



Social Registries, Beneficiary Registries, and Integrated Social Information Systems: implementation challenges

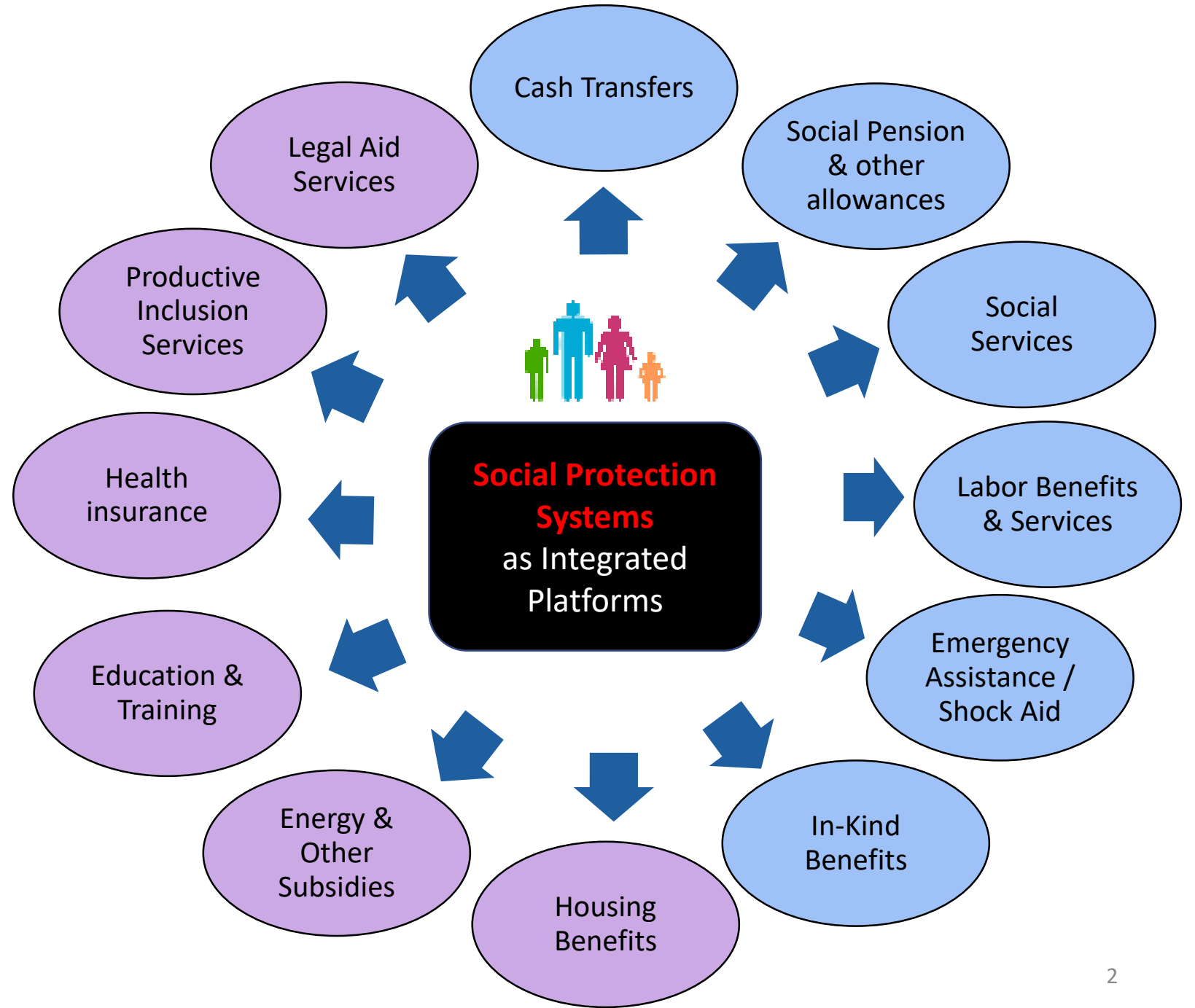
Phillippe Leite

Based on the work lead by

Kathy Lindert, the Global Lead for Delivery Systems at the Social Protection & Jobs Global Practice of the World Bank Group

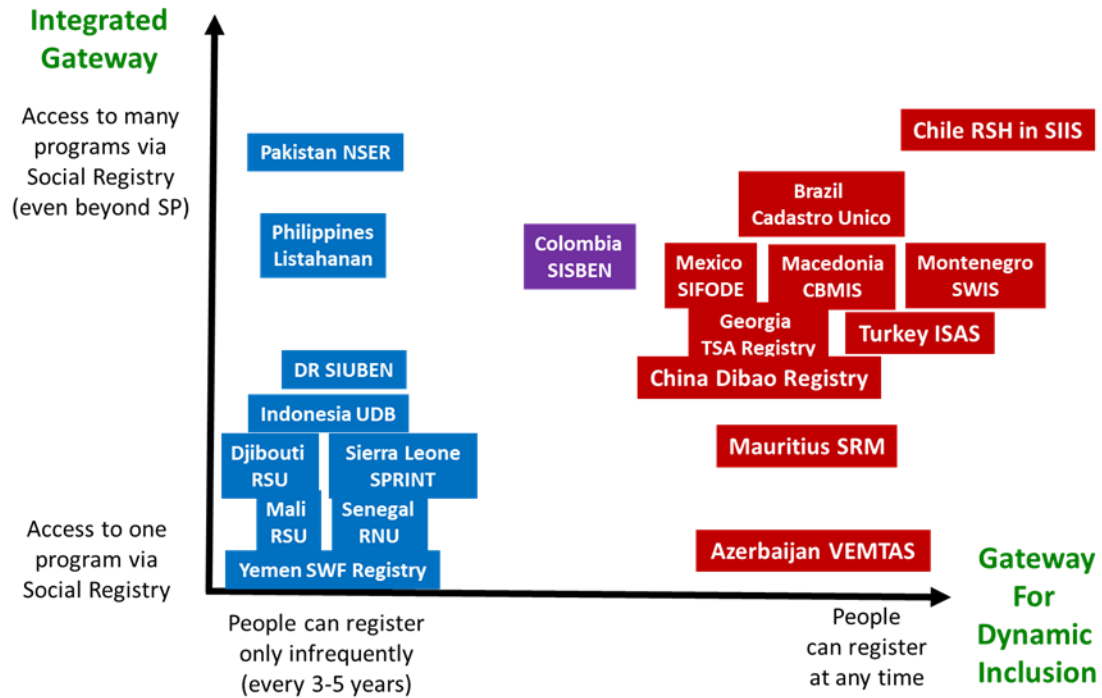
Social Protection Systems can serve as integrated platforms that help connect people to benefits and services well beyond Social protection

Objective: Promote Social Development and Social Inclusion to build resilience and economic empowerment

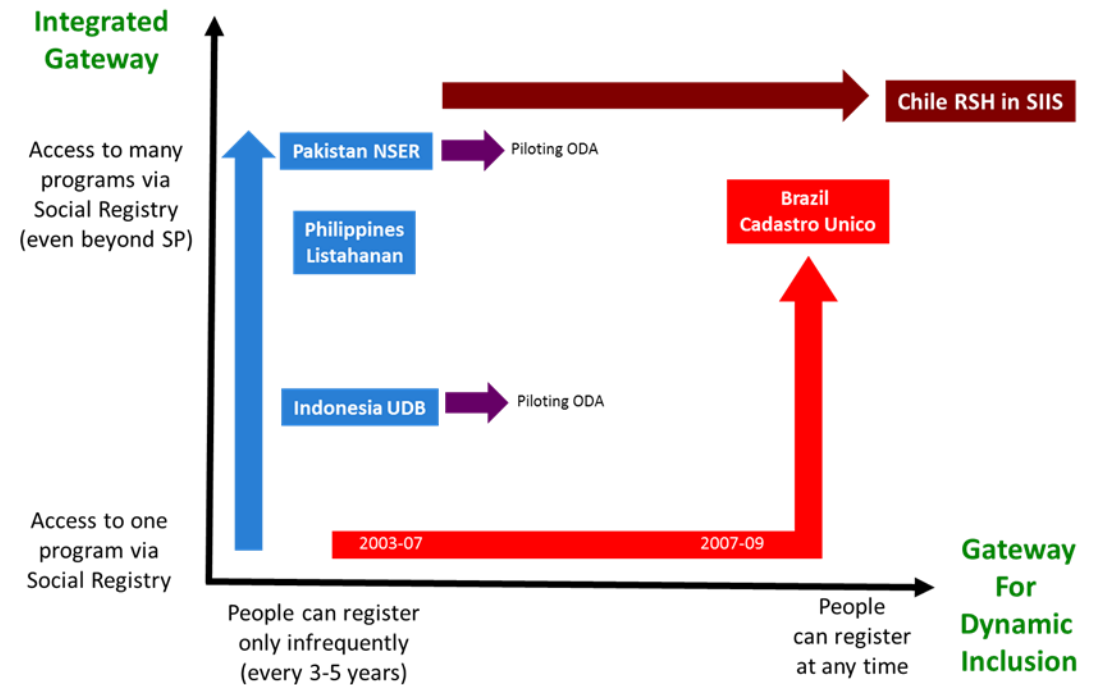


Diverse Typologies and Trajectories of Social Registries as Inclusion Systems

Typologies



Trajectories

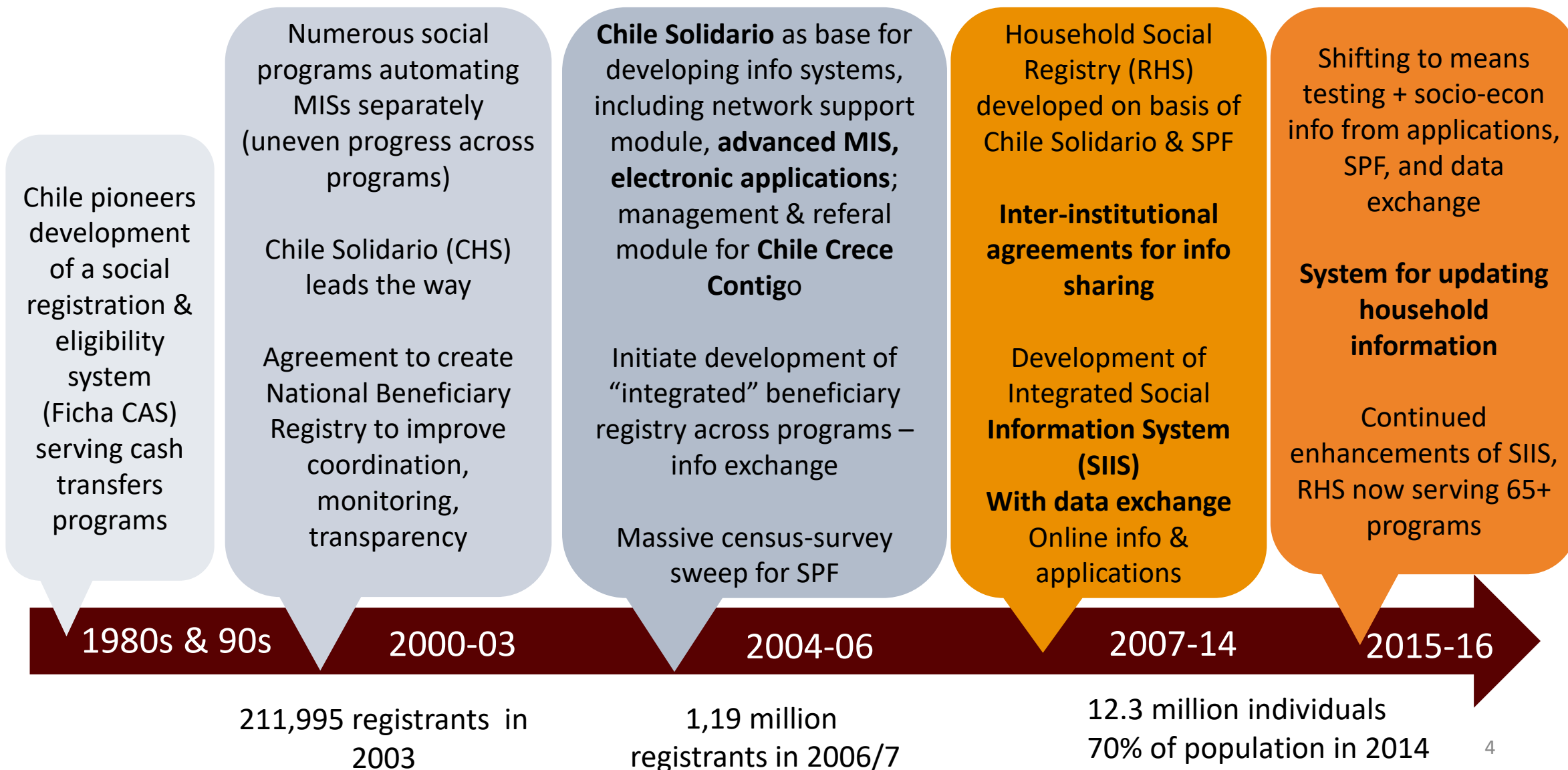


Promote Inclusion and Strengthen Coordination

Challenge: Weak Institution, absence of legal arrangement, data sharing and fragmentation

Multiple institutions and agencies operate independent without a clear social protection strategy to allow complementarities of main interventions.

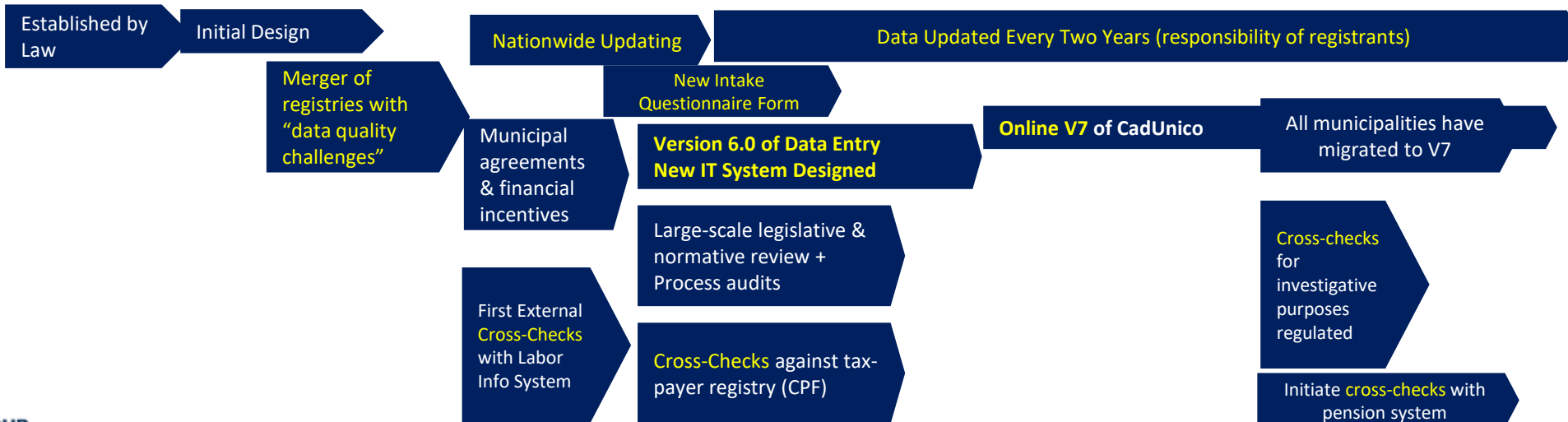
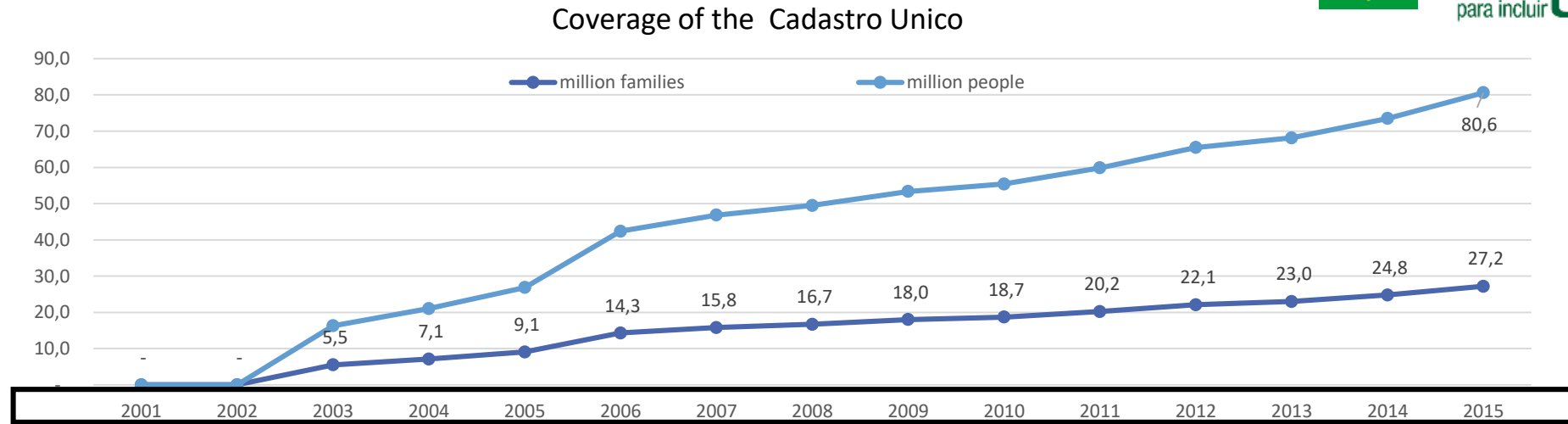
Chile – From Unified Social Registry to Integrated Social Information System



Political Economy and Evolution

Challenge: Politicians and Practitioners and development partners (PPDp) have different objectives and different IT development ideas

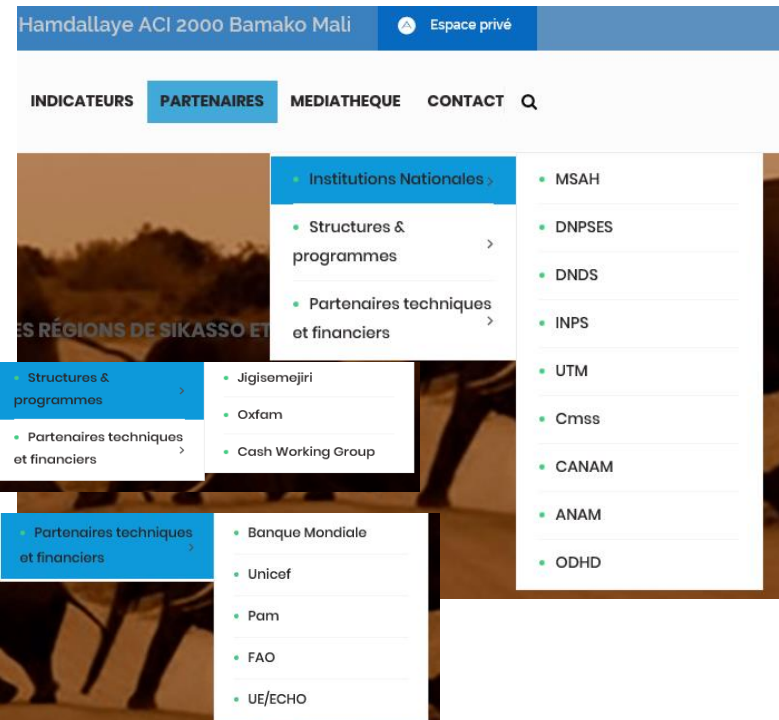
Scaling Up While Improving Systems Over Time:
Example of Brazil's Cadastro Unico (Social Registry)



Harmonization, measurement and eligibility criteria

Challenge: PPDp have different understanding on basic concepts related to characterization of population and how to measure it.

www.wwp.org.br



- Harmonization of concepts:
 - Concepts used in official statistics
 - Concepts used by key development partners
- Questions about households and families:

- family composition;
- address and characteristic of the house;
- access to public services of water, sanitation and electric energy;
- monthly expenses; and
- entitlement to Social Programs;

- civil documentation;
- schooling information;
- occupational status;
- sources of income, among others

Issue: concepts and characterization of population

- Poverty: income or expenditure? Poverty line? Per capita or adult equivalent....
- Vulnerability: Disability? Age based? Marital status? Economic?...
- Food insecurity: food consumption score? Three meals a day? Dietary diversity?...
- Malnutrition: using scales? Arm-measurement?...
- Universal and Universalism are not synonyms.

.....

Misunderstand about program criteria and SPIS role, and size of SPIS

Challenge: PPDp have different understanding regarding the roles and responsibilities around program eligibility criteria, and often mix concepts of targeting, considering it as a policy and targeting is a tool

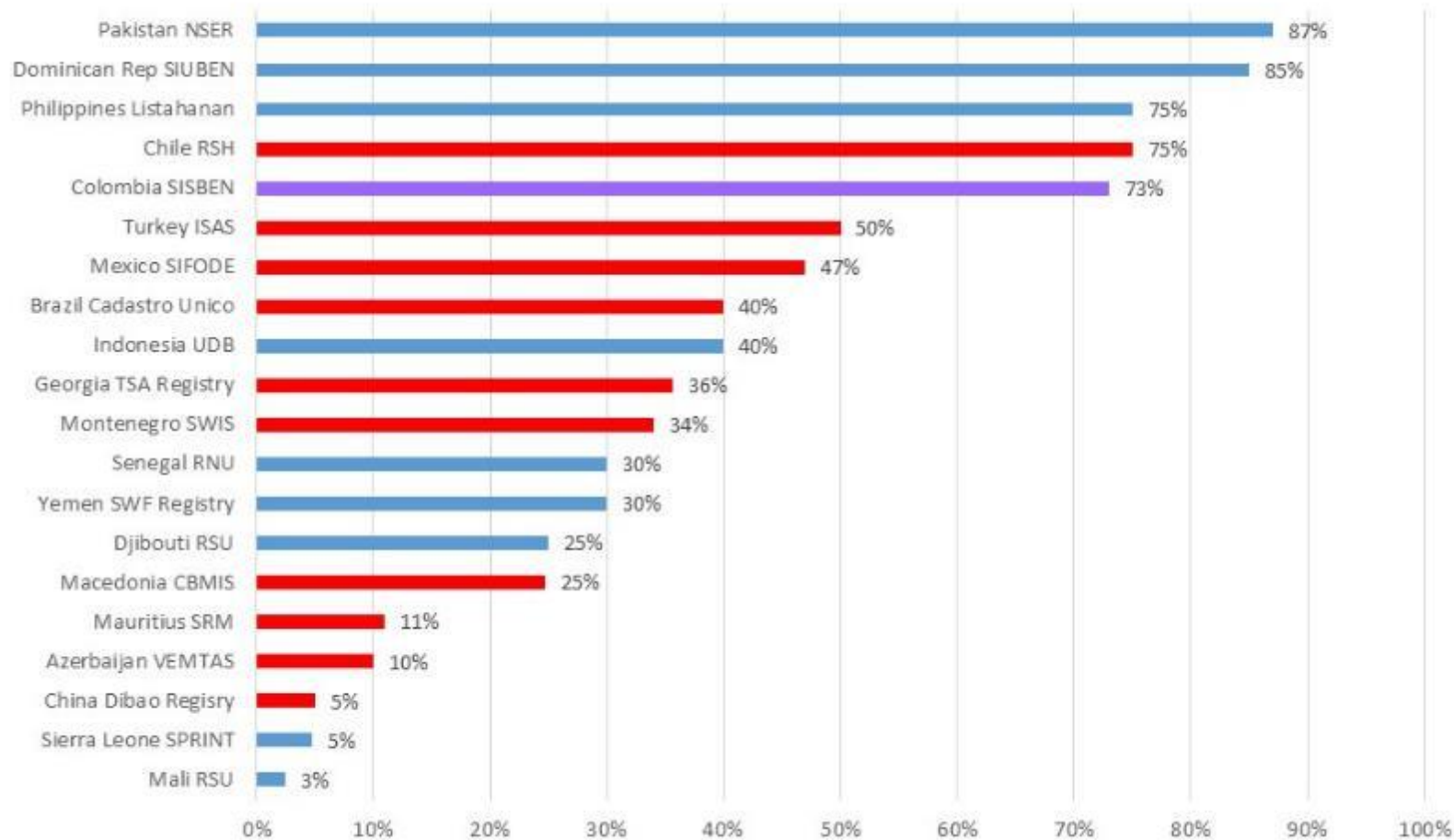
- SPIS provide access to information on potential beneficiaries once the program defines the criteria
- SPIS is responsible for
 - Addressing population dynamics
 - Guaranteeing quality of information
 - Update information
 - Signaling potential eligibility to user programs
- Programs – Program information system is responsible for
 - Collect additional info if necessary
 - Select and enroll the beneficiaries
 - Track program implementation...

Population Coverage of Social Registries Varies a lot

Social Registry Coverage Select Countries

% of population included in the social registry, circa 2015-2017;

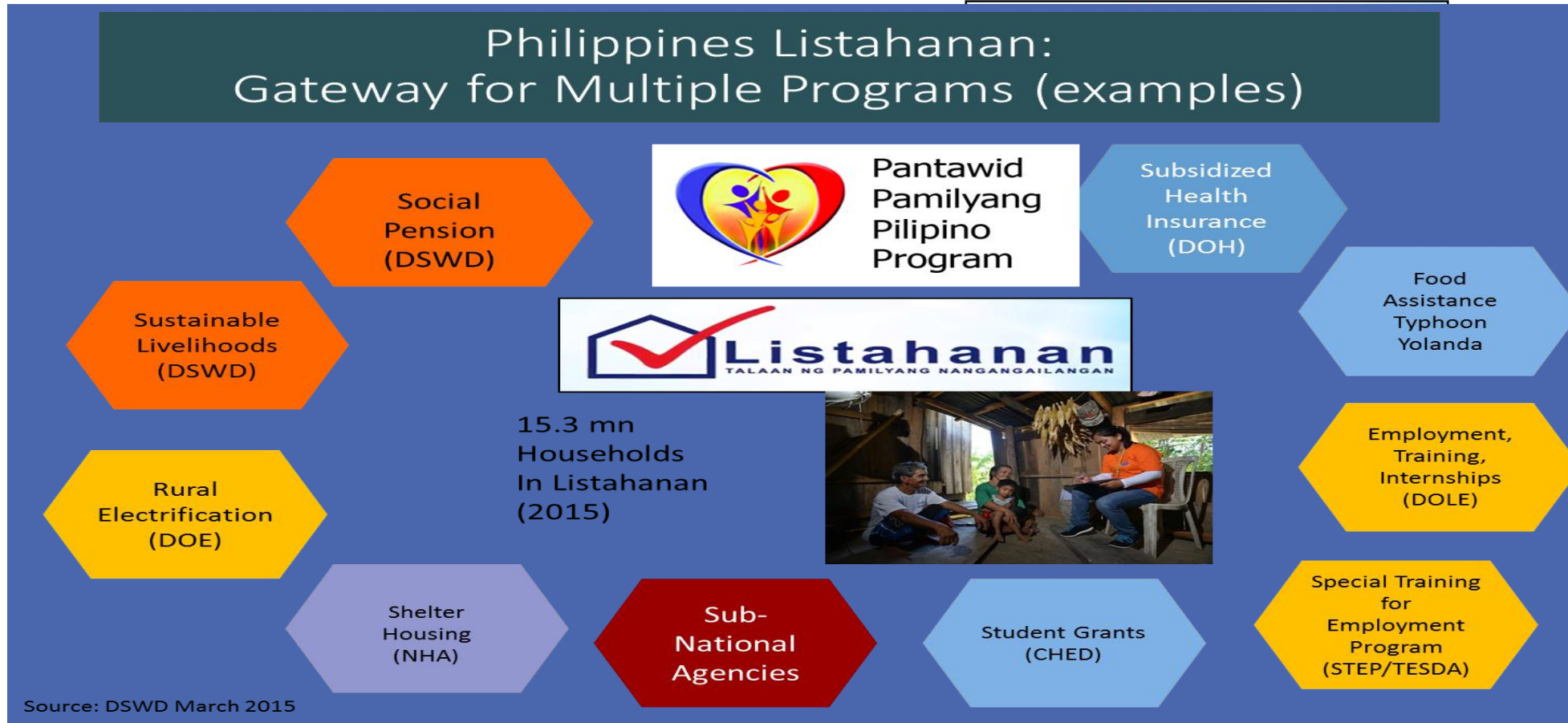
Red = primarily on-demand registration systems; blue = en masse registration waves (census sweeps); Colombia in purple uses both. Source: Leite



- Some with near universal coverage
- Some degree of self-selection with on-demand systems
- Some social registries are quite small, either due to narrowly targeted programs, or because just starting to build capacity

Philippines – Evolution of Listahanan “National Targeting System”

Philippines Listahanan: Gateway for Multiple Programs (examples)



Source: DSWD March 2015

6,000 Households
Source: DSWD 2015

10.9 million households in 2011
(55% of population) o/w 5.3 mn = poor

15.3 million HH (77% of pop)
but may exceed this (2015)

Conclusion

- Build on the progress to date.
- Recognize what has been done well (regardless of who has done what)
- Advancing slowly but surely, taking into account the capacity of institutions (key players) to process changes,.
- Not dazzle with technology and make sustainable choices (financial, institutional, human), knowing available technology and using government/local developers for sustainability and continuity.
- Working on the basis of a vision of the future, step by step, securing consolidation of each stage.
- Institutions need to clearly identify their gains in exchanging information.
- Key role of the local level (Municipalities).
- Importance of strengthening local capacity (resources, training, technical assistance.
- Legal recognition of information tools helps.
- INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

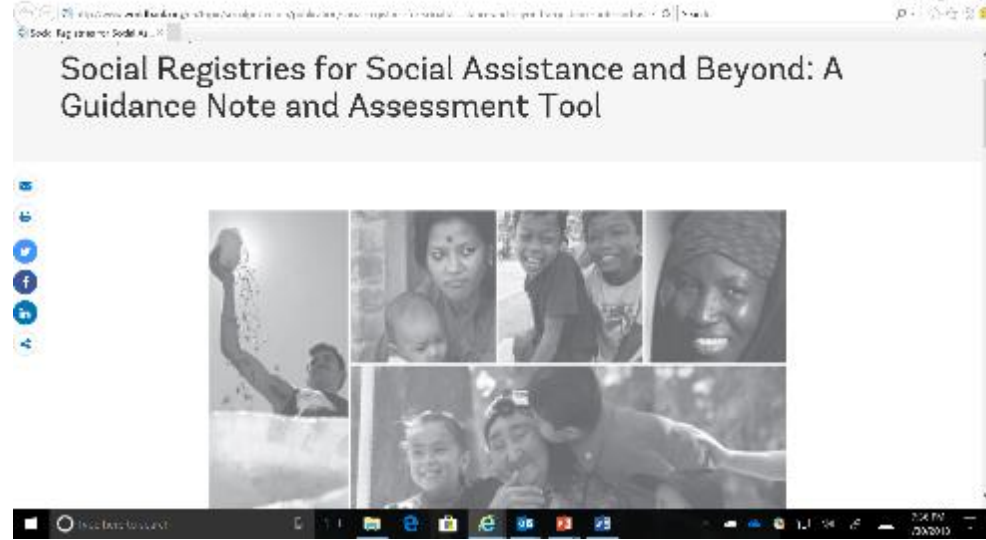
Social Registries for Social Assistance and Beyond: A Guidance Note & Assessment Tool

Phillippe Leite, Tina George, Changqing Sun, Theresa Jones and Kathy Lindert

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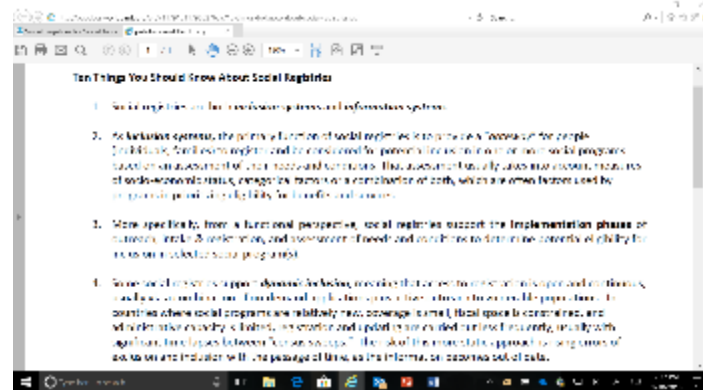


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FAQs: SOCIAL REGISTRIES

What's the difference between Social Registries & Beneficiary Registries?

Distinct functions & population coverage. Both types of registries are related but distinct components of broader information systems for managing social programs. Social Registries support the processes of intake, registration, and determination of eligibility for social programs. They gather and retain data on all applicants, whether or not they become enrolled in a program. Beneficiary registries track information on beneficiaries and benefits to support program implementation (payments, case management, etc.). They maintain information on beneficiaries of specific programs, not all applicants.

Are Social Registries just "mechanisms for implementing proxy means testing?"

No. Social Registries gather and provide information on potential eligibility for social programs based on an assessment of needs based on socio-economic criteria, which vary by country context and the nature of the social programs. Many programs use means testing; some use self-reported incomes combined with "proxy variables"; many use proxy means testing (PMT), particularly in contexts of high degrees of informality and limited data capacity; some use hybrid means-testing; others use multidimensional poverty indices, and so forth. Programs often combine these socio-economic assessments with other criteria, such as categorical or geographic factors.

Are Social Registries only used for poverty-targeted social assistance programs?

No. Many countries use Social Registries to inform enrollment decisions and/or calculate benefit levels for a range of interventions, some targeted and some universal in nature. In fact, Social Registries are increasingly being used for programs that extend well beyond social assistance, such as subsidized health insurance, social energy tariffs, education and training vouchers, child care and other social services, housing assistance, financial inclusion services, eligibility for pro bono legal services, or even fee waivers, and more. The advantages of using Integrated Social Registries for multiple programs can be significant: lower burden on citizens who don't have to apply for numerous benefits and services separately; cost savings and efficiency for user programs; and better coordination of social policy.

Are Social Registries "mere lists of households?"

No. Social Registries allow for flows of information on registrants (individuals, households) and their socio-economic conditions that informs decisions on enrollment, policy coordination, and execution. As information systems, their basic architecture includes data intake and exchange, software applications to support both front-office and back-office functions, database management and interoperability (in some cases), and ICT infrastructure. Moreover, Social Registries don't operate in isolation, and are usually part of broader information systems supporting social programs, including beneficiary registries and administration systems, payments administration, and case management systems.