

LEAH PRENCIPE

She/Her

PhD candidate
Social Epidemiologist
Erasmus MC
University Medical Centre Rotterdam
Department of Public Health

Abraham Kuyperlaan 16B
3038 PK Rotterdam, Netherlands
Phone: (+31) 657 281 976
Leahprencipe@gmail.com
@LeahPrencipe

A multi-skilled researcher devoted to evidence-, systems-, and policy- based approaches to improving health and wellbeing in vulnerable populations. Experienced in all phases of research design, from instrument development, to data collection, management, and analysis. Proficient in multiple statistical software programs, and published in multi disciplinary fields. Over 10 years of experience working with local partners, governments, implementers, and other researchers to better understand and promote the experiences and contexts of the populations we study.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social protection, cash transfers, multisectoral interventions, food security, adolescents, mental health, intimate partner violence, gender norms.

EDUCATION

2023 (Exp.)	Ph.D. in Social Epidemiology at the Department of Public Health, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam
1/2011	Master's of Public Health, Stony Brook University, State University of New York Concentration: Evaluative Sciences
5/2005	Bachelor of Arts, Major: English, Minor: Sociology, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Erasmus MC Rotterdam • Junior Researcher (3/2019 – present)

- Examine the impacts of social protection programs in Tanzania on mental health using data from two UNICEF evaluations.
- Identify social determinants of mental health among Tanzanian adolescents to better inform mechanisms for intervention effects.
- Explore awareness and perception of climate change among study participants, and examine the relationships between climate vulnerabilities, climate distress, and mental health.

UNICEF Office of Research—Innocenti • Social and Economic Policy Consultant (3/2015 – present)

- Conduct research on the impacts and pathways of cash transfers on child health, nutrition, schooling, adolescent well-being, mental health, IPV, and fertility using experimental and quasi-experimental, longitudinal methods. Focal country: Tanzania.
- Manage longitudinal, household datasets and perform tasks including data checks, cleaning, and analysis.
- Support training and fieldwork for primary data collection, including questionnaire and protocol development, development of enumerator training manuals, co-facilitation of enumerator training, fieldwork observation, and data checks.
- Contribute to dissemination of research findings through peer-reviewed publications, working papers, research briefs and blogs.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) • Researcher (4/2014 – 12/2015) • Research Associate (9/2011 – 4/2014) • Data Analyst (Consultant) (1 – 9/2011).

- Impact evaluation and fieldwork of the Government of Zambia’s multiple social cash transfers, Government of Zimbabwe’s social cash transfer, focus on child health, nutrition, and education outcomes (2011 – 2015).
- Impact evaluation and fieldwork of Zambia’s First 1000 Days Program. The multi-faceted nutrition program implemented by the Government of Zambia, focuses on child development during the crucial 1000 days of life (2014 – 2015).
- Impact evaluation and fieldwork of World Bank’s Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF), Evaluation of the Save the Children Early Childhood Stimulation Program. Contributed to instruments and study design to evaluate impacts on infant and young child feeding and development outcomes (2013 – 2015).
- Supported technical aspects for President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) activities on the STEP-Up project, including overseeing activities at pop-up health market fairs which promote HIV testing and counseling at schools in Zambia (2014 – 2015).
- Supported World Bank evaluation of Early Literacy Interventions in Mozambique. Conducted field work and data management activities (2013 – 2014).
- Facilitated model construction and aided in predictor selection for the Massachusetts Department of Education, Massachusetts Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) (2011 – 2012).
- Supported analysis, data management, and fieldwork for an evaluation of Children’s Literature Initiative (CLI), a literature program focused on impacts on education outcomes, particularly reading scores (2011 – 2012).

World Bank • Short Term Consultant, Health, Nutrition and Population Department (10/2010 – 9/2011).

- Analyzed health data from multiple nationally representative surveys for outcomes in equity in health spending, health utilization, and health outcomes, such as malnutrition and mortality rates of children under age 5 (2010 – 2011).

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Prencipe, L, Houweling, TAJ, van Lenthe, FJ, Kajula, L, Palermo, T. (2022). “Effects of adolescent-focused integrated social protection on depression: A pragmatic cluster-randomised controlled trial of Tanzania’s Cash Plus intervention.” *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 191(9), 1601-1613.

Novignon J, **Prencipe L**, Molotsky A, Spektor G, de Groot R, Palermo T. (2022). “The impact of unconditional cash transfers on morbidity and health seeking behavior in Africa: Evidence from Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.” *Health Policy and Planning*, 37(5), 607-623.

Palermo T, **Prencipe L**, Kajula L, on behalf of the Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team. (2021). “Government implemented cash plus model reduces violence experiences and perpetration among adolescents in Tanzania.” *American Journal of Public Health*, 111(12), 2227-2238.

Prencipe L, Houweling TAJ, Van Lenthe FJ, Palermo T. (2021). “Do conditional cash transfers improve mental health? Evidence from Tanzania’s governmental social protection programme.” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 69(5), 797-805.

Prencipe, L, Houweling, TAJ, van Lenthe, FJ, Palermo, T, Kajula, L. (2021). "Exploring multilevel social determinants of depressive symptoms for Tanzanian adolescents: evidence from a cross-sectional study." *J Epidemiol Community Health*, 79(10) , 944-954.

Chzhen, Y, **Prencipe, L**, Etaama, F, Luchemba, P, Lukongo, TM, Palermo, T. (2020). “Impacts of a Cash Plus intervention on gender attitudes among Tanzanian adolescents.” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 68(5), 899-905.

Hall BJ, Garabiles MR, de Hoop J, Pereira A, **Prencipe L**, Palermo T. (2019). “Perspectives of adolescent and young adults on poverty-related stressors: a qualitative study in Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania.” *BMJ open*, 9(10):e027047.

Kilburn, K, **Prencipe, L**, Hjelm, L, Peterman, A, Handa, S, & Palermo, T. (2018). “Examination of performance of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale Short Form 10 among African youth in poor, rural households.” *BMC psychiatry*, 18(1), 201.

Palermo T, Handa S, Peterman Amber, **Prencipe L**, & Seidenfeld D. (2016). “Unconditional government social cash transfer in Africa does not increase fertility.” *Popul Econ* 29: 1083.

Seidenfeld D, Handa S, Tembo G, Michelo S, Harland Scott C, & **Prencipe L**. (2014). “The impacts of an unconditional cash transfer on food security and nutrition: the Zambia child grant program.” *Institute of Development Studies (IDS)*, Special collection on child nutrition in Zambia.

SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION AND IN PREPARATION

Prencipe, L, Houweling, TAJ, van Lenthe, FJ, Palermo, T, Kajula, L. “Awareness and distress over climate change among Tanzanian Youth: a cross-sectional study.” *In progress*

Waidler, J, **Prencipe, L**, Nyasha Tirivayi, Palermo, T, on Behalf of the Tanzania Adolescent Cash Plus Evaluation Team. “Long-run gendered impacts and moderating factors of a Cash Plus programme in Tanzania.” *In progress*

Prencipe, L, Houweling, TAJ, van Lenthe, FJ, Palermo, T, Kajula, L. “Adolescent mental health and risky sexual behaviors among Tanzanian adolescents: a longitudinal study.” *In preparation*.

WORKING PAPERS, TECHNICAL REPORTS, RESEARCH BRIEFS, OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. Palermo, T, Zuilkowski, S, Quinones, S, Marwerwe, G, Kihanzah, H, **Prncipe, L**, Kajula, L, & Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team. (2021). *Real-time monitoring of COVID-19 impact among adolescents and young people, their families, and communities in Southern Highlands regions in Tanzania. – Final Report*. Dar es Salaam and Buffalo, UNICEF Tanzania and University at Buffalo.
2. Palermo, T, Zuilkowski, S, Quinones, S, Marwerwe, G, Kihanzah, H, **Prncipe, L**, Kajula, L, & Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team. (2021). *COVID-19 knowledge, practices, and impacts on healthseeking and provision of health services in rural Tanzania – Research Brief*. Dar es Salaam and Buffalo, UNICEF Tanzania and University at Buffalo.
3. Zuilkowski, S, Quinones, S, Marwerwe, G, Kihanzah, HM, **Prncipe, L**, Kajula, L., Palermo, T, on Behalf of the Tanzania Adolescent Cash Plus Evaluation Team. (2021). *Mental health, violence and adolescent vulnerability impacts of COVID-19 in Tanzania - Research Brief*. Dar es Salaam and Buffalo, UNICEF Tanzania and University at Buffalo.
4. Palermo, T, Zuilkowski, S, Quinones, S, Marwerwe, G, Kihanzah, H, **Prncipe, L**, Kajula, L, & Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team. (2021). *COVID-19 knowledge, practices, and impacts on healthseeking and provision of health services in rural Tanzania – Research Brief*. Dar es Salaam and Buffalo, UNICEF Tanzania and University at Buffalo.
6. (Contributor) Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team (2020). *A Cash Plus Model for Safe Transitions to Healthy and Productive Adulthood: Wave 3 Report*, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Florence, Italy.
7. (Contributor) Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team (2020). *A Cash Plus Model for Safe Transitions to Healthy and Productive Adulthood: Midline Report*, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Florence, Italy.
8. (Contributor) Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team. (2018). *Ujana Salama: Cash plus model on youth well-being and safe, healthy transitions. Transfer Project Brief 2018-06*. Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, UNC-Chapel Hill.
9. (Contributor) Tanzania Cash Plus Evaluation Team (2018). *A Cash Plus Model for Safe Transitions to Healthy and Productive Adulthood: Baseline Report*, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Florence.
10. Roelen, K.; Palermo, T. and **Prncipe, L**. (2018) '*Cash Plus*': *Linking Cash Transfers to Services and Sectors, Innocenti Research Briefs 2018-19*, Florence: UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Florence, Italy.
11. **Prncipe L**. (2018). *PSSN impact evaluation: Youth well-being and the transition to adulthood. Transfer Project Brief 2018-05*. Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, UNC-Chapel Hill.
12. **Prncipe L**. (2018). *Evaluating impacts of the PSSN on youth transitions to adulthood in Tanzania. Transfer Project Brief 2018-04*. Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, UNC-Chapel Hill.
13. Palermo T, Myamba F, **Prncipe L**, Hjelm L, Peterman A. (2017). *Tanzania Youth Study: Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) Impact Evaluation: Baseline Report*. UNICEF Office of Research and REPOA. Florence, Italy/Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
14. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2016). *Zambia's Child Grant Program (CGP): 48-month impact report*. Washington, DC.
15. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2015). *Zambia's Multiple Category Targeting Grant (MCTG): 36-Month Impact Report*. Washington, DC.
16. Palermo T, Handa S, Peterman A, **Prncipe L**, on behalf of the Zambia CGP Evaluation Team. "Unconditional Government Social Cash Transfer in Africa Does not Increase Fertility." UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti Working Paper. WP-2015-09. Florence, Italy. <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/785>
17. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2014). *Process Evaluation of Zimbabwe's Harmonised Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) Programme*. Washington, DC.
18. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2014). *12-Month Impact Report for Zimbabwe's Harmonised Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) Programme*. Washington, DC.

19. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2014). *Zambia's Multiple Category Targeting Grant (MCTG): 24-Month Impact Report*. Washington, DC.
20. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2014). *Zambia's Child Grant Program (CGP): 30-Month Impact Report..* Washington, DC.
21. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2013). *Zambia's Child Grant Program (CGP): 24-Month Impact Report..* Washington, DC.
22. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2012). *Zambia's Multiple Category Targeting Grant (MCTG): Baseline Report*. Washington, DC.
23. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2011). *Zambia's Child Grant Programme (CGP): Baseline Report*. Washington, DC.
24. (Contributor) American Institutes for Research. (2011). *Results of the Three Year Impact Evaluation of Zambia's Cash Transfer Program in Monze District*. Washington, DC.

PRESENTATIONS

“Can integrated social protection improve adolescent mental health? Results from a cluster-RCT of Tanzania’s Cash Plus intervention.” Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, Department of Public Health, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, January 24th, 2022.

"Social Determinants of Mental Health: Research in Context." Virtual guest lecture Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, October 12th 2021.

“Government implemented cash plus model reduces violence experiences and perpetration among adolescents in Tanzania.” Poster presentation at AIDS 2020 23rd International AIDS Conference. San Francisco, CA, USA. July 6-10, 2020.*

“Impacts of a Cash Plus intervention on gender attitudes among Tanzanian adolescents.” Virtual presentation to European Joint Research Centre Seminar Series. Ispra, Italy, June 26, 2020.

“Examining the impacts of Cash Plus on mental health in rural Tanzania using a randomized control trial.” Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research: CHAIN Kick-off Meeting, Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Trondheim, Norway: April 9, 2019.

“Can cash transfers mitigate the risk of violence?” IATT on HIV Sensitive Social Protection. UNAIDS Secretariat, Geneva Switzerland: February 7, 2019.

“The impact of large-scale programs on structural determinants among youth in sub-Saharan Africa.” HIV-sensitive social protection webinar, organized by UNICEF ESARO: May 8, 2017.

“Impact Evaluation of a Tanzanian Conditional Cash Transfer (TASAF III/PSSN) on Youth Well-being and the Transition to Adulthood: Baseline Findings.” Presented to Government, Development Partners and Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) at Baseline Dissemination Workshop. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: October 21, 2016.*

“Cash Plus: An adolescent livelihoods and bundled sexual and reproductive health pilot.” Presentation to Livelihoods Enhancement Technical Working Group (Members include ILO, UNICEF, TASAF and Fundacion Capital). Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: July 15, 2016.*

“Unconditional Government Social Cash Transfer in Africa Does not Increase Fertility.” Population Association of American Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 1, 2016.*

“Adolescent Well-Being and the Transition to Adulthood: Evidence from the Transfer Project on impacts of social cash transfers.” Transfer Project 5th Research Meeting. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: March 6, 2016. https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/?page_id=3626*

“The Impacts of an Unconditional Cash Transfer on Food Security and Nutrition: The Zambia Child Grant Program.” Paper presented at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Special Collection Launch, Lusaka, Zambia: September, 2014.

“The Impacts of an Unconditional Cash Transfer on Early Childhood Development: The Zambia Child Grant Program.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) annual international conference, Segovia, Spain: September, 2014.

“Child Grant Baseline Report.” Presented to the Zambian Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), Lusaka, Zambia: October, 2011.*

*Presented by co-Author

BLOGS

Prencipe L. Turning cash into goats: The cash transfer effect in Tanzania: October 2016.
<https://blogs.unicef.org/evidence-for-action/turning-cash-into-goats-the-cash-transfer-effect-in-tanzania/>

SKILLS

Field research Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh.

Computer skills: Stata, RStudio, SAS, CS-pro, ADepT.

Languages: English (native); Spanish (intermediate); Italian (beginner); Dutch (beginner).

References available upon request.