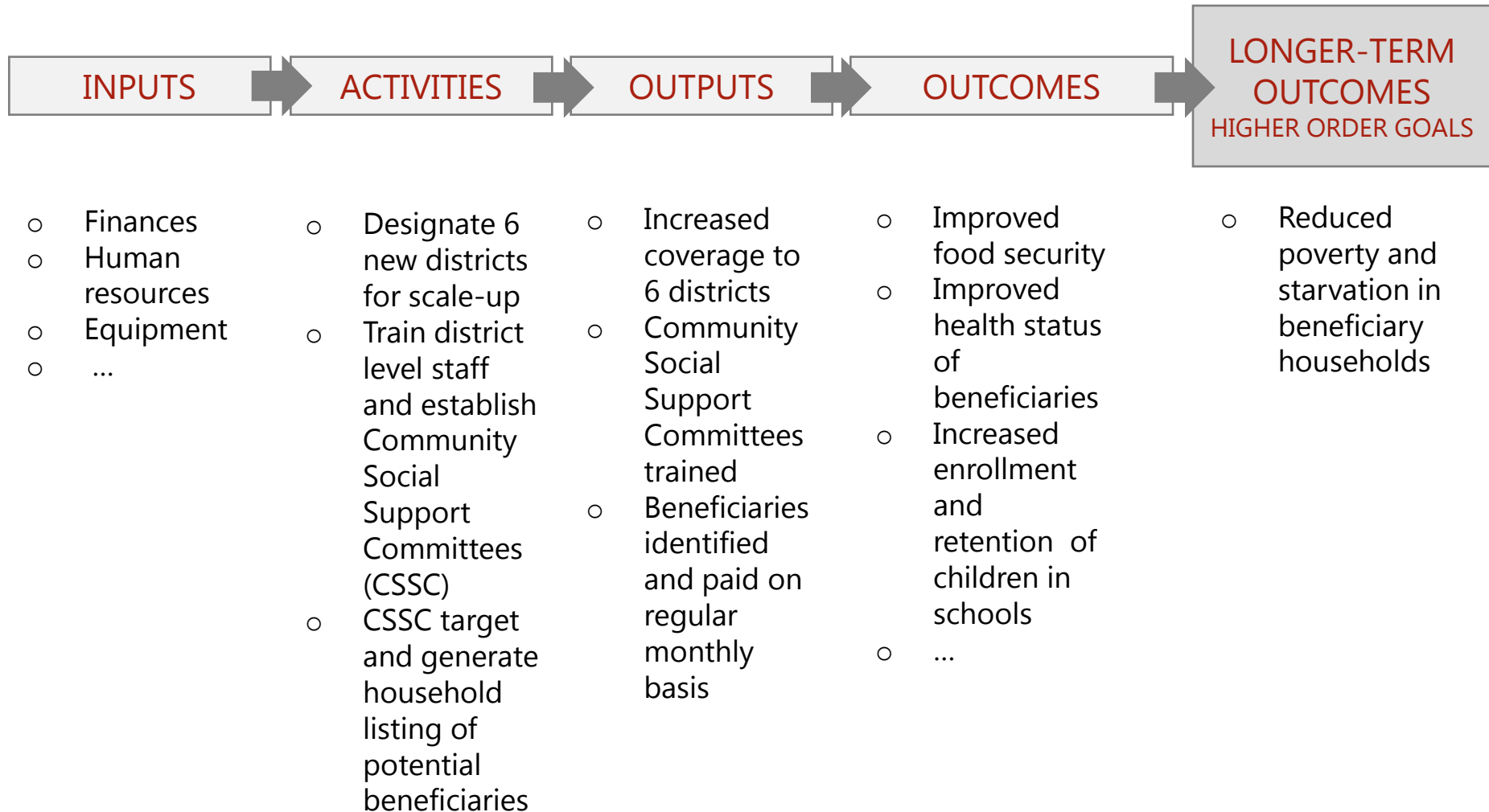
❑ Currently has over 100,000 beneficiaries (70% are children) in 26,000 vulnerable households in seven districts. There are 300,000 households that are ultra poor and labour constraint that need to be reached.

❑ The pilot (Mchinji district) was subjected to one external evaluation by the Boston University. Some of the short term impacts which were observed by the evaluation included the following: improved school enrolment, food security, improved health as well as shelter. Economic impacts included strengthening local markets, access to credit and economic multiplier effects.

❑ Currently the range transfers is from MK600 – MK3600 (4.2 – 24 Dollars) and the average transfer is MK2000 (14 Dollars)

❑ Currently the government is planning to scale up the programme, however there has been debate on the transfer levels on how much money can achieve a significant impact.

2. Results Chain



3. Primary Research Questions

- What is the minimum level of household transfer to achieve a significant impact on the well-being of beneficiary households

4. Outcome Indicators

- Food security
- Nutrition security
- School enrolment
- Health seeking behavior
- Asset accumulation

5. Identification Strategy/ Method

- ❑ Utilize roll-out of programme to 6 new districts in 2011 with varying payment levels – representative at regional level
- ❑ Intended beneficiary households will be listed by trained Community Social Support Committees (by Village Cluster), 50% of district at the same time
- ❑ randomly assign 160 clusters in 6 districts to receive treatment or be control
 - 40 clusters per group (3 treatments and 1 control)
- ❑ randomly sample from treatment clusters (interview all households)

6. Sample and Data

- ❑ Ultra poor households without labor will be the sampling frame – approx. 10 % of total households in six new districts (Across the country)
- ❑ Randomized sampling from 160 clusters of the 3 treatment groups and 1 control group
- ❑ All beneficiaries in sampled clusters will be interviewed using a structured questionnaire
- ❑ A power calculation will determine size of sample needed (number of clusters)

- ❑ Assumptions:
 - Sampling of clusters is generalizable to the country given the defined targeting parameters of the programme

7. Time Frame / Work Plan

- ❑ July – December 2010: New districts will be trained and infrastructure
- ❑ March 2011: Community committees completed targeting/listing of beneficiary households
- ❑ April 2011: Assignment of treatment to clusters and baseline survey
- ❑ April 2011 – March 2012: Beneficiaries receive regular monthly payments
- ❑ April 2012: Follow-up survey

8. Sources of Financing

- ❑ Government of Malawi will take lead role with additional support from Development Partners

Zikomo Kwambiri!