

Cash transfers for Kenya's Ultra-Poor Living in Urban Slums

Presentation by:

Amina Ibrahim Abdulla

Urbanization and Poverty in Kenya



Vulnerabilities Affecting the Urban Poor in Kenya



- Dependence on markets
- Frequent droughts
- Poor access to basic services
- Limited coping strategy options
- Exposure to crime and violence

Korogocho Initiative

- Initiative implemented in response to a food security crisis
- Immediate objective: to meet basic food needs
- Design incorporated GoK recommendations including that of not indexing the transfers



Key Findings and Lessons



Protective:

- Food consumption increased from 1.61 to 2.53
- HDD score increased from 3.4 to 7.7
- >60% of transfers spent on food and non-food items
- Inflationary effects insignificant

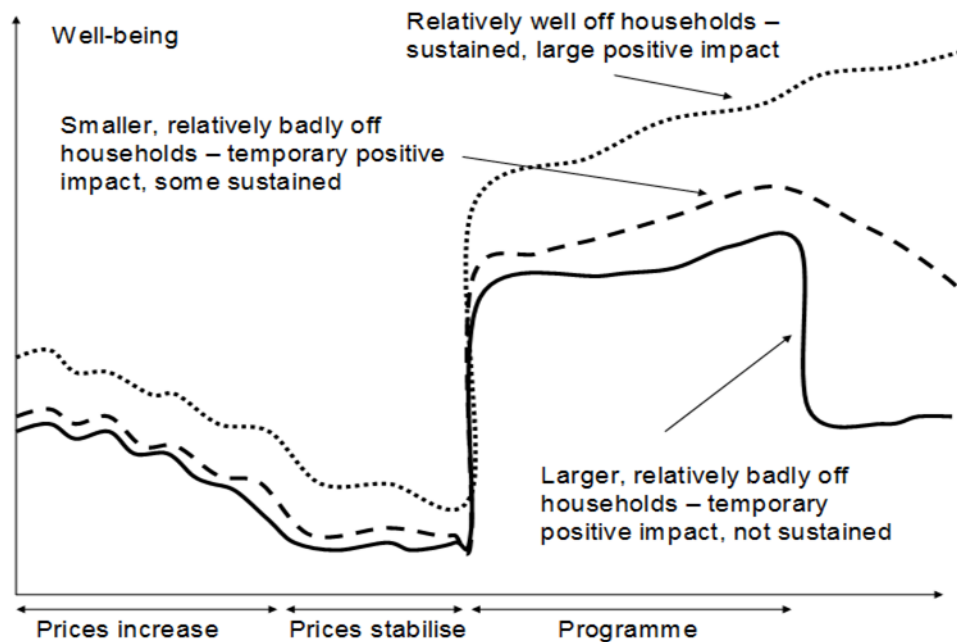
Key Findings and Lessons

Promotive:

- Increased food intake enhanced productivity amongst beneficiary population
- 75% invested part of transfers into small businesses
- Larger households with high dependency ratio unable to invest or save

Key Findings and Lessons

- Impact varied across different types of households



Key Findings and Lessons

Transformative:

- Steady income gave households confidence
- Abandoning some of the negative coping strategies
- Recipients had the confidence to question certain decisions

Key Findings and Lessons

Targeting:

- A community based targeting system is feasible within an urban slum context
- Inclusion of more objective mechanism to minimize exclusion errors
- Complaints and response mechanism to reduce inclusion errors

Advocacy and Engagement at Policy Level



- Evidence based-provided information that disproved some of the myths amongst policy makers
- Supported civil society networks in the push for a legal and policy framework
- Contributed to the streamlining of government safety net programme
- Supporting public awareness on safety nets and social assistance in the urban context
- GoK to increase its budgetary allocation and enable national coverage of the on-going programmes

Contact Details:

Amina Ibrahim Abdulla

E-mail: amina.abdulla@concern.net

Tel: +254-20-3755051/2/3/4/5

Fax: +254-20-3755056