

Optimizing Economic Inclusion Programs for Scale: Comments on Malawi, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia IE Designs

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- 1 Great opportunity to fine tune the design of economic inclusion programs.
 - MWI: Marginal benefit of **enhanced, graduation** and **enhanced/graduation** over SCT and CSEPWP?
 - SLE: What is the impact of **cash, capital grant** and **grant/capabilities**?
 - ETH: What are the differential impacts of the **grant** compared to **credit**? Local and network **spillovers**?

Overall Comments II

- 1 Recommend mapping ToFC of each component to precise survey questions.
- 2 Track longer term impacts, initial differences may wane.
- 3 In addition to what works, critical question is who it works for?
- 4 Business development should be supported beyond first iteration. Role of the choice set of businesses?
- 5 Consider how interventions can affect relationships (and migration).
- 6 Insights into the black box - Use process evaluations and qualitative research to understand mechanisms of change (e.g. the QulP)
- 7 Adjust power calculations for migration, death etc.
- 8 Project specific comments seek to elevate the unique stand-alone contribution of each.

Malawi Comments I	
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">① Risk CSEPWP and Enhanced/Graduation are disconnected, conflicting objectives.② Low expectation that women's empowerment will move. Perhaps add in some gender focused modules.
Targeting/ Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">① By their very nature many SCT beneficiaries may have low capacity to engage in Graduation. More selective sample?

Malawi Comments II	
Location/ Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">① Ensure representative spatial distribution of clusters (SCT and CSEPWP).② Expect high profile shocks along the way. Benefits of adding in geo-spatial data.
Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">① Collect data on capacity to engage in business activities at baseline.② Case to make a big effort to collect detailed data on shock and related losses.

Sierra Leone Comments I

Interventions

- 1 Opportunity to shape capabilities training:
 - 1 Business Reorientation
 - 2 Negotiation and Inter-personal Skills
 - 3 Mental Resilience Skills
 - 4 Family Vision and Cooperation
- 2 Measure at baseline capacity to run business/mental well-being, segmented randomisation based on initial characteristics.
- 3 Secondary goal: Examine impact of capital grant before/after (+/-) economic shocks.

Targeting/ Sampling

- 1 Audit the household listing exercise, pilot the community ranking exercise.

Sierra Leone Comments II

Location/ Context

- 1 For comparison need to equalize the timing of capital grants across T2/T3. Receiving close to festivals, HH celebrations, prior to harvest etc will lead to more consumption.

Measurement

- 1 Opportunity to really focus on mental health and well-being outcomes (e.g. GAD-7).

Ethiopia Comments I

Interventions

- 1 Take-up rates of grant versus credit will be different.
- 2 How flexible are the loan products?
- 3 Difficult to compare grant v cash as different samples (I think). This can be fixed.
- 4 To measure spillovers successfully needs to be a central focus.

Targeting/ Sampling

- 1 Use Qual/Quant to assess the impact of the public randomisation on community relations, and access to other programs.

Ethiopia Comments II

Location/ Context	<ol style="list-style-type: none">① To measure spillovers ideally need good even spread of clusters.
Measurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none">① Menu of business ideas offered will play a key role in extent of (+/-) spillovers.② Ideally measure spillovers and business performance over 2-3 years.