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Measuring Governance and Service Delivery in Safety Net Programs

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Abstract

This paper develops a framework to assess organizational performance in the delivery of social safety nets. Specifically, it provides guidance to task teams and program managers for identifying indicators of governance and service quality in targeted cash transfer programs. The paper identifies governance issues along the results chain of service delivery and suggests policy and performance indicators for assessing program inputs — human resources, financing and resource management; and program activities — operational procedures, MIS and control. It also suggests indicators of organizational performance and the quality of outputs, including demand-side accountability mechanisms.

JEL Classification: H11, H83, I38

Keywords: governance, service delivery, safety nets, cash transfers, service quality indicator, performance monitoring

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Introduction

Making services work for poor people involves a number of challenges including strengthening the governance of public sector institutions. Specifically, this requires setting the right set of incentives and accountabilities to affect the way provider organizations, their managers, and staff behave, as well as the quality and efficiency with which they deliver services. Thus, how providers are selected, paid, monitored, and held accountable for their performance has gained increased relevance in the service delivery reform debate.

In recent years the international development community has made efforts to define and measure governance in public service provision. It has sought to generate and systematize empirical evidence on the links between service delivery quality and governance. Although this work has focused mainly on health and education, governance and service quality are also relevant in social protection. For example, efforts to strengthen social assistance targeting, administration and service quality can benefit from a conceptual framework to help diagnose, monitor and evaluate the performance of institutions in charge of social assistance services, including their incentives and accountabilities, as well as service quality and efficiency.

As a first step towards measuring governance in social protection, this paper develops a framework to assess organizational performance in the delivery of social protection services with a focus on cash-based social safety nets (social safety nets). In particular, this paper aims to identify a set of governance and service quality indicators that can be applied to targeted safety net programs.

The paper is structured as follows. The first section summarizes existing literature on governance and service delivery relevant for social protection. The second section develops a conceptual framework to measure governance and service quality in the delivery of cash benefits. The next section discusses a potential list of governance and service quality indicators for social safety net programs as well as data collection options. Finally, the last section presents the conclusions.

1. Governance and social protection

Governance has been the subject of multiple definitions and applications. There is a vast literature on governance applied to a variety of fields including corporate management, public sector management and international development. More recently, the governance dimension has entered the analytical work and policy debate on human development, particularly in relation to education and health care service delivery and to a lesser extent, social protection. As a result, the literature on assessing the performance of service delivery in social protection is still limited.

This section aims to start filling this gap by drawing from lessons learned more broadly on human development and public sector management, and apply them to the delivery of social safety nets. This section briefly touches upon three areas of governance relevant for social protection in general: (i) governance in service delivery; (ii) tackling error, fraud and corruption; and (iii) governance measurement in international development.

2.1 Governance in service delivery

Governance can be defined as “the set of incentives and accountabilities that affect the way provider organizations, their managers and staffs behave, as well as the quality and efficiency with which they deliver services” (Fiszbein, et al., 2011). Recognizing that poor governance and service quality in the delivery of social services is as relevant to achieve human development outcomes as funding has led policymakers and academics to better understand and seek to influence the performance of public service providers (World Bank, 2003a; Brinkerhoff and Bossert, 2008, Savedoff, 2009; Lewis and Pettersson, 2009a and 2009b; Fiszbein, et. al., 2011). In particular, Fiszbein, et al. propose a framework for the selection and measurement of governance and service delivery indicators for health and education.

This framework distinguishes between two measurable aspects of governance: policies and performance. First, the set of *policies*, or rules of the game, that influence the ways that service providers function. These are the incentive and accountability arrangements that frame service provision. Second, governance materializes as *performance* – the actual practices and behaviors of providers resulting from policies. Governance performance is measured by the extent to which the governance policies work in practice. Governance policies and performance in turn influence the quality of service delivery.

The framework includes five areas in which governance issues play a critical role in health and education: human resources; financing and resource management; procurement and management of critical inputs (textbooks and pharmaceuticals); information; and provider entry.

2.2 Tackling error, fraud and corruption

Governance in social protection has been addressed primarily from the operational and institutional perspective of tackling error, fraud and corruption (World Bank, 2007, and Stolk and Tesliuc, 2010). This approach categorizes governance risks related to the misdirection of public funds into three types of problems: error, fraud and corruption (EFC). Error refers to unintentional mistakes of various natures, while fraud and corruption refer to intentional attempts to exploit the system by benefit claimants and program staff respectively.

Safety net programs have inherent design features such as complex eligibility requirements and changing eligibility over time which pose a particular challenge for controlling error, fraud and corruption (EFC). Eligibility is often based on the economic position of the household, which is difficult to assess and hard to verify. Moreover, eligibility may change over time as households' poverty status varies. Evidence from developed countries suggests a four-pronged strategy to control EFC: prevention, detection, deterrence and measurement (Stolk and Tesliuc, 2009).

A number of actions considered in the strategy can be mapped to the governance framework discussed above. In particular, the EFC strategy emphasizes the need for developing appropriate administrative *procedures or rules*, including a clear delineation of procedures in the processing and verification of benefit claims and clarity in the allocation of institutional responsibilities across the different levels of government or between government and civil society. Additionally, it suggests the adequate use of IT systems and staff training to help in reducing human error and improve *performance* in following procedures.

Moreover, the generation of intelligence to detect cases of EFC through data matching and telephone or online grievances and complaints mechanisms, as well as, established review processes of benefit claims, and sanctions are part of the *incentive* arrangements to deter fraud and corruption. Finally, information campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the rights and obligations under the rules of the social safety nets programs can create *social control and accountability* mechanism over program implementation. These recommendations coincide with the findings of a review of conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs in Latin American countries which pointed to the need for a better definition of institutional responsibilities; adequate implementation of management information systems; and thorough control and accountability systems (World Bank, 2007).

2.3 International development approach to governance measurement

Governance has gained importance in the international arena and has evolved from a narrow focus on public sector management to a broader concern for interconnected issues, including the role of formal and informal institutions, security, human rights, and corruption. As a result, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, among other organizations, have developed a number of governance assessment tools (UNDP, 2007 and OECD, 2008 and 2009).

These tools broadly serve three sets of objectives: (i) strategic decisions of donors regarding aid allocation and risk management; (ii) donor-client policy dialogue and joint decisions on aid allocation, performance assessment and operational set-up; and (iii) the promotion and design of domestic governance reform processes. Most of these instruments focus on political systems and public administration. Some address social governance issues including pro-poor spending and access to, and effectiveness of, service delivery. **Annex 1** presents an overview of governance assessment tools by focus areas. It identifies the tools addressing social protection issues, and distinguishes those dealing with broader public sector management topics such as financial management, human resource management (HRM), transparency, accountability and corruption that can be adapted to analyze social protection performance.

Similarly, there are a few initiatives that systematize information on the performance of social protection systems². Although these are not explicitly used as governance assessment tools, they include some indicators that may be useful for measuring service quality. A number of these initiatives are discussed below. **Annex 2** lists all of the indicators in the governance assessment tools related to social protection.

- **International Labor Organization Social Security Database** offers information on compulsory cash benefit programs (e.g. sickness, maternity, old-age, disability, family allowance, work injury and unemployment) for 124 countries. It generates a statistical database on coverage, contribution rates, expenditures, legal framework, means-tested conditions for benefits, benefit size and duration, and waiting period.
- **Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Reviews (SPERs)** are country-level analysis of social protection systems, expenditures, financing and performance in terms of coverage, distributional aspects and administrative efficiency.
- **European Commission, Mutual Information System on Social Protection** provides comparable and regularly updated information on social protection systems legislation in 31 European countries. It includes charts and descriptions of

² Some of these initiatives originate in Europe's standard-setting and coordination efforts of social security systems.

social protection systems organization, as well as comparative tables of statutory regulations of core areas (health care, sickness, maternity/paternity, invalidity, old-age, survivors, work injuries and occupational diseases, family allowances, unemployment benefits, minimum protection, long-term care and financing)³.

- **Eurostat – European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)** is a database using a common framework which enables international comparison of the administrative national data on social protection benefits and financing across European countries.

In sum, governance lenses have not been systematically applied to social protection. Nonetheless, there are valuable inputs and lessons from different areas in the literature⁴. The next section aims at contributing to the knowledge of social protection governance by proposing a measurement framework for cash-based social safety net programs.

2. A Framework for Measuring Governance and Service Delivery in Cash-based Safety Nets

Social protection encompasses a range of different types of policies and programs, including social insurance, labor markets, and social safety nets. Although they share a number of common features in their administration, differences in benefits and eligibility criteria exist. Hence, social protection policy instruments involve different operational procedures and corresponding organizational challenges and require tailored governance approaches. As a starting point, the framework developed in this section will focus on cash benefits. In the future, this framework could be further adapted to other types of social safety nets (e.g. social services) and social protection programs.

3.1 Results Chain in Cash Transfer Programs

Results chains depict the theory of change behind a program. They describe a logical, plausible pathway of how a sequence of input, activities and outputs — which an implementing agency is directly responsible for— interacts with behavioral processes and external factors to achieve a particular outcome. Results chains help associate what is being done with intended and actual outcomes. They therefore help trace and track program

³ A similar initiative by the Council of Europe is the Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the Council of Europe (MISSCEO). Following the same structure as MISSOC, it produces comparative tables on social protection systems legislation in 15 states: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey and Ukraine as well as Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

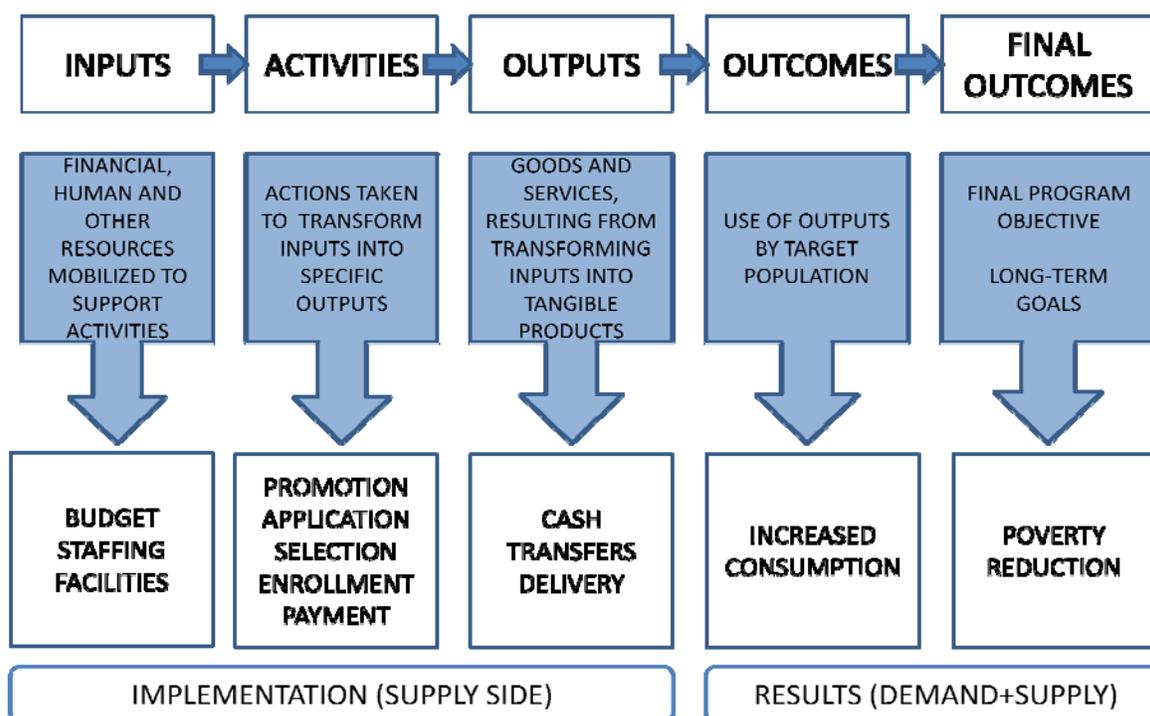
⁴ Other areas in the literature worth exploring in future reviews include research in management – performance management and organizational effectiveness, and services marketing.

implementation, link specific program outputs to specific inputs and evaluate whether the program is achieving its intended results.

Figure 1 illustrates a simplified traditional results chain for a cash assistance program. In this case, the links of the results chain involve the following:

- **Inputs:** include staff from the ministry, institution and/or local government responsible for operating the program; the budget allocated to the program; and the central and local facilities where the program operates.
- **Activities:** comprise all operational procedures required for program implementation, including outreach and application, beneficiaries’ selection and enrollment, payment delivery; and periodic eligibility reassessment.
- **Outputs:** are the cash transfers delivered.
- **Outcomes:** are the ultimate program objectives. For social safety nets programs, the main outcomes are improved household consumption in the short term, and poverty reduction in the long term. They are influenced not only by program outputs but also by other factors like the economy and individual behaviors (foregone income, crowding-out of other transfers, etc.).

Figure 1: Traditional Results Chain for a Cash Delivery Social Assistance Program



Source: Author

3.2 Where Does Governance Come into Play?

Governance enters the results chain as an enabling cross-cutting factor first through the availability and performance of inputs, as well as their transformation into outputs through program activities (see **Figure 2**). Secondly, governance policies and performance influence the quality of service delivery – defined here as program accessibility and the quality of the client and service provider interaction and transactions. This explicit emphasis on the service quality dimension of outputs represents a “missing middle” in the traditional results chain.

Service delivery is a function of supply and demand side factors⁵. On the supply side, governance policies and performance shape the way organizational providers⁶ materialize their mandate and manage program inputs and activities to generate outputs and reach the target population through frontline staff.⁷ Service delivery is also influenced by demand-side factors. Through direct influence on service providers and indirect pressure on politicians and policymakers⁸, citizens and beneficiaries can demand changes in the delivery of a program. Governance policies and performance on access to program information, choice, participation, and independent assessment also have an effect on the demand-side accountability of service delivery.

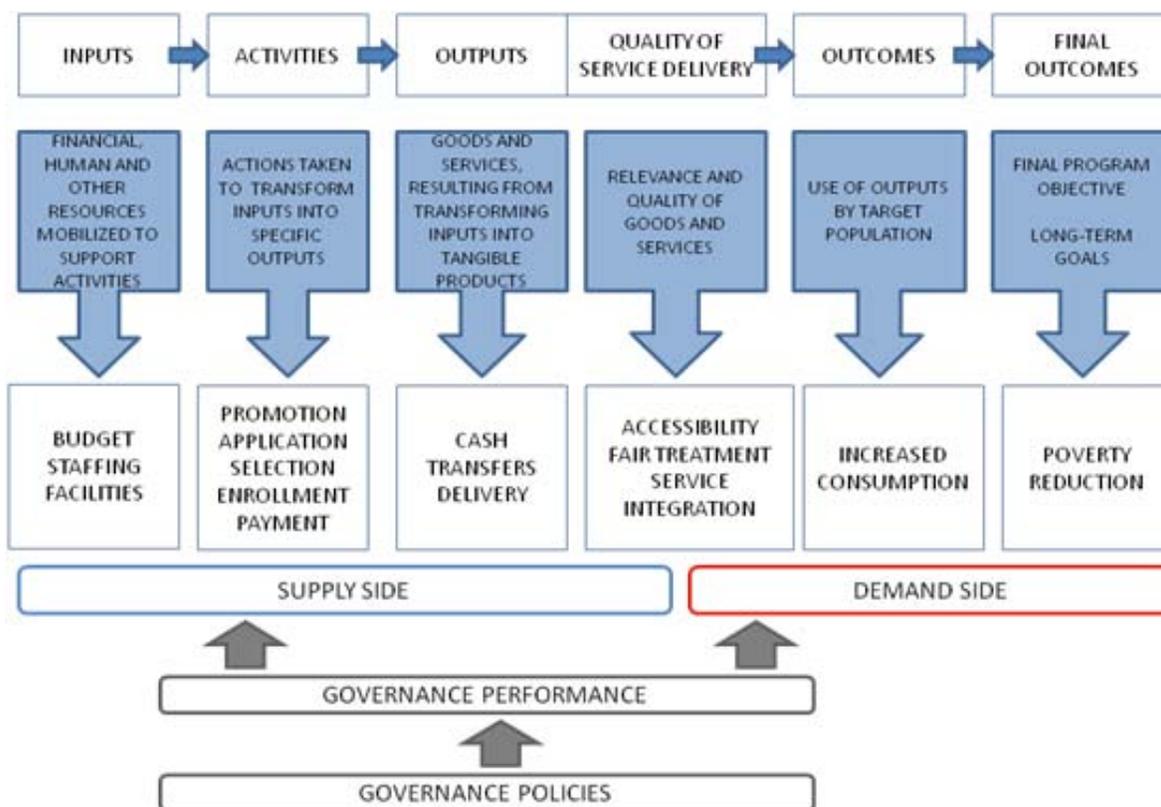
⁵ There are also external factors such as technology that influences service quality.

⁶ Organizational providers are public, private nonprofit, and private for-profit entities that actually provide services. In the case of social assistance services, most provider organizations will be within the public sector, for example, a ministry, department, agency or bureau.

⁷ Following the service provision framework of the 2004 World Development Report (WDR), on the supply side there are two accountability relationships: the compact relationship between organizational providers and the state, and the management relationship between frontline professionals and the organizational provider. Policymakers make resources available and delegate powers and responsibility for collective objectives to service providers. In turn, organizational providers assign frontline workers with tasks and delineated areas of responsibility, furnishing them with the resources to act.

⁸ “Clients may seek to hold service providers accountable for performance in two ways. Client power connecting clients and providers is the direct, “short” route of accountability. When such client power is weak or not possible to use, clients must use voice and politics in their role as citizens to hold politicians accountable—and politician/policymakers must in turn use the compact to do the same with providers. The combination of the two is the roundabout, “long” route of accountability.” (World Bank, 2003a)

Figure 2: Governance in Social Assistance Programs



Source: Author

3.3 Measuring Governance and Quality of Service Delivery in Safety Nets Programs

Governance can be measured along two dimensions: *policies* and *performance*. Governance *policies* are the rules of the game – both formal/de jure and informal/de facto – that set the incentive and accountability arrangements under which program stakeholders operate. These can involve national or local level policies, and laws and regulations applicable to the public sector at large, such as budget or civil-service laws. They can also entail program specific rules such as operational manuals, administrative procedures or job descriptions. The distinction is important as they imply different strategies and stakeholders for the policy dialogue.

Governance *performance* refers to how the governance policies work in practice - that is, the organizational behavior and practices resulting from the existence and application of a set of rules. Staff absenteeism is an example. It reflects the application of governance policies in human resource management involving a meritocratic civil service, adequate compensation scheme, performance evaluation, and sanctions and rewards system.

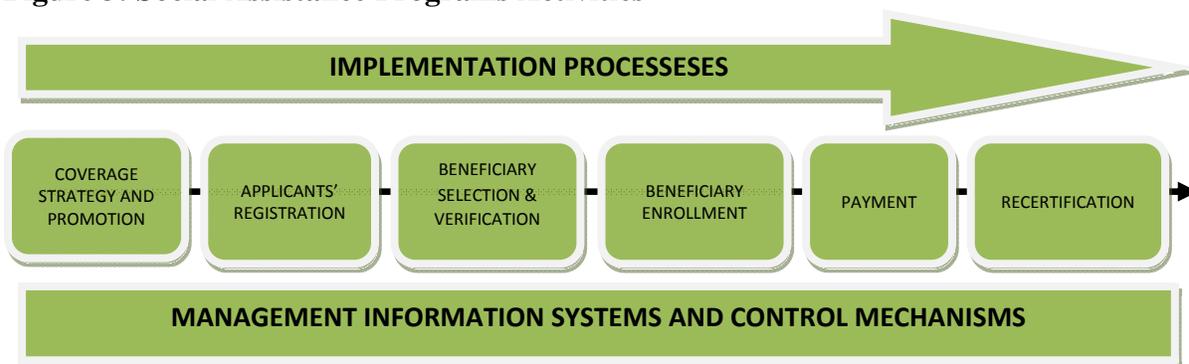
3.4 How is governance different in cash transfers than health and education?

Cash transfers are transaction-intensive programs that require frequent client-provider contact. In contrast to classroom teaching or curative health, they involve overall better defined and comparatively easier to systematize activities. Examples of transactions include, but are not exclusive to: (i) beneficiary application and selection to the program; (ii) benefit delivery; (iii) grievance and redress mechanisms.

Figure 3 takes a closer look at program activities or operational processes involved in delivering cash transfers. In addition to the implementation steps, there are two crucial cross-cutting components for program operation: management information system (MIS) and control mechanisms. Responsibilities along the implementation process are often shared across organizations and government levels.

The program results chain and the more detailed operational procedures can help identify critical areas for assessing governance in safety nets programs. They refer to program *inputs* — human resources, financing and resource management, and program *activities* — operational procedures, MIS and control mechanisms. These elements should be considered in relation to the organizational performance (intended versus actual) in cash transfer delivery —*outputs*— and the *quality of social assistance services*, including demand-side accountability mechanisms in safety nets.

Figure 3: Social Assistance Programs Activities



Source: Author

3. Identifying Governance and Service Quality Indicators for Safety Nets Programs

The selection of any particular set of indicators has underlying normative assumptions. There is some evidence from OECD countries on which governance interventions are cost-effective measures for reducing EFC (Stolk and Tesiluc, 2010). However, not all governance interventions have a proven impact on organizational performance including service quality, or program outcomes. These indicators should be treated as hypothesis to be tested rather than evidence to follow (Savedoff, 2011).

Existing tools for assessing governance in social protection systems include a number of indicators to draw from. In particular, human resources and financial management governance indicators have been extensively used in the past. Available sources could be used to identify relevant indicators and evaluation criteria. However, most tools are geared towards general public sector performance measurement. Thus, specific data collection for indicators tailored for safety nets will be required.

As explained above, governance and service quality assessment in safety nets programs involves measuring indicators in six areas:

- a. Human resources
- b. Financing and resource management
- c. Operational procedures, information management and control mechanisms
- d. Organizational performance in cash transfers delivery
- e. Service quality⁹
- f. Demand-side dimension of service delivery

4.1 Human resources

Social assistance programs involve a number of interactions between frontline staff and beneficiaries, including program outreach and application process, eligibility assessment, applicants' information verification, beneficiary enrollment, and benefits payment. The rules of the game for hiring, compensating, training, evaluating and rewarding program staff will hence shape their incentives, which in turn, may influence their work performance in providing efficient and client-oriented services¹⁰.

⁹ Although service quality is one of the dimensions of organizational performance, it will be addressed separately to highlight its importance.

¹⁰ The impact of human resources management on organizational performance has been studied mostly in the private firms' context. There is no consensus on the robustness of the relationship between HR systems and firms' performance, and more work is needed on measuring organizational performance (Rogers and Wright, 1998). The links between HRM governance policies and public organizations performance are still

Table 1 shows the main issues in assessing governance in human resource management (HRM) and the corresponding policy and performance indicators. Performance measurements may be associated to more than one governance policy in human resources or in other areas. For example, staff absenteeism may be associated with employees' motivation and accountability framework determined by retention and compensation policies, as well as with performance evaluation and control mechanisms. As indicated next to each indicator, some are included in existing assessment tools such as the WB Actionable Governance Indicator Initiative (AGI), the Country Performance and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), or the US Anti-Corruption Assessment Framework (ACF). These indicators usually refer to the overall civil service, but can be adapted to gauge human resources performance in a particular sector or program. **Annex 1** presents detailed information on the assessment tools, including references to consult the rationale and evaluation criteria for each indicator.

Interestingly, the main focus of available indicators is on hiring, promotion, and compensation practices, and less so on training and delineation of responsibilities. EFC literature, however, recognizes the role of the latter as part of the prevention initiatives. Thus, for social safety nets programs is important to complement existing HR indicators with measurements of staff knowledge and application of procedures and responsibilities.

being studied, thus indicators discussed in this section should be considered as part of hypotheses to be tested.

Table 1. Human Resources Management Governance Indicators in Safety Nets Programs

| Issue | Policy Indicators | Performance Indicators |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Hiring, retention and promotion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average number of qualified (long-listed) candidates per advertised program openings [AGI] - Average 3-year turnover rates among recent recruits by types of position (e.g. Titles, urban vs. urban locations) [AGI] - Ratio of average total remuneration for staff in the highest rank to average total remuneration for staff in entry level position [AGI] - Degree in which hiring and promotion are based on merit and performance, and ethical standards prevail [CPIA] - Existence of a legislative framework for the civil service regulating recruitment, job security and retention [ACF] - Existence of clear rules regarding tenure [ACF] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly staff turnover rates [AGI] - Monthly average staff absentee rate [AGI] - % of program vacancies filled through advertised, competitive procedures [AGI] - Perception of political influence in staff promotion, transfer and/or appointment [GAC] - % of staff for whom annual performance evaluations were completed on time [AGI] - % of staff performance evaluations falling in each rating category [AGI] - % of staff receiving the lowest performance rating in two successive years who have left the program within the following year [AGI] - Degree of correspondence between program staff skills and job profiles (e.g. % of staff whose skills match their job profile) - Level of staff proficiency and compliance with administrative procedures - Degree of correspondence between standard and actual staff workloads - Perceived effectiveness of the training opportunities offered by institutions at improving work performance [GAC] - Degree of understaffing to perform required tasks [SGACA] - Share of “ghost” employees (those who receive a payment and are not legitimate program personnel) - Extent of public employment use to diffuse social tensions at the expense of efficiency and effectiveness [SAF] |
| Duties/Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and clarity of job descriptions/responsibilities and administrative procedures - Existence of conduct code or equivalent [ACF] - Existence job performance standards | |
| Compensation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Average staff remuneration as a % of average economic sector wages [AGI] - Ratios of average staff to private sector total remuneration by title [AGI, ROSC] - Degree of flexibility in paying more attractive wages in hard to fill positions (e.g. rural areas, technical specialists) [CPIA] - Extent to which pay and benefit levels do not deter talented people from entering the public sector [CPIA] - Level of adequacy of civil service compensation to sustain an appropriate livelihood [ACF] | |
| Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regularity of training for civil servants on rules and procedures governing recruitment, hiring and promotion [ACF] - Existence, relevance and participation on training aimed at improving work performance | |
| Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Existence, type and application of performance evaluation systems | |
| Rewards/Sanctions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Existence, type and application of rewards and sanctions tied to job performance | |

Note: AGI-WB Actionable Governance Indicators; CPIA-WB Country Policy and Institutional Assessment; ACF- USA Anti-Corruption Assessment Framework, ROSC- IMF Fiscal Module Report on Observance of Standards and Codes; GAC- WBI Governance and Anti-Corruption Country Survey; SGACA - Netherlands, Strategic Governance and Corruption Analysis; SAF- Netherlands, Stability Assessment Framework.

4.2 Financing and Resource Management

As in any other development intervention, financing and resource management is an enabling factor in program implementation. The rules concerning budget planning and execution, resource allocation across agencies and government levels involved in program implementation, and budget reporting and monitoring matter for organizational performance. In particular, policy and performance indicators in this area are very relevant as social safety nets may not have the same legal status as health, education or pension systems. As a result, their funding availability may be subject to changes in government.

In this regard it is central to identify the legal and administrative mechanisms that ensure budget availability for the program life cycle. In many countries sub-national governments have a significant role in financing social safety nets benefits. Incentives and accountability mechanisms for local governments to deliver these programs are critical since these tend to lack influential constituencies who can pressure governments to pay benefits.

As shown in **Annex 1**, financial management is included in a number of existing governance assessment tools. In particular, PEFA Public Financial Management Performance Framework is one of the most comprehensive instruments. It includes a comprehensive list of high level indicators, disaggregated assessment dimensions and a set of evaluation criteria for appraising the operational performance of key elements of financial systems. Although their measurement focuses on central governments, legislatures and external audit institutions, a number of PEFA indicators can be adapted to assess sectoral or program level financial management. Data collection and additional indicators specific for social safety nets can be obtained from other tools such as Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) and Public Expenditure Tracking Services (PETS).

Table 2 presents the main indicators for assessing financing and resources management governance. Many policies and rules in financial management are central government-wide regulations, although their application (policy performance) may vary across institutions. In a few cases, rules and procedures may be sub-national government or program specific.

Table 2. Financing and Resource Management Governance Indicators in Social Assistance Programs

| Issue | Policy dimension | Performance dimension |
|--|---|---|
| Budget preparation process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and adherence to a fixed budget calendar and approval process - Nature of involvement in the budget preparation by the ministry, department or agency in charge of social assistance - Existence of a clear and comprehensive guidance for the preparation of budget submissions (budget circular or equivalent) ¹¹ - Timely budget approval by the legislature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executed social assistance budget as a percentage of approved budget (aggregate and by budget line) at the central and sub-national government levels - Resources received as a percentage of approved transfers from the central to sub-national governments for social assistance programs* - Timely availability of approved resources in cash and in kind transferred to frontline offices - Share of local governments that publish quarterly reports of budget execution* - Frequency and extent of wage (and travel reimbursement) arrears for frontline office staff (those with direct contact with clients) - Frequency and extent of benefit payments arrears - Effectiveness of payroll controls - Effectiveness of internal controls for non-salary expenditures - Frequency and scope/nature of audits performed - Evidence of effective and timely follow up on internal and external audit recommendations - Timely publication on the internet of key social assistance expenditure information at the national and sub-national government levels * - Availability on internet of a summary of program budget written in clear, simple language [ROSC] |
| Policy-based budgeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of social protection sector strategy with multi-year costing of recurrent and investment expenditure - Availability and monitoring of social assistance program multi-year coverage targets* | |
| Predictability and control in budget execution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and use of rules-based systems for the distribution of transfers from the central to sub-national governments for social assistance programs - Degree of timeliness and reliability of information on transfers from the central to sub-national governments - Regularity of tracking of resources received in cash and in kind by frontline offices across the country, irrespective of which level of government is responsible for the operation and funding of those units - Extent to which cash flows for social assistance programs are forecasted and updated - Frequency and transparency of adjustments to social assistance program budget allocations - Existence of protection mechanisms of social assistance expenditure in case of in-year adjustments to budget allocations - Existence of payroll controls (reconciliation of personnel records and payroll; internal controls and audits) - Quality and transparency of procurement regulatory framework and application (for equipment purchasing, selection of payment providers, etc) - Existence of internal controls for non-salary expenditures (expenditure | |

¹¹ The ministries, departments and agencies concerned for the purpose of this indicator are those which are directly charged with responsibility for implementing the budget in line with sector policies and which directly receive funds or authorization to spend from the Ministry of Finance. Department and agencies that report and receive budgetary funds through a parent ministry should not be considered in the assessment.

Table 2. Financing and Resource Management Governance Indicators in Social Assistance Programs

| Issue | Policy dimension | Performance dimension |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | commitment controls and rules for processing and recording transactions) - Coverage, independence and quality of internal audit function in social assistance program - Existence of systematic procedures for program management response to internal audit findings | |
| Accounting, recording and reporting | - Existence of routine data collection or accounting systems that provide reliable information on all types of resources received in cash and in kind by frontline offices across the country, irrespective of which level of government is responsible for the operation and funding of those units. - Regularity of report compilation on resources received in cash and in kind by frontline offices across the country - Regularity of bank reconciliations (or with other payment agents – e.g. post office, etc.) - Regularity of reconciliation and clearance of suspense accounts and advances - Quality and frequency standards of regular budget reports and annual financial statements | |
| External scrutiny and audit | - Existence and adequacy of auditing policies - Existence of systematic procedures to follow up on audit recommendations | |
| Transparency | - Existence and use of a robust classification for monitoring and tracking social assistance spending - Existence and comparability of social assistance expenditure tracking at central and sub-national levels of government - Existence and thoroughness of policies for public access to key social assistance expenditure information (including transfer distribution rules from the central to sub-national governments) at the national and sub-national government levels | |

Note: ROSC- IMF Fiscal Module Report on Observance of Standards and Codes; *Indicators not included in reviewed existing assessment tools.

4.3 Operational procedures, information management and control mechanisms

Social assistance programs require well-defined operational procedures, management information systems and control mechanisms to ensure that the right people get the right benefit at the right time. As depicted in **Figure 3**, a series of operational processes must be in place to identify and enroll beneficiaries, deliver program benefits to them, eventually reassess their eligibility as well as manage their complaints in case any of the mentioned-transactions went wrong. The rules concerning the definition of clear-cut operating procedures and institutional responsibilities could make a substantial difference in reducing discretionary decisions on eligibility and benefit levels, giving certainty to applicants as to what to expect, and in case things go wrong, how to fix them.

Table 3 includes the main indicators in assessing governance in program operation, information management and control. On one hand, policy indicators in this area assess the existence and pertinence of standard procedures and control mechanisms along operational processes. On the other hand, performance indicators include compliance and efficiency measures associated with established procedures and controls. Most policies and rules are likely to be program-specific, as opposed to government-wide regulations. As discussed in HRM or financial management indicators, performance measurements may be associated to more than one governance policy in program operation. Only a few governance assessment tools address social protection issues and they mainly focus on pensions. Hence, most indicators in **Table 3** are not included in existing assessment tools. Nonetheless, many can be found among results matrices of safety nets projects.

Program operations are often sequenced in a systematic manner starting off with beneficiary outreach, application, selection and enrollment, passing through benefit delivery until exit and graduation.

Outreach activities inform potential clients of program benefits, eligibility criteria and application process. These activities should be aligned with a program coverage strategy based on the characteristics of the target population and the intended number of beneficiaries for specific regions in a given period. For example, the target population for a program may be female-headed households in selected rural communities. Alternatively, the target population for a larger urban program may be poor households nationwide. The latter case may warrant a mass media promotion campaign and a program coverage expansion plan spanning a few years. The former would require community outreach activities in selected rural areas and coverage targets may be met in a shorter period. Thus, a governance focus of this operational step would analyze the existence of an annual and medium term program coverage strategy and the extent to which this strategy and outreach activities are adequate to reach the target population given budget and implementation constraints.

Application, beneficiary selection and enrollment follow. In particular, the application process, the choice of beneficiary selection methods and their implementation matter for program targeting results, and presumably, for poverty outcomes. To what extent targeting methods are appropriate given country circumstances and are applied according to well-defined and sound administrative procedures are relevant governance issues. Moreover, it is important to consider applicant's transaction costs in terms of number of visits, time spent and paperwork required for program application and enrollment. The more time and resources these spend doing paperwork, the higher the opportunity costs (i.e. work absence), and the less likely are to participate in program activities. Targeting indicators such as the share of transfers received by the poor are also discussed in **Table 4**.

Payment of benefits should be accurate, secure, reliable, transparent, affordable and hassle-free, and most importantly, timely. Rules defining payment sites and recipient lists, calendar and frequency, process and amounts as well as payment agents and instruments are important aspects of program governance. EFC prevention recommendations include ensuring that benefit payment is as secure as possible, ideally by making payment directly to recipient accounts – the fewer hands physical money travel through, the better (Stolk and Tesiluc, 2010). Another aspect worth considering are the rules regarding the adjustment of benefit levels over time, whether it is constant or inflation-indexed to maintain its real value.

Exit and graduation considerations may set rules on benefit duration or eligibility recertification. If beneficiary selection includes proxy-means testing, recertification may be an opportunity to update the scoring system. Recertification may thus improve program targeting performance, but it also involves additional costs (Coady et. al., 2004). Governance analysis would consider to what extent clear and transparent rules regarding duration of benefits, recertification frequency and processes exist.

Information management and control mechanisms are cross-cutting elements vital for the effective and efficient processing of benefit claims. Adequate MIS allow a systematic registry of beneficiaries and benefits payment record-keeping, both indispensable for program management and minimizing human error in the processing of benefits. Moreover, in some OECD countries data submitted by claimants is cross-checked against other government databases, as a cost-effective way to detect EFC (Stolk and Tesiluc, 2010). The rules regarding which information is collected, who is responsible for collection, how it is systematized, kept and used can influence organizational performance.

Finally, control mechanisms along the operational processes are also instrumental. These include a range of activities such as household information verification, database cross-checks, performance audits, and monitoring and evaluation. Some control tools involving independent assessments enable demand-side accountability and are included both in **Tables 3** and **Table 6**.

Table 3. Governance Indicators in Program Operation and Control Mechanisms

| Issue | Policy dimension | Performance dimension |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Coverage strategy and promotion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and tracking frequency of annual and medium term coverage strategy - Degree of alignment between promotion activities and coverage strategy (including adequacy of dissemination channels and materials) - Adequacy of public awareness activities on program rights and obligations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistency between coverage strategy and number and type of beneficiaries (rural/urban, male/female, etc.) -Level of staff compliance with operational procedures and processing times -Program application and enrollment transaction costs (e.g. number of visits, time spent, etc.) |
| Application, selection and enrollment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of sound poverty diagnosis to identify poor, vulnerable groups and those lacking services [CPIA] - Type and adequacy (cost-effectiveness) of targeting method choice (simple means test, proxy means test, community-based targeting, categorical targeting, self-selection) - Degree of objectivity and transparency of eligibility criteria - Degree of clarity and soundness (i.e. separation between assessment and payment functions) of operational procedures for program application, beneficiary selection and enrollment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Program recertification transaction costs - Compliance with payment calendar (e.g. % of cash transfer payments delivered according to payment calendar) - Compliance with eligibility reassessment calendar (e.g. % recertification of program beneficiaries due to be recertified after established years of enrolment) - Completeness and reliability of beneficiary registry and payment registry |
| Payment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of a benefit payment calendar - Type of payment method (bank deposit, debit card, cash, etc.) - Level of reliability of payment method and process (direct payment to beneficiary through secure channel) - Evolution of program benefits (constant, indexed, discretionary evolution, etc.) [SSD] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average time taken to update in the MIS changes beneficiary information (e.g. household composition (newborns or deaths) or address changes) -Percentage of cash transfers made automatically through MIS - Number of progress reports produced by the MIS, according to agreed reporting standards |
| Recertification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity and transparency of rules concerning duration of benefits and frequency of eligibility reassessments - Duration of benefits [SSD] - Frequency of eligibility reassessments - Degree of clarity and soundness of operational procedures for program eligibility reassessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degree of systematic use of control mechanisms (household information verification, database cross-checks, telephone hotlines, etc.) - Degree of use of risk-based investigations - Frequency of EFC monitoring - Relevance, independence and quality of program evaluation |
| Information Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of adequate beneficiary registry and payment records - Extent of use of IT system to register and process benefit claims, and cross-check data - Clarity of roles, responsibilities and procedures for data collection, systematization, quality control and reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequency and scope/nature of performance/operational audits performed - Administration costs of social assistance program [SPEPR] |

Table 3. Governance Indicators in Program Operation and Control Mechanisms

| Issue | Policy dimension | Performance dimension |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Control mechanisms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type and adequacy of verification mechanisms of information submitted in program application (database crosschecks, random house visits, etc.) - Adequacy of procedures to refer cases for investigation - Existence and type of monitoring mechanisms (spot checks, operational audits, third-party monitoring) of staff compliance with operational procedures - Adequacy of monitoring mechanisms for third party implementation (local government, payment agency, NGOs) - Existence and type of systematic activities for program M&E and management response to M&E findings - Existence of policies to ensure public access to M&E information at the national and sub-national government levels - Existence of systematic procedures to follow up on audit recommendations - Existence of policies to ensure public access to program beneficiary list | |

Note: CPIA-WB, Country Policy and Institutional Assessment; SSD - ILO, Social Security Database; SPEPR – ILO, Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Reviews

4.4 Organizational Performance of the Delivery of Cash Transfers

Organizational performance in social safety nets can be measured along five dimensions: program relevance, coverage, poverty targeting, efficiency and service quality —discussed separately in the next section. **Table 4** includes summary measures of organizational performance in these areas. Most indicators belong to the output category, except for poverty targeting measures that may be considered a grey area between outputs and outcomes. Clear-cut outcomes such as increased consumption levels are not included here as the main focus is on the supply side.

One way to assess program relevance is through the adequacy of benefit levels compared to a benchmark. The conceptual benchmark considered in Social Protection Public Expenditure Reviews for social safety nets is the gap between a household's income and the poverty line. Coverage is a key performance dimension that gauge to what extent program magnitude is appropriate given the target population size. If coverage is low, the program is ineffective in reaching a meaningful proportion of vulnerable population. Coverage information could be presented by pertinent breakdowns such as rural-urban, regional breakdowns, gender, and so forth. It should be measured as a rate where the denominator is the total population deemed as vulnerable, for example, the total number of poor households.

Commonly used poverty targeting measures include the share of total transfers received by the population falling within the bottom 40, 20, or 10 percent of the national income distribution, the share normalized, and the inclusion and exclusion errors. However, to what extent better targeting as measured by these indicators imply a large impact on poverty or a more cost-effective intervention is an empirical question yet to be settled¹².

Finally, a starting point to assess program efficiency may be administrative costs. They should be high enough to allow adequate program administration but low enough to be efficient. Cost information should be compared to international or regional benchmarks. Another useful measure of program efficiency is the proportion of program funds that are lost due to EFC¹³. Some of the indicators of organizational performance are included in social protection assessment tools such as the ILO Social Security Database (SSD) or the World Bank Social Protection Public Expenditure Reviews (social protection-PER).

¹² See Ravallion 2007 for a critical review of different targeting measures.

¹³ The following definitions are taken from Stolk and Tesiluc, 2010. Targeting errors may be due to program design (when social assistance programs use imperfect poverty proxies to identify poor beneficiaries) and to program implementation (when eligibility decisions and payments diverge from program rules). The later component is due to EFC. Error refers to unintentional mistakes on behalf of benefit claimants or staff in the benefit office. Fraud refers to intentional behavior on the part of the benefit claimant to defraud the benefit system. Corruption is an intentional attempt by staff to exploit the social protection system.

| Table 4. Organizational Performance Indicators | |
|---|---|
| Relevance | - Adequacy of benefit levels with respect to poverty line [social protection-PER] |
| Coverage | - Coverage rate (number of program beneficiaries with respect to total vulnerable or target population disaggregated by rural-urban distribution, region, gender, formal/informal sector, and so on) [social protection-PER, SSD, SPEPR] - Horizontal distribution of benefits (proportion of cash benefits distributed by gender, formal/informal sector, and distribution to other groups identified as the most vulnerable) [SPEPR] |
| Poverty Targeting ¹⁴ | - Targeting Differential (difference between program participation rate of the poor and the participation rate for the non-poor) |
| Efficiency | - % of transfers delivered on time and to the right recipient - Error, fraud and corruption rates (proportion of total transfers that are lost due to error, fraud or corruption) [social protection-PER] - Administration costs [social protection-PER, SPEPR] |

Note: social protection-PER- WB Social Protection Public Expenditure Review; SSD- ILO, Social Security Database; SPEPR- ILO, Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Reviews.

4.5 Quality of Social Assistance Service Delivery

Accessibility and quality in social services provision are generally recognized as important factors influencing social inclusion¹⁵. A number of OECD countries have developed service quality standards for organizations delivering public services. A few examples include the Charter Mark Standard in the UK, the National Standards for Disability Services in Australia or the Customer Service Standards of Rockville City Government in the US. Some of the quality dimensions emphasized in these initiatives that may be relevant for social assistance are the following. **Table 5** includes alternative indicators in each dimension.

- **Service quality standard-setting and performance:** existence and compliance with service and performance standards.
- **Service accessibility:** extent to which social assistance services are physically, spatially and socio-culturally accessible to all individuals in the target population, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, language, disability condition, location, and so on.
- **Privacy, dignity and confidentiality:** extent to which each beneficiary is treated with the same level of privacy, dignity and confidentiality.

¹⁴ See Ravallion 2007 for a broader list and discussion on different targeting measures.

¹⁵ Measurement of service quality has been extensively researched in the private sector management and marketing literature. Nonetheless, the conceptualization and operationalization of service quality as well as the link between service quality, purchase intentions and business performance continue to be subject of debate (Seth et al. 2005). In the public sector, research on the impact of service quality on human development outcomes is more recent and has been focused primarily on health care and education services.

- **Cultural awareness:** delivery of non-discriminatory services which are sensitive to social and cultural values of the individuals, their families and community.
- **Complaints and disputes:** existence of publicized and easy-to-use complaints procedure, including a commitment to deal and solve complaints within a time limit.
- **Exit and reentry:** extent to which individuals are assisted to plan for the exit from social safety nets and assured that reentry is available, if required.
- **Service integration:** development of links with other social assistance service providers at local, state and national level to ensure access to complementary services.

| Table 5. Service Quality Indicators | |
|--|---|
| Service quality standard setting and performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of precise and measurable service standards - Regular performance monitoring and benchmarking with similar services - Clients and staff participation in setting and reviewing service standards - Dissemination to clients and potential clients of service standards and performance - Assessment, recording and analysis of clients' satisfaction levels and action taken to deal with any problems |
| Service accessibility | <p><i>Accessibility policies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and application of equal opportunities and disability policies, procedures and training for service delivery - Extent to which target population is defined, their needs regularly identified and services are planned and delivered to meet those needs <p><i>Affordability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability and use of different means to reduce the cost of program information and application (e.g. mobile offices, toll-free phone numbers, etc.) - Travel time and transportation costs to facilities - Application and enrollment costs - Average time required for program application and enrollment - Individual's perception of ease of service accessibility and paperwork required <p><i>Physical, spatial and functional accessibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convenience of location and access (% of facilities in close proximity to public transport, with clear signage, level access, that are compliant with accessibility regulations for people with physical disabilities) - Convenience of facilities (e.g. % of facilities with adequate waiting areas which accommodate children, are properly maintained, sanitary, completely operational, fully stocked and supplied) - Extent of use of technology to provide information and access to services (if appropriate) - Posting and observance of operation hours (e.g. % of facilities with posted operation hours, % of facilities with staffed information/registration counters during business hours at random visits) - Convenience of operation hours (% of beneficiaries who consider operation hours convenient) <p><i>Socio-cultural accessibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of information materials in different languages and formats - Ratio of the number of beneficiaries who have difficulties communicating in the official language and the number of trained interpreters or bilingual staff - Availability of information and tailored service access for individuals with special needs (people with visual or hearing difficulties, those who have difficulties understanding or reading the official language, and people with |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>learning difficulties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual's perception of service provision in a manner sensitive to the age, sex, ethnic, and linguistic background of each person - Social distance |
| Privacy, dignity and confidentiality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence, implementation and monitoring of policies and procedures on protecting individuals' privacy, dignity and confidentiality - Existence, compliance and monitoring of 'customer care' policies - % of staff – client interaction in which staff performed satisfactorily (i.e. listen to client's request/question and provide complete, knowledgeable, accurate, precise information regarding the inquiry) - Individual's perception of respectful, honest and professional treatment - Individuals' perception of discrimination - Extent to which complaints of abusive treatment are monitored and addressed - Number of complaints of abusive treatment (trend over time) |
| Cultural awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extent to which staff have knowledge of the social and cultural groups represented in the target population and an understanding of those social and historical factors relevant to their current circumstances - Extent to which service delivery considers the needs and unique characteristics of social and cultural groups represented in the target population and involves these groups in the planning and implementation of services - Extent to which specific cross-cultural staff training, and involvement of representatives of relevant cultural groups in service delivery planning is promoted - Extent to which social assistance employs staff or develops links with other service providers/organizations with relevant experience in the provision of services to the specific social and cultural groups represented in the target population - Extent to which issues related to social and cultural prejudice among staff are monitored and addressed - Extent to which representation of social and cultural groups amongst caseloads are monitored and reviewed - Individuals' perception of service delivery in a manner which is sensitive to their social and cultural beliefs, values and cultural practices |
| Complaints and disputes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of staff guidance and training to handle complaints and empowerment to put things right - Extent to which the number and type of formal and informal complaints, compliments and suggestions received, and how quickly they are dealt with are recorded, analyzed and posted in the internet - % of local offices that publicized regularly information on the number and type of complaints, compliments and suggestions received, along with the improvements made as a result - Clients and staff assessment of complaints procedure - Regular review and improvement of complaints procedure, taking into account the views of clients and staff - Number and type of formal and informal complaints, compliments and suggestions received - Average time to address a complaint or dispute - Percentage of unresolved complaints or dispute |
| Exit and reentry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of documented individual exit plan which is begun during entry to social assistance to ensure ongoing continuity of other relevant social services once the client has exited from social assistance - Extent to which the exit plan is reviewed in collaboration with the client - Extent to which clients and other service providers and agencies involved in follow-up (if applicable) are aware of how to gain entry to social assistance at a later date, if needed - Monitoring of reasons for exiting social assistance services |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of clients who exit social assistance services by reason - Percentage of clients who exit social assistance services and apply for reentry within a certain period of time - Percentage of clients who exit and reentry social assistance |
| Service integration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of arrangements to provide coordinated services and formal processes to promote inter-agency collaboration - Extent to which separately funded programs work collaboratively to achieve a single integrated social assistance system - Percentage of clients who enter other social services through social assistance - Percentage of clients who benefit from coordinated services |

In addition, there are two additional dimensions that are gaining significance in service quality assessment and may be relevant for some social assistance programs. First, there is the focus on individual needs that shifts away from the traditional ‘top-down’ service provision to service delivery designed to meet individual needs and personal goals. Second, there is an emphasis on decision making and choice that provides individuals a range of service alternatives and information to assist in the selection of the most appropriate option in the setting most empowering for the client.

4.6 Demand-side accountability in service delivery

Demand-side accountability refers to the influence that individuals can have in their dual role as direct service clients –i.e. client power - as well as citizens that participate in political processes that define collective objectives –i.e. political voice (World Bank, 2003a). Client power may be enhanced by choice in service delivery (e.g. vouchers in education), better information and direct participation. Political voice is exercised through voting, advocacy, and representation in political bodies, often facilitated by public disclosure of key policy information.

Governance policies and performance shape the mechanisms, both formal and informal, through which client power, and to some extent, voice, are fostered and exercised. Following Ringold, et. al. (2010), **Table 6** includes demand-side accountability measures for social assistance programs in the following areas.

- **Transparency:** access to key policy information (budgetary, rules of operation, performance, and so on).
- **Participation:** client involvement in program decision-making, implementation and monitoring, and capacity building activities for stakeholder participation.
- **Grievance redress mechanisms:** existence of procedures to handle complaints and mechanisms for their follow up and resolution.

- **Independent assessments**¹⁶: tools and arrangements for independent verification of access to, quality and effectiveness of services through audits, service delivery and other surveys, monitoring and evaluation.

Some of the governance policies and performance in these areas have been considered in preceding sections and can be discussed interchangeably. For example, the existence of independent assessments was considered as part of control mechanisms. Governance measures of transparency were included in the areas of financial management and operational procedures.. In addition, grievance redress mechanisms were addressed as one of the service quality dimensions. For the sake of a comprehensive discussion on demand-side indicators, a number of examples mentioned previously will be repeated here. Since evidence on how to foster client power and to what extent it has an impact on development outcomes is work in progress, listed indicators should be treated as hypothesis to be tested.

¹⁶ This category combines the third party monitoring and independent assessment areas.

Table 6: Demand-side Service Quality Indicators in Social Assistance Programs

| Issue | Policy dimension | Performance dimension |
|---------------|--|---|
| Transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and thoroughness of policies for public access to key social assistance information (expenditure, rules of operation, beneficiary list, procurement, M&E and other performance information, etc.) at the national and sub-national government levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type and adequacy of activities and mechanisms for information dissemination (general information, awareness and sensitization campaigns, mass media, written materials, community meetings, etc.) - Share of local governments that publish quarterly reports of budget execution, procurement, performance information, etc. - Share of local offices that post key program information (budget and expenditure, service standards, performance measures, complaints procedures, etc.) in accessible places - Timely publication on the internet of key social assistance information (expenditure, rules of operation, performance assessment, etc.) at the national and sub-national government levels - Availability on internet of a summary of program budget written in clear, simple language - Public awareness of program rights and obligations (e.g. % of target population who correctly identify the eligibility criteria for social assistance benefits) - Perceptions of transparency in social assistance services (among clients, journalists, etc.) |
| Participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of client participation principles and mechanisms - Existence of staff guidance and training to promote client participation - Existence of capacity building activities for stakeholder participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of client participation in setting and reviewing service standards - Level and type of client participation in service implementation and monitoring (consultations, planning, service contracting, oversight, participatory M&E) - Type (social audits, local committees, etc.) and functioning of client participation mechanisms (i.e. high level of involvement of a well-represented group of beneficiaries) - Clients awareness of participation mechanisms (% of clients who are able to mention at least one participation option) - % of clients that report an active participation in service planning, implementation or monitoring - Clients perception of the value of their participation to influence service quality |

Table 6: Demand-side Service Quality Indicators in Social Assistance Programs

| Issue | Policy dimension | Performance dimension |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Grievance Redress Mechanisms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of grievance redress policies and procedures (procurement, fraud, corruption, service quality, etc.) - Existence of grievance redress institutional arrangements (appeals committee, ombudsman, etc.) - Type of channels for individuals to complain and refer cases (e.g. telephone hotlines, on-line, town-hall meetings) - Existence of staff guidance and training to handle complaints and empowerment to put things right - Existence of procedures to receive, record and address complaints, compliments and suggestions - Extent to which there is public access to information on the number and type of complaints, compliments and suggestions received, along with the improvements made as a result - Extent to which there is a regular review and improvement of complaints procedure, taking account of the views of clients and staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Client awareness, potential and actual use of grievance redress mechanisms (% of clients who are able to mention at least one complaints mechanism, % of clients who would complain in case of poor service quality, % of clients that considered service quality was bad and used the established procedures to complained about it, % of clients who have provided feedback) - Number and type of formal and informal complaints, compliments and suggestions received - Average time to address a complaint or dispute - Percentage of grievance redress claims settled within agreed time - Clients and staff assessment of complaints procedure and its effectiveness - Percentage of unresolved complaints or disputes - % of local offices that publicized regularly information on the number and type of complaints, compliments and suggestions received, along with the improvements made as a result - % of local offices that have made during the last semester at least one change in service policies or procedures as a result of client feedback. |
| Independent Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence and adequacy of auditing policies (procurement, financial, operational and performance) - Existence of systematic procedures to follow up on audit recommendations - Existence and content of M&E policies (i.e. existence of systematic activities, adequate institutional arrangements and corresponding budget allocation for M&E) - Existence of systematic procedures for management response to M&E findings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequency and scope/nature of audits performed - Type, relevance, independence and quality of program M&E tools (spot checks, facilities survey, scorecards, beneficiary assessments, impact evaluations, etc.) - Client awareness of independent assessment activities, results and program management response to them |

4.7 Data Collection

Indicators for measuring governance and service quality are diverse and require a variety of data collection instruments. For example, policy indicators tend to focus on assessing the existence and adequacy of rules, norms and regulations and may be more amenable to measurement through expert surveys. In contrast, governance performance indicators are more likely to be quantitative measures that can be obtained from administrative data for regular monitoring. This information can also be measured or independently assessed through facilities surveys. Measures of organizational performance on targeting, service quality and demand-side accountability may require household or beneficiary surveys, as well as qualitative data.

Expert surveys: This tool elicits expert assessment of key performance dimensions using a set of evaluation criteria. It is useful to assess indicators that are better measured through a combination of quantitative and/or qualitative variables. For example, measuring the existence and clarity of job descriptions and responsibilities would consider the proportion of staff positions with a documented job profile, as well as a qualitative assessment of their adequacy. PEFA Public Financial Management Performance Framework discussed earlier is an example of a widely used expert survey for assessing governance policies and performance on financial management issues.

Administrative or monitoring data: Existing government databases can be a rich data source, particularly for governance performance information on human resources, financial and resource management, operational procedures, information management and control mechanisms. For example, indicators such as staff turnover rates, budget execution, the percentage of cash transfers made directly to the recipient's account, administration costs and the coverage rate can be measured through administrative data. The quality and objective measurement of these data may be heterogeneous, thus it is important to cross-check with other data sources such as facility or beneficiary surveys. For instance, records may show that a certain amount of transfers have been delivered but they may not capture whether a payment agent received an amount from the recipient to disburse the cash.

Facility surveys (PETS/QSDS): This instrument collects data on the quality and quantity of public services delivered and the resources used to deliver them at the facility level. Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) measure the flow of funds and other resources through the system and assess whether they result in service delivery. PETS can be linked to Quantitative Service Delivery Surveys (QSDS) that focus more on the quantity and quality of services and the behavior of providers. Although most PETS have focused on health and education, they can be adapted to social assistance services.

Beneficiary or household surveys: A number of indicators are aimed at measuring providers' performance through clients experience with service delivery. Beneficiary or

household surveys collect data on individuals' behaviors, knowledge, perceptions and practices, particularly relevant for assessing service quality and demand-side indicators. Examples of indicators measured through household and beneficiary surveys include transaction costs (in terms of money and time spent) involved in program participation, amount and frequency of social assistance transfers received, service accessibility, awareness of rights and obligations and program engagement. National household surveys are also useful for targeting measures and independent measurement of service coverage.

Qualitative data: Surveys and quantitative data sources can be complemented with qualitative data that helps understanding the gap between governance policies on paper (de jure) and their actual implementation (de facto). For example, while human resource policies may specify provisions for competitive hiring processes, in practice, positions may be sold or procedures circumvented in many ways. Moreover, there are some areas that are more amenable to qualitative assessment. For example, socio-cultural barriers to service access could be better assessed using qualitative methods since socio-cultural issues can be differently defined and understood by groups or individuals.

4. Conclusions

Governance lenses have not been applied yet to social protection in a comprehensive and systematic way. This paper aimed at contributing to this process by developing a framework for measuring governance and quality of service delivery in social safety nets. The proposed framework assesses governance policies and performance in human resources, financing and resource management, operational procedures and control mechanisms. The framework also incorporates measures of organizational performance in cash transfer delivery, emphasizing service quality, and demand-side accountability.

Finally, based on the proposed framework, a list of governance and service quality indicators for social assistance programs is identified. The selection of any particular set of indicators has underlying normative assumptions. There is some evidence from OECD countries on which governance interventions are cost-effective measures for reducing EFC. However, not all governance interventions have proved their impact on organizational performance, including service quality, or program outcomes. Therefore, the list of indicators should be treated as hypothesis to be tested rather than evidence to be followed. Furthermore, the selection of specific governance indicators will differ by country and program context. For example, governance issues will vary between programs that are operated by a central bureaucracy and those operated by an agent, such as local governments. Similarly, different governance aspects such as controlling error, fraud or corruption may be more or less relevant for low, medium and high income countries.

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Annexes

Annex 1. Overview of governance and social protection assessment tools

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | Human Resource Management | Transparency and Accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection |
| General governance assessment tools | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | France, Institutional Profiles (IP) | Set of quantitative indicators drawing on expert opinion and factual data | | • | | • | • | • | -Decentralization -Micro-lending | |
| 2 | United States, MCC Scorecard | Set of quantitative indicators drawing on third-party indicators | | • | | | • | • | | |
| 3 | World Bank, Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) | Set of quantitative indicators drawing on third-party indicators | • | • | • | • | • | • | Gender Equality | -Equity of public resource use -Old-age/Pension benefit |
| 4 | World Bank Institute, WGI | Set of quantitative indicators drawing on third-party indicators | • | • | | • | • | • | Voice and Press Freedom | |
| 5 | EC, Incentive Tranche Methodology (ITM) | No detailed information available | | | | | | | | |
| | United Kingdom, CGA | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | • | | • | • | • | | -Payment exemption for basic services for the poor -Pro-poor policy |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | Human Resource Management | Transparency and Accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection | |
| | | and on a mandatory set of third-party indicators | | | | | | | | | -Perceptions of policy effectiveness |
| 7 | Switzerland, MERV | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources and third-party indicators | • | | | | | • | • | | |
| 8 | Inter-American Development Bank, DGIA | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources and third-party indicators | • | • | • | • | | • | | - E-government -Information technologies | |
| 9 | World Bank Institute, Governance and Anti-Corruption Country Survey (GAC) | Quantitative data generated through representative surveys | • | • | • | • | | • | • | -Reforms agreement by government staff | -Additional expenses due to services not received -Complaints at social security institutions |
| 10 | African Development Bank, CGP | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | • | | | • | • | | | |
| 11 | Germany, Criteria Catalogue (CC) | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | • | | | • | • | • | -Cooperative stance within the international community | |
| 12 | ADB, Governance Risk Assessment | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | • | | | • | • | • | | |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|---|---|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | Human Resource Management | Transparency and Accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection |
| | and Risk Management Plans (GRARMP) | and primary research for updating | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Switzerland, Key Questions (KQ) | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | | | | | • | | |
| 14 | Switzerland, Governance as transversal (GT) | Qualitative expert analysis drawing on secondary sources | • | • | | • | • | | -Beneficiaries participation in policy design | |
| 15 | United States, DGSAF | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | • | | • | • | • | -Donors' interests assessment | |
| 16 | Netherlands, Strategic Governance and Corruption Analysis (SGACA) | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | • | • | • | • | • | -Historical and geographical factors -Donors' interests assessment | |
| 17 | Sweden, Power Analysis (PA) | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources and a series of closed/open workshops with key stakeholders at various levels of society | | • | | • | • | • | | -Influence of poor people and organizations of poor people in the decision – making process |
| 18 | United Kingdom, Drivers of | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on | • | • | | • | • | | -Historical factors -Role of aid | -Promotion of pro – poor growth |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | Social Protection |
|--|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | Human Resource Management | Transparency and Accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | |
| | Change (DoCh) | secondary sources | | | | | | | | |
| Specific/thematic governance assessment tools | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | IMF, Assessment of AML/CFT | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | IMF, Central Bank Safeguards | Questionnaire and qualitative expert perceptions | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | IMF, Fiscal Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | • | • | • | | | | |
| 22 | PEFA Programme, PEFA | Set of indicators drawing on expert opinion and factual data | • | • | | • | | | | |
| 23 | World Bank, Public Expenditure Review (SP-PER) | Analysis of fiscal/budgetary data; interviews | • | • | | • | | • | | -Budget allocation for social protection, trends and processes -Adequacy of social protection programs compared with selected benchmarks -Equity of social protection programs -Old-age/Pension benefit -Unemployment benefit -Risk management |
| 24 | World Bank, CFAA | Qualitative expert analysis drawing on primary | • | • | • | • | | | | |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | Human Resource Management | Transparency and Accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection |
| | | documents and secondary sources and interviews | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | OECD/DAC JV on Procurement | Set of indicators drawing on expert opinion and factual data | | • | | • | • | | | -Procurement systems assessment |
| 26 | UNODC UN Convention against Corruption Checklist | Quantitative and qualitative information obtained from official governmental sources | | | | • | • | | | |
| 27 | Germany, Conflict Prevention/Early Warning | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Germany, Security Sector Reform Assessment | No detailed information available | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | World Bank, CPAR | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | • | | • | • | | | -Procurement systems assessment |
| 30 | World Bank, Upstream Problem-Driven Governance Diagnostic (UPGD) | Variable | • | • | • | • | • | • | | -Problem – driven framework adaptable to any program or institution |
| 31 | EC, Human Rights Fact | Qualitative expert perceptions | | | | | | | | |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | Human Resource Management | Transparency and Accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection |
| | Sheet | drawing on secondary sources | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Netherlands, Stability Assessment Framework, (SAF) | Expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources and a set of indicators for trend analysis | | • | | | | • | • | -Deterioration of state functions (including basic services) -Pensions payment failures |
| 33 | United Kingdom, Strategic Conflict Assessment | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | United States, Conflict Assessment Framework | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | United States, Anti-Corruption Assessment Framework, (ACF) | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | • | • | • | • | • | | - Corruption indicators related to healthcare - Corruption indicators related to education |
| 36 | EC, Sector Governance Analysis Framework | Qualitative expert perceptions drawing on secondary sources | • | | | • | • | | | |
| 37 | World Bank, Actionable Governance Indicators (AGI) | Quantitative and qualitative assessment based on secondary sources | • | • | • | • | • | | | |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | HRM | Transparency and accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection |
| Social Protection | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | ILO, Social Security Database (SSD) | Quantitative data collected using a questionnaire | | | | | | | | <p>Indicators available for one of each of the following branches: medical care, sickness, maternity, old-age, invalidity, survivors', family, employment injury and unemployment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expenditure as percentage of the GDP -Number of programs -Number of laws and antiquity -Coverage -Employee and employer contribution rate -Period and residence condition for being eligible -Duration and evolution of the benefits <p>It also contains branch - specific indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maternity benefit -Old-age/Pension benefit -Invalidity benefit -Survivors' benefit -Family benefit -Employment injury benefit -Unemployment benefit. |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | HRM | Transparency and accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection | |
| 39 | ILO, Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Reviews (SPEPR) | Quantitative data collected from secondary sources | • | | | | | | | | -Account of receipts and expenditure - Coverage - Distributional performance |
| 40 | EC, Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSP) | Qualitative assessment based on country specific legislation | • | | | | | | | | -Contributions rates and ceilings - Invalidity benefit - Old-age/Pension benefit - Unemployment benefit |
| 41 | EC, ESSPROS | Qualitative assessment based on country specific legislation | | | | | | | | | - Invalidity benefit - Old-age/Pension benefit Survivor's benefit - Family benefit - Unemployment benefit - Housing benefit |
| 42 | CE, MISSCEO | Qualitative assessment based on country specific legislation | | • | | | | | | | - Invalidity benefit -Maternity benefits -Old-age/Pension benefit - Employment injury benefit |
| 43 | OECD, Benefits and Wages | Qualitative assessment based on statistical models | | | | | | | | | - Unemployment benefit - Effectiveness of social benefits in supporting family incomes. |
| 44 | OECD, Social Expenditure Database | Quantitative assessment based on official sources | | | | | | | | | - Aggregate data on social expenditure - Data on itemized tax rates |
| 45 | OECD, Family | Quantitative assessment based | | | • | | | | | | - Public spending on family benefits |

| | Tool | Approach to data and analysis | Focus areas | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | Financial Management | Public administration | HRM | Transparency and accountability | Corruption | Service delivery | Other Relevant Areas | Social Protection | |
| | Database | on secondary sources and qualitative assessment base on country specific legislation | | | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child support (maintenance) system - Maternity benefit - Additional leave entitlements of working parents - Typology of childcare and early education services - Quality of childcare workers |
| 46 | OECD, Pension Database | Quantitative assessment based on statistical models and official sources | | | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old-age/Pension benefit - Aggregate data on contribution rates - Aggregate data on pension expenditure - Value of pension funds |
| 47 | OECD, Sickness Disability and Work (project) | Quantitative assessment based on official sources | | | | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability benefit - Disability employment |

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- (12) Assessment tool not available. Indicators taken from country – specific reports (narrative). See for example the Nepal’s report: Sector Level Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan to Assess Public Financial Management, Procurement, and Corruption Risks in the Urban Development Sector. <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Assessments/Other-Assessments/NEP/Risk-Assessment-Plan-June2009.pdf>
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- (25) [Assessment framework: Methodology for Assessment of National Procurement Systems. http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/1/36/37130136.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/1/36/37130136.pdf)
- (26) [Assessment made using a computer-based application: Comprehensive self-assessment checklist http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/self-assessment.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/self-assessment.html)
- (27) Assessment tool not available.
- (28) Assessment tool not available.
- (29) Assessment tool not available. Indicators taken from country – specific reports. See for example the report for Philippines: Country Procurement Assessment Report. [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/04/21/000334955_20090421082041/Rendered/PDF/476020REVISED010WB0CPAR0081April020.pdf](http://wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/04/21/000334955_20090421082041/Rendered/PDF/476020REVISED010WB0CPAR0081April020.pdf)
- (30) Variable methodology: Problem Driven Governance and Political Economy Analysis. The problem – based methodology permits to assess the performance of almost every institution, process and program in the country, sector, or project levels. The framework emphasizes a focus on specific problems or vulnerabilities, as well as the need to understand political economy drivers by examining them in a systematic way. http://vle.worldbank.org/bnpp/files/Fritz%20Kaiser%20Levy%202009%20PGPE_book_12-15-09%20FINAL.pdf
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- (45) Assessment tool not available. Indicators taken from OECD Family Database. http://www.oecd.org/document/4/0,3343,en_2825_497118_37836996_1_1_1_1,00.html
- (46) Assessment tool not available. Indicators taken from Pensions Database. http://www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en_2649_34757_45558288_1_1_1_1,00.html
- (47) Assessment framework: The OECD Sickness, Disability and Work Project. http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3343,en_2649_34747_38887124_1_1_1_1,00.html3

Annex 2. List of indicators related to social protection issues

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|---|---|---|--|
| 3 | World Bank, Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity of Public Resource Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong poverty diagnosis is in place that very clearly identifies poor, vulnerable groups, and those lacking services There are no egregious regressive revenue sources Public expenditures are fully aligned with poverty reduction priorities |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor market regulations and active labor market policies promote broad access to employment in the formal sector and reflects a balance between social protection and job creation objectives in accordance with the economic circumstances and values of the country. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old-age/Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A diversified, well-supervised, and appropriate combination of pension and savings programs (including mandatory, voluntary, public, private, funded, pay-as-you go, contributory and non-contributory programs) provide affordable, adequate, sustainable and robust income security to most of the potentially vulnerable groups with minimal distortions in the operation of labor markets. |
| 6 | United Kingdom, Country Governance Analysis (CGA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment exemption for basic services for the poor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent to which poor people are required to pay for basic services Effective of payment exemption arrangements for poor and vulnerable people |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-Poor Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent to which poverty reduction is an explicit policy priority and how effectively is the policy decided, implemented and monitored in practice Extent to which public goods and services are provided in ways that recognize, address and reduce discrimination and allow all citizens – and including women, disabled people and ethnic minorities – to benefit |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceptions of the effectiveness of policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much confidence do the poor have in the ability of the government to help solve their problems and in their own ability to influence it? |
| 9 | World Bank Institute, Governance and Anti-Corruption Country Survey (GAC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional expense due to services requested not received | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional costs incurred due to failure of the social security institution to provide requested services |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment and bribes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency in which public servants request, or people feel obliged to give retributions like tips/gifts/bribes, etc. at Social Security attention. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaining at social security institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you filed any complaints for bad service, delay or mishandling received at some Social Security institution? |

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|----|--|--|--|
| 17 | Sweden, Power Analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence of poor people and organizations of poor people in the decision – making process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can networks and federations of poor people’s organizations (women and men) be heard and represented in decision-making that affects their lives at the family, local, and national levels? How are the central agents and organizations providing a voice to the poor? |
| 23 | World Bank, Social Protection Public Expenditure Review (SP-PER) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation for social protection, trends and processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public expenditure in social protection by program and sector “total” as a share of GDP and total public expenditures - and in absolute values. Sustainability of social protection budget |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequacy of social protection programs compared with selected benchmarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequacy of benefit level (benchmarks will vary by program, for example, average pensions could be compared with average wages, the social pension with the poverty line, unemployment insurance with average wages, unemployment assistance with both average wages and the poverty line, social assistance with the poverty line, wages on public works jobs with the market wage for similar work and so on |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity of social protection programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For pensions, consideration of intergenerational equity and intra-generational equity among participants of different schemes or contribution cohorts. Contrast the incidence of participation and of payments made where benefits are not uniform in social protection programs. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old-age/Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures and timing for collecting a pension |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree do contributions rates for pensions discourage employment in the formal sector? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do social protection programs improve the ability of the household to manage risks by reducing the probability of a shock? Do social protection programs improve the ability of the household to manage risks by providing an income support through insurance payments (risk mitigation) or transfers (risk coping)? |
| 32 | Netherlands, Stability Assessment Framework (SAF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deterioration of state functions (including those of social protection) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a deterioration or disappearance of basic state functions (e.g. a failure to provide essential services such as health care, education, sanitation, public transportation)? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old-age/Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the state failed to pay the salaries of government employees and armed forces or to meet other financial obligations to its citizens, such as pension payments? |
| 38 | ILO, Social Security Database (SSD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditure as percentage of the GDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total expenditure (public and private) on social protection (percentage of GDP) Mandatory private expenditure as percentage of GDP. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of social protection programs. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of laws and antiquity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of current social protection laws Date of the first social protection law |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of the main social protection program -all residents; all working population (self employed, public and private sector employees); all working population with exception; all salaried workers and |

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|----|-------------|---|--|
| | | | assimilated categories (both public and private sector employees); private sector employees; public sector employees. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee and employer contribution rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee and employer contribution to social protection programs (discretionary, whole cost, flat rate amount). Employer contribution to social protection programs (discretionary, whole cost, flat rate amount). Government contribution for social protection programs (discretionary, whole cost, flat rate amount). |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period and residence condition for being eligible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period and condition of residence in the country to be eligible for benefits of social protection programs. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration and evolution of the benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration of benefits in social protection programs. Evolution of benefit in social protection programs (constant, indexed, decreasing, increasing, discretionary evolution (no fixed rules)). |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maternity benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of parental leave. Are fathers and mothers eligible for paid parental leave? Existence of maternity benefits in kind. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old-age / Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal retirement age for male. Legal retirement age for female. Does early retirement provision exist? Is there gender discrimination in calculation of cash benefits (other than retirement age)? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors' benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculation rate of the pension of a surviving wife. Calculation rate of the pension of a surviving husband. Calculation rate of the pension for the first surviving child. In case of death, what cash benefit (percentage of earnings) does a surviving spouse receive? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefit. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum age to receive unemployment benefit. Is accumulation of unemployment benefits possible with other earnings? Are there special unemployment provisions for old-aged unemployed? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age limit for payment of benefits for a child. Age limit for payment of benefits for a student. Is there equal benefit amount for each child? Is there any variation in the benefit amount according to the age of the child? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the travel between home and work also covered by work injury programs? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invalidity benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculation method of pension (flat rate, according to incapacity level, according to previous earning, according to number of years of insurance, according to the age). |
| 39 | ILO, Social | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account of receipts and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration costs of social protection schemes. |

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|----|--|--|---|
| | Protection Expenditure and Performance Reviews (SPEPR) | expenditure | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of persons covered (by gender, age, labor market status) within the whole population or the target group. Range of contingencies, risks and needs covered (old-age and survivors, disability, unemployment, sickness and health, unemployment, maternity, family and children, poverty). |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributional performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portion of cash benefits actually distributed to horizontal distribution groups (with a particular attention to the gender distribution, formal/informal sector distribution, and distribution to other groups identified as the most vulnerable) and access of member of these groups to social protection and other basic social services |
| 40 | EC, Mutual Information System on Social Protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions rates and ceilings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions rate and ceilings for social protection |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invalidity benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferential employment of handicapped persons Minimum period of affiliation for entitlement |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old-age / Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum and maximum pensions Supplements for dependants: Spouse/Children |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnings taken as reference and ceiling for unemployment benefits |
| 41 | EC, ESSPROS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invalidity benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early retirement benefit due to reduced capacity to work Economic integration of the handicapped Rehabilitation Assistance in carrying out daily tasks |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old-age / Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated old age pension Assistance in carrying out daily tasks |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivor's benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funeral expenses |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth grant Parental leave benefit Child daycare |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent benefit Social housing Benefit to owner-occupiers |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational training allowance Placement services and job-search assistance |
| 42 | CE, MISSCEO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invalidity benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are workers obliged to prove that the reason they are not at work is because they are sick? Are there any other tests besides incapacity for work and any qualifying period that the applicant must satisfy before receiving the benefit? |

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any rules on how much time should be taken before and after the birth? • Which is the amount employers are obliged to pay (this maybe a percentage of the employee's previous wage)? • How long are employers obliged to pay? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old-age / Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special supplements not related to dependants (cold weather bonuses, payments for those who reach a very great age (80 – 90 years), Christmas or holiday bonuses). • How long does someone have to have been paying contributions, working or residing in the country before they are able to make a claim for benefits? |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor's benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens to the survivor's pension if the spouse remarries (or cohabits) with a new partner? Which of the following are entitled to a survivor's pension: divorced spouse, mixed sex cohabitants (couples living together as man and wife outside of wedlock), same sex cohabitants (homosexual couples living together), illegitimate children, foster children, adopted children. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment injury benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long, after the appearance of the incapacity does a person have to wait before the benefit is paid? • Is there a list of diseases that have been recognized as occupational in nature? • Is the recipient re-examined if circumstances change i.e. their condition improves or worsens? |
| 43 | OECD, Benefits and Wages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance is voluntary or compulsory for employees? • Initial payment rate (% of earnings base) • Permitted employment and disregards • Additions for dependent family members |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of social benefits in supporting family incomes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net effects of taxes and social benefits in supporting family incomes by type of family (single person, lone parent, one-earner married couple with no children, one-earner married couple with two children, two-earner married couple with no children, two-earner married couple with two children) • Net replacement rates over a five-year period |
| 44 | OECD, Social Expenditure Database | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate data on social expenditure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross and net current public social expenditure (% of GDP) • Gross and net mandatory private social expenditure (% of GDP) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on itemized tax rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average itemized tax rates (some items are inexistent in some countries) • Tax brakes for social purposes (amounts) |
| 45 | OECD, Family Database | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spending on family benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-related cash transfers to families with children • Public spending on services for families with children • Financial support for families provided through the tax system |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child support (maintenance) system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in the determination of child maintenance (parents, court, administrative agency) • Rules for determining the amount of payments • Do different arrangements for children of unmarried parents exist? • Age at which support ends |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity leave maximum duration |

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|----|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility criteria for payments of maternity leave • Payment during maternal leave (% of earnings) • Paternity leave maximum duration • Level of payment during parental leave • Proportion of employed parents with a child under age 1 on leave |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional leave entitlements of working parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do leave entitlements to care for a dependent relative exist? • Do leave entitlements for personal reasons exist? • Duration of additional leave • Payments conditions during additional leave |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typology of childcare and early education services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of the Centre-based day-care • Characteristics of the Family day care • Characteristics of the Pre-school early education programs |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of childcare workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main type of staff • Initial training requirements • Does continuous training exist? • Child – to – staff ratio |
| 46 | OECD, Pension Database | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old-age/Pension benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross pension replacement rates by earnings level (earnings level as multiple of the mean). The gross replacement rate is defined as gross pension entitlement divided by gross pre-retirement earnings • Net (of personal taxes and social contributions) pension replacement rates by earnings level (earnings level as multiple of the mean). • Gross pension replacement rates from public, mandatory private and voluntary private pension schemes • Gross pension wealth by earnings level. The gross pension wealth shows the size of the lump sum that would be needed to buy a flow of pension payments equivalent to that promised by the mandatory pension system in each country • Net (of personal taxes and social contributions) pension wealth by earnings level |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate data on contribution rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension contribution rate (% of gross earnings) • Pension contribution revenues (% of the GDP, by employee and employer) • Pension contribution revenues (% of total taxes) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate data on pension expenditure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditures on old-age and survivors' benefits (% of GDP) • Expenditures on old-age and survivors' benefits (% of government spending) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value of pension funds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets value in private pension funds (% of GDP) • Assets value in public pension reserves (% of GDP) |
| 47 | OECD, Sickness Disability and Work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability benefit recipients in percent of the population aged 20-64 • Disability benefit recipients in percent of the population aged 20-64 |

| | Tool | Social Protection Issue | Indicators/Questions |
|--|-------------|---|--|
| | (project) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disability employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment rates of the working-age population with disability |

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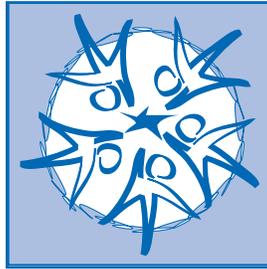
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Abstract

This paper develops a framework to assess organizational performance in the delivery of social safety nets. Specifically, it provides guidance to task teams and program managers for identifying indicators of governance and service quality in targeted cash transfer programs. The paper identifies governance issues along the results chain of service delivery and suggests policy and performance indicators for assessing program inputs - human resources, financing and resource management; and program activities - operational procedures, MIS and control. It also suggests indicators of organizational performance and the quality of outputs, including demand-side accountability mechanisms.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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