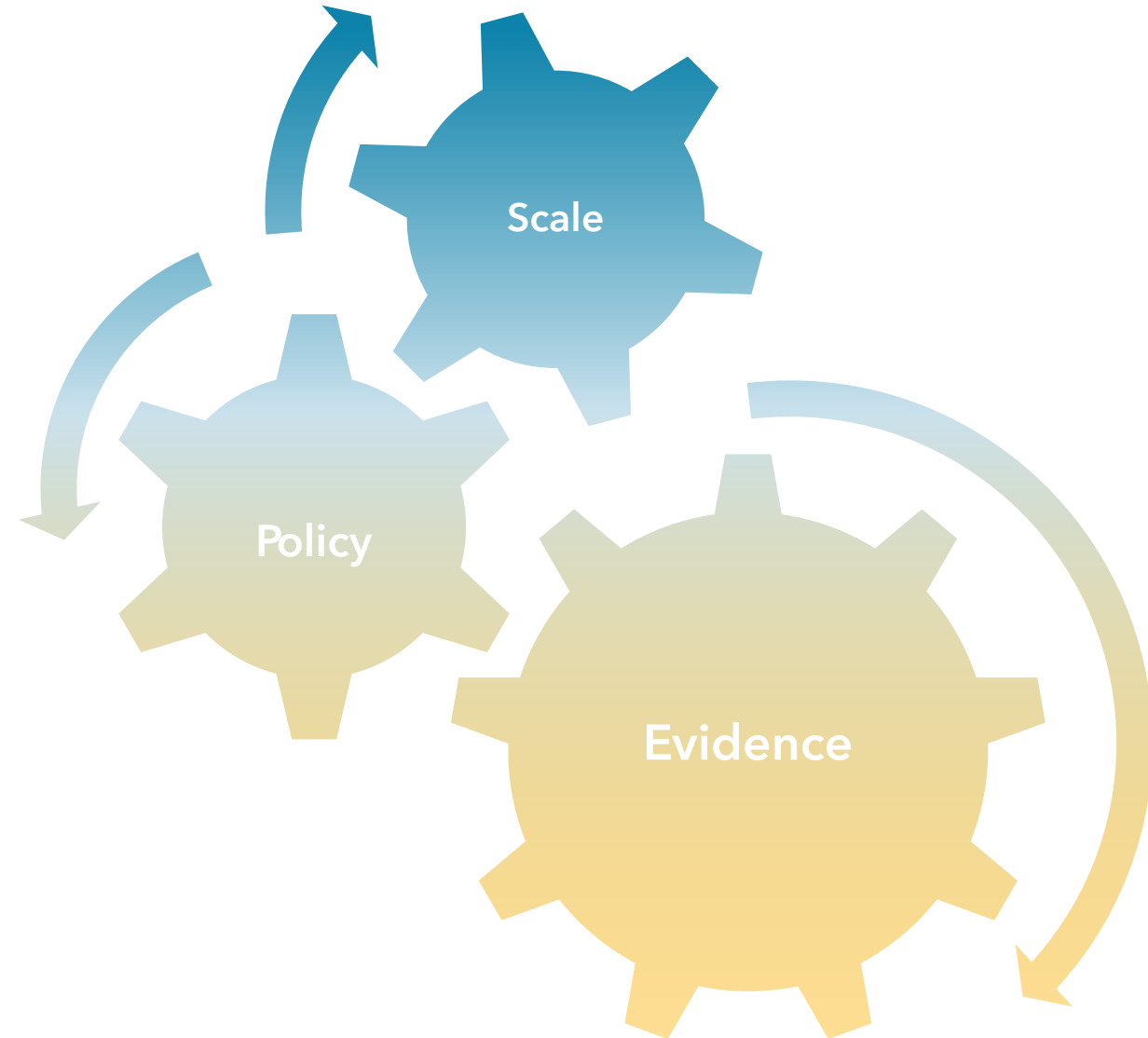


# PEI Impact Evaluation Workshop

Moving Economic Inclusion to scale





# Unbundling the Package: Human vs. Financial Capital in Zambia

Ioana Botea, Markus Goldstein, Corinne Low,  
and Gareth Roberts

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

# Supporting Women's Livelihoods (SWL) provides a bundled package of support to poor women

SWL was designed in 2015 based on promising evidence on the “graduation approach”: holistic, “big push”, interventions are needed to relax the multiple constraints faced by the poor

Provides poor women in rural areas (“female breadwinners”) with a bundled package consisting of:

1. Life and business skills training
2. Productive grant of \$225
3. Group mentorship and follow-up support
4. Savings groups

Implemented exclusively through government structures (MCDSS staff at HQ, province, and district level) and community-based volunteers & at scale (129,000 beneficiaries in 81 out of 103 districts by 2024)



## IMPACT EVALUATION DESIGN

# Impact evaluation unbundles the package to compare the relative contribution of human vs. financial capital

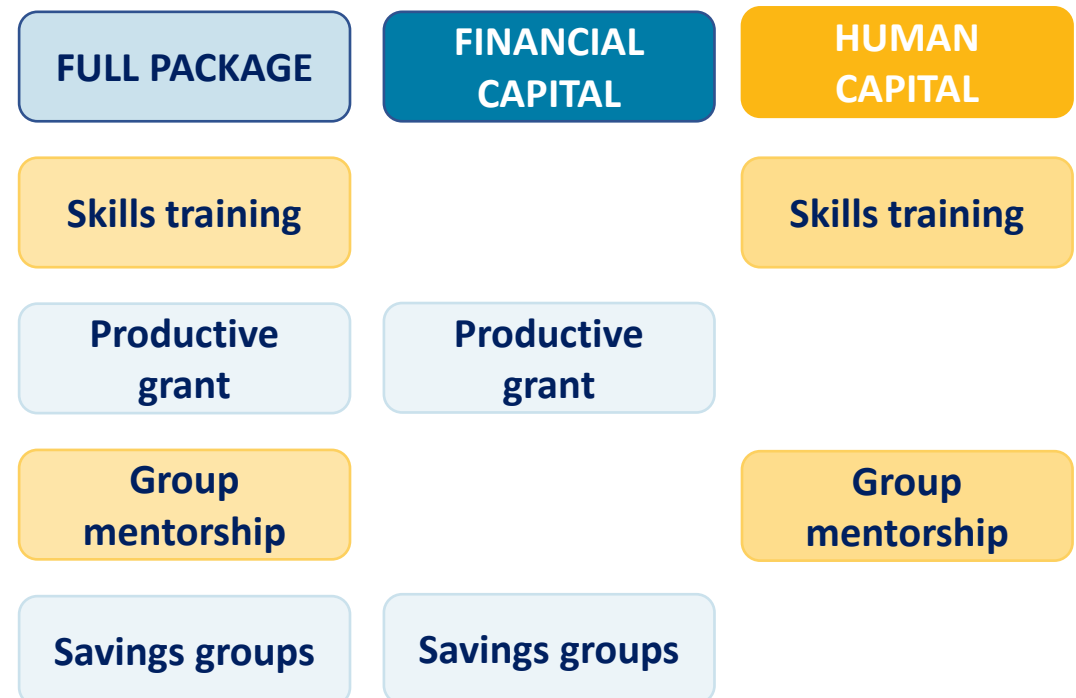
- Unbundle the package to test the (cost-) effectiveness of different variations

*Is the entire package necessary? If not, what type of capital (human vs. financial) should interventions prioritize? Could a streamlined version of the program deliver similar results at a lower cost?*

- Measure general equilibrium and spillover effects to determine poverty reduction potential beyond direct beneficiaries

Cluster RCT in 298 communities across 10 districts, conducted in phase 2 of implementation

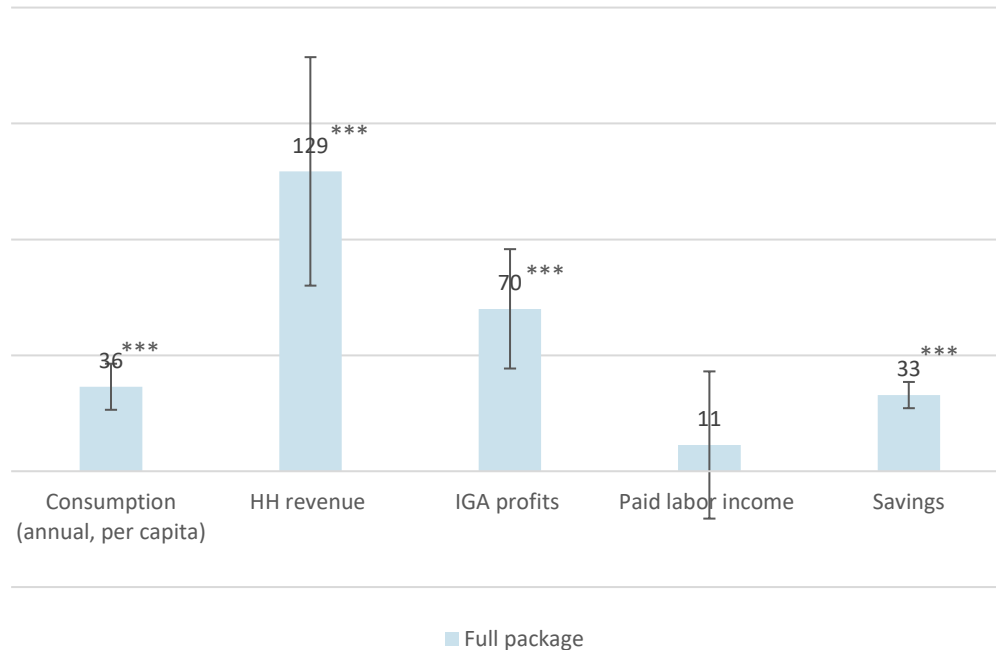
Baseline and midline data from ~7,200 households; endline scheduled for fall 2022



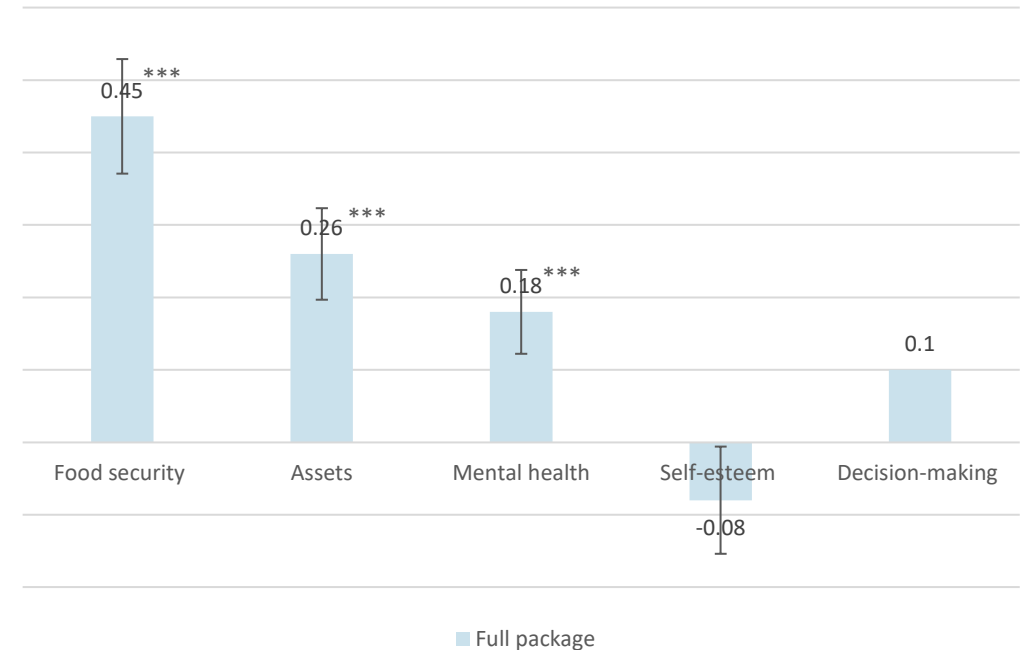
## IMPACTS OF FULL PACKAGE

# The SWL full package has strong results across a range of socio-economic indicators

Treatment effects on economic outcomes (in USD)



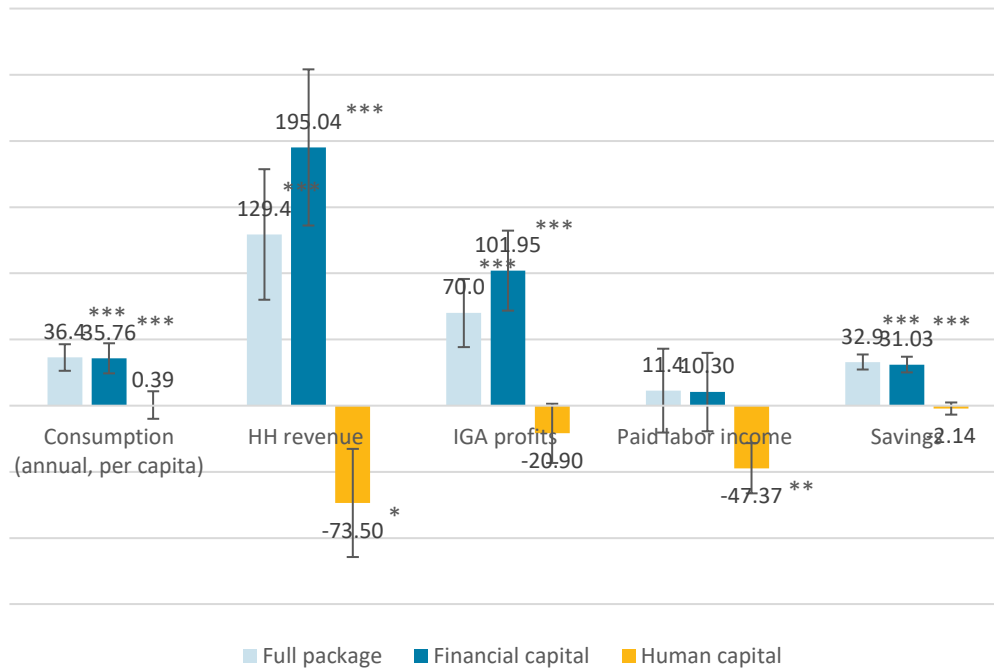
Treatment effects on other outcomes (indices)



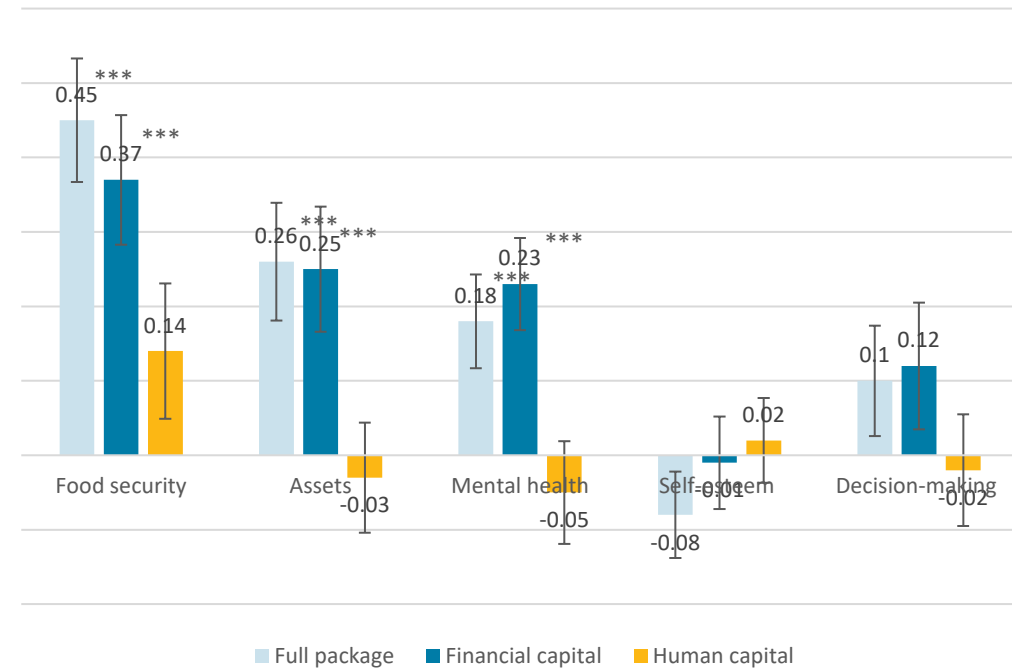
## IMPACTS OF HUMAN VS. FINANCIAL CAPITAL

# But, the effects seem to be entirely driven by financial capital, with limited value added for human capital

Treatment effects on economic outcomes (in USD)



Treatment effects on other outcomes (indices)



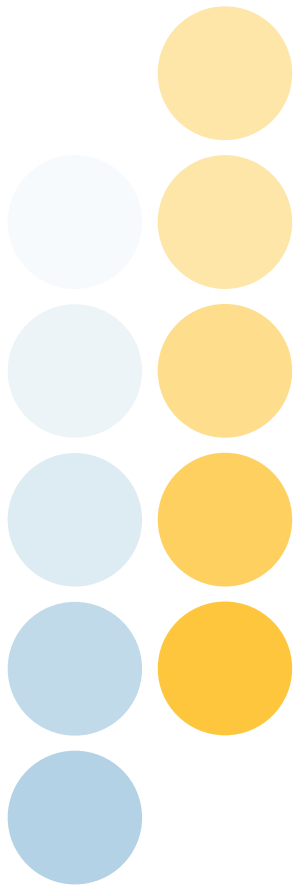
## REFLECTIONS

# Key findings and recommendations

- Government-implemented economic inclusion interventions can create large impacts at scale: the full package had strong effects on a range of indicators & comparable or higher than other (smaller-scale, NGO-implemented) interventions.
- Interestingly, however, the impacts were entirely driven by the financial capital transfer - the human capital element did not have any impact (issues: peers were “hired” for training, cascade training).

### Implications for policy and future research:

- Findings suggest that (labelled) productive grant transfers can generate large welfare benefits on their own and may be better suited in capacity-constrained contexts.
- At the same time, there’s reason to believe that results could have been even stronger. To reap the full benefits of the bundled economic inclusion approach, Gov of Zambia is exploring ways to strengthen the SWL training (e.g., replace CBVs with local ministry staff and reduce cascade training layers).
- There are important HR constraints to scale-up, particularly in low-capacity, low-density contexts like Zambia. More research is needed to learn about how to successfully deliver wide-scale training.



**Ioana Botea**

[ibotea@worldbank.org](mailto:ibotea@worldbank.org)

# Thank you!





## PEI FUNDING PARTNERS



Implemented by

