****College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences

Research project: Social cash transfers and young people in rural Malawi and Lesotho

You may remember that we did some research here last year, or perhaps the research that we did in xxx in 2007 and 2008. We are currently undertaking a three-year research project, and we are now in xxx for the second stage of this project. We would like to invite you to take part in this second stage***.***

Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to think about the following information and discuss it together and with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information***.*** It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

**• What is the purpose of the research?**

This research project aims to improve understanding of the ways in which social cash transfer schemes affect poverty in rural communities. There have been many studies looking at their effects on children and elderly people, but we are interested particularly in the way that these schemes affect young adults.

**• What does the research involve?**

The project involves three stages, with visits to xxx as well as a village in Lesotho in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This is our second visit to xxx and we plan to finish the interviews we were doing last year and also to do some group workshops with young adults***.*** Next year we will come back to tell you what we have learned and to ask for your feedback.

This month, we are inviting you to participate in one of three research activities. Which one we invite you to will depend on your involvement in our previous research (in 2007/8 or 2016) and whether your household receives a cash transfer***.***

1. ***Interviews with young people who participated in our research in 2007/8***

If you are one of about 40 young people who kindly participated in our previous research in 2007/8, and we did not get to talk with you last year, we would like to interview you to find out how your life has changed since then, and to ask you about how things are now***.*** If you agree to take part, we will spend about an hour asking you some questions about your life, now and over the past nine years***.*** We might draw a diagram to work out what happened when and ask you about why you think things have worked out in your life in the way they have***.*** We will ask about whether people in your household receive cash transfers, and what effects these have***.*** We would like to do this in private, so that other people do not hear what is said***.*** We would like to record the interview, so that someone can later write down what you have said and we do not lose any information***.***  We will not record the interview unless you agree***.***  Because we want to see how things have changed, we would also like to look back to what you told us in 2007/8***.*** Again, if you do not want us to use that information for our new research, please tell us***.***

If you did participate in one of these interviews last year, we might like to talk to you again, and ask you a few more questions, to understand a little more about how your life has been since 2007/8.

1. ***Interviews with people in households receiving cash transfers***

We are interested in the effects of cash transfers***.*** If someone in your household receives a cash transfer, we would like to interview you***.*** If you agree to be interviewed, we will spend up to about 40 minutes asking you some questions about how the cash transfer has affected life in your household, and about your views on cash transfers. We would like to do this in private, so that other people do not hear what is said. We would like to record the interview, so that someone can later write down what you have said and we do not lose any information. We will not record the interview unless you agree***.***

We are keen to learn the views on cash transfers of young people as well as older household members. In the case of those aged 10-17, we will not go ahead with interviews unless the young person and their guardian both agree.

If you’re both a former participant and in a household that receives a cash transfer, we might ask if we can combine the two interviews (2 and 3).

1. ***Participatory group activities with young adults***

We would like to bring together groups of about 4 of the young people who we have interviewed to discuss the effects of cash transfers further. To make this easier, we will use methods like drama, drawing and diagrams to help us discuss the issues. We will find a time that is convenient for you and the activity will take around an hour and a half to two hours. We would like to record the activity, so that someone can later write down what you have said and we do not lose any information***.***  We will not record the activity unless you agree***.***

**• Do we have to take part?**

As participation is entirely voluntary, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part! If you are aged 10-17, we will also ask the agreement of your guardian. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. If you say no at any time, this won’t have any negative effect on you. It won’t affect your entitlement to cash transfers in any way.

**• What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

One possible disadvantage is that it takes some time (about 40 minutes to one hour for a full interview). If you feel you don’t have time for this now we could come back at a better time. We think it is unlikely that there will be any other disadvantage. We will not push you to talk about anything you do not wish to. You can choose not to answer a question, or to end the interview, or to return to the interview another day, if that is your preference***.***

**• What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The study will not benefit you directly, but we hope that what we learn will be used by the government to improve the cash transfer schemes to benefit people throughout Malawi.

**• Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential***.*** Any information with your name on will only ever be viewed by members of the research team! When we write down what you said in the interview we will change or remove all the names***.***

* **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

We will hold workshops to discuss the results of the research with people from government, NGOs and international organisations. We will also give talks and will write about the research for people to learn more so that they can make changes to cash transfer schemes if they think that is necessary. We will also report the findings on our website ([www.cashtransfers-youth.net](http://www.cashtransfers-youth.net)) so that people can learn about the research from that. We will also send a summary of the research findings to the chief. The transcripts of all the interviews will be made available to other researchers on the internet. Neither you nor any member of your household will be identified by name in any of these forms of publication***.***

**• Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council and Department for International Development***.*** The principal investigator is Professor Nicola Ansell from Brunel University London.

**• Who has reviewed the study?**

The College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee at Brunel University London has reviewed and approved the study.

**• For further information or if you have any complaints, contact:**

Principal investigator: Prof Nicola Ansell, Brunel University London, email: [nicola.ansell@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.ansell@brunel.ac.uk), phone: 0885 47 28 82.

Local co-investigator: Dr Evance Mwathunga, Chancellor College, University of Malawi, email: [emwathunga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emwathunga@yahoo.co.uk), phone: 888 603 565.

Brunel University is committed to compliance with the Universities UK Research Integrity Concordat. You are entitled to expect the highest level of integrity from our researchers during the course of their research.

If, however, you have any complaints about the research, contact the chair of the College Research Ethics Committee, Professor James Knowles, email: [james.knowles@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:james.knowles@brunel.ac.uk).

