



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Contributing to poverty eradication: Social protection floors

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Social Assistance as part of SP has positive impacts and helps to set floors

Evidence (mostly from cash transfer programs) shows:

- Poverty reduction
- Consumption and food consumption increases (+affordability, but limited)
- Diet diversification (and no evidence on consumption of temptation goods)
- Evidence on the increase consumption of specific goods (animal protein, fruits and vegetables)
- Impacts in local economies can have positive effects on local food production (raising prices?)
- Reduces negative impacts of shocks (Covid19 evidence: Niger, Ethiopia, Brazil, Argentina, Peru)
- Plus....extensive outreach (already serving hundreds of millions of people!), rapid horizontal and vertical expansion during Covid19 crises.



Good, but not enough!



SP floors benefit when including social assistance + Economic Inclusion

- ❑ Increasingly SP efforts include Economic Inclusion (EI) interventions
 - More than 200 identified EI interventions around the globe
 - Cost effective interventions
 - Positive impacts in generating sustainable income streams for poor households, food consumption and diversification, health outcomes, increase resilience, etc.
- ❑ Thus, SP that includes EI (or productive inclusion interventions) are an “upgrade”; they complement cash transfer programs.
- ❑ Used as Covid19 response

*State of Economic Inclusion Report 2020*** (WB) reports implementation details (costs, components) and impact evidence.

- Based on 107 impact evaluations of 80 EI programs (in 37 countries)
- 51/68 reported significant positive impacts in income and revenue
- 37/52 in consumption
- 22/33 in income diversification
- 50/64 in assets
- 37/45 in savings
- 10/15 in child health and nutrition

Better, but still not enough!



SP floors need more: to have all at once and an enabling environment

SP

Targeted and universal programs (cash transfers, pensions, etc.) plus
Economic inclusion

Health services

Health services
Information (home visits)
Inputs

Basic infrastructure

Clean water, electricity, communications, etc.

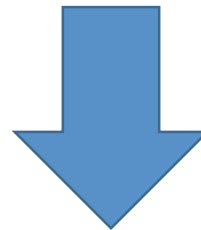
Food systems: from field to fork

Productive services and access to jobs

Agriculture: technical assistance, credit, information,
technology, etc.
Job training, information, job opportunities, etc.

Quality private and public services

Transparent and efficient marketplaces
Financial services
Education and information
....and much more



The challenge is to have a joint, articulated, provision of all these interventions (coordination among providing sectors, governmental levels and with a territorial view!)



How to set articulated interventions?

- Prioritize a minimum package of interventions
- Common –explicit- strategies and goals
 - Who needs to intervene, where, to obtain what result (for whom)
 - Political support
- Flexible operation rules to allow adaptation to different groups and contexts
- Institutionalization of articulated interventions
 - Budgetary mechanisms (Results based budgets)
 - Mandatory cross sectoral commitments
 - Articulated planning and accountability
 - Incentives (positive and negative)
- Territorial coordination
- Common databases, joint administrative data

■ **SP has the potential to be at the center of such articulated interventions and build a social protection floor**

- Several good examples around Covid19 responses (through expansion of cash transfer and in kind food distribution), early childhood development interventions, and reduction of stunting.



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