

The Impact of Female Headed Cash Transfer on Household Expenditure Consumption in Timor-Leste

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This study exploits data from Timor-Leste Standard of Living Survey (TLSLS) 2007 and 2014 data in measuring household monthly consumption expenditure changes after the introduction of cash transfer program. To identify treatment and control group, eligibility criteria are used. This program contributes to increasing food and non-food by 0.6 percent and -0.2 percent respectively. Overall, household monthly consumption expenditure is affected negatively yet insignificant 0.9 percent. This might be because ineffective coverage. The total number of actual beneficiaries is 795 households. Though only 25 % is actual beneficiaries out of 500 eligible female-headed households. As a result, male-headed household also created as the rest of the households are male headed. By doing that, almost 100% actual beneficiaries household headed by male are merge with eligible male-headed household. The regression estimation of this group suggests that food consumption of treatment group is 4.61 percent higher than comparison group though it is not significant. However, non-Food consumption is negative post implementation though it is insignificant.

Moreover, we have also created low-income group to see how this program affect low-income household for both female and male-headed households respectively. To identify low-income group, we have used aggregated national income data. Household with income USD 5000 is considered low-income group. In general, low-income household consist of household work as subsistence farmers, running their own small kiosk, clerk and the like. The regression result shows that for female-headed household, food consumption is affected positively though insignificant at 4.1 percent. This suggests that low-income group is affected more positively compared to female-headed household of all income. This positive affect also occurred in overall household consumption expenditure. On the other hand, for male-headed household with low income, the result shows there is not much difference as compared to male-headed household; nonetheless, there is slight decline in this group yet it remains stable across all specification with control variables.