Social protection and its contribution to social inclusion

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Social Exclusion framework

- **Social Exclusion** – as a framework/theory/concept vs. descriptive term

- Key analytical components:
  - **Dimensions of well-being** – i.e., ability to earn income, access services, participate in social and political life and other societal activities
  - **Drivers of poverty and vulnerability** that restrict capabilities and opportunities

- Allows linking well-being with broader contextual conditions and factors – including institutions, norms and policies
Dimensions and drivers of social exclusion

[Diagram showing the dimensions and drivers of social exclusion]

- Exclusion from income
- Exclusion from services
- Exclusion from participation
- Informal norms and practices
- Limited human capabilities
- Life-course vulnerabilities
- Legal norms and rights
- Poor governance
- Public policy and institutions
Provides limited income support:

• Complements household income
• Food, mid-day school meals, school supplies, transportation to health care facilities, clothes for festivals
• Limited value - NPR200 (US$2) per month or one eighth of the 2010/2011 poverty line (person/month)
• Irregular, partial payments
• Lump-sum is more useful for major expenses (e.g. health shocks)
Key drivers of poverty and inequality remain:
• Geographic isolation and harsh topography in Karnali
• Expensive agricultural inputs
• Poor quality of public schools contributes to a dual system - producing inequalities in outcomes
• Limited capacity of local health posts generates reliance on private clinics for treatment – contributes to indebtedness and long travel time
• Poor local governance – affects Child Grant delivery as well as people’s access to opportunities more generally
Addressing drivers of social exclusion

- **Conditional Cash Transfers** seek to address behavioral factors that limit access to education and health/nutrition monitoring and address affordability.
- Improved school enrolment and attendance; regular health/nutrition monitoring – positive implications for labour market productivity and well-being.
- Some evidence of improved health outcomes, limited evidence of effects on learning outcomes (e.g. no impact in Brazil).
- Some evidence that conditionalities matter, but so does cash support (and perhaps information & outreach).
Addressing drivers of social exclusion

• **Social health protection** - addresses obstacles to health care utilisation
• **Institutionalised inclusive access**
• **Cash transfers** improve access/utilisation through income support without altering structural barriers – e.g. user charges, informal fees, etc.
• **Old-age pensions, disability assistance** – addressing old-age vulnerabilities driven by limited ability to take part in the labour market
Conclusions

• SP can contribute to well-being, without addressing drivers of poverty and vulnerability

• SP well-being effects vary depending on design and implementation

• Understand combined income effect of social transfers
Conclusions

• SP can address drivers of poverty and vulnerability

• More evidence on long-term SP impacts is required

• Need for broader contextual analysis for establishing SP potential to challenge causes of social exclusion

• Social protection alone is not enough - need for institutional/policy coordination and integrated approaches