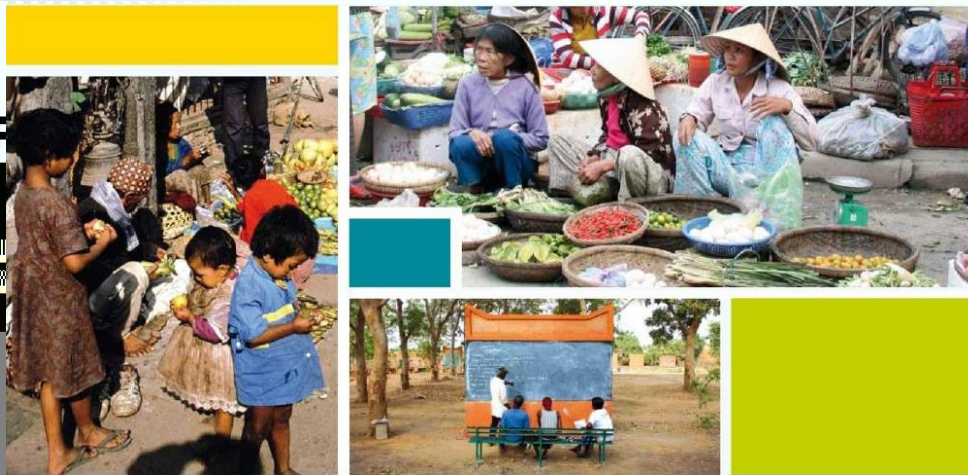


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Improving Gender Integration in Poverty Policy: an
Assessment of the Gender Dimension of Mexican
Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes.



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Are conditional cash transfer programmes (CCTP) gender-sensitive?

- Gender-sensitive development strategies are part of the 1^o and the 5^o goals of SDA
- Conditional cash transfer programmes is the most important anti-poverty strategy in Mexico/LatinAmerica
- It is generally accepted that they promote women's empowerment



Positive impacts of CCTP

- Women assume empowerment discourse, and see a better future for their daughters.

- Access to a stable income improve their economic autonomy.

- Training workshops help to create solidarity networks.

- Positive impact on girl's school enrollment.



Why is maternalistic design a problem?

- Reinforces traditional gender role of woman as mother and care-giver.
- Instrumentalizes woman as the most effective and efficient instrument in order to assure positive impact on children well-being.
- Takes advantage of –but does not recognize or value– unpaid care and domestic work (goal 5.4 of SDA).
- Implies inactivity trap.
- Inhibits women's autonomy to make decisions (disciplinary design)



Policy implications

To palliate negative impacts:

- Modify the maternalistic design and directly promote men's involvement with care tasks.
- Diversify workshops: gender and job training.
- Create opportunities for decision making.



Policy implications

To promote effectively women's empowerment it is imperative to **invest in universal social policies**

- Redistribute in a more equitable way the caretaking tasks between family and State → access to formal labour market and decent work? (Goal 8 of SDA)
- Implement strategies to overcome the occupational segmentation, and promote formal and decent employment.



Policy implications

To promote effectively women's empowerment it is imperative to **invest in universal social policies**

- Redesign productive projects for women in order to make them less intensive in manual work.
- Improve the quality of public services (health, education, public transportation, public housing).



Women's empowerment must become the main objective of anti-poverty policies.

As for now:

1. Women are seen as mere instrument for implementation of policies that :

- benefit families
- legitimate governments

2. Empowerment is simplified as access to independent income.

