

The Palestinian Cash Transfer program

PMTF Targeting



Objective

- The CTP program intends to
 - ▣ Mitigate poverty impacts on Palestinian families
- The CTP program provides
 - ▣ Regular cash transfers to poor Palestinian families
- The CTP program merged two cash assistance programs, the Special Hardship Case Program (SHC) and the Social Safety Net Reform Project (SSNRP) program
 - ▣ covers around 11000 poor families .

Selection process

- Families apply at the district office
- MOSA apply the PMTF
- Potentially eligible Families are visited by Social Worker to fill up the verification form
- MoSA applies the PMTF that is a Proxy for the adult equivalent household consumption
- Families are classified according to the score as poor or non poor

Why targeting



- Budget constraints
- Achieve the greatest impact for a given budget
- Reduce wastage
 - by concentrating programs on the desired population

Targeting costs

- Costs of targeting
 - Administrative costs
 - Management of the program, gathering information of potential beneficiaries, monitoring...
 - Private costs
 - Cost of application (transportation, time....)
 - Social costs
 - Stigmatization
 - Political costs

Targeting errors

- Limited budget
- In practice Lack of perfect information
 - Gathering such information can be costly and time consuming
- We must select a method (or a mix of methods)
 - Means tests
 - **Proxy means test**
 - **Community-based targeting**
 - **Geographic targeting**
 - **Demographic targeting**
 - Self Targeting
- but regardless the method there are
 - Error of Inclusion
 - Not-targeted population but participating in the program
 - Error of Exclusion
 - Targeted population but not participating in the program

The CTP targeting assessment

- Is the actual budget sufficient to reach all (Extreme) poor Palestinians?
 - the total potential target population is estimated to be around 150,000 households (60,000 in West Bank and 90,000 in Gaza)
 - MoSA is working on implementation to reach 120,000 beneficiaries in both regions
 - MoSA will pay 108000 HH in December 2013
- Rural bias and Bias against refugees or an outreach problem: is it an outreach problem or a PMTF error?

The CTP targeting assessment: Special Cases

- First : MoSA formatted committees at directorates level to stop the assistance of ineligible households despite of their success by PMT.
- Second: empowering the households that been block by the PMT and the field sure that they are eligible inclusion error so MoSA marked this households as flagged on the system and disbursed cash assistance for them and considered them poor and vulnerable and this cases were covered by Mof based on primenister decision. Where MoSA worked on targeting the households that been blocked by the PMT in the second and third criteria between the two lines and those above the poverty lines.
- There is no workers in the family.
- Existence of one handicapped at least in the family.
- Existence of the one elder at least in the family.
- Existence of chronic disease in the family.
- Orphans in the family.

This lists sent to the directorates to study them and to intervene to block households that the directorates find it ineligible and those whose are eligible.

The CTP targeting assessment: PMTF Errors

- From PMTF assessment, are we doing a good job?
 - **Households living in deep poverty:** head is a disabled person (26.4%). head is poorly educated (33.0% are illiterate and 24.9% can read and write), and the labour force participation rate is only 33.8%; main source of income is social aid (55.6% of the households).
 - **Beneficiary households between the 2 lines:** predominantly female-headed households (59.1%) with a low level of education, less active (their labor participation rate is less than 20%), mainly live on social aid (75.8% of the households).
 - **Non-eligible households:** slightly more educated and more active than the households in deep poverty; 55.3% of the heads work as regular employees; main source of income is salaries and wages from private sector (18.1% of the households), social aid (10.3% of the households) and other source not specified (49.7% of the households).

The CTP targeting assessment: Implementation Errors

- Each question on the PMTF is easily observable and measurable, but more quality on data and on monitoring is required
 - Missing observation or Erroneous responses exists in few cases
 - It is a problem if such event happen because the PMTF can not be applied on missing observation
- Outreach: Did MoSA collect information of HH in all impoverished areas?
- Administrative: Did number of social workers large enough for outreaching poorest areas?
- Quality: Are social workers well trained for data collection and can we say that all would have similar understand of the target population of CTP?

PMTF strengths, issues and way forward

- Both inclusion and exclusion errors are in line with international standards
- But,
 - ▣ Some important variables are not taken into consideration
 - ▣ But many important variables does not exist in the actual PECS data or CTP enrolment form

PMTF strengths, issues and way forward

- Improve targeting errors:
 - Stop massive enrollment of potential beneficiaries at this stage
 - Spend more resources on training of social workers
 - Re-organize the full structure of social workers participation
 - Conduct a field assessment to measure how PMTF is related with household consumption and identify other variables that would be better correlated with poverty
 - On the basis of the assessment start planning PMTF update.
 - Maybe we will need to modify MoSA application form by adding new variables and therefore, update may not be possible before 2014
 - Uses social workers to reduce both exclusion and inclusion errors due to the PMTF (sort of community validation, but with restricted power and clear rules)

PMTF strengths, issues and way forward

- Improve implementation:
 - ▣ Improve Grievance & Appeal mechanism
 - ▣ Improve Monitoring: Ongoing process based on MIS; Process evaluation
 - ▣ Re-certification after 2 years in the program already started

PMTF strengths, issues and way forward

- CTP PMTF as base for other programs with
 - Different cut-off points (poverty lines) and
 - Additional criterias to be used as filters are needed to select beneficiaries of other programs, for example
 - Public works program: self selection through wages (and priority to women)
 - Social pensions only for elderly (above 60)
 - Youth labor market training for those unemployed under 1.5 CTP poverty line
 - Rural bias or Jerusalem bias can be solved by applying a different cut-off point for those regions to adjust PMTF for large living costs. For example, we can ask PCBS to estimate the poverty lines separately for Rural, Urban and Jerusalem so that we use these lines instead of the fixed NIS597.