

# 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

Results	Food	Voucher	Cash
Food Consumption per cápita	 16%	 13%	 12%
Dietary Diversity Index	 6%	 6%	 4%
Food Consumption Index	 10%	 16%	 11%
Food Groups Consumed	5 de 11	9 de 11	7 de 11
Physical Violence	 8 points	 7 points	 7 points
Participación	 12.2%	 20.4%	 2%

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!