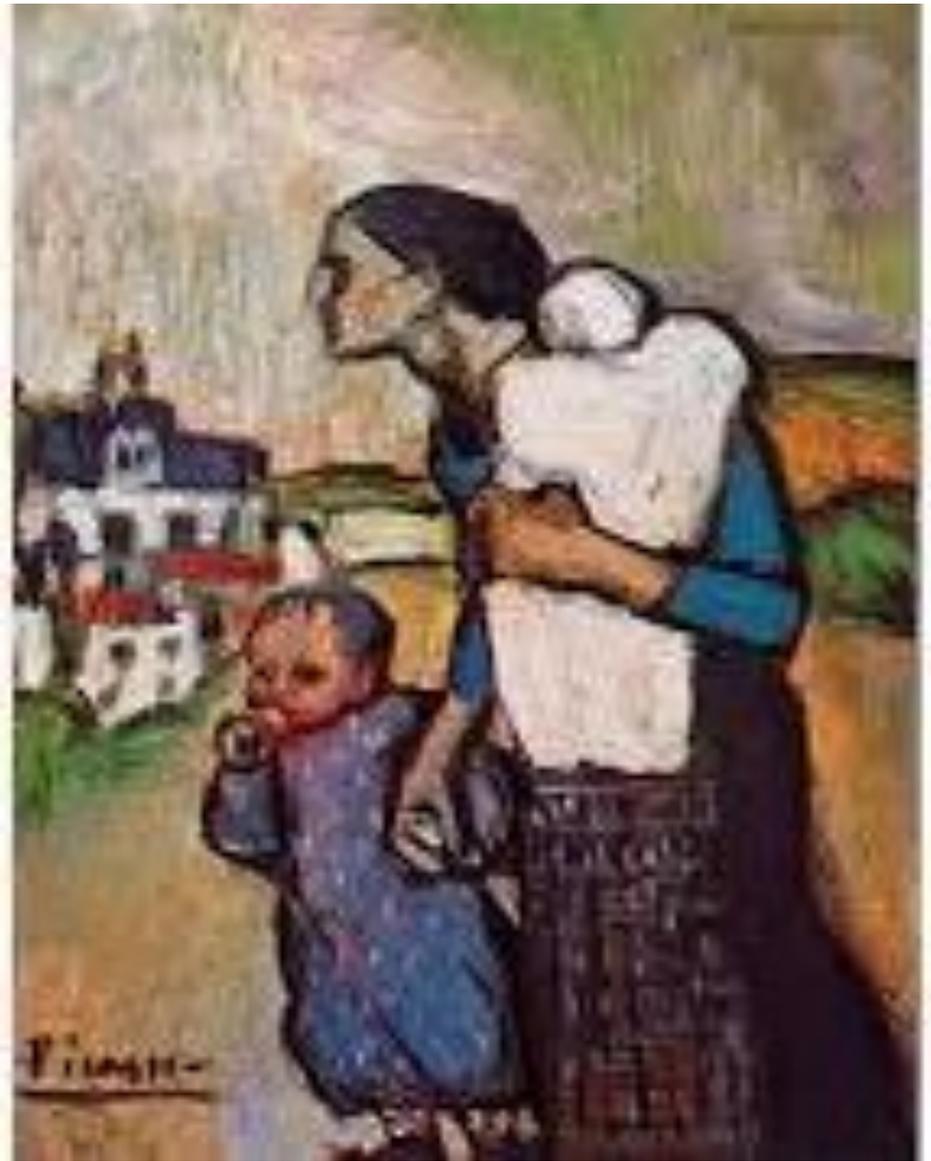


**Social Protection:
an Instrument to
address multi-
dimensional
poverty and
vulnerabilities**



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**

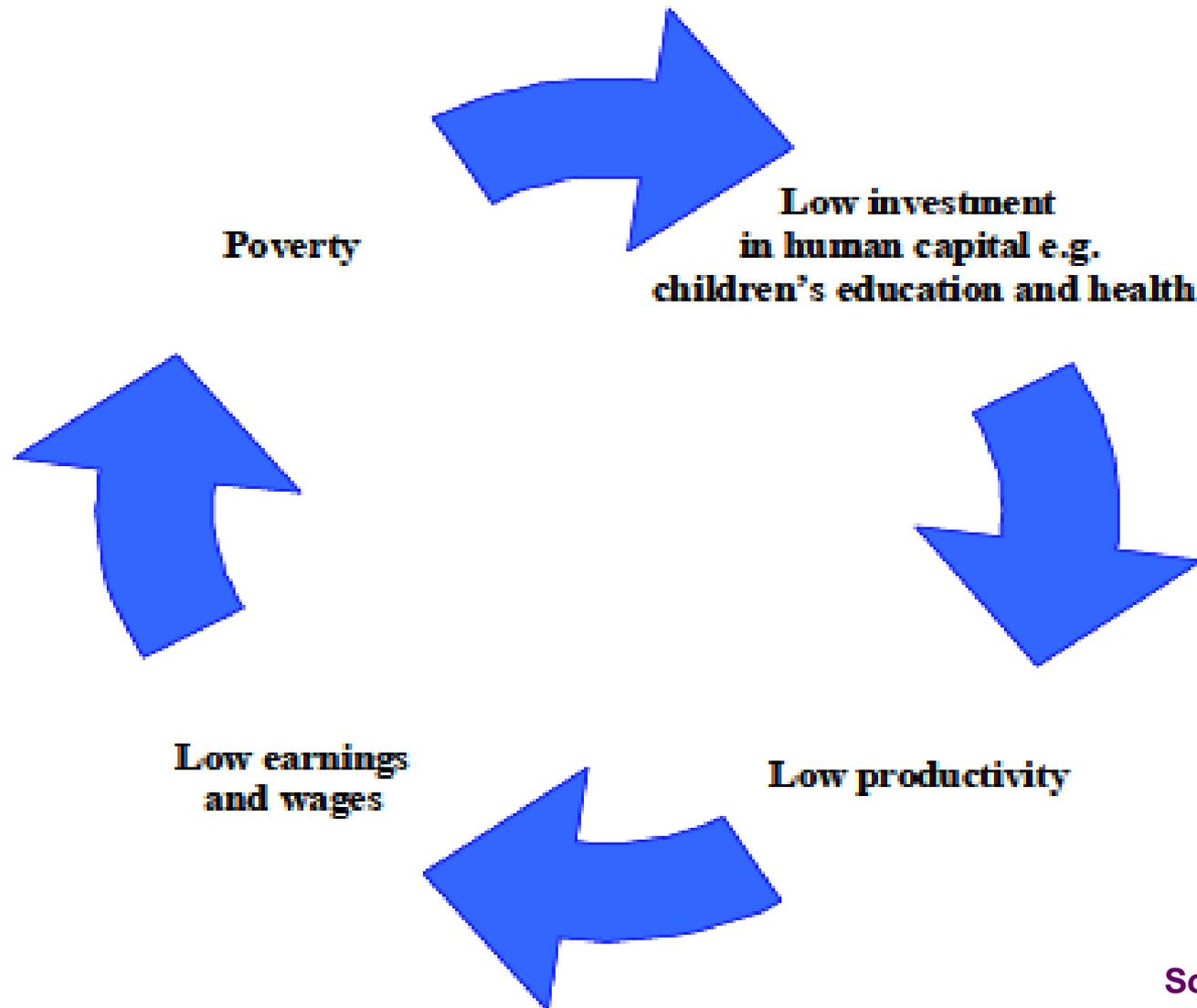
Knowledge gaps

Researchers say

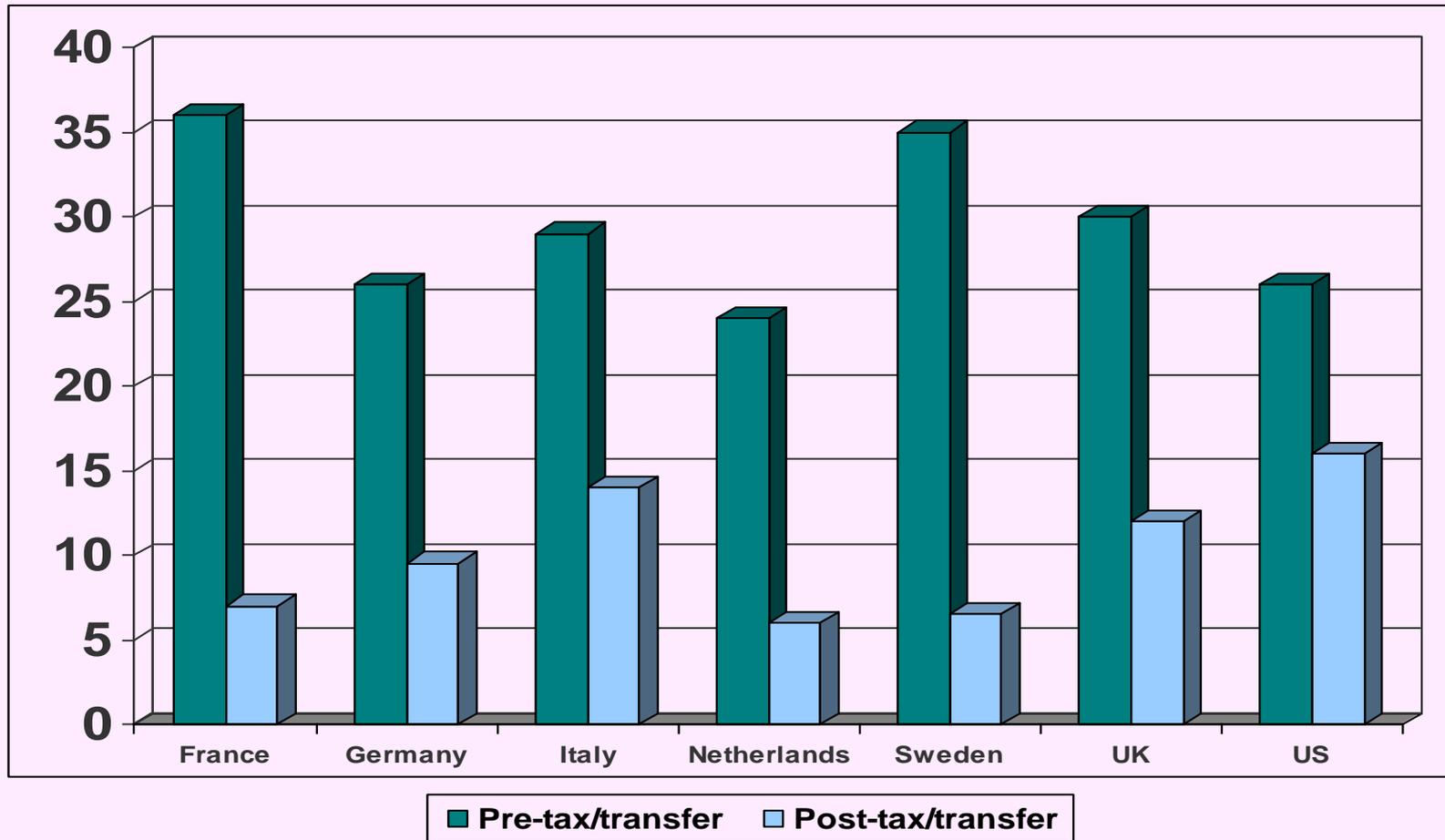
"Investment in social protection and social assistance can be extremely effective in reducing current poverty and vulnerability, as well as poverty persistence across time and generations. However, common issues in Programme design are a) Financial sustainability b) capacity c) complementarity"

Armando Barrientos

Positive impacts: Poverty traps

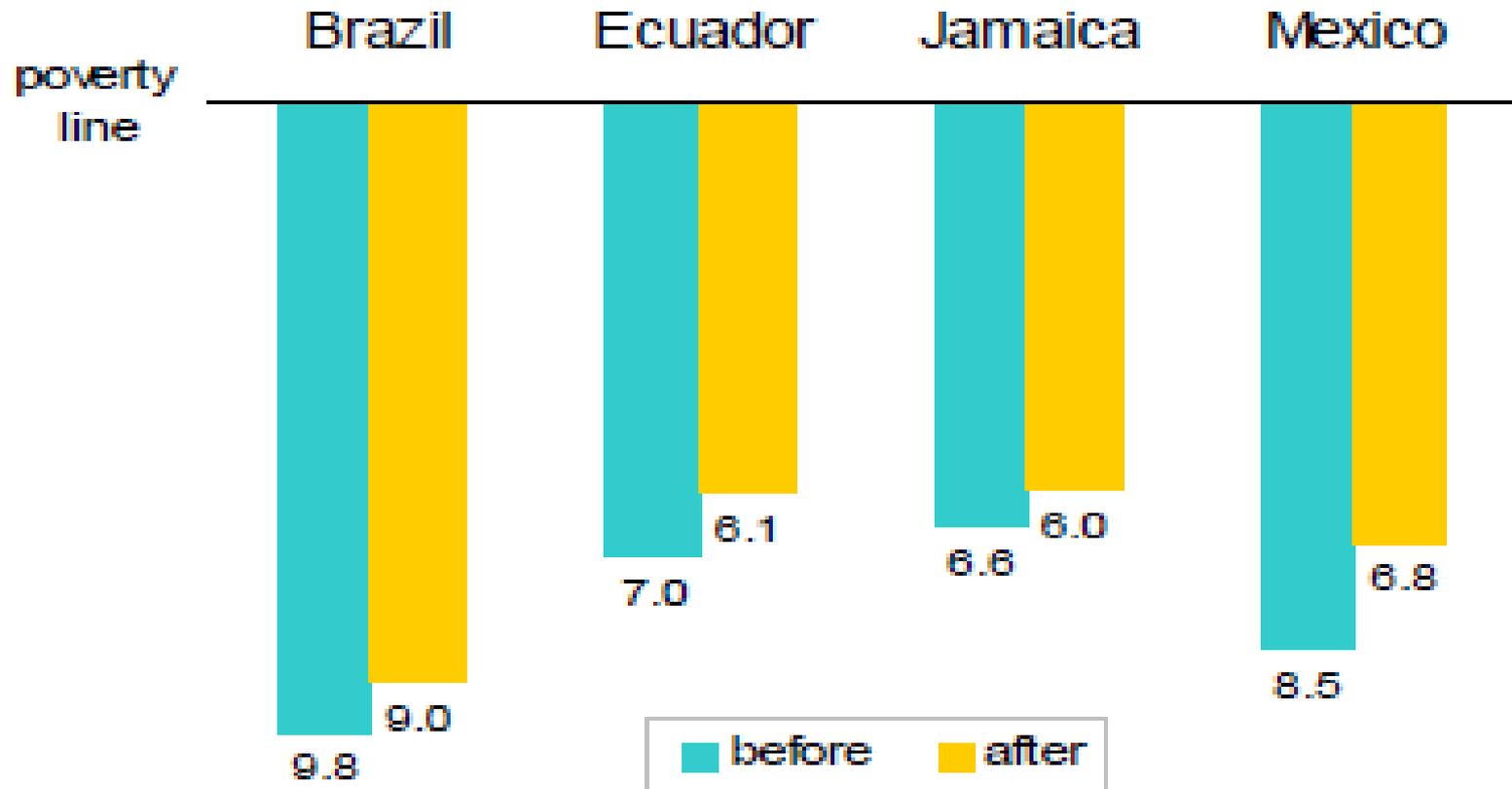


Positive impacts: Poverty headcount



Social protection reduces poverty headcount in rich countries

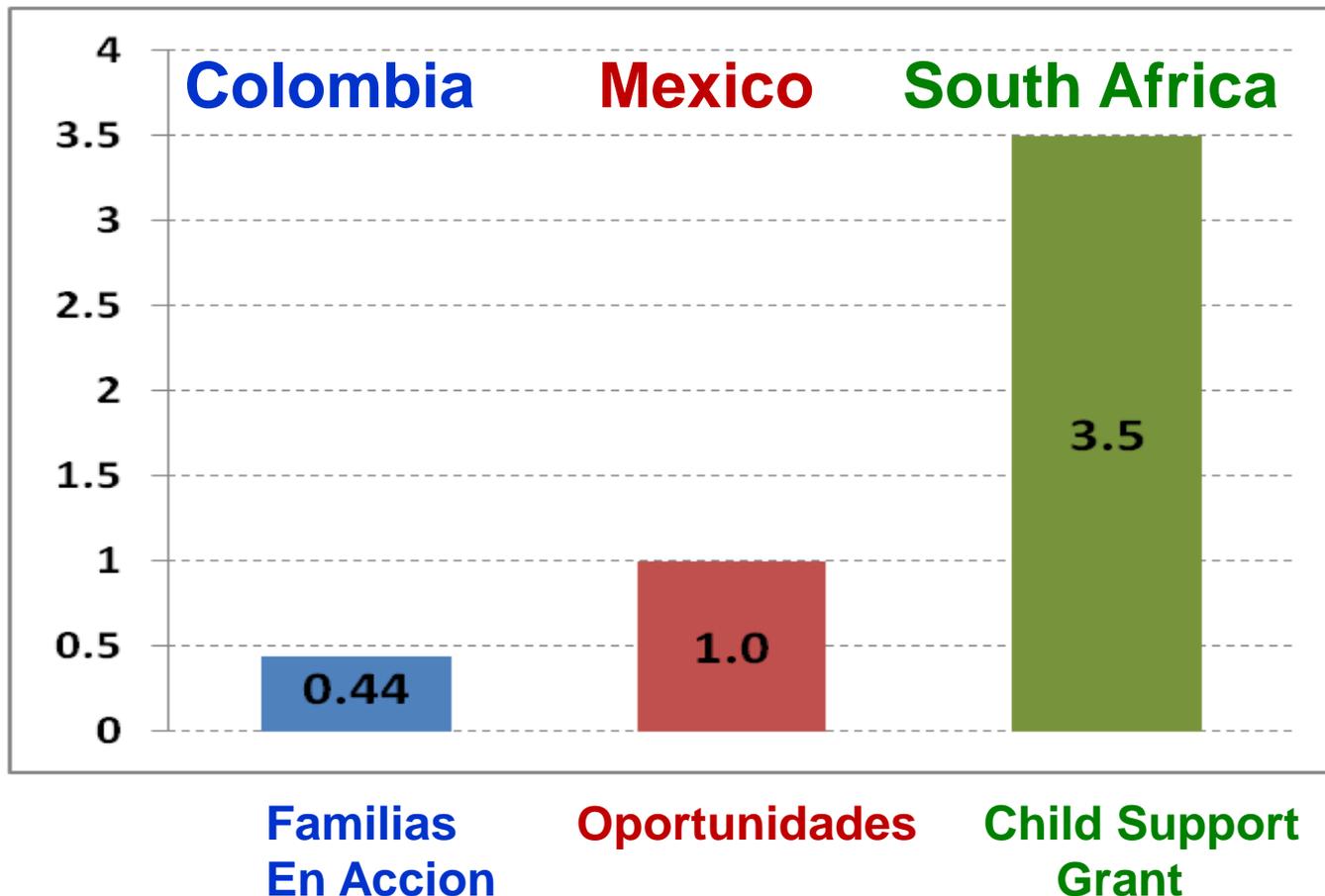
Positive impacts: Poverty gap



Conditional cash transfers reduce poverty gap in poor countries

Positive impacts: Food Security

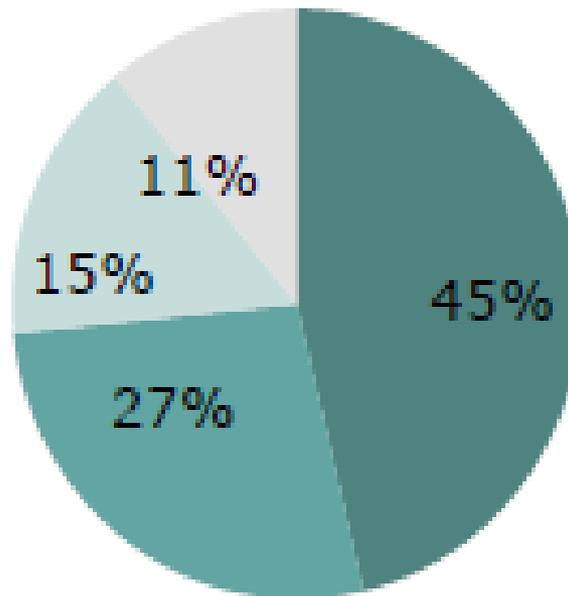
Cash transfers can cause significant gains in height among children.



Positive impacts: Food Security

Cash transfers can cause multiple improvements in household food security.

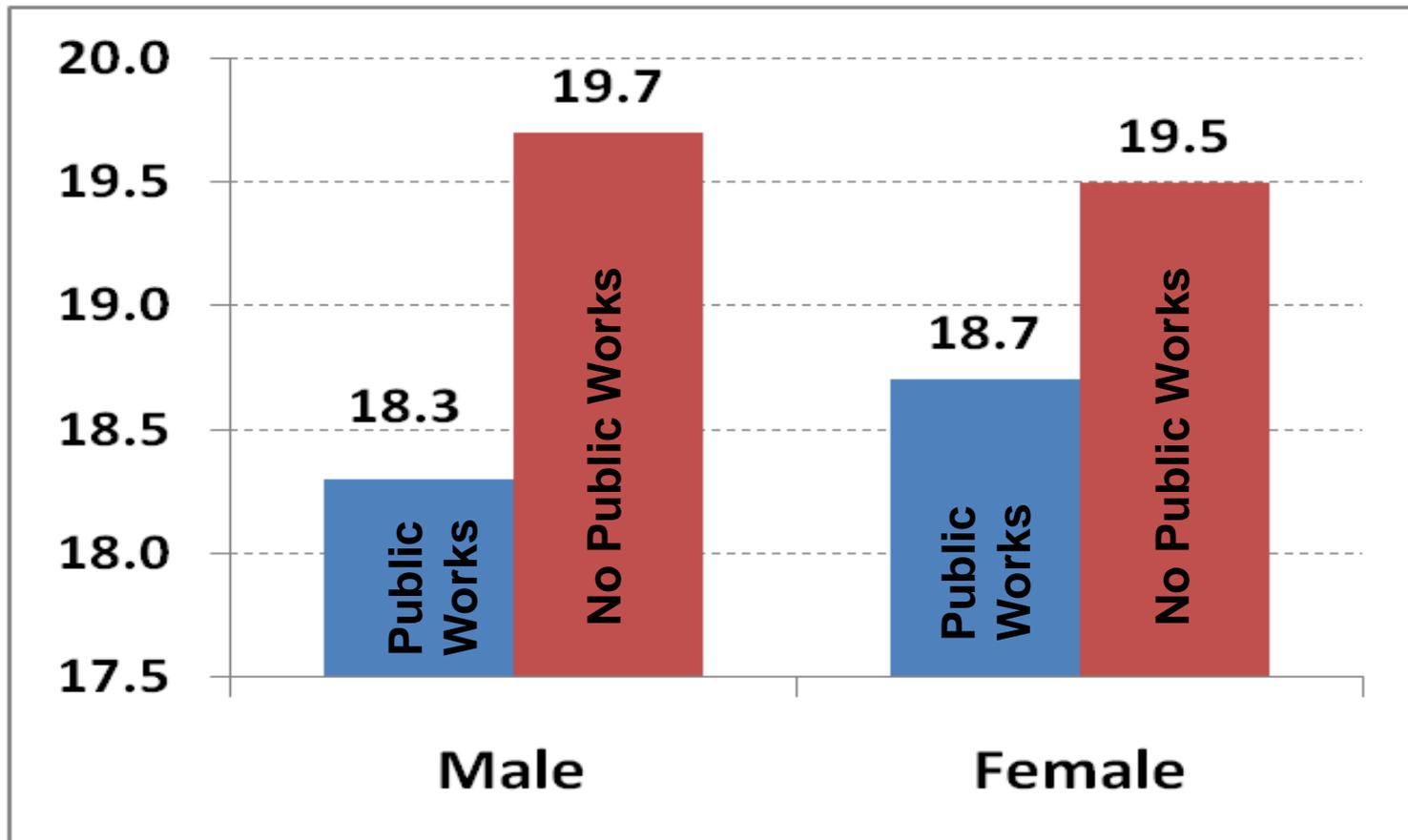
Food security impacts
of Nepal's Child Grant
in Karnali region



- 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.



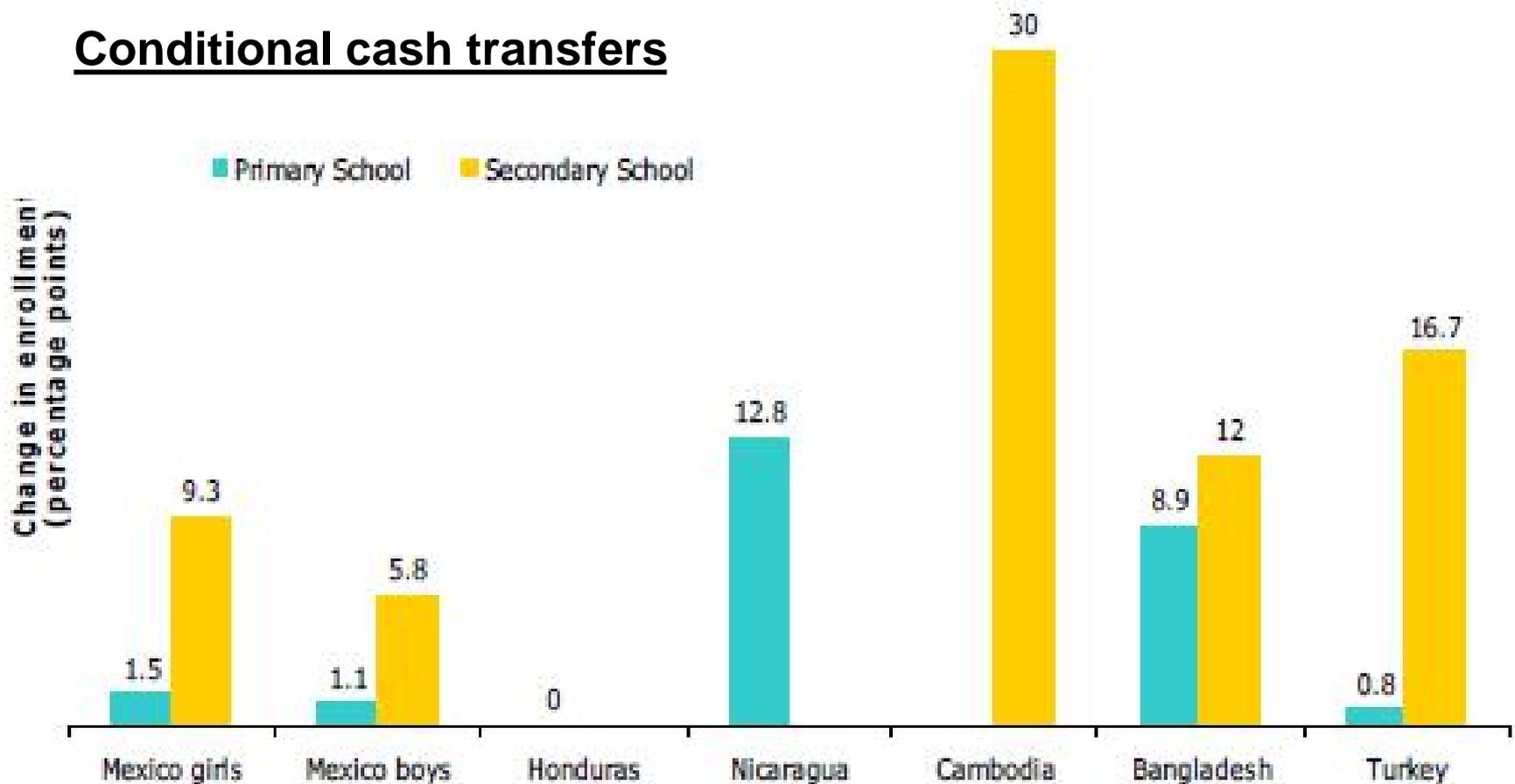
Analysing impacts: Education

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

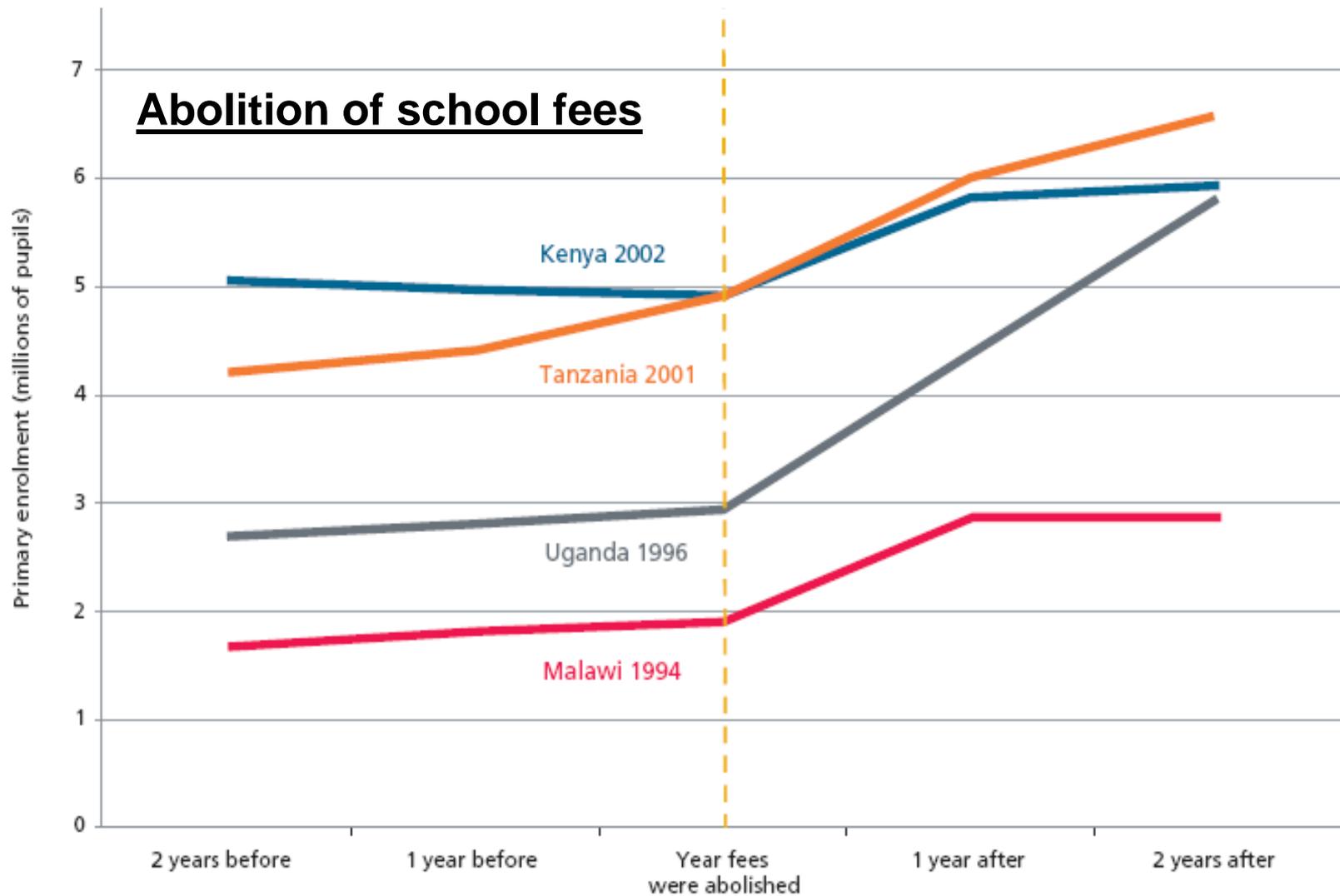
- 1. Cash transfers**
- 2. Abolishing school fees**
- 3. School feeding**

Positive impacts: Education access

Conditional cash transfers



Positive impacts: Education access

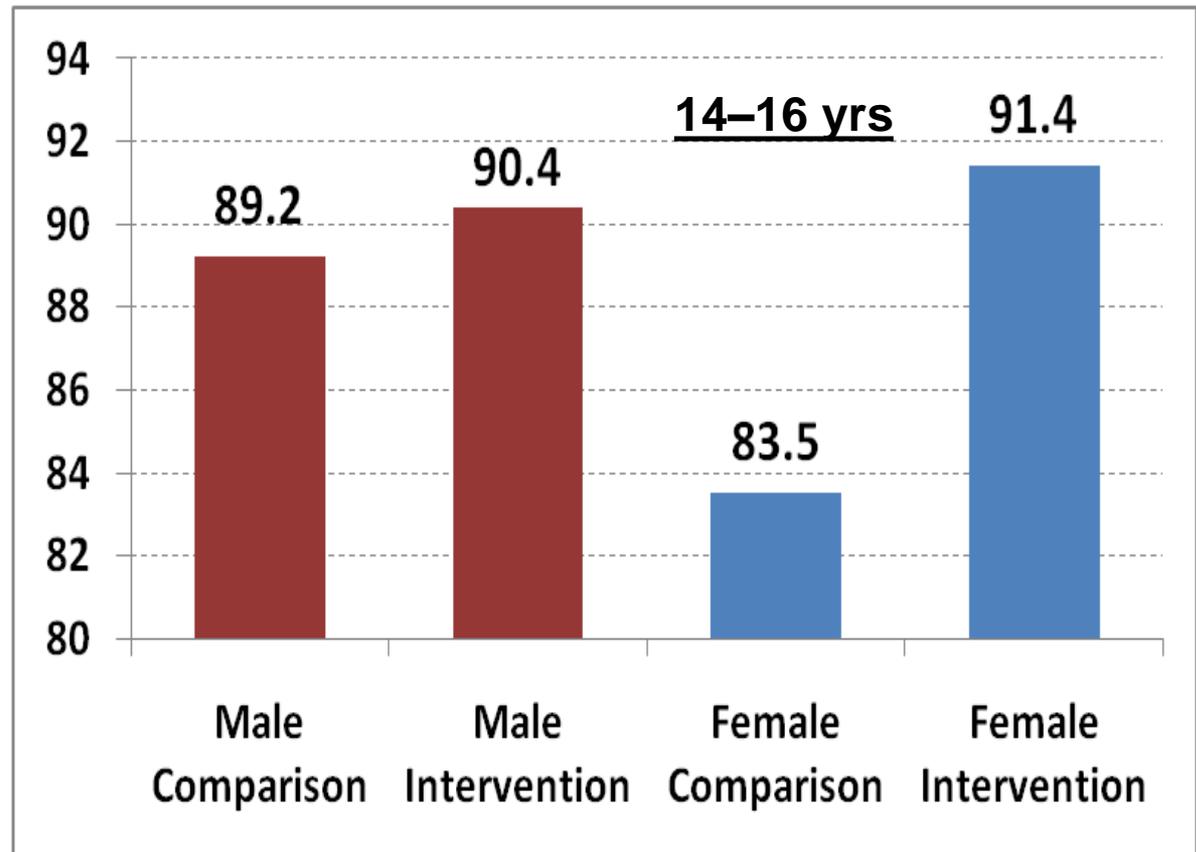


Positive impacts: Education access

Take-Home Food Rations in Malawi

Condition: 80% school attendance each month.

- Attendance increased.
- Gender gap narrowed.



Positive impacts: Education access

Evidence from Nepal

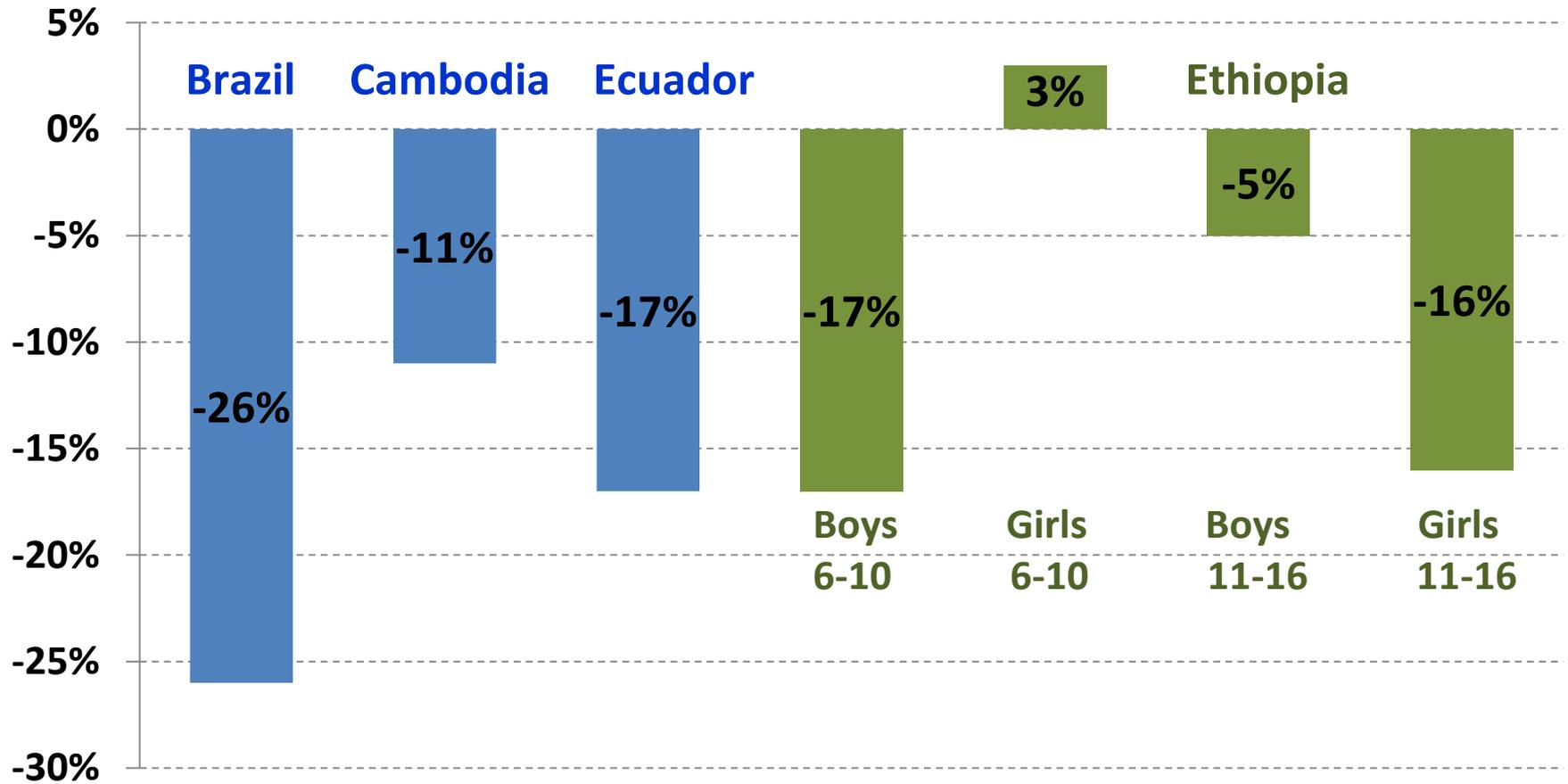
Government programmes and donor-supported projects include scholarships for children from ethnic minorities, school feeding programmes, and initiatives to promote girls' access to education.

- ❖ “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).

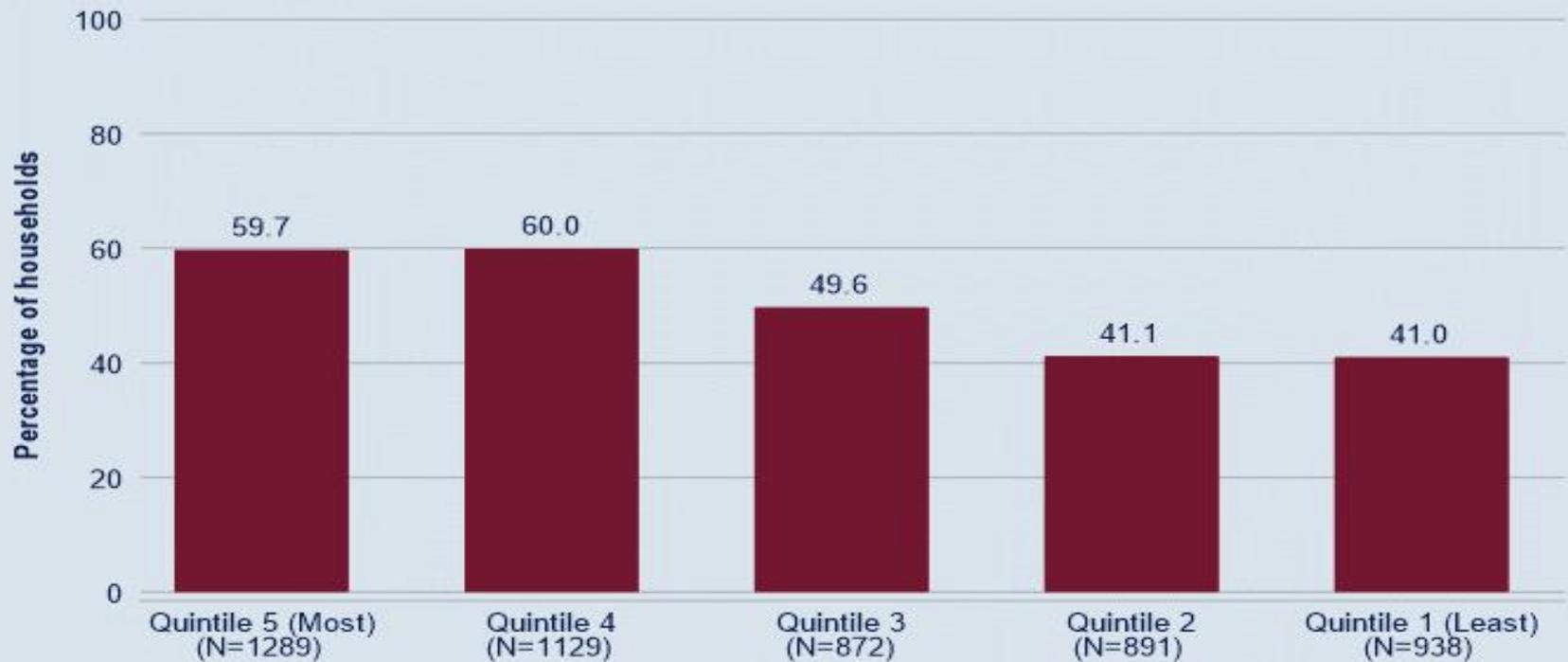
2) Knowledge gaps

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