Overall Response

Overall Response to the Evaluation: The HSCT 48-month impact study was part of a longitudinal HSCT study design that included a 2012 baseline study and a 2014 12-month follow-up study. The study design was part of a cross-country Transfer Programme that sought to generate evidence on the impacts of cash transfers. The HSCT 48-month impact study was funded by the 3IE and UNICEF, supported a component on data collection. The Study results provided good insight on the impacts of the HSCT after 48 months of implementation. While the study’s quantitative methodology of comparing difference in difference between the treatment and control groups potentially blurs the qualitative aspects of the study and programme impacts in absolute terms, the results did show considerable economic and child protection outcomes of the cash transfers. Overall: The significant effects on food purchases and diet diversity, along with the strong multiplier effects generated by the programme, indicate that the HSCT is making an important positive difference in the lives of beneficiaries in both protective and productive domains. The programme thus represents a fruitful model for scale-up to achieve poverty mitigation and productive inclusion objectives of the Government of Zimbabwe. Operations: There are several areas around programme operations that need to be strengthened based on the results. One area is around programme communication. Essential features of the programme are still not clearly understood by a large group of recipients, including when the next payment can be expected, how long recipients will remain in the programme, and whether or not there are rules or conditions to be followed for transfer receipt. Coordination with BEAM: Consistent with earlier evidence from midline study, HSCT beneficiaries are still systematically excluded from BEAM. Ideally HSCT recipients would automatically qualify for BEAM, as is done in Ghana and Jamaica, for example, where cash transfer beneficiaries automatically qualify for free health insurance and school fee waivers respectively. Youth: The ramping up of child protection services since the midline study appears to have paid dividends, with positive impacts on violence reduction and other child protection outcomes such as menstrual hygiene, which continues to be a significant barrier for young women to achieve their development potential. The CP section rephrased all the recommendations relating to; I. Operations II. Coordination with BEAM III. Youth From these broad (compound) recommendations the Child Protection section, disaggregated the recommendations into the following 4 units listed below. I. Strategic dissemination of the Child Protection section, disaggregated the recommendations into the following 4 units listed below. II. Strengthen social accountability and ongoing community discussion and internalization of HSCT processes and expectations. III. Improvement of layering of social protection (cash transfers) and other social protection programmes including beam - The recommendation read as, “Coordination with other poverty relief interventions should be improved, as HSCT recipients report being consistently excluded from NGO and other programmes, such as input support and drought relief and a related recommendation read as, “The Ministry should reach out to the Ministry of Education, particularly at local level, to explain the purpose of the HSCT, and to coordinate the targeting of BEAM benefits at the Ward level. Ideally HSCT recipients would automatically qualify for BEAM, as is done in Ghana and Jamaica, for example, where cash transfer beneficiaries automatically qualify for free health insurance and school fee waivers respectively. UNICEF will work internally to facilitate this communication between Ministries.” A review of these two recommendations pointed to a single theme on the need for layering of social protection programmes. IV. Expansion of the cash + model - The recommendation from the report read as, “The ramping up of child protection services since the midline study appears to have paid dividends, with positive impacts on violence reduction and other child protection outcomes. These services should be continued, and possibly expanded to areas such as menstrual hygiene, which continues to be an important barrier for young women to fulfil their development potential.” The CP section rephrased all the recommendations in order to simplify and make the recommendations actionable. The original phrasing is kept in management response section to show that the change was to gain clarity without changing the essence of the recommendation. The CP Section agreed with 3 of the 4 recommendations and part...
spent at the paypoint. • To make the HSCT payments more predictable • To disseminate the impacts of the HSCT as a means of mobilizing resources for the programme and to support replication of the cash and care in other social protection programmes.

Recommendations and Actions

Recommendation #1:
Strategic dissemination of the study results including policy briefs.

Management Response: Agree

Action #1:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Leon Muwoni
Expected Completion: 8/31/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Underway

Action Planned: Development of HSCT policy briefs.

Action Taken: The University of North Carolina that led in the research process is developing policy briefs to articulate the poverty reduction and protection outcomes of the HSCT. Once concluded, UNICEF will use the briefs to mobilize more funds for the programme and support its advocacy for a combined cash and care agenda. To date, one policy brief has been developed by Innocenti, “Zimbabwe’s Harmonised Social Cash Transfers improves food security and reduces reliance on food gifts”

Action #2:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Leon Muwoni
Expected Completion: 9/30/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Not Started

Action Planned: Launch of the HSCT Impact Evaluation Study Report

Action Taken: Preparation for the launch are underway including the development of Policy briefs

Action #3:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Lloyd Muchemwa
Expected Completion: 8/31/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Not Started

Action Planned: Development of training material (power point presentations) based on the evaluation findings

Action Taken: Action not yet started

Recommendation #2:
Strengthen social accountability and ongoing community discussion and internalization of HSCT processes and expectations

Management Response: Partially Agree

Action #1:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Lloyd Muchemwa
Expected Completion: 9/30/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Underway

Action Planned: Training HSCT Officers on Social Accountability.

Action Taken: Preparation for the HSCT Officers training are underway.

Action #2:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Leon Muwoni
Expected Completion: 9/30/2018 12:00:00 AM
Action Planned: Provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MoLSW) to re-train Community Care Workers (CCWs), Village Heads & HSCT Grievance handling Focal Person ON social accountability and HSCT processes.

Action Taken: No action has been taken

Action #3:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Lloyd Muchemwa
Expected Completion: 11/30/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Not Started

Action Planned: Development of new IEC materials to articulate the key features of the HSCT programme

Action Taken: Action not started

Action #4:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Lloyd Muchemwa
Expected Completion: 9/30/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Underway

Action Planned: Ongoing re-mapping of pay points to ensure that no-beneficiary walks for more than 5 km to the pay point.

Action Taken: The mapping exercise is currently taking place.

Recommendation #3:
Improve layering of social protection (cash transfers) and other social protection programmes including BEAM.

Management Response: Agree

Recommendation #4:
Expansion of the cash and care model to additional districts.

Management Response: Agree

Action #1:
Responsible Section: Child Protection
Responsible Person: Jolanda Van Westering
Expected Completion: 11/30/2018 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Underway

Action Planned: Participate and inform the Social Protection Sector Review

Action Taken: Social Sector review is currently on-going

Action #2:
Responsible Section: Child Protection

Action Planned: Provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MoLSW) to Expand range of services offered at the paypoint.

Action Taken: Child Protection Fund (CPF) operational budget to the MoLSW will be used to support Districts and the Ministry will be supported in replicating the model in all districts making use of the non-CPF funded platforms like the Food Mitigation Strategy and other social protection programmes.
Responsible Person: Jolanda Van Westering
Expected Completion: 6/28/2019 12:00:00 AM
Implementation Stage: Not Started

**Action Planned:** The CP Section to make an internal (programme management team) presentation of the HSCT study results making a case for other UNICEF sections to integrate services with social protection

**Action Taken:** Section has not yet done the presentation