

Protection to Production Project: Mixed Methods in Research Design

1. Recall PtoP research design. CT effects on:

- HH productive activities/investments
- HH decision-making on productive investments
- HH risk-coping strategies
- Local economy (multipliers/trade/IGAs/labor etc.)
- Informal insurance mechanisms – social networks
- Climate change adaptation
- Operational issues (timing, method, predicatability)
- Targeting – (understanding, perception of fairness etc)
- As well as building capacity of governments to undertake IE, *using mixed methods*

“Theory of change” approach

Household economy: *the introduction of a small but predictable flow of cash income improves livelihood choices & productive investments, but vulnerable households will be more highly constrained in their decisionmaking on their use additional cash;*

Local economy: *the whole community, including non-beneficiaries, will benefit economically from the injection of cash through multiplier effects on local goods, services & labour markets, this will be mediated by the political, economic & social context;*

Social networks: *(a)cash transfers increase beneficial risk sharing arrangements & economic collaboration underpinned by social capital (trust-based reciprocity); and (b)changes in social networks linked to cash transfers positively affect the most vulnerable & least powerful people in a community through greater inclusion in decisionmaking processes & increasing their entitlement set & livelihood choices;*

Operational: *cash & in-kind transfers can be improved through a better understanding of likely household and local economic impacts.*

Approach and features of design:

- Follows quantitative research;
- PRA methods with purposeful sampling & priority issues (focus groups, key informants, mapping & visual tools, life & household histories etc.) & diversify participants (beneficiary and non beneficiary);
- teaming with experienced local partners;
- 4 communities +1 outside of treatment area;
- stratify sampling (regional and market integration

Proposed Methods

Research Area

Methods

Household economy

Asset matrices
Forcefield analysis
Risk mapping
Causal flow diagrams
Household case studies/historic profiles

Local economy

Causal flow diagrams
Network diagrams
Livelihood matrices
Most significant change & analysis

Social networks/economic impacts

Most Significant Change & analysis
Social mapping
Power mapping/ Venn diagrams

Operational lessons

Story with a gap
Problem tree analysis

Why Mixed Methods in PtoP?

- Interpret & contextualize results through *triangulation*;
- Deepen understanding : *why and how?*;
- Untangle complexities – catch averages but also variation, heterogeneity;
- Use of *inductive* & open approach;
- Explain patterns/trends – indications of future pathways for HHs/local economy;
- Understand CT impacts on different categories of population (women, HHs, wealth, youth, etc)
- Deepen understanding of intra-HH dynamics, as well as attitudinal & empowerment dimensions (*emic* perceptions)

Points/?s of Concern/Challenge:

- avoid IE being 2 separate studies (Q&Q);
- How to adjust qualitative work “in process” to pick up on/integrate quantitative findings and follow up/build on new information;
- How to best combine results/findings of each approach into integrated set of conclusions and recommendations?

Proposed Remedies:

- Qualitative team reviews quantitative modules;
- Each team continuously shares and reviews results and preliminary analysis of other;
- Annual workshop to:
 - share findings & analysis;
 - identify commonalities and variations;
 - build consensus of key findings for conclusions and recommendations/messages;
 - identify & summarize strengths and challenges of mixed method approach for *learning*;
 - *in a timely manner to inform ongoing programmes & future designs*