



Common Challenges in the Design of Food Social Safety Nets

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Safety Nets in the US

- Main types (complementary to each other)
 - Food
 - Income
 - Medical Insurance
- Public-sector safety nets implemented through partnership between federal and state governments
- Private social safety nets try to fill gaps not filled by public-sector efforts
- This presentation will focus on food social safety nets

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Food Safety Nets

- All countries face issue of how to assure adequate food to those lacking physical or economic access
- Improving food markets to drive down the real cost of food—first line of defense in fighting hunger
- Challenge: How to reach those without effective demand without undermining capacity of market to serve those who do?

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Issues in the Design of Food Safety Nets

1. Who should receive assistance?
 - Distinguishing the “deserving” vs. the “undeserving”
 - This is an issue of targeting
- In what form should you give assistance?
- Food?
 - Cash?
 - Vouchers?

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Issues in the Design of Food Safety Nets

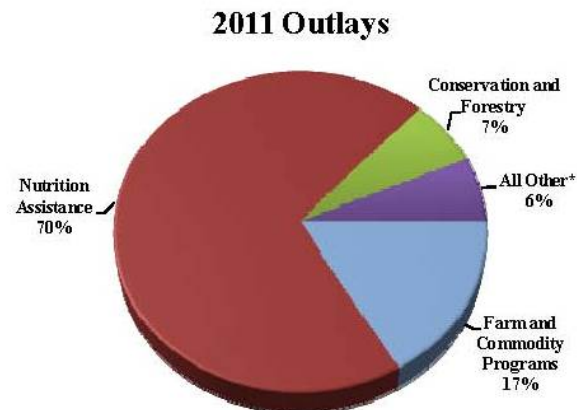
3. How does the food assistance program interact with the rest of the food system?
4. How do you deal with leakages?
Options for targeting
5. How do you balance multiple objectives of the food assistance program?

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Illustrations from the US Public Food Safety Nets

- Administered by US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)
- Nutrition assistance accounts for 70% of USDA's 2011 budget request



*Includes Rural Development, Research, Food Safety, and Marketing and Regulatory functions

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The US Public Food Safety Nets

- Major components:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP – ex Food Stamps] (74% of total funding)
 - School Feeding Programs (17%)
 - WIC (7%)
 - Various feeding programs for senior citizens

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Eligibility requirements

- SNAP Program
 - Incomes and assets
 - Citizenship
- Child Nutrition Programs
- WIC

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Food Safety Nets in Countries like Mali



- Similar design issues apply, with special emphasis on role of food aid
 - Who should receive assistance?
 - In what form should you give assistance?
 - Food (imported vs. local purchase)
 - Cash
 - Interactions with the rest of the food system (disincentive effects)
 - Leakages and targeting
 - Balancing multiple objectives

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Discussion?



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