

GRADUATION CONDITIONALITIES AND INCENTIVES

<https://vimeo.com/161967084>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR_MPaFgzgY
&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR_MPaFgzgY&feature=youtu.be)

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What Does Graduation Mean?

A client graduates from a SSN when the client can take care of herself/himself and the family and is no longer vulnerable due to abilities or income shocks, is self reliant and no longer requires support from a Safety Net

WHEN CAN PEOPLE GRADUATE?

People exit from Safety Nets only when they experience through evidence that they can do so. Which means that, they are able to take care of themselves and when :

There is a reduction of disincentives to leave the SSN program which means that there are the necessary productive and social conditions or incentives in place that allow people to earn livelihoods.

First and Foremost Critical and Key Conditions for Graduation

Social Safety Nets such as Cash Transfers, In-kind transfers and other Services must be:

- Timely: Delivered and received without delays.
- Reliable: they must be in the amount that was stipulated.
- Regular: Delivered as scheduled-so that households can plan their monthly budgets in advance.

Planning and Delivering for Graduation Requires Coordination

- Graduation is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Protection alone—it depends on many agencies and Ministries working together:
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Veterinary Services and their extension agents.
- Ministry of Health and health extension workers, medical workers, vaccinations etc.
- Ministry of Education and school teachers
- Ministry of Finance; Cooperatives, Banks, regulations.
- Land Cadaster.
- Department of Statistics
- Ministry of Social Protection and Labor.

Graduation Planning Requires Assessment of Livelihood Opportunities Where Clients are located.

Irrigation/water table

Types of crops

Types of commerce and trade

Status of farm to market roads

Transportation availability.

Environmental considerations.

Skills levels.

Assessment of economic and social power relationships.

Social and Economic status of SSN Clients: Are they daily wage earners on large farms or do they own land.

Presence of Government and other agencies—Agriculture, health, education, financial services, cell phone coverage.

Conditions for Graduation

- Peace in the region and in the locality (War and production of cash crops only are a major cause of famine)
- Potable safe drinking water
- Irrigation
- Farm to market roads.
- Health services.
- Sewage systems
- Solar energy and electricity.
- Banking services.
- Land rights.
- Production of food crops along side cash crops.
- Timely and relevant training and extension services and case work for households through out the year.
- Safeguarding of Minorities Rights
- Women Rights
- Minimum disruption to the normal income earning and daily responsibilities of households.
- Support focused on building household food security, health and assets of households---

All Support should be Evaluated on the Basis of Whether it Creates Added Burden or Added Value for Households

Some examples:

- Savings versus Loans.
- Conditionalities: Can they be met by clients or are they simply an added burden without added value (Excessive documentation, or stipulations to attend too many community meetings. Type of public works: Do they add economic value to households or are they physically taxing and time consuming and simply a conditionality for receiving a cash transfer.
- Training: Just in time, regular with follow up and relevant or irrelevant and time consuming for the context of the trainee.

GRADUATION STRATEGIES SHOULD BE SPECIFIC TO CONTEXT

One size does not fit all.

Income earning opportunities need to be specific to households depending on household skills and constraints.

Livelihood possibilities and challenges are different in different parts of a country depending on climate and geography and access to services.

All households can be vulnerable but not in the same way and not necessarily at the same time.

Building the capacity of the most able to graduate households within a community first would increase the chances of future graduation by more vulnerable households later.

Cash Transfers tend to have a significant multiplier effect in local communities and help in building local economies.