

ECONOMIC INCLUSION

FOR THE POOREST — MOVING TO SCALE

GLOBAL LEARNING EVENT 2021 REPORT



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| OVERVIEW

The Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) hosted a virtual Global Learning Event (GLE) between April 27–29, 2021, to take stock of the experiences in moving national economic inclusion programs for the poorest and most vulnerable to scale. Over three days, and with a pedagogical structure, the event covered diverse cross-cutting themes related to economic inclusion and its potential to scale. The full agenda appears in appendix A.

The event followed the launch of PEI’s flagship publication, *The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021: Moving to Scale*. An overarching goal of the event was to build on the evidence and learning in the *State of Economic Inclusion* (SEI) report with a view toward advancing the operationalization of economic inclusion across national policy, strategy, and programming. The event will directly inform medium-term work planning and future partnership collaborations.

The Global Learning Event 2021 presented an opportunity to adapt intensive in-person events to the virtual world. Various activities and interactivity tools were used throughout the event to maximize engagement and interaction. Examples are diverse session formats, audience polling, chat forums, and hangout sessions.

The success of the variety of formats is reflected in the 94 percent of respondents rating the overall event as 5 or higher (see section 4 of this report for an evaluation of the GLE).

Event objectives

The key objectives of the event were the following:

- ✓ To strengthen the common understanding of the opportunities and challenges of moving economic inclusion to scale across different contexts and during COVID-19 recovery.
- ✓ To share first-hand the experiences of government scale-up and to enable practitioners and policy makers from across the partnership to exchange knowledge.
- ✓ To showcase and advance the emerging evidence base on program impacts and costs.

Motivation

Transforming the economic lives of the extreme poor is a monumental challenge at the best of times, but the challenge has been greatly magnified by COVID-19. Almost 700 million people still live in extreme poverty, and for the first time in two decades this number is on the rise. As governments and development partners seek effective ways to reverse current trends, growing evidence indicates that coordinated “economic inclusion” interventions can provide a pathway out of extreme poverty.

At the time of the Global Learning Event, economic inclusion programs were under way in at least 75 countries, reaching approximately 20 million households and benefiting nearly 92 million

individuals (Andrews et al, 2021).). Momentum toward economic inclusion has strengthened, based on evidence and learning across a range of sectors and smaller-scale programs, including graduation, social safety nets, and community-driven and local economic development. It appears that this momentum will continue in the context of COVID-19, with economic inclusion programs increasingly customized to improve wage employment, self-employment, food security, and income diversification. Economic inclusion programs have the potential for scale-up at the national level.

Governments are now leading the scale-up of economic inclusion, building on national programs and policies linked to safety nets, livelihoods and jobs, and financial inclusion. The overall evidence of impact and cost-effectiveness is promising. Economic inclusion programs have been shown to have greater impacts on income, assets, and savings than standalone interventions. Programs at scale have transformative potential, especially for women. And many programs are being adapted for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities and those displaced. However, though a surge in the number of programs continues, many countries are in the earliest stage of this journey. A strong imperative has emerged to support country engagement, learning, and innovation—a cornerstone of PEI’s mission in supporting the scale-up of economic inclusion programs globally.

Event description

The GLE responded to the growing demand for knowledge on emerging good practices for economic inclusion programs. The event brought together a mix of experts from government programs, development partners, and policy makers across the partnership to engage in a robust exchange of operational knowledge, best practices, and research. Participants enjoyed opportunities to share their experiences. Government partners were at the forefront as they build their national strategies. More details are presented in appendix A of this report.

Audience

The "Global Learning Event: Economic Inclusion for the Poorest—Moving to Scale" was truly a global event with well almost 500 participants joining the event through various channels such as Zoom and YouTube. These participants represented over *40 governments* from all regional groups of the globe and *50 organizations*, including nongovernmental, research, multilateral, and donor organizations coming together to engage in conversation on how to bring economic inclusion programs to scale. Over the course of the three-day event, over 70 speakers, panel members, and experts joined in exciting conversations aimed at taking learning forward.

Disaggregation of participants who attended the GLE

	Number	% of total
Government representatives	224	47
Stakeholder organization representatives	113	24
World Bank representatives	139	29
Total	476	100

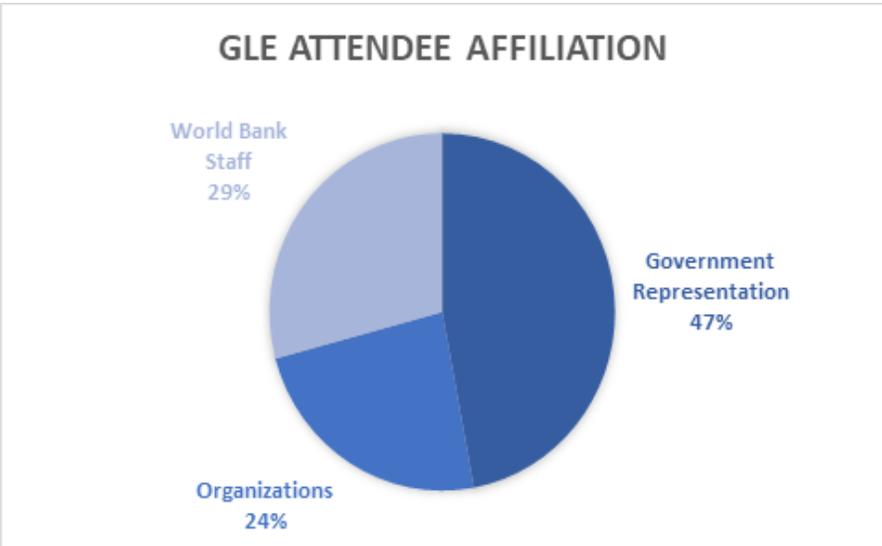


Figure 1.1: Organizational affiliations of GLE attendees

National government attendees according to their declared country

Map 1.1 indicates the wide regional diversity in the national government counterparts attending the event, excluding those who did not declare their countries. There was representation from all continents, with a special concentration from Sub-Saharan Africa.



Map 1.1: Dispersion of government counterparts who attended the GLE

Event language

English was the floor language of the event. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in French, Spanish, and Arabic.

BUILDING BLOCKS

Each day of the event was built around a theme. On day 1, the conversations revolved around "building back from COVID-19 and building forward to 2030." On day 2, the sessions focused on "evidence and feasibility." And day 3 looked at "operationalizing the agenda for scale." Some key results were expected to emerge from this effort, and certain activities throughout the event were designed to ensure the inputs delivered the desired outcomes. Figure 2.1 depicts the building blocks of the Global Learning Event, and appendix B includes a detailed agenda of the event.

Approach

A layered learning approach allowed participants to engage in varied learning styles:

- *Core technical plenary sessions* focused on foundational issues, including the global landscape for economic inclusion, key concepts and definitions, and approaches for moving to scale. These sessions were built on the SEI 2021 report and the latest learning in the sector.
- *Peer-to-peer and partnership sharing parallel sessions* allowed collaborative approaches to learning, first-hand country presentations, and selective deep-dive discussions across participants.
- *Engagement and interaction.* Although participants could not be brought together in person, engagement and interaction were maximized through diverse session formats, audience polling, and various chat forums.

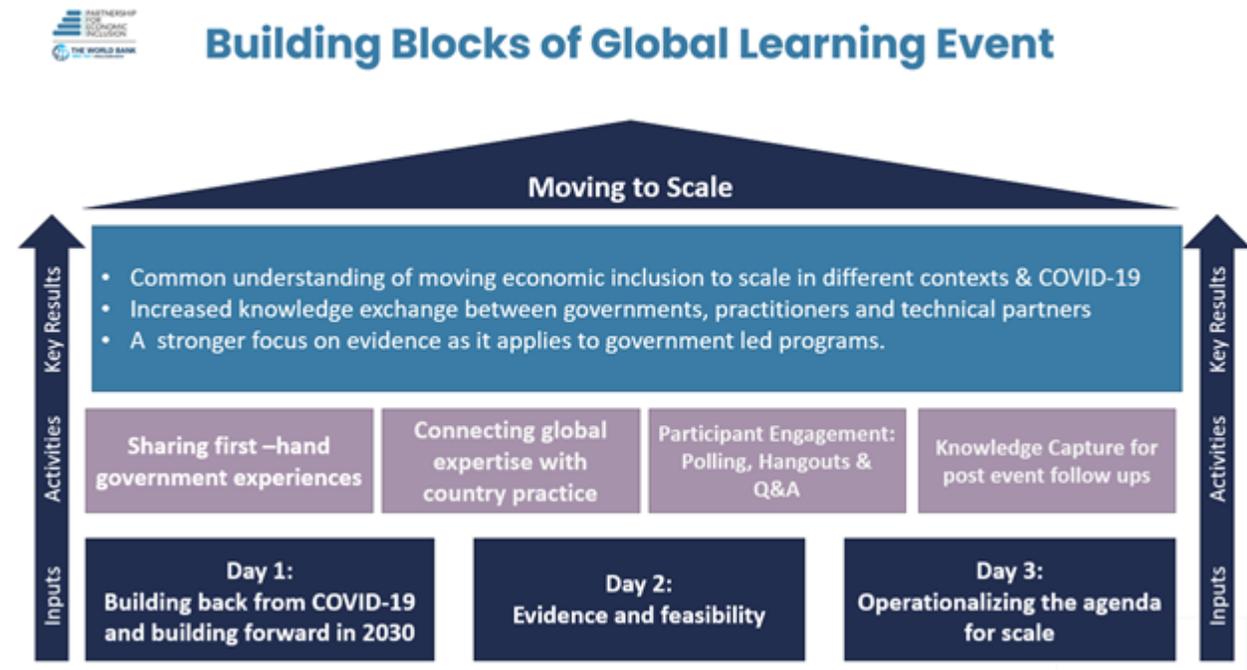


Figure 2.1: Building blocks of the Global Learning Event

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Message 1 COVID-19 is a game changer, requiring programs to make significant adaptations as operational challenges emerge.

- For the first time in two decades, extreme poverty is on the rise, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and adding new families to the ranks of the poor. An unprecedented 150 million people are projected to fall into extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A likely consequence of COVID-19 will be the coalescence and persistence of large-scale economic inclusion programs led by governments. Discussions during the GLE underscored the political economy considerations inherent in the responses to extreme shocks (in this case to COVID-19) that drive governments to opt to scale up (see box 3.1). The discussants, representing more than 40 actively engaged governments, highlighted the potential to accelerate the scale-up of economic inclusion programming.
- However, many unanswered questions remain such as how these programs apply in urban settings and what opportunities there are to link to green economy initiatives and to engage technology and the private sector for program delivery.
- Moreover, big questions remain about resilience, climate adaptation, and natural resource management.

Box 3.1: COVID-19, an Impetus for Economic Inclusion Scale-Up

The Global Learning Event provided important lessons on how COVID-19 has reshaped economic inclusion in both scope and scale. During the opening session, the message from Abhijit Banerjee, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Mamta Murthi, Vice President for Human Development, World Bank; and Carmen Reinhart, Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank, was clear: the COVID-19 pandemic is going to affect thinking around economic inclusion, and it can be a critical intervention to alleviate the negative impacts of COVID-19. According to Murthi, “COVID-19 has been a wakeup call to politicians as it has exposed the sharp inequalities in societies. In terms of being convincing, studies have been proven to be durable and cost-effective.”

SHOCKS AS DRIVERS TO PROMOTE SCALE

A question pondered at the GLE was whether policy makers and program designers could transform extreme shocks such as COVID-19 into drivers to promote the scale-up of successful, sustainable interventions. At the government level, adoption of a flexible stance could ensure that legal frameworks adapt efficiently to unexpected events. Country representatives acknowledged the limitations of resources, especially in the wake of COVID-19. They indicated that they take advantage of the opportunity to harness funding from nontraditional organizations, especially those in the private sector, by pushing

the case for economic inclusion. Furthermore, it was determined that social safety nets and economic inclusion can symbiotically create ecosystems for growth.

GREEN, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY AFTER THE PANDEMIC

A major question is how to deal with resilience, climate adaptation, and natural resource management in a post-COVID context. Institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and BOMA and countries such as Niger and Ethiopia emphasized the urgency of pushing forward the green agenda. According to FAO, food systems are the most important avenue worldwide to better livelihoods and jobs, but these systems are delicate because of climate change and crises such as COVID-19. This has become particularly apparent in West Africa and the Middle East and North Africa, where these crises make clear the links among economic inclusion, climate, and agriculture and food security. Economic inclusion programs are central to promoting green inclusive food systems and rural transformations because they can reduce poverty in many ways, such as by increasing the productive capacities of small-scale farmers and fishers to produce affordable, healthy food and by supporting the adoption of climate-smart practices.

TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRAM DELIVERY IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

Technology and digital solutions have the potential to leapfrog some delivery constraints, and economic inclusion programs have increasingly embraced these tools during the pandemic. Technology allows programs to streamline delivery of critical program services, which can both reduce costs and facilitate the process of reaching greater numbers of participants. Fundación Capital and Instiglio examined how technology can move from its traditional use for digital payments to innovative mechanisms in interventions that include: training and coaching; using phone numbers for geo-location to facilitate the delivery of food; employing COVID-19–related, tablet-based information apps; utilizing WhatsApp for communication and awareness campaigns; and serving beneficiaries in locked-down environments with SMS, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, Interactive Voice Response, or mobile banking apps. However, use of these technologies poses challenges related to digital literacy, data protection, phone ownership, connectivity access, and other infrastructure deficits. Most important, limited financial resources often hinder governments’ abilities to prioritize these investments.

Message 2 As we move to scale, economic inclusion should be considered within a wider government context at both the policy and program levels.

- In the opening session of the GLE, Carolina Trivelli, a PEI Advisory Council member, supported the notion by saying that government programs provide the platform to scale up and reach a meaningful level of coverage. But doing so requires embedding both policy and programs in public services and planning as part of a continuum of support for the poorest and most vulnerable.
- The event unpacked the implications of this from institutional and financial perspectives.

- The first set of parallel sessions explored the many institutional aspects of moving to scale, especially in the Arab Republic of Egypt, Bangladesh, Peru, and Togo. Coordination across ministries and sectors emerged as an important challenge.
- The session on day 3 on financing and ensuring program sustainability looked closely at the challenges and opportunities for developing a long-term financing strategy, building in part on social protection investments in a country. Planning a sustainable financing strategy is an incremental process requiring various levels of action, including budgeting, evidence building, partner coordination, negotiation across sectors and ministries, and trade-offs around resource allocation, among other things.

Message 3 There is strong potential for economic inclusion programs to scale up through existing government programs, especially building on the Social Safety Net Plus agenda.

- Discussions during the GLE reinforced the idea that social safety nets and economic inclusion programs have great potential to complement one another. Safety nets were described as springboards or ladders able to support the launch of successful economic inclusion programs globally.
- Safety nets do not compete with economic inclusion investments. The interventions are complementary and respond to different objectives.
- Safety nets are a critical entry point for governments wishing to build on existing systems and provide economic opportunities to target beneficiary groups. Tanzania and El Salvador have economic inclusion programs that were built on safety net investments already in place.
- A cash-plus intervention at scale allows the cost optimization, savings, and economies at scale required to advance this agenda. Some of the work in the Sahel has been foundational and has generated a strong evidence base and costing analysis.

Message 4 Programs should reflect the dynamic realities of poverty and politics.

- Economic inclusion programs are not static. To maximize the effectiveness of program outcomes, they must be intentional about addressing heterogeneity among people living in extreme poverty.
- Customization in program design is critical, taking into consideration regional and country variations. Furthermore, programs should consider variations in the starting point and trajectory of different population groups (such as displaced, youth, and people with

disabilities) and their needs in different operating contexts (such as rural and fragile, and conflict and violence contexts) to shape program design and implementation choices accordingly.

- In the GLE, customization of program design in urban settings emerged as a rising concern because of the COVID-19 context. Experiences shared by Senegal and BRAC revealed that urban programming differs according to institutional structures, the mobility of target groups, and uncertain community dynamics. Programs need to adapt to these factors, as well as the distinct dynamics in urban markets.
- Although program customization to suit target populations and different contexts is important, political economy considerations must be taken into account in program design. Political realities may require programs to cover a broad range of population cohorts, in addition to the poorest, often to ensure popular support. Programmatic and institutional adjustments must take into account distinct, and sometimes competing, institutional priorities among governments, implementing partners, donors, and other stakeholders.

Message 5 Investing in women’s economic empowerment is an imperative next step in economic inclusion commitments.

Strongly emphasizing women’s economic empowerment (WEE), participants in GLE explored how economic inclusion programs can help address both the constraints around social norms and women’s aspirations. The event featured a discussion on WEE in a prominent plenary session and dedicated a parallel session to this topic as well. But the topic also emerged in other conversations throughout the event.

“ Women and girls are the face of poverty in society.

Inonge Mutukwa Wina

VICE PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA

- Discussions on WEE highlighted the policy and programmatic links explored by the government of Nigeria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). A question posed was how social development and WEE should be linked to other sectors and the broader social protection agenda because gender equality and poverty are interlinked and not separate items.
- Colleagues from the Village Enterprise and Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) gave strong personal testimony about the benefits of economic inclusion programs as

robust agents for helping to address social norms and constraints to aspirations for women. They are believed critical to work on women aspirations, family norms, and community expectations in reaching the goal of empowerment, in addition to addressing structural and financial barriers. This work can involve coaching or simply the organic social shift that occurs when women are able to bring income security to their homes.

- WEE emerged as a critical priority, especially in the context of COVID-19, which has disproportionately affected women. Box 3.2 lists the main takeaways on WEE that emerged during the GLE.

Box 3.2: *Enabling Women's Economic Empowerment: Addressing Challenges to Scale*

The Global Learning Event had a strong focus on women's economic empowerment and how economic inclusion programs can help address constraints and leverage opportunities for women. What follows are some of the key messages that emerged.

Interventions that raise women's aspirations, mold norms, and meet community expectations are central to reaching the goal of empowerment. Access to resources and health care, ownership of property, and increased mobility are fundamental for WEE. But one of the most important aspects of scaling economic inclusion that enables the empowerment of women lies in truly changing the gender norms by engaging the entire community. Identifying the needs and issues in the communities in which women are based is the first step in building women's leadership.

Infrastructure deficits and lack of access to financial institutions are some of the most problematic issues in easing female beneficiaries' access to finance, especially in the event of a disaster or conflict. It is challenging but critical to develop digital payment solutions to scale economic inclusion. Digitalizing payment systems also helps to mitigate the adverse impacts of external shocks such as natural disasters or pandemics because money can reach beneficiaries faster and more securely. Lack of connectivity jeopardizes women's capacity to leverage various resources.

Gender inequality and poverty are correlated. Poverty cannot be eliminated without addressing gender inequality issues. Programs must address women's specific needs such as childcare, uniform distribution of household work, improved access to health and finance infrastructure, and the availability of sources of drinking water closer to dwellings. A good example is the Productive Safety Net Program in Ethiopia, which provides childcare services linked to the public works program and time-saving infrastructure such as water access closer to households.

As a faster track to scale, there is potential in building decentralized supply chains based on local resources and the skills women already have. On the one hand, investments can multiply locally when livelihoods or programs are built on the skills of local women or on their available resources. This focus on local is also observed in the sustainability of local supply networks, which can remain operational even during external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, there is value in conducting local market assessments and identifying products and services that are in demand locally.

Savings and self-help groups that operate in rural communities are fundamental to scale because they seek to streamline government program delivery, implement advanced financial management, as well as enable enterprise growth and market linkages. These interventions are sometimes not central to programs with a community development agenda.

Cost optimization strategies and evidence building are two critical areas in which to push the boundaries in economic inclusion for the empowerment of women. More data are needed to back arguments in, for example, the COVID-19 recovery context, where it becomes easy to drop the gender agenda when governments are facing large fiscal pressures.

Message 6 Evidence is an enabler of political commitment and will.

- There is promising evidence that a diverse range of economic inclusion programs have a positive impact on the well-being of poor and extremely poor households. These impacts are often sustained over the medium and long term, and potentially at scale. Such findings emerged clearly from the discussion throughout the three days, as did the essential role of evidence generation in shifting preferences and bolstering political support for the scale-up of economic inclusion programs.

“ There is clear evidence that the impact of a one-time intervention sticks. If you give the poor a hand, they run, and they run fast. This has durable positive impact on the people.

Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee

FORD FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, MIT and CO-RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 SVERIGES RIKSBANK PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES IN MEMORY OF ALFRED NOBEL

- Discussions at the GLE helped reframe several debates on evidence generation:
 - There was clarification at the very outset that programs need to be evaluated in the right time frame—especially in the short and medium term—moving away from the traditional view that evidence should be extracted exclusively from longitudinal studies.
 - Discussants emphasized consideration of program linkages when designing evaluation methods. The aim is to understand how programs fit, keeping in mind a broader response perspective and the long run.
 - There was lively discussion on the challenge of taking just a sticker price approach to costing for economic inclusion programs—that is, it focuses on the total cost per participant. Needed instead is a more pragmatic approach to understanding the cost structures that underpin these investments.
 - Although there has been a strong emphasis on impact evaluations, real-time learning from implementation can play a critical role in operationalizing and scaling economic inclusion programs.

See box 3.3 for the main takeaways from the conversation.

- Greater effort is needed to expand the evidence base to address several ongoing debates in economic inclusion programming, most notably (1) the sustainability and cost of government-led economic inclusion programs operating at scale; and (2) the operationalization of programs to achieve the desired impacts in a given context.

Box 3.3: Building Evidence and Optimizing Costs in Economic Inclusion Programs

The various conversations during the GLE stressed that greater effort is needed to expand the evidence base and cost optimization strategies to address several ongoing debates in economic inclusion programming. The most notable ones are presented below.

OPTIMIZING BUNDLED INTERVENTIONS

- **Evaluation of heterogeneity should be based on both quantitative and qualitative methods, including both psychosocial and financial indicators.** Mental health theories could be used to help identify households and individuals struggling with aspirations and hopes. In the Sahel, it appears that full packages, including cash grants as well as psychosocial support, are the most effective.
- **To optimize bundled interventions, implementers and policymakers should emphasize evidence-based practices, gaining insight into optimal sequencing and the marginal contributions of additional interventions.** Multifaceted does not mean the mere accumulation of components. Trying to include too many components could lead to failure to achieve the goal of the program. Bundled interventions should be complementary and have a set of shared goals to move forward as well as to articulate private-public interventions, cross-sectoral activities, and activities among government agencies.

COSTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

- **In aligning economic inclusion programs with broader national development strategies, program cost plays a critical role in the political feasibility of such interventions.** The overall cost of such a program varies, reflecting its objectives and design elements. Those elements include the intervention dosage or adequacy, sequencing, duration of intervention, programmatic context, and target beneficiary group, which vary from project to project. It is also increasingly evident that the scale of operations significantly influences program costs.
- **For governments, an important consideration in scaling up economic inclusion programming is how to sustain impact at lower cost.** Although scale itself can lead to cost savings, more direct cost optimization strategies include shifting from individual to group interventions, leveraging community structures, and engaging local social groups for community business development.
- **As programs move to scale, several trade-offs will have to be made on the adequacy of transfers and customization of interventions versus the high cost and complexity of program delivery.** Because not all groups face the same constraints or need the same level of support, customizing the program for different groups may be more cost-effective than implementing a standardized package. A higher-intensity economic inclusion model, working directly with households, to effectively engage the poorest and most vulnerable may be needed.

ROLE OF DIAGNOSTICS IN PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Continued learning and evidence generation are critical. As programs adapt to changing poverty contexts and megatrends such as fragility, shocks, urbanization and level of informality, digitization, and demographic shifts, it is important to adapt research tools and processes to produce real-time data and learning.

Systematic learning from diagnostic studies can improve program design and implementation. Governments frequently raise critical “how to” questions as they introduce and scale up economic inclusion programs. In this context, quick diagnostic assessments such as constraints analysis and market and beneficiary assessments can inform both program design and help initiate dialogue with the government. In addition, performance monitoring can identify implementation bottlenecks and course corrections and improve program performance.

...continued

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- **It is important to understand short-term changes that will likely have long-term results.** A focus on long-term studies to see what works well and what does not is useful. However, a look at short-run studies to see what small, short-term changes should be applied that could possibly generate long-term changes would be beneficial. Such an approach could generate a long-term roadmap for organizations seeking the success metrics that are indicative of longer-term support.
- **Taking programs to scale is uncharted territory. Yet an important goal is to help support governments optimize the design and cost of programs as well as the sustainability of results.** Testing different packages to help the cost-effectiveness of scale-up presents opportunities for realizing such a goal.

Message 7 Partnership matters in making this agenda a success.

- Fittingly for an event of this nature and magnitude, the message on partnership is very important. Diversity in program design and implementation should match the diversity of partners. More is required to understand how to synergize across different partnerships and draw the best from different partnership models.
- Stakeholder coordination is important when working with governments on scaling economic inclusion programs. To date, donor coordination is a subject still missing from government conversations; various practitioner entities are working in silos without coordinating with other actors. Intentional alignment is needed to clearly see what other strategies are being implemented and where gaps exist.

“Partnerships are essential in a moment in time where, because of COVID, many more people are becoming poor. We need to guarantee that this larger number of people is included in the recovery. The Partnership for Economic Inclusion is about working together, reinforcing knowledge and its exchange, and giving a push to cash-plus programs—programs that we have studied, and we know they work.

Mamta Murthi

VICE PRESIDENT FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, WORLD BANK

- Because economic inclusion programs feature an average of 5–6 components, partnerships are critical. It is important to consider how projects can use partnerships to leverage program investments most effectively by establishing the right incentives and developing clear guidance for accountability.
- Because there is a big incentive to involve community and invest in building community structures to support programs, engaging partners from various levels is critical.

| EVALUATION

This section summarizes a few key thematic results distilled from a post-event survey designed to evaluate the overall event. The breakdown of this section reflects the structure of the post-event survey.

Overall quality and relevance of full event

- Of the 97 respondents, 94 percent rated the quality of the overall event as 5 or higher (figure 4.1).
- 93 percent of respondents rated relevance of the materials presented for the event as 5 or higher (figure 4.1).

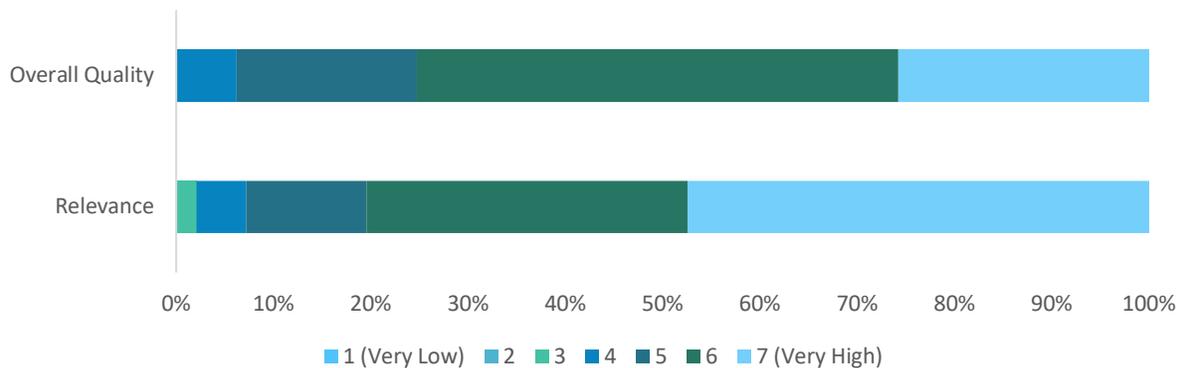


Figure 4.1: Overall quality and relevance of the GLE

Regarding **what worked best in the GLE**, the respondents appreciated the incorporation of real projects from various countries, the diversity of organizations that attended, and the presentations from a wide array of speakers.

- ➔ *“Learning from implementers on the ground...”*
- ➔ *“The involvement of diverse presenters to share experience of the lifecycle of their programs was great.”*
- ➔ *“Representation of different voices, and the speakers were excellent for the sessions that I attended...”*

Respondents appreciated **the quality of the moderation and the discussions that followed the presentations**. They included opportunities for engagement, even in an online context.

- ➔ *“Moderators were superb. Assigned topics were well articulated.”*
- ➔ *“The sessions were very interactive despite the event being done on-line”*
- ➔ *“Wide array of speakers, well facilitated to keep everybody on point...”*

The respondents expressed **their willingness to participate in more such events and engage with the PEI**. It was suggested that there is a need to continue to engage the community through online resources, newsletters, and platforms.

- ➔ *“It was great to learn [that] the initiatives in different countries and regions are similar. The great learning points were how others had managed to solve challenges faced in similar circumstances. It would be nice to arrange for physical learning events once this pandemic is over.”*
- ➔ *“Looking forward to staying engaged through technical partners discussions, the NGO group and ad hoc discussions...”*

Satisfaction of respondents with overall event

Satisfaction was measured along the seven dimensions shown in figure 4.2.

- For all seven dimensions of the event, 80 percent of respondents rated their satisfaction as 5 or higher.
- In terms of the applicability of content, session moderation, logistics, range of topics, and whether the GLE was a worthwhile investment of time, more than 90 percent of respondents rated the event as 5 or higher.

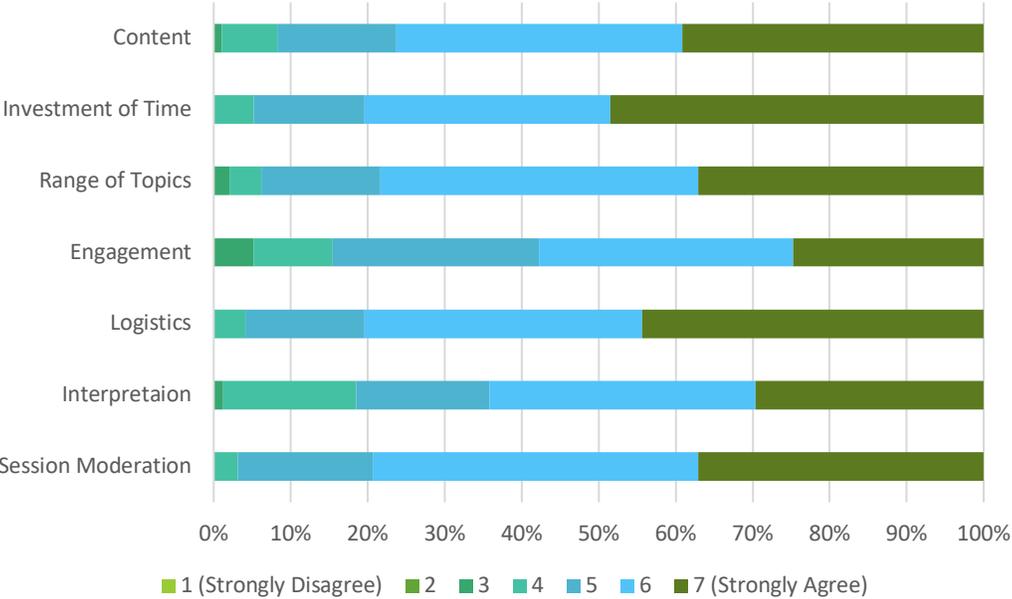


Figure 4.2: Satisfaction measured along the following 7 dimensions

Evaluation of individual sessions

Individual sessions were evaluated on the basis of applicability of session materials to an individual’s work area along a range of from strong disagreement to strong agreement, and the sessions themselves were rated along a range of from poor to excellent (see figures 4.3 and 4.4). Participants' ratings heavily fall on the far right of both scales.

Question 1: I will use material and ideas from this session for my future work in this area?

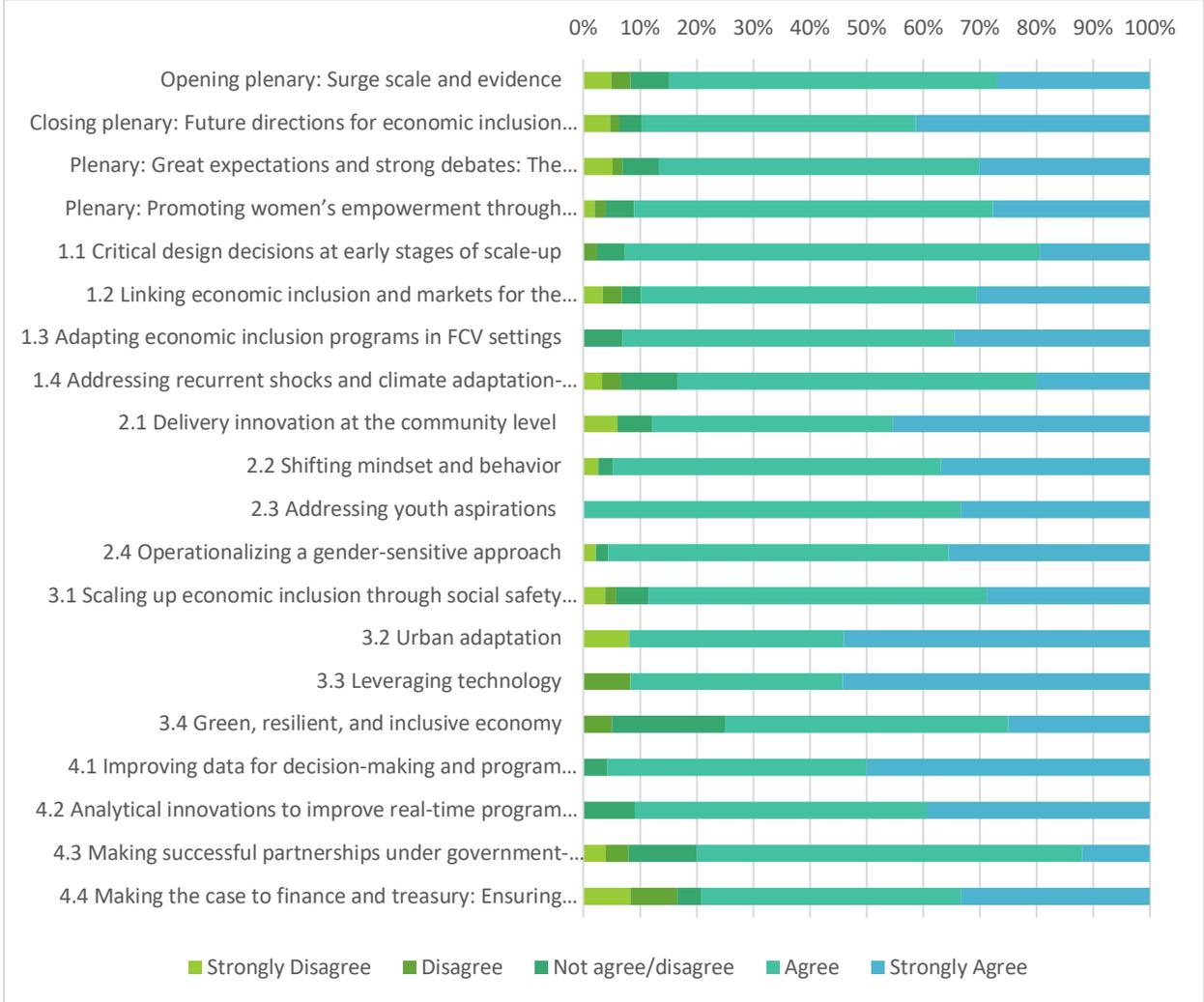


Figure 4.3 Survey responses on utility of lessons learned in future work

Question 2: How would you rate this session?

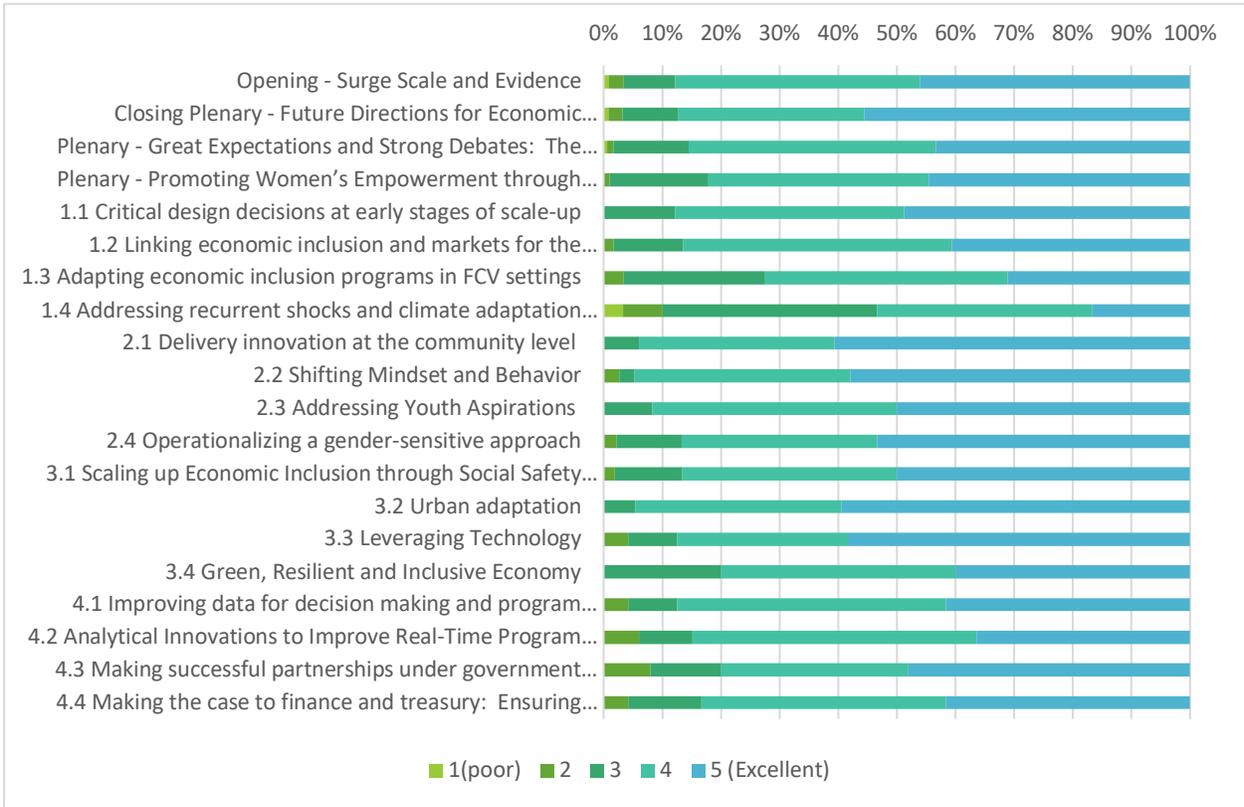
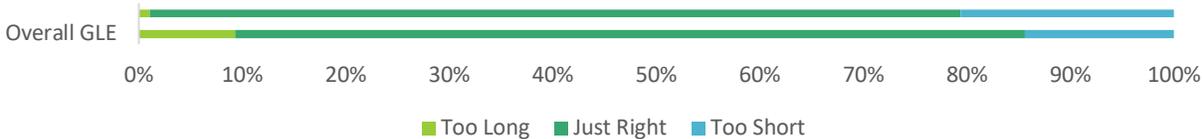


Figure 4.4 Individual session ratings

Duration of sessions and full event

- More than 75 percent of respondents believed the duration of the overall GLE and the individual sessions was “just right” (figure 4.5).
- More respondents considered the individual sessions to be too short than the overall GLE. When considering this insight together with the qualitative feedback, it is apparent that in such virtual settings, respondents believed even more time should have been devoted to the individual sessions.
- This finding aligns with respondents' positive comments on the quality of moderation of and engagement in the event, as highlighted in section 4.1.



APPENDIX A: EVENT DETAILS

Event Agenda

AGENDA FOR THE GLOBAL LEARNING EVENT
APRIL 27-29 / 7:30 – 11:00 AM EDT



Day 1 (27th April 2021) Building Back from COVID-19 and Building Forward to 2030

7:20-7:30 Log in *Login and Welcome*

7:30-8:50 Opening Session **Surge, Scale, and Evidence: Economic Inclusion for the Poorest**

Transforming the economic lives of the extreme poor is a monumental challenge at the best of times, but the challenge is greatly magnified by COVID-19. Almost 700 million people face the trap of extreme poverty, and for the first time in two decades this number is on the rise. As governments and development partners seek effective ways to reverse current trends, growing evidence shows that coordinated “economic inclusion” interventions can provide a pathway out of extreme poverty. This opening session explores the potential and pitfalls of scaling economic inclusion through government policies, institutions, and programs. Join us to kickstart the Global Learning Event in this fast-paced and conversational opening session.

Panelists

- Femi Oke, International Journalist and Moderator
- Mamta Murthi, Vice President for Human Development, WBG
- Abhijit Banerjee, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, MIT
- Her Honor Wina, The Vice President of Zambia
- Michal Rutkowski, Director, Social Protection & Jobs, WBG
- Qazi Azmat Isa, CEO Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
- Carolina Trivelli, PEI Advisory Council Member
- Dena Ringold, Regional Director, WBG
- Carmen Reinhart, Vice President & Chief Economist, WBG
- Shameran Abed, Senior Director, Microfinance and Graduation, BRAC
- Benjamin Davis, Director, FAO

10 Minute Health Break

9:00-9:40 Plenary Session **Moving to Scale: The Potential and the Political Economy**

A framing session featuring the State of Economic Inclusion Report co-authors and selected event participants to explore the potential and political economy of moving government programs to scale. This session will provide participants with a roadmap of the Global Learning Event and Will orientate participants around key trends, terminology, and framing debates.

Panelists

- Femi Oke, International Journalist and Moderator
- Selected event participants
- Colin Andrews, Program Manager, PEI WBG
- Sundas Liaqat, Social Protection Economist, PEI WBG

5 Minute Health Break

Event agenda continued



9.45-10.45 Parallel Sessions

Government Journeys to Scale: Nascent and Emerging Experience

1.1	Critical design decisions at early stages of scale-up	1.2	Linking economic inclusion and markets for the poorest	1.3	Adapting economic inclusion programs in fragile and conflict-affected settings	1.4	Addressing recurrent shocks and climate adaptation: building resilience and responsive programs
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The adoption and scale-up of economic inclusion programs depends on political acceptability. The success or failure of economic inclusion programs may hinge on several decisions including program objectives, target groups, financing, and institutional arrangements for delivery. This session showcases a set of government-led programs at a nascent stage of program design. The session sheds lights on the potential trade-offs in moving to scale.

Addressing constraints beyond the household is crucial for economic inclusion programs. Strengthening links to markets for inputs, labor, goods, and services is key in alleviating spatial-based-poverty. This session will feature country experiences in linking the extreme poor to local rural and agricultural markets.

By 2030, two-thirds of people living in extreme poverty globally may be living in contexts of fragility, conflict, and violence. Over 25% of programs in the SEI Report 2021 operate in such contexts. This session will highlight the experiences of several of these programs, exploring the challenges of launching and maintaining EI programs in these contexts.

This session will focus on how economic inclusion interventions can build the resilience of households and communities to climate-related shocks. The session will showcase recent country experiences in building adaptive safety nets in this regard. The session informs an event prioritization around environmental and climate related issues, which is further probed on day 3.

Panelists

- Hugo Brousset Chaman, Moderator and Social Protection Specialist at PEI
- Fazlul Kader, Deputy Managing Director, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh
- Dr. Atef El-Shabrawy, FORSA Program Advisor, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Government of Egypt
- Aline Coudouel, Lead Economist, WBG
- Friederike Rother, Moderator and Senior Social Protection Specialist, WBG
- Carlos Figueroa, Head of the Productive Inclusion Management Unit, FONCODES, Peru
- Hyacinthe Bankati, World Bank Project Coordinator for the Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Youth Project, Togo
- Kristin O'Planick, Market Systems Specialist, USAID
- Janet Heisey, Moderator and Consultant at PEI
- Khalil Baheer, Director Program, Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA)
- Safiya Aljabr, Executive Director of the Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS), Social Fund for Development, Yemen
- Ziad Ayoubi, Deputy Representative, Mauritania, UNHCR
- Ines Arevalo Sanchez, Moderator and Consultant at PEI
- Idrissa Samna, Social Safety Net Coordinator and Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister (Prime Minister's Office), Niger
- Sintayehu Demissie, Director of Food Security Coordination Directorate and coordinator of the PSNP, Ethiopia
- Sam Owilly, Kenya Program Director, BOMA Project

10.45-11.15 Hangout Lounge

Behind-the-scenes hangout with the SEI Report authors and breakout session presenters

Event agenda continued



Day 2 (28th April 2021): Evidence and feasibility

7:30-7:40 Convening *Highlights from day 1*

7:40-8:50 Plenary Session

Great Expectations and Strong Debates: The emerging evidence base for Economic Inclusion at Scale

The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021: The Potential to Scale assesses the impacts of economic inclusion programs across a range of contexts and institutional arrangements, and the findings are cause for optimism. The evidence supports the hypothesis that economic inclusion programming could launch the extreme poor on an upward trajectory, with transformative impact. The next wave of evaluations – driven greatly by government led programming - will further strengthen the evidence base. With great expectations, comes strong debates and some skepticism. As economic inclusion programs move to scale there are questions regarding costs, feasibility, and sustainability. These debates take center stage at the Global Learning Event in response to demands from government counterparts for scalable and cost-effective solutions for the poorest. This dedicated plenary session considers the state of evidence through the lens of moving government programs to scale. The session will focus on three points of debate related to the effectiveness of programs at scale: how to optimize “bundled” economic inclusion interventions, cost optimization and the sustainability of impacts over time.

Panelists

- Arianna Legovini, Moderator and Adviser for the Development Impact Evaluation Research Department, WBG
- Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics and Finance and co-director of the Global Poverty Research Lab, at Northwestern University
- Keetie Roelen, Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Centre for Social Protection at the Institute of Development Studies
- Patrick Premand, Senior Economist in the Development Impact Evaluation Research Department, WBG
- Enrique Velasquez, General Director of Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development, and Inclusion of Peru

5 Minute Health Break

8:55-9:55 Parallel Sessions

Evidence Driven Design

2.1	Delivery innovation at the community level	2.2	Shifting mindset and behavior	2.3	Addressing youth aspirations	2.4	Designing and implementing economic inclusion programs for women’s economic empowerment
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<p>This session considers how innovations at the community level support the sustainability of government efforts, and potentially allow cost optimizations by, among other things, shifting from individual to group-focused interventions, leveraging community structures and engaging local social</p>	<p>An increasing number of programs are testing behavioral change interventions that frame communication messages, strengthen agency, build resilience, or nudge habits. This session explores innovations on to psycho-social support,</p>	<p>Youth face multiple barriers to accessing income generating opportunities, including a lack of requisite skills, access to affordable credit, social networks, and appropriate role models. Labor force transitions are particularly challenging for young women.</p>	<p>This session showcases different operational experiences in accelerating women’s economic empowerment as programs move to scale. The session focuses on the “nuts and bolts” of ongoing programs and organizational experiences, highlighting also unintended risks. The session precedes</p>
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Event agenda continued



groups for community business women's empowerment, and development. community linkages and complements the following plenary discussion.

Panelists

- Tim Clay, Moderator and Analyst at PEI
- Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier, Director General, National Institute of Social Economy (INAES), Mexico
- Dr. Robert Limlim, Director, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda
- Claudine Marie Solange Nyinawagaga, Director General of the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), Rwanda
- Julia Vaillant, Moderator and Senior Economist at WBG
- Angela Ofori-Atta, Assistant Professor, Psych Corps and University of Ghana, working with IPA
- Tara Bedi, Research Fellow at Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, working with Concern Worldwide
- Thomas Bossuroy, Senior Economist, WBG
- Constanza Di Nucci, Moderator and Senior Advisor to the President at IFAD
- Fernanda Bersusky, Youth Employment Program Coordinator and Clementina Pruneda Paz, Employment Offices Coordinator both from Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Argentina
- D. K. Saxena, CEO and Project Director, Tejaswini Project, Jharkhand Women Development Society (JWDS), India.
- Jesse H. Bengu, National Coordinator, Youth Opportunities Project, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Liberia
- Sadna Samaranyake, Moderator and Consultant at PEI
- Sonia Laszlo, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, McGill University, Canada
- Grace Mwila, Program Specialist, Supporting Women's Livelihood (GEWEL) Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Zambia
- Alessandra Heinemann, Senior Social Protection Specialist, WBG

5 Minute Health Break

10.00-11.00 Plenary Sessions

Promoting Women's Empowerment through Economic Inclusion: Current Thinking and Key Directions

This session will explore global efforts and experiences in strengthening women's economic empowerment across large scale government led and donor supported economic inclusion programs. The session will explore the multiple constraints typically faced by women as they seek to improve their social and economic outcomes. The discussion will feature first-hand country experiences in strengthening institutional and policy aspects related to women's economic empowerment. The discussion will also consider key gaps in relation to economic inclusion and gender outcomes that should be prioritized in operationalizing this agenda.

Panelists

- Kathleen Beegle, Moderator and Lead Economist Gender Group, WBG
- Winnie Auma, Vice President of Programs, Village Enterprise
- Roopa Hinton, Social Development Advisor, FCDO
- Sybil Chidiac, Senior Program Officer on the Gender Equality team at The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Apera Iorwa, National Coordinator, National Social Safety-Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO), Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Reema Nanavaty, Director at Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA)

11.00-11.30 Hangout Lounge

Behind-the-scenes hangout: Breakout sessions proposed by event participants

Event agenda continued



Day 3 (29th April 2021): Operationalizing the Agenda of Scale

7:30-7:40 Convening *Highlights from day 2*

Economic Inclusion and COVID-19 Recovery

7.40-8.50 Parallel Sessions	3.1	Advancing earning opportunities through social safety nets (SSN)	3.2	Economic Inclusion in Urban Areas	3.3	Leveraging technology: Improving digital service delivery	3.4	Towards a more green, resilient, and inclusive economy
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The potential to build on existing social safety nets is an important entry point for EI programming. As countries expand the coverage and financing of SSN programs, the “cash plus” model is gaining momentum. This session focuses on the role of EI programs to advance wage and self-employment outcomes; how these interventions fit within a broader continuum of support.

Economic inclusion programs are increasingly adapting to the realities of informality in urban areas, with the COVID-19 crisis bringing a new sense of urgency. This session focuses on urban adaptations to program design and delivery, exploring how countries are operationalizing these programs in urban areas and embedding these programs in urban planning and policy.

According to the SEI report, more than 50% of programs surveyed use digital technologies to complete beneficiary enrollment and monitoring and overall program management and monitoring. This session explores the potential to leverage technology and digital solutions to deliver EI components especially in a COVID-19 context.

As the world begins to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19, policymakers are looking for new ways to stimulate the global economy – all while considering the next global crisis: climate change. The session will consider the potential to build on ongoing interventions that support a green economy e.g., climate-smart agriculture, climate-responsive social protection systems and forest resource protection and/or management.

Panelists

- Ugo Gentilini, Moderator & Global Lead, Social Assistance, WBG
- Ladislaus Joseph Mwamanga, Executive Director, Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Tanzania.
- Diego Alonso Aldás Guizado, Deputy Minister of Economic Inclusion, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion of Ecuador
- Jenny Swatton, Technical Adviser, Concern Worldwide
- Puja Dutta, Moderator and Consultant at PEI
- Lauren Whitehead, Director of Technical Assistance Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, BRAC
- Demba Ndiaye, Coordinator of the WB Safety Net Project Senegal
- Judy Baker, Lead Economist, WBG
- John Blomquist, Moderator and Lead Economist and Global Lead – Delivery Systems, WBG
- Carolina de Miranda, Director of the Social & Livelihood Promotion Department, Fundación Capital
- Winnie Mwasijaji, Deputy Director, Department of Social Development, State Department for Social Protection, Kenya
- Avnish Gungadurdoss, Cofounder Instiglio
- Christian Bodewig, Moderator and Lead Economist at WBG
- Omar Benammour, Social Protection Specialist, FAO
- Jorge Maldonado, Professor of Economics, Senior Research Fellow of EFD Colombia, Universidad de los Andes
- Tracy Hart, Global Lead, Fragile and Conflict States, Environment, Natural Resources, & Blue Economy Global Practice, WB.

Event agenda continued



9.00-9.55 Parallel Sessions

10 Minute Health Break

Meet the Practitioners			
4.1	Using data for decision making and program design	4.2	Analytical innovations to improve real-time program design and learning
4.3	Overcoming barriers to scale: From pragmatic to transformational partnerships	4.4	Making the case to finance and treasury: Ensuring program sustainability

PEI has prioritized improved data usage as a key issue in advancing scale-up efforts. Solid data and evidence are critical for decision making and program improvement, yet it varies in quality from one program to the next. This session will provide a deep dive into the PEI data tools that are available through our Open Access [PEI Data Portal](#). Join the PEI team, plus invited experts, for a discussion and experience sharing on the PEI Landscape Survey and PEI Costing Tool.

The role of evidence generation is essential in shifting preferences and bolstering political support for the scale-up of EI programs. Indeed, the scale-up of EI programs owes much to the compelling evidence base stemming from various high-quality impact evaluations. This session shifts the focus from impact evaluations to consider the role of evidence generation in "real-time" that can inform the scale-up of new economic inclusion programs, or reform existing ones, alongside multi-year evaluative exercises.

Strong partnership is integral to the success of economic inclusion programs. There exists a wide array of different partnerships, programs, and structures but not much documentation and guidance on effective operational models. Economic inclusion programs are complex and multidimensional and 83% of programs offer packages of support that include five or more components. The session will focus on modalities that bring together government and non-government technical partners.

Financing is an important part of sustainability for economic inclusion programming. Over half (55%) of EI programs led by governments are funded in whole (29%) or in part (71%) by governments, with 36 countries having dedicated budget lines for expenditures in this area. This session focuses on how governments along with technical and financing partners are addressing the financial sustainability of economic inclusion interventions, and how this looks into the context of government programs moving to scale.

Panelists

- Ines Arevalo Sanchez, Moderator and Consultant at PEI
- Valentina Barca, Team Leader, Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 - Expert Advice (SPACE)
- Boban Paul, Economist, WBG
- Sara Gianozzi, Moderator and Senior Social Protection Specialist, WBG
- Shagun Sabarwal, Director of Policy, Training & Communications, JPAL S. Asia
- Kelsey Wright, Program Manager - IPA, Consultant - World Bank
- Andrew Shepherd, Principal Research Fellow and Director CPAN Project, ODI
- Janet Heisey, Moderator and Consultant at PEI
- Ghassan Kasabreh, Director, NGO Development Center, Gaza.
- Barbara Jackson, Vice President of Programs, Trickle Up
- Makda Getachew Abebe, Ethiopia PSNP Donor Coordinator, PSNP Secretariat
- Colin Andrews, Moderator & Program Manager of PEI
- Sauda Ahmed, Head of World Bank Unit, Ministry of Finance, Ghana
- Bessie Msusa, Chief Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Malawi
- Sarah Coll-Black, Senior Economist, WBG
- Gregory Collins, Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security

5 Minute Health Break



10.00-11.00 Closing Session

Future Directions for Economic Inclusion and Global Partnership

This concluding session will explore future priorities and engagement opportunities across the partnership beyond the event.

The session will feature a report back on key themes and areas of discussion, and retrospective accounts from rapporteurs representing different country delegations and technical partners.



Implemented by



Note: A limited number of plenary sessions will be live streamed to enable outreach to a broader global audience.

Participating countries

Afghanistan	Ecuador	Kenya	Nigeria	Tanzania
Angola	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Liberia	Pakistan	Togo
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Madagascar	Panama	Uganda
Belize	Ghana	Malawi	Peru	Uzbekistan
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Maldives	Rwanda	West Bank and Gaza
Comoros	Iraq	Mauritania	South Sudan	Yemen, Rep.
Côte d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Mozambique	Sri Lanka	Zambia
Dominican Republic	Jordan	Niger	St. Maarten	

Participating organizations

AVSI-USA	European Commission	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Trickle Up	Wasafiri Hub
BOMA Project	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	IKEA Foundation	NGO Development Center (NDC)	Trinity College Dublin	World Food Programme (WFP)
BRAC	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)	Independent Social Protection Consultants	Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	University of California Santa Barbara	Women for Women
Brookings	Ford Foundation	Instiglio	Results	United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNCHR)	World Vision International

CARE	Fundación Capital	International Poverty Action	Sawiris Foundation	UNIANDES	World Bank Group
Co-Impact	Germany GIZ	McGill University	Tearfund	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	
Concern Worldwide	Global Affairs Canada	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab	US Agency for International Development (USAID)	
Dublin Department of Foreign Affairs	Harvard University	MiCRO	Institute of Development Studies (IDS)	Village Enterprise	

APPENDIX B: FULL SESSION SUMMARIES

GLE OPENING SESSION:

Surge, scale, and evidence: The global landscape on economic inclusion



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzpnDAz95PU&t=1361s>

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The objectives of the sessions were (1) to build interest and excitement among the range of event participants for the three-day event; (2) to orient attendees to key messages, terms, and framing, and to encourage frank discussion on areas of debate on scaling economic inclusion (EI); and (3) to build on the discussion and learning of the <i>State of Economic Inclusion</i> report and highlight key priorities: leveraging social protection investments, women’s empowerment, and the COVID-19 response.</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<p>Moderator: Femi Oke, international journalist and broadcaster Speaker 1: Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Speaker 2: Mamta Murthi, Vice President of Human Development, World Bank Speaker 3: Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Vice President of Zambia Speaker 4: Michal Rutkowski, Global Director, Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank Speaker 5: Qazi Azmat Isa, CEO, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund Speaker 6: Carolina Trivelli, PEI Advisory Council Member, World Bank Speaker 7: Dena Ringold, Regional Director, World Bank Speaker 8: Shameran Abed, Director, BRAC Speaker 9: Carmen Reinhart, Chief Economist, World Bank Speaker 10: Benjamin Davis, Director, FAO</p>
<p>Opening discussion</p>	<p>Mamta Murthi, World Bank, and Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, MIT The session began with a discussion of the potential of strong partnerships, global knowledge exchange, and the mobilization of cash plus programs in a post-COVID-19 recovery context. Economic inclusion programs are no longer a niche and are backed by enough evidence for organizations to mainstream them. Some key messages from this opening section revolved around the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiasm about the discoveries from over 15 years of research: there is clear evidence that the impact of a one-time intervention sticks in the long term • Other key themes covered such as the boundaries of defining programs as sustainable and the importance of understanding the spillover effects of interventions • Fundamental need to engage with policy makers • On cost-effectiveness, research shows that even with the heterogeneity of rates of returns, the median return is always positive
<p>Conversation about surge</p>	<p>Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Vice President of Zambia; Michal Rutkowski, World Bank From a national perspective in Zambia, it was understood that programs like GEWEL are part of the surge in scaling up economic inclusion. From a past of fragmented actions to a comprehensive national development plan, the country will avoid the single-ministry approach</p>

	<p>that resulted in duplication and lack of a comprehensive social registry. Economic inclusion is cross sectoral, and it should be observed in a holistic manner.</p> <p>From a <i>World Bank perspective</i>, this section also touched on the definition of economic inclusion in a period of surge. Economic inclusion promotes a multifaceted way for people to participate fully in social and economic lives, going beyond stable jobs and entering a situation in which people can maximize their abilities. Two main challenges were shared: its magnitude and its multidimensional nature. Costs are usually concentrated in cash transfers, and so building on government structures is an effective way to link those to bundled interventions.</p>
<p>Conversation about scale</p>	<p><i>Dena Ringold, World Bank; Carolina Trivelli, PEI; Qazi Azmat Isa, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund</i></p> <p>Scaling up requires an in-depth knowledge of your business as well as the need to start small. The narrative for convincing politicians includes seeing economic inclusion as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A channel to move people out of poverty • Based in very powerful evidence • Piggy backing on social protection systems. <p>Moving pilot program to national flagship programs is something that works. Yet adapting pilot projects to public sector work and its fiscal pressures and rules in a medium-scale operation is an arduous task. Two main themes were key: (1) money and substantial support to growth are essential, especially for the ministry of finance and the support of the communities that will adopt the programs; (2) an appropriate operational working model is needed; evidence and nice stories are not enough for making the case to treasury.</p> <p>COVID-19 has made the case even stronger by exacerbating underlining vulnerabilities. The impact has been severer for women, and female businesses have failed at a higher rate. There are four major challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The complexity and the multisectoral dimension of economic inclusion 2. The capacity of countries to sharpen the focus of its intervention 3. The sustainability question: how to make interventions institutionally and financially sustainable 4. Integrating technology into digital payments or monitoring for an evidence base. <p>Other topics included in the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to think of economic inclusion in regional terms because some regions can be poorer than others and to mainstream EI. • The need for governments to provide basic infrastructure, social services, water access, better access to markets, and other things from a regional perspective. • Operational models that work within public sector rules and take advantage of complementarity of existing frameworks are a must. • The importance of adaptation to territories and local communities, community support, and political will.
<p>Conversation about the evidence bases</p>	<p><i>Benjamin Davis, FAO; Carmen Reinhart, World Bank; Shameran Abed, BRAC</i></p> <p>This conversation focused on the importance of a good evidence base for effectively scaling up pilot programs to national flagship programs. It opened by acknowledging how BRAC's almost 20 years of experience on graduation programs and its long partnership with the London School of Economics on various RCTs have proved that the right set of interventions translate into the poorest households getting out of extreme poverty</p>

	<p>From an FAO perspective, there are evidence gaps in EI programs that are linked to the food systems transformation agenda. The food systems transformation model is more focused on environmental sustainability, climate change and healthy diets, overlooking livelihoods. Under this model as growth moves away from agricultural farms, the rural poor will be the hardest hit especially as there are rural credit constraints. The optimal approach should be comprehensive and fill the evidence and programmatic gap in linking EI interventions to climate change action and environmental sustainability. Only 5 percent of EI programs have climate change risk management, revealing the need to further integrate the objectives of environmental sustainability, healthy diets and getting people out of poverty.</p> <p>From the perspective of the World Bank, the conversation could not be timelier given the pandemic. The very regressive nature of the shock highlights that the current agenda around scaling up these programs can promote inclusive recovery and become a major catalyst to repairing the setbacks caused by the pandemic.</p> <p>Other ideas stemming from the difficulties of the last year revolved around the issues of lockdowns and the new poor and ultrapoor. Evidence is needed to make the case for scale-up to not just a treasury but also to practitioners and their desire for continuous learning. Iterating, innovating, and trying new program elements in these newer contexts and generating evidence will allow scaling-up these programs to be more impactful and cost-effective over time.</p> <p>Final remarks were made on the most important takeaway messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modalities of economic inclusion should be compatible with the public sector constraints when scaling up. • Although it is an ongoing process, there is evidence that scaling up has positive externalities and multiplier effects, and even though there are many variations, it works. • Although there is already great evidence, the field needs more. From a practitioner’s point of view, it is a matter of what do we do with this evidence and how we use it for improving societies. • Ownership of governments of the evidence process is very important; evidence generation should be embedded in policy makers.
<p>No. of attendees if available</p>	<p>Approx. 260 + 112 (YouTube) = 372</p>

Critical design decisions at early stages of scale-up



Watch this session online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqFHF48X_hE&t=2782s

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Many trade-offs in designing and implementing economic inclusion programs must be negotiated. These come into play when selecting overall objectives, target groups, and the components of bundled interventions. These choices are the cornerstones in designing economic inclusion interventions. Program-specific objectives and the mix of components can determine how users will enhance their income revenues, asset accumulation, and overall welfare. Decisions to be made pass through the adoption of outcomes related to women’s empowerment, income diversification, resilience, youth employment, among many other things. Finally, external forces will shape these decisions as well, including population growth, forced displacement, urbanization trends, and natural disasters.</p> <p>This session provided some practical examples of economic inclusion programs and how they embark on these decisions, including identifying target groups, responding to political and institutional realities, relying on partnerships and linkages with the private sector, and the nascent urbanization challenge.</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<p>Moderator: Hugo Brousset, Social Protection Specialist, PEI, World Bank Speaker 1: Fazlul Kader, Deputy Managing Director, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh Speaker 2: Atef Elshbrawy, Director, FORSA program, Arab Republic of Egypt Speaker 3: Aline Coudouel, Lead Social Protection Specialist, World Bank Moderator: Hugo Brousset, Social Protection Specialist, PEI, World Bank</p>
<p>Summary of session Presentation 1</p>	<p>Egypt: Atef Elshbrawy, FORSA</p> <p>Elshbrawy provided a comprehensive overview of the FORSA program in Egypt, including its demographics and main target population: poor families with children, the elderly, and the disabled. The program works in tandem with the Takaful Solidarity Cash transfer program and provides a unique economic empowerment ecosystem for accessing economic activities, including livelihoods and jobs interventions. FORSA’s design includes the rollout of rapid market assessments and behavioral change training to contribute to more sustainable access to skills, especially for youth and women. Likewise, the program has prioritized a business model based on close collaboration with external partners as implementing agencies. These can include not only small organizations at the local levels but also larger players—NGOs, the private sector, and international organizations (ILO, WFP, FAO). The main takeaways are related to the importance of nudging participants toward enhanced access to skills and jobs, the use of existing large social protection databases, and the inclusion of market-driven initiatives to help develop new forms of value chains and group enterprising.</p>
<p>Summary of session Presentation 2</p>	<p>Bangladesh: Fazlul Kader, PKSF</p> <p>Kader gave an overview of the array of PKSF interventions, working mostly through microfinance institutions to support and scale microenterprises. The presentation provided details about each of the 10 microindustries that PKSF has identified and scaled over time. Data points were provided in terms of income/profit generation, export values, etc. for several projects benefiting entrepreneurs in several sectors. Kader also discussed some critical design decisions, highlighting the importance of thinking through the sustainability of the program such as investing in previous institution building to ensure benefits extend well beyond program completion. Another important point was related to the ongoing support of financial inclusion to exploit benefits delivered through livelihoods interventions and ensure smoother access to markets for beneficiaries. Finally, the presentation stressed the importance of</p>

	bringing down risks to create opportunities, which can be particularly relevant to the livestock sector, for example. The presentation concluded with issues related to scaling up microenterprise support.
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Aline Coudouel, World Bank</p> <p>Coudouel provided some operational reflections based on the presentations of the two country experiences. In her presentation, she emphasized three points tying together the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of using existing institutional mechanisms for two reasons: (1) they can reduce financial costs and promote trust, and (2) people will increase their take-up of alternatives provided if interventions leverage existing systems they already understand. 2. Programs should be framed within a broader ‘social contract’ between the government and its citizens. A social contract concept includes not only rights but also responsibilities for citizens, families, and communities, and it contributes to overcoming the political challenges of targeted interventions. 3. The World Bank can help connect countries and identify best-practice examples relevant for to each country. Also important is the role of the technical assistance provided during the groundwork phase, including financing pilots and facilitating conversations such as between ministries or with the private sector.
Key issues	<p>Three main issues were discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>How to ensure working in partnership with community organizations.</i> Around this, the Bangladeshi experience shows that programs can identify natural business clusters for each geographic area, mapping their comparative advantage. This assessment should incorporate whether clusters are able to absorb the technical intervention and have the potential to grow. 2. <i>How to distinguish between population eligible for self-employment opportunities versus wage employment.</i> For this topic, the experience of Egypt was relevant and highlighted the use of rapid market assessments as a critical tool for determining the presence of adequate industries and the main economic activities in the territory. The first communication with beneficiaries through a behavioral change session helped to deliver this information to beneficiaries 3. <i>The presence of inclusion and exclusion errors.</i> Around this, although social registries (as in the case of Egypt) are a good starting point, they should not be the only tool. Registries could be combined with other mechanisms to avoid exclusion errors, including the use of administrative data, profiling exercises, and even relying on information available at the community level, including spot checks to quickly amend this and any other implementation feature.
No. of attendees if available	Approx. 68

Linking economic inclusion and markets for the poorest



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFVseyaM-6k&t=792s>

Objectives	Addressing constraints beyond the household is crucial for economic inclusion programs. Strengthening links to markets for inputs, labor, goods, and services is key to alleviating spatial-based poverty. This session featured country experiences in linking the extreme poor to local rural and agricultural markets. It brought together government speakers from Togo and Peru, followed by a discussant from USAID.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Friederike Rother, Senior Social Protection Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Hyacinthe Wénato Bankati, Program Coordinator, Togo Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Youth (EOVY) Project, Togo</p> <p>Speaker 2: Carlos Figueroa, Head, Productive Inclusion Management Unit, FONCODES, Haku Wiñay, Peru</p> <p>Speaker 3: Kristin O'Planick, Market Systems Specialist, USAID</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Togo: Hyacinthe Wénato Bankati, EOvy</p> <p>Bankati's presentation focused on the rationale, methodology, and lessons learned from the value chains study that informs the Togo Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Youth (EOVY) Project. To better understand the market for the goods and services produced by youth supported by the program, ANADEB and the EOvy project, in partnership with the World Bank and GIZ, initiated in 2018 a study on the economic inclusion of youth in high-potential value chains. The presentation began by providing the overall context for youth employment in Togo as well as the program design aspects of the EOvy project. The presentation then took a deep dive into the value chains study rationale and methodology before turning to lessons learned about opportunities for program operationalization. Some key lessons include: (1) cross-sectoral coordination and private sector consultations are important; (2) it is important to understand the difference between connecting vulnerable population groups to value chains and developing a value chain; and (3) improving the organization of value chain actors helps reduce transaction costs.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Peru: Carlos Figueroa, Haku Wiñay</p> <p>Figueroa's presentation focused on Peru's Haku Wiñay program and specifically the market activities that link small rural producers with local and regional markets. The presentation began by providing the overall context for the Haku Wiñay program, including its design aspects and beneficiary groups. The presentation then looked at the various activities that connect the rural poor to markets, including the formation of formal producer groups that receive a financial education, grant support, and market advice from technical advisors. The presentation concluded with lessons learned, highlighting the importance of strengthening local and regional governments, improving business organization (the mechanisms of public purchases and reductions in intermediary channels), strengthening ICT connectivity, and accessing producer markets and local and regional fairs.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>United States: Kristin O'Planick, USAID</p> <p>O'Planick, a discussant for this panel, reflected on both the Togo and Peru programs. She also provided valuable experience (from USAID) and reflections on innovations, ideas, and key considerations in bringing this agenda to the forefront. Some important considerations include the need for strong coordination mechanisms (providing adequate funding and staffing); the importance of market assessments to better understand market distortion affects (including saturation); and the need to push for greater market transformation beyond the household.</p>

Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cross-sectoral coordination.</i> In linking markets to the poorest, many different government sectors and actors need to be involved and organized across the value chain. • <i>Partnership.</i> Market linkages are complex and nongovernmental partners, such as NGOs and the private sector, are essential for program implementation and sustainability. • <i>Importance of market assessments.</i> Market assessments offer important insights into market distortion effects and the potential for higher-value products that can be sold in local or regional markets. • <i>A greater focus on market transformation.</i> Markets operate within a well-coordinated system of suppliers, producers, and buyers, and greater market transformation relies on program and policy efforts that go beyond the traditional household interventions.
No. of attendees if available	Approx. 130

Adapting EI programs in fragile and conflict-affected settings



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4ezzmE63mc&t=2176s>

Objectives	An increasing number of economic inclusion programs are operating in the contexts of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV), many with a strong focus on building resilience and social inclusion. This session highlighted experiences to date, exploring the challenges of launching economic inclusion programs in these contexts while also addressing humanitarian crises, especially in the wake of COVID-19. This session explored the importance and challenges of partnership and coordination and provided a venue to learn from established programs in the process of scaling up and those that have been compelled by circumstances to make adaptations.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Janet Heisey, PEI, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Safiya Al-Jabry, Executive Director, Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS), Social Fund for Development, Republic of Yemen</p> <p>Speaker 2: Khalil Baheer, Program Director, Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) (recorded)</p> <p>Speaker 3: Ziad Ayoubi, Deputy Representative, Mauritania, UNHCR</p> <p>Speaker 4: Aidan Coville, Senior Economist, World Bank</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Yemen: Safiya Al-Jabry, SMEPS</p> <p>Al-Jabry described the SMEPS program in the Republic of Yemen, which was designed to support the resilience of small and microenterprises to survive through conflict rather than revitalizing after the conflict. Their approach is multidimensional, featuring training, guidance from business advisors, links to banks and chambers of commerce, and more. When they targeted women through the BRAVE Women program, they realized more extensive outreach and support was required to successfully engage them. SMEPS is now providing technical assistance to help programs in Nigeria and Burkina Faso to advance.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Afghanistan: Khalil Baheer, MISFA</p> <p>Baheer recorded a video and Aidan Coville spoke live as a member of the DIME team evaluating the MISFA project. Baheer MISFA's graduation project, which has run for more than 10 years, has been incorporated into government implementation. MISFA supports a range of NGOs that implement the program on the ground. The project received technical assistance at an early phase, and important modifications were made, shortening the program length and engaging local government and community councils. The World Bank's DIME team and the Ministry of Economy have conducted research and found the positive results comparable to research in Bangladesh and India. However, funding is being discontinued as of June, so the future of the project is in question.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Mauritania: Ziad Ayoubi, UNHCR</p> <p>Ayoubi described how Mauritania is not itself an FCV country but is surrounded by counties in crisis. As a buffer country, it has tried to develop a strategy for the inclusion of refugees in government programs and services. With support from the World Bank and with a consortium of 10 organizations, the government is offering WASH, health, urbanization, and social protection services to refugees. This effort could eventually include an economic inclusion program focused on refugees, although other economic inclusion activities are under way in the interim.</p>
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Partnership.</i> Partnerships with local organizations and between development and humanitarian actors are essential. In the Republic of Yemen, more work is needed to improve coordination. Circumstances vary among countries experiencing conflict and fragility, and organizations are continuing to serve the same populations over time. In this the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, many organizations have focused on relief rather than revitalizing market and banking systems. Cash plus programs are required, and links from relief to development initiatives are also key. UNHCR underscored the

	<p>importance of partnerships across the development spheres. A UNHCR-led coordination strategy was applied to humanitarian activities, but because of the increase in development interventions a commission was established to better coordinate services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monitoring, research, and evidence.</i> Evaluation data helped the Republic of Yemen team understand how the conflict influenced women entrepreneurs (and prompted them to launch a woman-focused program). This effort enabled the Afghanistan team to refine their approach to measuring and achieving women’s economic empowerment. Afghanistan completed an evaluation and discovered that it delivered on all of its goals despite the FCV setting, and the outcome was cost-effective. Programs targeting women were closing the gender gaps. This was important to understand because an expansion was planned. In the Republic of Yemen, research following the outbreak of war revealed that women who owned micro, small, and medium enterprises were more vulnerable. Banking sector and financial service providers have stepped up, and the number of women entrepreneurs has increased. Conflict settings differ from one another and are volatile: using research and learning will inform what modifications must be made to respond to changing conditions. • <i>Displaced populations.</i> Afghanistan includes returnees; the Republic of Yemen works with internally displaced populations; and Mauritania includes refugees. To include refugees in government programs, Ayoubi advised leveraging humanitarian work that has been done for years rather than starting from scratch. Humanitarian multipurpose cash for basic needs can serve as one component of a multidimensional development strategy. • <i>Targeting.</i> In the Republic of Yemen, mobile and static populations are reached using a flexible targeting mechanism.
No. of attendees if available	Approx. 60

Addressing recurrent shocks and climate adaptation—building resilience and responsive programs



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idzEVD9mCeg&t=2857s>

Objectives	Climate shocks and environmental degradation are having devastating effects on poor households, including greater food insecurity, asset losses, lower productivity, and poorer health and nutrition. This session explored the role of economic inclusion programs in building resilience and highlighted key insights into how economic inclusion programs can be designed and implemented more intentionally to support climate resilience and adaptation.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Ines Sanchez Arevalo, PEI, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Idrissa Samna, Social Safety Net Coordinator and Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister (Prime Minister's Office), Niger</p> <p>Speaker 2: Ian Campbell, consultant, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 3: Sam Owilly, Kenya Country Director, BOMA Project</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Niger: Idrissa Samna, Prime Minister's Office</p> <p>Samna's presentation focused on the elements of Niger's adaptive social protection program that contribute to resilience, such as regular and shock-responsive transfers and the use of trigger mechanisms for timely shock responsiveness. The inclusion of key productive inclusion measures was highlighted to promote a more integrated program design in which cash transfers with productive inclusion measures lead to improved outcomes. The presentation showed that productive inclusion measures can be cost-effective and indeed support household resilience by building household savings, assets, and income diversification. The improved resilience of poor and affected households is key to increasing their productivity.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Ethiopia: Ian Campbell, World Bank (with support from Abu Hateu, Task Team Leader, Productive Safety Net Program, World Bank)</p> <p>Campbell's presentation provided an overview of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), focusing specifically on the interventions that support climate resilience: the public works program, a shock responsive safety net that activates through an early warning system, and the livelihood component. The presentation highlighted the importance of having a favorable policy climate that facilitates the coordination of responses through social protection and disaster risk management. This presentation also highlighted the importance of working at the community level, while also addressing the underlying causes of climate-related vulnerabilities. The Public Works (PW) component is used to build community infrastructure that helps restore the productivity of the natural resource base by breaking the vicious cycle of falling crop yields. When compounded by population increases, these lead to land clearing, which then leads to less water infiltration and to further reductions in crop yields, and so on. Enhancing the PW program through climate-smart planning, project design, and management practices was highlighted as key to further supporting climate resilience at the community level. This community-based work is complemented by strengthening livelihoods through grants, financial literacy and service facilitation, and technical training. The presentation showed examples of how building resilience at the community level through the PW programs and building resilience at the individual level through complementary economic inclusion components can be aligned and coordinated to build climate resilience more strongly.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Kenya: Sam Owilly, BOMA Project</p> <p>Owilly shared BOMA's experience and reflections on key entry points that economic inclusion programs can use to support climate resilience and adaptation more purposefully. He mentioned how core components of economic inclusion programs, such as coaching or training, can be used to deliver climate-related information. Owilly's presentation also highlighted the importance of addressing the</p>

	underlying sources of vulnerability to poverty, of investing in human capital while addressing shocks, and of establishing partnerships with other key stakeholders. Governments need to be at the forefront to drive the process, achieve a successful response to shocks, and improve household resilience, while recognizing that the community plays a critical role in driving and building climate resilience and adaptation.
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can programs use ex ante measures, such as early warning systems, for resilience building?</i> Mr. Abu, from Ethiopia, talked about the early warning system (EWS) in Ethiopia, which relies on biannual crop assessments to identify needs following a climate shock (in Ethiopia, droughts and floods). An effective EWS must assess data and provide information in a timely manner so that resources are mobilized in time to drive actions that are responsive to the needs arising as the shock hits. • <i>What is the role of different stakeholders in promoting climate resilience?</i> Owilly, from Kenya, stressed the need for governments to champion these efforts, enforcing key regulations, while collaborating with a range of actors working at different level to promote a holistic approach.
No. of attendees if available	68

PLENARY SESSION:

Great expectations and strong debates: The emerging evidence base for economic inclusion at scale



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ILYZrsG2VM&t=3361s>

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>In a relatively nascent field such as economic inclusion evidence is fundamental to supporting the claim that scaling up programs through national systems is as fruitful for its beneficiaries as it is for the public economy. This session considered the current state of evidence surrounding program impacts and costs. Other topics were the key debates, knowledge gaps, and emerging opportunities as programs move to scale through government-led interventions.</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<p>Moderator: Arianna Legovini, Moderator and Adviser, Development Impact Evaluation Research Department, World Bank Speaker 1: Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics and Finance and Co-director, Global Poverty Research Lab, Northwestern University Speaker 2: Keetie Roelen, Research Fellow and Co-Director, Centre for Social Protection at the Institute of Development Studies Speaker 3: Patrick Premand, Senior Economist, Development Impact Evaluation Research Department, World Bank Speaker 4: Enrique Velasquez, General Director of Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development and Inclusion, Peru</p>
<p>1st debate: Optimizing bundled interventions</p>	<p><i>All speakers</i> This debate focused on how evidence plays a critical role in decisions to adopt and scale up economic inclusion programs globally. Multifaceted programs are working in the long run, and yet some gaps were noted such as the need for pertinent selection of components, the pursuit of new indicators such as mental health–related ones, or addressing evidence from a shorter-term perspective. The conversation continued with the sustainability of bundled interventions when scaled up through government systems. Research in the Sahel by Premand and others showcase optimistic results such as not only feasibility but also cost-effectiveness. Enrique Velasquez commented on Peru's 2008 public reform, which exemplified a substantial political effort heavily based on evidence. Many of the budgetary programs that followed were results-based and they adequately embodied the need to have good-quality evidence to formulate interventions. What works, why, how, where, and in what context are fundamental questions in seeking adaptation strategies. This section closed with Roelen discussing the essential role of synergies in combining components, linking the cash and the assets with high-intensity coaching, and few brush strokes on what has been observed to be useful.</p>
<p>2nd debate: Affordability and costs</p>	<p><i>All speakers</i> This debate opened with Enrique Velasquez discussing how the Peruvian government evaluated the fiscal cost of Peru’s HW program. The program had good budgetary outcomes, and its evaluation was rich and consistent Its significant impact on rural households improved the income and consumption indicators. On the heterogeneity factor, the need for a good context analysis to help determine the implementation and affordability of the program was underscored.</p>

	<p>Dean Karlan continued the conversation by reflecting on how a program's sticker price can be misleading—financially and morally—and he encouraged participants to avoid looking at sticker price to underline the attention to benefits relative to costs.</p> <p>Patrick Premand discussed cost optimization by remarking the on Sahel results, where package building was particularly cost-conscious, and results showed significantly different cost structures, depending on the country and the delivery systems of various components.</p> <p>Keetie Roelen closed the debate by considering the differences between standard packages and tailored ones. Programs affect different households differently (slow versus fast climbers). As a result more diversified models where more intense packages are directed to slow climbers and fast climbers are allowed to move ahead on lower-intensity packages can be useful. However this may have the risk of overcategorizing beneficiaries in an already highly-targeted intervention= A few messages were in the form of questions: Should we avoid a cookie-cutter approach and have more participatory and household-led interventions? Is there space for households to say what would be useful to them? Can we facilitate linking households to other sectors?</p>
<p>3rd debate: How to optimize cost and how to ensure the sustainability of impacts: Sustainability and future directions</p>	<p><i>All speakers</i></p> <p>Dean Karlan developed his initial point on having shorter-term studies. There should be more short-run studies with clear theories to see what small short-time changes should be applied that could possibly generate long-term changes.</p> <p>Keetie Roelen highlighted the human element when discussing the long-term impact of these interventions and the role that case managers or coaches play in these programs. Evidence shows that the relationship between program staff and program beneficiaries is immensely significant, and they are more likely to follow through if there is rapport and trust. Focusing on children, the single most important element for economic inclusion is to look at the gender-ruled responsibilities for paid and unpaid labor, and if programs specifically target women, then programs must take into account children under five.</p> <p>Enrique Velasquez closed by diving into a last query that addressed how social policies like a social safety network or any other sectoral interventions can keep participants in the ascending trajectories after exiting the programs. There should be short-term goals for the targeted population but with the perspective that they will transcend them.</p>
<p>Key issues</p>	<p>This session finished with the following takeaway messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emerging nature of taking programs to scale makes a strong case for conducting new d. In such uncharted territory, helping governments optimize the design and cost as well as the sustainability of results is a priority. • The potential and opportunity to test different packages are vast. In this way, the goal of improving the cost-effectiveness of scale up seems more within reach. • The economic side effects should also be a subject for research. Despite positive messages about the scale of economic inclusion, concerns about other potential negative effects on untargeted populations should be contemplated. More work should be done on devising programs that successfully sustain the growth of all beneficiaries.
<p>No. of attendees if available</p>	<p>Approx. 270</p>

Delivery innovation at the community level



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wl6sFbomKQ&t=1121s>

Objectives	<p>This session considered how innovations at the community level support the sustainability of government efforts, and potentially allow cost optimizations, by among other things shifting from individual to group-focused interventions, leveraging community structures, and engaging local social groups for community business development. This session brings together government speakers from Rwanda, Uganda, and Mexico to discuss their experience in delivering components at the community level.</p>
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Timothy Clay, Economist, World Bank Speaker 1: Claudine Marie Solange Nyinawagaga, Director General, Local Administrative Entities Development Agency, Rwanda Speaker 2: Robert Limlim, Director, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF 3), Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda Speaker 3: Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier, Director General, National Institute of Social Economy (INAES), Mexico.</p>
Summary of session: Presentation 1	<p>Timothy Clay, World Bank This session began with a brief framing to introduce the discussion on community structures and group-based mechanisms. The framing introduced findings from the SEI report, including the fact that the engagement of community mechanisms is a critical driver of program delivery, with 73 percent of government-led programs leveraging community structures. The framing also looked at the benefits of community and group-based structures, which include cost optimization, stronger program impact, increased program sustainability, and improved social cohesion.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Rwanda: Claudine Marie Solange Nyinawagaga, MPG Nyinawagaga's presentation focused on Rwanda's Minimum Package for Graduation (MPG) program, and specifically the use of community-level facilitators, "case workers," in delivering interventions at the local level. The presentation began by providing the overall context for the MPG program, including component design and beneficiary groups. The presentation then dove into the role of community case workers, who help identify and connect program beneficiaries to community advisory services. The presentation concluded by highlighting important lessons learned in developing effective case workers. Some lessons include the importance of maintaining a gender balance, providing incentives (especially for volunteers), and introducing group-based or targeted coaching to help manage workloads.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Uganda: Robert Limlim, NUSAF3 Limlim's presentation focused on the Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF3) Project and the various community-based mechanisms the program uses to implement economic inclusion activities. The presentation began by providing the overall context for the NUSAF3 program, including program design aspects and beneficiary groups. The presentation then showcased the various community structures that the program uses, including savings groups to manage its village revolving funds, group-based training, and community facilitators. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on the importance of involving the local community in discussions around the design and implementation of the program itself. The presentation ended by highlighting important lessons learned, including the need to support capacity building of community structures to enhance effective and efficient targeting; the fact that working through community institutions promotes cohesion, ownership, and sustainability; and the need to focus on youth and women to promote empowerment.</p>

<p>Summary of session Presentation 4</p>	<p>Mexico: Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier, NODESS</p> <p>Louvier’s presentation focused on the introduction and contextualization of economic inclusion programs in Mexico and specifically the NODESS program. The program integrates local cooperatives with larger regional networks, thereby providing greater community empowerment and knowledge sharing. Many of these nodes have different objectives based on the region and local economy. With support from the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES), these regional networks share knowledge, training, and other services to introduce these cooperatives to new opportunities. Louvier’s presentation offered insight into a potential strategy for scaling local community structures.</p>
<p>Key issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Types of community structures and groups-based mechanisms.</i> Community mechanisms include community case workers, savings groups, and cooperatives. • <i>Benefits of community and group-based mechanisms.</i> The benefits include cost optimization, a stronger program impact, increased program sustainability and improved social cohesion. • <i>Developing effective case workers.</i> Lessons include the importance of maintaining a gender balance, providing incentives, and introducing group-based or targeted coaching to help manage workloads. • <i>Involving local community in program design and implementation of programs.</i> Involvement will result in greater community buy-in and ownership of program, leading to greater program success and sustainability.
<p>No. of attendees if available</p>	<p>Approx. 60</p>

Shifting mindset and behavior



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oj8cOFFWA5M&t=42s>

Objectives	<p>Economic inclusion programs seek to increase the income and assets of program participants, but also must address the barriers participants face when engaging in livelihood activities. These barriers can include how the participant perceives her or his own capacity, how the family or community perceives the participant’s involvement in new activities, and how confident she or he feels in confronting these challenges. This session explored research findings for three programs that are testing behavioral change interventions that frame communication messages, strengthen agency, build resilience, or nudge people toward better habits.</p>
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Julia Vaillant, Senior Economist, World Bank Speaker 1: Angela Ofori-Atta, Associate Professor, University of Ghana, and Psych Corps Speaker 2: Tara Bedi, Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, and Concern Worldwide Speaker 3: Thomas Bossuroy, Senior Economist, World Bank</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Ghana: Angela Ofori-Atta Ofori-Atta described the impact of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) on the psychological and economic lives of the poor in Ghana and the partnership between her organization, Psych Corps, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), and Heifer International. IPA and Heifer were leading a graduation project in Ghana and sought to test whether a CBT intervention can improve mental health for ultra-poor individuals and whether improved mental health leads to better economic outcomes. Ofori-Atta developed the CBT intervention, and the results from the CBT intervention (excluding the economic inclusion intervention) midline evaluation are out. CBT recipients report less psychological distress, greater self-confidence, and improvements in soft skills and physical health.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Malawi: Tara Bedi Bedi described the Transforming Gender and Power Relations program she is evaluating, which is led by Concern Worldwide in Malawi. The program seeks to increase household productivity, increase cooperation and improve communication, and reduce conflict and violence triggered by targeting the female spouse for the program. The program engages graduation couples in 12 gender transformative dialogue sessions. Midline data will be collected later in 2021, but the project has learned that providing gender-sensitive messaging on COVID-19 affects beliefs. Qualitative Impact Protocol findings reveal an increasing proportion of women able to start businesses, invest in productive assets, and undertake farming, but thus far there has been no evidence of significant changes in patriarchal norms. Case managers are the binding factor of the program, and for households receiving the gender transformative training they offer reinforcement training once a month.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Sahel: Thomas Bossuroy Bossuroy shared the results of evaluations of a program featuring a psychosocial component that has been implemented by governments in four Sahelian countries. The objective of the psychosocial component was to strengthen and align attitudes, behaviors, and incentives at the community and individual levels. The program involved community sensitization and life skills training. The evaluation in Niger yielded results 6 and 18 months after intervention and was designed to test the value added of the psychosocial component. It found that the psychosocial package had strong impacts, and it is highly cost-effective. This element can serve as an important addition to EI programs.</p>
Key issues	<p>How projects identified the behavior that was an impediment to success in the economic inclusion program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Malawi.</i> very little information is available on gender impacts and graduation. Concern Worldwide undertook a formative qualitative research that laid out the constraints. One

	<p>recommendation was to address toxic masculinity, recognize the gendered impacts of localized beliefs, and bring together men and women to jointly address these issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ghana</i>. IPA had a graduation program earlier, and it wanted to understand how to make the program more successful—what would help participants do better. Psychosocial interventions were emerging in the economic literature, and Ofori-Atta wanted to test something new. • <i>Niger</i>. Identification of constraints took over a year. Four governments carried out qualitative and quantitative studies. With so many constraints, it was a challenge. NGOs also contributed, and the collective evaluation revealed that just pushing women to achieve more was not sufficient—there had to be way to build supports for them. <p>Advice for listeners on integrating the behavior change module in their projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bossuroy</i>. Take constraints seriously; good solutions are available. Governments may not be aware of them, but many NGOs are. A behavior change model can be included as a core component—four countries did it in Sahel, and other global experiences have revealed that cost-effectiveness and impact can be improved. • <i>Ofori-Atta</i>. Seven percent of GDP may have been foregone in Ghana because of days lost from mental health issues. That is important and addressable. We can improve productivity by looking at psychosocial issues. Participants added a 0.7 working day after the intervention. • <i>Bedi</i>: So many EI programs target women, but we must understand how these programs add to the roles women already fill. Early research and understanding the context are important as is how the programs can create tensions. And piloting is important to ensure you’ve got it right! <p>Overcoming cultural constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ghana</i>. The design of interventions helped get around cultural issues of women not speaking freely when men are present (especially in a Muslim household). Actual examples used in CBT interventions came from within the community. • <i>Malawi and Mauritania</i>. The design took into account cultural considerations. How do we bring couples together, and when should they be separate? How can we make this relatable? What questions can we ask to assess impact? • <i>Niger</i>. Intergenerational differences: some changes the program seeks to bring are around adaptation to change, which can be perceived of as a threat to older generations. This threat can hamper initiatives. In community sensitization, the videos can help create conversations among communities about adapting. <p>How to manage costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ghana</i>. CBT costs can be reduced by training low-education women (as in India) so they can train communities in the delivery of psychosocial packages through field staff. Use any staff you have, tailor content to cultural context, develop modules, train field staff well, and they can do it. You need a psychologist and good training. • <i>Niger</i>. EI packages layered over social protection programs utilized the registries of existing cash transfer programs. Thousands of workers were already implementing the cash transfer program, so the marginal additional cost for EI was reduced (\$300–\$350 cost per participant with the majority or 60-65 percent of the amount being the cash grant). Impacts seem to be sustainable and to increase over time, but are they fiscally sustainable? There are trade-offs but EI is an option that has become affordable. In terms of delivery capacity, it must be built over time. Programs are growing, but they must ensure that their quality remains intact.
No. of attendees if available	91

Addressing youth aspirations



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kgjr2iSBKxg&t=2172s>

Objectives	<p>This session was designed to showcase diverse government-led approaches to engaging young women and men in urban and rural areas in low- and middle-income contexts with varying levels of informality. The session brought together government speakers from Argentina, India (Jharkhand state), and Liberia. The session was aimed at (1) identifying across programs commonalities (regardless of context) and differences (depending on context; and (2) understanding how these programs were designed and delivered to address the specific constraints faced by youth.</p>
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Constanza Di Nucci, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Speaker 1: Fernanda Bersusky and Clementina Pruneda Paz, Government of Argentina Speaker 2: D. K. Saxena, Government of India Speaker 3: Jesse H. Bengu, Government of Liberia</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Argentina: Fernanda Bersusky (with Clementina Paz on Q&A) The first presentation showcased a youth-focused economic inclusion program in a middle-income country with relatively high urbanization and low informality. The Empleo Joven program aims to increase the employability of vulnerable youth and to facilitate wage employment through arranging apprenticeships with private sector employers and leveraging the existing decentralized employment offices. The presenters highlighted the achievements in terms of training participation and increased probability of formal employment. The presenters also discussed critical challenges in terms of collaboration with employment offices and microbusinesses and tailoring interventions for vulnerable youth.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>India (Jharkhand state): D. K. Saxena The second presentation showcased an economic inclusion program for adolescent girls in a low-income country with a predominantly agrarian economy and relatively high informality. The Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand state includes community-based approaches to the provision of life skills and market-driven skills training for adolescent girls and young women. Despite program disruption due to COVID-19, key achievements were made in terms of operationalizing community clubs for adolescent girls and providing life skills (for social empowerment) and business and vocational skills (for economic empowerment). The presenter also highlighted challenges in identifying key constraints and designing an appropriate bundle of interventions, customizing the curriculum to the target group, identifying the most vulnerable (because of oversubscription to the program), and putting in place the appropriate institutional arrangements.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Liberia: Jesse Bengu The third presentation also showcased an economic inclusion program in a low-income country with a predominantly agrarian economy and relatively high informality, but with a focus on youth more broadly. The Youth Opportunities Project (YOP) aims to facilitate self-employment for youth living in rural and urban areas. The program design builds on insights into binding constraints and workable interventions from earlier programs targeting adolescent girls in the country. The program offers different packages of interventions to urban and rural youth. The presenter highlighted the achievements of the project in providing job readiness training, grants, and other support to urban and rural youth. Preliminary evidence from an impact evaluation suggests a positive impact on the likelihood of self-employment among beneficiaries (both young men and women). The program plans generate further evidence and test innovation (focusing on women). The presenter highlighted as well key challenges in terms of limited resources (against high demand) and low capacity, as well as COVID-19 and the political transition that slowed down implementation.</p>

Session summary Poll	In a multiple-choice Menti poll, participants were asked to identify the most critical component(s) of programs targeted to youth. The most commonly identified components included skills training (including life skills), providing access to capital, and facilitating self- and wage employment.
Key issues	<p>The discussion focused on the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The challenge of beneficiary selection.</i> The speakers from Argentina explained the targeting mechanism for selecting appropriate participants for the program, but highlighted the challenge of reaching the most vulnerable. The speaker from India highlighted the importance of the age eligibility criteria and a focus on adolescent girls. • b) <i>The challenge of appropriate program design for this population group in terms of addressing the key challenges in placing youth in productive self-employment.</i> The session also discussed whether these microbusinesses were profitable or eventually failed, and how government programs can learn from this experience and improve interventions. Several participants also raised questions and made comments in the chat box about gender-intentional design and delivery.
No of attendees if available	132

Designing and implementing economic inclusion programs for women’s economic empowerment



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIUQiYf6LGo>

Objectives	<p>Leaving women out of the productive economy limits economic growth overall and increases inequality. Not only does gender equality have an impact on women’s individual well-being, but it also will benefit future generations and communities. This session features first-hand country experiences in accelerating women’s economic inclusion and empowerment. It is devised to focus on the operational realities of how programs evolve iteratively to tackle gender norms and issues such as gender-based violence. The session complements the second plenary session of the day, which focused on women’s economic empowerment.</p>
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Sadna Samaranayake, PEI Consultant, World Bank Speaker 1: Grace Kabwe Mwila, Program Specialist, Supporting Women’s Livelihoods (GEWEL), Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Government of Zambia Speaker 2: Sonia Laszlo, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, McGill University (Canada) Speaker 3: Alessandra Heinemann, Senior Social Protection Specialist and Gender Lead in the Global Practice for Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Zambia: Grace Kabwe Mwila, GEWEL</p> <p>GEWEL is pioneering in its explicit focus on girls’ and women’s empowerment. GEWEL has various components such as Savings Groups; Coaching and Mentoring to help build social capital; and Home Visits to provide scope for engaging the household more broadly. Mwila also commented on the unintended consequences of targeting women. They include exacerbated time poverty for beneficiaries who are asked to attend project activities on top of their usual care responsibilities, reinforcement of traditional gender roles, and an increase in intimate partner violence.</p> <p>The incorporation of gender-intentional design has been fundamental to avoiding these consequences, using additional financing. Albeit pending randomized controlled trial (RCT) results, it appears that a comprehensive package is needed for a real change in the lives of GEWEL beneficiaries. Factors include engaging husband and male communities, improving the grievance redress mechanism (GRM) systems using a gender-sensitive approach, and including sexual and reproductive health content that supports fertility decisions.</p> <p>Some of the lessons included the fact that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing gender in the recruitment of project staff at a community level can come at the expense of other qualifications such as literacy levels. • Women’s limited ownership access to key assets including phones and bikes requires creative solutions for delivering the grant. • Gender-based violence (GBV) is a real concern in most contexts, and projects should include protections for beneficiaries. • Continuous learning and course adjustment are critical: Monitoring and evaluation systems for the projects are useful for identifying gaps and making the necessary adaptations.
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Sonia Laszlo, McGill University</p> <p>At McGill University, Laszlo studies the macroeconomic effects of social policies and conditions in the areas of health, education, and markets with a focus on women. She highlighted the importance of empowering women as a goal in itself and the need to address the structural barriers that have traditionally hindered implementation of programs. In addition, she focused on how overlapping components in interventions is needed to (1) mitigate backlash from male spouses and (2) challenge traditional gender norms as well as avoiding their reinforcement:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some promising design and implementation features to minimize backlash lie in participatory wealth appraisals, appropriate GRMs, engaging men and boys even with its inherent difficulty, and using self-help group training to intervene. The challenge is to scale this up, which is time-consuming and costly. • In terms of challenging gender norms, Laszlo emphasized the early integration in programming of coaching to tackle bias, mindsets, and gender roles and operationally investing in gender sensitization within organizations themselves. To scale this up, more research is needed, and it poses a challenge in terms of price and quality control on large scale. She closed by emphasizing the possibilities in leveraging digital solutions.
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Alessandra Heinemann, World Bank</p> <p>In her presentation, Heinemann congratulated the GEWEL program for its design and implementation features and its quality. The large scale of the program and the fact it is entirely government-led, as well as the very creative ways in which community engagement has helped minimize the cost were praised. The main takeaway from GEWEL is to think that WEE is not an add-on but an effort to maximize the opportunities in which women can exercise voice by of course, bringing men into the process. On the GBV front and on the cash transfer program—EI program link, the important takeaway is that a growing body of evidence indicates that when households obtain cash transfers, GBV violence decreases.</p> <p>What is the next frontier and what knowledge gaps do researchers or practitioners need to understand better? The evidence up until now is encouraging, but, as Laszlo alluded, the relationship among poverty, gender norms, and gender are complicated, and so there is not one silver bullet. It is about replication, iteration, experimentation, and incessantly trying to find the best solution.</p>
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the pervasiveness of GBV, it is always important to add preventive measures, even in the programs not entirely based on gender. • Economic inclusion programs do not necessarily have to have the unintended consequences described because they can be avoided by early dialogues with men in households. • Research could investigate differential impacts on women depending on their profiles such as married versus single mothers. • Other remaining questions in this area relate to how will organizations or governments become more gender transformational
No. of attendees if available	Approx. 100

PLENARY SESSION:

Promoting women’s empowerment through EI: Current thinking and key directions



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKJ2jRxybv4>

Objectives	<p>Covid-19 has disproportionately affected the most poor and vulnerable, especially women and girls. This session convened a diverse range of voices and experiences drawing from academia, government, and international development on the transformative potential of EI programs to advance women’s empowerment. Using a conversational format, the session engaged, provoked, and inspired participants on the opportunities and challenges in the agenda ahead.</p>
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Kathleen Beegle, Lead Economist, Gender Group, World Bank Speaker 1: Reema Nanavaty, Director, SEWA Speaker 2: Winnie Auma, Vice President, Program, Village Enterprise Speaker 3: Apera Iorwa, National Coordinator, NASSCO, Nigeria Speaker 4: Sybil Chidiac, Senior Program Officer, Gender Equality Team, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Speaker 5: Roopa Hinton, Social Development Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)</p>
Social norms and aspirations	<p>Reema Nanavaty, SEWA, and Winnie Auma, Village Enterprise In this discussion, both speakers highlighted the need to combine both a tangible and an intangible approach when improving the well-being and economic inclusion of women. The key message: evidence in the field shows that addressing structural barriers by providing resources such as cash transfer or assets is not sufficient. Women's aspirations, family norms, and community expectations are fundamental in attaining the goal of empowerment. Tackling the material needs such as access to resources, ownership of property, restriction in mobility, and health care must be complemented and interplayed with a transformative process in gender norms. This can involve methods such as coaching or simply the organic social shift that occurs when women are bringing income security to their homes.</p>
The enabling environment and challenges to scale	<p>Apera Iorwa, NASSCO; Sybil Chidiac, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Roopa Hinton, FCDO Iorwa began briefly describing the Nigerian case in economic inclusion by exploring its main challenge and opportunities. Infrastructure deficit, access to financial institutions, lack of digital connectivity for cash transfers, and high levels of illiteracy (affecting 60 percent of those in the social protection system registry) were an impediment to achieving financial and economic inclusion. Iorwa also commented on various solutions the program was able to achieve. He then discussed how the pandemic posed a challenge for governments trying to quickly provide those affected with resource. His program was therefore eager to work with local banks and to bring virtual accounts to women in collaboration with UN Women.</p> <p>Chidiac focused on how multilateral and bilateral government funds and donors tackle specific issues in countries. As a result, programs are sometimes completed in narrowly designed silos. Donor coordination thus must be included in government conversations because it is critical to see how strategies are devised and what gaps are in place. The key question revolved around how to build more intentional alignment across graduation, social protection, local economic development, financial, livelihood, and gender programs, among others, such as those within the World Bank. The challenge in reaching more women is directly linked to scaling up in a more cost-effective manner. Finally, those working to attain women's economic empowerment should also</p>

	<p>consider issues such as social capital, self-esteem, and freedom from violence in order to address the tremendous barriers to economic inclusion.</p> <p>Hinton discussed how social development and women’s economic empowerment should be linked to other sectors and the broader social protection agenda. Gender equality and poverty are interlinked, not separate items. Programs must look at women's practical and strategic needs. Interventions need to contemplate women's unpaid care responsibilities when engaging in economic activities. These are, otherwise, transferred to adolescent girls, for example, or they create a double burden). She pointed to a good practice in Ethiopia's PSNP program, which provides childcare services for women in public works programs. The need for bundled interventions in tackling poverty traps becomes even more evident in women’s economic empowerment programs. A bundled set in Tanzania with coaching, assets transfer, and access to health and sexual reproduction information has been attached to a grant to Tanzania's social protection system and is having a positive impact on gender equitable attitudes..</p>
<p>Evidence and learning gaps</p>	<p><i>Reema Nanavaty, SEWA; Sybil Chidiac, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Apera Iorwa, NASSCO; Roopa Hinton, FCDO; Winnie Auma, Village Enterprise</i></p> <p>Nanavaty opened the discussion by providing insight into the local multiplier effect of investments. An important key message is that enterprises for women should be based on local resources and the skills women already have because scale-up will then occur much faster. Another important notion is the potential for building decentralized supply chains. Even during the pandemic, local, decentralized supply chains continued to work.</p> <p>Chidiac listed four takeaway messages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Savings and self-help groups in local economies can serve as a base for streamlined government delivery of activities and more advanced financial management, as well as for enterprise and market linkage growth. 2. Digital innovation and e-commerce require tackling the lack of connectivity that jeopardizes the capacity of women to leverage various resources. 3. Acknowledgment is needed of how social norms play a crucial role in market linkages. 4. An emerging area of research is considering the unpaid work in women’s economic empowerment programs. <p>Iorwa would like to see priority given to critical knowledge gaps related to mainstreaming policy learning into programs, knowledge exchange, and how evidence is influencing policy.</p> <p>Hinton pointed out two areas that would push boundaries in economic inclusion for women's empowerment: cost-effectiveness and evidence for moving to action.</p> <p>Two areas would be of high value in terms of knowledge and learning for the work of Village Enterprise in multiple countries: (1) ensuring that economic inclusion and the empowerment of women and agency are at the front and center of programs; and (2) building the evidence and what works and what does not. For Auma, thinking about cost requires finding a balance between impact and scale—a critical factor in government scale-up of economic inclusion programs.</p>
<p>Key issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you engage women who are not economically active (“statistically inactive”) and bring them into these programs? All women work, and, in-house or not, they are economically active. Nanavaty believes in communal encouragement and peer to peer inspiration, women being the example to other women. • How do you ensure that Village Enterprise programs do not overlook women in more traditional programs? It is critical that the entire family is included—the men, the children—and that they all understand the shared value and benefits of these businesses and not just the

	<p>participants. We see a lot of men taking responsibility and supporting women, reminding them to attend training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you engage with local governments to build up their technical skills and capacity to build at the ground level? Iorwa explained that local governments are implementers of the program, and every local government has an office responsible for the program, with 30 staff members. The government builds the skills of staff but also their capacity to leverage community structures. To give women a voice, Village Enterprise divided the communities of the social registry into three homogenous groups: adult men, women, and youth. This ensures that women have a differentiated voice within the poor and vulnerable, and this becomes instrumental to their decisions.
No. of attendees if available	Approx. 250

Advancing earning opportunities through social safety nets (SSNs)



Watch this session online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMI_2dcRqUQ&t=1648s

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The potential to build on existing social safety net (SSN) or social assistance interventions is an important entry point for economic inclusion programming. As countries expand the coverage and financing of SSN programs, the “cash plus” model is gaining momentum, with a productive inclusion intervention as a natural complement to standalone cash transfers. The incorporation of SSN beneficiaries into jobs and livelihoods programs aiming at increasing their overall productivity and access to jobs (either self- or wage employment) is a potential game changer in the design of economic inclusion. It can imply a shift from one-off and time-bound interventions to a more regularized system of support, promoting a natural "pathway" from social assistance investments to improving jobs and livelihoods opportunities for the poor and vulnerable.</p> <p>This session will focus on the role of economic inclusion programs within a broader social protection system, and how safety nets can leverage productive inclusion interventions, increasing access to job opportunities and entrepreneurship models for beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<p>Moderator: Ugo Gentilini, Senior Social Protection Specialist and Lead for Global Solutions Group (GSG) on Social Safety Nets, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Ladislaus Joseph Mwamanga, Executive Director, Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Tanzania</p> <p>Speaker 2: Diego Alonso Aldás Guizado, Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), Ecuador</p> <p>Speaker 3: Jenny Swatton, Technical Adviser, Concern Worldwide</p>
<p>Summary of session Presentation 1</p>	<p>Ugo Gentilini, World Bank</p> <p>Gentilini described generally how safety nets can be used to promote earning opportunities. There are several documented ways in which safety nets can generate income and economic growth, including by building human capital, physical capital (through the expansion of public works), acting as economic multipliers (cash transfers as direct injections in local economies), enhancing resilience, and promoting entrepreneurships. These many channels could be operationalized by combining packages of interventions to enhance growth. Nevertheless, there are some challenges and barriers as well.</p>
<p>Summary of session Presentation 2</p>	<p>Tanzania: Ladislaus Joseph Mwamanga</p> <p>Mwamanga provided an overview of the country context in Tanzania and how the Productive Social Safety Nets (PSSN) project supports the government's priorities of reducing poverty and increasing human development opportunities. The PSSN is aimed at improving access to income-earning opportunities and socioeconomic services for targeted poor households, while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children. It targets 1.4 million poor and vulnerable households.</p> <p>Components of the PSSN include cash transfers, public works, and livelihood support (productive inclusion). The project relies on institutional capacities at the community and local government levels and on integrated delivery systems. The program has scaled up in phases, and currently covers all districts and 70 percent of villages in the country. All 900,000 beneficiary households have received some productive inclusion measure such as savings promotion. According to the impact evaluation of the project, the intervention has helped to reduce poverty by 10 percent among beneficiaries, and in terms of its productive impact, it has contributed to increasing savings and asset accumulation and the use of agricultural inputs linked to enhanced productivity and self-employment.</p>

	<p>One lesson learned is that saving group members are able to develop a culture of saving and investment. Most of the "extremely poor" were qualified for credit, which was a critical aspect of the formation of saving groups. This also contributed to enhancing women's economic empowerment, and the livelihood support interventions worked as an opportunity to become more self-reliant. The team will continue scale-up of the productive inclusion interventions and match that with the rollout of digital payments to all districts.</p>
<p>Summary of session Presentation 3</p>	<p><i>Ecuador: Diego Aldas</i></p> <p>The Credito de Desarrollo Humano (CDH) pilot in Ecuador relies on the rollout of the cash transfer program Bono de Desarrollo Humano (BDH), which is expanding the social protection network in response to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDH pilot provides a combo of regular cash transfers, emergency transfers, and economic inclusion interventions, targeting families living under the poverty line according to the social registry; vulnerable families and individuals prone to natural disasters; and regular users of monetary transfers. Through the CDH pilot, cash transfer and social pension regular users can receive advanced transfers as credit under preferential conditions. There are two payment options, corresponding to 12 and 24 months of advanced payments totaling US\$600 and US\$1,200, respectively. The pilot promotes access to credit lines, including support mechanisms through training and coaching for productive activities. Likewise, it incorporates financial inclusion to ensure adequate social and productive development for families.</p> <p>The program has placed 228,384 credits and disbursed around US\$178 million, including to 91 percent of female-headed households. Seventy-five percent of support goes to agricultural initiatives; 43 percent to associative initiatives; and 18 percent of beneficiaries are youth. The pilot has contributed to tripling the social protection network, including the support for recovery from COVID-19. Likewise, the economic inclusion strategy has allowed a segment of the population traditionally excluded from the financial market to access these services. The pilot includes some promising results on impacts, these should be complemented by an impact assessment of the economic inclusion strategy aimed at youth and women.</p>
<p>Key issues</p>	<p><i>Jenny Swatton, Concern Worldwide</i></p> <p>The discussant reflected on the considerations raised by the panelists, especially around the main challenges to utilizing safety nets to scale up economic inclusion programming. Some of these challenges can be addressed through corrections during the implementation cycle. Safety nets are sometimes narrowly targeted with low coverage of the working-age poor. As a result, coverage of these safety nets should be scaled up, especially if governments are going to build other services on top of them. Likewise, it is important to address the demand side of the labor market. Labor market analysis is critical, especially to address the disconnect between the supply side and demand side constraints of labor. The role coaching can play is central, as this component has improved mental health and thereby social and economic outcomes, including community-based savings groups helping beneficiaries to manage risks. Finally, because of the multisectoral nature of these interventions, coordination remains extremely important and should be promoted through the available delivery system tools.</p>
<p>No. of attendees if available</p>	<p>Approx. 80</p>

Economic inclusion in urban areas



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKUR4t6dsjo&t=3294s>

Objectives	Economic inclusion programs are increasingly adapting to the realities of informality in urban areas, with the COVID-19 crisis bringing a new sense of urgency. This session explored how countries are operationalizing economic inclusion programs in periurban and urban areas and embedding these programs in urban planning and policy. The session presented insights from a number of government-led and non-government-led programs.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Puja Dutta, PEI consultant, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Demba Ndiaye, Coordinator, Safety Net Project, Senegal, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 2: Lauren Whitehead, Director of Technical Assistance, Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, BRAC</p> <p>Speaker 3: Judy L. Baker, Lead Economist, Global Practice for Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience in the Africa Region, World Bank</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Puja Dutta, World Bank</p> <p>This session began with a brief framing of a framework to highlight how the urban context shapes the nature of constraints faced by the poor and vulnerable and the implications of urban-specific constraints for how economic inclusion programs are designed and delivered in urban areas, as well as how these can leverage urban actors and policies.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Senegal: Demba Ndiaye, World Bank</p> <p>The presenter shared the experience of the Yook Koom Koom pilot in urban Senegal, focusing on operational lessons on design and delivery, emerging evidence on impact, and plans for scaling up the pilot. The preliminary results presented are encouraging. In addition to an increase in income-generating activities, the program improved the well-being of beneficiaries (psychosocial comfort and social cohesion). Some of the facilitating factors for the results are (1) a strong partnership and distribution of work among the government, NGOs and private firms; (2) innovation and change in the support method for target populations; (3) adaptation of the content to target populations (for example, media translated in local languages); (4) proximity of venues where program activities take place; (5) involvement of community leaders; and (6) proper understanding of training and activities due to higher level of schooling. Some of the urban-specific challenges were (1) high mobility of beneficiaries; (2) lack of adaptability in the operation of certain activities; (3) short supply of training spaces; and (4) difficulties in marking out neighborhoods. Based on this experience, the government now plans to scale up the program nationally in urban and rural contexts.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Lauren Whitehead, BRAC</p> <p>The presenter shared emerging insights from the graduation pilots of BRAC in urban Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, and Uganda, focusing on redesigning the program to address urban-specific constraints and opportunities. She presented the common characteristics of urban poverty, such as high transience, high informal work, urban slums (incl. illegal settlements), limited social cohesion, low access to social services, and greater access to markets and higher willingness to take risks. Drawing on lessons from a 10-year urban engagement in Bangladesh, BRAC, urban graduation programs are designed with the urban context in mind, rather than merely adjusting existing rural interventions. For example, in Uganda BRAC's youth graduation pilot identified skills-based vocational training on electrical work and mobile repair, among others, relevant to urban and periurban youth. In the Philippines, the intervention partnered with local financial service providers to ensure financial literacy training and access to savings accounts to reduce high levels of indebtedness.</p>

Summary of session Poll	A multiple choice Menti poll asked participants to identify the most challenging aspect of designing and delivering urban programs as experienced or anticipated by them. The main challenges identified included targeting poor and vulnerable households (especially the "new poor"), identifying viable market opportunities for sustainable urban livelihoods, and integrating coaching that meets the needs and lifestyle of urban households.
Summary of session Presentation 4	<p><i>Judy L. Baker, World Bank</i></p> This presentation stepped back from program-level issues to focus on economic inclusion from an urban planner’s perspective. The presenter focused on options for embedding economic inclusion programs in urban planning and policy and for working effectively with urban local governments to implement these programs. She framed her presentation by explaining the role of cities in job creation, the challenges of cities in this context, and the challenges for the urban poor. The concept of inclusive cities already includes economic inclusion as one key pillar (other pillars include spatial and social inclusion). Inclusive cities connect the urban poor with job markets (through, for example, affordable transport), encourage pro-poor economic development (through, for example, access to credit), and build resilience to external shocks (through, for example, community initiatives for resilience building).
Key issues of discussion, including synopsis of Q&A	Several questions were discussed in the chat box about program design and service delivery in the urban context (especially related to targeting, training, components, and program duration, etc.). The main issue discussed was the conditions for successful economic inclusion in urban areas and the mistakes to avoid for program implementers. The first speaker highlighted the importance of adapting delivery systems (especially for effective targeting of eligible beneficiaries, ensuring appropriate space for group-based interventions, and following up on activities through effective monitoring). The second speaker emphasized that the primary mistake is to assume that the same intervention in a rural area will apply and be attractive in urban areas. High attrition and dropouts are common in urban contexts, mainly because programs do not adequately consider constraints on participation (in terms of time, cost, and distance) or because the offered opportunities are less attractive than the alternatives. The third speaker cited institutional constraints as the primary challenge in terms of lack of coordination and communication between different levels of government.
No of attendees if available	89

Leveraging technology: Improving digital service delivery



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpmIItVdbpc>

Objectives	<p>To explore the potential to leverage technology and digital solutions to deliver human resource-intensive components such as training and coaching and innovative mechanisms to deliver payments and perform operational research. In addition, the session explored whether digital innovations can be adapted to other contexts such as FCV, as well as the cost-effectiveness of leveraging technology.</p>
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Ines Rodriguez Caillava, Social Protection Specialist—Delivery Systems, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Winnie Fiona Mwasiaji, Deputy Director, State Department for Social Protection, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Government of Kenya</p> <p>Speaker 2: Carolina De Miranda, Director of Social and Livelihood Promotion, Department of Fundación Capital, Paraguay</p> <p>Speaker 3: Avnish Gungadurdoss, Managing Partner and Co-founder, Instiglio</p> <p>Speaker 4: Douglas Emeott, Manager, Instiglio</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Winnie Fiona Mwasiaji, Africa Community of Practice</p> <p>This session focused on countries' experiences with the impact of COVID-19 on program delivery, implementation of economic inclusion, and social protection programs. The presentation covered the challenges COVID-19 poses for program delivery and implementation of social protection programs in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the opportunities to leverage technology in the COVID-19 context. Presenters also highlighted Political economy issues in the digitalization in government social protection policies. They discussed as well key hindrances such as current technology penetration in the countries and the technical skill sets of program beneficiaries.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Paraguay: Carolina De Miranda</p> <p>De Miranda's presentation focused on how to reach program participants in the face of quarantine measures and the digital solutions being implemented by Fundación to address the challenges in Paraguay. One solution was to digitize the graduation curricula using a tablet-based app (Android) with both online and offline modes of training. The app allows monitoring through backend data. The team also explored tablet self-rotation. Another strategy was to use WhatsApp for communication and an awareness campaign. WhatsApp provided timely and frequent information, thereby maintaining the link with program participants, and it served as a trustful virtual assistant. Overall user satisfaction was high, with 88 percent of surveyed participants considering the messaging campaign to be necessary or very necessary. De Miranda also stressed that although a higher upfront investment must be made in the technological solutions, they allow for scale, with decreasing operative costs.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Rwanda and Kenya: Avnish Gungadurdoss and Douglas Emeott</p> <p>Gungadurdoss opened by explaining how Instiglio is supporting nine high-performing NGOs to evolve from “business as usual” to continue serving beneficiaries in socially distant / lockdown environments using digital solutions. Key digital solutions under implementation are short message service (SMS) and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR). SMS and USSD are text-based communication methods that allow service providers to communicate through brief messages with their beneficiaries and vice versa. USSD also provides the possibility of creating interactive menus for more complex two-way interactions. IVR systems allow beneficiaries to access content via phone calls, navigating menus through the keypads of their phones or voice recognition. The presentation emphasized the benefits of digital solutions for social protection programs.</p>

	Technology can help make program delivery more cost-effective because organizations can deliver services more easily in remote locations and to the most vulnerable.
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital solutions and technology are suitable to deliver interventions such as training and coaching in developing economies. However, in some low-income countries' technology penetration is still at the nascent stage, which is huge challenge. • Some of these innovations could be delivered at scale, but an open question is how willing governments are to adopt these proposed innovations. • In delivering these technologies at scale, questions remain such as: Are these technologies cost-effective? Can they be adapted to the local context, language, etc.?
No of attendees if available	65

Toward a more green, resilient, and inclusive economy



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DlIdaHXhLbA&t=165s>

Objectives	As the world begins to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19, policy makers are looking for new ways to stimulate their economies—all while considering the next global crisis: climate change. This session considered the potential of leveraging economic inclusion interventions to support green, resilient, and inclusive development (GRID). Examples are climate-smart agriculture, climate-responsive social protection systems, and forest resource protection and management. The session brings together World Bank experts, technical partners, and academics to reflect on the current landscape of economic inclusion programs and how these programs can better support a green, resilient, and inclusive economy.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Christian Bodewig, Program Manager for Southern Europe, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Jorge Maldonado, Professor of Economics (AG Econ), Senior Research Fellow of EfD Colombia, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia</p> <p>Speaker 2: Omar Benammour, Social Protection Specialist, FAO</p> <p>Speaker 3: Tracy Hart, Global Lead, Fragile and Conflict States, Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice, World Bank</p>
Summary of session: Presentation 1	<p>Christian Bodewig, World Bank</p> <p>This session began with a brief framing of the Green, Resilient, Inclusive Development (GRID) agenda at the World Bank and how economic inclusion programs fall within this space. A key point is that, based on the Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) Landscape Survey 2020, 65 percent (59p) of World Bank economic inclusion programs seek to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation and develop sustainable livelihoods through sustainable natural resource management or climate change adaptation. Of these programs, 39 percent also include resilience as a main objective.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Jorge Maldonado, UNIANDES</p> <p>Maldonado’s presentation focused on the nexus between economic inclusion/graduation programs, climate, rural development, and natural resource management, extensively showcasing his experience with programs in Latin America. His presentation touched on evaluations of government-led economic inclusion programs in Honduras, Paraguay, Colombia, and Mexico. Some key findings include the extent to which participants are exposed to extreme climate events and the level to which climate change exacerbates poverty and vulnerability. Another important finding was that rural areas provide not only agricultural services but vital ecosystem services. Finally, Maldonado offered recommendations for better integrating climate in economic inclusion programs. Such integration would include coaching on climate risks and resilience building and adaptation measures to climate change; designing productive activities that consider climate change effects; and developing insurance programs that cover climate shocks.</p>

Summary of session Presentation 3	<p><i>Omar Benammour, FAO</i> Benammour focused on the nexus between economic inclusion, climate, and agriculture/food security, extensively featuring his experience in West Africa and the Middle East and North Africa. His presentation focused primarily on the development of food systems. Although worldwide they are the largest path to improved livelihoods and jobs, food systems are generally precarious and at risk from climate change and COVID-19. Economic inclusion programs are central to promoting inclusive food systems and rural transformation as there is nothing inherently inclusive and sustainable about economic transformation. Economic inclusion programs can reduce poverty by increasing the capacity of small-scale farmers and fishers to produce affordable, healthy food and by supporting the adoption of climate-smart practices.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 4	<p><i>Tracy Hart, World Bank</i> Hart discussed her experience in working with the Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice and specifically within fragile contexts. She offered insight into environment-specific interventions that can be linked to economic inclusion programs. Interventions include opportunities for community terracing, sustainable fishery production and marketing, urban solid waste management, drainage and flood prevention, and tree nurseries and planting for afforestation. Her presentation highlighted the many job opportunities offered by a green economy and the importance of focusing on women and youth.</p>
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to further identify evidence gaps between economic inclusion programming and climate change. Understanding these evidence gaps will require further collaboration among the environment, natural resource, agriculture, and social protection sectors. • A cross-cutting issue considered was the political economy aspects of transitioning toward a green economy. The GRID agenda is met with both urgency (climate change) and immense economic growth potential (green economy). For a successful transition to occur, institutional coordination across ministries (that currently may not have a strong working relationship) and nongovernmental partners is critical. • Further understanding is needed of who might benefit from the transition and who may potentially lose out. Due to various constraints (financial, technological, etc.) the poor and vulnerable may be at risk of falling behind in transitioning to a green, resilient, and inclusive economy. Economic inclusion programs can be an important part of this transition because they not only provide income support to manage increasing climate risks but also combine coaching and training services as well as business facilitation to increase people's resilience to disruptions caused by the transition.
No. of attendees if available	<p>Approx. 42</p>

Using data for decision-making and program design



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TpIBdV0QqA&t=16s>

Objectives	This session took an in-depth look at the PEI data tools available through PEI's Open Access Data Portal. This session sought to encourage a discussion and experience sharing on the PEI Landscape Survey in order to learn how to gather similar data and use PEI visualization tools, and on the PEI costing tool. The first poll conducted during the session revealed that only 30 percent of participants had already used the PEI's Data Portal resources. By the end of the session, all participants had been introduced to the data and resources available in the Data Portal.
Speakers	Moderator: Inés Arévalo, PEI consultant, World Bank Speaker 1: Boban Paul, Economist, World Bank Speaker 2: Valentina Barca, Consultant, World Bank
Summary of session Presentation 1	<i>Inés Arévalo, World Bank</i> Arévalo provided an overview of the PEI's Data Portal, including a high-level "look and feel" demonstration of the resources available in the portal as well as ways to visualize and access data. Participants then moved into breakout groups for a hands-on activity aimed at familiarizing them with the available resources and uses of PEI data.
Summary of session Presentation 2	<i>Boban Paul, World Bank</i> Paul shared his first-hand experience using data from the landscape and costing surveys to inform the GEWEL project in Zambia, including the additional financing proposal and budget reviews. He found the landscape survey data a good starting point for programs wishing to identify what others are doing in the economic inclusion space. He then talked about how data gathered through the costing survey is informing the Public Expenditure Review process.
Summary of session Presentation 3	<i>Valentina Barca, World Bank</i> Barca reflected on the value of open access data and the Data Portal. The Data Portal (1) demystifies messages (such as lack of state capacity to layer economic inclusion interventions onto existing programs such as safety nets); (2) inspires design choices based on what others are doing; and (3) fosters South-South dialogue and benchmarking.
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the value of providing and using data from PEI's Data Portal? If programs have budget and other program information on hand, completing both the landscape and costing surveys will take some but not too much time. What is most important is that program-level data such as what is captured through the landscape and costing surveys can help inform program choices and financing arrangements. • How can programs integrate monitoring and impact evaluation data? This issue was raised in other sessions during the GLE. One way to do this is to use monitoring systems to track shorter-term outcomes that are linked to expected longer-term outcomes, which will be assessed through the impact evaluation. Impact indicators are necessary because one can compare them with program costs.
No. of attendees if available	68

Analytical innovations to improve real-time program design and learning



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbykiN3FM8Q&t=2148s>

Objectives	This session sought to explore how analytical innovations can inform the scale-up of new economic inclusion programs, or reform existing ones, alongside multiyear evaluative exercises. The session was motivated by a question commonly asked by government practitioners in moving to scale, “Where do we start?” The session tried to answer this poignant question by bringing together global experts to reflect on “quick” diagnostic efforts that have been pivotal to shifting dialogue, programming, and political support.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Sara Giannozzi, Senior Social Protection Specialist, World Bank (Indonesia)</p> <p>Speaker 1: Kelsey Wright, Consultant, World Bank (previously program manager, IPA)</p> <p>Speaker 2: Shagun Sabarwal, Director of Policy, Training, and Communications, J-PAL South Asia; Director, CLEAR South Asia</p> <p>Speaker 3: Andrew Sheperd, Principal Research Fellow, Equity and Social Policy; Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, ODI</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Bihar, India: Shagun Sabarwal</p> <p>This presentation focused on role of evidence and analytics in the evolution of the SJY program, a government scale-up of the graduation approach. Sabarwal provided an overview of the state-of-the-art management information system (MIS) for real-time data monitoring used by the team. The presentation also covered findings from process evaluation and operational feedback from different program stages. It succinctly illustrated how the use of MIS and real-time learning resulted in increased monitoring of identification process as well as a formalized process to avoid exclusion errors.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Sahel: Kelsey Wright</p> <p>In this presentation Wright showed how a constraints assessment in Sahel influenced the EI program design and implementation. The constraints assessment included both qualitative and quantitative modules. The qualitative assessment highlighted multiple constraints and suboptimal strategies using focus group discussions and key informant interviews, and the quantitative assessment complemented the qualitative study by identifying and ranking the main constraints to development and productivity for the poorest households and then prioritizing the most promising interventions to relax these constraints. Wight concluded by explaining how quick diagnostic studies such as constraints analysis and qualitative research can be carried out relatively cheaply to provide context and challenge assumptions.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Andrew Sheperd, ODI</p> <p>Sheperd showcased the COVID-19 Poverty Monitoring Tool being implemented by ODI. It combines both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to inform both real-time learning and policy adaptations. The presentation covered the methodology used to design the tool and the deployment in the COVID-19 context in multiple countries to corroborate household survey results and in-depth exploration of coping strategies. Findings suggested that relief was inadequate a year into the pandemic, and that the IMF's COVID-19 loans could be more targeted to social protection and less to industry and aviation. Sheperd emphasized that the Poverty Monitoring Tool can be adapted to inform program design and real-time learning from implementation and assessment of coping strategies and can provide insights into the adequacy of cash grants and asset transfers provided as part of economic inclusion package.</p>

Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mixed methods—quantitative and qualitative—and innovative approaches that also incorporate beneficiary feedback can improve real-time learning and course correction of ongoing programs. ● Often, the issue is not so much about what tools to use to generate data, but having the feedback loops and internal buy-in or appetite needed to translate findings into programmatic decisions. ● The challenge is how the learning can be best disseminated and effectively translated into actions.
No. of attendees if available	68

Overcoming barriers to scale: From pragmatic to transformational partnerships



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbchBVTwPVM>

Objectives	A strong partnership is integral to the success of economic inclusion programs. A wide array of partnerships, programs, and structures are available, but little documentation and guidance on effective operational models.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Janet Heisey, PEI</p> <p>Speaker 1: Barbara Jackson, Vice President, Programs, Trickle Up</p> <p>Speaker 2: Ghassan Kasabreh, Director, NGO Development Center, Gaza</p> <p>Speaker 3: Makda Getachew Abebe, Senior Social Protection Specialist, World Bank</p>
Summary of session Presentation 1	<p>Barbara Jackson, Trickle Up</p> <p>Jackson described Trickle Up’s 12 years of experience working with municipal governments, which are representative of the indigenous population and have taken on policy commitments to serve this population. Trickle Up has developed a flexible approach to providing technical assistance that builds the capacity of the government to deliver services and often has unforeseen benefits, including the creation of a government office for people with disabilities. These partners are then able to utilize innovations such as digital tools, which is critical for dealing with COVID-19 and generate evidence to inform program modifications. Municipal governments make practice of policy including the inclusion of people with disabilities and indigenous women. Other municipalities have replicated and scaled the approach.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 2	<p>Makda Getachew Abebe, World Bank</p> <p>Abebe described the Rural Productive Safety Net Program, formed in 2005. It started in response to the extreme effects of severe droughts. Because it is a large, complex program responding to multiple policy objectives, partnership is key. The development partners agreed to a uniform program, budget, and processes to streamline the process. The leadership shifts every six months to ensure the representation of both large and small partners. The donor coordination team serves as the interface between 11 donors and government.</p>
Summary of session Presentation 3	<p>Gaza: Ghassan Kasabreh</p> <p>Kasabreh described the NGO Development Center (NDC), which offers services complementary to but in alignment with Palestinian government programs. The Code of Conduct developed is utilized widely in the region. The principal project has a cash-for-work component and internet-enabled self-employment (e-work), with NDC providing oversight. The advisory committee has representatives from many line agencies and supports the overall program. Beneficiary selection for the program conducted jointly with government ministries.</p>
Key issues	<p>The top challenges revealed in a poll (19 respondents): measuring performance and ensuring transparency (53 percent), coordination (53 percent), identifying suitable partners (37 percent), managing many partners across projects (32 percent), and staying aligned on objectives (32 percent).</p> <p>The following reflections were offered on the findings of the poll:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Coordination</i> is a critical factor in a successful partnership. Those in the West Bank dealing with COVID-19 spoke with implementing NGOs, the advisory committee (government), and the World Bank to find ways to increase access to health services. ● <i>Identifying and recruiting partners:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make agreements and establish principles ahead of time and ensure there is interest in and a commitment to them. Establishing equal commitments to the partnership is key.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A competitive process for choosing partners will result in unbiased selection. ● <i>Measuring performance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitoring program process is important to ensure the investments in partners are good ones. Establish a process for reflection and learning, particularly for big projects. It may be hard to determine at the outset which partners are the best to lead a part of program. ○ Programs should be generated in conjunction with one another and align with the national vision. Ensure accountability to partnership principles through a donor code of conduct and a joint MoU. NGO platform should have a terms of reference, which would be entry point for discussion and dialogue. <p>What kinds of incentives can be created for partnership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Build capacity.</i> Offer government partners and local communities opportunities to gain new skills and expertise. They could include basic budgeting, operational planning, time management, and specific program capacities. ● <i>Financial flow and constancy.</i> Financial flows are declining and funding is unpredictable. ● <i>Credibility.</i> program funding and implementation adds to their credibility as NGOs because they have mandates and when they implement, they are fulfilling their strategies. Helps them to expand their outreach to other communities and beneficiaries. ● <i>Accountability.</i> Relationships with programs and teams and the establishment of transparent implementation can help build the confidence of local communities, allowing trust to rise over time. ● <i>Joining a larger initiative.</i> Making the dollar go further, especially for relatively small donors, can be an incentive to join a regional or national initiative ● <i>Having a stronger voice.</i> Engagement of and agency for the local community are important. They can be in charge of their own lives. <p>What advice would you have to those wanting to establish or improve partnerships?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage partners at the earliest stages to establish shared objectives, open dialogue, and to get feedback. ● Start talking about the project before starting partnership discussions to build interest and transparency. ● Ensure partnership is participatory and establish principles to demonstrate equal power, as possible. Adapt and revise according to each other’s mandates and work together to achieve common goals. ● Establish structures and systems for implementation and conflict resolution to align organizations. Develop agreements, MoUs, and committees to ensure alignment. ● Face challenges with partners and establish good communications before problems emerge. ● For larger alliances, align people at different levels: have the technical staff flesh out program details through technical working groups. Those in the policy dialogue should engage separately but ensure the two levels coordinate.
No. of attendees if available	115

Making the case to Finance and Treasury: Ensuring program sustainability



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfIDfYHzKTE&t=367s>

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The objective of the session is to highlight the considerations in developing sustainable financing strategies around economic inclusion programs. A key part of program sustainability rests on the institutional as well as financing dimensions. This session gathers the voices of experts from finance ministries and funding partners to consider opportunities and challenges in setting in place financing strategies.</p> <p>The session builds on recent findings of the <i>State of Economic Inclusion</i> report, which highlighted some positive directions in program financing from national resources. Over half (55 percent) of economic inclusion programs led by governments are funded in whole (29 percent) or in part (71 percent) by government, with 36 countries having dedicated budget lines for expenditures in this area. At the same time, donor financing has an important role to play, both by filling financing gaps and by supporting technical expertise that accompanies such financing.</p> <p>The session is motivated by the reality that as programs move to scale, financing decisions become more contentious and framed by political economy discussions. As programs are developed in a wider policy arena, questions of cost-effectiveness and program impact relative to other interventions come to the fore. As programs are increasingly adapted in low-income and lower-middle-income settings, the affordability and availability of financing are also an issue.</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<p>Moderator: Colin Andrews, Program Manager, PEI, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Bessie Msusa, Chief Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Malawi</p> <p>Speaker 2: Sauda Ahmed, Head of World Bank Unit, Ministry of Finance, Ghana</p> <p>Speaker 3: Sarah Coll-Black, Senior Economist, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 4: Gregory Collins, Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID</p>
<p>Theme 1: Country perspectives</p>	<p>The Malawi speaker, Bessie Msusa, briefly introduced various national programs and projects such as the Malawi Social Support SSLRP, which builds resilience through cash transfers and economic inclusion. By contrast, the speaker from Ghana, Sauda Ahmed, underscored the use of cash transfer programs and public works to support economic inclusion programming as a response to the government’s poverty reduction priority.</p> <p>The conversation then moved to the various sources of financial resources for the Malawi social protection programs and the financing and technical partners such as IDA, EU, and IFAD that are supporting the reform of fiscal structures to scale up social protection and economic inclusion. Msusa also highlighted programs such as COMPSIP which have been built on the understanding of the insufficiencies of standalone cash transfers.</p> <p>Ahmed then shared how the government of Ghana was committed to social protection. Seventy percent of the cash transfer program is funded by the public resources. The Ghana Social Protection strategy is to support economic activities offering sustainable livelihoods and not just offer cash transfers. Alongside, Ahmed described how the government has committed half of its IDA funding to social inclusion and the Ghana Productive Safety Net program. Legislation is being drafted to prioritize productive inclusion as part of the options in social protection programming. In terms of funding, the Ghana program is already being publicly funded. but some other budget lines will be created. The long-term economic inclusion approach brings hope as it contributes to formalizing business, with foreseeable tax contributions that these new</p>

	<p>jobs could make. However, one of the biggest challenges when allocating national resources and making the case to the finance ministry is that the tight fiscal space makes it hard to emphasize the need for social protection.</p>
<p>Theme 2: Donor perspectives</p>	<p>Sarah Coll-Black, the World Bank discussant, shed light on the lessons arising from Bank operational engagements. The key lessons echoed the observations by the speakers from Malawi and Ghana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a strong case for economic inclusion and social protection takes time because the finance budgeting cycle runs through the year. Thus, it is important to sustain the relationship with Finance over time. It is not a matter of making one stop at Treasury, but of fully grasping the financing cycles and dynamics of government. And sometimes forgotten is that financing may not be based solely on central government financing. In some countries, there is also devolved funding, so those seeking support need to understand the structure of ministries' resource allocations and who has discretionary powers over them. • It is important to seek allies in all government counterparts of the financing structure—among them, the accounting units and head of Treasury. Within our own institutions, it is also important to find allies, as well as in other development partners that have regular conversations with Finance. This helps create a total picture of the funding coming into the country. • Ultimately, resource allocation is a political decision so looking into this aspect is also quite relevant. <p>At this point, the moderator changed the focus to the following question: As donors, are we doing the best to make this simple to our partners in countries? Costing analyses could be done better.</p> <p>The USAID representative initiated a conversation on the cost of inaction, not just on poverty and hunger, but on the social and humanitarian aspects of the COVID-19 crisis. There is an untold story in terms of impact and of how to make a better use of these investments. COVID-19 has made a strong case for the need for resilience, and economic inclusion is the linchpin in building a resilience portfolio—the bridge between various necessary elements such as market linkages and shock resilience. He stressed the need to be working in areas of recurring crisis, focusing on the costs of inaction. Donors have a responsibility not to scale up central interventions, but to create evidence and undertake trial-and-error programs that could benefit countries.</p>
<p>Sticking points</p>	<p>The Ghana and Malawi discussants continued building on previous conversations. It is not just about producing evidence but making sure it is available. And find alliances, too. If people do not understand what is needed to proceed with budget allocations, they may end up having undertaken good work but no results to show for it. It is important to have champions where the funding happens.</p> <p>The conversation transitioned by raising the theme of political acceptability, including by parliamentarians. Malawi reinforced the notion and importance of political will, fiscal space, and an appetite to move from giving cash alone to productive inclusion interventions. If economic resilience is achieved, then sustainable livelihoods could eventually stop the recurrence of humanitarian crises in the long run.</p> <p>But what is the potential to piggyback on these social protection investments? Safety nets and productive inclusion are at an intersection, and so there is an organic bringing together of these discussions. How to frame this connection in the future? There are mutual synergies between social protection and economic inclusion and pathways to transit from one to the other. Poverty is dynamic, and so the responses on the policy and programmatic side should be dynamic as well.</p> <p>Returning to the cost of inaction, <i>cost</i> can be broadly defined as the cost in lives, aspirations, livelihoods, and losses to regional economies, and the cost of going back to the same donors every year. In addition, sometimes ministries of finance miss the scale of the economic impact of humanitarian aid. This idea should be made visible by bringing to the finance table government units dedicated to humanitarian crises.</p>

Key issues	<p>The session concluded with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The speaker from Malawi reinforced the recurring theme of having a good mechanism to generate evidence and make it visible. The speaker from Ghana confirmed this point, adding that economic inclusion should be part of a comprehensive package of options for development. This makes the point for further coordination among all the parties involved. • Development partners can sometimes be guilty of not translating this evidence for different audiences. This is an important role for donors. Partners can engage and promote an open dialogue with ministries of finance, challenging existing ideas, convincing political stakeholders if feasible, and investing time and effort in understanding the push points as well as the system. • So devising a sustainable financing strategy is an incremental process that may require actions on several levels, including but not only budgeting, evidence building, partner coordination, negotiation across sectors and ministries, and trade-offs around resource allocation. To make the right financing and budgeting decisions, governments, and others need the appropriate information and tools, including studies of cost-effectiveness, other analytical tools, and a clear budgeting map that connects inputs, outputs, and results.
No. of attendees if available	<p>Approx. 42</p>

CLOSING SESSION:

Future directions for economic inclusion and global partnerships



Watch this session online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLNZDBwKBpk&t=1994s>

Objectives	As the event came to an end, various speakers facilitated a concluding session that explored future priorities and engagement opportunities across the partnership and beyond the event. The session also featured a report back on key themes and areas of discussion and retrospective accounts from rapporteurs representing country delegations and technical partners.
Speakers	<p>Moderator: Loli Arribas-Banos, Practice Manager, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Desmond Duametu, Productive Inclusion Specialist, Ghana Productive Safety Net Project, Ghana</p> <p>Speaker 2: Benish Fatimah Sahi, Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Social Protection Authority, Pakistan</p> <p>Speaker 3: Abdoulatuff Abdallah, Regional Director, Comoros Social Safety Nets Project, Comoros</p> <p>Speaker 4: William Abrams, President, Trickle Up; PEI Advisory Council member, United States</p> <p>Speaker 5: Dianne Calvin, CEO, Village Enterprise</p> <p>Speaker 6: Colin Andrews, PEI Program Manager, World Bank</p>
Introduction by Loli Arribas-Banos	<p>Loli Arribas-Banos shared several takeaways revolving around the question of why EI and why now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic inclusion has been a critical intervention to alleviate the negative impact of COVID-19. • EI interventions can reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on human capital. They can also improve the lives and empowerment of women. Not just by transferring assets to them or supporting the improvement of cognitive abilities such as digital or financial literacy but also by improving their socioemotional skills. • EI programs are key for building back better and for future crisis preparedness, especially by building on foundational investments such as adaptive social safety networks that can be scaled up quickly. • Economic inclusion programs make economic sense: they can result in economic multipliers and promote strong economic growth that mitigates inequality while enhancing environmental sustainability. The key point of a cost-benefit analysis is that we should also consider the cost of inaction. • Although economic inclusion interventions support the resilience of households to shocks of all kinds, they can also be important instruments for contributing to green resilience and inclusive development plans in response to the imminent climate crisis.
Desmond Duametu	<p>Desmond Duametu commented on the insightful and timely conversations, especially for Ghana, which is about to scale up a pilot. He highlighted a few takeaway messages from the three-day event and his experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of research and how it influences policy and unleashes a government budget for economic inclusion. • The need to have community involvement and community ownership.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EI program must be progressively and steadily implemented without being overly fast. It is important to ensure that the government structure architecture can absorb all that is needed to scale up. • Economic inclusion in Ghana is thankfully moving toward urban, but urban interventions should not be a mere adaptation of rural to urban.
Benish Fatima Sahi	<p>Benish Fatima Sahi commenced by calling the GLE a very timely event as well for the Pakistan Social Protection Authority (PSPA) because it is rolling out an economic inclusion component of a World-Bank-funded project: the Punjab Human Capital Investment Project. She then shared their work in inclusive programming for economic inclusion of rural women in Punjab and mentioned a key takeaway message from the event: the importance of maintaining a balance between business and household chores for rural women. Assistance should include the entire household and not just an individual. This finding will be assimilated in their programming paradigm.</p> <p>Sahi appreciated the great learning experience and specifically pointed out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing about other initiatives such as Peru's Haku Wiñay and learning how they have leveraged the community and mechanisms at the local level to achieve the program goals. • The need for a thorough market assessment and value chain details at the local level—a pivotal feature in designing economic inclusion programs to avoid market distortions. • The evidence bases built by PEI are very useful and will be studied. • The importance of political economy, institutional arrangements, and flexibility in scaling up were important factors highlighted by the event—factors that will help pave Pakistan's path to EI interventions.
William Abrams	<p>William Abrams, CEO of Trickle Up, opened his section by adding to Abhijit Banerjee's comments on the potential of economic inclusion and his maxim that knowledge is power and so should be shared. He then expressed how pleased he was that over the past 15 years the community has made great achievements in addressing the big questions.</p> <p>He then pointed out what questions the community should be answering in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to operationalize scale? • How to support government, multilaterals, and large funds? • How to lower the absolute cost of delivery and build a strong cost-benefit ratio? • How to use technology at lower cost? • How to understand the psychosocial dimension of poverty? • How to recognize and remedy unintended negative consequences? <p>Abrams concluded by underscoring the vast amount of information produced by the event and wondered how all this curiosity and excitement could be converted into action. He offered two recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a dynamic system for organizing and sharing our knowledge, especially the practical knowledge that will help us design and continuously improve EI programs. • Because this event will expand our global community of practice, invest more resources in building this network which is passionate about the shared goal of ending extreme poverty in our lifetime.
Dianne Calvin, CEO, Village Enterprise	<p>As a CEO of VE for 11 years, Dianne Calvin celebrated how much progress has already been made in building a strong evidence base, developing new innovations, and scaling EI programs up. One of the main reasons for such success lies on the strong partnerships that have been developed between researchers, NGOs, private policy makers, and governments. Her key takeaway message focused on the importance that all continue this very open exchange of information, well-documented best practices, and learning. She also noted the inspiration she received from the governments of Nigeria and Kenya, the evidence gaps that will help them continue to refine their research agenda, cross-learning and partnerships that will help them operationalize the agenda</p>

	for scale and the innovative potentials that digital technology may bring to make these cost-effective during scaling up.
Abdoulatuff Abdallah	Regional director of SSNP Comoros project launched by the World Bank, Abdoulatuff Abdallah commented how through the various and diverse GLE presentations he was able to hear hopeful messages about the potential of EI, especially after learning about the experiences of countries such as Nigeria, Tanzania, and Madagascar He also remarked about the great amount of learning he gained from the three-day event, especially on the role of WEE as well as the implications that women have in the field of development. He finished reinforcing the idea that he took home an important message: EI has great potential to improve the lives and to develop his country.
Key issues	The session ended with closing words from Colin Andrews, program manager of PEI, about the future directions of Economic Inclusion and the Global Partnership. He first shared a few ideas on the next generation of economic inclusion and the PEI's strategic trajectory. He continued by elaborating on the cross-cutting priorities and themes incorporated in the future direction of PEI, especially strengthening resilience and human development outcomes as well as promoting COVID-19 recovery. He also went over the three pillars constituting PEI: country engagement, innovation and learning, and knowledge management. The session closed with a message of gratitude and acknowledgment of the team. A final poll was then conducted.
No. of attendees if available	Approx. 200