Harnessing Identification Systems for Social Protection

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Social Protection programs deliver cash, goods or services to individuals that must be identified.
National ID versus program ‘silo’ ID systems

Peru

- Cash transfer to poor families
- Voting

Mexico

- Old age pensions
- Health insurance for the poor
- Social security for formal workers
‘Silo’ functional IDs are suboptimal

- Ensuring uniqueness and providing secure authentication is very difficult for each program to do on its own
- Multiple biometric enrolment increases costs to government and people
- Inability to link databases reduces ability to coordinate across programs and to monitor what the overall social protection system
Reasons for ‘silbo’ IDs

• Low coverage of national IDs and civil registers
• NID and CR not robust or trustworthy
• National ID system does not offer authentication services
• Legacy systems and turf battles
Synergies to exploit...

Source: van der Straaten (2015)
Thank you