

CASH PLUS

A MODEL FOR SAFE TRANSITION TO A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ADULT LIFE

BACKGROUND

Youth represent the promise and potential of Tanzania's future development. But for young people, transitioning to adulthood means facing significant social, health and economic risks. These include a lack of economic opportunities, early marriage and pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as HIV, and violence, abuse and exploitation. To support a safe, healthy and productive passage to adulthood, the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDG&EC), the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), UNICEF, ILO and other key stakeholders have come together to develop and evaluate an intervention where economic empowerment is combined with reproductive health and violence prevention messages and services, with the goal to enable youth to leverage the impact of their households' participation in the Government conditional cash transfer programme. It is envisioned that this model could promote sustainable and healthy livelihoods that increase resilience, well-being and empowerment today, tomorrow, and for future generations.

Specifically, the intervention will build on the Tanzanian Government's large-scale conditional cash transfer programme, linking youth in beneficiary households to strengthened Government services.

The Productive Social Safety Net

Building on successful piloting from 2010 to 2013, the Government through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), decided to scale up the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) to support over 1.1 million extremely poor and food insecure households.

The objective of the PSSN is to increase income and consumption, and improve the ability to cope with shocks among targeted vulnerable population groups while enhancing and protecting the human capital of children.

The key interventions directed to beneficiary households are:

1. Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs)
2. Public Works
3. Livelihoods Enhancement

The PSSN Livelihoods Enhancement package is implemented in three stages (Figure 1):

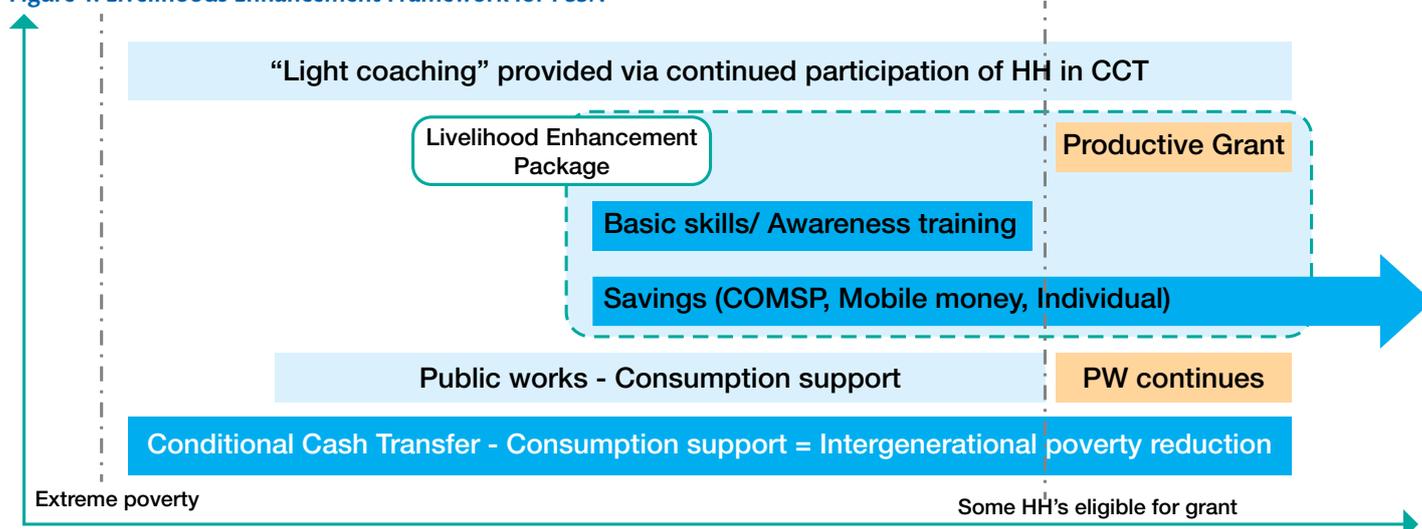
1. Basic skills and awareness training
2. Savings promotion
3. Productive grant (one-time grant of approximately US\$80)

Guiding principles

- Government ownership from the start
- Implementation within TASAF/PSSN livelihood enhancement strategy and existing government frameworks
- Linkages with other government services
- Age- and gender-sensitive livelihood interventions
- Financial, health and social asset-building framework for youth well-being



Figure 1. Livelihoods Enhancement Framework for PSSN



Designing a 'cash plus' model for scale and sustainability for youth

The proposed model is designed to fit within the PSSN's Livelihoods Framework, and closely aligns to PSSN objectives. In January 2016, a PSSN Joint Review and Implementation Support Mission agreed on the gradual and phased implementation of the Livelihoods Enhancement Strategy for PSSN, that facilitates adjustments to the design, revision of the strategy and decisions around roll-out to ensure that livelihood activities do not overburden capacity and ensuring key design elements can be assessed.

The proposed 'cash plus' intervention focuses on an important age group within the PSSN Livelihoods Framework, and is aligned with the mission's recommended approach to first design and gradually implement the livelihood enhancement packages to ultimately attain full scale up. The intervention also aims to build on, and further strengthen, existing Local Government capacity and programmes by supporting the design, roll out and implementation of the youth component of the package in initial PAAs. Furthermore, the focus on youth livelihoods is aligned with Government's Second National Five-Year Development Plan (2016/2017 – 2020/2021), which includes an objective to "accelerate broad-based and inclusive economic growth that reduces poverty substantially and allows shared benefits among the majority of the people". This is an example of how Tanzania can take steps to strengthen productive capabilities of youth transitioning to adulthood in order to harness the demographic dividend and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Why focus on 15–24 year olds?

Youth face a variety of risks as they transition to adulthood, but they also represent immense potential for Tanzania's prosperity. This proposal focuses on youth aged 15–24 because this is a period of the life cycle in which individuals are at high risk of school drop-out, early pregnancy and marriage, HIV infection, violence, abuse, exploitation and poor work conditions, but also because this is one of the best points in the life cycle to intervene to break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability and empower youth to reach their potential. In order to do this, evidence suggests that asset-building frameworks, which develop youth financial, social and health assets, are critical. That is why the model will not only strengthen youth's ability to engage in livelihood activities, but also their knowledge of and access to sexual and reproductive health services, in an effort to delay pregnancy and marriage, prevent violence and exploitation, and prevent HIV and other STIs, thus enabling youth to better reach their potential. In this way, our focus on youth aged 15–24 will reap benefits today, tomorrow and in the future (a "triple dividend") as these youth reach adulthood and become healthier and more productive parents to their future children.



Target

Out-of-school youth aged 15–24 from households enrolled in the Productive Social Safety Net that implements Conditional Cash Transfer Programme.

Goal

To facilitate youth to transition safely to adulthood.

Objective

Empower youth through social and economic asset training, combined with complementary basic messaging on gender equity, violence prevention and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with linkages to sexual reproductive health (SRH) services.

THE INTERVENTION

Intervention component

Through a review of evidence on what works, and a stakeholder consultation and consensus process the intervention will be designed with the following three components:

1. Youth livelihoods enhancement: UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will collaborate on the livelihoods enhancement component, building on lessons learned emerging from ILO's ongoing initiative. The proposed methodology will use a mixed livelihoods approach to meet the diverse needs of youth. Implementation will be through TASAF and will utilize existing local government structures.
2. Basic SRH (including HIV) and violence prevention messaging: this intervention will include a bundling of important messaging on sexual reproductive health rights and violence prevention using a gender-sensitive lens. These interventions were selected at the stakeholder consultation because of the evidence that they facilitate safer transitions to adulthood for adolescents and youth, including reducing violence, abuse and exploitation. These interventions will be added as additional modules into the livelihoods enhancement training and materials.
3. Linkages to existing SRH services: the intervention will link youth in PSSN-supported households with the provision of adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

Tool development

The methodology for this study will include a review of existing livelihoods enhancement and tried and tested SRHR tools for youth, as well as adapt a curriculum to suit the specific needs of out-of-school youth aged 15–17, and 18–24 years.

THE RESEARCH

Research question

How and to what extent can a 'plus' component integrated into government structures within a conditional cash transfer programme positively impact youth well-being and the transition to adulthood?

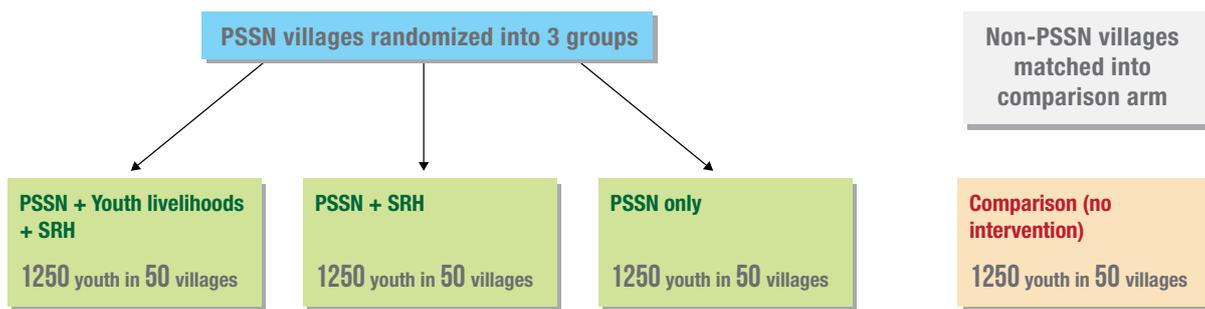
Study design

The proposed study design is a combined cluster randomized control (RCT) design, randomized at the community level with an additional quasi-experimental comparison arm (Figure 2). This design aims to estimate:

1. impact of the youth livelihoods enhancement and SRH package on youth well-being among PSSN households;
2. impact of the SRH-only package on youth well-being among PSSN households; and
3. impact of the 'cash plus' entire intervention on youth well-being.



Figure 2. Evaluation design



Where to focus the intervention

Determination of the site selection included a number of criteria. There was a need to focus primarily on villages and households where components of the PSSN are being rolled out, specifically conditional cash transfers and public works. The districts chosen also have characteristics that are important to youth programming, and where the research interventions hope to address some of the risks and vulnerabilities that impact on the transition of youth to adulthood, such as violence, HIV infection, transactional sex, pregnancy, early marriage and sexual risk behaviour. The sites are also where existing youth activities are being carried out by UNICEF and ILO. Currently Mufindi and Lindi DC have been chosen as sites for the study.

Contributions of the ‘cash plus’ intervention and evaluation

The ‘cash plus’ study will be an important addition to the PSSN. It not only focuses on an important age group critical for the future productive potential of Tanzania, but also on supporting synergies between different sectors. This will be one of few studies of its kind to be rigorously evaluated and the results will provide important information on what works best to reduce adolescent risk and vulnerability, and support safer transitions to adulthood, not only in Tanzania, but globally. The findings from this study will lead to several key contributions to knowledge about ‘cash plus’ programming based on a comprehensive asset-building framework, youth well-being, and transitions to adulthood. Results will inform the design of future iterations of the PSSN and other complementary policies and programmes for youth well-being.

Coordination mechanisms

Given the multi-sectoral nature of the study, a steering committee will be set up to provide coordination and sharing of information throughout implementation and evaluation. In addition, the study will also utilize TASAF’s Livelihood Enhancement Technical Committee as a reference group providing technical inputs.

Adolescent & youth outcome measures

- Economic productivity
- Knowledge of and increased access to SRH services
- Knowledge of and increased access to HIV prevention
- Delayed sexual debut, marriage and pregnancy
- Reduction of violence, exploitation, victimization and violence perpetration
- Improved mental health, hope, aspirations and risk preferences

KEY INFORMATION AND TIMELINE

Partners	TASAF, MoHCDGEC, TACAIDS, UNICEF, ILO, Livelihood Enhancement Technical Committee
Target population	Out-of-school youth aged 15–24 years
Geographic location	Mufindi and Lindi DC
Timeline for planning	April 2016–December 2016
Timeline for study and intervention	2017–2019
Baseline survey	April–May 2017
Intervention begins	June 2017
Midline survey	January–February 2018
Endline survey	September–October 2018
Dissemination	2019

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