

Safety Nets as the Graduation Strategy.

Safety Nets Core Training Course

December 11, 2014

The Type, Design and Delivery of Safety Nets are the architecture for graduation. determine the Incentive for clients to exit Safety Net Programs.

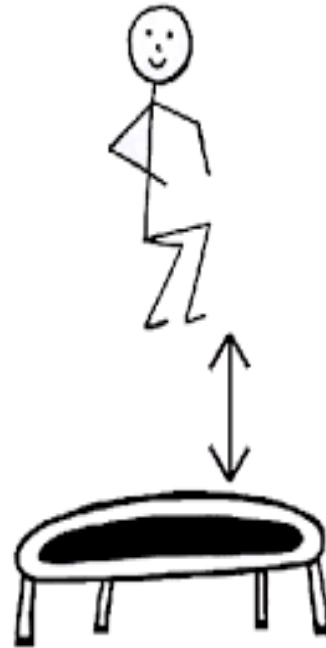
Think of Safety Nets as literally a Net that catches people from falling into vulnerability and becomes a trampoline that allows them to bounce right out of it and out of poverty.

The trampoline itself or the net itself can be considered the Productive interventions (cash, food, PWs, Livelihoods agriculture inputs, savings Training)

Underpinned or supported by Policy and guidelines on Institutional capacity, implementation, financing livelihoods interventions etc.

Or visualize SSNs as a ladder which allows people to climb out of poverty. Each run ladder becomes the pre-requisite needed to enable a household or an individual to climb out of poverty.

A clearly designed safety net system provides incentives for graduating From the program



Ladders and Adders. When SSN Program for able bodied individuals are unable to graduate them there might be cause to consider what are the disincentives for people to leave the programs.

- Safety Net interventions which function as ladders out of poverty are in themselves the graduation strategy and the productive incentives for graduation. (think Ethiopia soil conservation and watershed management, Malawi COMSIP, SCTs; Pakistan one platform card for transfers as well as other services. Others?)
- Safety Net interventions and policies which don't provide ways out of poverty are like adders and may cause long term harm and paralysis and disincentives for able bodied individuals and families trapping them into poverty (Can you name a few?)



SSN and Assets at Household Level

Levels	Disincentives to Graduate (Reality on the Ground) The pitfalls, cages and traps.	Incentives to Graduate The Ladders and the Trampolines (or mitigation of disincentives i.e. If these measures were in place, graduation could take place.
Transfers	Delayed transfers;	Timely transfers. Delivering on expectations. 3 meals per day; asset depletion is prevented as a result of transfers
	(inadequate amounts from expected transfers)	Planned and full transfers to HHs.
Training	Irrelevant training. Inadequate training and technical advice . Timing of training inappropriate for needs. Inadequate targeting for women.	Appropriate training provided over a long duration of 24 months which includes technical advice. (including repeat availability of technical advice.) Training as requested by clients.

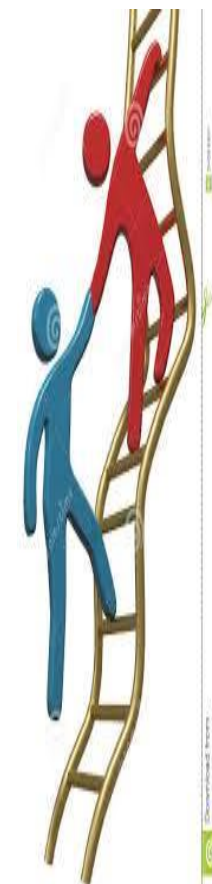


SSN at Household Level

Levels	Disincentives to Graduate (Reality on the Ground) The pitfalls, cages and traps.	Incentives to Graduate The Ladders /Trampoline (or mitigation of disincentives i.e. If these measures were in place, graduation could take place.
Public Works	Inappropriate non productive works which take people away from their income earning work. One size fit all public works, menu of public works	Public Works create viable assets and opportunities to support off farm and on farm livelihoods. Demand driven and not from a play list of public works
Availability and Access to Finance and Basic Services: market Health education, Irrigation Potable water, Road	Credit instead of grants No savings requirement attached to grant or credit. Creation of non productive goods/infrastructure. Lack of appropriate Education facilities and services, (Buildings but no teachers or children, no medical staff and medicines.)	Access to grants and financing should be seen as enabling sustainability. Not as one time reward or payment to leave program/graduate. Financing program should be combination of first phase of a grant with mandatory savings component. Then based on performance on grant financing the next step should be credit with mandatory savings component. Savings a good measurement for ability to graduate.

SSN Risk Mitigation at Household Level

<p>Information availability</p>	<p>News and information causing Uncertainty and risk of drought. Lack of information at HH on market and weather information in their locality and region</p>	<p>Correct information to HHs on their expected level of climate risk. Adequate and timely market and weather information for better risk assessment by HH to be able make decision on graduation.</p>
<p>Risk Mitigation Plans</p>	<p>No HH level risk mitigation plans as opposed to Business plans</p>	<p>HH risk mitigation strategies to assist HHs to forecast and plan their income streams and contingencies.</p>
<p>Visible confidence building in communities for risk mitigation and resilience</p>	<p>Food Insecurity. No visible food surplus or nearby food storage such as grain banks. Lack of confidence in bench marks for graduation. Lack of productive assets in community (irrigation channels etc.)</p>	<p>Food Insecurity. No visible food surplus or nearby food storage such as grain banks. Lack of confidence in bench marks for graduation. Lack of productive assets in community (irrigation channels etc.)</p>
	<p>Lack of confidence in resilience bench marks</p>	<p>Adequate information and visible confidence building measures of resilience such as community level food banks, HH savings, and income generating productive infrastructure. Jobs.</p>



SSN Relationship to Economic, Social and Political Level

Economic/Social/Political	Disincentives	Incentives
Land Availability Issues	Land rights and land grabbing issues,	People have access to their own land plots to farm.
Feudal structures and relationships.	Feudal land ownership which has people working as day labor often working to pay off earlier debts accumulated with landlord	
Isolated communities,	lack of farm to market roads	creation of connecting infrastructure. Assisting people into off farm income earning opportunities or helping them find income earning opportunities elsewhere.
Social Environment	crime and conflict, feudal structures	peace-labor mobility.
Politics	political campaign tool	Safety Net Systems



SSN relationship to Administrative and Policy Level

Administrative	Disincentives	Incentives
Quotas	Top down quotas on graduation so in response people try to under report their status.	Meeting Targets for Graduation which are identified bottom up from the community level based on the incentives available at HH level
Budgets	Regional budgets linked to caseloads: reduction of caseload means reduced budget	Delink budgets from caseload. Provision of grants for investments made by staff on their discretion and local needs.
Mindset.	View of graduation as being an exiting of people from a entitlement which is not a necessity and is unproductive.	View of problem as exposure to a high risk— low asset and asset eroding environment.
Problem solving.	Lack of graduation not analyzed as due to a lack of enabling environment and exposure to high level of risks.	Enabling environment of visible HH level income generating infrastructure, asset base such as HH savings and community level grain banks etc; provision of appropriate targeted training and appropriate type of financial support.



Plan Small. Lower Your Expectations. Help People to Succeed.

- Test ideas and interventions at small scale.
- Don't consider all interventions as pilots to scale up. One size doesn't fit all.
- Tailor interventions to people and their localities. Lower your expectations. Fail.
- Try again-learn from failure, try small again, with low expectations. Succeed.
- Repeat.