The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program (LEAP) started as a trial phase in 2008 with the objective of reducing poverty among the extreme poor and vulnerable by increasing consumption and promoting access to services. Given the considerable level of poverty in Ghana, it has gained visibility and has become the flagship of the National Social Protection Strategy.

The issue of improved targeting has always been the challenge of social assistance programs. Measures taken towards this end have mostly focused on: (i) combining three targeting mechanisms to increase accuracy, (ii) developing a common set of indicators for Ministries to identify potential beneficiaries, and (iii) developing common standards for data collection and a single registry.

Reforms implemented to improve targeting of beneficiaries have been carried out in compliance with strategic directions established by the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) meant to provide an overarching policy framework to ensure co-ordination and complementarity between social programs.

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**Economic and demographic facts**

- Area: 238,533 (km²)
- Population: 24.4 (mln)
- Poverty level: 28.5% (2007 est.)
- GDP per capita (USD): $2,500 (2010 est.)

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**Type of family benefits**

- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) – MESW
- Indigents (Exempt category) of National Health Insurance Scheme – MOH
- Free School Uniform and Exercise Book Program – MOE
- Block Farming – MOFA
- Labor Intensive Public Works (New) - MLGRD
TARGETING MODEL AT A GLANCE

**Targeting method**

The LEAP Adopted a combination of the following:

- Geographic Targeting
- Categorical Targeting: Elderly 65+; severely disabled without productive capacity and OVC
- Community Based Targeting: using community committees to identify beneficiary households followed by a Proxy Means Tests (PMT)

**Steps taken to improve targeting system**

In 2009 the government decided to develop a common targeting mechanism where 5 Ministries (MESW; MOH; MOE; MOFA; and MLGR&D) agreed to use the same system and indicators to identify potential beneficiaries.

Among the changes are:

- Improved PMT questionnaire
- Same standards for data collection and processing
- MDA started to collaborate in selecting districts and communities beneficiaries
- Single registry

**Results**

The following results were observed after the pre-testing:

1. The time needed to implement the new questionnaire was reduced by half
2. The targeting performance of the PMT instrument doubled
3. Targeting performance in general improved

**Drawbacks and challenges**

Challenges faced by LEAP:

1. Lengthy questionnaire.
3. High inclusion and exclusion errors in the LEAP PMT.
4. Difficulty to enroll BHHs/individuals onto other SP programs.
Challenges faced by other SP programs:

1. Difficulties in defining and identifying beneficiaries
2. Differences in poverty indicators and manipulation by households,
3. Weak linkages between the various SP programs.
4. Lack of robust system to process and share data among the SP interventions.
5. Duplication of cost/expenditure
6. Not able to determine programs which are more focused on the poor

Other challenges related to sharing information on demand and having coordinated approach to registration and single registry