Introduction
UNICEF and its partners’ programmes for child protection are increasingly shifting from an isolated focus on individual child protection violations (e.g. trafficking, family separation, child labour) to a comprehensive approach that emphasises both prevention of these violations, as well as response to a range of protection concerns and the multiple risks children face. Some of these violations can be linked to the impact of economic deprivation or lack of economic means; for example, a child may need to contribute to the household income and engage in work that is either hazardous or prevents him/her from accessing education, a child may be admitted to a residential child care facility because the family can no longer provide for the child, a child may become a victim of trafficking and exploitation because he or she has migrated for work through unsafe migration channels, etc. However, the link between these violations and economic deprivation/poverty is not always straightforward and it needs to be acknowledged that many other factors, at the level of an individual, family, community and society may shape children’s vulnerabilities and influence family decisions and behaviour.

While the objectives of social transfers\footnote{UNICEF defines social transfers as, ‘predictable direct transfers to individuals or households, both in-kind and cash (including cash for work and public work programs) to protect and prevent individuals and households from being affected by shocks and support the accumulation of human, productive and financial assets.’ Social transfers are one component of broader social protection systems.} are usually to address economic poverty and/or human development outcomes (e.g. health, education), they can also contribute to child protection outcomes. For example, social transfers can supplement household income enough to substitute for income earned from child labour, enabling children to attend school, or may reduce the risk of domestic violence by removing at least some stressors from families. Subsidised access to child care and early child care programmes may have impact on the prevention of violence in early years as well as freeing up older children from domestic labour and child care responsibilities. School feeding programmes or school attendance subsidies that contribute to keeping children at school may have positive impact on early detection of violence against children by teachers or peers. In addition, in some circumstances, social transfers may create unintended impacts which carry child protection risks or benefits. An example of risks created by social transfers may, for example, be linked to situations where parents of very young children participate in public works schemes which impact on their childcare responsibilities or their children’s work at home. Administration of these social transfers is often carried out by the staff working in ministries or agencies that provide social support and care services to families with social vulnerabilities and coping difficulties (e.g. parenting education, family mediation, therapeutic support, support to address alcohol addiction). These agencies may also serve as referral agencies to the child protection system, if they identify children at risk in the course of their work. Therefore, linkages between these two functions are crucial for the development of an effective social protection network that can also positively influence child protection outcomes.

Background
In recent years, income transfer schemes have gained increased prominence in many countries in the world. These can be contributory, like some pensions schemes, or non-
contributory and government funded, like other social transfer schemes – often, but not always, allocated to families based on economic poverty criteria (income or assets). Some of the latter are conditional, such as the Bolsa Familia\(^2\) in Brazil which benefits over 12 million families with children, provided the children are kept at school and undergo regular medical check-ups. Similar programmes include the Mexican Oportunidades\(^3\), the Peruvian Juntos\(^4\) or the El Salvadorian Communidades Solidarias Rurales\(^5\). Other cash transfers are not conditional on specified actions and behaviours. These are allocated on the grounds of status (e.g. orphanhood in Botswana, or disability in many Eastern European countries), or on the grounds of various measures relating to general wealth and/or income of the family (e.g. Georgia, Armenia, Botswana) but without specific behavioural requirements of the beneficiaries. Overall, social transfers have shown to have a number of outcomes\(^6\) beneficial to children, including education outcomes and some evidence on participation in child labour. Social transfers do not have to be child-targeted or child-focused to have effects on children. In many countries cash transfers paid to other family members, such as old age pensioners, adults with disabilities, unemployed persons, have also shown to benefit children. For example in South Africa pensions given to older women had a significant effect on the physical growth of their granddaughters\(^7\); also living in a household with pensioners appeared to increase school attendance by girls and boys living with their grandparents\(^8\), and to reduce the incidence of child labour\(^9\). In some countries, for example in the Former Soviet Union, veterans and other vulnerable groups including children receive subsidies in addition to pensions; these can relate to housing costs, utility costs, public transport costs and other expenses. In several countries support is offered in the form of food baskets (e.g. Botswana) or food/cash combinations (e.g. Ethiopia). As said, even non child-related transfers can benefit children if they live with beneficiaries and the transfers relate to housing or utility costs or where such transfers are monetised into cash transfers rather than as, for example a public transport reduced fare ticket. Public works are yet another example of social transfers that may support families. In Sub-Saharan Africa 28 countries offer a total of 167 public works programmes\(^10\). While these programmes add to household incomes, child protection outcomes may be affected in different ways – both positive and negative - depending on the context and design of the programme.

While many studies have attempted to measure the impact of social transfers on education participation and attainment, nutritional status, or HIV incidence, child protection outcomes beyond child labour have been rarely estimated. At best, evidence on the impact of social transfers on child protection outcomes is scattered, as improving child protection outcomes is not the primary goal of most social transfer programmes. While evidence exists in relation to specific schemes and countries, there is limited cross-country comparison in terms of the impact, primary or secondary, positive or negative, that cash transfers may have on child protection outcomes. Furthermore, evidence on the effective linkages between social

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\(^4\)http://www.unicef.org/files/Conditional_Cash_Transfers_In_Peru__-_Tackling_The_Multi-Dimensionality_Of_Poverty_And_Vulnerability.pdf
\(^6\)http://www.jlica.org/userfiles/file/Adato%20&%20Bassett%20What%20is%20the%20role%20of%20cash%20transfers%20to%20streng.pdf
\(^7\)http://dipeco.economia.unimib.it/web/corsi/development_economics306/testi/duflo_wp.pdf
\(^9\)http://www.dartmouth.edu/~eedmonds/liquidity.pdf
transfers and social support services is only beginning to emerge. Within the context of this study we therefore aim to look in particular at what evidence exists and says about the impact of social transfer on the following:

- Family separation – either through migration or placement of children into alternative forms of care
- Child labour
- Violence against children
- Child trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Child marriage
- Birth registration
- Other significant outcomes, including unintended impacts (positive or negative) and risks being created by the transfers, which will be identified in the course of research.

**Goal**

Carry out a global literature review to assess the current available evidence on the impact of various types of social transfers on child protection outcomes with the aim to determine the optimal ways in which these can maximise impact on positive child protection outcomes and influence policy decisions.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Develop a methodology for assessing whether social transfers can serve as a means to improving child protection outcomes. This includes clear definitions of which types of social transfers are being assessed, ‘child protection outcomes’, development of criteria for literature selection and identification of key questions. Develop an analytical framework which shows causal pathways of impact that may either mitigate risks or increase them, and in relation to different levels of outputs/outcomes. The analytical framework will be used for the literature review and may guide future UNICEF primary research in this area.

2. Carry out an extensive literature review, from global sources, on social transfers and child protection outcomes. Where available, disaggregated data should be included, e.g. outcomes for girls and boys, different age groups and different ethnic or linguistic cultures. This should include both academic and ‘grey’ literature from different regions, including non-UNICEF programme countries. Assess the literature for its quality of data and analysis. The review should consider all aspects of the cash transfer from the design, targeting, mechanisms for payment and benefit level, through to the actual results/impact of the transfer.

3. Identify any intended or unintended, positive or negative consequences of cash transfers on the different child protection outcomes. Based on the evidence of results, assess design and implementation factors which may impact on child protection outcomes (e.g. gender of recipient, size of transfer, timing/location of public works projects). Examine any other explanatory factors, such as gender dynamics, family demographics and cultural norms, as well as by social transfer type and by region, etc.). Examine where appropriate, whether social transfers were carried out independently or in synergy with other social services and programmes targeting families e.g. parenting skills programmes, and in the context of a broader social protection framework.
4. Identify gaps in data and evidence analysed and identify areas where further research is needed.

5. Outline possible policy implications of the findings in order to mitigate the negative impact and maximise the positive impact of the social transfer on child protection outcomes.

A reference/advisory group
A reference group will be established for this project. The consultant(s) will submit draft deliverables at critical points in development of the research (to be agreed) to the reference group for review and feedback. The TOR for the reference group will be developed separately.

Deliverables

1. A detailed methodological tool for the assignment. This will elaborate on the methodology that was submitted in the application for the position. The methodological tool will be expanded based on the review of the project documentation and discussions with key stakeholders. This would be reviewed by the Reference Group.

2. A draft framework for analysis of different levels of impact – the evidence of impact can depend on whether we measure intermediate impact (e.g. family stressors alleviated) or the final impact (e.g. violence prevention). This would include the causal framework, which captures the various channels through which social transfers may have an impact on child protection outcomes. The framework will be finalised when all the available evidence is examined and will be able to be used as a stand-alone document. (10 days for both 1 and 2)

3. A draft report that examines whether and how social transfers impact on child protection outcomes including points 2, 3, 4 and 5 from ‘Duties and Responsibilities section’. (40 days)

4. Presentation of the draft report to the reference group.

5. The final report, including executive summary, bibliography, and the presentation that weighs up the evidence as a whole on the impact of cash transfers on child protection outcomes, identifies existing evidence gaps and makes recommendations for further research and policy action. The final report should incorporate all the input from the reference group. (10 days)

The written outputs are to be in English.

Contract Arrangements
The assignment will last approximately 60 working days over 4 months, with the consultant(s) working from home or similar location. It is likely that some conversations (teleconferences/skype) will take place in the course of the work. Travel to one location for a consultation meeting may be required.
While some literature will be provided by UNICEF, the consultant is extended to carry out a wide literature search, using a number of relevant databases and websites.

Liaison and Reporting
The consultant(s) will report to Child Protection specialists in the Office of Research, Florence and work in close collaboration with the child protection and social protection specialists in UNICEF NYHQ.
As required the consultant(s) will also interact with other relevant stakeholders within UNICEF. These initial counterparts will be identified by UNICEF. Regular conference calls and updates on the progress will be carried out with the UNICEF staff and, it is anticipated that there will be a conference call discussion with the Reference Group on the findings of the report

**Consultant(s) Qualifications**

- At least a Masters Degree (PhD preferred) in economics or social sciences
- At least 8 years’ experience of work relating to social transfers or similar social protection tools.
- Familiarity with the impact literature relating to social transfers in different regions of the world
- A publication record relating to social transfers
- Understanding of the main child protection issues relating particularly to family separation, child labour, child migration/trafficking, violence against children/women etc.
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Excellent English report writing skills
- Successfully worked in an international environment

**HOW TO APPLY**

Institutional as well as individual bids are welcome. Qualified candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, and outline research proposal including the budget (maximum of 2 pages), with subject line “Social transfers and Child Protection”, CV, an example of their publication(s) on social transfers, signed P11 form (which can be downloaded from our website at [http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/index_53129.html](http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/index_53129.html)) to pdconsultants@unicef.org by **03 June 2012**. Please indicate your ability, availability and daily rate to undertake the terms of reference above. Applications submitted without a daily (or monthly) rate will not be considered.