

National Strategy of Poverty Reduction in Belize

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MHDSTPA Policy and Planning Unit
Unit

Presentation Outline

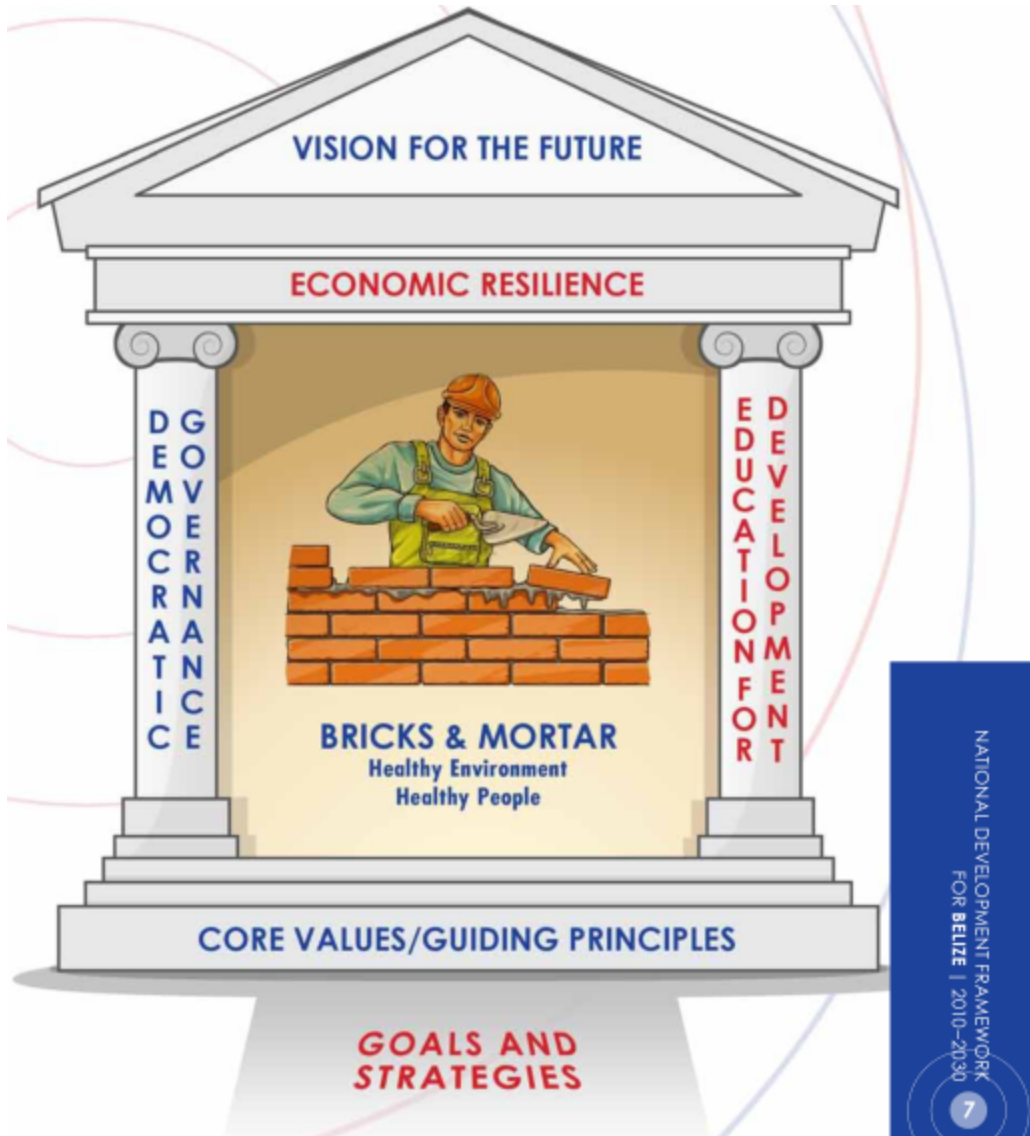
- ▶ Vision and Goals
- ▶ Programme Highlights
 - BOOST
 - Food Pantry
 - Wrap Around Service Model (Pilot)
- ▶ Single Information System of Beneficiaries
- ▶ Social Protection System Evaluation
 - Next Steps



Vision and Goals

- ▶ Horizon 2030
- ▶ GSDS
- ▶ SDGs





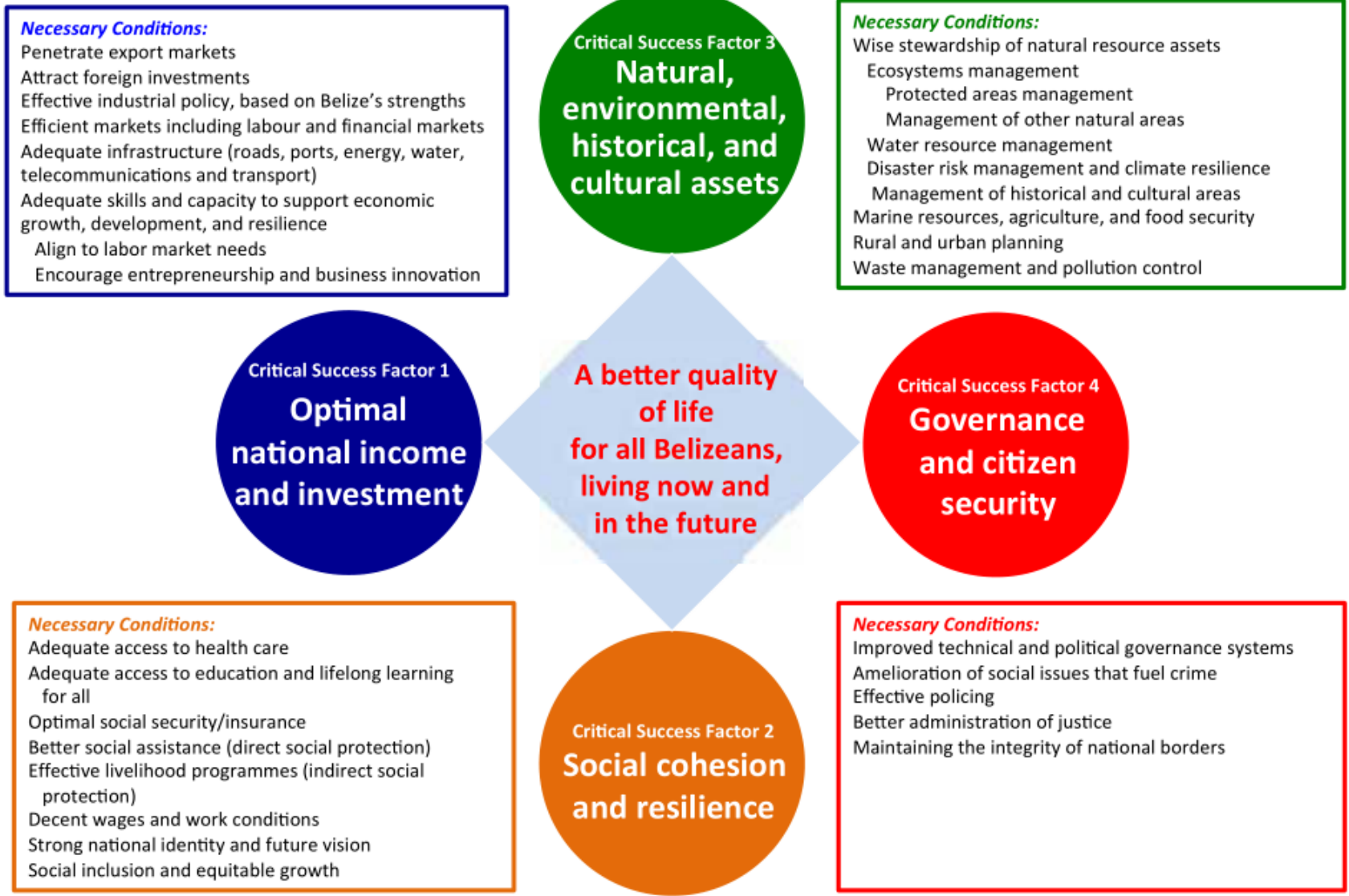
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Horizon 2030: Vision

- ▶ Belize is a country of peace and tranquillity, where citizens live in harmony with the natural environment and enjoy a high quality of life. Belizeans are an energetic, resourceful and independent people looking after their own development in a sustainable way.



Growth & Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS)



Coordination of GSDS

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Authorization of the GSDS

CEO CAUCUS

Review of the GSDS; resolve prioritization issues and policy conflicts

MED

MED: Overall coordination

Optimal National Income & Investment Committee

Social Cohesion and Resilience Committee

Natural Environmental, Historical, and Cultural Assets Committee

Governance and Citizen Security Committee

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES: Policy review, prioritization and M&E oversight

(Report to CEO Caucus)

ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

ADVISORY BODY: Provide input on implementation and future priorities



Sustainable Development Goal



TRANSFORMING OUR
WORLD:
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



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SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- ▶ **1.1** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- ▶ **1.2** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- ▶ **1.3** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable



Poverty Reduction Programmes

- ▶ Basic Social Services: Child Protection; Gender-base Violence
- ▶ Public Assistance
 - Food
 - Rent
 - Medical
 - Education
 - Fire
 - Burial
- ▶ Parenting and Early Childhood Stimulation
- ▶ Subsidized Food Programme: Pantry
- ▶ CCT Programme: BOOST



Flagship Programmes: BOOST

- ▶ BOOST signals a new era of social protection reform in Belize; challenged the status quo!
- ▶ Influenced by Mexico's "Oportunidades", Brazil's own "Bolsa Família" and Jamaica's PATH programme
- ▶ Began early 2011
- ▶ Flagship program for Ministry (raised profile)
- ▶ Now reaches over 8000+ beneficiaries (2.4% of the population) from 3000+ households (4.3%)



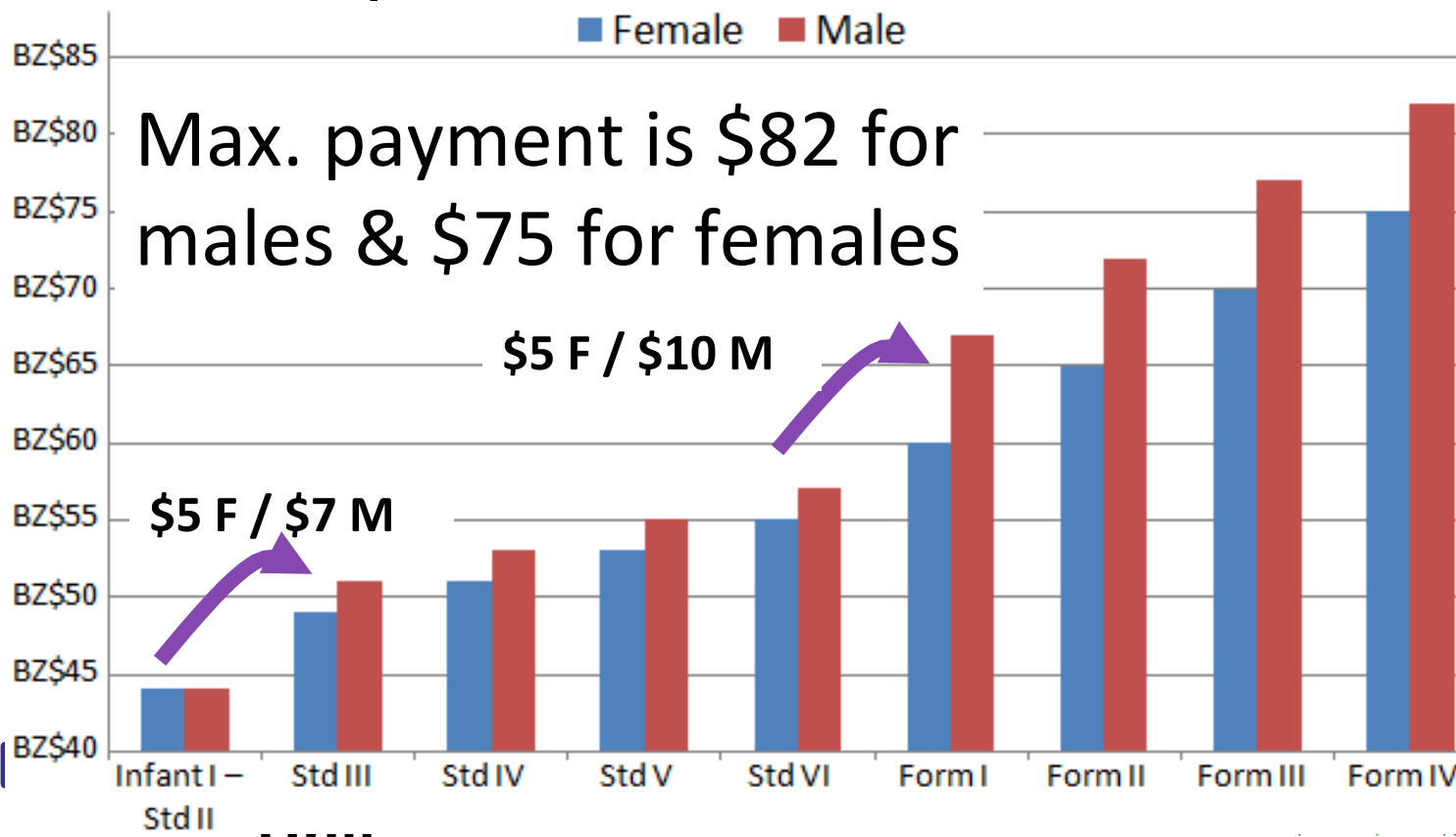
BOOST Features: Compliance

- ▶ Children: 0-4 follow Ministry of Health's vaccination and health check calendar
- ▶ Children: 5-14 and 15-18 attend 85% of school
 - Non-compliance: 1st month – half payment
 - Non-compliance: 2nd month – no payment
- ▶ Elderly population: get paid if they stay alive
- ▶ Only monitor education conditions now
- ▶ Health: soft conditions

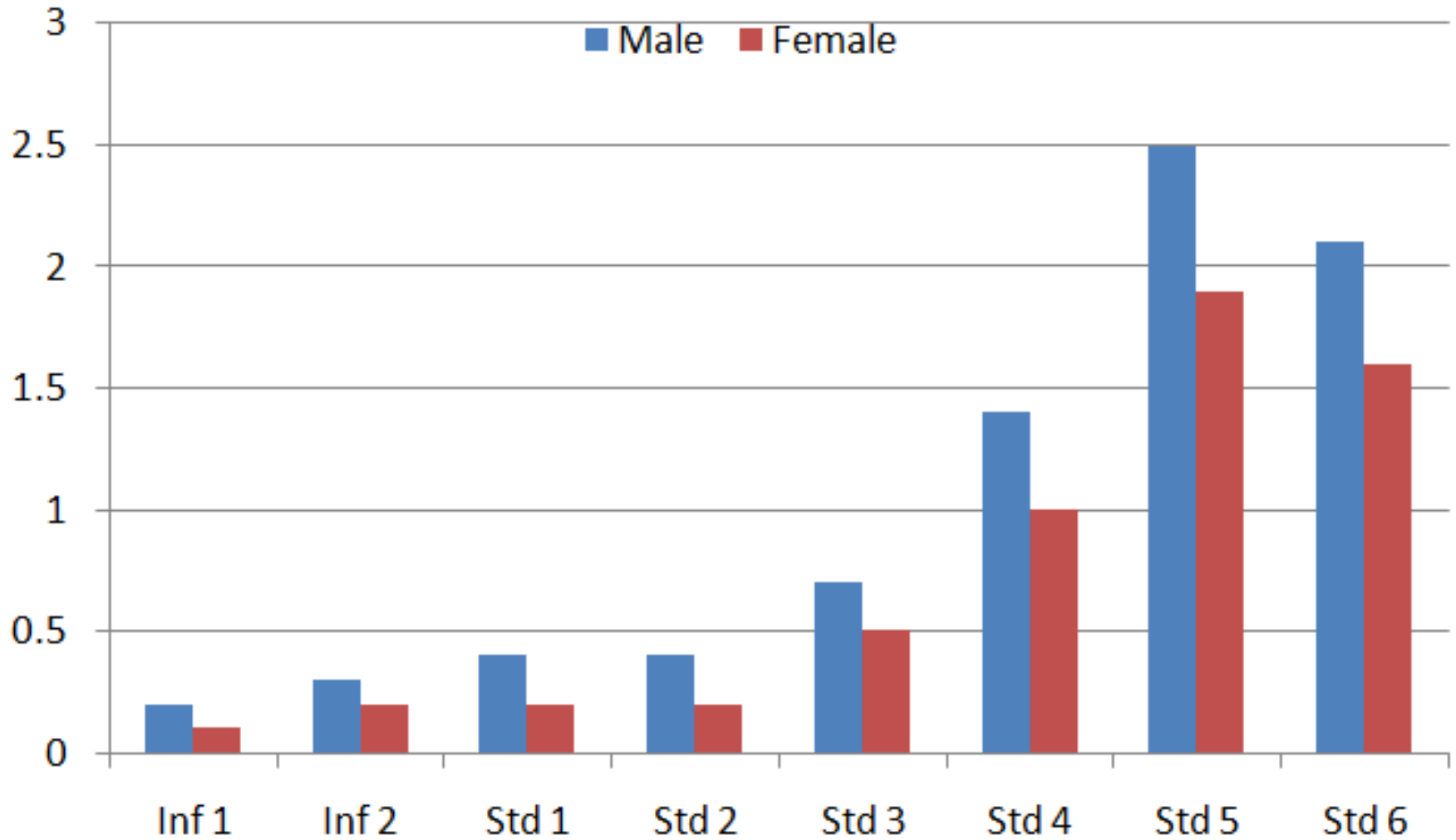


BOOST: Payments

- ▶ Payments made to female if possible
- ▶ Basic payment is BZ\$44 \equiv US\$22 a month
- ▶ Increases by school level and sex



Dropout Rates: Level and Sex



BOOST: Payments

- ▶ Max. of 6 people in a household can benefit
- ▶ Paid through a Credit Union (98% of HHs)
- ▶ Ministry pays for opening share
- ▶ No transaction cost for payments to beneficiaries! *[unique in the world]*
- ▶ Allows beneficiaries to access:
 - Loans / other financial services
 - Free funeral coverage
 - Gives them membership - inclusion



BOOST: Next Steps

- ▶ Monitor Health Conditions
 - Data exchange with Ministry of Health pending
- ▶ Potential for other services offered to BOOST households:
 - Parenting Course
 - Financial planning (through Credit Unions)
- ▶ Managed expansion
- ▶ Impact Evaluation in Progress
- ▶ Change from PMT to MPI



World Bank: Process Evaluation...

Belize "Boosts" School Attendance and Access to Financial Services for the Poor

June 28, 2012



STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- *BOOST offers small cash assistance to poor households, subject to specific conditions.*
- *The program is also supporting poor households in accessing bank services.*
- *In a little over a year the program surpasses the results of similar initiatives in bigger countries.*

The deal is simple: vaccinate your children, send them to school; and, if you are pregnant, visit your public health center, regularly starting with the first 12 weeks. In exchange, the BOOST Program will give you a monthly allowance between BZ\$44 and BZ\$82 (US\$22 - US\$41) per person, up to a maximum of six per household.

A little over a year in operation, BOOST reaches 8,600 people.



Social Protection Registry

- ▶ World Bank Policy Note (2010) one of the Recommendations:

Targeting programs

...targeting is necessary to ensure public spending on social protection achieves adequate results. ...systems are highly needed along with a beneficiary registry that can be used by all social programs.

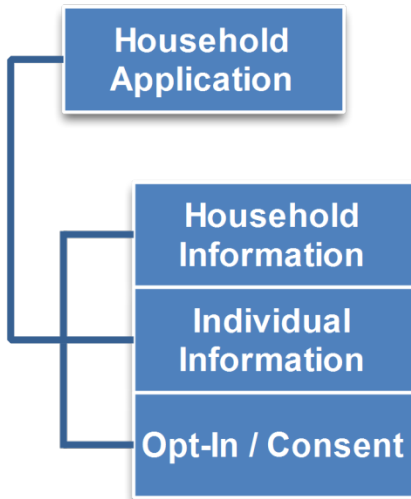
- ▶ Single Information System of Beneficiaries (SISB)
- ▶ Part of a wider Social Protection loan (IDB)



Beyond Poverty Counts...



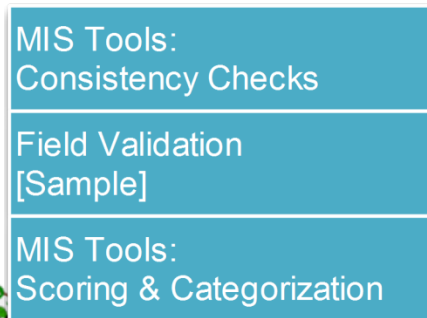
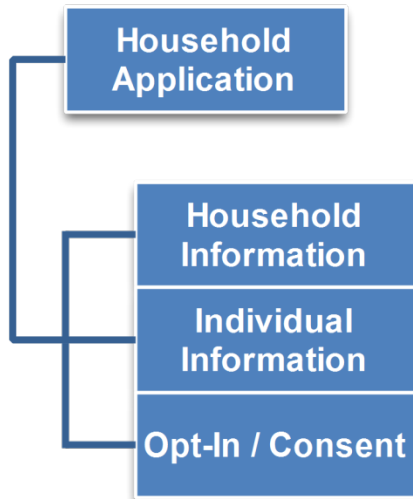
Beyond Poverty Counts...



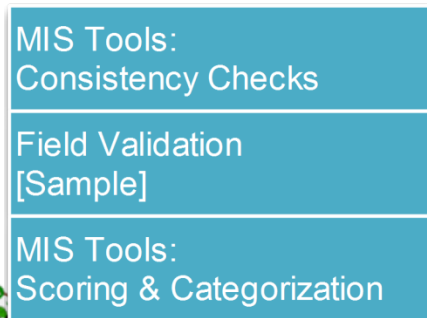
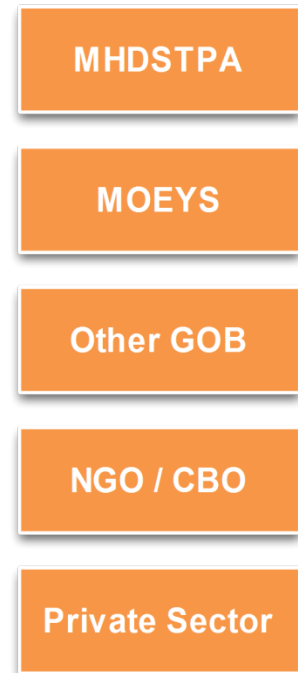
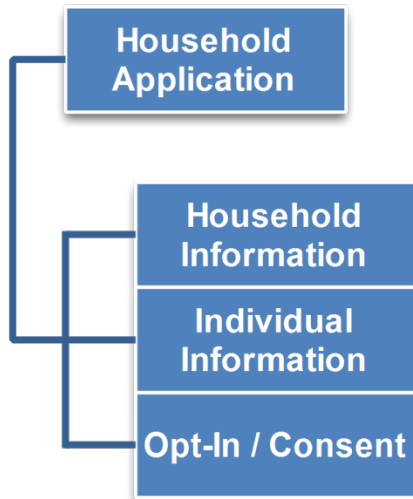
- MIS Tools:
Consistency Checks
- Field Validation
[Sample]
- MIS Tools:
Scoring & Categorization



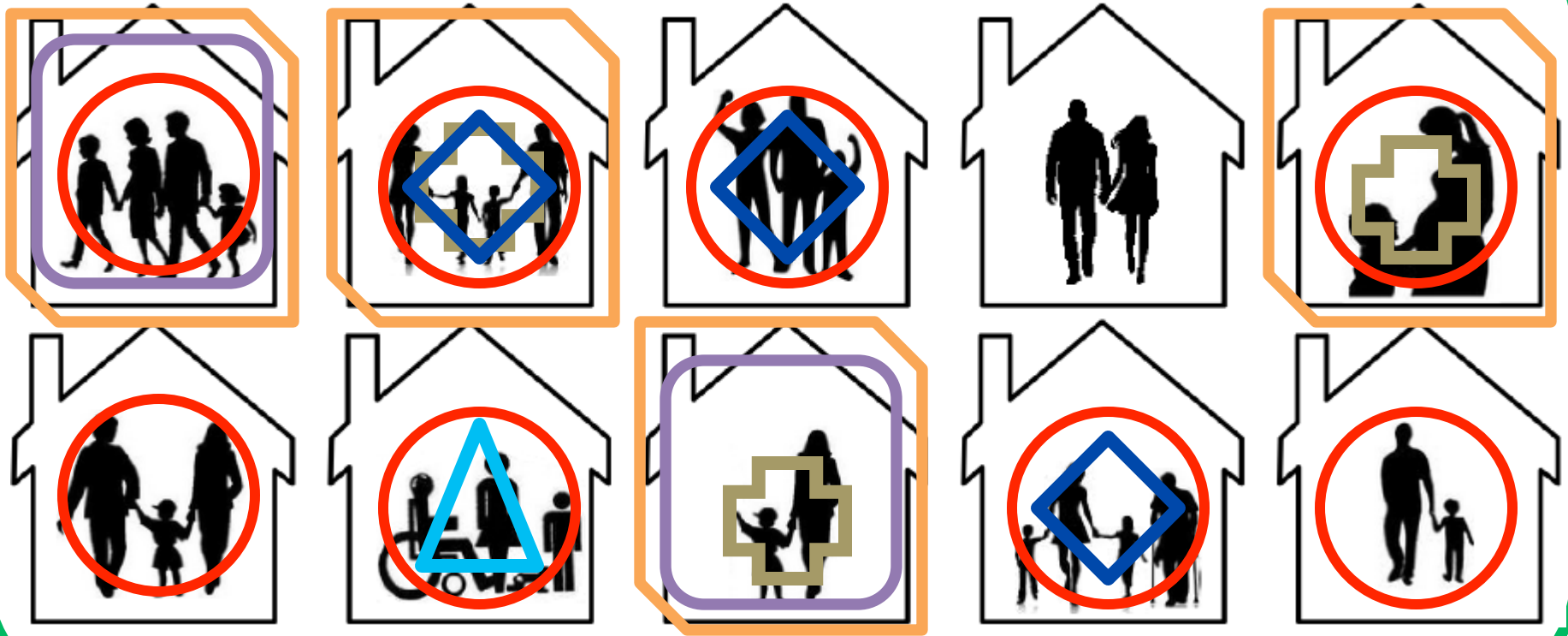
Beyond Poverty Counts...



Beyond Poverty Counts...



1: SBR - Database of HHs



Registry



On BOOST



Single Mom's

Belize District



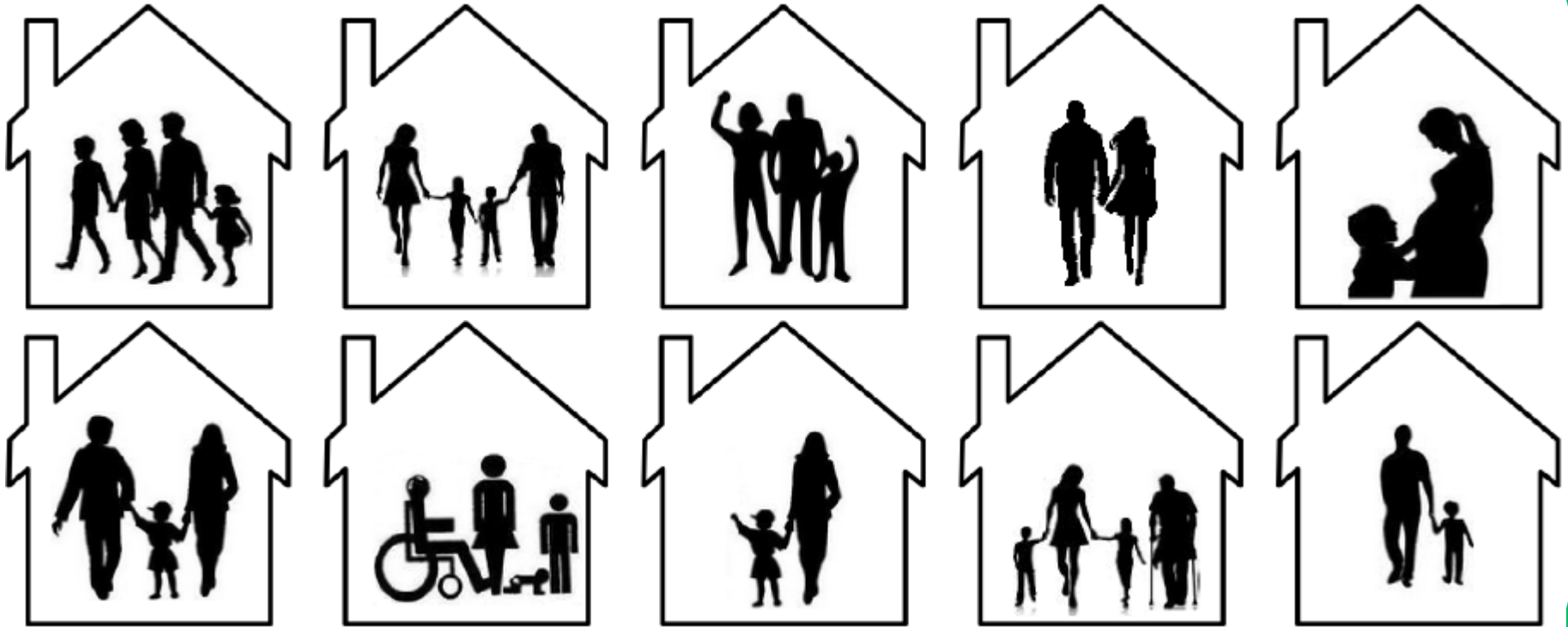
School Subsidy



Disability

Bz Southside

2: Econometric Model

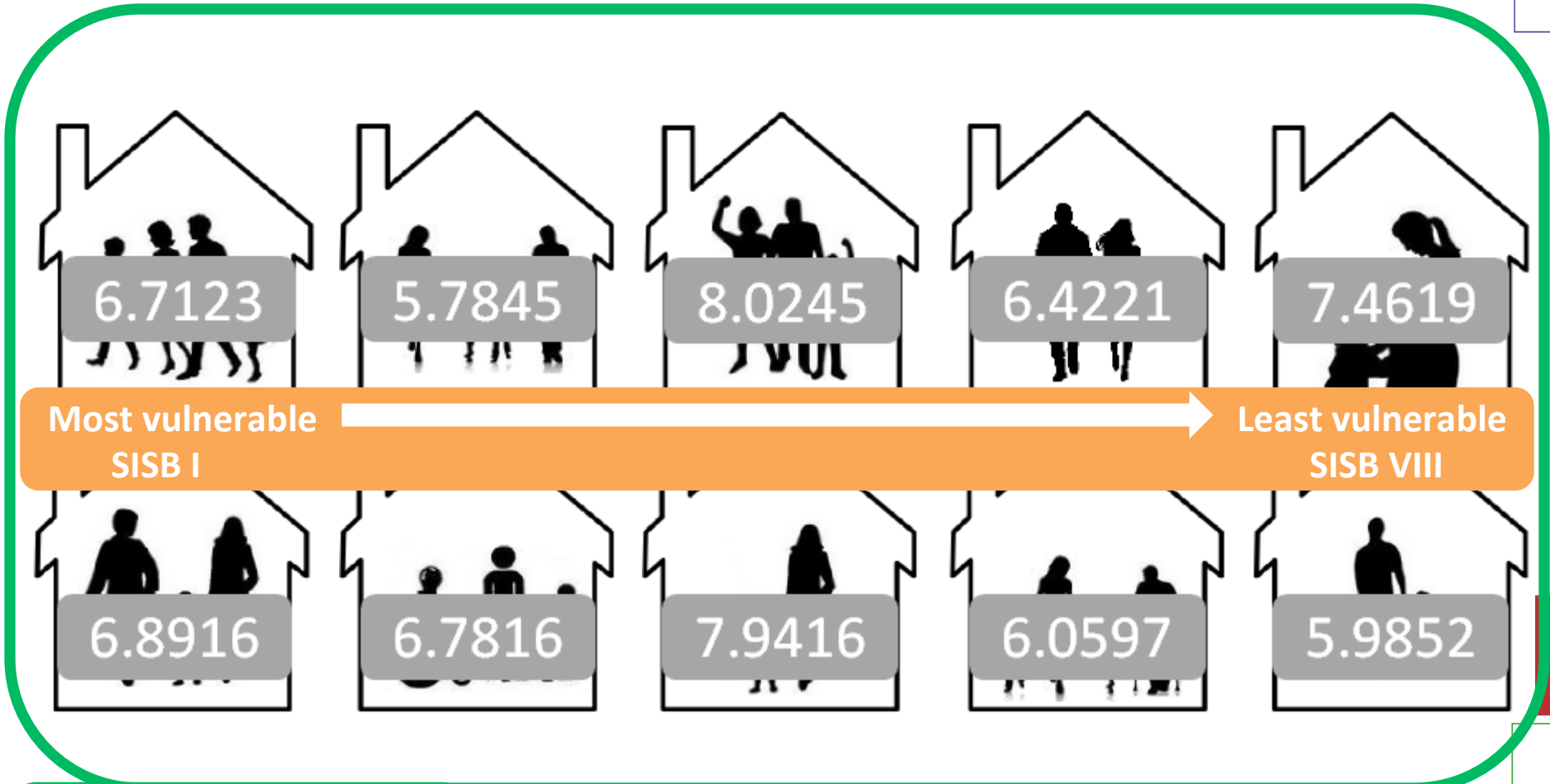


Registry

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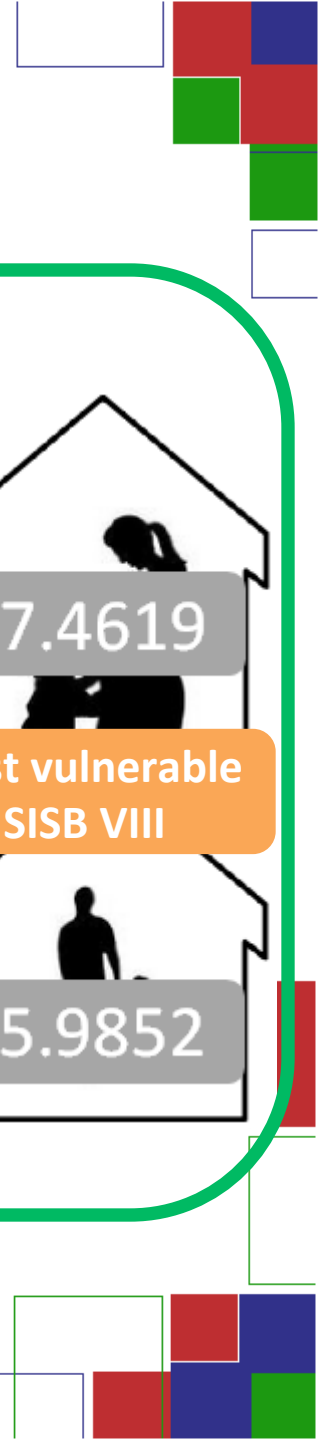
2: Econometric Model



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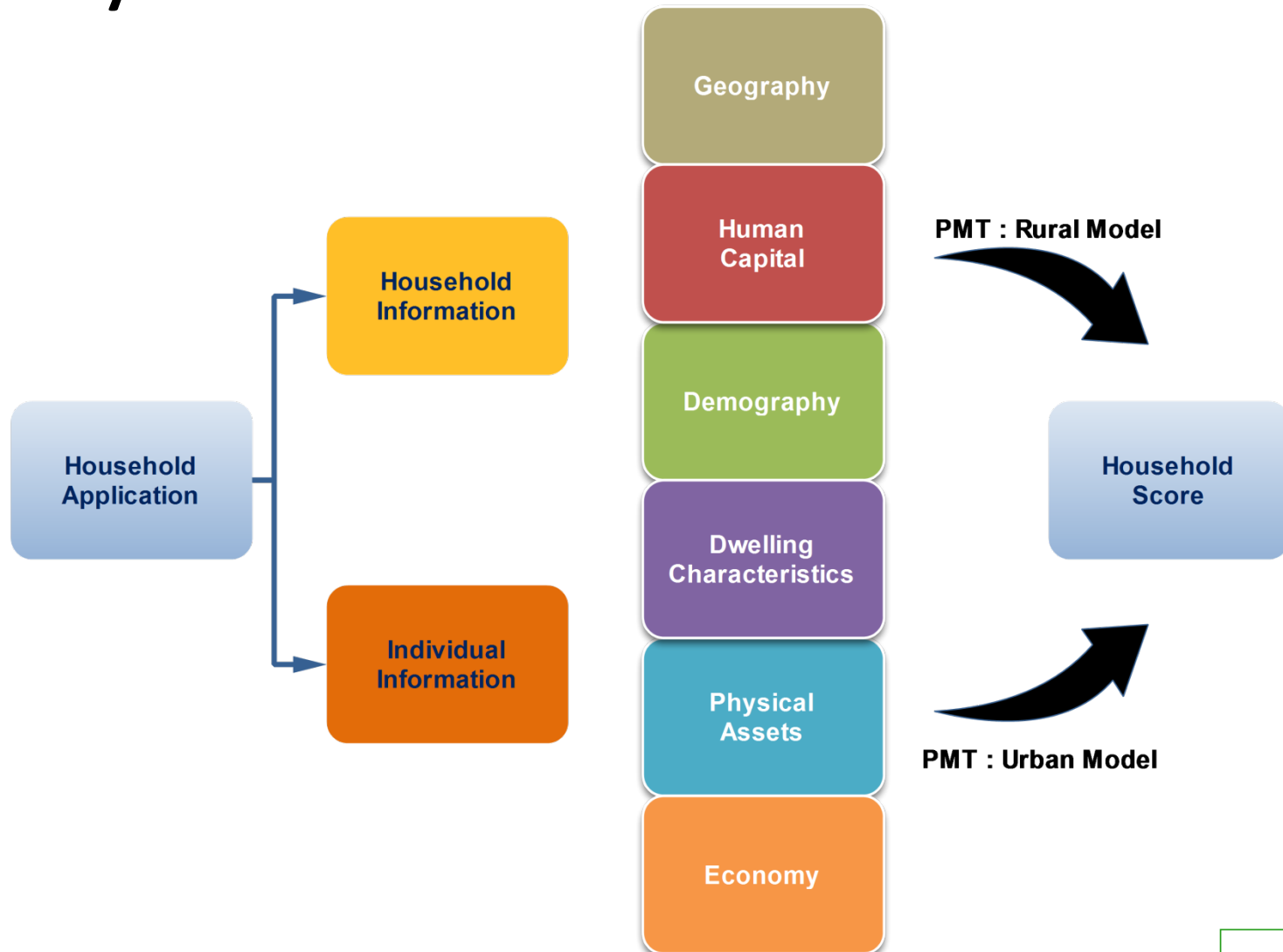


Proxy Means Test

- ▶ How to define poverty / vulnerability?
- ▶ Belize only has one official measure:
 - Based on household expenditure
 - Country Poverty Assessment
 - Living Standards Measurement Survey
- ▶ High level of informality in labour force
- ▶ Proxy Means Test...
 - Use household information to estimate expenditure



Proxy Means Test



SISB: Summary

► SISB

- Still early days: approx. 20% of HHs registered
- Uses same PMT modelling as BOOST
- Has lead to better coordination amongst Ministries and programmes
- Has given us a great platform for research, programme evaluation, and wider Social Protection evaluation



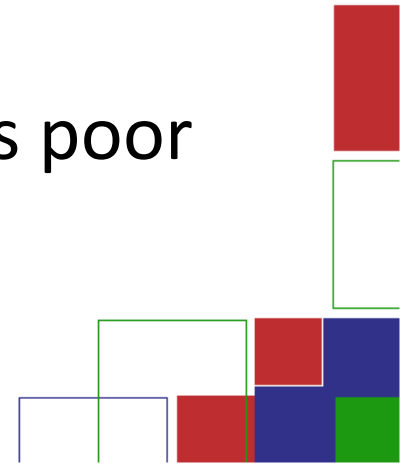
SP Evaluation and Next Steps

- ▶ Currently in progress
- ▶ Used CODI Tool (UN/World Bank) to assess all social protection programmes and the system overall
- ▶ No report at this point
- ▶ Recommendations
 - Legislation
 - Coordination Model (including finance)
 - Programme gaps and coverage
 - Multidimensional Poverty Index (SDG 1.2)

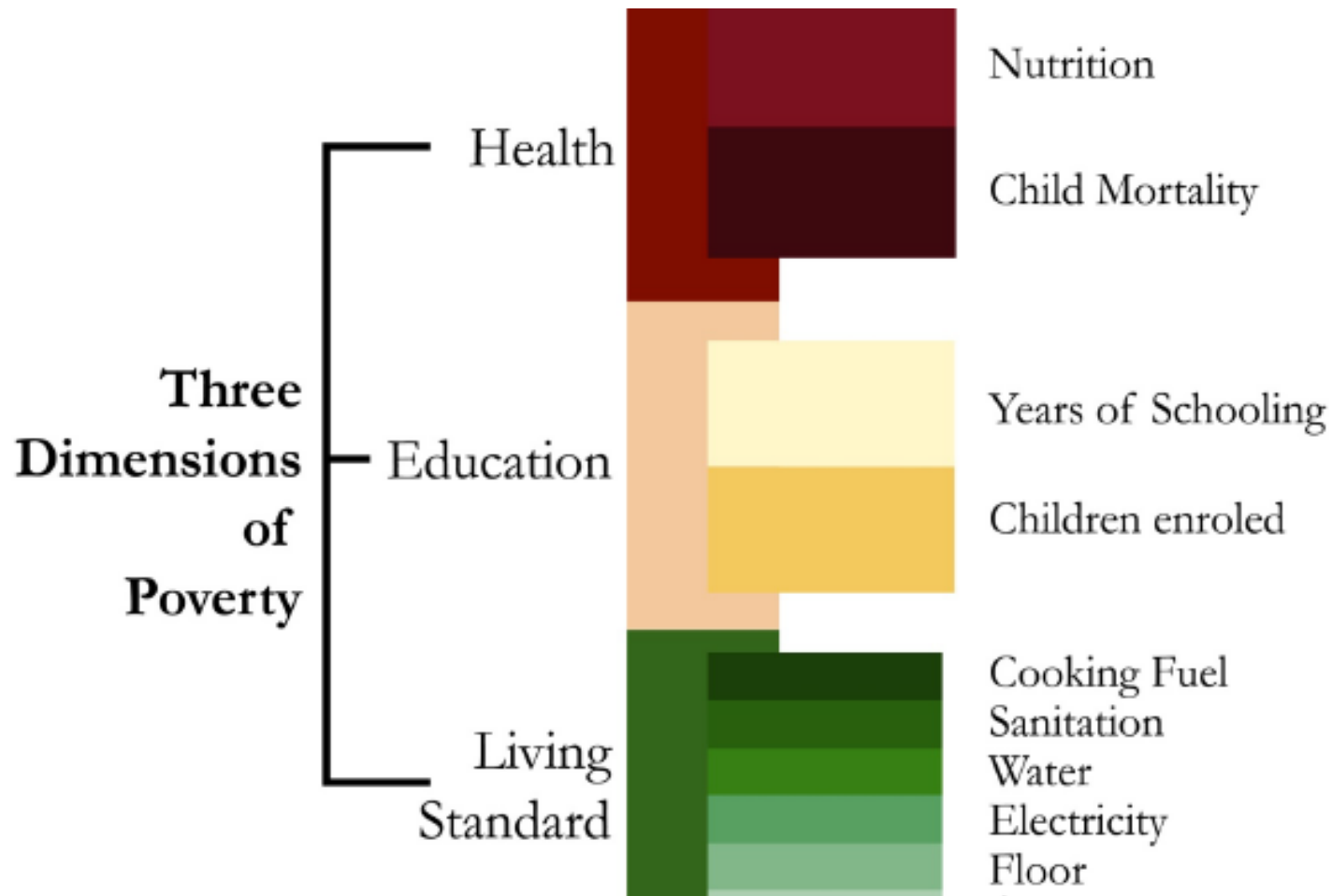


Concept of MPI

- ▶ The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is an index of acute multidimensional poverty.
- ▶ The Global MPI and National MPIs have different indicators and specifications but share a common underlying structure and methodology, which create policy-relevant properties
- ▶ The building blocks of the MPI are direct measures of the overlapping deprivations poor people experience simultaneously.



Dimensions of the global MPI



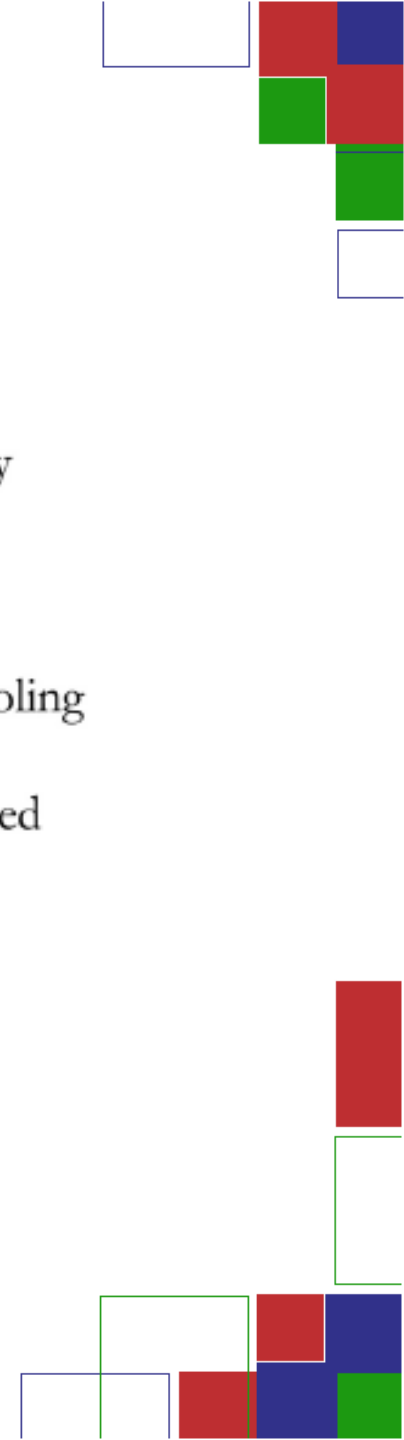
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Concept of MPI

- ▶ The MPI is calculated by multiplying the incidence of poverty (H) - the percentage of people who are poor - by the intensity of poverty (A) - the extent of simultaneous deprivations poor people experience. $MPI = H \times A$.
- ▶ A household or a person is considered as being multidimensionally poor when being deprived in more than one-third of the weighted indicators



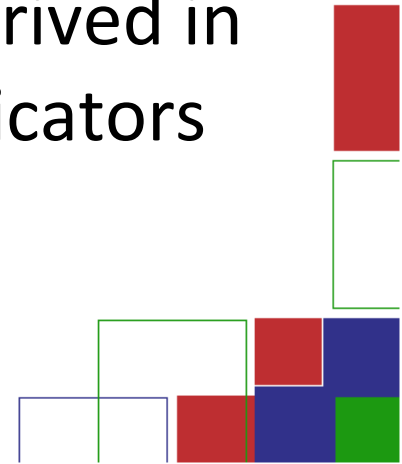
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Why is it good to have an MPI?

- ▶ Makes acute poverty visible in multiple dimensions.
- ▶ Provides a clear, informative poverty headline.
- ▶ Monitors change and reflects effective policy interventions.
- ▶ Shows the interconnected deprivations poor people experience.
- ▶ Enables policy coordination, not a silo approach.
- ▶ Provides incentives to target the poorest by tracking changes in intensity of poverty.
- ▶ May be linked to environmental or other variables.
- ▶ Offers a better possibility of success for leaving no one behind through direct disaggregation



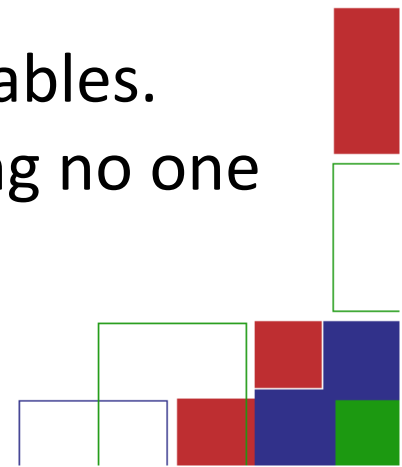
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Policy applications

- ▶ How can the MPI help governments, civil society, and agencies to reduce poverty?
 - Identify interconnections among deprivations. This is needed to address SDGs strategically.
 - Show impacts. Reflects the results of policy interventions quickly.
 - Helps to allocate resources effectively, targeting those with the greatest intensity of poverty.
- ▶ These help design effective, coherent policies.

Using MPI as a targeting tool (step by step)

- ▶ Step 1: Vulnerable groups are identified through the MPI exercise (in our case based on MICS5, 2015)
 - Information about approximate geographic location, number of potential beneficiaries and their profile of exclusion
- ▶ Step 2: Revise existing SP interventions regarding their adequacy of interventions, scope and coverage
- ▶ Step 3: Design a coherent intervention and criteria for starting activity on the ground following budget constraints
- ▶ Step 4: Once the dimensions for an initial interventions are defined any short small area census which includes information regarding the dimensions included in the MPI is sufficient for identifying vulnerable households and define levels of benefits.



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General MPI for Belize 2011 & 2015 – Dimensions indicators and weights

Dimension	Indicator	Weight
Health (1/3)	Child mortality	1/6 (0.166)
	Under nutrition	1/6 (0.166)
Education (1/3)	Years of schooling	1/6 (0.166)
	Children Attainment	1/6 (0.166)
Standard of Living (1/3)	Sanitation	1/18 (0.055)
	Water	1/18 (0.055)
	Electricity	1/18 (0.055)
	Floor	1/18 (0.055)
	Cooking fuel	1/18 (0.055)
	Assets	1/18 (0.055)



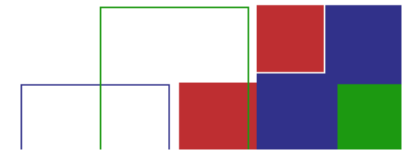
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