

# Gender Targeting and Household Cooperation: Experimental Evidence from a Multifaceted Anti-poverty Program in Malawi

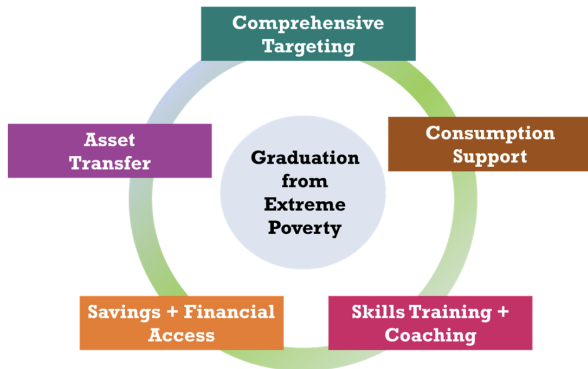
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- 1 What is the impact of **recipient gender** of 'Graduation' on household/individual welfare and well-being outcomes?
- 2 What is the additional impact of the '**Transforming Gender and Power Relations Couple Training**' on household/individual welfare and well-being outcomes?

Figure: Concern's Graduation Approach



# Theory of Change - Targeting

Gender-specific targeting of consumption support, business training, HH visits, asset transfer and VSLA membership.

## Aims to improve:

- Women's Economic Outcomes
- Women's Empowerment
- HH welfare, Investment in HH Public Goods

## Risks

- Increase in spousal conflict



Transformative gender training known as Umodzi, meaning 'united'.

## Aims to improve:

- Cooperation/shared vision
- Communication skills
- Perceptions: role of the women
- Savings/productive investment
- Efficient resource allocation

## Aims to decrease:

- Conflict triggered by shifts in power
- Conflict between children/parents

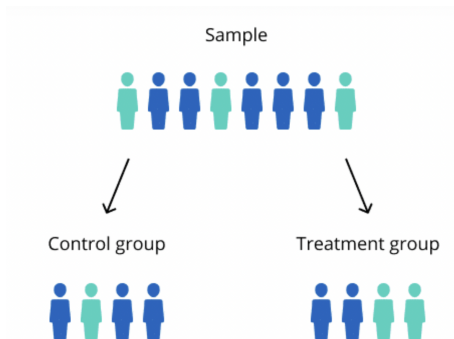


Randomised Control Trial to test the effect of gender targeting and the inclusion of gender transformative training on household welfare and well-being outcomes

- 1 All benefits are targeted to **female**
- 2 All benefits are targeted to **male**
- 3 All benefits are targeted to **female**, and the couple is exposed to a **monthly couples training course** called **Umodzi** for 12 months
- 4 **Control Group**

# Research Methodology 2/2

- Conducted an RCT with random allocation.
- Control group = counterfactual, what would have happened to treatment in the absence of programme.



## Random assignment

# The Sample

- 200 villages, stratified across Mangochi and Nsanje districts, and covers a total of 3,300 couples.
- Eligible HH classified as "poor" or "very poor" by community wealth ranking (mostly), or a proxy means test based on household materials and livestock assets.
- Census conducted in late 2017 and early 2018 to identify 3,300 eligible HHs.



# The Randomisation

- 50 villages in each arms.
- Treatment villages: 18 HHs surveyed (12 treatment, 6 control).
- Control villages: 12 HHs surveyed.
- Half of villages delayed by one year, creating cohorts 1 or 2.

Treatment/Control Arm: Equal split between Mangochi and Nsanje for each arm

Female Recipients  
600 HHs

Male Recipients  
600 HHs

Female + 'Transforming  
Gender & Power Relations'  
Training: 600 HHs

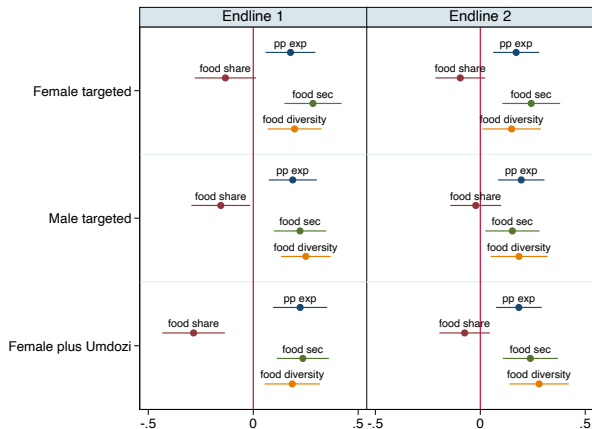
Control Group  
1,500 HHs

## Estimation Equation

$$Y_{(i)hvt} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 T_{hvt}^1 + \beta_3 T_{hvt}^2 + \beta_4 T_{hvt}^3 + \beta_5 Y_{(i)h\_bl} + \gamma Z_{cd} + \epsilon_{hvt}$$

- Variables  $T^1$ ,  $T^2$  and  $T^3$  capture treatment status, taking value of 1 if household  $h$  in village  $v$  received:
  - $T^1$  - female targeted Graduation program
  - $T^2$  - male targeted Graduation program
  - $T^3$  - female targeted plus Umodzi Graduation program
- Coefficients  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_3$  and  $\beta_4$  capture treatment impact on our specified outcomes,  $Y$ , for household  $h$ /individual  $i$
- We control for baseline values of outcome  $Y$ , the time of follow-up,  $t$  and district and cohort,  $Z_{cd}$ .
- $\epsilon_{hvt}$  is our statistical error term. Errors are clustered at the level of cluster randomisation.

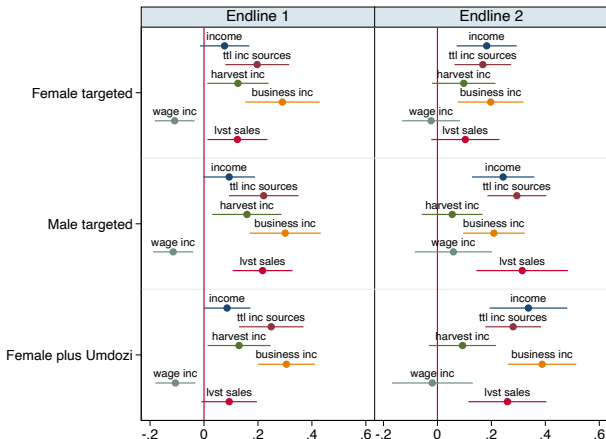
# Consumption and Food Security (+5 & 17 months)



- Graduation HHs greater consumption than control (at 5/17 months)
- All treatment arms see similar gains.
- On average treatment households see in a 14% increase in daily per person consumption

# Income (+5 & 17 months)

Total income significantly higher for all graduation HHs at +17 months.



- Umodzi group having the highest increase (55% higher than control).
- Umodzi HHs have higher income than female targeted HHs.

# Focus on Business Income (+ 17 months)

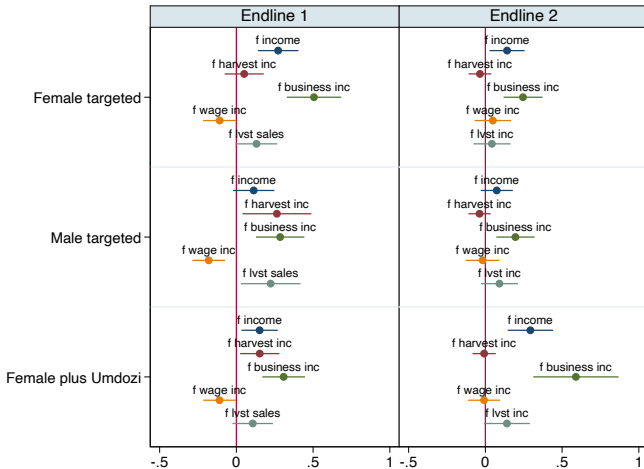
Income differences driven by **business income**. Compared to control business income:

- Umodzi group: 2.5 x higher
- Female targeted: 1.78 x higher
- Male targeted: 1.8 x higher

Umodzi out-performs simple graduation.

# Looking at Income by Gender

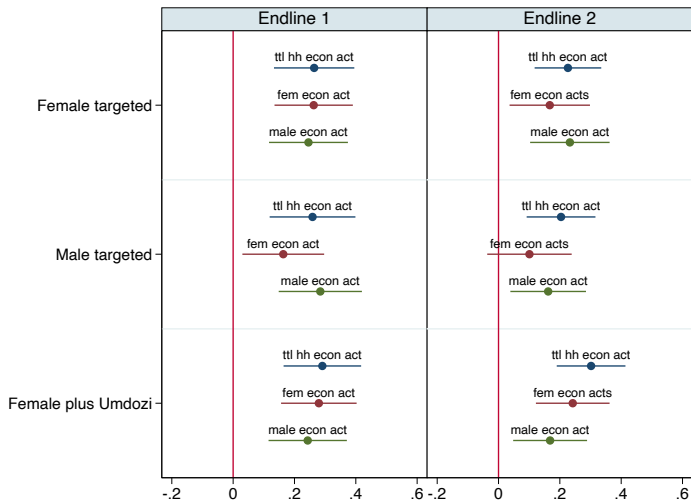
Female spouses in female targeted households have higher income than control



Business income: women in Umodzi households have higher income than women in female targeted HHs.

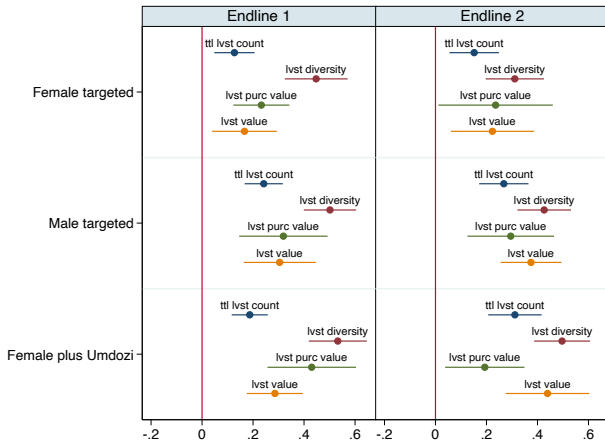
# Task Specialisation (+5 & 17 months)

All treatment arms see an increase in household, male and female economic activities.



# Livestock Value (+5 & 17 months)

Graduation HHs have livestock value 50-120% higher livestock value than control.

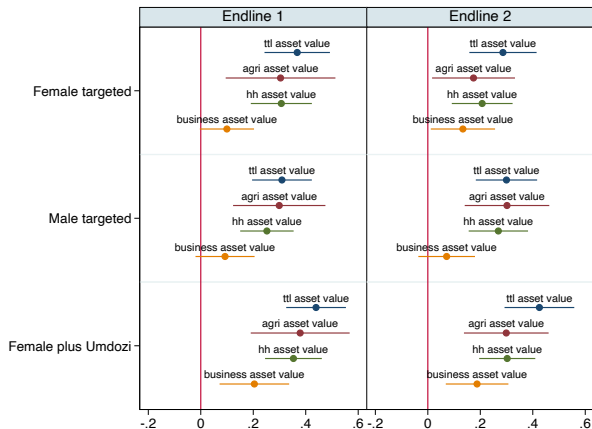


Male targeted and Umodzi households have the largest gains over control, over 100%.



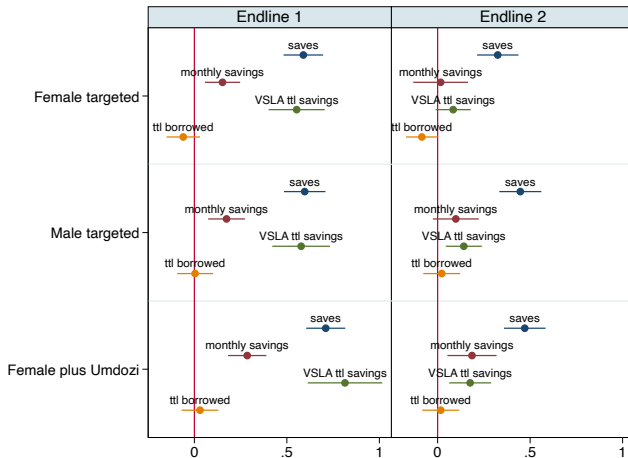
# Asset Value (+5 & 17 months)

At 5 and 17 months, asset value higher by at least 18% of the control group's average.



- Umodzi households see the greatest gains, including compared to female targeted households.

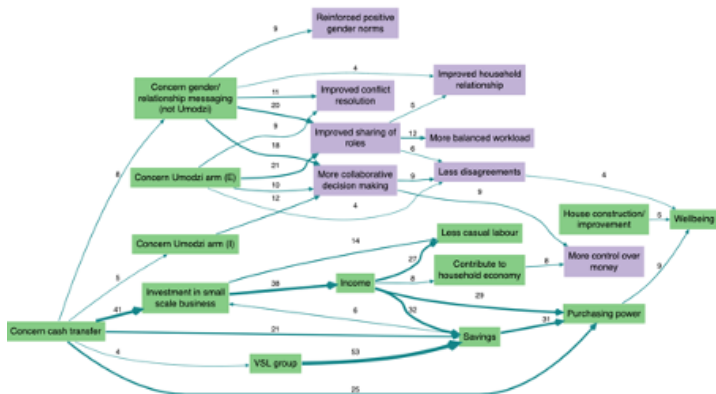
# Household Savings (+5 & 17 months)



- Umodzi hhs: greatest gains in monthly savings, including compared to female targeted households.

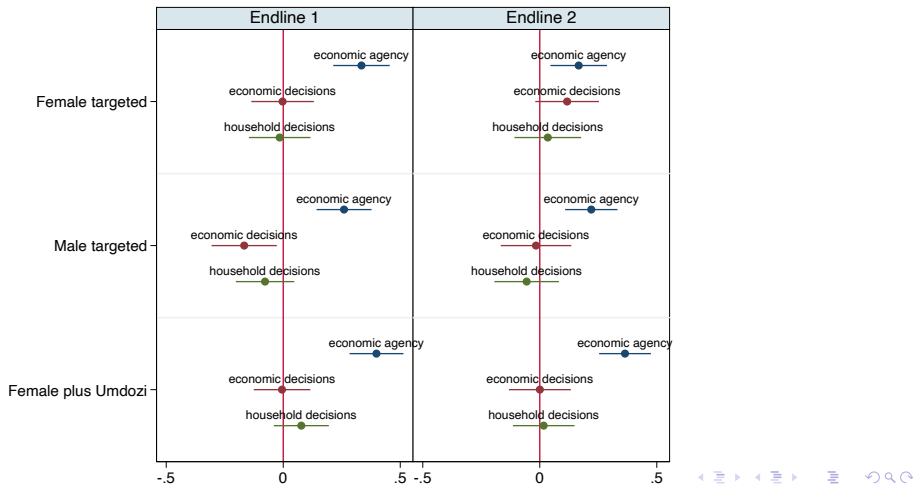
# Empowerment (+5 months) Causal Map

Based on participants' self-reported attribution of change related to empowerment.



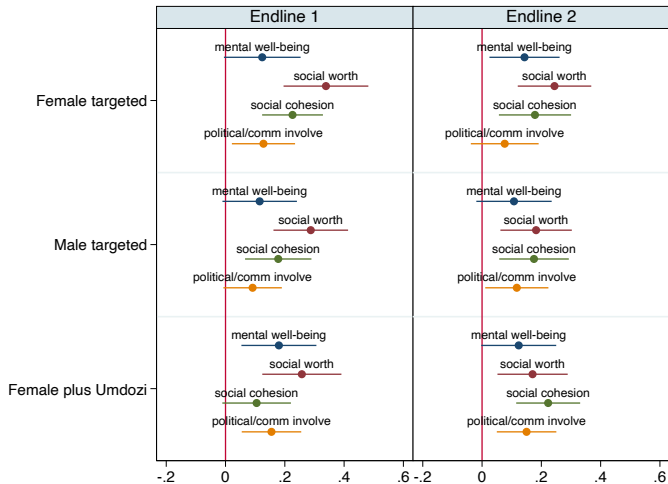
# Empowerment (+5 & 17 months)

- All female spouses see increased economic agency
- Women in Umodzi households see the greatest gains, more than female and male targeted HHs.



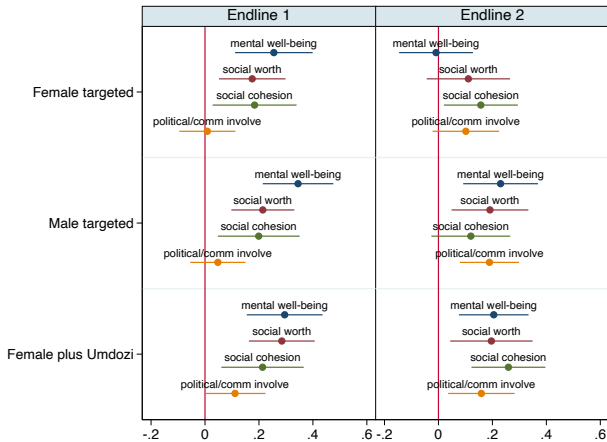
# Female Well-Being (+5 & 17 months)

- No differential treatment effects for psychological and social well-being at either 5 or 17 months post program.



# Male Well-Being (+5 & 17 months)

- Similar improvements in mental health and social worth for male spouses in the male targeted and Umodzi arm, vs. control

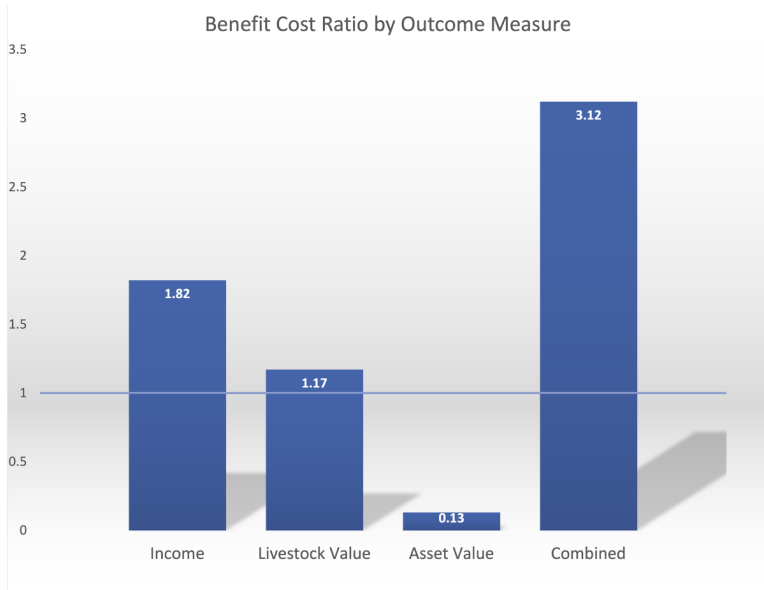


- Involving male spouse via directly targeting or Umodzi: higher mental health compared to male spouses in female targeted arm

# Results - Intimate Partner Violence

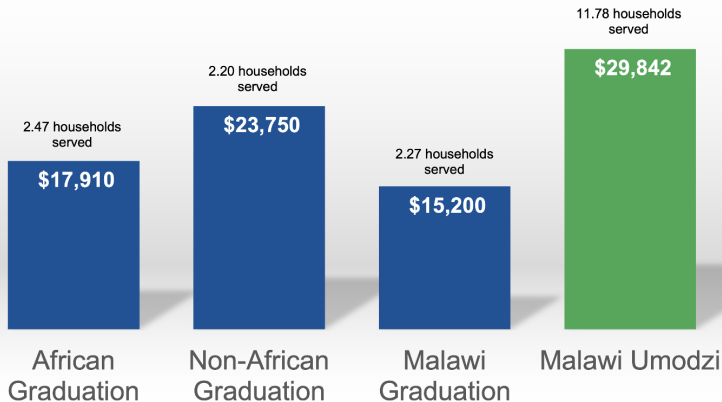
- ① IPV experienced in last six months = Physical + Sexual + Emotional
- ② All three treatments reduced emotional violence at 17 months, consistent with poverty stress alleviation channel (6 p.p.)
- ③ Couples training reduced physical violence at 5 months over female targeted (3.6 p.p.), not at 17 months.

# Cost Benefit Analysis





## Benefit from \$10,000 Investment



## Graduation: Confirming Previous Findings

- Sustained benefits for all treatments (cons, livestock, assets and FS).
- At 5 months structural change in income source, at 17 months higher income for all treatment groups.
- Treated HHs pursue income diversification, not task specialisation.

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## Targeting: Gains/Costs for Spouses, Not Family

- Female targeting, vs male targeting, improves female income, female relationship quality index, and decision-making on economic activities in the short run, gains mostly diminish.
- Male targeting, vs female targeting, results in higher livestock count, greater male livestock value, better male mental health and greater chores done in the prior 24 hours by women.
- Female vs male targeting similar impact on hh income/consumption.

## Couple's Training: Pareto Improving

- Overall HH gains:
  - Umodzi HHs have higher total income than female targeted HHs.
  - Greater business income than female and male targeted HHs, accelerates at 17 mths.
  - Umodzi out-performs female targeted HHs on livestock outcomes.
  - At 17 months the couple's empowerment training improved female economic agency, male mental health and couples are more likely to stay together.
  - No difference for HH consumption and food security.

# Conclusions

- 1 Both female/male spouses better off with gender transformative training, though difference set of preferences can be seen in decisions compared with female targeted.
- 2 Case can be made for the addition of gender transformative training to social protection programs.
- 3 Gender targeting has similar household gains BUT targeting the male spouse reinforces male livestock ownership, while female gains in short run from being targeted.

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