

**Cash for Care: Researching the  
Linkages between Social  
Protection and Children's Care in  
South Africa**  
*Preliminary findings*

NACCW Conference 2015  
Cape Town, 30 June 2015

# Outline

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- ❖ Background of the research project: Rwanda, Ghana, South Africa
- ❖ Presentation preliminary findings
- ❖ Next steps
- ❖ Any questions?



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# Background



# What is social protection?

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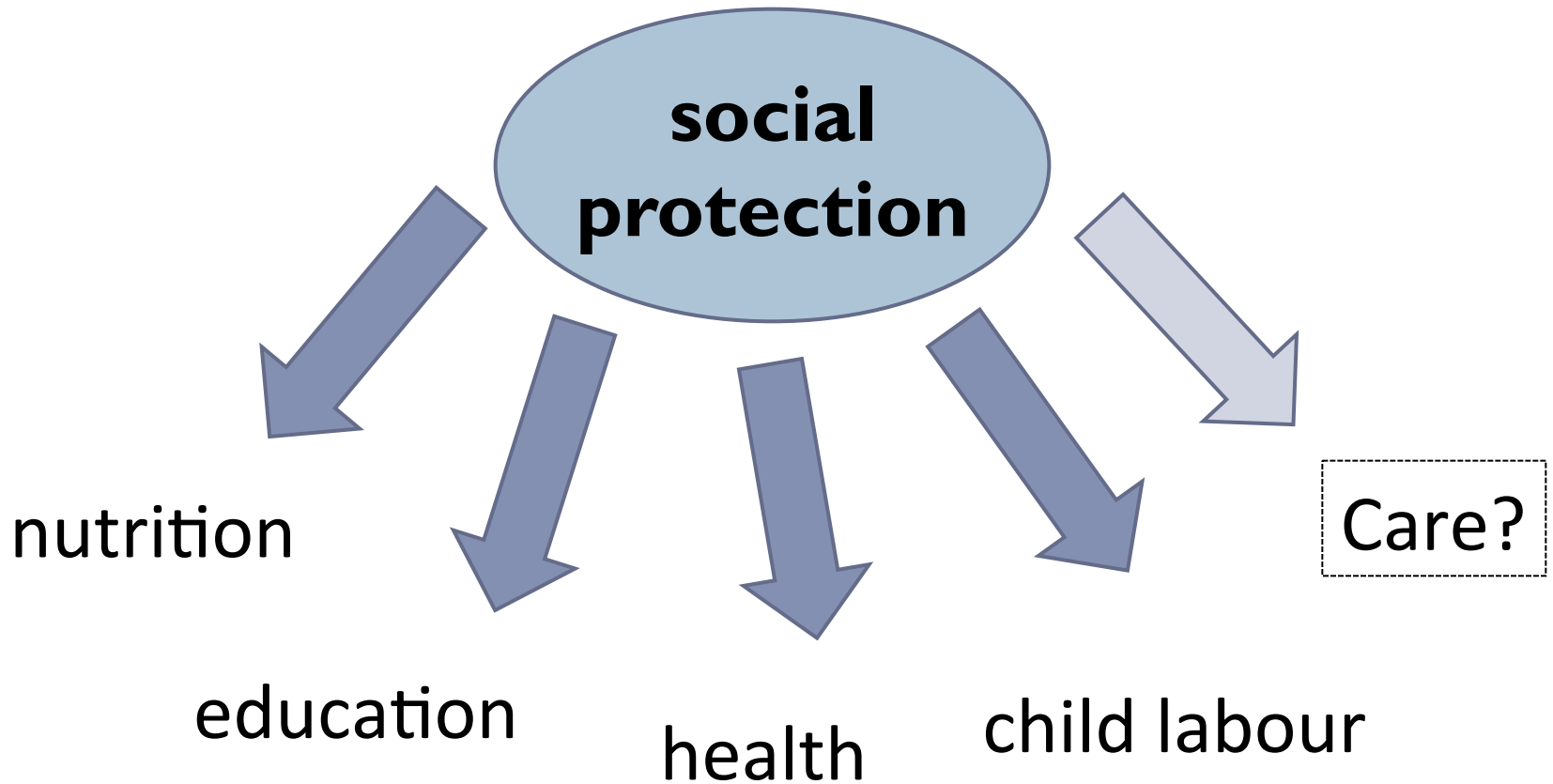
*“Social protection is a set of transfers and services that help individuals and households confront risk and adversity (including emergencies) and ensure a minimum standard of dignity and well-being throughout the life-cycle.” (UNICEF 2006)*

- ▶ Prevent people falling into poverty following a shock (e.g. insurance schemes)
- ▶ Protect people against the consequences of poverty (e.g. cash transfers)
- ▶ Promote people out of poverty (e.g. public works programmes)



# Positive impacts of social protection

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# Children without parental care

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- ▶ 12-34% children in Sub-Saharan Africa live without their parents
- ▶ Poverty is one underlying cause of family separation
- ▶ Poverty may undermine carers' abilities to provide alternative family-based care (kinship or foster care)
- ▶ Children outside of parental care are at a higher risk of receiving lower quality care

**>> Role for social protection?**

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# Overall research questions

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- 1) What are the linkages between social protection and the quality of children's care?
- 2) What is the link between social protection and the loss of parental care or family separation?
- 3) How does social protection influence decisions about foster or kinship care?



# This research

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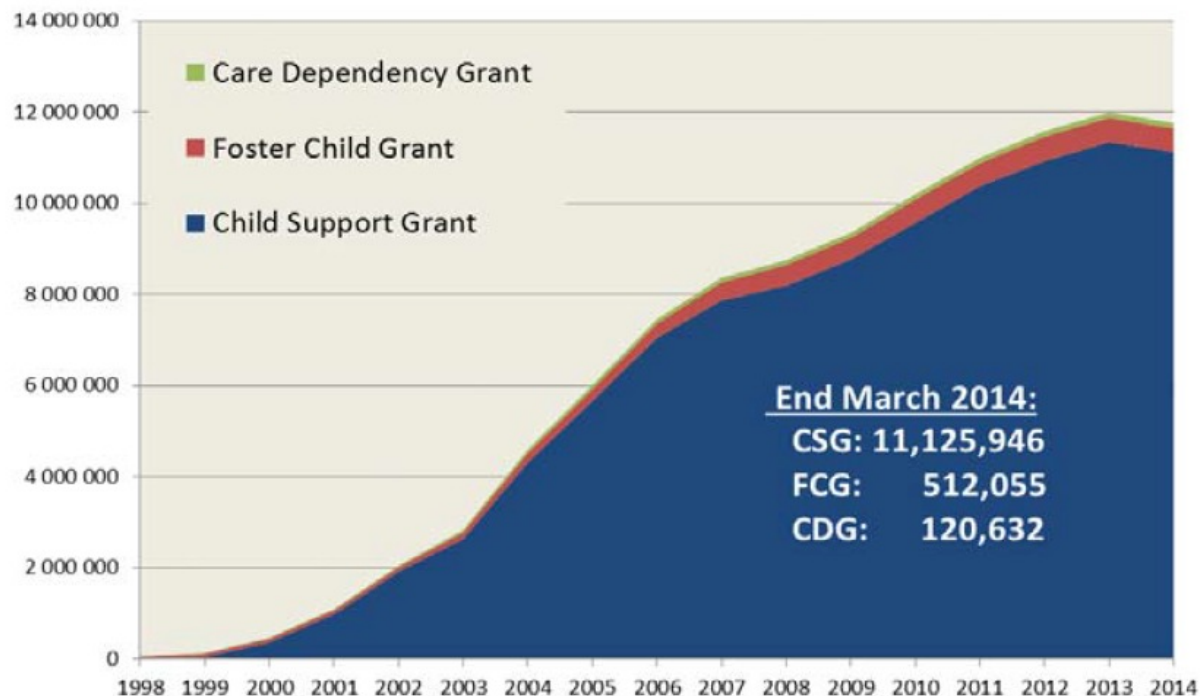
- ▶ Three countries: Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa
- ▶ Qualitative study
- ▶ Includes perspectives from adults and children
- ▶ Collaboration with local research partners





# Child Support Grant and Foster Child Grant

- ▶ In 2003 the FCG became more accessible to children in kinship care. By March 2014, approx. 500,000 children received FCG. A further est. 1 million children eligible for FCG were not yet receiving it in 2014 (*Children's Institute, 2014*)
- ▶ CSG is the most widely accessed social grant – 51% of maternal orphans and 74% of paternal orphans receive this (*Children's Institute, 2014*)



Sources: 1998-2007: National Treasury Intergovernmental Fiscal Review  
2008-2014: South African Social Security Agency SOCPEN monthly reports  
Compiled by Katharine Hall, Children's Institute, UCT

# Research in South Africa

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## **Three research questions:**

- 1) What is the role of the CSG/FCG in promoting wellbeing and quality of care for children in households receiving CSG/FCG?
- 2) What is the role of the CSG/FCG in preventing loss of parental care and incentivising kinship and foster care?
- 3) What are options to address the balance between social workers' administrative and social work responsibilities in FCG?



# Research design

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Fieldwork sites in KwaZulu-Natal:

1. uThukela district (surroundings Ladysmith)
2. uMgungundlovu district (surroundings Pietermaritzburg)

Qualitative study including perspectives from:

- ▶ 18 participatory interviews and 34 participatory group discussions with children and caregivers
- ▶ 8 interviews with CSG/FCG program staff
- ▶ Focus on children and caregivers providing kinship care and foster care and receiving CSG or FCG

Sampling was purposive with child and adult participants stratified according to characteristics

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*Preliminary*  
Research Findings



# Research question 1

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What is the role of the CSG/FCG in **promoting wellbeing and quality of care** for children in households receiving the grants?



# Research question 1 - background

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## Knowledge of programmes

- ▶ The majority of children and adults know about application criteria and what is provided, but some are confused about key criteria and processes, for example:
  - ▶ The use of alternative documents under Regulation 11(1) to access the grant
  - ▶ The primary caregiver is eligible to apply for the CSG
- ▶ The CSG is more widely known than the FCG
- ▶ Some adults know they are receiving a grant but cannot say which grant they receive (CSG or FCG)



# Research question 1 - background

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## Application procedures

- ▶ The majority of respondents receiving CSG who qualified for FCG have also applied for this
- ▶ Most that applied for CSG had no problems receiving it but some experienced long waiting times, difficulty obtaining paperwork and “to-ing and fro-ing” between different offices
- ▶ Around half applying for FCG experienced problems: delays receiving it and challenges obtaining paperwork



# Research question 1 - background

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## Social workers - CSG

- ▶ Children and adults said they had received no support from social workers linked to CSG but would have liked to

## Social workers - FCG

- ▶ Both children and adults had received more psychosocial support and follow-up from social workers in Pietermaritzburg (where there are more NGOs providing services in addition to DSD) compared to Ladysmith.
- ▶ Some children believed that social workers take children away from parents





# Research question 1

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<b><u>Impact of the Grants</u></b>	<b>CSG</b>	<b>FCG</b>
<b>Children and adults said the grant helps meet basic needs</b>	✓	✓
<b>Some adults said the grant is enough for them to also save</b>		✓
<b>Resources are generally pooled and all children benefit equally</b>	✓	✓
<b>Children understood that the grant helps grandparents top up their pensions</b>	✓	
<b>Adults said the grant helps them make their children look the same as other children</b>	✓	
<b>Children said boys are sometimes treated preferentially, while adults said boys and older children push their demands more than girls / younger children</b>	✓	
<b>Adults said that talking to social workers helps them with parenting</b>		✓
<b>They also said that the ability to provide for needs can reduce stress and help carer-child relationships</b>		✓

## Research question 2

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What is the role of the CSG/FCG in **preventing loss of parental care and motivating kinship and foster care?**



# Research question 2 - background

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## Reasons for separation

- ▶ Abuse/neglect
- ▶ Early pregnancy
- ▶ Death of family members
- ▶ Abandonment
- ▶ Poverty and lack of resources (including migration for work)

## Motivations for providing care:

- ▶ Kind heartedness
  - ▶ Difficulties in conceiving
  - ▶ Family ties
  - ▶ Getting cash
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# Research question 2

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## Impact of receiving CSG/FCG and cash on providing care:

- ▶ Grant provides helpful support and enables people to provide care
- ▶ Grant does not secure love
- ▶ Questionable motivations: cash might be main reason for providing care and children might experience neglect or abuse in such cases
- ▶ Involvement of social workers, courts and communities can provide accountability mechanism and positive support



# Research question 3

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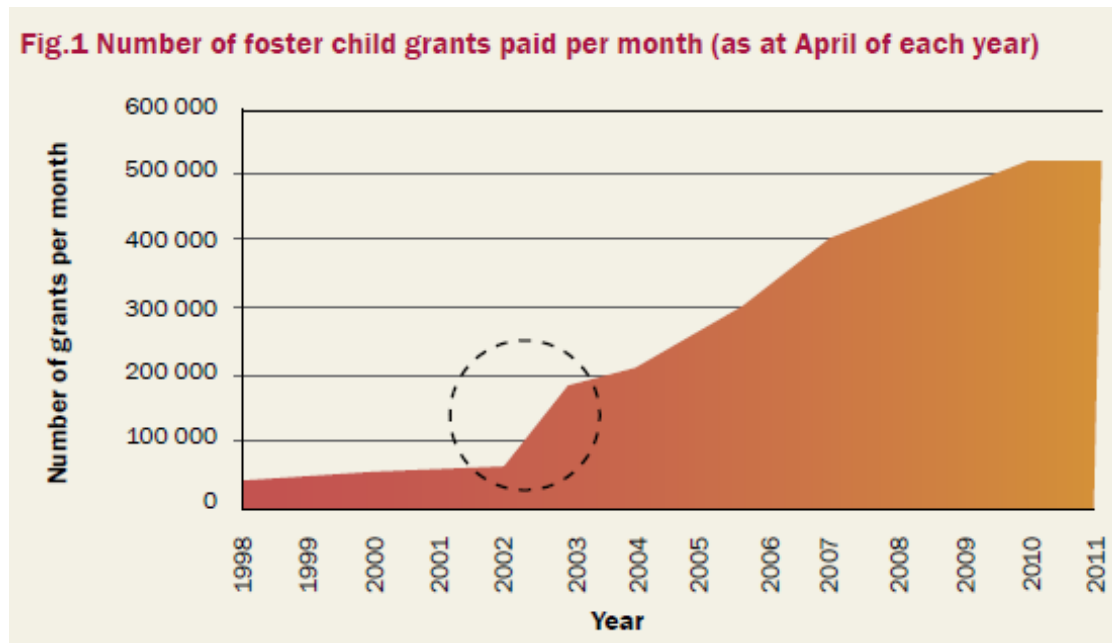
What are options to **address the balance between social workers' administrative and social work responsibilities** in FCG?



# Research question 3

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To address the problem of the overburdened foster care system described earlier



Respondents were asked their opinions on 5 potential policy options that could help to address this balance

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# Policy options

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	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>SW Assessment</b>	<b>Court Order</b>	<b>Means Tested</b>
<b>Option 1 (as FCG)</b>	830	Through DSD, DOJCD and SASSA	Before application approved	Yes	N/A
<b>Option 2</b>	830	Through DSD and SASSA	Before application approved	No	N/A
<b>Option 3 (higher than CSG)</b>	600	Through SASSA	After application approved	No	No
<b>Option 4</b>	600	Through SASSA	After application approved	No	Yes
<b>Option 5</b>	400	Through SASSA	No – just follow-up	No	No

# Policy options

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## Preference for current FCG: *(more frequent in PMB)*

- ▶ Some prefer to receive a higher amount despite lengthy process involved
- ▶ Some prefer full process due to feeling backed-up by courts and social workers (children are better protected)

## Preference for FCG without court order:

- ▶ Some feel courts cause delays and are unclear on the value they add

## Preference for extended CSG: *(more frequent in Ladysmith)*

- ▶ Some would accept a lower amount if there was a simplified process and the money came more quickly

## In general:

- ▶ Most respondents prefer the grant not to be means-tested
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# Next Steps

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- ❖ Consolidate findings and produce research report for South Africa
- ❖ Develop policy briefs
- ❖ Produce research synthesis report from the three countries
- ❖ Develop advocacy strategies for each country and collectively



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Any Questions?

