



ActivityInfo

Cash Voucher Assistance, Social protection and Cash Plus programmes

Starting shortly, Please wait!



ActivityInfo

Presented by the ActivityInfo Team

All in one information management software for humanitarian and development operations

- Track activities, outcomes
- Beneficiary management
- Surveys
- Work offline/online

The screenshot shows the ActivityInfo website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ActivityInfo logo on the left and links for Features, Pricing, Customers, Support, News, Contact us, and a Log in button on the right. The main content area features a large heading: "Information management software for humanitarian and development operations". Below this heading is a sub-heading: "Everything you need for your data collection and reporting needs. No-code relational database builder. Integrated analysis tools and advanced user management capabilities." Underneath the sub-heading, it says "ActivityInfo is perfect for" followed by three icons and labels: "Case Management" (with a document icon), "Monitoring and Evaluation" (with a line graph icon), and "Humanitarian coordination" (with a globe icon). On the right side of the page, there is a map of Africa with several colored bubbles (blue, yellow, purple) of varying sizes, each containing a number, representing data points on a geographical map.

Outline

01 Linkages to social protection; Current status

02 Information management design

03 Q/A session

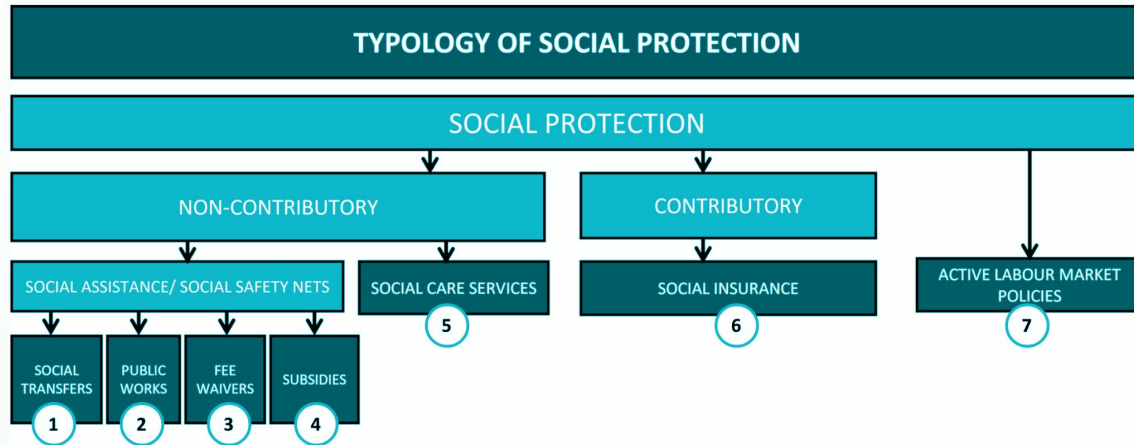


Linkages to social protection

Linkages to social protection

Understanding social protection

Social protection is defined as the set of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labor markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and interruption/loss of income.–ADB



Linkages to social protection

Maturity of Social Protection systems

The Maturity of social protection systems impacts humanitarian responses in the following ways:

- Effective linking and integration with existing systems
- Efficient and sustainable support to affected populations.
- Addressing immediate needs and vulnerabilities during crises.
- Solid platform for delivering large-scale assistance.
- Enhancing overall effectiveness of humanitarian response efforts.

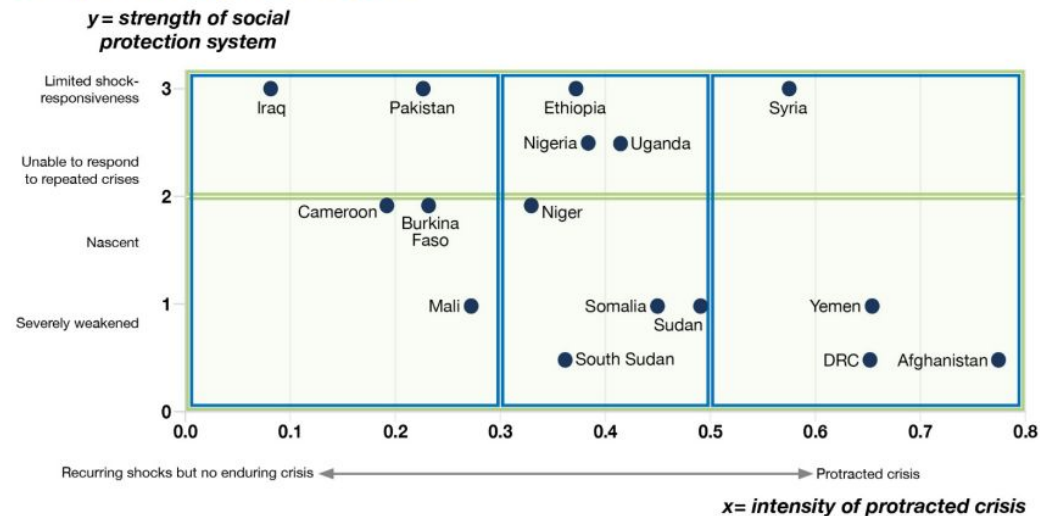
Maturity of Social Protection systems and crisis situation

Work by the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board usefully distinguishes different social protection scenarios in relation to state (national government) involvement in social protection provision and country context.

The scenarios range from complete absence of social protection provision due to conflict or war, to a situation in which the social protection system is flexible and able to respond in an appropriate and efficient manner after a shock

Severely weakened: no formal provision of social assistance and/or existing structures (formal and non-formal) have been shattered or severely weakened by crises or conflict. Humanitarian assistance largely substitutes for state-led social protection, with limited scope for linking to national systems.

Figure 3.1: Country mapping and categories, based on level of protracted crisis and strength of social protection system



Note: SP = social protection

Linkages to social protection

Understanding CVA

Cash and voucher assistance' (CVA) refers to programmes where cash, or vouchers for goods or services, are directly provided to individuals, households or community recipients. The term 'cash assistance' refers specifically to unrestricted financial support, distributed as either physical currency or e-cash⁴

Linkages to social protection

How can we link CVA and social protection

- There are many ways that social protection and humanitarian CVA can be better linked, with pathways informed by context.
- When disasters happen, connecting or aligning humanitarian CVA with existing government-run social protection programmes can improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

- Design tweaks
- Piggybacking
- Vertical expansion
- Horizontal expansion
- Vertical expansion

Linkages to social protection

Benefits of linking CVA and social protection

Short term

- Reach
- Speed
- Cost-effectiveness

Long term

- System Strengthening
- Long-Term Impact.
- Capacity Building
- Community Resilience
- Preparedness for Future Crises

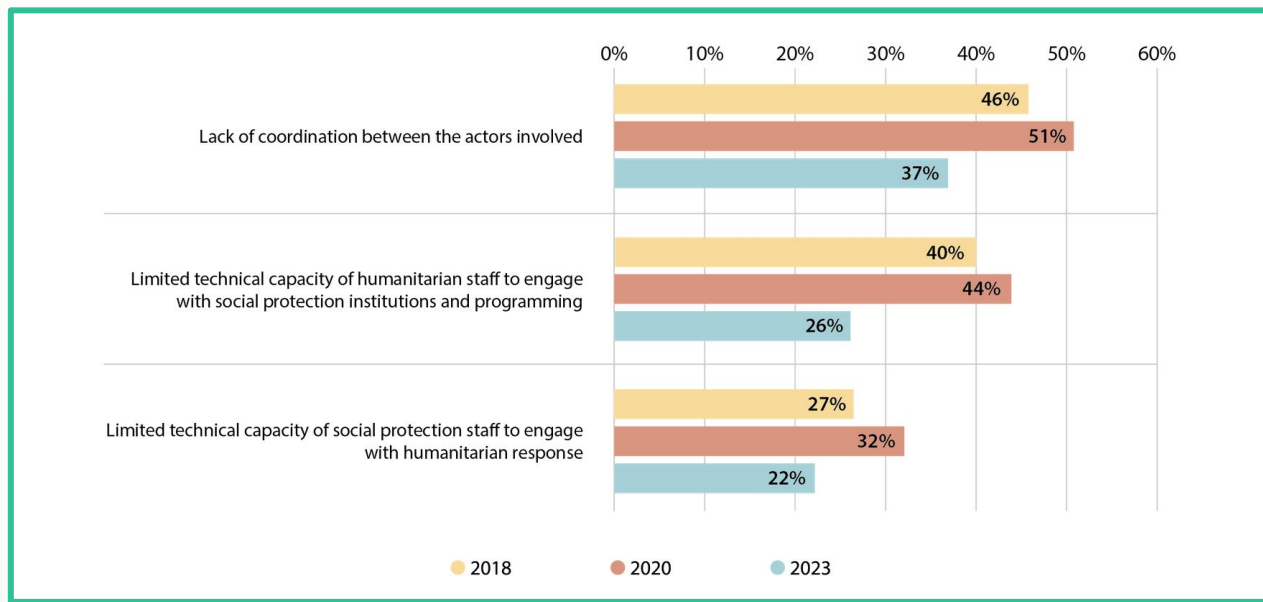
Linkages to social protection

Factors influencing effective coordination of CVA and social protection-Enablers

- ✓ Adequate inclusion, ownership, and leadership by government
- ✓ Political will to collaborate
- ✓ Ability to reach compromises between stakeholders across mandates and disciplines, especially regarding targeting, coverage, and adequacy.
- ✓ Preparedness – allowing sufficient time to implement promising practices effectively.
Building good personal relationships based on mutual understanding and trust.
- ✓ Allocation of dedicated resources for coordination.

Linkages to social protection

Top 3 perceived barriers to linking CVA-SP: Comparative trends 2018 – 2023



Barriers to linking CVA-SP

The Ukrainian Case

Barriers to linking with Ukraine's existing social protection system hindered the integration of humanitarian assistance during the conflict

- Limited preparedness and capacity of humanitarian actors
- Barriers to data sharing
- Difficulties in coordination

Linkages to social protection

linking CVA and social protection



Is linking always appropriate?

- Humanitarian assistance and social protection can have significant differences.
- Context and the extent of these differences determine the appropriateness of linking humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) with social protection.
- Careful assessment of similarities, differences, and challenges is necessary before pursuing a link.
- Linking should not compromise humanitarian principles.

Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

➤ Rationale

- The States of Fragility 2016 report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) underscores that **violence is a central characteristic of fragile states**, and if violence is not addressed, these states will be unable to reach their development goals.
- Numerous macroeconomic studies provide evidence for the theory that if you give young people jobs, they will not become involved in violence. The evidence remains mixed—at best—as to whether these interventions are effective in reducing violence, even when they are effective in terms of their primary aim of improving economic outcomes
- Based on reports that many violent groups use financial incentives to recruit unemployed youth, some hypothesize that providing economic benefits from other sources—whether directly through cash transfers or indirectly through a training program that leads to improved employment and income—should reduce the recruitment appeal of armed opposition groups (AOGs)

Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

➤ Context

Mercy Corps, in collaboration with the Political Violence FieldLab at Yale University and Princeton University, undertook a randomized controlled trial with 1,590 participants to test the impact of particular economic interventions—specifically a youth employability program and cash transfers—on youth attitudes toward and willingness to support political violence.

Research objective

The primary goal of this research is to test the causal linkages between people's improved economic outcomes and their support for political violence in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Location

Kandahar Province, Afghanistan

Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?



Project objective

The program's primary goal is to help vulnerable Afghan youth develop skills that are responsive to local labor market needs and to help them secure economic opportunities rather than reducing political violence specifically

Description

- technical and vocational education and training (TVET), which includes three- and six-month courses for young men and women. The courses are developed and chosen by Mercy Corps based on a market assessment to ensure that the skills being taught are responsive to local market needs.
- Unconditional cash transfers were provided to a random subsample of participants to the effects of cash transfers on economic and violence outcomes, both in the short term and six to nine months after the intervention. Provision of a one-time UCT
- The program tested why vocational training and cash transfers may affect support for political violence, beyond the economic reasons, by examining how the interventions affected psychosocial well-being and perceptions of the government in the short term.



Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

➤ Key findings

- The vocational training by itself had no impact on youth support for political violence, despite helping to improve economic outcomes six to nine months post intervention. Even after experiencing those improvements, youth still showed no change in support for political violence.
- Cash transfers reduced willingness to support violent groups in the short term; however, these positive effects quickly dissipated.
- The combination of vocational training and cash transfers resulted in a large reduction in willingness to engage in pro-armed opposition group actions six to nine months post intervention.

Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?



Recommendations

- Providing young people with more discretionary money, in this case through UCTs, may have given them a short-term financial boost that helped them realize the potential of the longer-term TVET intervention and thus reduced their support for political violence.
- Interventions to address violence need to respond to multiple motivations—including those related to governance grievances and economic circumstances. While multi-sectoral approaches are more expensive than single-sector approaches, the United Nations and World Bank (2017) report Pathways for Peace demonstrates that investing in these types of programs would save the international community \$5 billion per year.
- Research shows that cash transfers—even in small amounts—can yield short-term benefits that can diminish young people’s willingness to support violent groups and causes.

Future Priority Actions

01

Humanitarian and development actors conducting context-specific assessments

02

Humanitarian and development donors discussing financial strategy

03

Donors providing incentives for linking CVA and social protection

04

Investing in capacity strengthening for mutual understanding

Enhance coordination between humanitarian coordination structures, social protection, and government-led crisis coordination structures



Information management design

Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

Research Design

➤ **Main Research Question:** Does improving young people's economic conditions reduce their willingness to support political violence and armed opposition groups?

The INVEST intervention (TVET) was strategically designed to improve the economic outcomes. The UCT was designed to improve immediate economic outcomes, but it was unclear how it might improve longer-term outcomes, as this would depend on how people used the cash transfer

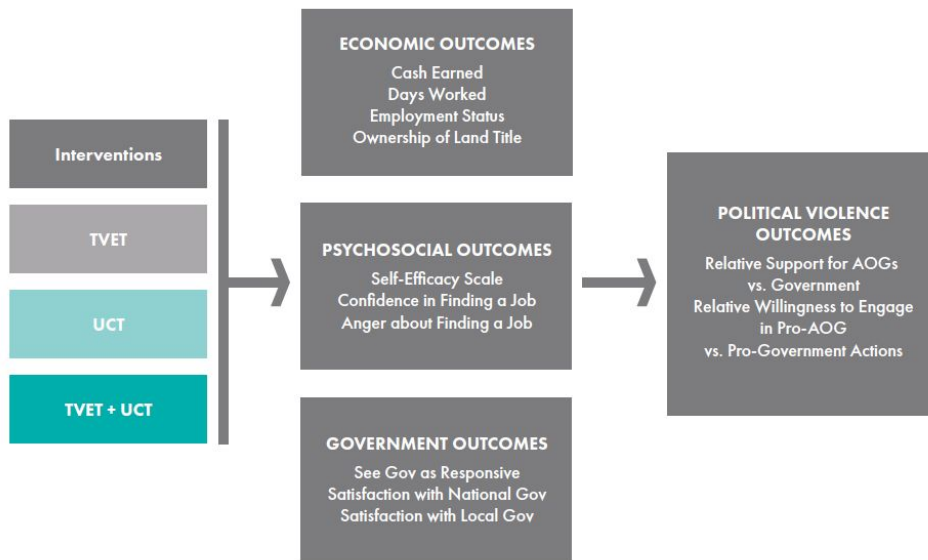
Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

HYPOTHESIS 1: TVET and/or UCTs will reduce youth propensity for violence and support for AOGs, through improvements in economic outcomes.

HYPOTHESIS 2: TVET and/or UCTs will reduce youth propensity for violence and support for AOGs, through improved psychosocial well-being.

HYPOTHESIS 3: TVET and/or UCTs will reduce youth propensity for violence and support for AOGs, through improved perceptions of government functioning and responsiveness.

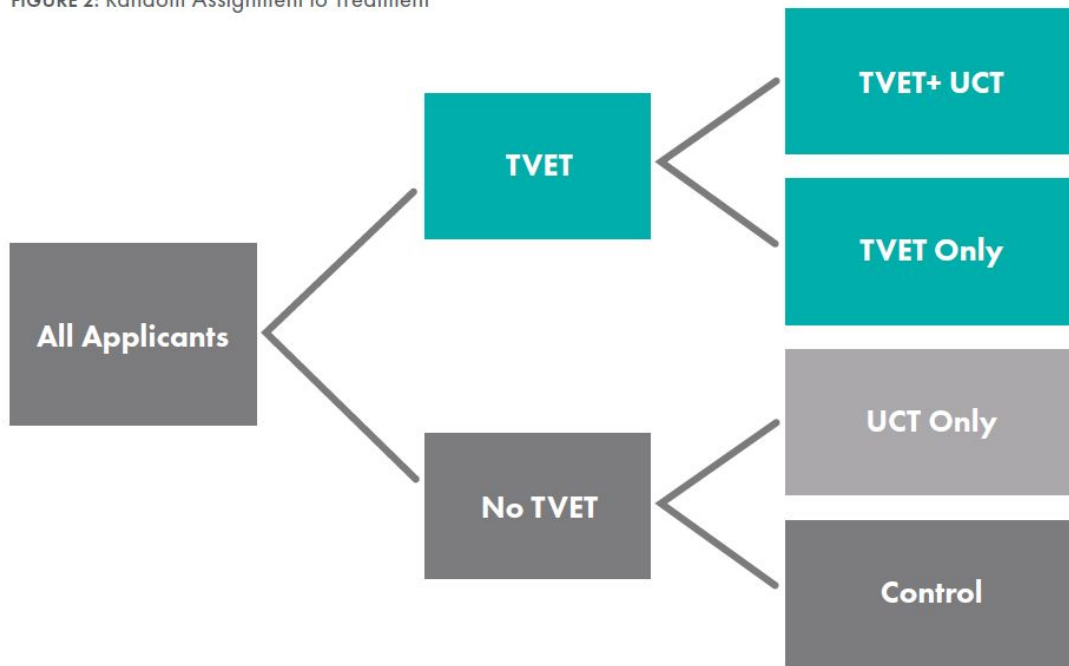
FIGURE 1: Theory of Change Framework



Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

This evaluation is based on a factorial design.

FIGURE 2: Random Assignment to Treatment



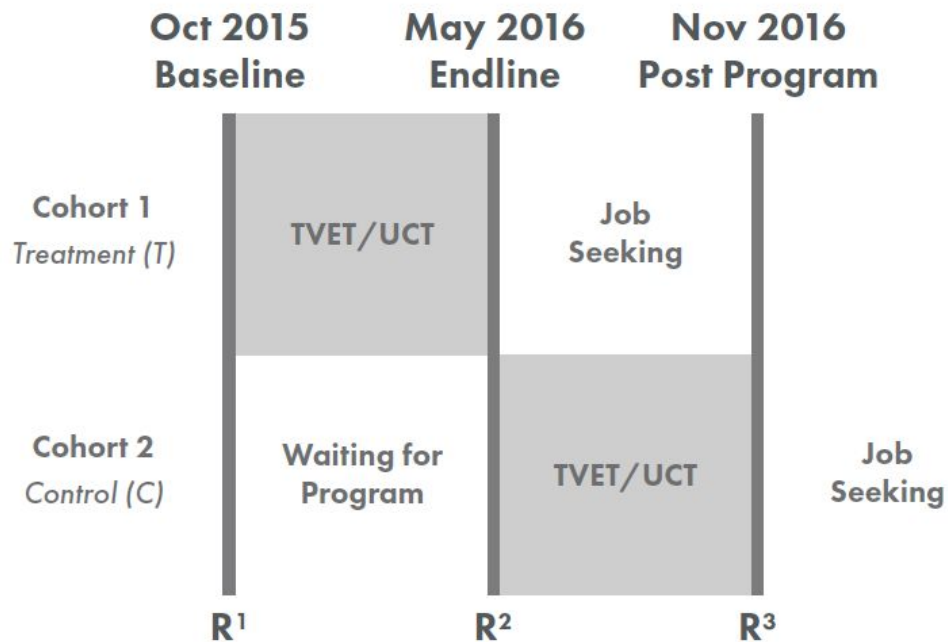
Case study: Can economic interventions reduce violence?

One half of the eligible youth were randomly assigned to enter the program immediately (Cohort 1); the other half were invited to participate the following year (Cohort 2) after being waitlisted to serve as the control group

Three rounds of longitudinal data were collected: baseline, endline 6 upon participants' completion of the TVET courses and a post-program survey in approximately six to nine months after course completion

Estimation Strategy:

$Y_i = \beta_1 \text{treat_assign} + \beta_2 \text{treat_control}$



Data sources identified

01

Available data sources

- Vocational courses
- Districts [geo-database]

02

Market assessment

- Employer mapping
- Employer survey
- Participants FGDs

03

Monitoring

- Participants list
- Vocational trainings attendance
- Unconditional cash transfer

04

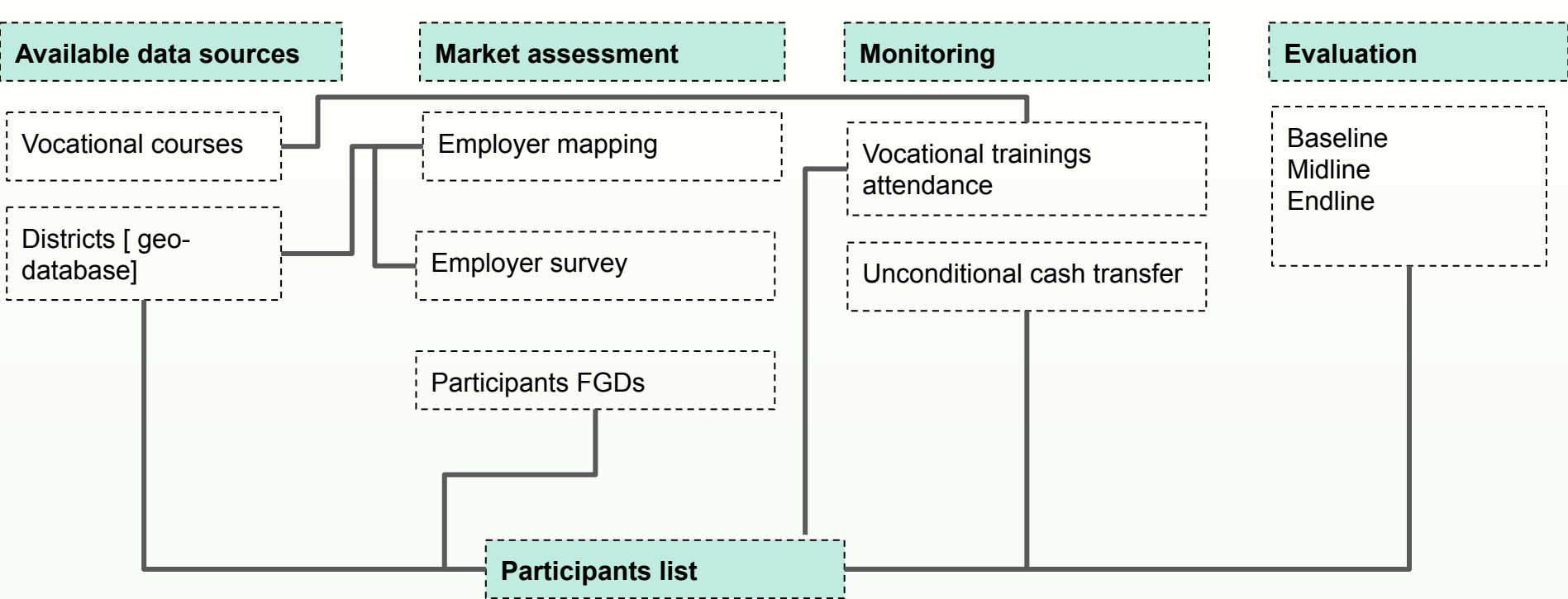
Evaluation

- Baseline
- Midline
- Endline

Advantages of using ICT4D technology



- Streamline data collection starting at project onset - this results in decreased duplication of effort - specifically crucial whether multiple interventions involved, thus multiple teams - **data model**
- Provide the opportunity to identify beneficiaries receiving more than one type of service - this has impact on project monitoring and subsequent evaluations - **data model**
- Increase data consistency across monitoring and evaluation - **skip logic and validation rules**
- Facilitate the implementation of longitudinal surveys - **data model**
- Easy to share data in standardized format internally and externally - **access rights and permissions**
- Creation of reports that can:
 - Monitor Program implementation
 - Monitor Survey and assessment implementation
 - Provide descriptive and comparative analysis of surveys, monitoring data and reports
 - Integration to Statistical softwares - R - for inferential statistics



- Reports Creation for real time analysis
- User management and permissions - Roles and responsibilities

Key considerations for Information management design



At program onset

- During MEAL plan design, identify the data sources that will be used for each indicator
- Develop in detail the tools used for the data collection of each indicator in order to have a complete idea of the fields included and avoid duplication of efforts
- Prepare your data model prior to the use of any ICT4D tool and consider
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Access to data and data sharing (who, how , what)
 - Field processes
 - Reports that you will need to process (how you will use information)
- Test the IM design with all relevant stakeholders - importance of participatory approach
- Create manuals for administrators and field staff/conduct trainings

During implementation

- Have dedicated focal point to manage the communication
- Adjust IM system as you go based on feedback - Context is dynamic and IM systems as well
- Monitor system usage and conduct frequent refreshers



Questions?

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Resources



- [Cash-Plus Programming in Protracted Crises](#)
- [DEVELOPING AND RUNNING AN ESTABLISHMENT SKILLS SURVEY](#)
- [Youth-Led-Labour-Market-Assessment-Toolkit.pdf](#)
- [CAN ECONOMIC INTERVENTIONS REDUCE VIOLENCE?](#)
- [Calp network](#)
- [Social Protection.Org](#)
- [cash-hub.org](#)