MENA CoP Launching Workshop

Case Study: *Republic of Iraq*

Affiliation: *Social Safety Net Department*

Presenter: *Dr. Salim Jumaa Abdul Sahib, Director-General, SSN*

Description of program

- Objectives: **Provide social assistance and services for HHs with low or no income, disabled people, and other groups without discrimination to reduce poverty**

- Program activities: **Provide cash for the above groups regularly**

- Program implementation date? **The program's implementation started in 1980 in limited scope. Early 2006, the program was expanded significantly.**

1. Main institutions, key partners: **MOF (funding), MOP (strategy development)**

2. Funding: **The WB (equipment and training courses)**

- Program's website (if applicable)

Program coverage

Year	How many people have benefitted from this program?	
	Women (%)	Men (%)
2010	400153 6.9%	473421 5.9%
2011	396435 7.5%	452325 6.1%
2012	400211 6.9%	419531 6.6%

Objectives of the program

- Description of the programs' objectives (short run/long run)
- **1- Streamline governorate databases, 2- Detect duplication if any, 3- Data collection. On the long run, link concerned institutions after issuing the unique civil ID.**
- What is the mechanism through which program interventions can influence the beneficiaries?

1. **Maintain and process data in quality and timely manner**
2. **Ability to transfer beneficiary files among governorates easily**
3. **Facilitate issuance of smart card for beneficiaries**

Description of the program

- Program activities:

In addition, the program develops financial and statistical reports as well as many other qualities.

- Target population:

People with low or no income.

- Targeting method/selection criteria:

1- Self-targeting, 2- SSN is there for you. Targeting is done for certain groups under the SSN Law.

- Main institutions and partners and their roles:

- **1- The WB (infrastructure), 2- International Agency (system development), 3- MOP (poverty stats)**

- Benefit package:

Cash aid, human capital investment, in-kind assistance for women by donors

- Eligibility criteria (if applicable):

- **Program impact can be enhanced with better infrastructure and programs in line with modern international systems, as well as capacity building for the staff**

Description of the program-continued

- **Coordination (with public/private institutions), which areas: registration, benefits, etc.:**

1- Data is sent to all public institutions to detect violations, 2- registration of the work-age unemployed persons at the employment centers, 3- coordinate with MOE and MOHESR on school attendance, 4- coordinate with aid payment outlets to ensure payment in a timely manner.

- **Procurement, contracting, and payment:**

Using the WB grant, infrastructure of networking was established through purchasing equipment for the HQ and governorates to enable use of modern technologies. As the program requires a strong database, data entry operators were contracted to complete data entry process nationwide. All data was transferred to the new system, and payments were made in 11 out of 18 governorates (including KRG). Through this process, many duplicated cases were discovered and actions were taken against the violators.

Main challenges

- *What are the main challenges facing the program implementation?*

    1- Delays in maintenance contracts

    2- Targeting method

- *How these challenges were addresses?*

Involvement of the decision-makers (HE the Minister) to implement the maintenance contract and WFP to design a form for the beneficiaries .

Findings and results

- *Has the program been evaluated or is it being evaluated regularly? By whom?*

The program is still in the preparation phase for full implementation. We hope an evaluation will be undertaken by the WB experts or concerned parties (MOP)

- *What are the main indicators used to measure program's success?*

Elimination of duplicated cases in the SSN database and regain ineligible payments.

- *What are the main results and findings that can be attributed to program?*

Elimination of duplicated cases in the SSN database and have full data on each beneficiary.

- *Present evaluation findings where they exist.*

- *Present stylized conclusions if no data:* **Available**

- *Can you briefly describe how you Monitor and Evaluate the impact of your program?*

1- Link SSN divisions in the governorates using a unified database to obtain data in a quality and timely manner

2- Archive all documentation for each beneficiary in the database

Lessons and future priorities

- Main lessons and future priorities:

1- Establish a strong and quality database

2- Obtain all data and reports on payments and stats in a quality and timely manner for all SSN divisions

3- Use network linkage among governorates as small e-governance

4- Possible link with other state departments, as the database and its program help coordinate with other concerned state institutions.

Advice to Other Countries?

- What issues and questions for delegates to consider in designing programs?

Through program implementation in Iraq, we now have a clear vision on all related details. After reviewing programs of other delegations, this will lead to further discussion.

- What are the best resources to help countries frame their thinking in this areas?

Through partnership with the WB, which resulted in successful programs in Iraq, we hope to receive more assistance from the WB and other institutions to frame their thinking in program implementation.