

How do we get from evidence to policy?

Sudhanshu Handa
UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti
June 2014
Rabat, Morocco



Getting from evidence to policy...

- Hierarchy of evidence does not exist
- How do we increase chance that evaluation will both be done but also used? What is the optimal set-up for evaluation activity?
 - Institutionalized within government?
 - Conducted externally or internally?
 - ‘Arms length’? ‘Independence’?
 - Role of civil society, beneficiaries
 - Importance of methodology



Transfer Project: Initiative to support rigorous impact evaluation of Social Programs in SSA

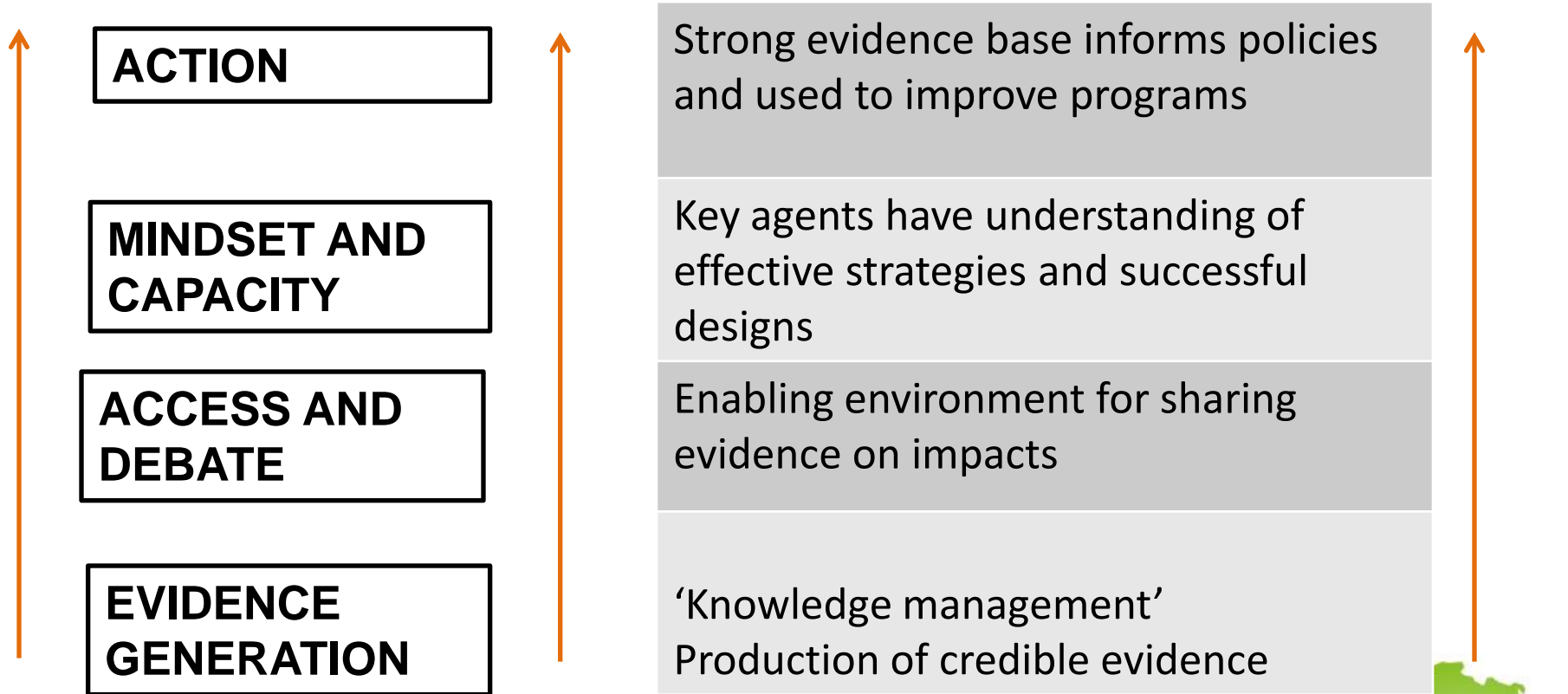
- Malawi SCT
 - Expansion, 2013-2015
- Kenya
 - CT OVC, 2007-2011
- Mozambique PSA
 - Expansion, 2008-2009
- Zambia
 - Monze pilot, 2007-2010
 - Child Grant, MCP, 2010-2014
 - Scale up 2014
- Ethiopia
 - Tigray SPP, 2012-14
- Ghana LEAP
 - 2010-2012
- Lesotho CGP
 - 2012-2014
- Zimbabwe, SCT
 - 2013-2015



www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer



Research uptake 'theory of change'

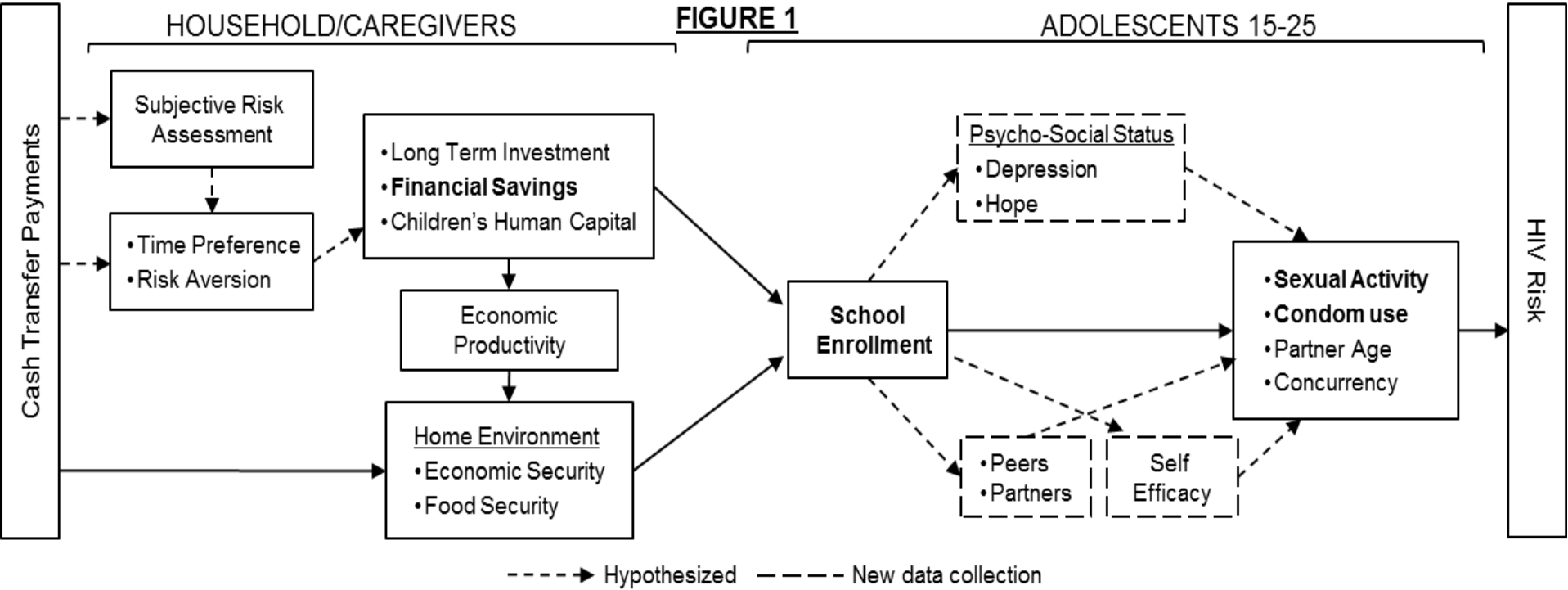


Evidence Generation

- *Randomista* revolution and methodological appropriateness
 - RCTs good for certain types of questions and interventions
 - Whole tool kit: qualitative, beneficiary assessments, operational audits, MIS, ‘impact monitoring’
 - What are the relevant questions
 - Relevant according to whom?
 - Theory of change (opening the ‘black box’)



Theory of Change: Kenya Cash Transfer for Orphans & Vulnerable Children



Ideas on research uptake

- Independent, external...and irrelevant?
 - When is research influential? When it is demanded by policy makers...
 - National research centers, universities and others
- Enabling environment
 - Data collection systems and access legislation



Make 'learning' (of program managers, policy makers) the key objective

Accountability



Learning

