Accelerating a Targeting Best Practice

The Case of Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP)

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Outline

- Country Profile
- Poverty profile in Malawi
- Objectives of Social Cash Transfer Programme
- Targeting process
- New reform
- Strategies
- Benefits
- Potential Challenges
- Recommendations/ Way forward
Country Profile

- Population: 14 million
- Area: 118,484 Sq. Km
- GDP: 3.705 Billion USD (2013)
- Poverty rate: 50.7 %
Poverty Profile in Malawi

- **Employment**
- **Skill building**
- **Capital creation**
- **Productive Assets**
- **Protection from asset/capital erosion**
- **Survival**
- **Investment in human capital**

**Categories and Their Social Protection Needs**

- **Moderately Poor**
- **Unemployment & Incapacitated**
- **Ultra Poor with Labour Capacity**
- **Ultra Poor & Incapacitated**

**Potential Social Protection Programmes/Interventions**

- **Promotion through Productivity Enhancement**
  - Micro-finance
  - Village Savings & Loans
  - Public Works Programmes

- **Protection of Assets**
  - Public Works Programmes
  - School Meals Programme

- **Provision**
  - School Meals Programme
  - Social Cash Transfer Programme
Objectives of SCTP

- To contribute to national efforts to reduce poverty and hunger among ultra poor and labor constrained households.

- To increase school enrolment and attendance of children living in target group households.

- To improve health, nutrition, protection and well-being of vulnerable children in target group households.
Challenges – old approach

- Delays in data collection resulting from the use of largely low levels of education of Community Social Support Committee members
  - Need for rigorous data validation
- Delay in processing data due to connectivity problems
- Delay in completing targeting in a district due to a limited number of clusters targeted at a time
  - Increased waiting time for beneficiaries
New Reform

- Reduce targeting process period from 2 Years to 6 months in a district
- Reduce waiting time for beneficiaries to start receiving transfers
- Reduce operational costs of targeting
- Use combination of Community Social Support Committee (CSSC) and Extension workers to collect data
- Increase quality and reliability of the data
Strategies

- Increased number of extension workers from 3 to 6 per cluster and reduce number of CSSC from 9 to 6
- Increased number of data entry clerks from 10 to 14 per district
- Increased District Training Team from 10 to 28
- Increased number of targeted Clusters from 5 to 14 at a time
- Intensified supervision by the central level
- Scaling up to the whole district at once
Targeting Process

**District Level**
- Calls for 1st Community Meeting
- Data entry & ranking
- Data entry, final ranking & calculation of amounts
- Final approval/selection @ DSSC meeting/Selection in MIS

**Community Level**
- 1st Community Meeting/election of CSSC
- Data collection by CSSCs
- Training of CSSCs
- Second Community Meeting: adjust ranking if needed
- Data collection for all appealing households
- Third Community Meeting: enrolment/pictures, etc

Supervised by Extension Workers
Benefits

- Reduction in implementation costs
- Improved data quality and reliability
- Improved data management
- Timely and regular delivery of transfers
- 300,000 Households (1.5 million individuals) will be reached by 2016)
Potential challenges

- High cost of technology needed to support this reform
- Limited control over extension workers since they are answerable to their employers
- Limited access to vehicles to be used for the activity
- Inadequate number of staff at the district
- The cost of training staff to use this technology
Recommendations/Way forward

- Use potential savings from the programme to meet the cost of required technology
- Advocate for improvement of infrastructure to support the new reform,
- Evaluate the impact of the new reform in terms of the cost
- Increase number of Social Support Services officers from 2 to 4 per district
- Procure additional vehicles to reduce dependency on other sectors
Thank you very much
Zikomo kwambiri
Shukran gazelan
Siyabonga
Murakoze cane
Bayarlalaa