





Advancing financial access for the world's poor

# **Banking the Poor via G2P Payments**

17 April 2010 Chris Bold

### **CGAP Technology Program**

- 14 active projects in 11 countries
- New IP on customers, business models, policy
- Communicate widely to catalyze action
- Co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



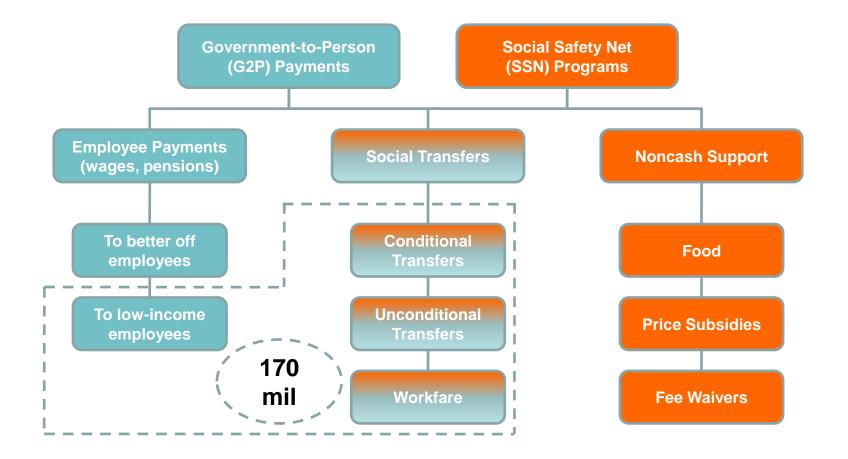


### **Areas of Focus**

- <u>Clients:</u> drivers of large-scale adoption?
- <u>Providers:</u> what incentives to offer services to large numbers of poor people?
- <u>Governments:</u> how can they develop (1) safe and enabling regulation, and (2) policies that promote adoption?







*(***)**CGAP

*Sources:* Fiszbein & Schady (2009), Chen, Ravallion & Wang (2008), Duryea & Schargrosky (2007), Zimmerman & Moury (2009), ILO LABORSTA database, and CGAP interviews with government officials.



# G2P Flows in Colombia (2008-2009)

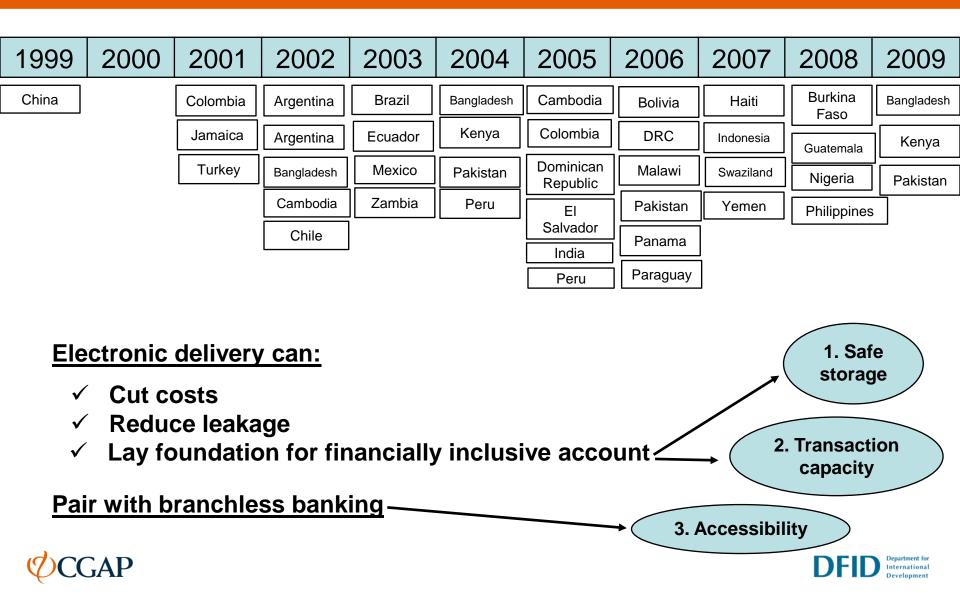
G2P Flow		Recipients (mil)	Annual value transferred (USD, bil)
Social Security (Cajas de Compensación Familiar)		3.9	0.34
CCT (Familias en Acción)		1.5	0.79
Wages (Central government)		0.99	11.76
Public Pensions (Central government)		0.80	3.84
Old-Age Fension ( <i>Prosperar</i> )		0.38	0.13
TOTAL		7.57	16.86
CCT program large vs global peers	Unconditional socia transfer reaches 2.5 recipients as CCT		
<b>CGAP</b>			



partment for

International Development

#### Nearly half of 40 social transfer schemes launched since 1999 feature electronic delivery



# Growing cohort of G2P programs offer financially inclusive account to recipients

#### <u>Brazil</u>

Caixa Economica migrating 12.1 mil recipients to cardoperated bank account accessible via 20,000 agents



#### South Africa

1/4 of 9 million people receive payment into accounts at Absa (largest bank) and Net1

#### <u>India</u>

4 million NREGA recipients choose branchless banking over traditional delivery

#### But globally...

Fewer than 1 in 4 G2P recipients get payment into financially inclusive account





# 5 common questions

- 1. Will financial services boost social protection?
- 2. Will poor people use financial services if offered?
- 3. Will it be prohibitively expensive to government?
- 4. Can financial institutions offer services to G2P recipients on an adequately profitable basis?
- 5. What tips for government procurement processes?





#### Financial services can strengthen social protection

- Considerable debate on the impact of microfinance
  - See Rosenberg, <u>"Does Microcredit Really Help Poor People?"</u> CGAP (2010)
- But evidence supports claim for several types of impact:
  - Manage shocks: Collins et al (2009), Banerjee & Duflo (2006)
  - Increase productivity: Dupas and Robinson (2009)
  - Asset effect: Sherraden (1991), Ssewamala (2008)
- Participate more fully in the economy
  - Fuller sense of citizenship: Barrientos (2009)
  - Fuller share of benefits of economic growth: World Development Report (2009)





#### The poor will use financial services... if good quality is offered

- <u>Brazil:</u> 96% say cards "easy" or "very easy" to use in 1<sup>st</sup> year
- <u>Mexico</u>: 1.5 mil Oportunidades recipients using saving account leading to 35% increase in consumption (Gertler, 2006)
- <u>Brazil</u>: uptake of account by 2 mil Bolsa Familia recipients
- <u>Malawi:</u> 45% of emergency cash recipients still use account 2 years after grants ended
- <u>South Africa</u>: Net1 processing US\$ 276 mil in debit purchases

 India: 85% dormancy rate in accounts of NREGA recipients, due to poor marketing and distance (Ramji, 2009).

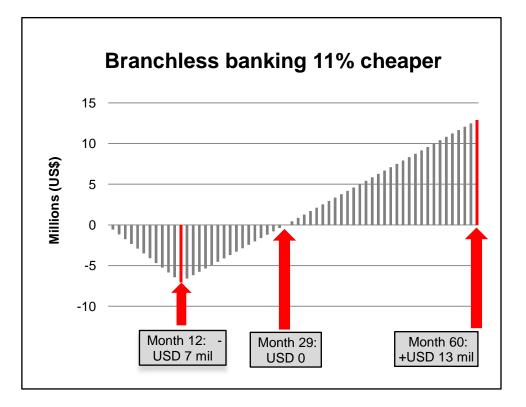
## More evidence needed





# Need not be prohibitively expensive

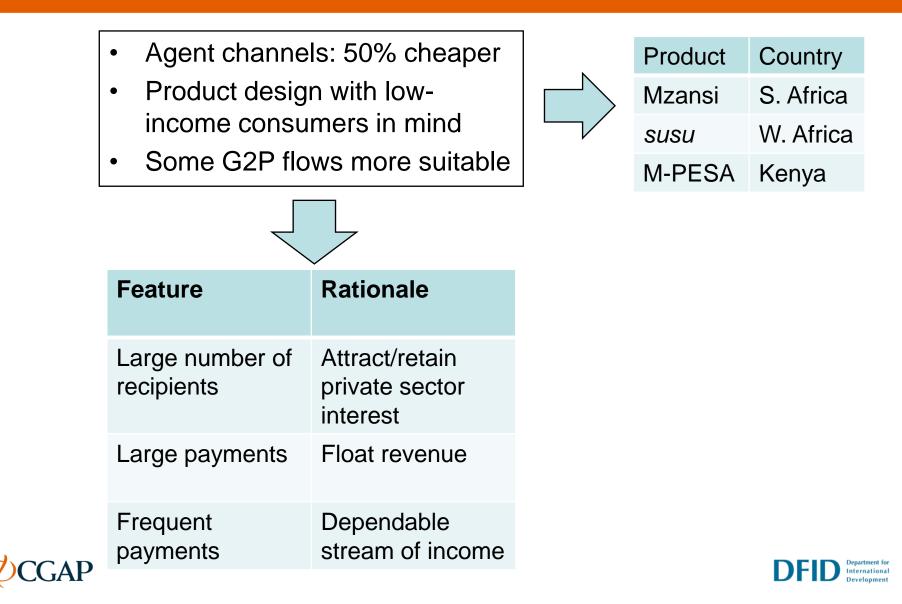
- 1 mil recipients
- US\$40 grants
- US\$2 teller window fee
- 100 recipients per agent (conservative)
- <u>Total cost: USD 12 mil</u>







#### Business case is there, but not in all G2P flows



#### Four factors in organizing a successful tender

- 1. Presence of a champion
- 2. Case for smart subsidies
- 3. Open to new types of providers
- 4. Ensuring the size of the pot is attractive





# Takeaways

- 1. G2P payments already reach more poor people (170 mil) than microcredit (99 mil)
- Electronic delivery creates 2 of the 3 requirements for a financially inclusive account (safe storage, transactions). Branchless banking can add the third (accessibility)
- 3. Growing cohort of G2P programs offer inclusive financial services.

- 4. Financial services may strengthen social protection for poor G2P recipients
- 5. Clear evidence the poor will use services, if good quality
- 6. Need not be prohibitively expensive for government, and there are lessons on designing successful tenders
- More work needed to prove the business case, and take the word to government





