Lessons from Namibia - Namibia drought 2013-14 and Emergency Cash grant 2020

EMERGENCY CASH AND COVID-19
EMERGENCY CASH IN THE 2013-14 DROUGHT IN NAMIBIA

- The drought situation
- The modalities and the set-up of the cash grant
- Registration - challenges in an emergency
- Prerequisite for cash to work
- The advantages of cash
NAMIBIA DROUGHT 2013

- 2012/13: driest season on record
- Precipitation deficit between 20% to 90%
- Severe effect on crops (subsistence and commercial farmers) pasture and water availability
- State of Emergency in May 2013
The situation
EMERGENCY CASH - CONSIDERATIONS

Selection of target group
- Scope: four communities instead of few households in more communities
- Targeting: rural, clearly defined, no other support, worst affected areas,

Prerequisite - working markets
Registration
Payout
Impact Assessment
EMERGENCY CASH - CONSIDERATIONS

Modalities of the cash response
- Per persons from 0-59 years of age (benefits larger households)
- Exclusion criteria: Taxable income or government grant
- Duration: 9 months
- Amount: N$ 100,-
REGISTRATION

- Household registration vs. central registration
- Cost considerations (training of team, travelling, accommodation) vs. amount of grant
- Targeted vs. universal (example of teacher)
- Pay-out via smart card or voucher system
- Impact assessment (Household data / case studies)
Registration

- Training of team for registration
- Same team throughout the entire registration in different places
Challenges to travel to and stay in remote places
Community meeting

Information meetings to inform community about registration and pay-out procedures
Sending out the team

Co-operation between trained team members and local community leaders and members
Registration of households

- Small teams went from house to house
- Getting to know recipients and situation of the household
- Easier to register women as recipients vs. central registration point
Registration and data entry

Verification on the go....
Registration and data entry

Verification on the go....
ADVANTAGES OF CASH IN EMERGENCY

- Supports survival strategies
  - subsistence farming (cow and seed money)
  - income generating
  - schooling
  - medicine
- Supports markets instead of distortion (e.g. food distribution)
- No food waste
- Lower logistical costs
Impact

Food security
Impact

Fodder for the animals
Impact

New seeds for planting
Impact

Preparing the fields
SITUATION IN NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO COVID-19

- strict lockdown for 2 months from 26th March
- closing of borders, military control of curfew, no alcohol and cigarette sales in towns and villages, arrests
- very low infection rates in Namibia and South Africa.
- Easing of lockdown in SA due to economic consideration: increase in infection rates
- Immense social and economic consequences:
  - Unemployment, collapse of income in informal sector, deschooling of children in informal settlements
'Basic Income Grant' as an answer in Namibia?!

- Namibia: Covid-19 Emergency Income Grant (Announcement made 9 April)
- once off: N$ 750 (250 per week of lockdown) per person for all from 18-59, except:
  - recipients of social grants or unemployment insurance fund
  - taxpayer (monthly income more than N$ 4500)
- quick and straightforward registration via SMS and payment via e-wallet / cellphone and ATMs
- first estimate: 740,000 to qualify, 580,000 applications in one week (!), payment to 350,000 a week later, now over 900,000 applicants and payment to over nearly 750,000, verification of 120,000 applicants outstanding
- Registration provided by private company - free of charge
- Calls for a 2 year Basic Income Grant now (Landless People Movement / LPM)
Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant

R350, - per person per month for 6 months for people between 18-59 years, except:

- recipients of social grants or unemployment benefits
- taxpayers (income...)

Estimate: between 10 and 20 Millionen (!) to qualify (Budget: R21 to 42 Billion für 6 month) - but so far apparently only 9 (!) grants have been paid

in addition: Increase the amounts of all grants for 6 months, in particular Child Support Grant, but again: problems in the administration