Nuts and Bolts of SPL systems in Urban Areas: from Strategy to Delivery

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Main points to consider…

• Despite often smaller poverty rates, absolute number of poor is high.
• Complexity of urban poverty and its dynamics - including specific marginalized populations i.e. homeless and migrants - makes delivery of social programs a challenge.
  – We know much about delivering services and programs to a quite chronic and static environment.
  – We know little about delivering services and programs in urban areas since the agenda on urban safety nets is new.
• Non-monetary aspects of poverty in urban areas are more acute, and monetary transfers are not enough to attract the poor to social protection.
• Quality, access and capacity to provide services, skills/jobs training…
• Alignment with the economic development, offering packages of programs that span levels of government and sectors and engagement with local governments, communities and civil society would improve take-up and inclusion.
• Benefiting from technology for better planning (mapping, GIS …) and delivery and integration of services (electronic payment, electronic data collection …).
Main points to consider...

- **Mexico**
  - One need to diagnose the core issues for designing articulated policies with targeted programs to better protect and prevent families to fall into poverty.
  - Government must consider defining bottom-up policies that work closely with local authorities.
  - Assessment and transparency.

- **Philippines**
  - Informing the large audience (National...Local..Media..) about the role of Listahanan to aid in the poverty alleviation in the country.
  - Importance of highlighting the complementarities with local databases (synergies).
  - Different strategies for enrollment and on targeting formula are used to better targeting in urban areas, including using provincial thresholds.
  - Needs to adapt methods for finding homeless street and itinerant families, as well as indigenous people for bridging program to enable Homeless Street Families to access and be mainstreamed in the Pantawid Pamilya.

- **Palestine**
  - A strategy is in place for provision of social transfers, social services and social security for its population to fight poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion.
  - Coordination with different line ministers, civil society and donors allows MoSA to delivery multi and bundle of programs.
  - Engages citizens, established beneficiary councils and series of consultation meetings with local communities.
  - Uses Geographic Information System and SMS to ensure transparency and equity and to communicate with beneficiaries.

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Main points to consider...

• Peru
  – Identifying differences in variables associated to poverty in urban and rural areas.
  – Importance of creating unique households IDs that connects all information from administrative and other databases.

• Benin
  – Less social cohesion in urban areas means more effort required to ensure that all poor households are located
  – Use of technology for data collection allows collection of GPS, collection of photos for ID card and on line supervision of data collection
  – Beneficiaries receive SIM card and a beneficiary ID card from GSM operator to allow identification of beneficiary to receive payment. GSM operator also updates regularly the payment database so that administration of program can keep track of payments at beneficiary level.
  – Limited coverage of National ID pushed government to provide an alternate ID scheme in coordination with the National Institute of Statistics and the National Health Insurance program

• Romania
  – Assessing current system lead to the reform of their flagship anti-poverty program (VMI)
    • Meet the poverty reduction target of the EU by 2020
    • Stimulate work, especially among low-income families
    • Improve efficiency by reducing costs, simplify eligibility, and modernize the administrative procedures at central, district and local levels.
  – Implementing VMI required: a revision of Regulatory framework, a preparation of an implementation support plan (unique ID issued/maintained by Civil registry, communication and outreach campaign, staff training and upgrades on payment/MIS)
  – Core activity: Linking VMI beneficiaries with Services – Employment services, education and children’s health, housing services and social services for vulnerable groups.
  – Special attention to indigent poor from marginalized communities identified through a process that combines geo-tracking that defines and helps identifying marginalized areas.