CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KENYA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS ON BENEFICIARIES IN SIAYA TOWNSHIP

By

Scholastica Owoko Madowo

This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Master of Development (Youth and Child Development) from St. Paul's University

June 2012

St. Paul's University

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Supervisor: Mrs. Maryann Mwangi

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DECLARATION

This Dissertation is a product of my own work and is not the result of anything done in collaboration. It has not been previously presented to any other institution. I agree that this dissertation may be available for reference and photocopying, at the discretion of the University.

_____ _____

SCHOLASTICA OWOKO MADOWO DATE

I confirm that this work reported in this thesis was carried out by the student under my supervision.

_____ _____

MARYANN MWANGI DATE

Approved by

Signature: _____ Date _____

DIRECTOR, POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to all the orphans and vulnerable children of the world, whose plight inspired the writing of this project.

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ABSTRACT

Cash transfers are regular cash payments made to poor and vulnerable households to help them meet their basic needs for food, shelter, health care and educational. The focus of this study was to find out if the implementation of the cash assistance programme for orphans and vulnerable children in Siaya Township has resulted in improved standards of living of the beneficiary families. The cash payment of KShs. 3,000 was paid every two months to beneficiary poor households that were taking care of orphans and vulnerable children. The money was intended to boost the economic capacity of the households to provide basic social needs to the orphans and vulnerable children under their care. The target population for this study was the beneficiary households participating in the cash transfer programme in Siaya Township. Primary data was collected using personal interviews administered through questionnaires while secondary data was obtained through literature review. The study employed both simple random and purposive sampling to select households taking care of orphans and vulnerable children. The total target population was 384 households out of which 60 household heads were interviewed. In addition, three Key Informants were interviewed and two Focus Group discussions held. A public meeting was also held. Data was analyzed using Excel software. Findings from the study reveal that overall, the cash assistance programme has a positive effect on the lives of orphans and vulnerable children specifically, and the beneficiary families in general. There is evidence that the children attend primary school, receive medical treatment whenever sick, and households are more food-secure. The programme has restored the credibility of the government and enhanced dialogue between the community members and government representatives. More importantly, the programme has raised the social status of orphans and vulnerable children who have traditionally been stigmatized.

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Abbreviations/Acronyms

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CT	Cash Transfer
CT-OVC	Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
DCS	Department of Children's Services
DFID	Department for International Development of the United Kingdom
ESAR	Eastern and Southern Africa Region
LOC	Locational OVC Committee
MGCSD	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development
NCCS	National Council for Children's Services
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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Definition of Operational Terms

Child	A person under the age of 18 years.
Orphan	A child who has lost either one or both parents (father or mother, or father and mother).
Single Orphan	An orphan child who has lost one parent (father or mother)
Double orphan	An orphan child who has lost both parents (father and mother)
Social protection	Policies and programmes aimed at reducing economic and social vulnerabilities of the poor.
Cash transfer	Cash assistance to the poor
Conditional cash	Cash payment to poor households that meet certain verifiable transfer behavioural requirements
Fiscal space	Room in a government's budget that allows it to provide resources for desired purpose without jeopardizing the sustainability of its financial position or the stability of the economy.
Paris Declaration	Declaration made in February 2005 by stakeholders on the effectiveness of aid. It is based on five core principles of Ownership, Alignment, Harmonization, Managing for Results and Mutual Accountability.
Proxy Means Tests	A set of socio-economic indicators for targeting household poverty or welfare levels.
Vulnerable child	A child at most risk of exploitation and abuse.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Districts in Kenya covered by the Cash Transfer programme

DISTRICTS COVERED BY THE CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME	
1. Kwale	24. Rachuonya
2. Kisumu	25. Nyando
3. Migori	26. Uasin Gishu
4. Homabay	27. Buret
5. Suba	28. Kirinyaga
6. Nairobi	29. Butere
7. Garissa	30. Isiolo
8. Mombasa	31. Mwingi
9. Meru North	32. Malindi
10. Machakos	33. Tharaka
11. Nakuru	34. Taita Taveta
12. Thika	35. Samburu
13. Nyeri	36. Kakamega
14. Trans Nzoia	37. Kilifi
15. Nyandarua	38. Vihiga
16. Kisii Central	39. Lugari
17. Bungoma	40. Teso
18. Siaya	41. Murang'a
19. Embu	42. Kitui
20. Busia	43. Bomet
21. Koibatak	44. Makueni
22. Kiambu	45. Nandi South
23. Bondo	46. Gucha
	47. Nyamira

Source: Records in the Children's Department, Ministry of Gender, Children & Sports

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Appendix 2: Questionnaire for Household Head

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

DATE OF INTERVIEW: _____

NAME OF INTERVIEWER:
_____

NAME OF RESPONDENT: _____

QUESTIONNAIRE NUMBER: _____

1. **What is your age? (circle one)**
   1) Less than 30 yrs
   2) 30-40 yrs
   3) 41-50 yrs
   4) 51 years and above

2. **Sex**
   1) Male
   2) Female

3. **Have you ever been to school?**
   1) Yes
   2) No

4. **If you have been to school, what is your level of education?**
   1) Primary level Std. 1 to 4
   2) Primary level Std. 5 to 8
   3) Secondary level Form 1 to 2
   4) Secondary level Form 3 to 4
   5) Tertiary level (specify) _____

5. **What is your marital status? (circle one)**
   1) Married
   2) Single (never married before)
   3) Widowed
   4) Divorced
   5) Separated
   6) Other (specify) _____

6. **What is your occupation? *(Kazi)***
   1) Farming

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2) Trading
3) Casual labour
4) Wage employment
5) Other (Specify)_____
6) None
7) Don't know

7. If married, is your spouse alive?
1) Yes
2) No

8. If alive, what is his/her level of education?
1) Primary school
2) Secondary school
3) University
4) None
5) Other (specify) _____

9. What is his/her occupation? *(Kazi)*
1. Farming
2. Trading
3. Casual labour
4. Wage employment
5. Housewife
6. Not employed
7. Other (Specify)_____

10. Do you have children of your own?
1) Yes
2) No

11. If yes, how many?
1) From 1 to 3
2) From 3 to 5
3) 6 and above

12. How many of your children are in nursery or primary school?
1) None
2) 1 to 3
3) 3 to 5
4) 6 and above

13. How many of your children are in secondary school and above?
1) None

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2) 1 to 3
3) 3 to 5
4) 6 and above

14. How many of your children are employed?

1) None
2) 1 to 3
3) 3 to 5
4) 6 and above

15. How many of your children are married?

1) None
2) 1 to 3
3) 3 to 5
4) 6 and above

SPECIFIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

16. How many orphans are you living with?

1) 1 to 2
2) 3 to 4
3) 5 and above

17. What are their ages?

1) 0 to 5 years
2) 6 to 10 years
3) 10 to 15 years
4) 15 to 20 years
5) Over 20 years

18. How are they related to you?

1) Niece(s)
2) Nephew(s)
3) Grand child
4) Other (specify)_____

19. How many of the orphans are in the Cash Transfer program?

1) 1
2) 2
3) 3

20. What are their ages?

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1) 0 to 5 years
2) 6 to 10 years
3) 10 to 15 years
4) 15 to 20 years
5) Over 20 years

21. In which year were they enrolled in the Cash Transfer program?

1) In 2004
2) In 2005
3) In 2006
4) In 2007
5) In 2008
6) In 2009
7) In 2010
8) Other (specify) _____

22. How much money does the household receive under the program?

1) KShs 1,000
2) KShs 1,500
3) KShs 2,000
4) KShs 2,500
5) KShs 3,000
6) Over KShs 3,000

23. How often is the money received?

1) Every month
2) Every two months
3) Every three months
4) Other (specify) _____

24. How is the money received?

1) Through the Post Office
2) Through a Bank (specify name)
3) Through M-pesa
4) Through the Chief or Assistant Chief
5) Through Children's Officer
6) Other (specify) _____

25. Who collects the money?

1) Yourself
2) Your spouse
3) Your children
4) The orphans
5) Neighbour
6) Government official
7) Other (specify) _____

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26. Do you have records of collecting the cash?

1) Yes
2) No

27. If yes, what kind of record do you keep?

1) Post Office Pass Book
2) Bank Statement
3) Personal written record
4) Other (specify) _____

28. Is the money remitted regularly as per program schedule (see answer to question 23)?

1) Yes
2) No

29. If no, what is the average length of delay in receiving the remittances?

1) Less than 1 month
2) 1 month
3) 2 months
4) 3 months
5) Over 3 months

30. Usually, what do you spend the money on? *(tick the most appropriate)*:

1) Food
2) Clothing
3) Medicine
4) School fees
5) School uniforms/books
6) Transport
7) Rent
8) Subsistence farming activities
9) Chama (merry-go-round)
10) Business (specify: _____)
11) Savings
12) Drinking alcohol
13) Other (specify) _____

31. Are you aware of the conditionalities of the cash program, i.e. what you must spend the money on?

1) Yes
2) No

32. If yes, what are they? *(tick the most appropriate)*

1) Food
2) Clothing
3) Medicine
4) School fees

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5) School uniforms/books
6) Transport
7) Rent
8) Subsistence farming activities
9) Chama (merry-go-round)
10) Business
11) Savings
12) Drinking alcohol
13) Other (specify) _____

33. Where do you and your family members get health care when you are sick?

34. Do you pay for the services?

1) Yes
2) No

35. If yes, how much is consultation fee per visit?

1) Less than KShs 50/-
2) Between KShs 50/- and KShs 100/-
3) Between KShs 101/- and KShs 200/-
4) Over KShs 200

36. And on average, how much do you pay for medicine per visit?

1) Less than KShs 50/-
2) Between KShs 50/- and KShs 100/-
3) Between KShs 101/- and KShs 200/-
4) Over KShs 200/-

37. Does your family own any of the following:

1) Mattresses (for adults)
2) Mattresses (for all children)
3) Beds (for adults)
4) Beds (for all children)
5) Bedsheets (for adults)
6) Bedsheets (for all children)
7) Blankets (for adults)
8) Blankets (for all children)
9) Radio
10) Mobile phone
11) Television
12) Refrigerator
13) Dinning table
14) Sofa set
15) Electricity
16) Piped water

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38. Has the program been beneficial to your family?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Don't know

39. Please explain based on your answer to question 38:

1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

40. Are there any challenges that you facing in this program?

1) Yes
2) No

41. If yes, please list the critical challenges (maximum of three):

1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

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42. In your opinion, what improvements need to be made on the cash transfer program to make it more efficient and effective? (list 3 critical areas only):

1) _____
_____
_____
_____

2) _____
_____
_____
_____

3) _____
_____
_____
_____

43. How would you rate the support you receive from the various government officials (Chief, Assistant Chief, Children's Officer, Area Advisory Council members, Volunteer Children's Advisor, Area Councillor, etc.)?

1) Good
2) Very Good
3) Average (*sawa*)
4) Poor
5) Very Poor
6) Don't know

44. Overall, how would you rate the program?

1) Good
2) Very Good
3) Average (*sawa*)
4) Poor
5) Very Poor
6) Don't know

Thank you for your time

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Appendix 3: Focus Group Discussion Guide

I am carrying out a study as part of my university research project to see how the cash transfer programme has affected the social and economic life of the beneficiaries. You are some of the people who have been selected for interview in this research. The information you provide will be confidential and you will not be identified as a respondent in this research.

I would like to hold a brief discussion with you about this issue:

1. What do you understand about the cash transfer programme?
2. Do you know some households benefitting from the programme?
3. Were you in any way involved in the process of selecting beneficiaries?
4. In your view, how has the programme affected the social and economic wellbeing of the beneficiary families.
5. If given an opportunity to give your views, what improvements to the programme would you suggest?

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Appendix 4: Key Informant Interview Guide

I am carrying out a study as part of my university research project to see how the cash transfer programme has affected the social and economic life of the beneficiaries. You are some of the people who have been selected for interview in this research. The information you provide will be confidential and you will not be identified as a respondent in this research.

I would like to hold a brief discussion with you about this issue:

1. What do you understand about the cash transfer programme?
2. Do you know some households benefitting from the programme?
3. Were you in any way involved in the process of selecting beneficiaries?
4. In your view, how has the programme affected the social and economic wellbeing of the beneficiary families.
5. Are there any challenges that you have faced in the process of implementing the programme?
6. Have nay of the challenges been addressed? If so, please give any examples.
7. If given an opportunity to give your views, what improvements to the programme would you suggest?

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