Evaluating outside the box: Mixing methods in analysing social protection programmes

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Standard evaluation framework

Social transfers \(\rightarrow\) Generate \(\rightarrow\) 1st and 2nd order (economic) outcomes \(\rightarrow\) Impact evaluation \(\rightarrow\) Changes
Limitations

We argue that three sets of factors are inadequately recognised by programme implementers, and rarely considered in evaluations.

i) Programme processes (e.g. targeting criteria, delivery mechanisms, grievance procedures) can affect outcomes.

ii) Delivering cash transfers to poor households in poor communities has consequences for local social dynamics.

iii) Perceptions of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are not adequately captured by existing M&E systems.
Alternative framework

Programme processes

Social transfers

1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} order (economic) outcomes

Changes

Social dynamics

Recursive causality

Learning loop

Our proposed evaluation framework
Methods used in conventional evaluations

- Quantitative methods
  - RCTs
  - Quasi-experimental design

- Qualitative methods
  - KII/FGDs
  - PRA
  - Triangulation and verification

- Mixed methods:
  - gold-standard *versus*
  - platinum-standard
Case Studies:

Social Cash Transfer Pilot Programme (SCTPP) in Tigray, Ethiopia

Graduation Model (Terintambwe) Programme in Burundi
1. Programme processes – SCTPP, Ethiopia

>> distance to pay-point
1. Programme processes – Terintambwe, Burundi

>> use of mobile phone
2. Social dynamics – SCTPP, Ethiopia

>> community committees as programme implementers
2. Social dynamics – Terintambwe, Burundi

>> targeting and selection
3. Feedback loops – SCTPP, Ethiopia

>> ‘designated person’ for collecting transfer
3. Feedback loops – Terintambwe, Burundi

>> functional literacy
Conclusion

An alternative evaluation framework using mixed methods:

- Fills knowledge gaps about less quantifiable impacts
- Is more inclusive and takes better account of perceptions and opinions of all stakeholders involved
- Uses quantitative and qualitative methods in a truly integrated fashion
- Helps to explain 1st and 2nd order impacts
- Can improve design and delivery of social transfer programmes, leading to enhanced impacts.