Inclusive Social Protection:

challenging assumptions and managing expectations

Keetie Roelen

Asia Public Policy Forum, Jakarta

30 May 2013

Rise and Rise of Social Protection

- Global economic downturn, growing inequality, persistent poverty and food insecurity

- Expanding evidence base pointing to positive impacts

- Post – 2015 agenda

>> need for healthy dose of realism: challenge assumptions and manage expectations for inclusive social protection

Inclusive Social Protection

constitutes of

- reaching those in need of social protection

- leading to economic and social inclusion.

4 issues
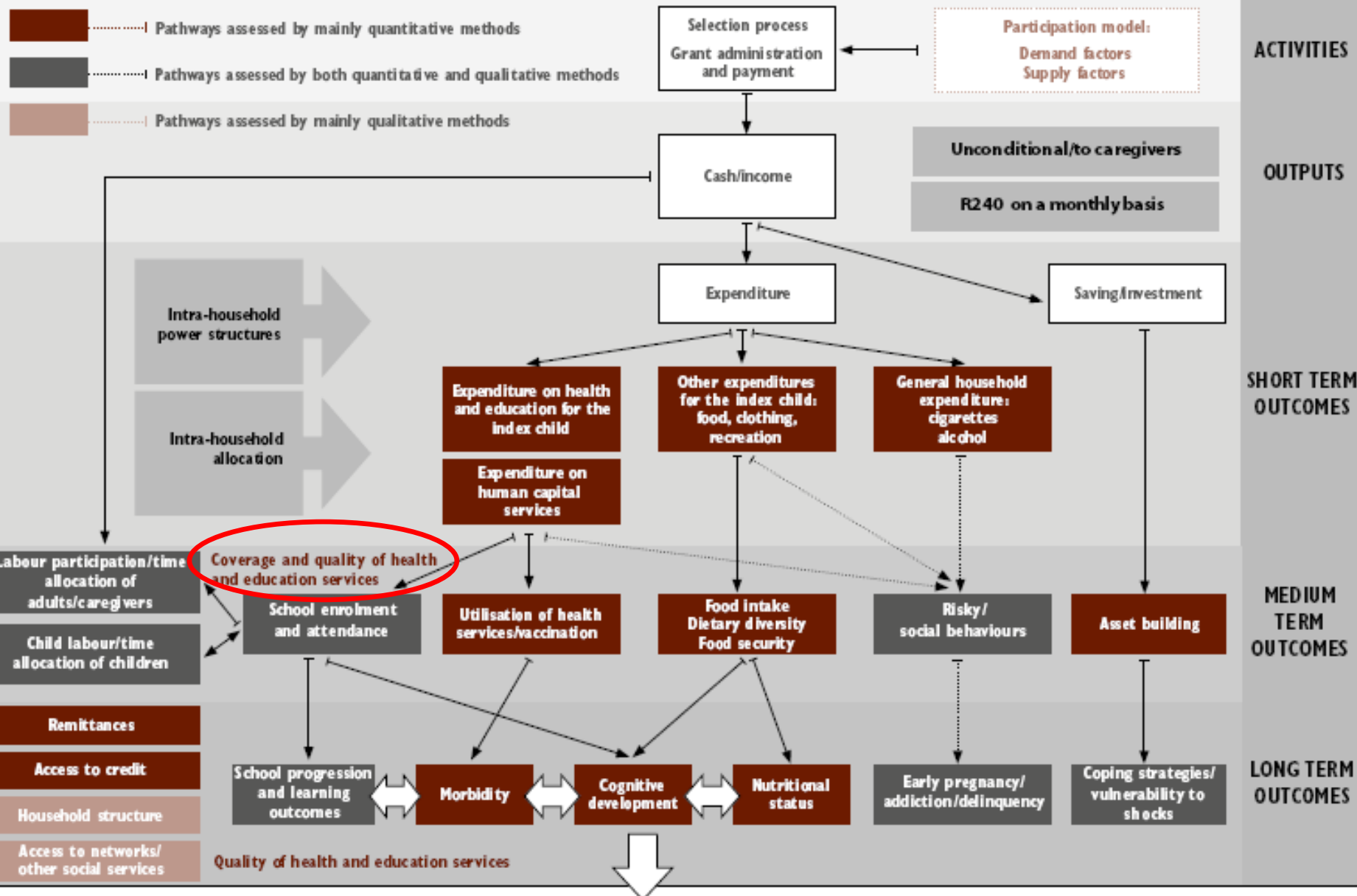
1) Individualistic understandings of poverty

2) Graduation as the 'be-all and end-all' of social protection

3) Cash and conditions as incentives for behavioural change

4) Human resource solutions in implementation and delivery of social protection

Individualistic understandings of poverty

- Theories of Change (ToC) emphasise pathways out of poverty at the individual and household level

- Failure to acknowledge structural constraints limits <u>access</u> and <u>impact</u> for most vulnerable groups

- Unrealistic expectations of and unreasonable responsibility on individuals

ToC South Africa's Child Support Grant

Pathways assessed by mainly quantitative methods

Pathways assessed by both quantitative and qualitative methods

Pathways assessed by mainly qualitative methods

Selection process
Grant administration and payment

Participation model:
Demand factors
Supply factors

ACTIVITIES

Cash/income

Unconditional/to caregivers

R240 on a monthly basis

OUTPUTS

Expenditure

Saving/Investment

Intra-household power structures

Intra-household allocation

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES

Expenditure on health and education for the index child

Other expenditures for the index child: food, clothing, recreation

General household expenditure: cigarettes alcohol

Expenditure on human capital services

Coverage and quality of health and education services

Labour participation/time allocation of adults/caregivers

Child labour/time allocation of children

School enrolment and attendance

Utilisation of health services/vaccination

Food intake Dietary diversity Food security

Risky/ social behaviours

Asset building

MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

Remittances

Access to credit

Household structure

Access to networks/ other social services

School progression and learning outcomes

Morbidity

Cognitive development

Nutritional status

Early pregnancy/ addiction/delinquency

Coping strategies/ vulnerability to shocks

LONG TERM OUTCOMES

Quality of health and education services

Improved well-being, social development, long term poverty reduction, pro-poor and inclusive economic growth

Graduation as the 'be-all and end-all'

- Graduation as antidote to 'dependency syndrome'

- Premature graduation undermines sustainable reduction of poverty, and may increase dependency

- A focus on graduation is exclusionary by nature – some groups will always needs protection

Cash as incentive

- Empowerment versus reinforcement of existing inequalities

- Positive incentives versus negative side effects

IDS Institute of Development Studies

Conditions as incentive

- Conditions exclude by definition

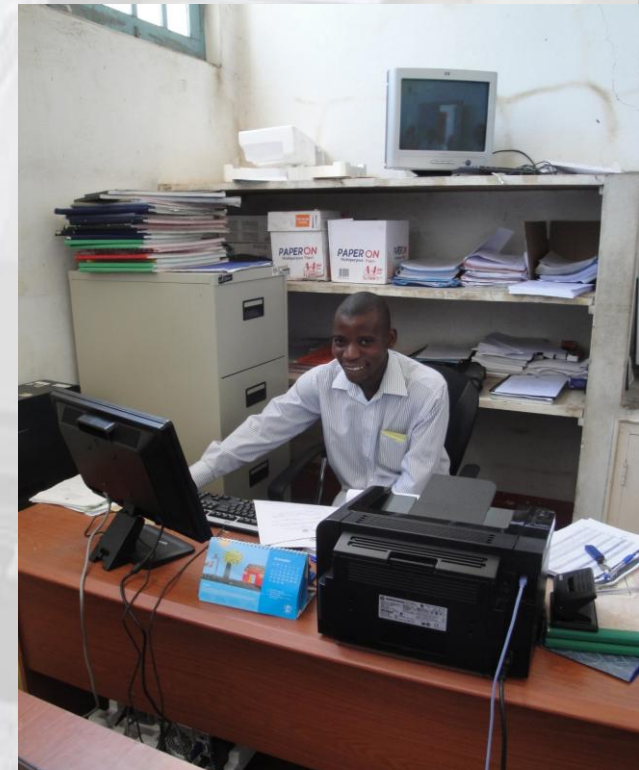- Positive effects versus perverse incentives

Human resource solutions – community volunteers

- Bottom-up involvement, ownership and community engagement

- Unrealistic expectations leading to high pressures

- Large resource constraints

IDS Institute of Development Studies

Centre for Social Protection

Human resource solutions – social workers

- Response to different needs and provision of linkages to other services

- Few well-trained and highly skilled social workers

- Social protection activities may undermine social work responsibilities

Conclusion

to make social protection inclusive:

- it should be interrogated

- it needs a broader evidence base

- it should be rights-based and demand-driven

- it should be acknowledged as part of wider scheme of public policies.