

# Social Funds: History, Concept, Issues



#### SFs, SIFs, MPs: A Methodology

- Project Financing Mechanism
  - Canvass Select Finance Monitor
- Local proposals & implementation
  - By villages, CBOs, NGOs, LGs
  - Typical projects : small-scale infrastructure, IG and social support
- Quasi-governmental
  - Para-statal, outside ministries & LG structure

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# History & Geography

- Bolivia ESF 1986 first formal SF
  - now WB SF's in 50 countries
  - many projects have SF characteristics
- Latin America
  - 16 SFs. Big.
    - Paraguay \$31m; Dominican Rep \$44m up to
    - Peru \$890m; Colombia \$1.25bn.
  - IADB is main funder
- Africa
  - Growing post structural adjustment- mainly WB

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# History & Geography

- Europe
  - Transition & post-conflict countries
- Asia : Few and New
  - World Bank 8 SFs \$660m (o/w Thailand \$460)
  - History of public works and state social protection (esp. Communist countries)
- OECD
  - Private Foundations & Lottery Funds



#### 6 possible objectives

- Short-term labour
- 2. Social & economic infrastructure
- 3. Non-infrastructure IG & services
  - microfinance, training etc. (needs intermediaries)
- 4. Private sector promotion
  - construction industry skills, tendering, contracting
- 5. Civil society strengthening
  - community motivation, organisation, contracting
- 6. Decentralization
  - SF linkages to LG



# Trade-offs amongst Objectives

- Often under-specified in SF design
  - max job-creation vs. good infrastructure
  - fast disbursement vs. community outreach
  - SF independence vs. state-building
  - infrastructure formation vs. sector strategies and SWAPs
  - new 'community' systems vs. decentralisation
- SF Evaluations
  - What was to be maximised?



#### Participation

- Who and How?
  - adverse selection
  - elite capture
  - outreach & project development support : time and cost
- Who is not participating?



# SF Popularity 1

- Multi-purpose
  - post-structural adjustment & ec. crisis
  - post-conflict & natural disaster
  - chronic & acute poverty
  - rural & urban.
  - refugee resettlement
  - ethnic minority communities



# SF Popularity 2

- Efficient Financial Targeting
  - Region, district, county, village, quarter
  - Dependant on poverty/needs data
- Participatory
  - Community selection, implementation, management, o&m
  - Allocative efficiency
  - CS Building
- Innovation & Modelling
  - Local choice, participatory, pro-poor

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#### SF Popularity 3: They Deliver

- Governance
  - Special Board: usually under PM, President, MoF
- Management Unit
  - relative independence
  - freedom from CS rules
  - salary, recruitment, procurement, sub-contracting
  - donor reporting disciplines
  - larger SFs : local offices
- ⇒ Efficient, effective, corruption-free
  - But not always....



#### Problem 1 : Sustainability

- Institutional : modelling for whom ?
  - Disconnect with ministry/LG systems
    - staffing, management, planning, budgeting, procurement
- Financial : Capital
  - most SFs highly donor dependant
  - LM & LG resentment political opposition
- Financial : Recurrent
  - Disconnect with
    - national and local revenue flows o&m
    - budget formation and execution



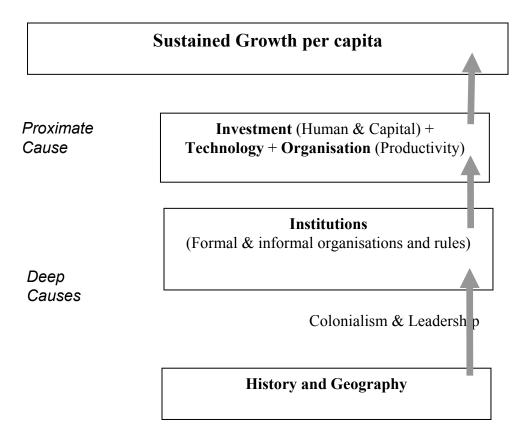
#### Problem II: Governance & ID

- Strengthening LG systems?
- Strengthening LM systems?
- Opportunity Cost ?
- Diverting political, human, financial capital away from GG & ID ?

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# Poverty Reduction





#### SF Impact on Poverty

- ✓ Proximate causes
   (local demand, clinics, schools, irrigation etc)
- ? Deep causes
  - Nat/Sub-national Governance & Dec'n ?
  - Sector planning, financing, Eff&Eff, o&m?
  - Capacity draining ?
  - Political opportunity cost ?



- Development challenge
  - poor infrastructure or poor institutions ?
- Decentralisation
  - national & system : political, admin, financial
- cf Uganda LG development financing
  - LGA 1997 & LGFAR 1998
  - DDP (UN) & LGDP (WB)
  - statute-based + performance standards + central monitoring
  - incentive & penalty systems