Addressing Inequality with Vulnerable Populations

FORUM ON INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN GLOBALLY (IYCG)

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March 15, 2015

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The Problem

1. Those most likely to benefit from ECD are the least likely to participate.
2. Governments cannot afford ECD for all (or believe they cannot afford it).

Part of the answer: Targeting
Targeting Early Childhood programs towards vulnerable populations

- The what and how of targeting
- Financial targeting of ECD
- Delivery targeting of ECD
- Challenges
What is targeting?

Universalism vs. Targeting

- **Universalism**: programs concern the entire population
  - Is it cost-effective?
  - Impact on poorer households
- **Targeting** or selectivity: programs benefit the disadvantaged
  - How to include poor households?
  - How to exclude non-poor households?
- **Trade-off** between equity and efficiency
- **Effects on programs’ quality**
  (Dotterer et al. 2012)
Ways to target

- Build on other programs that do target
- **Geographic targeting** to identify poor neighborhoods, villages, etc.
- **Proxy Means Testing** based on survey data to identify the poorest within poor areas
- **Local validation** to include eligible households and resolve disputed cases
  - PROGRESA – Oportunidades local meetings in Mexico
  - Social Safety Net (SSN) committees in Sierra Leone

→ Successful targeting builds upon:
  - Robust data on households’ characteristics, income levels, etc.
  - Transparency and accountability throughout the household identification process
Financial targeting of Early Childhood

Mechanisms to give disadvantaged families the power of purchasing ECD services

- **Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT)**
  - PROGRESA – Oportunidades in Mexico
  - Mas Familias en Accion in Colombia
  - South Africa Child Support Grant
  - Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) in Ghana

- **Vouchers**
  - Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme (PEVS) in Hong Kong
  - Vouchers’ scheme in Switzerland

- **Targeted social insurance policy**
  - Family allowances in Mali
Delivery targeting of ECD

Mechanisms to ensure ECD services reach those who need them the most

- **In-kind transfers**
  - Fighting / controlling malnutrition in food insecure areas in Mali

- **Bundled services** to answer multi-dimensional needs
  - Through centers:
    - Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in India
  - Home-based interventions:
    - Integrated Child Development Program (PIDI) in Bolivia
    - The Mother Child Education Program in Turkey

- **Innovative community-based interventions**
  - Brighter Futures Programme in Ghana
  - Kidogo in Kenya
Challenges

- Lack of consensus on targeting (vs. universalism)
- Data availability for targeting
- Risk of inconsistent targeting within programs that are not integrated
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