



MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



better life chances for all

EXPANDING SOCIAL PROTECTION



MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



better life chances for all

EXPANDING
SOCIAL
PROTECTION

The strategic role of Social Protection in Uganda's development

David Lambert Tumwesigye,
Advocacy Coordinator
Expanding Social protection Programme

Content

- *National policy and social economic context*
- *Emerging consensus on Social Protection*
- *What Direct Income Support can do for Uganda*
- *Evidence on the impact of Senior Citizens Grants and Vulnerable Family Grants on beneficiaries and their families*
- *Opportunities for national scale up of Direct Income Support*

National policy & political commitments

1. Income security is a basic human right to which all citizens are entitled

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 *guarantees the right to social security and an adequate standard of living*

National policy & political commitments

2. Uganda has signed up to regional commitments on Social protection

- Livingstone Call to Action (2006) calls on countries in Africa to put in place costed plans for the implementation of Direct Income Support programmes.

- AU Social Policy Framework (2008) calls on member governments to recognize that social protection is a state obligation, with provisions in national legislations.

National policy & political commitments

3. It's a Constitutional Commitment

-Article XIV Uganda's Constitution (1995)-

All Ugandans enjoy rights and opportunities and access to education, health services... decent shelter, adequate clothing, food security and pension and retirement benefits.

-The National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy

“The State shall make reasonable provision for the welfare and maintenance of the Aged.”

National policy & political commitments

4. National Policy for Older Persons, 2009 includes “Priority interventions” to “establish an older persons grants scheme”.

5. The National OVC Strategic Plan, 2010 identifies the need for “grants to vulnerable households”.

National policy & political commitments

6. The National Development Plan

identifies Direct Income Support as a key strategy for socio-economic transformation

7. Election Manifesto Promise

NRM, FDC & DP have committed to provide Senior Citizen grants

Uganda is not the 1st !

Examples of Direct Income Support in the region

Senior Citizens Grants / Social Pensions	Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Seychelles, Zambia and South Africa
Grants for Vulnerable Children	Kenya, Mauritius, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa
Cash and food for work for vulnerable families	Ethiopia and Rwanda
Vulnerable Family Grants	Rwanda, Malawi, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia and Ethiopia
Disability Grants	Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa

What is Social Protection?

- Social protection is concerned with **public and private interventions to address vulnerabilities associated with being or becoming poor.**
- It is a public investment in human capital that facilitates risk taking endeavours and also enables the poor to prevent, cope with and mitigate risks.

What is Social Protection?

- Social Protection is globally recognised as a **critical component of national development strategies and key to achieving inclusive, pro-poor, equitable development.**
- If social protection in Uganda follows the trajectory of other developed and developing countries **it will evolve into a distinct sector of government programming and a basic government service**, in the same way that education and health are considered basic government services.

Direct Income Support is at the core of national SP systems & globally recognized as...

- Directly reducing poverty – a minimum level of income security;
- Providing resilience against shocks - avoiding negative coping strategies;
- Increasing access to health & education services;
- Improving adult & child nutrition;
- Providing financing to start small businesses;
- Strengthening local econ. growth - transfers spent in local markets
- Enhancing dignity, self-esteem and confidence;
- Strengthening social cohesion.

Emerging Consensus on SP

Overall Objective:

‘to enhance the resilience of all Ugandans through supporting income security, care and protection for vulnerable groups’.

Emerging Consensus on definition of SP

1. *Direct Income Support*

2. *Social Insurance*

3. *Social Welfare Services*

4. *Complementary interventions*

Emerging Consensus on definition of SP

- **Direct Income Support**; regular, predictable transfers, of cash or in-kind, **which provide guaranteed income to poor & vulnerable households**. E.g. Senior Citizen's grants, Disability grants, Public Works Programmes, Child Grants etc
- **a basic service** provided by almost all high and middle income countries- and an increasing number of low income countries. It is both a **catalyst** and **indicator** of MIC status

Emerging Consensus on definition of SP

- ***Social Insurance***; provides income support on the basis of previous individual and / or employer contributions to mitigate the impacts of income shocks. E.g. contributory pensions, health insurance, unemployment insurance

Emerging Consensus on definition of SP

- ***Social Welfare Services***; provision of personal care and protection for vulnerable individuals who are unable to fully care and protect themselves. **E.g. reception centres for abandoned children.**

Emerging Consensus on definition of SP

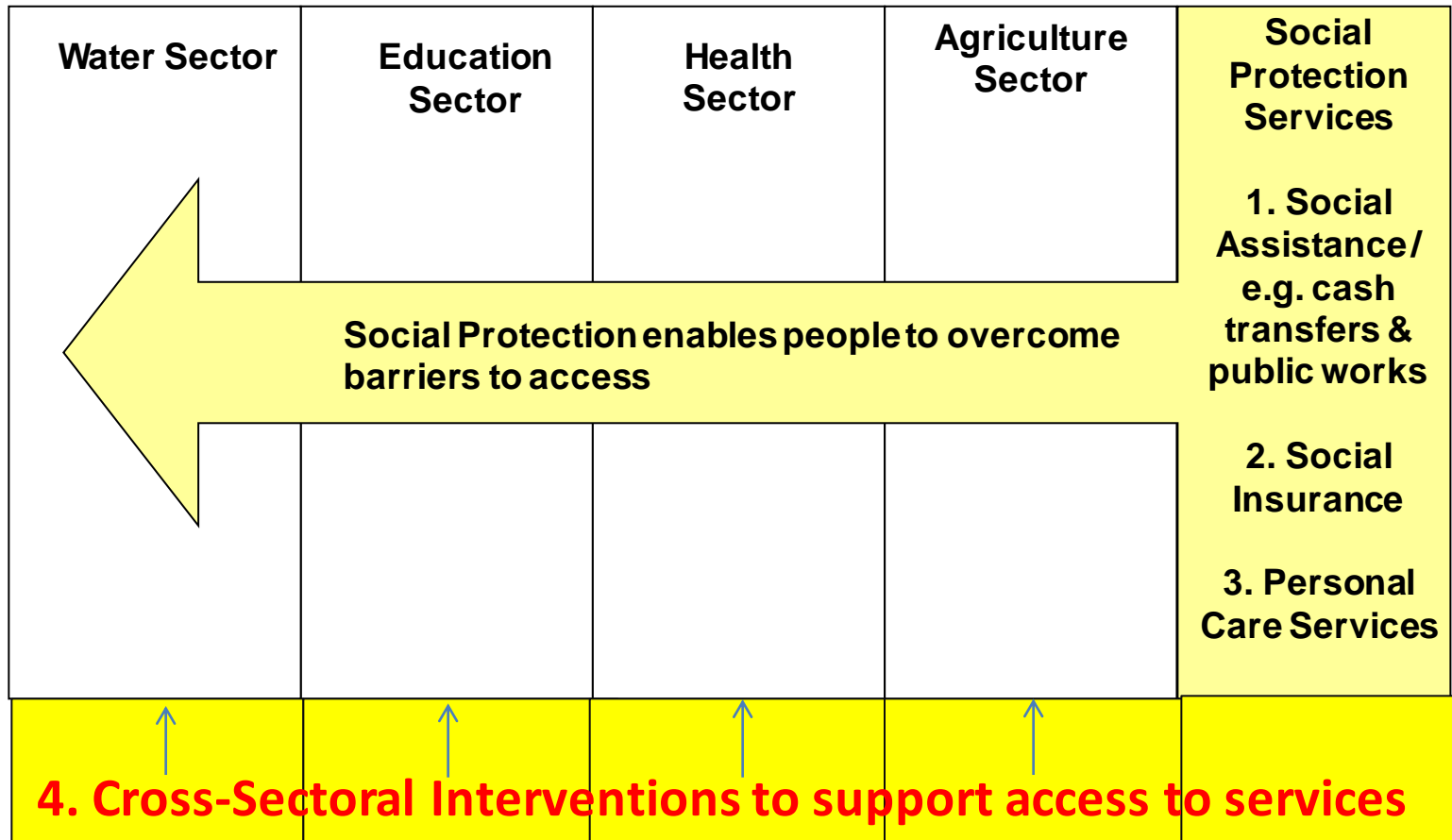
- **Complementary interventions** to support access to services are also identified. This includes new, targeted measures to ensure access to services for the most vulnerable – **e.g. school feeding.**

Purpose and Objectives of SP Policy Framework

Policy Framework will set out broad context & clarify across GoU, the GoU's understanding & approach to SP. The Policy Framework will:

- **Establish a vision & common understanding** across GoU of need for SP & role in Uganda's national development;
- **Set out strategic & prioritized SP objectives & instruments** for SP in Uganda;
- **Distinguish objectives & core instruments** of the **SP policy framework** from much wider range of *socially protective* GoU policies and interventions, including cross-sectoral policies for *vulnerable groups*.
- **Develop common understanding of complementarities between SP policy framework, existing MGLSD policies and interventions and other GoU sectors.**
- Set out **broad institutional structure for implementation** of SP Sub-Sector and how it links to and coordinates across government.

Social Protection Supports All other GoU Services



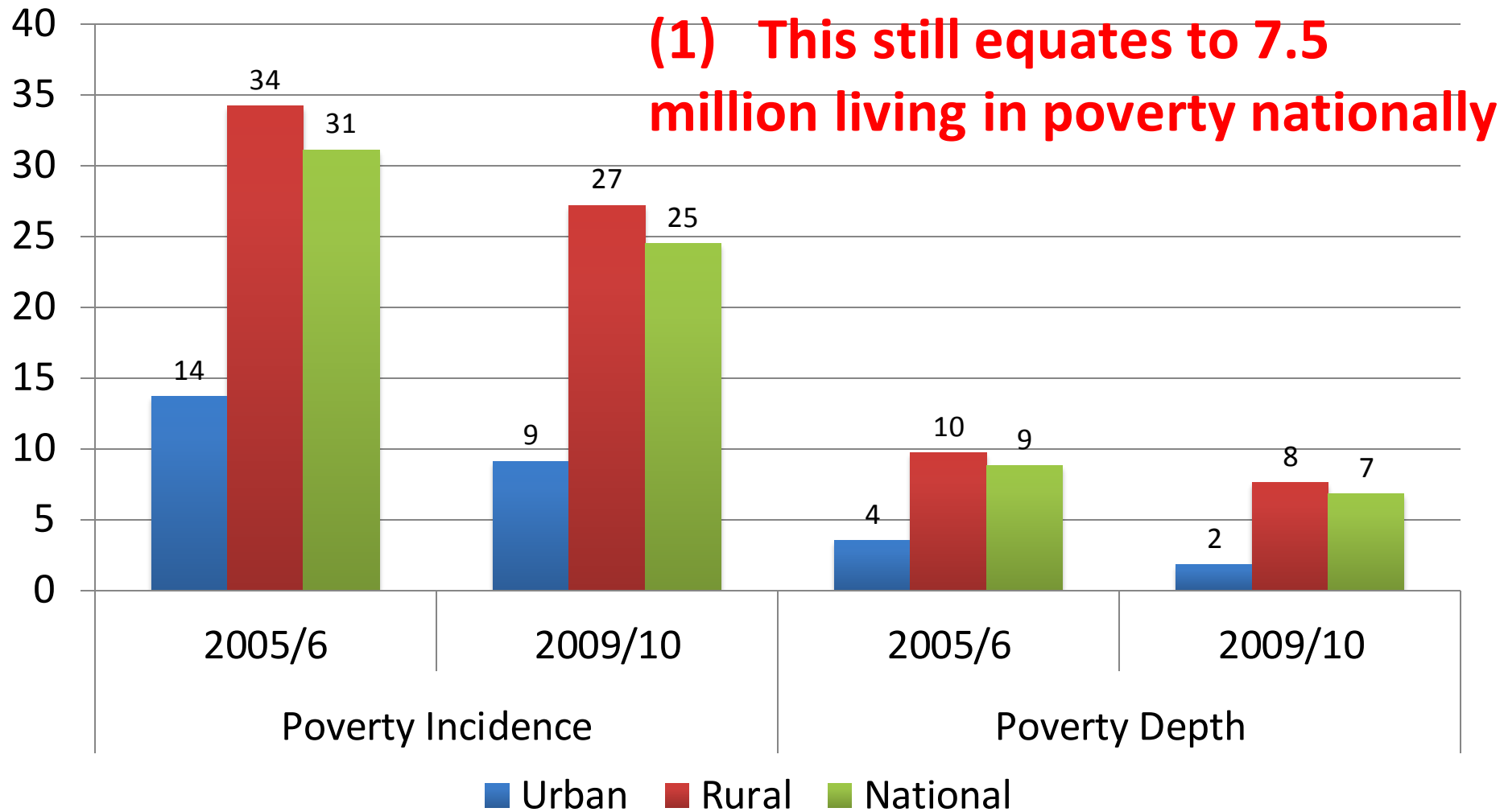
Why Direct Income Support is necessary



www.socialprotection.go.ug



Poverty has decreased, BUT ...



Why Direct Income Support is necessary

- Despite massive investment in health and education services, **the poorest and most vulnerable are failing to access basic services.**
- **Less than 7 out of every 10 children** from the poorest households are enrolled in primary school & are more than **four times more likely to be delayed by 5 or more years in school** than children from the wealthiest households.

Why Direct Income Support is necessary

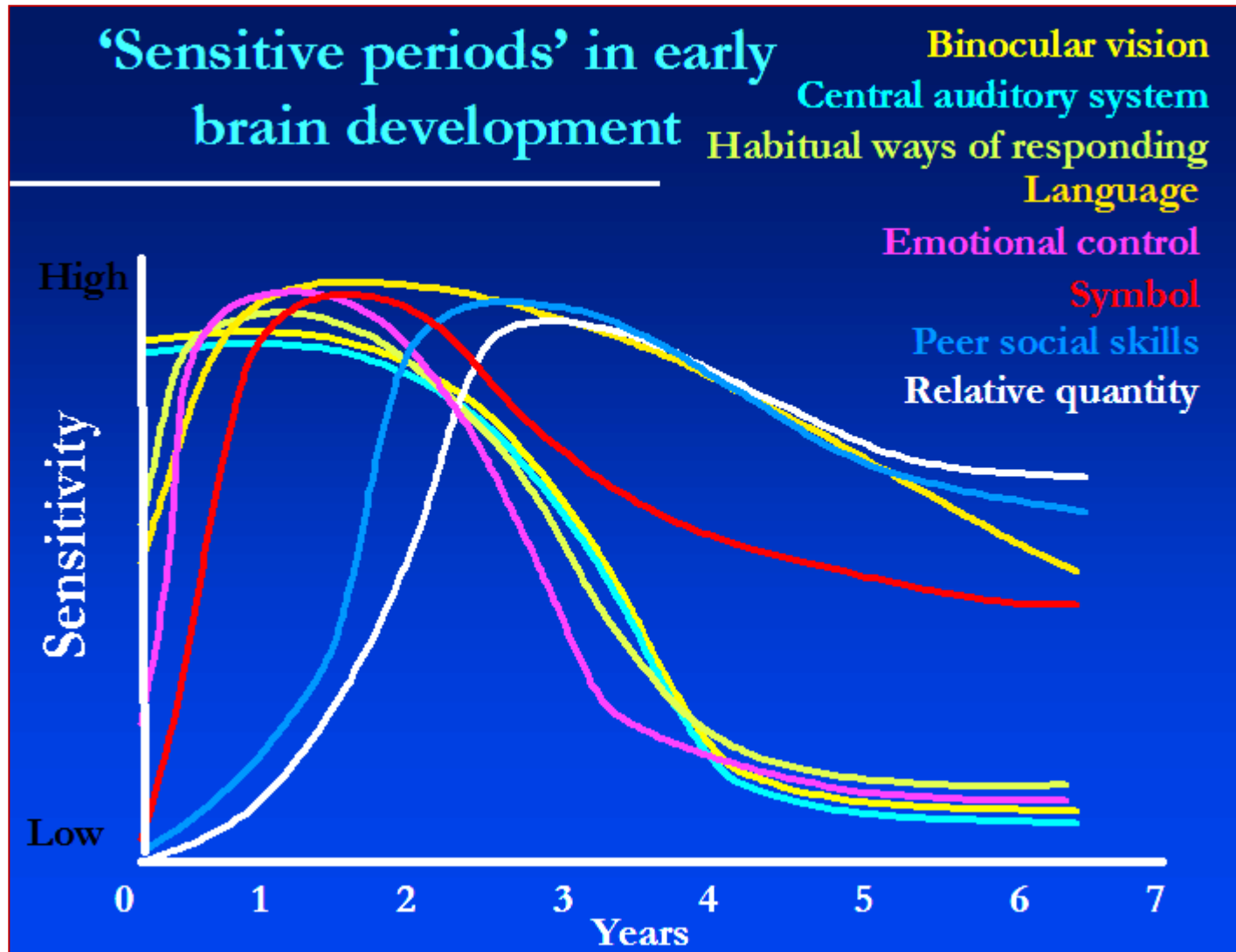
- Although poverty rate reduced, between 2005/6 and 2009/10, the poorest saw **almost no change** in their consumption during the period.
- The number of households citing **financial constraints** as being the main reason for **children dropping out of school more than doubled** between 2005/6 and 2009/2010.
- **31% of people cited financial constraints** as being the main reason why they did not access **medical services** and yet **sickness / calamity is cited as the major reasons for dropping out of school** for children from the poorest households.

Why Direct Income Support is necessary

- **9 per cent** of people eat only **one meal a day**.
- **16 per cent** of Ugandan children below 5 years are **underweight** while **38 per cent** are **stunted**.

Therefore, the **poorest and most vulnerable** are failing to benefit from, or contribute to Uganda's growth and development.

RESULT: Irreversible long term effects of hunger on human development and economy...



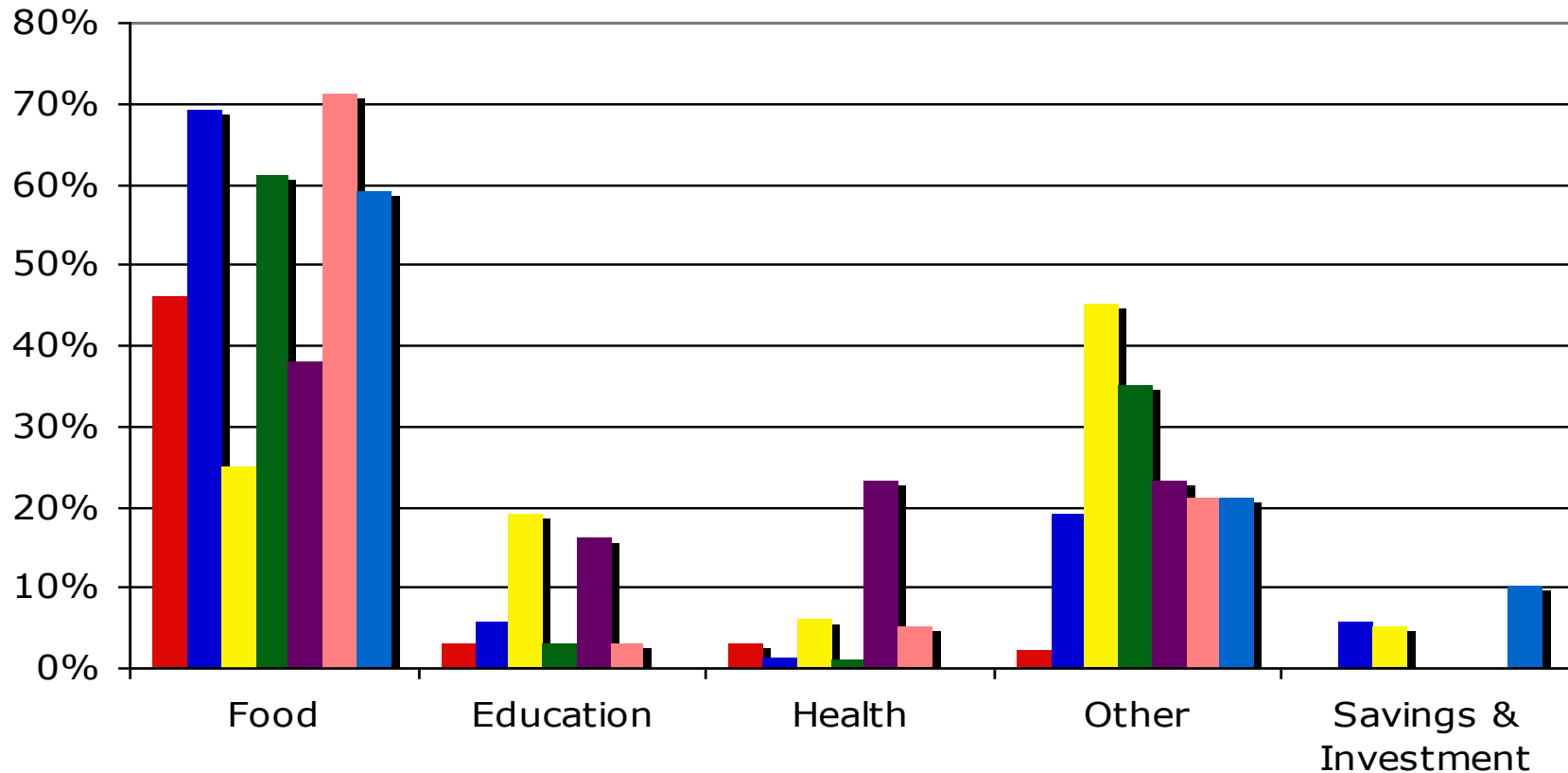
What DIS can do for children

- Improved nutrition
- Improved access to education
- Improved access to health services

Human capital accumulation for Uganda's future generation

Most cash transfers buy predominantly food

Use of Cash Transfer by Program



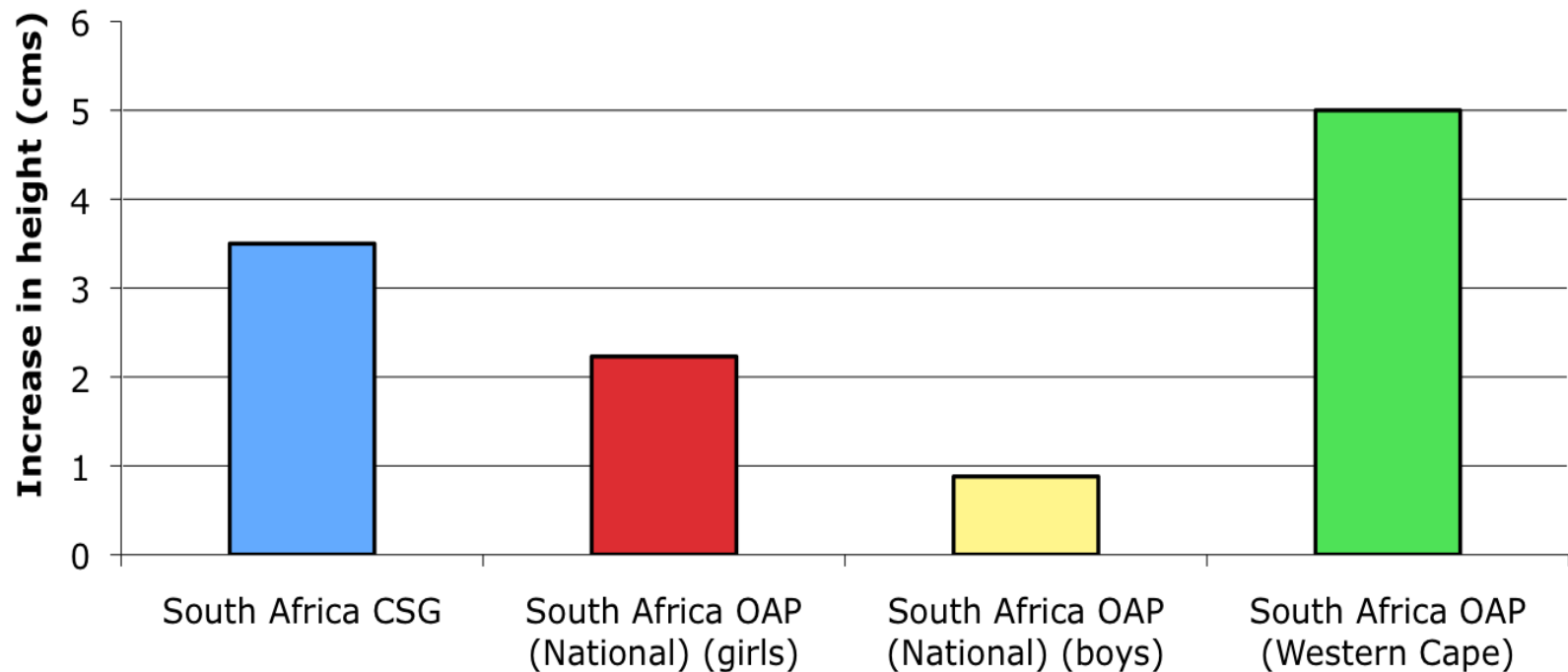
- South Africa OAP
- Kenya Cash Transfer for OVC
- Namibia Old-Age Pension (urban)
- Malawi FACT
- Zambia SCTS
- Mozambique INAS (urban)
- Malawi DECT

What DIS can do for children

- **Education:** *In Brazil, participants in the Bolsa Familia programme are **63% less likely to drop out of school** compared to children in non-participant households.*
- **Health:** *In Malawi, illness was reduced by **23%** among children participating in the Mchinji social transfer programme, compared to 12% of children from non-beneficiary households. In Ethiopia, **50% of PSNP beneficiaries used health facilities more** in the year the programme was introduced than in the previous year.*

What DIS can do for children

Impacts of unconditional cash transfer programs on nutrition



What Senior Citizen Grants can do for Senior Citizens and their families

Sustained, regular and reliable direct income support will:

- Reduce old age poverty and destitution
- Restore older persons' dignity and independence
- Reintegrates older people into informal care support networks
- Increase resilience against shocks - avoiding negative coping strategies;
- **Support active older persons** to be more productive
- Improve **nutrition** among their Grand children
- Increase **access** to health and education services

What Senior Citizen Grants can do to Senior Citizens and their families

We have already started to observe:

- ✓ Improved feeding ,nutrition and better health
- ✓ Livelihoods investments – seeds, livestock, hiring labour to work untended land.
- ✓ Local businesses report turnover increases on payment days
- ✓ School fees & medical expenses
- ✓ House improvements – labour, iron sheets, timber etc
- ✓ Increased dignity, empowerment, self-esteem, confidence & participation in community affairs

Income security . Economic resilience . Improved welfare

Impacts of SCG on Poverty in Uganda

National implementation of the SCG would have significant impacts on poverty:

- ***30% of beneficiary households would be lifted above the poverty line***
- ***The poverty gap among households with over-65s would reduce by 79%***
- ***The national poverty gap would be reduced by 17%.***

Why is the Senior Citizen Grant a priority now?

- **A simple, cost-effective way to start:**
 - A SCG is socially non-divisive, simple to implement and cost-effective for national scale-up
 - Global experience shows that such Senior Citizens Grants **are often the starting point for national social protection systems that cover several categories of the vulnerable**

Why is the Senior Citizen Grant a priority now?

- **SENIOR CITIZENS GRANTS ARE NOT JUST FOR SENIOR CITIZENS BUT BENEFIT ALL THE FAMILY.....**
 - Health and Education
 - Child nutrition
 - Micro investments for the family
 - Local business and economic growth

Photo by Antonio Olmos/HelpAge International



Profile of Senior Citizens in Uganda

15% of households have an older person

72% of older persons are Heads of Household

85% active Older persons engaged in crop farming

1.8 M children live with older persons

29% of Households with an older person are poor

Why is the Senior Citizen Grant a priority now?

- Older persons have made **immense contributions** to building and developing the country since independence
 - Paying tax
 - Liberation struggles
 - Working and supporting the economy
 - **Caring for their children and grand children**
 - **Caring for Orphans due to HIV/AIDS**
- Grandmothers **care for grandchildren** and enables working age parents to produce food for their families or enter the labour market.
- Our rich tradition of extended family support has weakened and the formal Social Protection System cover barely 5% of the population



What can Social Protection do for Uganda?

- **A national, Government-led Social Protection System:**
 - Can help Uganda achieve its aspiration of becoming a middle income country
 - Can help **reduce child poverty and intergeneration transmission of poverty**
 - Contributes to the core of development - **human development for Uganda's children**
 - **Maximises impact of government investment in health and education services**
 - Helps to **strengthen household productivity and capacity for income generation-with lasting benefits for children**
 - **Is cost effective and affordable by a growing economy**

Opportunities for national scale up ahead...



www.socialprotection.go.ug



Public Support

- Strong public support - within and outside target districts.
- Calls from political leaders & local governments to extend programme to new districts.

Systems for National Scale Up of SCG

- MGLSD working together with local governments has developed robust, efficient and nationally scalable systems and processes for the effective delivery of SAGE Grants.
- These systems and procedures have been tested and are able to be efficiently scaled up for gradual national coverage.

Recent recommendations by political leaders-

- **National coverage:** GoU should prioritize Direct Income Supports to older persons and commits to the national scale up SCG
- **Financing:** GoU should identify sustainable sources of funding SCG
- Establish a **Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection**

SCG: an important Legacy for Uganda @ 50

- The national roll out of the Senior Citizens Grants represents a remarkable LEGACY for the Government of Uganda and all our people, for recognising the important role that Senior Citizens have played towards the struggle for independence, nation building, and for raising their families.

Conclusion

- **Direct Income Support** is an effective way for government to:
 - *directly reach the most vulnerable and deliver tangible benefits to them*
 - *Compliment and maximise returns on public investments*
 - *demonstrate Government commitment to ensuring that no citizens are left behind as Uganda moves forward to middle income status.*

More info available

www.socialprotection.go.ug



www.socialprotection.go.ug

