



“Productive Social Contract / Cash plus” pilot in the Kyrgyz Republic: rationale, approach and components

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I. Rationale and Concept

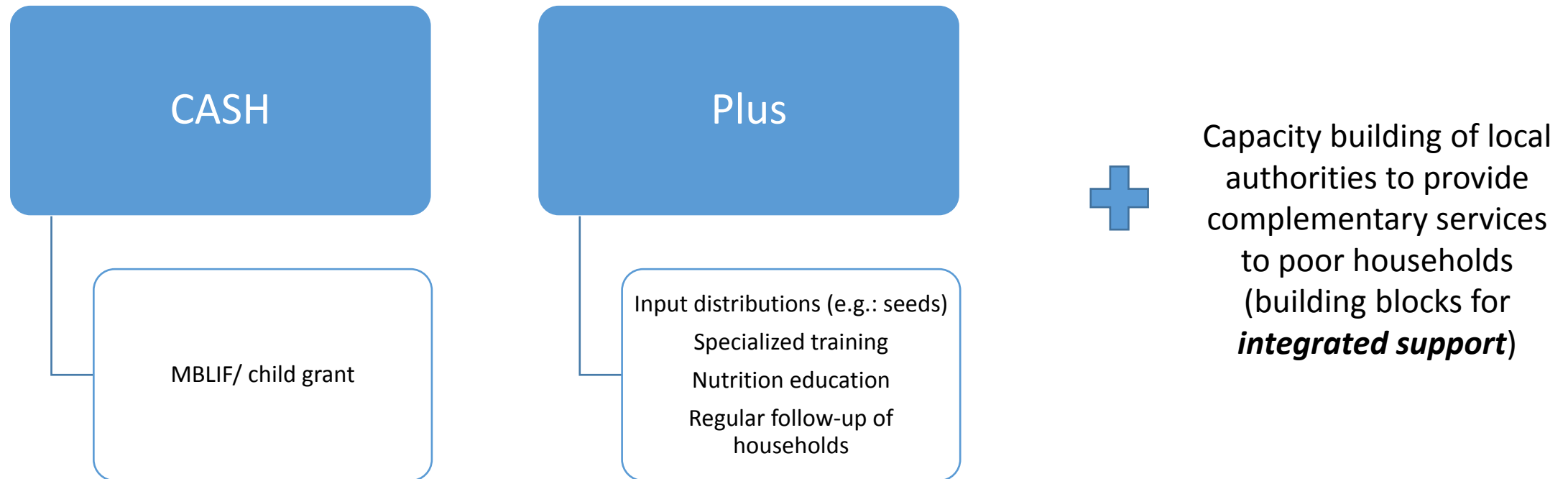
- Ministry of Labor and Social Development wants to provide additional support to social assistance beneficiaries to support their **pathways out of poverty**
 - Pilot will provide a “Demonstration effect” with a clear message on progressive transformation
- Pilot should provide basis of a **scalable** intervention: needs to be **cost-efficient**
 - Pilot cannot be immediately scaled up but give indications of other modalities to test, if needed

Approach

- Short/medium/long term strategy
- “Demonstration effect” pilot with a clear message on progressive transformation.
However
 - Pilot will not be rigorously evaluated so cannot be enough to suggest immediate scale-up
 - Progressive approach: Pilot 1 intervention → expand activities → pilot 2,3 other
- Parallel advocacy and policy engagement on social protection. In particular for expansion of coverage, transfer size, etc.

Cash Plus

- **CASH Plus:** aims at boosting the livelihoods and productive capacities of vulnerable households through the provision of a flexible combination of cash transfers with productive activities, inputs, and assets and/or technical training and extension services.





II. Design process and analysis

Phase I. Definition of pilot areas

- **Criteria for Analysis**

- Poverty and Human development (including nutrition);
- Food security and risk exposure;
- Coverage of the Monthly Benefit for Low Income Households (MBLIF);
- Growth Points;
- Accessibility.

- **Jalal-Abad Oblast** presents highest level of combined vulnerabilities:

- Highest poverty rate (45.1% - 25% of all of the country's poor);
- High concentration of MBLIF beneficiaries;
- High unemployment;
- Highest malnutrition among children and chronic malnutrition;
- Greatest food insecurity;
- High rates of child labor *of particular importance when designing and implementing*;

- **Suzak Rayon** within Jalal-Abad was selected for its:

- Proximity to a growth point
- Accessibility

- Within Suzak Rayon further narrow focus on a smaller geographic area to avoid having to introduce selection criteria (source of debate/friction, etc.): **Bagysh Ayil Okmotu**

- Pilot area selection done jointly with **MLSD**





Phase II. Analysis of beneficiaries' profile

- Demographics:
 - Average household size 4.61 members, dependency 1.07
 - 23.9% of female-headed households
- Housing conditions:
 - 99.59% of rural houses have **NO direct water supply**; only 42% has a source at less than 100m, for the others it is further away
- Employment:
 - Low occupation rate
 - Main occupation is farm work (40% of rural working population)
- Income and expenditures:
 - 46% of rural households' income source are the wages of a working member
 - 32% of rural households have access to pension; 5.77% to MBLIF
 - Food items represent major share of household expenditure



Phase II. Analysis of beneficiaries' profile

- Food consumption, source and dietary diversity
 - 78% of food consumed is purchased but households do produce some items, mainly:
 - Meat and starchy staples
 - In much lesser proportion: potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, onions, corn, apples
 - Low dietary diversity
 - Households mainly consume starchy staples, meat and some fruits and vegetables
 - Very low consumption of leafy greens and pulses
- Production:
 - 98.86% of rural HHs are using some land (mainly owned)
 - Average size 0.7ha
 - 94% grow produce on plots: 70% for consumption only
 - Only 4% have agricultural equipment
 - Low expenditure on soil preparation, planting and cultivation

Phase III. Field Assessment

- Visit to Suzak Rayon of Jalal-Abad Oblast to identify and select the Ayil Okmotu (AOs) for piloting based on the range of criteria, which includes, but is not limited to, accessibility, AO's interest in and support to pilot activities, access to local markets and links to markets in other AOs and Jalal-Abad, existence of processing facilities, existence of self-help group/producer associations/cooperatives, land fertility, number of MBLIF beneficiaries, etc.
- To assess the pre-selected AO's productive component and identify possible productive options to be provided to beneficiaries under the Plus package based on the agro-climate conditions;
- Discuss with local authorities and local structures (self help groups, cooperatives or other) willingness and capacity to provide some services to beneficiary households. Identify gaps and capacities to strengthen through the pilot – taking into account the limited resources and other limitations (no financing of salaries).



III. Pilot components

Menu of options

- Beneficiaries will be given the **choice** between three types of productive packages to complement the MBLIF.
- Strong messaging around time and labor investments necessary will be given to guide choice.
- Options:
 - **1/ Kitchen gardens to improve households' nutrition (dietary diversity) and self-sufficiency**
 - More complete package – step towards self sufficiency
 - Can boost nutrition through securing access to diverse and nutritious food
 - Compatible with land size and water scarcity
 - Requires time and effort
 - **2/ Small package to boost household nutrition (dietary diversity)**
 - Can boost nutrition
 - Requires less time/effort – suitable for households who face higher constraints
 - Cannot ensure self-sufficiency
 - **3/ Promotion of income generating opportunities for households**
 - Production of high value crops that can be sold in the market
 - Initial idea: sustainable longer term crops
 - Problem with sustainability of greenhouses

In-kind support

- Beneficiaries will receive
 - **1/ Kitchen gardens to improve households' nutrition (dietary diversity) and self-sufficiency**
 - Seeds for beetroot, broccoli, carrot, chickpea, lentil, eggplant, pumpkin, and spinach
 - 1 package to be planted in early spring
 - Particular attention will be brought to the sustainability of production and linkages between local practices and markets.
 - **2/ Small package to boost household nutrition (dietary diversity)**
 - chickpea, carrot, spinach
 - 1 package to be planted in early spring
 - **3/ Promotion of income generating opportunities for households**
 - Lettuce, spinach, tomato, cucumber, lentil, cauliflower
 - 1 pack for spring + 1 for late autumn
 - mobile tunnel greenhouses (unheated – 24 sq.mt)

Trainings

- **Agronomic trainings**
 - Based on a package selected
 - Half theory half field training - maximum 2 days in total
- **Technological trainings** (same for all pilot beneficiaries):
 - basics of organic agriculture, including compost making technologies (2 days - 1 theory and 1 field practice);
 - irrigation and water saving technologies (2 days - 1 theory and 1 field practice);
 - integrated pest management (alternative crop protection to chemical crop protection, using of entomophagy) (1 session - 4 hours of theory and 4 hours of practice);
 - fruit and vegetable processing technologies in home conditions (2 days - 1 theory and 1 field practice).
- The trainings will be conducted on the basis of the existing FAO modules that will be revised and updated, if needed. The missing modules will be developed by an external contractor.
- **Nutrition-related trainings** (same for all pilot beneficiaries):
 - Awareness raising sessions on basic concepts of food, nutrition, dietary diversity and healthy eating (to be conducted by the representatives of Village Health Committees in informal settings);
 - Cooking demonstration sessions on maximizing nutritional benefit of vegetables from own-production (to be dedicated to community events and to be delivered by an external contractor in a participatory mode).

Follow-up of beneficiaries

- **To be replicable and sustainable**, system of coaching will build existing capacities
- Responsibility of follow-up will lie with AO specialists on social issues
- Supported by village heads (for referral)
- Strong linkages with AO - Rayon agronomic services
- Mapping of opportunities
- AO specialists on social issues and social workers of the Rayon, as well as village heads, will also receive additional trainings the methodology of coaching:
 - Training on Productive Social Contract / Cash Plus follow up – developed on the basis of the operational manual;
 - Training on nutrition-sensitive social protection.

Capacity development

- Within the scope of the current pilot, all types of productive trainings (ToTs, trainings of project beneficiaries) are advised to be conducted by an external contractor.
- However, key Rayon and AO staff will be invited to participate in the ToT and will be involved in co-running training sessions
- Where possible, nutrition-related trainings are expected to be delivered by social and health workers, and representatives of local community-based organizations (e.g. Village Health Committees, Women's groups), who will receive a prior training
- The pilot will document, through a process evaluation, among other aspects, the most sustainable and efficient modality for beneficiaries' training and follow up.



IV. Monitoring and evaluation

3 types of assessments

- **Statistical Simulation:**

- based on an internationally-recognized methodology
- based on specific information on purchase and consumption from the Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey.
- can simulate alternative interventions (other high value package)

- **Process evaluation**

- aims at understanding the success or constraining factors in the implementation processes of the pilot. This will provide invaluable lessons learned for subsequent phases of implementation.

- **Rapid assessment**

- Analysis of beneficiary survey to assess changes in living conditions.