



Social Protection in Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi

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What is social protection?

Ethiopia:

“Social welfare refers to all the activities being undertaken by community with a view to facilitating the economic and social conditions that are conducive to a healthy life and a sustainable development as well as activities designed to meet the common needs” (Developmental Social Welfare Policy, 1996:51).

Kenya:

“policies and actions for the poor and vulnerable which enhances their capacity to cope with poverty, and equips them with skills to better manage risks and shocks.” (National Social Protection Strategy, 2008)

Malawi :

“policies and actions that protect and promote the livelihood and welfare of poor and vulnerable people.” (National Social Protection Strategy)

Justification

In the three countries, poverty levels are high:

Ethiopia:

- 38.7 % below the poverty line
- 8.3 million chronically poor of which about 1.0 million rely no direct support.
- about 10% of the population or 7.5 million are persons with disabilities and not able to participate in productive employment.

Kenya:

- about 46% of the population live below the national poverty line of which 19% live in extreme poverty.
- inequality in Kenya is fairly high; the Gini index is 42.5 and the richest 20% of the population consume 49.1% of GDP.

Justification (cont'd)

Malawi:

- 52 % living under one dollar per day of which 22% are ultra-poor, living under USD 0.20 per day
- 10% are not able to participate in productive activities
- This group has largely been ignored and never been meaningfully targeted by any kind of social protection intervention, and as a consequence, experience severe destitution.

On the positive side, several factors are contributing to the current impetus for Social Protection.

- different stakeholders have increased their efforts to raise the profile of Social Protection in the policy and political arenas;
- empirical evidence from Latin America and Southern Africa indicates that Social Protection can play a significant role in addressing poverty and vulnerability while achieving economic growth;

Justification (cont'd)

- there are ongoing works in Africa towards developing national social protection frameworks (e.g. UNICEF, AU/NEPAD);
- although social protection interventions already exist, they are inadequate and need to be better coordinated in order to achieve greater impact.

We argue that

- It is not enough to have good social and economic policies because there are millions who cannot access these policies.
- A social protection policy ensures that these citizens are entitled to social and economic services. It provides reliable social assistance, insurance, and services and contributes to breaking the vicious circle of poverty.



Legal and constitutional provisions

Ethiopia:

- pension scheme of 1963 covering only (1) the civil service; (2) the military; (3) the police.
- The 1995 Constitution makes clear provision for social protection.

Article 41.5: *“The State shall, with available means, allocate resources to provide rehabilitation and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled, the aged, and to children who are left without parents or guardian.”*



Legal and constitutional provisions (cont'd)

Malawi

The social protection discourse in Malawi has existed since independence in July 1964 in various forms and guises. The notion of social protection generally underlies government's commitment to move toward long-term and developmental activities to both alleviate and reduce poverty.

In **Kenya** and **Malawi**, social protection is an election agenda.

Social protection, policies, strategies

Ethiopia:

- Rural Development Policies and Strategies
- Food Security Strategy
- Developmental Social Welfare Policy in 1996
 - A number of action plans that outline protection mechanisms for children and older people
 - Key feature of these policy/action plans is the emphasis on sustaining the traditional support mechanism and avoiding dependency
 - Paved the way for ad hoc measures such as fund raising for resettling beggars back to their origin

Both **Kenya and Malawi** have National Social Protection Strategies with short, medium and long term scenarios and clearly recognize the state's responsibility

Examples of social protection programmes

Ethiopia – The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)

- Large scale programme designed to protect household and community assets
- Public works
- Direct support
- To qualify households should have been receiving food aid for three consecutive years between 1994-2004
- Multi-donor supported

Malawi - The Malawi Social Cash Transfer Pilot Scheme

- Designed to tackle poverty.
- To qualify, families must be labour-constrained; be at the extreme poverty line, such as an inability to have more than one meal each day or purchase essential non-food items like soap, clothing and school supplies.
- UNICEF supported

Examples of social protection programmes

Kenya – The Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP)

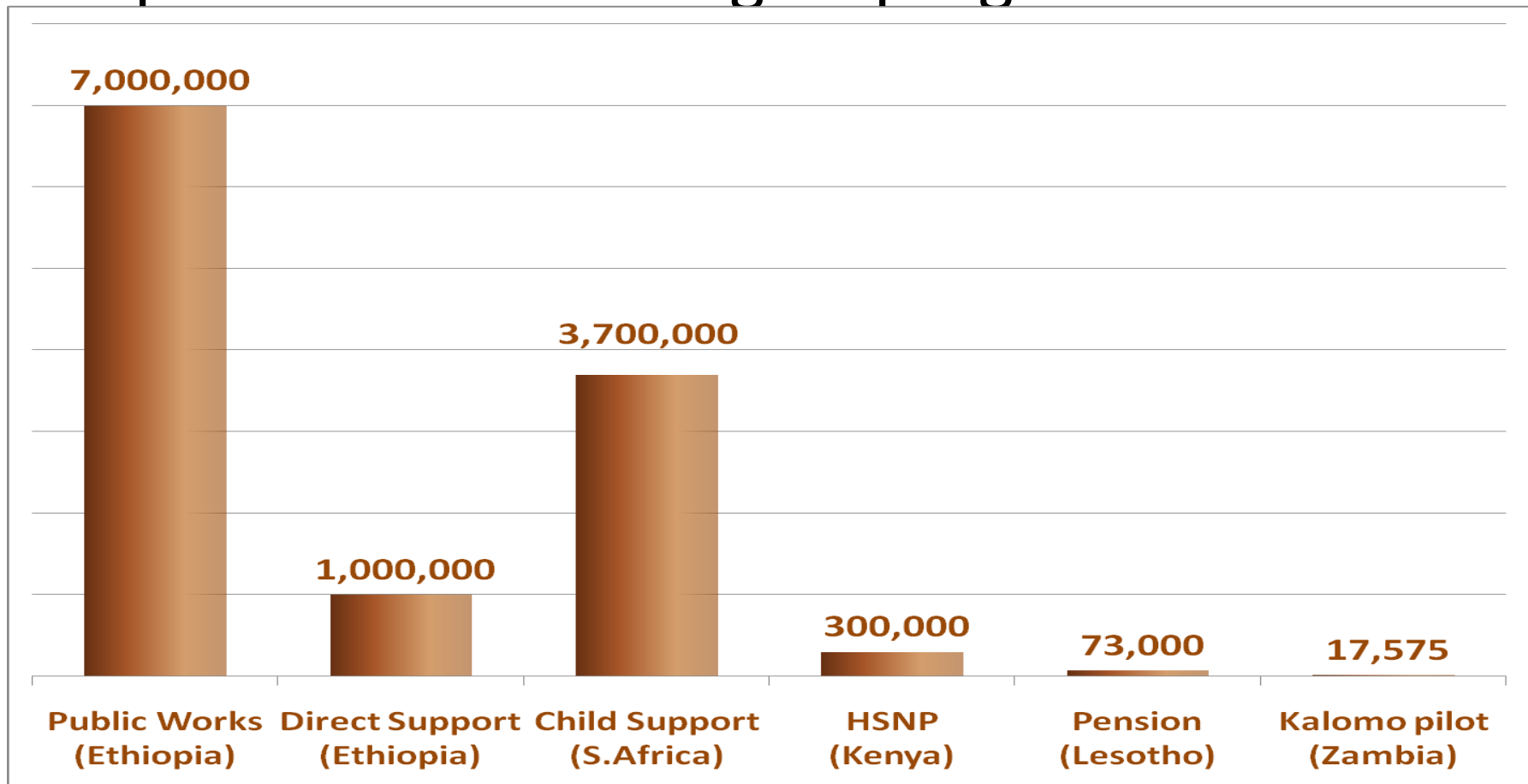
- A pilot programme designed to answer several questions
 - How to transfer payments to the poorest and unbanked people in the most effective and efficient way?
 - What kind of payment mechanism is secure, affordable and provides a store of value for the poor?
 - What technologies work best in such difficult environments?
 - What lessons can be learned for policy?
- DFID supported

Types of intervention

Transformative	Promotive	Preventive	Protective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection legislation • Legislative and regulatory reform • Sensitization campaigns • Social communication to promote behavioral change • Strengthening legal system for protection of vulnerable • Domestication of CRC • Overall social policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second chance education Skills training • Integrated early childhood development • Conditional cash transfers • Asset building and livelihood development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Contributory social insurance/social security (pensions, maternity, disability, etc.) •Universal social pensions •Universal child allowances •Health insurance •Savings and credit schemes •Burial societies •Disaster/crop insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public employment schemes Feeding programs Child protective services Cash/food transfers Fee waivers Family support services Humanitarian relief

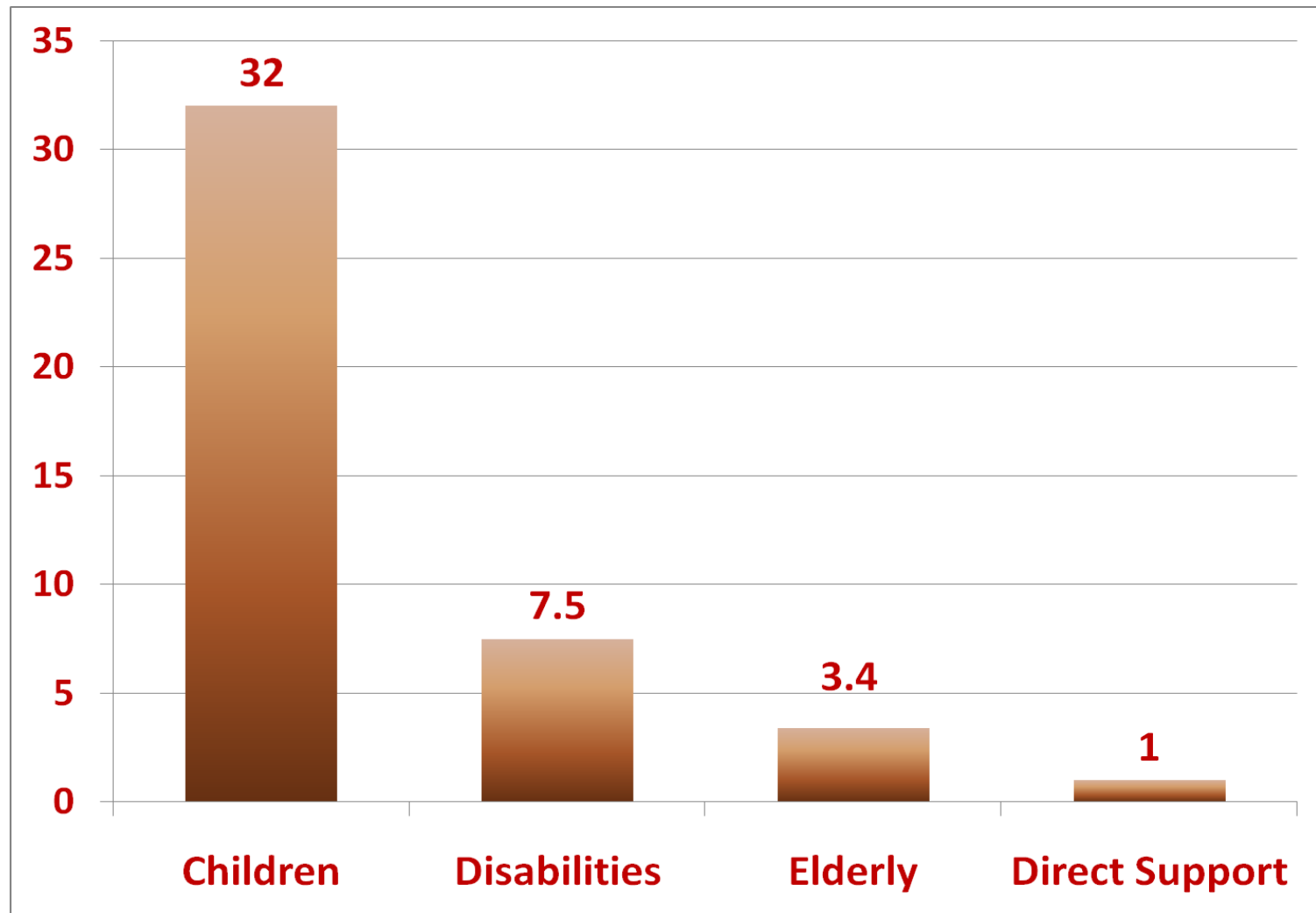
Coverage

Ethiopia's PSNP is the largest programme in



Coverage - potentially the number of need is much higher

Selected
Vulnerable
groups in
Ethiopia
(millions)

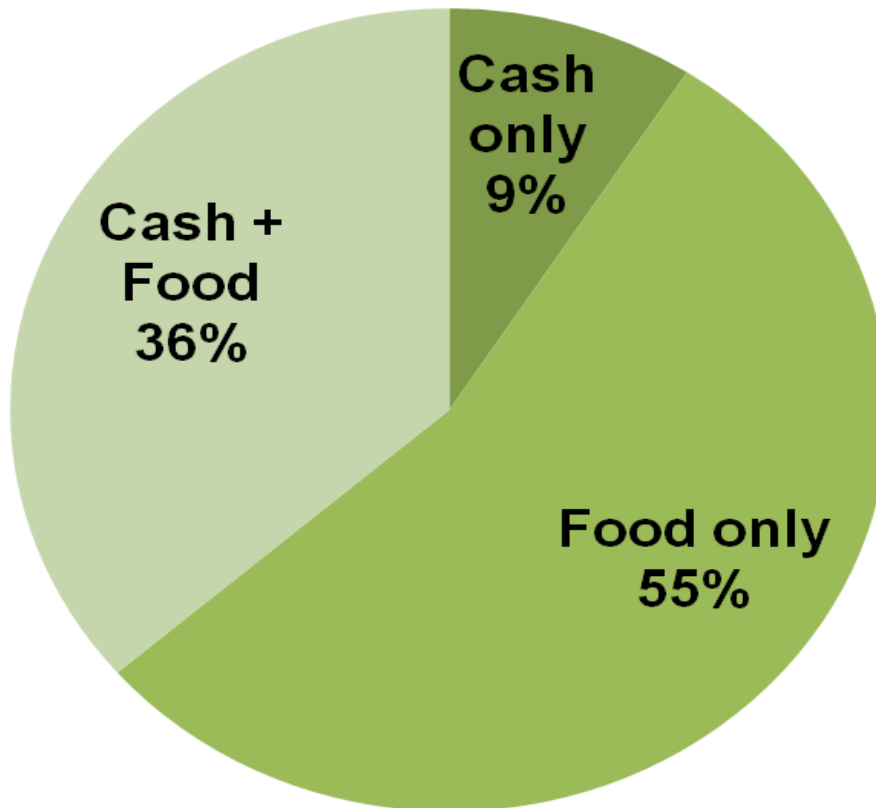




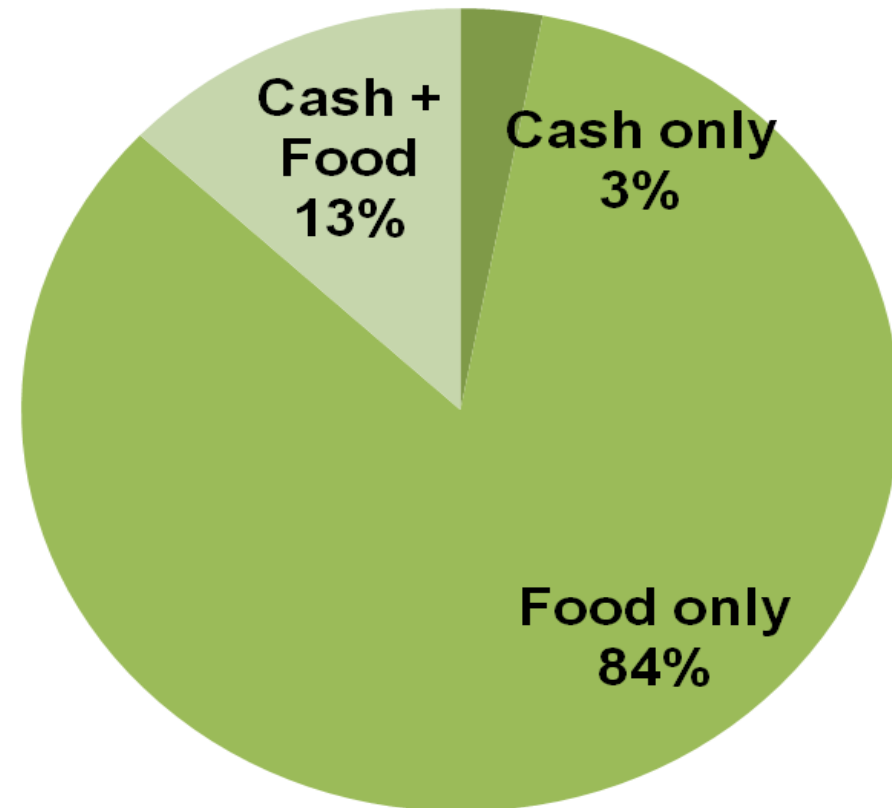
Preferred mode of transfers

Ethiopia's PSNP

2006



2008





Challenges to social protection

1. The question of targeting versus universalism
2. Sustainability – current programmes are donor funded
3. Exit strategy - Graduation
4. Dependency – behavioral change/adjustment
5. The tension between traditional and formal support systems
6. Institutional arrangements
7. Affordability
 - How much money is there to spend?
 - How does government choose to allocate its limited resources?

Challenges to social protection

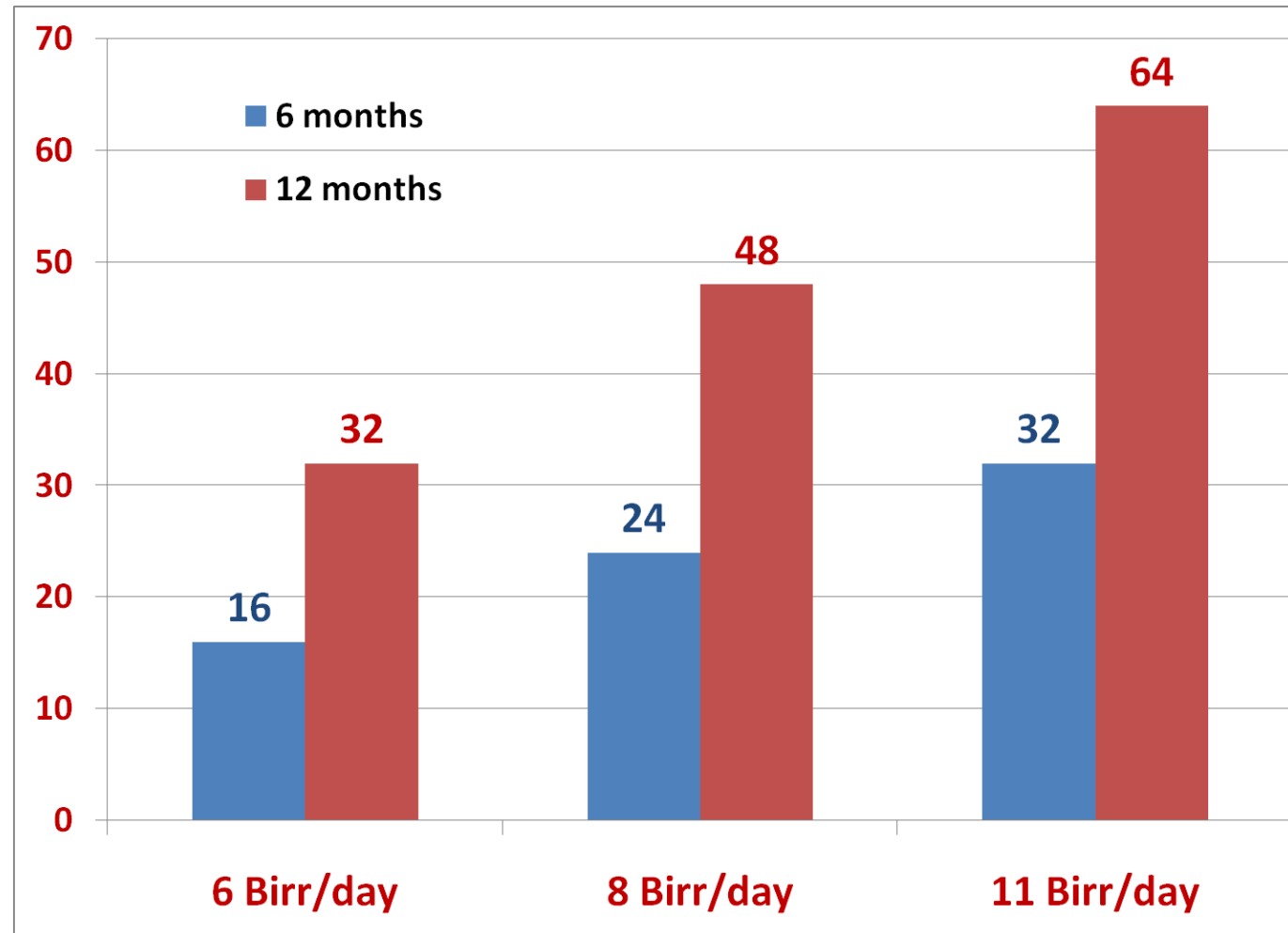
Affordability is a function of four variables

1. the number of beneficiaries;
2. the level of transfers;
3. the frequency of transfers;
4. administration costs (management and delivery).

Challenges to social protection - affordability

Direct Support

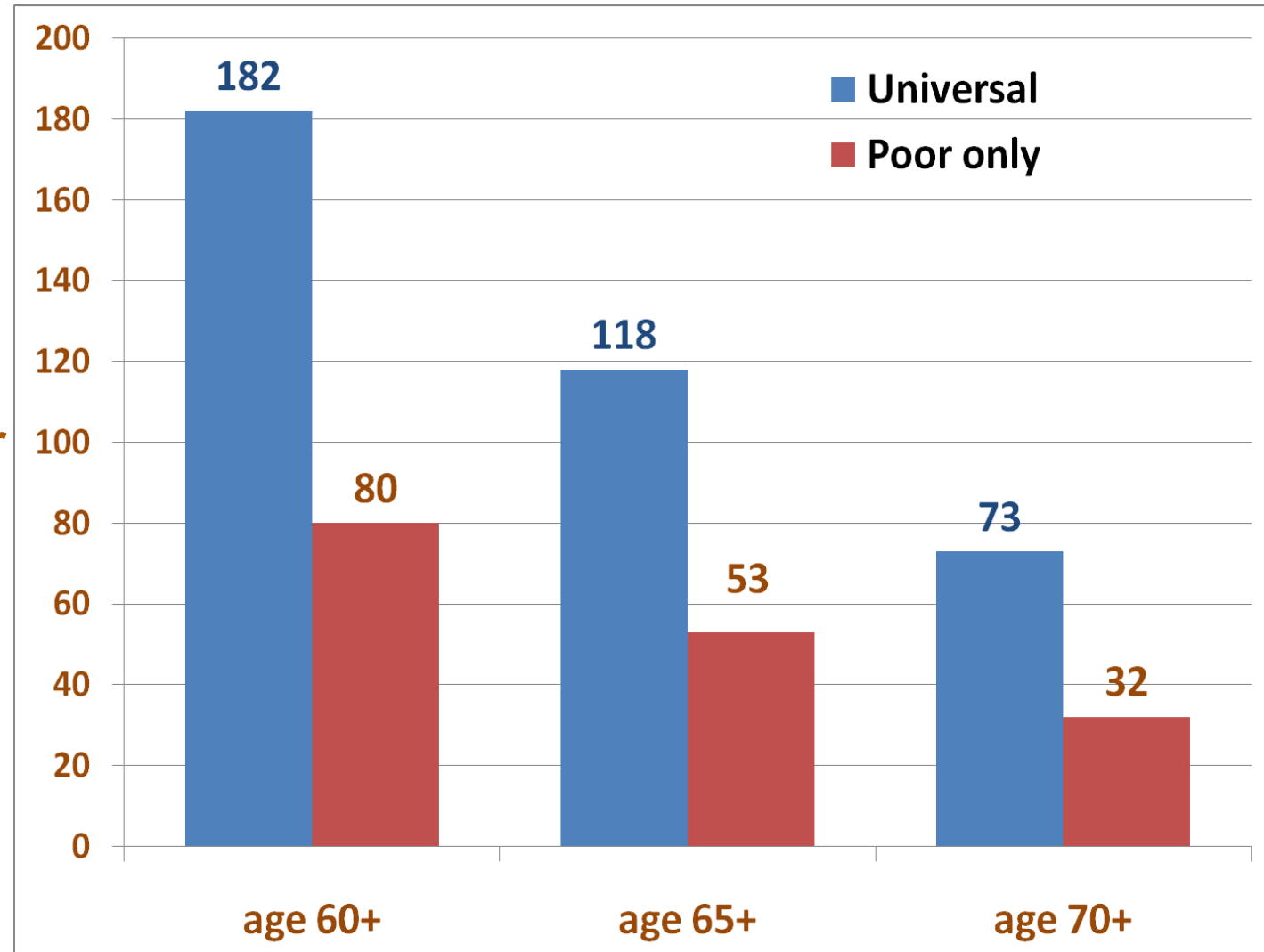
Estimated cost of expanding from 6 to 12 months a year (US\$ million)



Challenges to social protection - affordability

Social pension

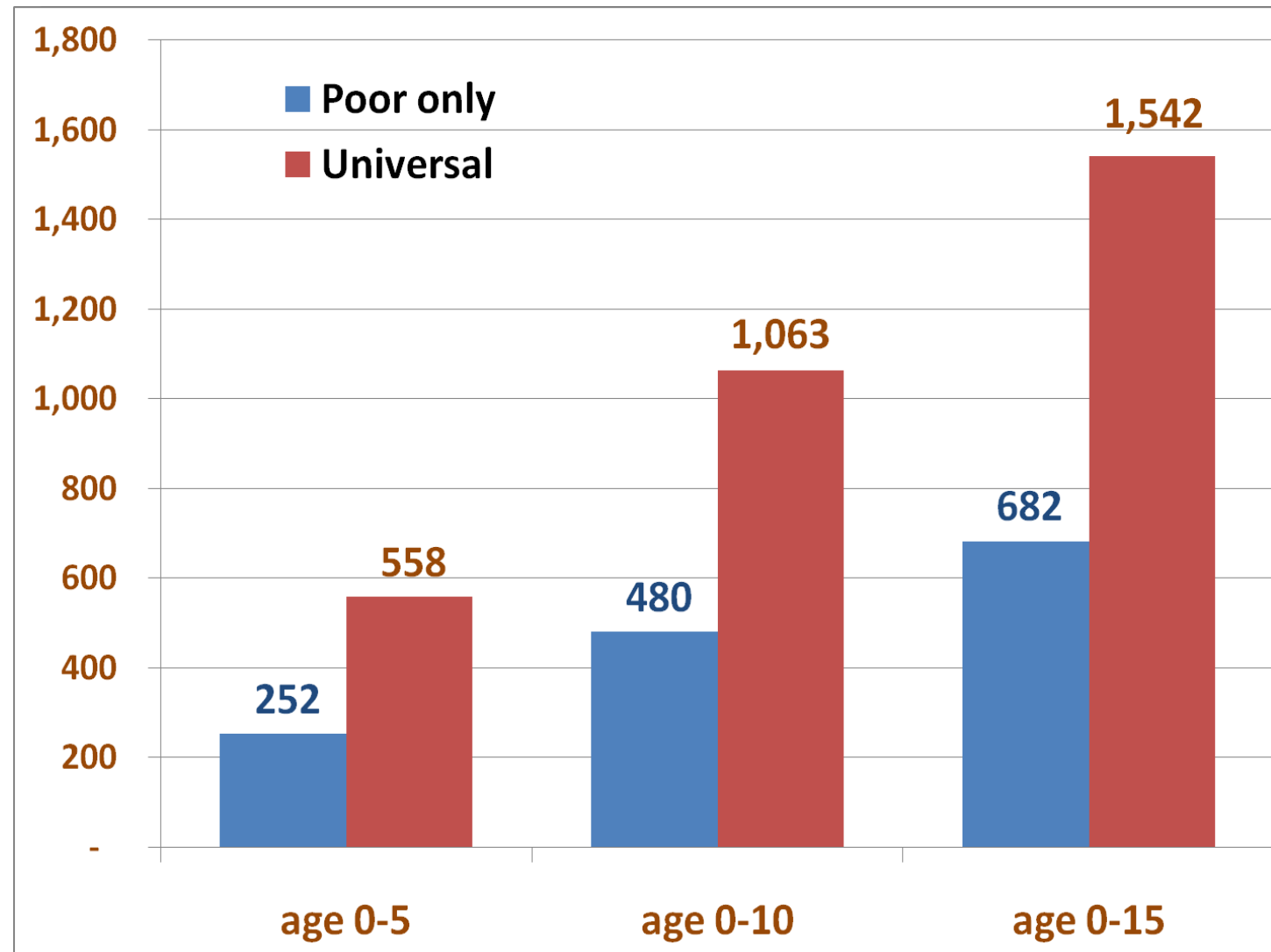
Estimated
cost at 40 Birr per
month
(US\$ million)



Challenges to social protection - affordability

Child support

Estimated cost
at 40 Birr per
month
(US\$ million)



Conclusion and recommendations

Ethiopia

- It is widely acknowledged that the existing social protection service in Ethiopia is highly fragmented and uncoordinated, and the coverage is very insignificant.
- The most appropriate institutional arrangements should be put in place to implement social protection.

In **Kenya** and **Malawi**, it is also found that many of the safety net/social protection interventions had limited impact because they were short-term, *ad hoc*, *patchy* and *uncoordinated*. As a response to this problem, the designed a comprehensive social protection policy and strategy.

Recommendations

For **Ethiopia**,

- the PSNP is a historic opportunity to move away from short term thinking to long term solution
- Therefore, a comprehensive social protection policies and strategy is required as an urgent response to social inequality, crisis and to combat the incidence of poverty and vulnerability.
- Target defined categories of vulnerable individuals . Three categories come to mind:
 - people with disabilities who are unable to work;
 - older persons living alone without support;
 - child-headed households.

Thank for your attention

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