POWER OF DATA
GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF SSN/SA PROGRAMS
KEY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF ASPIRE ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

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Social Safety Nets and Delivery Course
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ASPIRE administrative data universe
– Number of SSN/SA programs
The ASPIRE administrative data universe – capturing almost 3,000 individual SSN/SA programs from 144 countries representing 80% of the global population.
AFR, ECA and LAC are regions with the largest number of programs – together accounting for 77% of the total.

Figure: Number of SSN Programs, by Region
Most programs belong to the UCT category (27% of total), with in-kind and social pensions also significant; other SA (social services) is an elephant in the room.

Figure: Number of SSN Programs, by Category
On average, countries have 22 SSN programs; LAC, ECA and SAR have a higher number of programs than global average.
However, significant country variations in the N of programs are hidden behind averages; in LAC, for example, Bolivia has 12 SSN programs, while Chile has 150!

Figure: Number of SSN Programs, by Country within LAC Region
There is generally no correlation between N of SSN programs and country’s level of economic development; countries at a similar development level can have dramatically different N of programs.

Figure: Number of SSN Programs vs. per capita GDP
Global number of SSN/SA program beneficiaries

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The administrative data captures 2.6 billion beneficiaries, which represents the coverage rate of 43%!

(note: this coverage rate is similar to that one estimated from HH surveys (SSN 2018 Report), and the one reported by ILO in their global report)

Figure: Global Number of SSN Beneficiaries, Actual (2.6bn) vs. Estimate (3.2bn) if the Same Level of Coverage Holds for Missing Countries
EAP (driven by China), SAR (India and Bangladesh) and LAC are the regions with the highest number of beneficiaries.

Figure: Total Number of SSN beneficiaries, by Region
Large (population) countries account for the bulk of beneficiaries; 89 countries (64%) have few programs than the global average of 22

Figure: Total Number of SSN beneficiaries & Number of programs, by country
Coverage rates by SSN program category and region/country

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In terms of the overall coverage rates, while the global country average is 43%, regional averages differ from 16% in AFR to 84% in LAC.

(Note: The coverage rates based on administrative data are prone to the “noise” due to potential cases of double-counting – a single person receiving multiple programs.)

Figure: Coverage - Beneficiaries as % of Population, by Region
In terms of the coverage rates, ECA and LAC lead in cash transfers, while LAC, MNA and EAP dominate in non-cash assistance (Note: Cash includes UCTs, CCTs and Social Pensions; Non-cash includes school feeding, public works, in-kind, fee waivers and other SA)

Figure: Coverage - Beneficiaries as % of Population (Cash vs. Non-Cash), by Region
In terms of the coverage rates by *type of SSN instrument*, in-kind social support and fee waivers are still most significant, followed closely by UCTs.

Figure: Coverage - Beneficiaries as % of Global Population, by Instrument
Trends and interesting facts

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It is clear though that the relative importance of the cash transfers (vs. non-cash) increases with the country income status

(Note: Cash includes UCTs, CCTs and Social Pensions; Non-cash includes school feeding, public works, in-kind, fee waivers and other SA)
Absolute levels of cash assistance coverage also tend to rise with the country income status (driven mostly by UCT component)

(Note: Cash includes UCTs, CCTs and Social Pensions)

Figure: Coverage - Beneficiaries (Cash Assistance) as % of Population vs. GDP per Capita
The reliance on in-kind social assistance tends to first go up as countries develop (until middle income status), and then goes down as HICs tend to rely predominantly on cash transfers.

(Note: Red dots indicate countries where over 60% of the SSN expenditure is driven by donor agencies. Chad & South Sudan are 100% driven by donors.)
Thank you!

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