Use of technology for enrolment, payments and monitoring in urban areas.

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

Germain OUIN OURO
PSDCC (BENIN, West Africa)
The Program

Decentralized Community Driven Services Project
- Includes community-driven safety nets pilot

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:
- Test an approach to increase income and consumption and improve the ability to cope with shocks among targeted vulnerable population groups.

NATURE OF SUPPORT
- The program consists of: i) a basic unconditional cash transfer to all targeted households, and ii) labor-intensive public works for the same households to provide the opportunity to earn an additional transfer during the agricultural lean season.
The Program

**BENEFICIARIES:** 13,000

**LENGTH:** 24 Months

**COMPONENT BUDGET:** US$5 million

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:** 12 districts of the 77 in the country.

- Includes the country’s main urban area, Cotonou, which has a population of about 680,000 and 144 urban neighborhoods

- 1187 households participate in the program in the city’s 12 poorest neighborhoods.
Targeting approach: Communication

- National Guide for Targeting Poor Households
- Operational Manual for implementers
- Training modules for communities
- Sensitization of national and local authorities
Targeting approach: Creation of committees to identify the poorest households

- In each targeted neighborhood, community targeting committees are democratically elected during neighborhood assemblies.
- The committee members (7 to 10 per neighborhood with mandatory female representation) must have a good knowledge of the neighborhood and have a background in social assistance, charity work or identification of those in need.
Targeting approach: Training of committees to identify the poorest households

- Training modules explained the approach and defined the concepts of poverty, extreme poverty, and household
- Training sessions took place in one morning and the targeting began immediately afterward
- The lists of poor households produced by the committees were validated in public in another neighborhood assembly open to the public
- The households in the final validated list were administered the PMT survey to verify their poverty status

11 November 2015
Targeting approach: Particular issues

Specific problems encountered:

• Absence or mobility of heads of household because of seasonal or permanent migration
• Attempts to insert non-poor households into community-identified lists of poor households
• Less social cohesion in urban areas means more effort required to ensure that all poor households are located
• Otherwise, no large differences between urban and rural areas
Paperless PMT data collection

- Data collection for PMT uses Android smartphones
- Open-source (free) software developed by University of Washington (ODK)
- Software disallows out-of-range values
- Data collected for each household includes:
  - GPS location of HH (useful because no street addresses, and to verify that enumerator visited HH)
  - Photo of head of HH for ID card
  - HH roster
  - Info on HH assets and standard of living for PMT
- Offline data collection and uploading to database when network (Wi-Fi or mobile data) is available
PMT Interface

ODK Collect 1.3 (1030)
La collecte de données rendue plus facile...

Remplir un formulaire

Editer un Formulaire Sauvegardé

Envoyer un Formulaire Finalisé

Télécharger un formulaire vierge

Supprimer des Formulaires Sauvegardés

Prénom :
Paul

Sexe :
- masculin
- féminin

Age :
Entrez ‘999’ si inconnu

65

Situation matrimoniale :

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
0
Mapping using GPS data
Payments

- **Payment method used for the urban environment**: SIM card electronic payment (beneficiary does not need a cell phone)

- Beneficiary ID Card is produced by the GSM operator selected as the payment agency. The operator also provides a SIM card to all 1188 beneficiaries in Cotonou. Contract cost: 2.5% of the amount of transfers. This includes the establishment of identification cards, the supply of SIM cards, and the cost of transfers.

- The GSM operator has a copy of the beneficiary database, which allows for the monthly scheduled payment of all beneficiaries.

- Each head of the Social Promotion Centre has the database for its catchment area and handles any complaints about missed payments.

11 November 2015
Database updated every month by GSM operator

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Identification

• National identification card politicized and has limited coverage

• Therefore, the program has developed an alternate ID scheme in coordination with the National Institute of Statistics and the National Health Insurance program

• This ID scheme is common to all beneficiaries in the national registry
Challenges of Implementation in Urban Areas

• Encourage municipality to integrate small social protection programs across the city to help lift beneficiaries of insecurity and improve their resilience to extreme poverty

• Strengthen the identification system to make it more secure in order to strengthen the credibility of the program

• Ensure proper management of complaints to minimize fraudulent manipulation and other sources of frustration
Opportunities/Lessons

• Urban targeting can be more challenging than in rural areas because of lack of social cohesion. But urban targeting can be greatly facilitated by good administrative arrangements and good community organization.

• In the absence of reliable administrative data on the identity of beneficiaries, identification by a reliable database may be an intermediate remedy that can limit fraud.

• GSM payments are relatively uncomplicated and inexpensive.