

# **Social Protection: an Instrument to address multi- dimensional poverty and vulnerabilities**



Thakur Dhakal  
12 June, 2020

# Structure of session

## Empirical evidence of impacts on:

- 1) **Poverty**
- 2) **Food security**
- 3) **Education**
- 4) **Child labour**
- 5) **Economic growth**

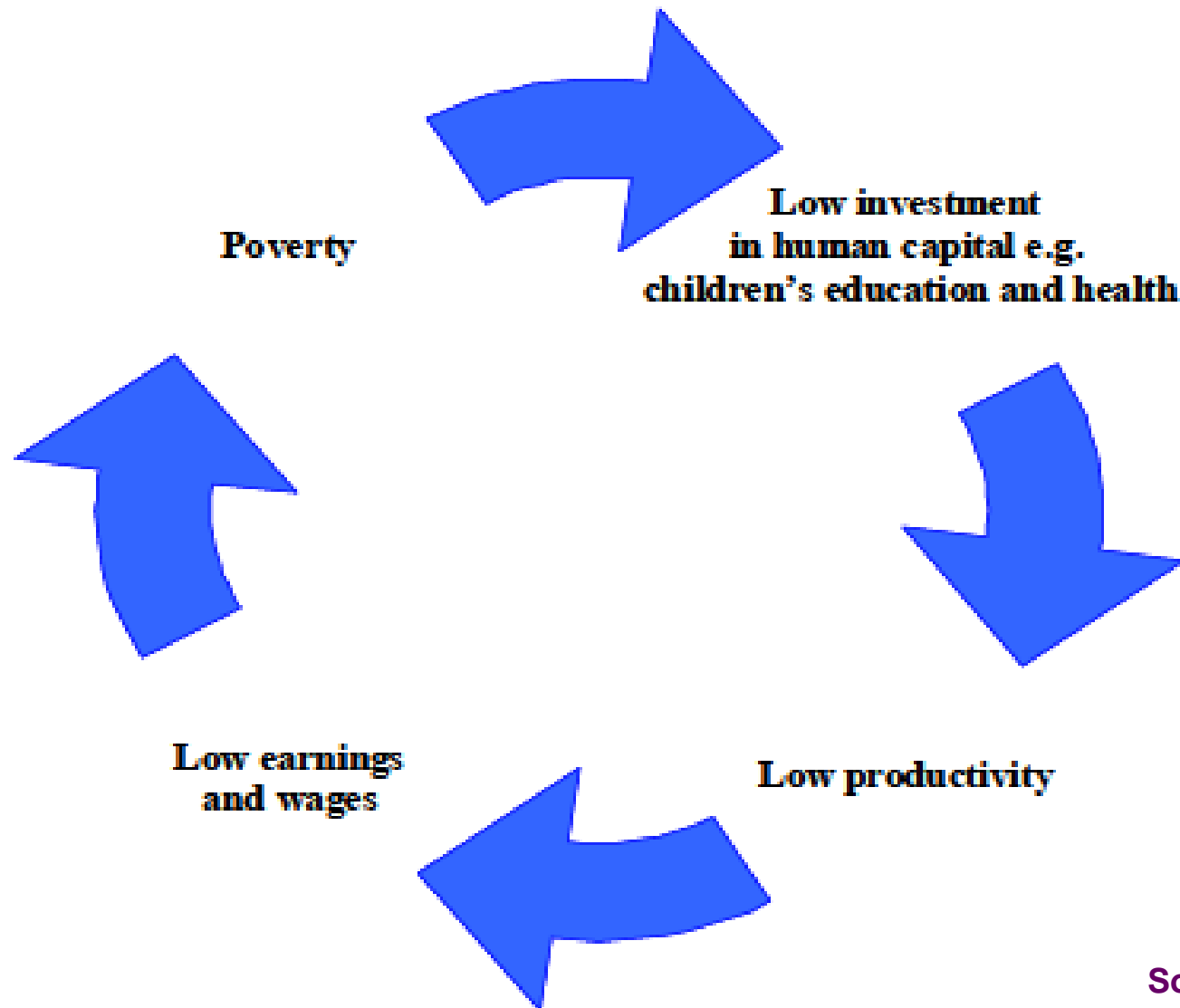
**Knowledge gaps**

# Researchers say

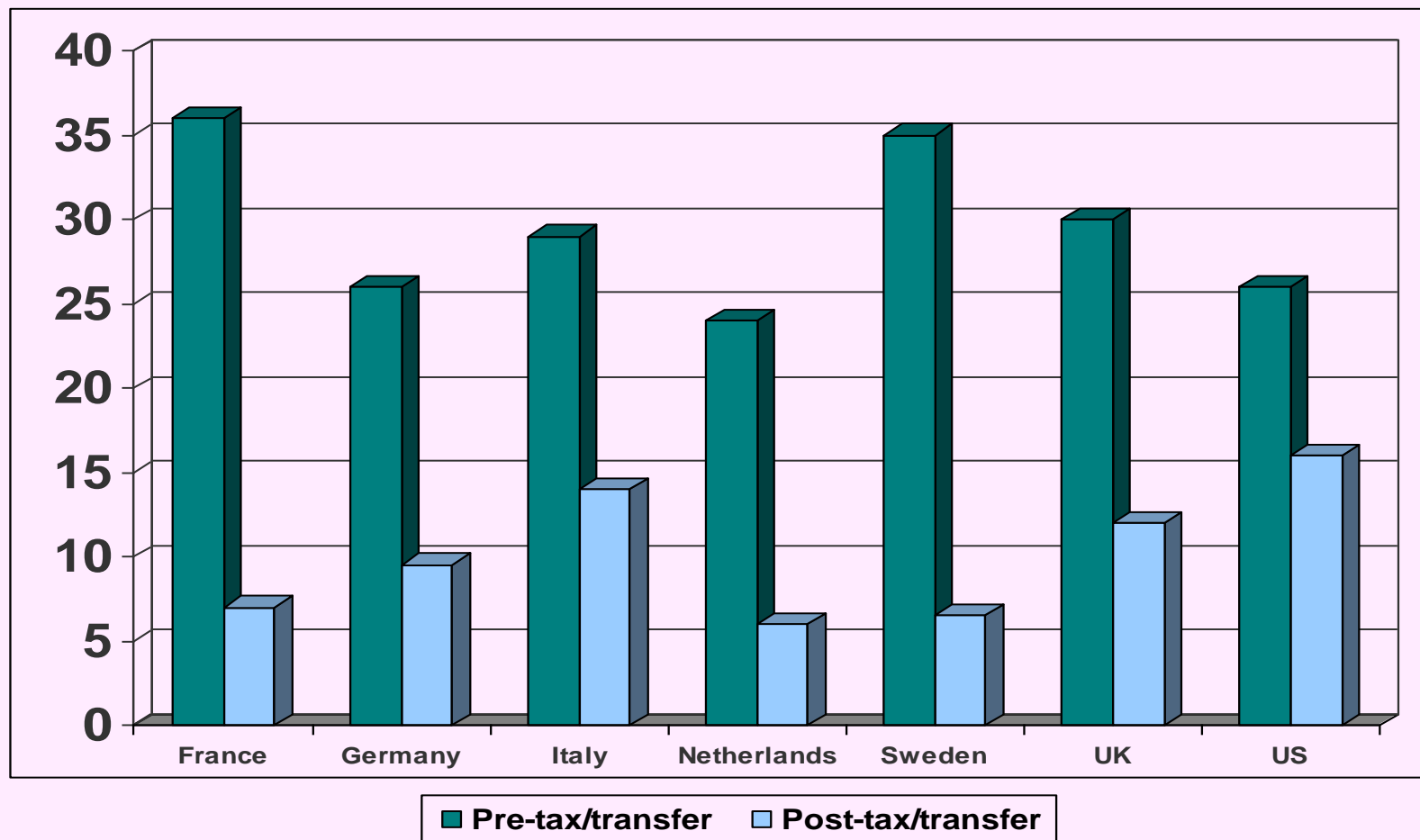
"Investment in social protection and social assistance can be extremely effective in reducing current poverty and vulnerability, as well as poverty persistence across time and generations. However, common issues in Programme design are a) Financial sustainability b) capacity c) complementarity"

*Armando Barrientos*

# Positive impacts: Poverty traps

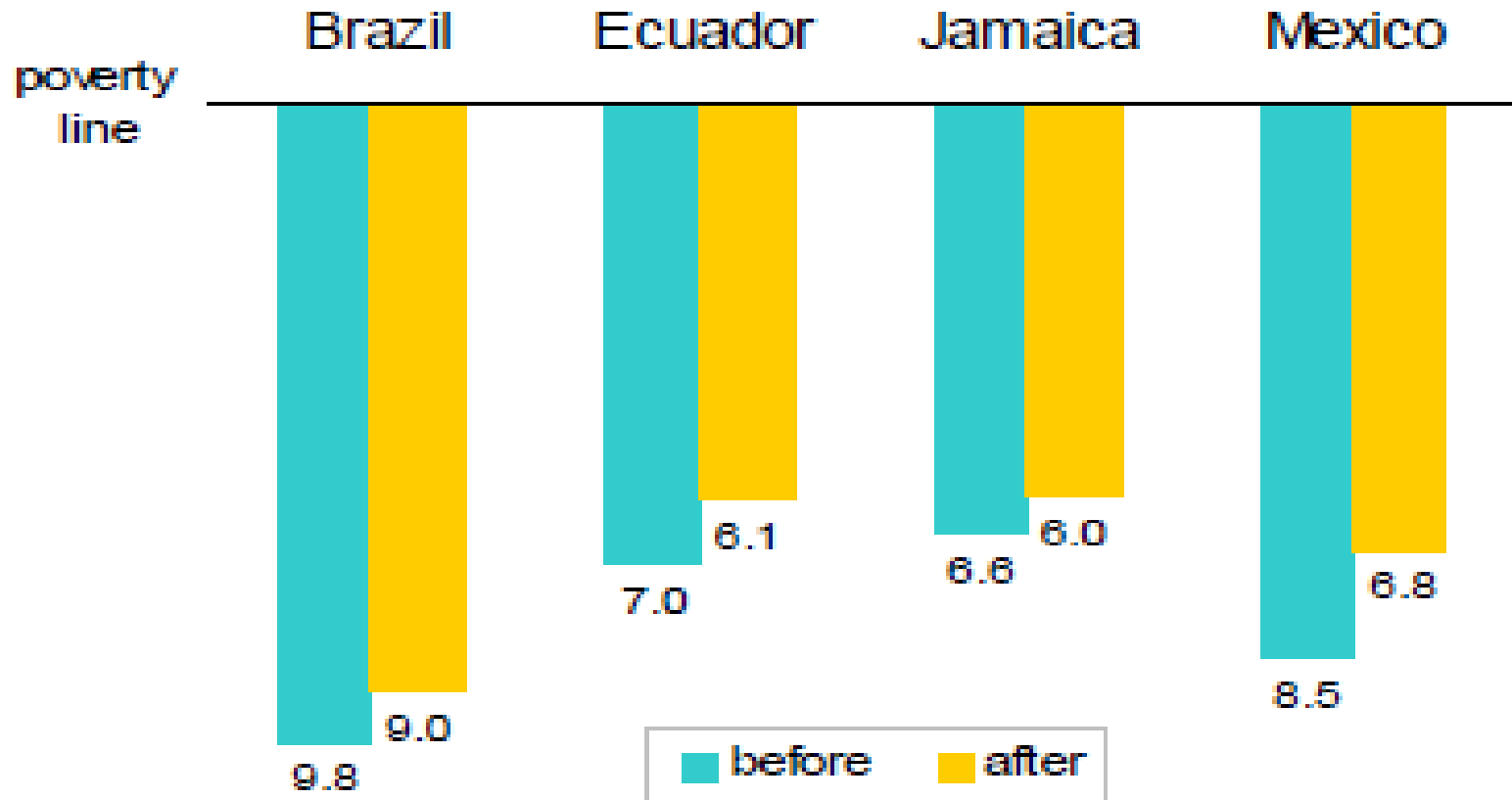


# Positive impacts: Poverty headcount



**Social protection reduces poverty headcount in rich countries**

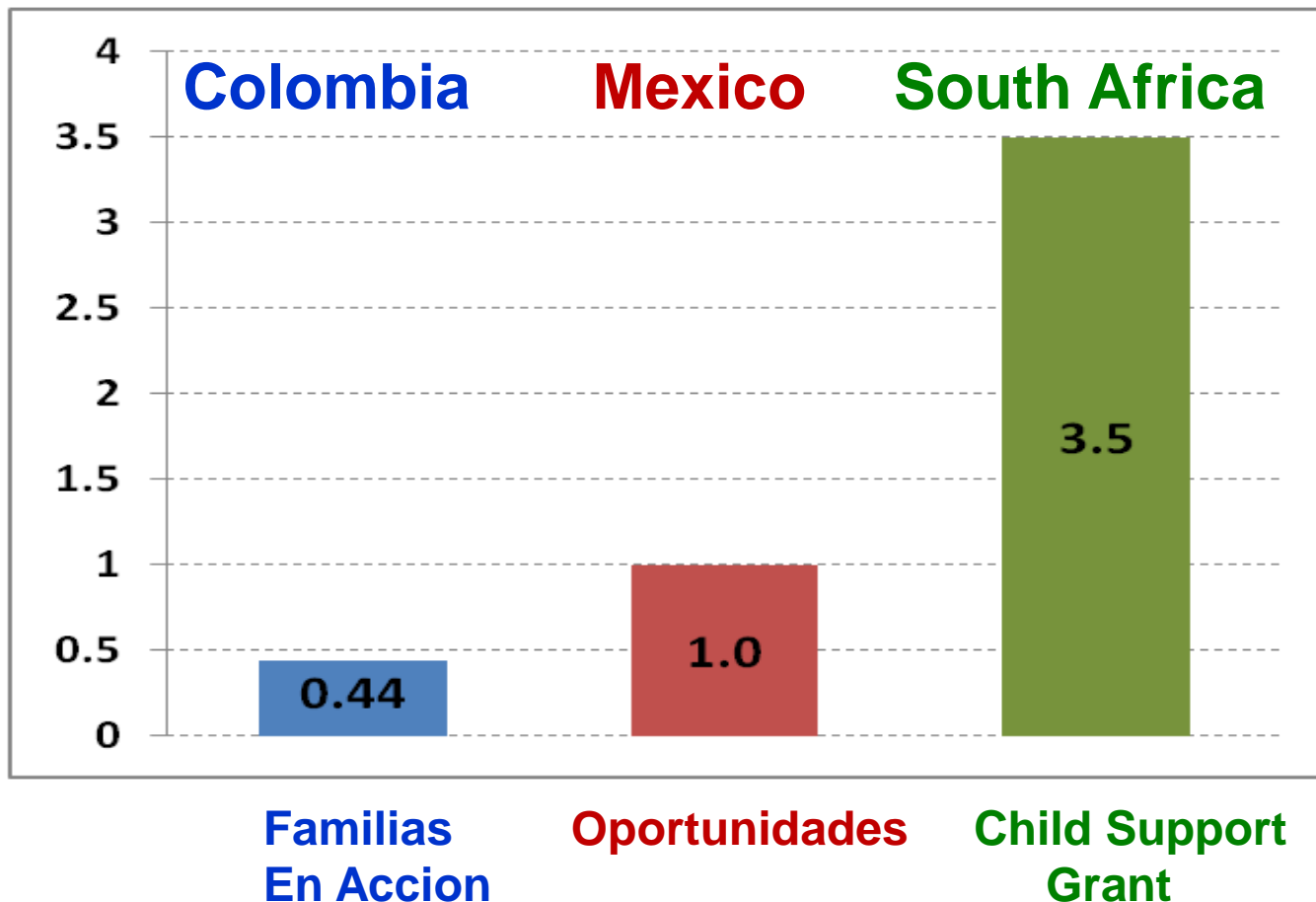
# Positive impacts: Poverty gap



**Conditional cash transfers reduce poverty gap in poor countries**

# Positive impacts: Food Security

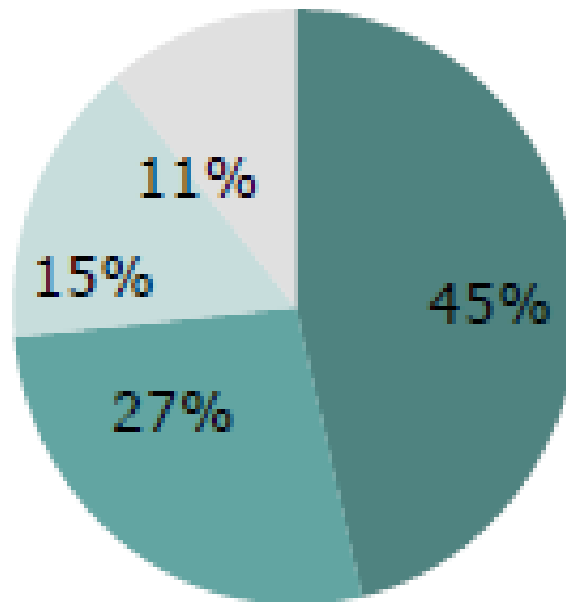
Cash transfers can cause significant gains in height among children.



# Positive impacts: Food Security

Cash transfers can cause multiple improvements in household food security.

Food security impacts  
of Nepal's Child Grant  
in Karnali region

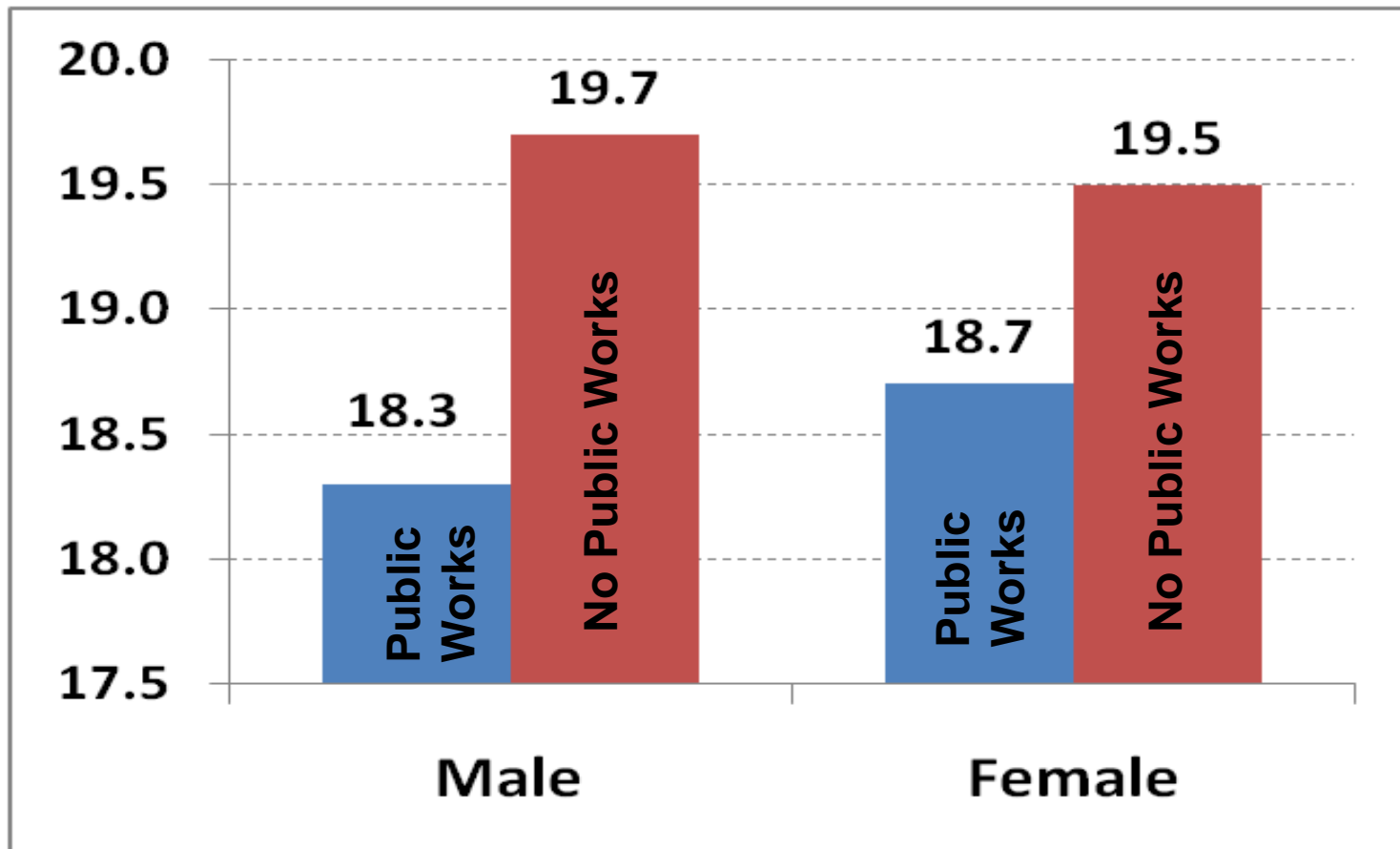


- Eating more 'desirable' food
- Greater number of meals a day
- Greater variety of food
- Bigger portions/meals



# Negative impacts: Food Security

Public works participants in Niger had lower BMI than non-participants.



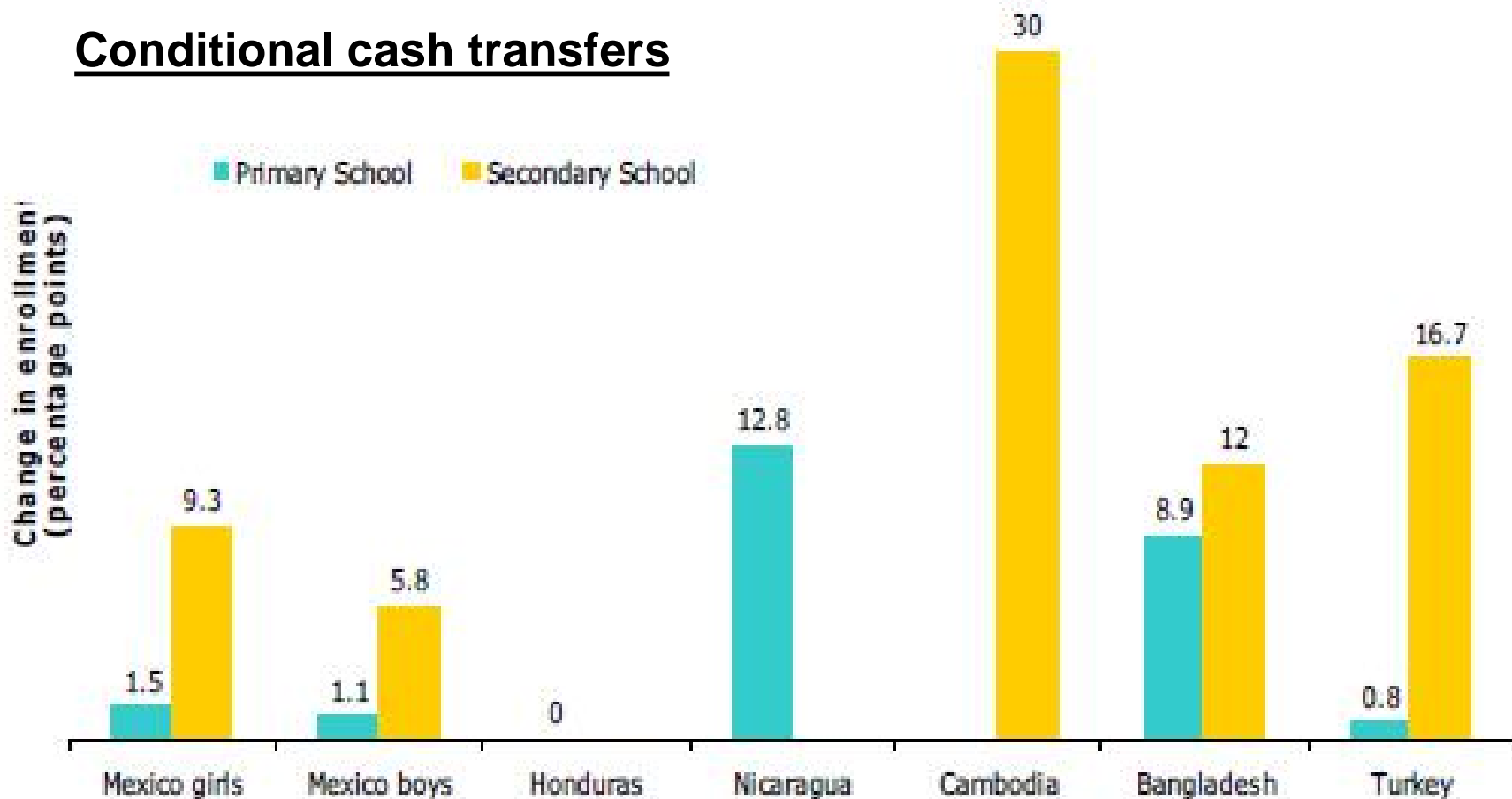
# Analysing impacts: Education

**Many social protection instruments can improve education access (school enrolment and attendance rates) and reduce gender gaps in education access:**

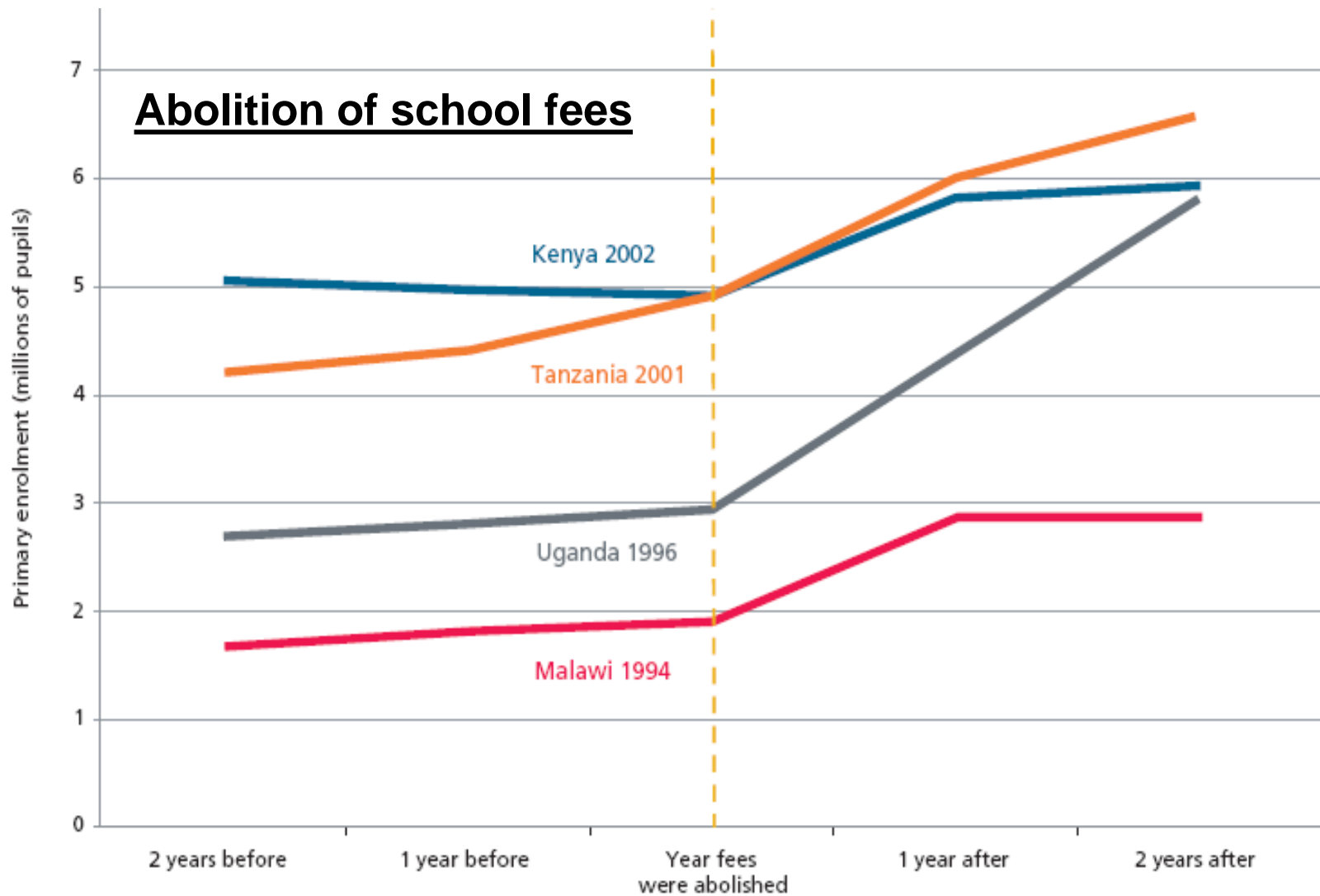
- 1. Cash transfers**
- 2. Abolishing school fees**
- 3. School feeding**

# Positive impacts: Education access

## Conditional cash transfers



# Positive impacts: Education access

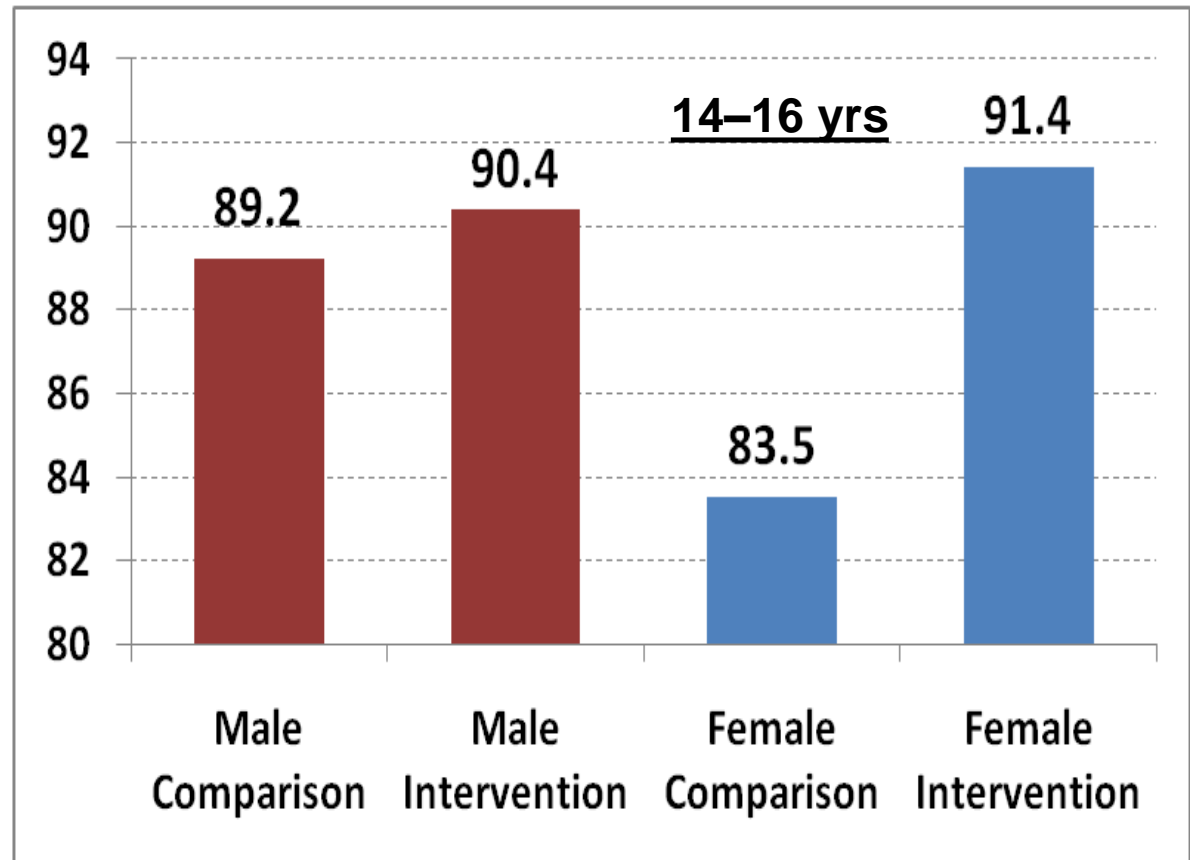


# Positive impacts: Education access

## Take-Home Food Rations in Malawi

Condition: 80% school attendance each month.

- Attendance increased.
- Gender gap narrowed.



# Positive impacts: Education access

## Evidence from Nepal

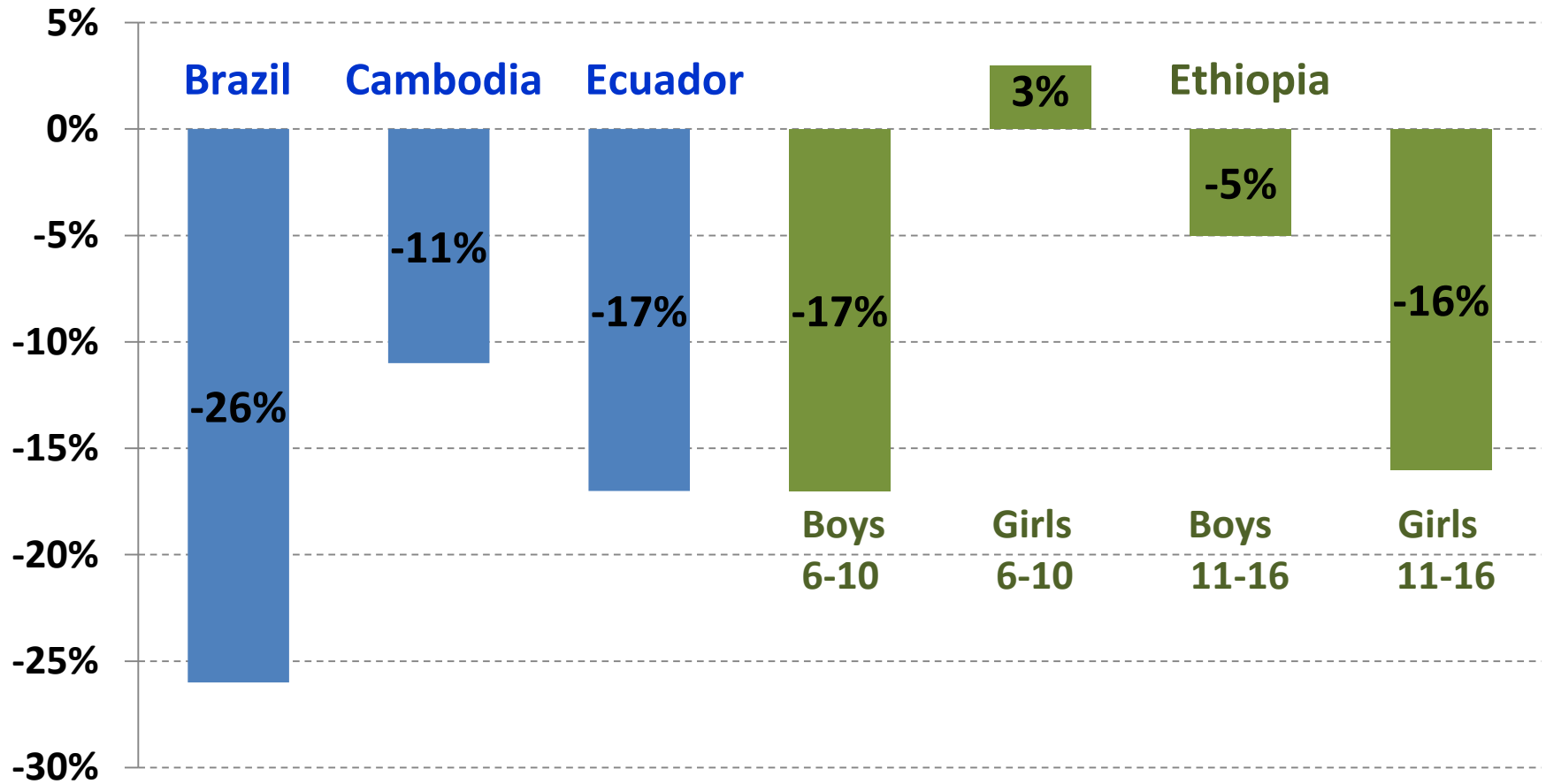
Government programmes and donor-supported projects include scholarships for children from ethnic minorities, school feeding programmes, and initiatives to promote girls' access to education.

- ❖ “The primary net enrolment rate increased to 94 percent in 2012 from 87 percent in 2005.”
- ❖ “Gender equality in education has also improved considerably.”

Upreti et al. 2012



# Positive impacts: Child labour



# Positive impacts: Economic growth

## Mechanisms:

### ❖ **Households accumulate productive assets**

- \* Ethiopia: 8% of households on the Productive Safety Net Programme purchased livestock.
- \* Zambia: Households on a cash transfer programme owning goats increased from 8.5% to 41.7%.

### ❖ **Cash transfers are invested in livelihoods**

- \* Mexico: 12% of Oportunidades cash transfers are invested in micro-enterprises and farming, generating 18% return.
- \* South Africa: Recipients of social grants use this cash to pay costs of job seeking, such as transport and child care.



# Evidence base in Nepal

## 1) Limited impacts of social protection programmes

The impact of many programmes is undermined by problems in design (e.g. transfers are too small to make much difference) and implementation (e.g. delayed or irregular payments).

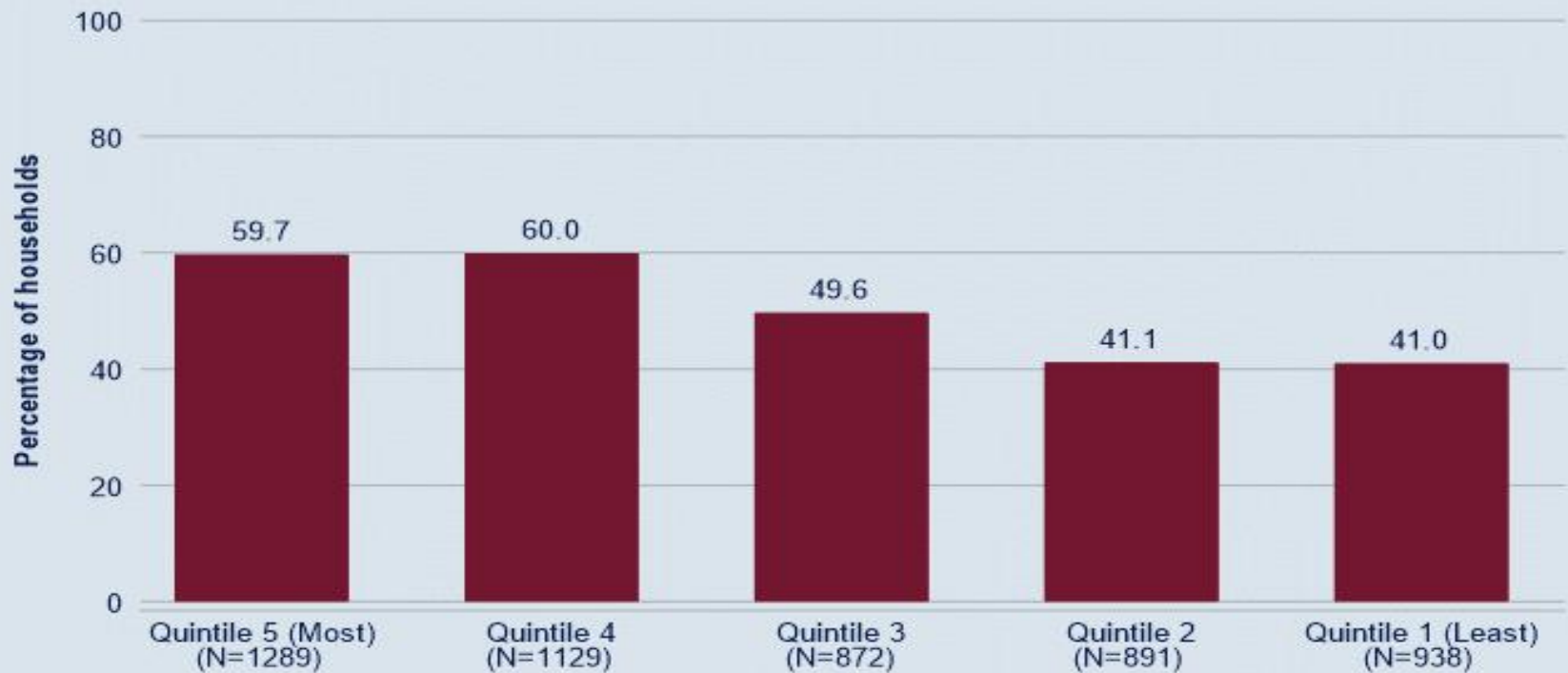
## 2) Knowledge gaps

There are very few rigorous evaluations of social protection programmes in Nepal, so there is not much evidence on the impacts of these programmes. More evaluations are needed.

# IS Nepal's SSA pro-poor

## HH eligibility to SSAs

By vulnerability



Source: OPM Nepal SSA Coverage Survey 2019.

Note: Weighted estimates.

# Finally

**China's success in poverty reduction is the result of a combination of factors, including strong economic growth, attention to antipoverty programs, and improved access to social services and social protection. Establishing a comprehensive social protection system has been key for China's successful poverty reduction. The Dibao program, which provides cash to China's needy, is the backbone of the system. It is also the largest program of its kind in the world.**

*World Bank*