SPJ CLASS

CORE LEARNING ACADEMY & SOLUTIONS SERVICES

Public Works

A brief framing

WORLD BANK GROUP
Social Protection & Jobs
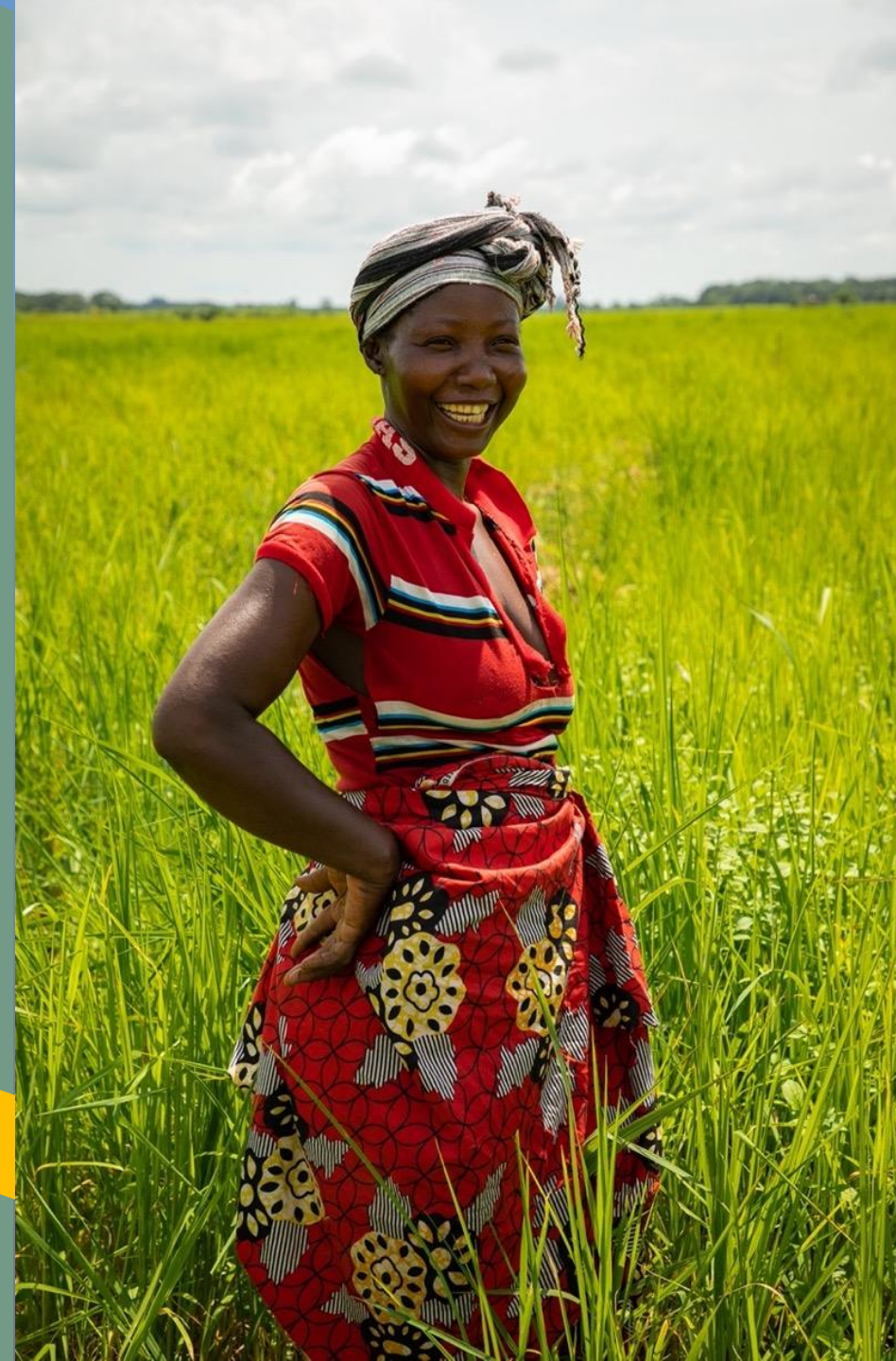
Public works: a brief introduction

- Public works provide income to beneficiaries in *exchange* for their labor on a given task
- Objective may be income support, employment or provision of public goods
- This work may be in the recovery, creation, maintenance or provision of public goods
- This may be:
    - *short-term or one-off*, such as in response to an acute shock
    - regular and predictable, over an extended period
- Beneficiaries may be selected through:
    - An established targeting mechanism
    - Self-targeting as a result of the wage rate
- Wages may be set at or below the market rate or according to an objective (i.e. food security)

What about the "works"? And, implications for the delivery systems

- The type of activity to be carried out, where and when can be identified through community-based planning, possibly in conjunction with a "negative" or "positive" list, or by a central ministry or implementing agency

- Organizing the work sites and ensuring technical quality of the works can be outsourced to contractors or carried-out by local governments

- Allocation of fund to labor (beneficiary wages) and capital (cement, machines) usually defined in advance

Why consider public works? [turn into a meti pool]

- **Value of assets and services**. Public works can create and maintain public assets (e.g. better roads, natural environment) and the provide social services, which benefit the broader community.

- **Skills development**. By developing skills and promoting work experience, public works may increase the future employability or productivity.

- **Political acceptance**. Public works can be politically more acceptable given concerns about welfare dependency and work disincentive arising from cash transfers and the wish to generate immediate visible results.

- Long-lasting effects: Regular work may improve beneficiaries' habits, behaviors and well-being (both personal and social). In violent or post-conflict contexts, work may displace risky behaviors or socially disruptive activities, contributing to social stabilization and cohesion.

- Peace building efforts – see last slide

Public works 2.0 – create a poll on "what is a public works"

Digital and remote activities

- In 2020, 7 digital public works pilots in 4 African countries (Mali, Tanzania, Kenya, Sierra Leone)

- Low-income and vulnerable populations but meeting minimum digital skills; pilots with 1,333 workers completing over 2.8M tasks

- Partnerships with private sector (Google, MapSwipe, etc.)

- Geolocating slum services (Nairobi), streetview prediction verification (Zanzibar) classifying aerial imagery to identify solid waste (Bamako), building height validation (Dar Es Salaam)

Green PWs

- Promotes jobs in emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- **EGPP+ in Bangladesh** included PWs on environmental protection and community service subprojects on communication and social mobilization around climate and disaster risk resilience

- **Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES):** Different countries have developed (PES), i.e., individual landowners are paid to leave their forests standing, adopt practices that maintain reliable water flows and sequester carbon.

- **Brazil's Bolsa Floresta Programme (BFP)** makes transfers at household and community level to conserve forests and improve people's wellbeing in sustainable Amazonic reserves.

- **Burkina Faso Forest Investment Program** pays members of communities around selected protected forests to plant and maintain indigenous tree species on degraded areas.

PWs in FCV context

- Particularly common at times of political turmoil (demobilization, disarmament and rehabilitation-employment programs).

- PWP are adapted to promote social cohesion, peacebuilding and stability among at-risk populations in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

- In such contexts, PWPs can give employment to ex-combatants, refugees, IDPs, etc.

- Usually associated with strong peace building initiatives and reintegration processes.

- Normally implemented by EU agencies and UN peace missions.

- **Cameroon's SSN Project** includes a PWs component where 8,500 refugees were integrated to undertake public works alongside with 44,500 nationals, benefiting the host communities.

Case Studies

o Why chose public works?
o What are the key design parameters?
o How they deliver the program
o Any innovation?

Sierra Leone - name

Ethiopia PSNP