

Conditional Cash Transfers in Latin America

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Many developing countries have adopted conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs as a main pillar of their social policy. In most of these programs, the government first determines who is eligible for the transfer and then offers cash benefits conditional on compliance with several educational and health requirements. CCT programs are the main social assistance form in Latin American countries (LAC), covering 120 million individuals in 18 countries. The programs are diverse but they share a key characteristic: payment of cash for observed behaviour in the education and health of young children. In this presentation we analyse the experience of several countries and identify some main features of CCT programs. We provide tentative analysis of the implementation problems of CCT's. In particular we focus on the budget requirements at the national level and operational foundations such as targeting beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation.

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