Technology and Innovation in Development Assistance

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Our Talk Today

- 1. Development Assistance- Context and my experience
- 2. Innovative Actions and our application
 - Biometrics
 - Drones
 - Chat Bot
 - Cash Transfers Results from an Evaluation and Experimental Designed Studies
 - Renewable Energy for dry land agriculture
- 3. Some Considerations
 - General
 - Gender Focused

Context-Resilience Building

- ➤ Areas affected by climate variability
- ➤ Indigenous populations with limited access to basic services
- ➤ Influx of migrants
- ➤ Areas of high displacement and violence
- ➤ High levels of food insecurity
- ➤ Limited water availability
- ➤ Women with limited decision making and control over resources



Innovative Actions Biometrics

- 80 percent of refugees in 2018 were issued biometric identities
- UN in 2015 created the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) –linked to global data base
- Scan irises and fingerprints either online or offline
- Useful for persons without identity cards = women and children
- Greater accountability for programs

✓ Application: school meals and migrant assistance



Innovative Actions Drones

- Drones or UAV unmanned aerial vehicles use expanding rapidly
- Mapping, accessing remote areas with light goods, supporting damage assessments, monitoring land use
- Balance between efficiency, people's perceptions and security
- Challenges related to analyzing, processing and storing data
- Gov buy in and capacity building key to expanding use
- ✓ Application: mapping for climate changes at watershed level



Innovative Actions ChatBot

- Increasingly used to communicate in complex situations- allows access to unsafe areas
- Food Bot works on apps like
 Facebook Messenger and Telegram
- Cuts monitoring and research costs
- Women more likely to respond
- Lack of empathy in responder an issue in many contexts
- ✓ **Application:** monitor food security; communicating in remote areas



Innovative Actions Cash Transfers and Gender Based Violence Results from an Experimental Design Study

- ✓ Application: The best or most cost- effective modality depends on:
 - Context
 - Objectives
 - Diversifying and improving diets
 - Promoting dignity, reducing violence allowing women to take decisions
 - Link between local production and consumption
 - Increasing available cash to the family



Results – Experimental Design Study

✓ In our context the voucher was the most cost effective

Food	Voucher	Cash
16%	13%	12%
6%	6%	4%
10%	16%	11%
5 de 11	9 de 11	7 de 11
8 points	7 points	7 points
12.2%	20.4%	2%
	16% 6% 10% 5 de 11 8 points	16% 13% 6% 6% 10% 16% 5 de 11 9 de 11 7 points 7 points

Source: WFP and IFPRI, 2012

Innovative Actions Renewable Energy for dry land agriculture

- ✓ **Application:** of Solar and Wind power with other actions
- Base energy source on an energy potential analysis – costs and benefits
- Map with women and men use of traditional species and potential reintroduction
- Address water shortage
- Introduce drip irrigation to save water
- Set up seed banks
- Set up co-op shops to sell surpluses







Considerations

Collaboration – companies, local governments, civil society and communities

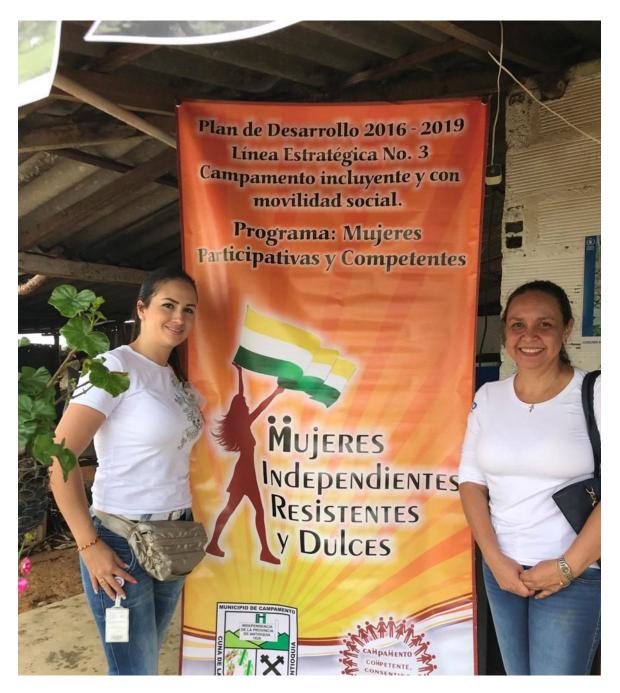
Develop capacities, especially for maintenance

Find best technical support available

Link traditional knowledge with technology

Considerations

- Every context is different and requires careful evaluation and assessment, but flexibility and creativity
- Technology can lead to missed cues, language issues, simplified responses
- Women can be the biggest supporters of using technology, but care must be taken not to disempower them or other members of the community
- Gender sensitive training before and during implementation important
- Preferred technology must be considered from a gender and access and control perspective



Thanks!