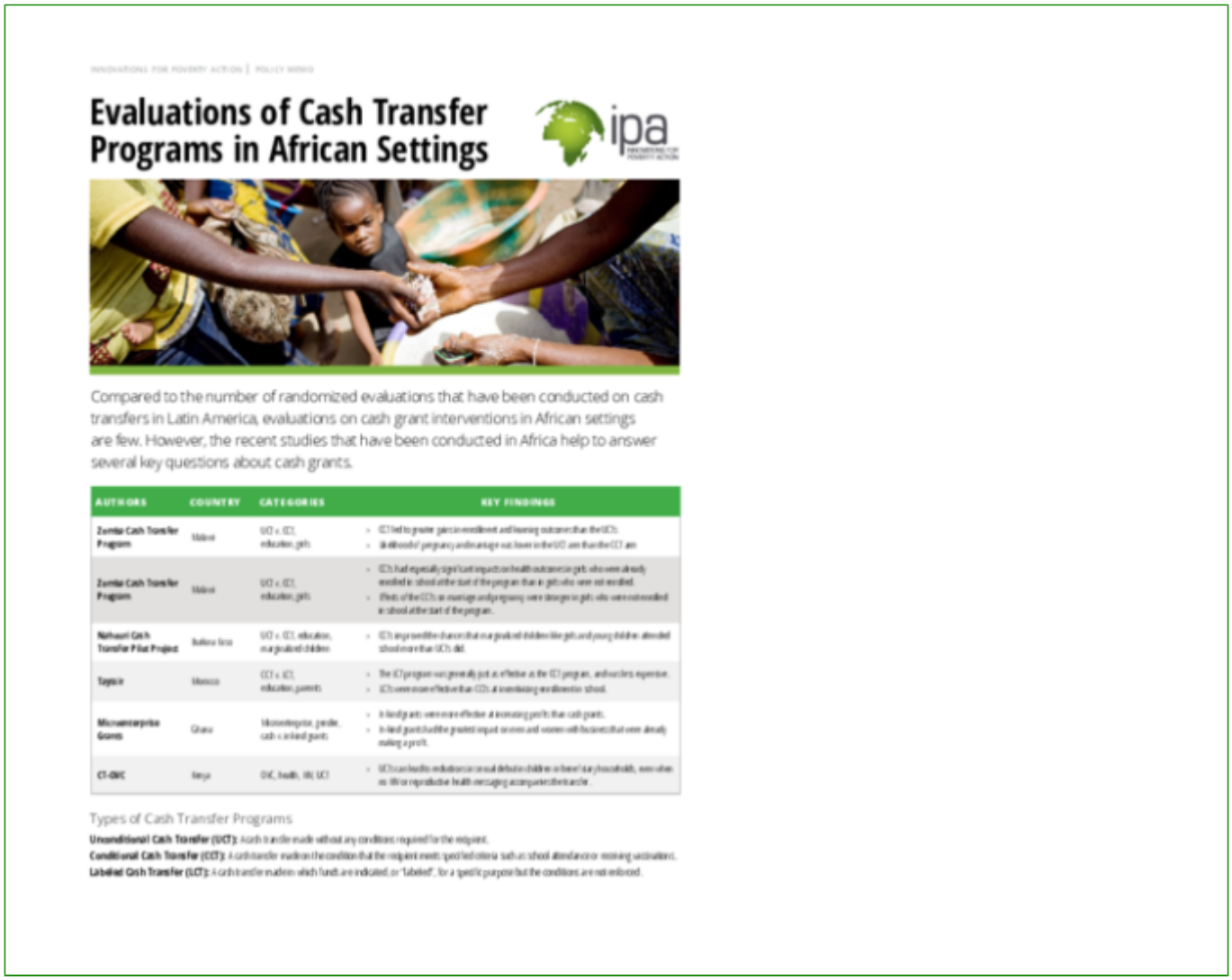

INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION | POLICY MEMO

Evaluations of Cash Transfer Programs in African Settings

Compared to the number of randomized evaluations that have been conducted on cash transfers in Latin America, evaluations on cash grant interventions in African settings are few. However, the recent studies that have been conducted in Africa help to answer several key questions about cash grants.

AUTHORS	COUNTRY	CATEGORIES	KEY FINDINGS
Zomba Cash Transfer Program	Malawi	UCT v. CCT, education, girls	• CCT led to greater gains in enrollment and learning outcomes than the UCTs • Likelihood of pregnancy and marriage was lower in the UCT arm than the CCT arm
Zomba Cash Transfer Program	Malawi	UCT v. CCT, education, girls	• UCTs had especially significant impacts on health outcomes in girls who were already enrolled in school at the start of the program than in girls who were not enrolled. • Effects of the CCTs on marriage and pregnancy were stronger in girls who were not enrolled in school at the start of the program.
Nahouri Cash Transfer Pilot Project	Burkina Faso	UCT v. CCT, education, marginalized children	• CCTs improved the chances that marginalized children like girls and young children attended school more than UCTs did.
Tayssir	Morocco	CCT v. UCT, education, parents	• The UCT program was generally just as effective as the CCT program, and was less expensive. • UCTs were more effective than CCTs at increasing enrollment in school.
Microenterprise Grants	Ghana	Microenterprise, gender, cash v. in-kind grants	• In-kind grants were more effective at increasing profits than cash grants. • In-kind grants had the greatest impact on men and women with business that were already making a profit.
CT-OVC	Kenya	OVC, health, HIV, UCT	• UCTs can lead to reductions in sexual debut in children in beneficiary households, even when no HIV or reproductive health messaging accompanies the transfer.

Types of Cash Transfer Programs

Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT): A cash transfer made without any conditions required for the recipient.
Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT): A cash transfer made on the condition that the recipient meets specified criteria such as school attendance or receiving vaccinations.
Labeled Cash Transfer (LCT): A cash transfer made in which funds are indicated, or "labeled", for a specific purpose but the conditions are not enforced.

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