



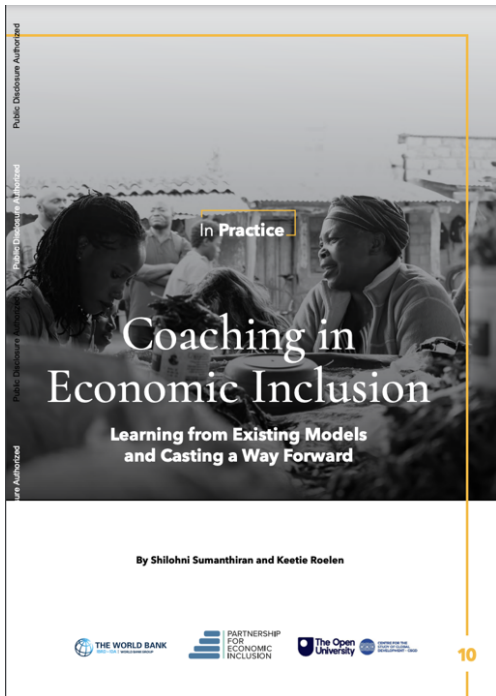
January 2024



Photo credit: Markus Kostner / World Bank

### NEWS FROM PEI

# Good practice in designing and delivering coaching



A new publication unpacks the wide range of approaches to coaching, confirming that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to designing and implementing coaching as part of inclusive programming.

In the latest **In Practice**, Shilohni Sumanthiran and Keetie Roelen explore coaching in 30 programs and reveal seven design parameters to consider in program design: scope of coaching, depth of coaching, type of coaching (individual versus group), level of engagement, caseload, staffing, and coaching tools.

For each parameter, the authors present examples of coaching interventions, from those requiring low resources or a narrow focus to those where high resources or a broader focus are required.



The authors joined government and NGO practitioners and 150 attendees at PEI's latest Open House for a lively discussion on coaching interventions in economic inclusion programming.

[Access In Practice & Brief](#)

[Access recording & resources](#)

# Social protection and jobs policies and programs in the face of informality



Policy Note  
 Revisiting Informality in South Asia: An Agenda for the Future  
 Social Protection and Jobs

S. Amer Ahmed, Zaineb Majoka, and Jyotirmoy Saha  
 August 22, 2023

Introduction

More than 80 percent of labor force in South Asia is in the informal sector where people or firms tend to stay in the informal sector because of economic substance and cost saving. In Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, the informal sector accounts for more than 80 percent of the economic activity. Some of the factors that increase the probability of employment in the informal sector are low levels of education, work in urban areas, young age, and poverty. On one hand, informality can be an economic subsistence strategy where people engage in informal work for survival reasons. In the absence of better-quality jobs. While, on the other hand, it can help save costs associated with taxes and other regulatory requirements.

The level of informality has been persistently high in South Asia despite high growth rates. Informality is often associated with low economic growth but the regional GDP growth rate in South Asia has remained between 7 and 7.5 percent from 2010 and 2019 while informality has either remained constant or increased in some cases.

This note presents three key findings about informal economy in South Asia, which can be relevant for labor market programs and policies:

- 1) All poor are informal but not all informal are poor: More than 80 percent of wage workers in the poorest wealth quintile in Bangladesh and Nepal are in the informal sector as compared to around 20 percent in the top quintile. Though informality remain dominant, there are significant differences in informal

Despite high growth rates in South Asia, the level of informality has been persistently high.

In PEI's fourth **In Focus publication**, authors S. Amer Ahmed, Zaineb Majoka, and Jyotirmoy Saha examine the informal economy of South Asia and explore how social and economic inclusion policies and programs can help address the realities of persistent informality for vulnerable people living in poverty.

[Access In Focus >](#)

## NEWS AND RESOURCES FROM PEI PARTNERS



Photo credit: CARE

## Central Bank of Bangladesh endorses village savings and loan associations, empowers women with savings and financial tools

The Central Bank of Bangladesh has formally recognized village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) as the result of a collaboration with CARE that included a Financial Inclusion Policy Analysis. The move by the Bangladesh Bank will help increase financial access and boost the economic power of marginalized women in poverty across the country. To date, 3,000 bank accounts have been opened by women in VSLA groups.

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Photo credit: BRAC International

## A successful graduation pilot in the Philippines paves the way for a more comprehensive approach to combating poverty

The Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BRAC international and other partners to strengthen poverty alleviation efforts in the country through knowledge sharing and capacity building. The MoU follows a successful graduation pilot that, from 2018 to 2020, equipped 2,400 households with a one-time asset transfer, business training and saving mechanisms.

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Photo credit: FAO/Guimarães Almeida

## Lessons learned from a youth employment program in the Sahel

In this publication, the FAO outlines how the "Building Resilience in the Sahel Region through Job Creation for Youth" project facilitates entry into the job market for rural youth by strengthening their capacities in selected value chains and green agricultural practices. The case study includes lessons learned throughout the project's implementation and evaluation.

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Photo credit: Nextbillion.net

## Beyond extreme poverty: can the graduation approach work in other contexts?

A two-year pilot in Guinea used the graduation approach to support a displaced community forced to relocate due to mining activities. Notably, the project targeted all relocated households rather than only those in extreme poverty, and included additional components to address the mistrust and psychosocial effects of forced displacement.

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Photo credit: Village Enterprise

### DREAMS for refugees expands to Ethiopia

After initial work in Uganda, the Delivering Resilient Enterprises and Market Systems (DREAMS) program is expanding to reach 1,200 refugees in Ethiopia. DREAMS, a partnership between Village Enterprise and Mercy Corps, will equip participants with the skills, resources, and market links they need to start sustainable businesses and graduate from extreme poverty.

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Photo credit: BRAC International

### Learning from the world's largest government-led graduation program

Indonesian local government representatives participated in a 4-day Immersion and Learning Exchange (ILE) in Bihar, India, last month, where they learned from JEEViKA, the largest government-led graduation program that currently works with 185,000 households in extreme poverty. The visit focused on insights around JEEViKA's design, implementation and evaluation, and it aims to support anti-poverty efforts in the respective municipalities.

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Photo credit: IFPRI

### Evidence from a light-touch graduation program in Ethiopia

An experimental light-touch graduation package, including a one-time \$370 livelihood transfer (in cash or in-kind) showed modest but meaningful impact on asset accumulation and savings among participants. However, compared to other multifaceted economic interventions, the light-tough package generally did not lead to targeted households exiting poverty.

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@PEIglobal\_org

PEI is a multi-stakeholder partnership at the World Bank promoting economic inclusion programs that end poverty.

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The [Partnership for Economic Inclusion](#) is a global network that includes national governments, policymakers, development partners, and nongovernmental and research organizations. PEI is hosted by the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice and seeks to formalize partnerships now that will solidify an economic inclusion network that is global and far-reaching. PEI partners help develop economic inclusion programs and contribute to evidence-based good practices that can be adapted to local conditions by governments and local or international agencies. Through their work, each partner is helping build a platform that will refine and enable the sharing of cutting-edge knowledge about what works in economic inclusion.



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