socialprotection.org presents the
Webinar Series on Gender-Sensitive Social Protection
holding its 5th session:

Gender Sensitive Social Protection in the Caribbean

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Raquel Tebaldi holds a B.A. in International Relations and a Master’s degree in Political Science from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, Brazil). She is currently a Research Assistant at the IPC-IG working with the Social Protection Gateway project.
Bénédicte de la Brière is a Lead Economist with the Gender Cross-Cutting Solutions Area of the World Bank Group. In this position, she works on women’s economic empowerment and access to assets and oversees the production of sex-disaggregated data. Prior to this assignment, Bénédicte has focused on social assistance, mainly cash transfers, nutrition and workfare programs and social protection strategies in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America at the World Bank, FAO and DFID, both on program implementation and evaluation. A French national, Bénédicte holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.
Mario Esteban Sosa is a social innovation analyst at the Technical Directorate of the Social Policy Coordinating Cabinet of the Vice-Presidency of Dominican Republic. He previously worked as head of economic development at the Office of Strategic Planning of the City of the Santo Domingo and as a fiscal policy analyst and coordinator of the human rights observatory at the Centro Bonó. Mario Esteban is a graduate of Vassar College, USA.
Gender dimensions of SP Programs
Enhancing the effectiveness of interventions?

Based on work by Carine Clert, Nicola Jones, and Shubha Chakravarty

Gender-sensitive SP in Latin America and the Caribbean
Hypothesis: Gender equality and social protection can be self-reinforcing, compatible goals

1) Designs that take into account differences between men and women → improved poverty reduction impact of SP projects and policies?
   • Outcomes include: health, education and skills, employment, productivity, asset ownership, intra-household decision-making, domestic violence
   • Example: choice of transfer recipient, choice of UCT vs CCT, choice of works (time use)

2) Poverty alleviation and improved socio-economic status of households → improved women’s empowerment and reduced gender inequality?
   • Unanswered questions on addressing existing gender gaps (e.g., risk and resource pooling in non-nuclear households, early marriage/teenage pregnancy)
What do we know?

- Recent review (Bardasi et al 2014) took stock of the impact of various SP programs on sex-disaggregated outcomes.
What do we know?

FIGURE 2.5 Public Works Programs Worldwide and Evidence from Impact Evaluations

Source: IEG calculations based on the database of impact evaluation outcomes created by IEG for this review and the ASPIRE database (updated to March 2014) compiled by the SP anchor.

Note: Circle size represents the number of total outcomes (coefficients) estimated by impact evaluations of public works included in this review.
What do we know (for LAC and elsewhere)

- **Education**: Gender specific impacts of cash transfers well documented.
  - Berhman et al. (2011) find greater impacts of Progresa/Prospera on boys’ progression through school, decreased employment and migration, delayed marriage, *depending* on schooling **quality**.
  - In Africa, impacts on the less preferred children (girls, higher rank children)

- **Labor and productive assets**: No evidence that cash transfers impact labor force participation, except for mothers of several children (in Brazil). Evidence of investments into household businesses.
  - Gertler et al. (2012). Impacts of Progresa on investments in agricultural income generation
  - In Africa, increased LFP of women in agriculture, men in off-farm work
What do we know (for LAC and elsewhere)

- **Gender of transfer recipient**: Some studies suggest that cash to female recipients vs. male recipients does not matter as much as the type of cash transfer (CCT vs. UCT).
  - LAC always women recipients except when the transfers target other investments (not HD)
  - Akresh, de Walque, and Kazianga (2012) - Burkina Faso; Benhassine et al. (2013) – Morocco

- **Domestic violence**: Some evidence of decrease in Mexico, issues in Brazil, model of spheres of decision

- **Empowerment**: Questions about impacts on increasing the spheres vs. increasing decisions within the sphere, impacts on children, impacts on household structure, citizen feed-back?

- **Indirect effects**: access to IDs, access to networks and social capital, financial inclusion
What we don’t know

- Little to no evidence on the role of cash transfers, and social protection in general, on reducing gender gaps in agricultural and enterprise productivity.
  - More intensive data collection at crop/plot level (similar to LSMS) and firm level, and questions on decision making at this level.
  - Potential for examining complementarities of cash transfers with input subsidies and asset transfer programs and other programs like extension, credit, market and pricing information etc.

- More work needed on the impacts of cash transfers on female labor and gender gaps in adult employment. Exploration of what kinds of income-generating activities women and men choose
  - More information on barriers to women’s employment and occupational choice, including time constraints, fertility, care constraints, social norms on occupational choice
  - Impacts on responses to shocks?
Some ways to think beyond mechanic sex disaggregation...

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2.
SO WHAT’S NEXT...?
1. Political economy bottlenecks: 3ls approach

**Institutions (formal and informal):** creating or preventing opportunities for social protection that considers differences between men and women?
- Lead agency for social protection and its relative power/focus (e.g. Ministry of Ag/Rural Dev in Ethiopia’s PSNP vs Social Development Secretary in Mexico vs. Ministry of Women’s Affairs in Mozambique)

**Interests:** which ones are prioritised and by whom?
- Practical needs (e.g. affordable food to feed family) or transformative goals (e.g. shifts in household gendered power relations/roles; tackling intimate partner violence; improved access to credit)?
- Who might be potential allies or champions in such a dialogue?

**Ideas:** how do ideas held by the political elite and the public shape the choice of social protection and commitment to the improvement of gender outcomes?
- Cash vs. other transfers
2. Delivery mechanisms – win-win for beneficiaries and implementation agencies

Examples in Safety Net Interventions

Cash Transfers: debit cards and mobile payments (time use).

Public Works (PWs): India’s MGNREGA offers women their own bank accounts cf. social health insurance card in hands of household head.

Ethiopia’s PSNP provides direct support for pregnant and nursing mothers, and allows women flexible hours at public works sites to juggle childcare.

.. and in Employment Promotion Projects

Childcare solutions
Bolivia Children and Youth Employment Project: Provision of affordable child care- higher stipends

Safe spaces
for skills training and internships in terms of preventing sexual harassment
Potential second-round linkages

Overcome inequalities/ information asymmetries about complementary services

- Access to National Health Insurance Schemes
- Access to other assets and infrastructure: housing, electricity
- Linkages to savings and credit schemes (Brazil); to free legal aid (Vietnam’s National Targeted Poverty Reduction Programme)
3. Engage with men and communities

**In SSN interventions**

Engaging with men can mitigate against the risks of perpetuating traditional gender norms (reinforcing women’s roles as holding the primary responsibility for their children’s school and health needs and removing men’s responsibility)

**In employment promotion and livelihood interventions**

Engaging with men and more broadly with communities can be key to shifting attitudes towards girls and women’s roles and potentials, especially in challenging contexts
Emerging Innovations in SSNs: Bringing men in parenting and care, promoting transformative dynamics within the household and address gender-based violence

Engaging both parents in parenting
- Group education encouraging men and women to critically reflect about shared-decision making and power dynamics within their relationships in order to increase the impact of Bolsa-Família
- Family development sessions with mothers and fathers on child development and gender equity issues (PH, NG, MR)
Community engagement in Bangladesh intervention for extremely poor women

**Intervention**
- Bangladesh BRAC Asset transfer program targeting extremely poor women (est. 2002), with aim to strengthen their bargaining power and position in the household
- Package of income-generating asset transfer + skills training, technical follow up, short-term cash transfer, + awareness raising education

**Household and Community Engagement**
- At outset: House to house explanation of objectives to male partners and relatives
- Awareness raising (and engagement with religious leaders) on health, nutrition, women’s legal rights and social issues such as exploitative dowry payments, gender-based violence and early marriage
- Promotion of women’s participation and social capital through their involvement in village poverty reduction committees
4. In youth employment interventions, break patterns of occupational segregation and low returns by **tackling information barriers** re market wages

**Challenge:**

- Significant level of gender segregation in job training programs
- Cultural and personal preferences
- But also lack of women/girls’ awareness of differences in employment opportunities and salaries associated with the career they take

5. Ensure that all can provide **feedback / share stories**

Inviting feedback is critical for local ownership, improving programme effectiveness and equity, and broader learning
The Results of Privileging Female Voices in Participatory Design Processes:

Gendered Geographies and the Importance of Community Debt Relations

Public Policy and Innovation Unit, November 2016
Brief Institutional Overview

Non-Contributory Pillar of the Social Protection System

Public Policy and Innovation Unit
Intervention Model

Transferencias Monetarias Condicionadas y Subsidios

Acompañamiento Socio-Educativo

Alianza Público Privada: Vinculación a intervenciones desarrollo (programas y servicios del Estado)

Familias Beneficiarias del Programa

RD$825

RD$600
RD$900
RD$1,200

RD$500
RD$750
RD$1,000
Poverty Exit Strategy

**Produción Agropecuaria y Agricultura Familiar**
- Huertos Familiares
- Producción Invernadero
- Producción frutales y agroforestales
- Acuicultura
- Lombricultura

**Inclusión financiera**
- Capacitación en ahorro presupuesto
- Emprendimiento
- Bancarización
- Grupos de ahorros

**Emprendimiento**
- Microcrédito
- Micronegocios
- Cooperativismo
- Comercialización

**Capacitación**
- Acompañamiento socio educativo
- Capacitación Técnico Vocacional
- Habilidades Transversales
- Capacitación en Tics

**Empleabilidad**
- Pasantías
- Vinculación de Puestos Laborales
Comer es Primero
(Eating is First)

“Between May 2003 and August 2004, the price of the basic food basket increased 77.3%”
Eating is First: Participation and Expenditure (2004-2015)
Design

- Quality of Life Index
- Incorporates Households
- Transfer $
Privileging Female Voices

Batey Chirino, Monte Plata

San José de Ocoa, SJO

Los Guandules, DN

Tamboril, Santiago
Gendered Mobility

As a good portion of food purchasing is done on a daily basis, physical access is quite important. Many women, especially grandmothers, who are in charge of acquiring the food items for daily consumption, cannot move far from the home due to the need to stay nearby children or elderly relative, attend a small business that may be located in the home or the high cost of transportation, among other factors. Men on the other hand expressed having greater amount of mobility.

This limited mobility meant that for women the community scale shops are key to guaranteeing their physical access to food.
Community Debt Relations

The owners of “Colmados”, community scale shops that guarantee physical access to food, establish primary or close relationships with the participants of the program. These primary relationships open the possibility of constructing a debt relationship between the two.

This debt relationship becomes a means to mitigate household food insecurity.

The value of being able to obtain a good “Fiao”, or in exchange for debt, is greater than the savings of making a purchase at a larger supermarket-style store, as the card becomes an asset that can be negotiated in turn for more food in case the household runs out before the next month transfers comes through.
Why this Matters

Proposals for pilot projects or processes must take into account:

1) The importance of community scale shops for guaranteeing women's’ physical access to food

2) Any proposal that seeks to alter the fundamental design of the program must take into account the potential loss of food access related to the “fiao” dynamic and the negotiation of the card as an “asset”
Submit your questions to the panellists of the webinar

*Gender Sensitive Social Protection in the Caribbean*

Simply type them in the GoToWebinar chat bar!

Bénédicte de la Brière

Mario Esteban
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