

Report from ICDP Mozambique

November 2020.



1. Introduction

According to recent analysis by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Mozambique and UNICEF, half of all children in Mozambique live in monetary poverty. Almost one in two Mozambican children were considered multidimensionally poor and nearly one-third of children were consumption poor and deprived at the same time. Using comparable data of DHS and the Alkire-Foster approach, multidimensional child poverty in Mozambique was found to exceed that of neighbouring countries (E-Swazini, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

The first 2 years of a child's life offer a unique window of opportunity to invest in his development and improve his general well-being with long-term results in terms of a nation's health and productivity.

2. Child Grant

Child grant is part of the Basic Social Subsidy Program of the Mozambique National Basic Social Security Strategy 2016-2024 and aims to reduce children's vulnerability, promote their development by improving their health and diet and accessing basic social services and protection.

3. Objectives and Goals

The program is being implemented in its start-up phase by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) with support from UNICEF and technical assistance of ICDP. The start-up phase takes place in 3 selected districts in the province of Nampula. The final goal is to reach

15,500 children through a differentiated implementation that allows the evaluation of processes and impacts of the different types of subsidy intervention, with the aim of providing evidence that inform their national expansion.

The Child Grant (0-2 years) is an unconditional cash transfer programme targeting children living in poor or vulnerable households with the objective of reducing poverty, improving child wellbeing and promoting access to social services. To ensure the greatest impact on the future wellbeing of the beneficiaries, and to help them overcome the social risks and vulnerabilities that often perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of poverty and deprivation, the program strengthens linkages between cash transfer and social services.

4. Care Component

The care component of the Child Grant 0-2 is comprised of nutrition and case management. The case management is also called *Acompanhamento Familiar* and consists of the support provided to families affected by situations of specific risk and/or to those who are classified as most vulnerable, in line with the results from a basic screening tool (used in pre-enrolment or identification). The case management model follows the policies and instruments approved by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS). Regular home visits are conducted by case workers to offer direct support to primary caregivers, their children and other members of the households (e.g. psychosocial and counselling or information for parents) as well as to facilitate referrals to community and statutory services

5. ICDP, Unicef and MGCAS

The *Acompanhamento Familiar* is a case management intervention through which a beneficiary family is followed for a period of 6 months of intervention and 3 additional months to check on the sustainability of the results achieved.

UNICEF supported the design and launch of the pilot phase of the Child Grant, ensuring full ownership by the Government. The Child Grant has two components: a cash subsidy (approximately US\$10 per month) and a care component (nutrition package and case management) linked to social services.

To implement the afore-mentioned case management component, UNICEF, in consultation with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS), identified a need for technical assistance and day-to-day on-the-job coaching of government technical staff and Permanentes (volunteers) at Provincial DPGAS) and District level (SDMAS) of MGCAS, with the ultimate aim of leaving a cadre of social welfare officers able to provide quality case management support to vulnerable families and children and those at risk, within the context of the child grant (0-2 years).

6. ICDP technical assistance and coaching to MGCAS

UNICEF invited ICDP Mozambique to provide this technical and coaching support, following extensive hands-on experience in Mozambique in psychosocial support and, more recently, (child protection) case management. Technical support from ICDP focuses on :

- i) support to the development and adaptation of case management tools, job aids, training packages and materials for relevant case management actors and programme stakeholders;
- ii) through on-the-job coaching of relevant DPGCAS staff, strengthen DPGCAS' role in monitoring and supervising the work of SDSMAS; and

iii) through on-the-job coaching of relevant SDSMAS staff, strengthen their ability to monitor and supervise the work of the Permanentes and to provide quality case management for child protection cases.

7. COVID – 19 Challenge

The programme is facing important challenges due to the COVID-19 outbreak, especially because the *Acompanhamento Familiar* component was designed based on a home-visit approach. Currently, the recommendations are:

1. Before conducting any visit, consider whether a face-to-face visit is necessary. If not, alternatively the case worker can speak to the family by phone. If someone in the family is unwell, do not conduct the home visit; instead, advise and support them through the referral pathways.

2. The case worker must:

a) Maintain social distancing;

b) Wash/sanitize the hands before, during and after each visit;

c) Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth before, during and after each visit;

d) Wear a mask (new one for each visit).