Social Protection for Food Security

Beyond production to improve food and nutrition security

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1. SP can play a key role in ensuring food security
2. To improve nutrition security, more is needed
3. Not all interventions work
4. Building systems is key to increase food and nutrition impacts
Social Protection and nutrition

Source: Adapted from Neufeld, 2006.
Social Protection along the lifecycle and its influence on food and nutrition security

**Equity:** Social pensions
**Resilience:** Old-age pensions, disability insurance

**Opportunity:** Employment services, entrepreneurship, training and skills
**Equity:** Cash and in-kind transfers, public works programs
**Resilience:** Unemployment, disability insurance

**Old age**
- Pregnancy, Early childhood
- School age
- Youth
- Working age

**Opportunity:** Nutrition/ECD, CCTs for pre-school, health
**Equity:** OVC programs, child allowances

**Opportunity:** CCTs for (girls’) education
**Equity:** Child allowances, school feeding

**Opportunity:** Youth employment programs, skills training
Social Protection can mean more and better food consumed
(Peru’s Juntos CCT)

Improved food security in Ethiopia: The Productive Safety Net Program

✓ Transfers to chronically food insecure
✓ Labor intensive public works and direct support
✓ Results:
  ▪ Improved food security by 0.9 months (26% improvement)
  ▪ Caloric intake 17% higher among beneficiaries.
  ▪ Livestock holdings increased by 30%.
  ▪ Improved resilience of households (62% avoided selling assets, 36% avoided using savings to buy food)
  ▪ 27% of beneficiaries used more healthcare.
  ▪ 19 p.p. increase in school attendance by boys.
### Enhancing the nutrition density of SP

#### Income
- Workfare that includes activities for women (childcare).
- Workfare activities to support smallholder productivity, access to health and clean water.

#### Link with services (Conditionality)
- Conditional transfers (CCT, Food Stamps).
- Food rations distributed in health centers.
- School feeding programs and health.

#### Micronutrient supplementation
- Conditional: Supplementary feeding programs (food rations in health centers, school feeding).
- Unconditional: Fortified rations.

#### Targeting the window of opportunity
- Preventive programs (community based GP, ECD).
- Explicit targeting to families with young children.
Nutrition sensitive designs

- School feeding + deworming
- CCT + micro-nutrient supplements that mothers use and are affordable
- Workfare + information about nutrition and different activities
Some interventions don’t work

- Consumption/input subsidies

Relative change in extreme poverty to food import price shock

Source: Global Monitoring Report 2012. Food Prices, Nutrition and the MDGs
Building systems

Policy Coherence

Coordination across programs

Administrative: Targeting, identification, enrolment, etc.
Conclusions

• Potential for strengthening nexus agriculture-social protection-nutrition.
• SP not a luxury: cost-effective but could be more so with better coordination with health & education and with agriculture/rural development (food production and processing, rural finance)