Zomba Cash Transfer Programme — Conditional and Unconditional Transfers for Malawian Schoolgirls

Gender Equality · Good practice · Malawi

Quality score: 70/100

Evidence strength: Randomised controlled trial

Summary

A 2008–2009 randomised cash-transfer trial in Zomba, Malawi, paid school fees and stipends to 3,796 girls. Enrolment rose and early marriage/pregnancy fell among transfer recipients, but several effects, including marriage for in-school girls, faded once payments stopped.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	1/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-09

World Bank / Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) — accessed 2026-09-09

J-PAL: Impact of Cash Transfers on Educational Attainment, Sexual Behavior and HIV Status — accessed 2026-09-09

NBER Working Paper 19479: Girl Power — Cash Transfers and Adolescent Welfare — accessed 2026-09-09

3ie: What happens once the intervention ends? Medium-term impacts — accessed 2026-09-09

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