Gendered Perspectives on a Female-Directed Cash Transfer Program for HIV Prevention

HPTN 068

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HPTN Annual Meeting, Washington DC, 11 April 2017
Introduction

- Cash transfers (CTs) assessed for poverty, human capital & health including HIV.
- Continued interest to expand social protection programs.
- Need to recognise the impact of CTs on social relations
- HPTN068 provided CTs conditional to 80% school attendance
  - R100 (~USD 10) to the girl
  - R200 (~USD 20) to the parent/guardian

**Aim:** to understand how men perceive female-directed cash transfer programs; and their impact on their relations with cash recipients?
Methods

Study site: Rural Agincourt, Mpumalanga, South Africa

Study period: Between Sep 2012 – Sep 2015

Population: Males peers & romantic partners

Data collection:

✓ Focus Group Discussions (12) [male peers]
✓ In-depth interviews (20) [partners]

Data analysis: Transcripts, QC, double-coded, thematic analysis used to analyse data
Moral Behaviour

“Stopped girls from bad things” (male peers)

- Independent from men
- Moral behaviour
- Reduce transactional sex
- Multiple partnerships

“...they get helped because some of them involve themselves in relationships with multiple boyfriends just to get money; and since they started getting the money they reduced the number of boyfriends.” (FGD02)
Power Relations

“Now it’s 50/50”
(male peers)

- Power = money & decision making/choices
- Debates on power relations
- Refused coerced sex
- Reversed gender roles

Feelings of Rejection

“They dump us”
(male peers)

- No mingling
- Break-up relationships
- Access to other men
“It’s her money… It helps her” (partners)

- Money useful for girls
- No interest on details on conditionality, amount & spending

“We never spoke about the money; I did not want to be involved [laughs]” (YWP002)

Ease Pressure

- No change in relationship-men providers
- Ease pressure to provide
- CT too little to be intimidating

“It did not take my role, it aided on my responsibility” (partners)
Perceptions About Trial Procedures

- HIV testing and knowledge are key benefits
  - YW aware of their HIV status
  - YW became cautious about engaging risky sexual behaviour
- Improved YW-partner communication about sex & HIV
- Negative about cash transfer program:
  - Exclusion of boys/ men, YW (control)
Discussion & Conclusion

- CTs perceived by both male peers and partners as favourable with only male peers reporting exclusion of males as negative.
- CTs perceived to influence power relations between male peers and YW *BUT* not by partners.
- Male peers emphasised the importance of HIV testing and information for both males and females in this context.

**Conclusion:**
- Males peers and partners support CTs to YW.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The HIV Prevention Trials Network is sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, all components of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The HPTN 068 Study Team
Study participants