



Partnership for Economic Inclusion Impact Collaborative

**Haiti: Piloting a Productive Economic
Inclusion Intervention Tailored to
Persons with Disabilities**

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Piloting a Productive Economic Inclusion Intervention Tailored to Persons with Disabilities

Country: HAITI

Project Name: Promoting the Productive Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (P179038)

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Government agencies involved:

- Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST, *Ministère des Affaires Sociales et du Travail*)
- Agency for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (BSEIPH, *Bureau du Secrétaire D'Etat pour l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées*)

Introduction

Background

- New pilot economic inclusion program for individuals living with **disabilities (mobility, sight, hearing, speaking)** in the Grand'Anse region, centered around the city of Jérémie (urban and semi-urban)
 - Persons with disabilities represent at least **3.9%** of the population aged 5+ (**large underestimate**)
 - Funded by Government of Japan with **strict targeting of socioeconomically vulnerable people with disabilities**



- An earlier program to increase wage employment for people with **disabilities** in Grand'Anse largely failed: low employer demand and high informality



Context

- Extremely limited local capacity, vulnerability to **earthquake/hurricanes/flooding/gang violence**
- Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and most likely to be discriminated against in Haiti
- Although the area is **currently safer** than capital city, transport remains difficult and supervisory capacity is low
- **“the Republic of NGOs”**, Component 2 within larger framework for government capacity building for people with disabilities

Research Questions

For people with disabilities, in an extremely fragile and low-capacity, mostly urban environment...

- 1) Can a **low-touch EI program** increase economic inclusion?
- 2) Does training and individual accompaniment for individuals with disabilities have any added-value over cash?
- 3) Is just a **cash subsidy more cost-effective**, given high implementation costs and coordination challenges of full package?

Implementation Innovations

- 1) Accessibility and adaptability of **programming**:
- 2) Adaptation of **surveys** to people living with disabilities
- 3) Supervision in low-capacity and trust environment ... ?

Project innovations and scale

The project is a small pilot of 1,200-1,500 people living with disabilities (mobility, sight, hearing, speaking) in and near the city of Jérémie, led by the government, and implemented by a local NGO.

1. Targeting and adaption of IE programs to **individuals with disabilities**
2. Strong **involvement of government** in preparation and execution of the EI program
3. **Impact Evaluation design incorporated 'right from the start'** in design discussions of the program with the government
4. **Low capacity, high risk** external environment → cash only arm
5. But evidence that **socio-emotional support** may be particularly helpful for target population



Eligible sample

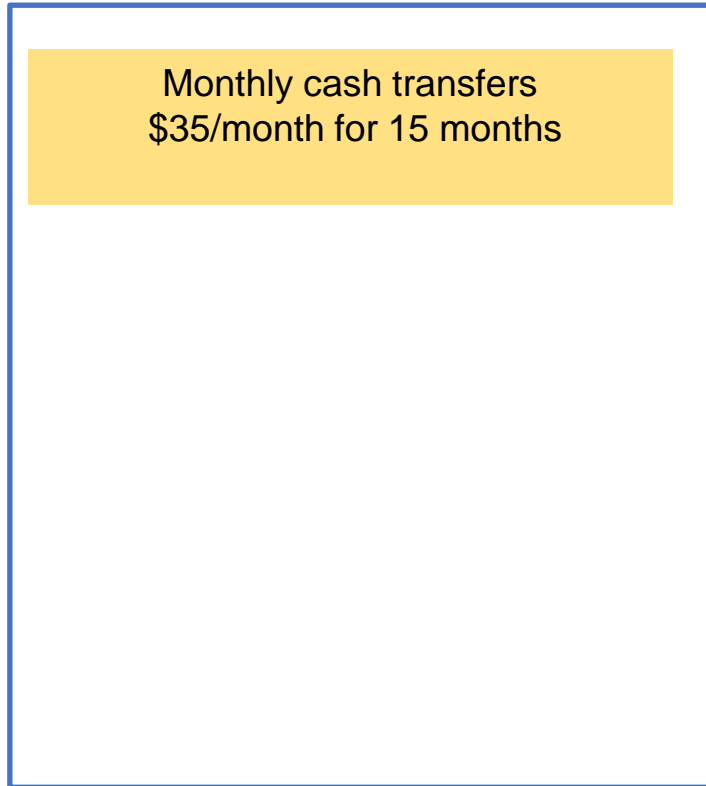
Adults with disabilities (sight, hearing, mobility, speaking) living in and near Jérémie

- Previously registered at the BSEIPH (since 2015) or listed in the MAST social registry in 2019 or 2022
- Household not currently receiving cash transfers, and *not* listed as “not vulnerable” in social registry
- Additional verification of disabilities
- Capable of working

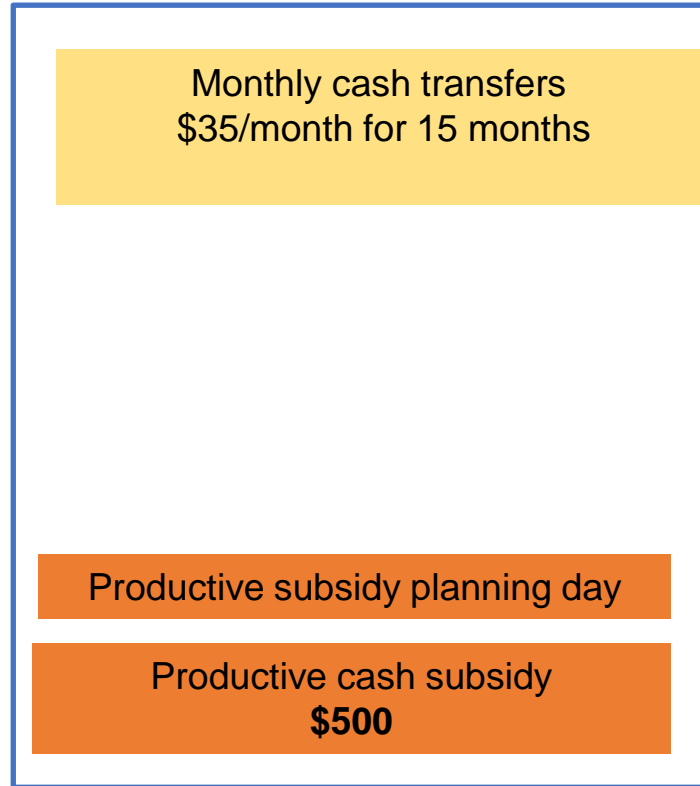
→ **Sample size: 1,200-1,500 participants**



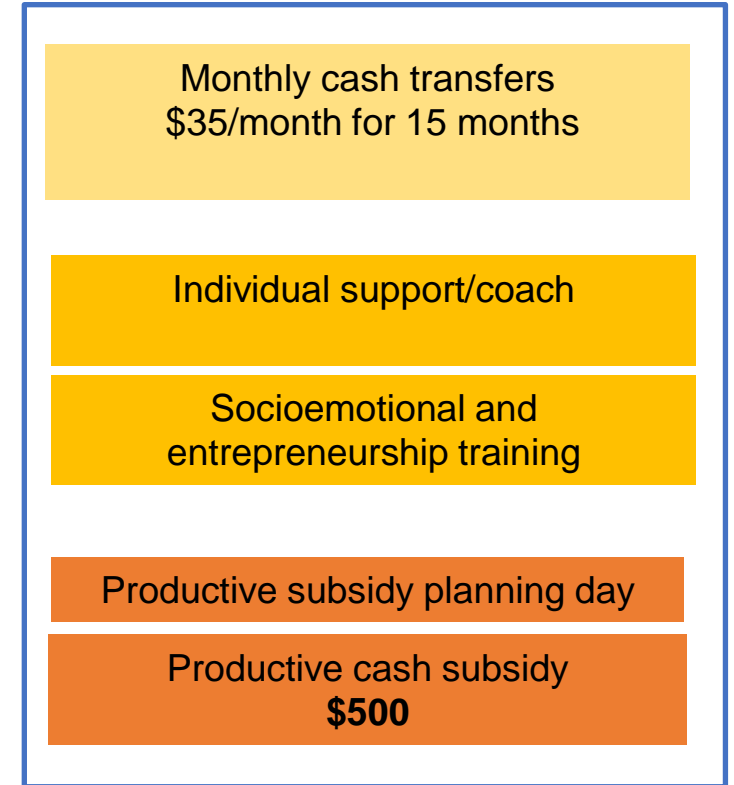
1. Monthly transfer arm



2. Capital arm



3. Full arm



No pure control; program budget ~400-500 beneficiaries per arm

Individual randomization, stratified by area

Government requires **public, individual lotteries** in the presence of organizations for people with disabilities due to low trust

If there is low registration/verification numbers, package 2 may be dropped to increase power

Initial thoughts on accessibility

Increasing accessibility for one group increases accessibility for everyone

Cash: Digicel transfers – how to adapt to blind individuals?

Training logistics and accessibility: high transport costs, including for helpers?

Training: simplified, key phrases, HSL interpretation + pictures

Socioemotional training: scenario adaptation

Survey: some modules for deaf participants

Individual accompaniment/coach – can help source equipment, materials to use subsidy, but this person is not included in the capital arm...

All the usual risks apply, and more...

Implementation

1. “Frequent” shocks
2. Very low local capacity and follow-through, high staff turnover, frequent delays
3. Low trust
4. Verification of disabilities?
5. Capture
- ...

Impact Evaluation

1. Registration and take up numbers
2. 1st stage fears, including interference
3. Local unrest associated with IE
4. Frequent NGO projects and possible “compensation” of control groups
- ...

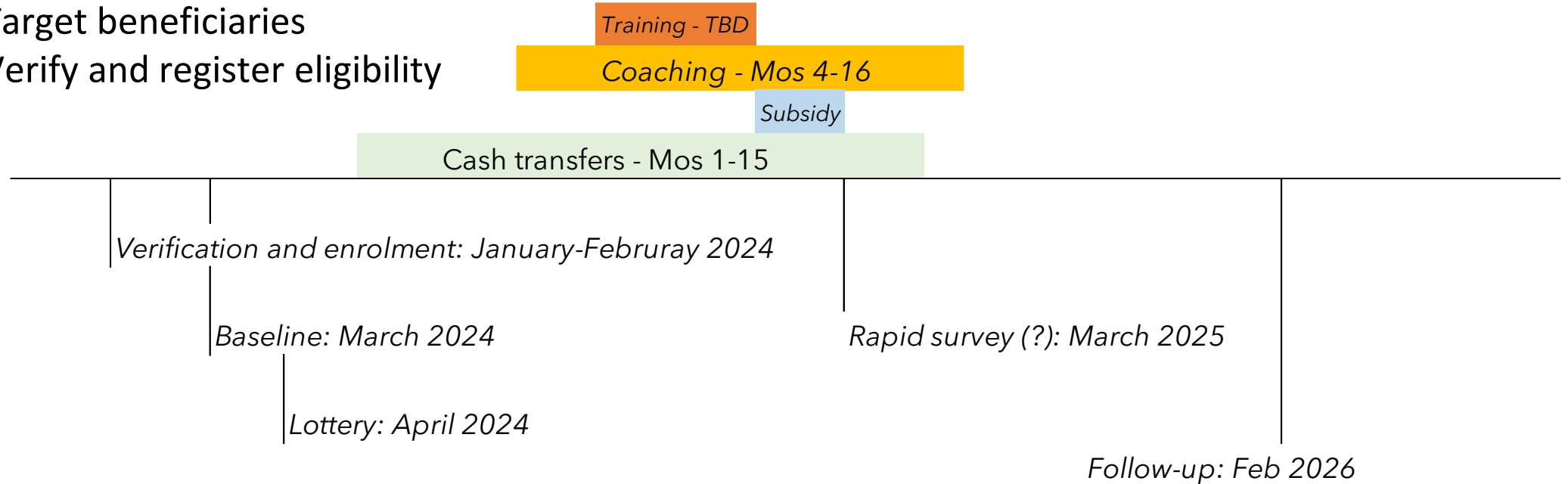
Beneficiaries

1. Reduction of risks and avoidance of harm
2. Adaptation of trainings, including to all types of disabilities; role of helpers
3. High transport costs associated with attending trainings and dispersion of beneficiaries
- ...

Timeline

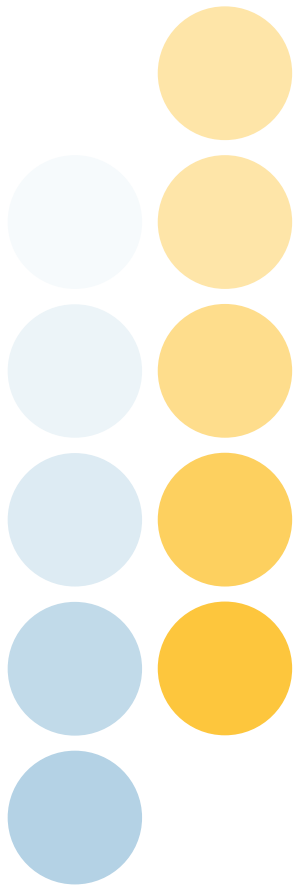
Longer planning period in order to:

- Adapt program materials
- Adapt survey instrument
- Target beneficiaries
- Verify and register eligibility



Open questions for discussion

- What happened in previous “Graduation” programs IE in Haiti?
- Savings promotion?
- Current “cash arm” has same subsidy amount as in full arm; **what about benchmarking against costs of full arm?** But pilot is extremely expensive compared to scale...
- How to increase supervision under security constraints?
- Recommendations for specializations to help with training adaptation?
- Japan JSDF TF has a specific goal to increase EI for *people with disabilities*, **but the PEI measures often focus on the household**, not the goal of this program



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Thank you!



PEI FUNDING PARTNERS



Implemented by

