Linking Social Registries and Labor Programs
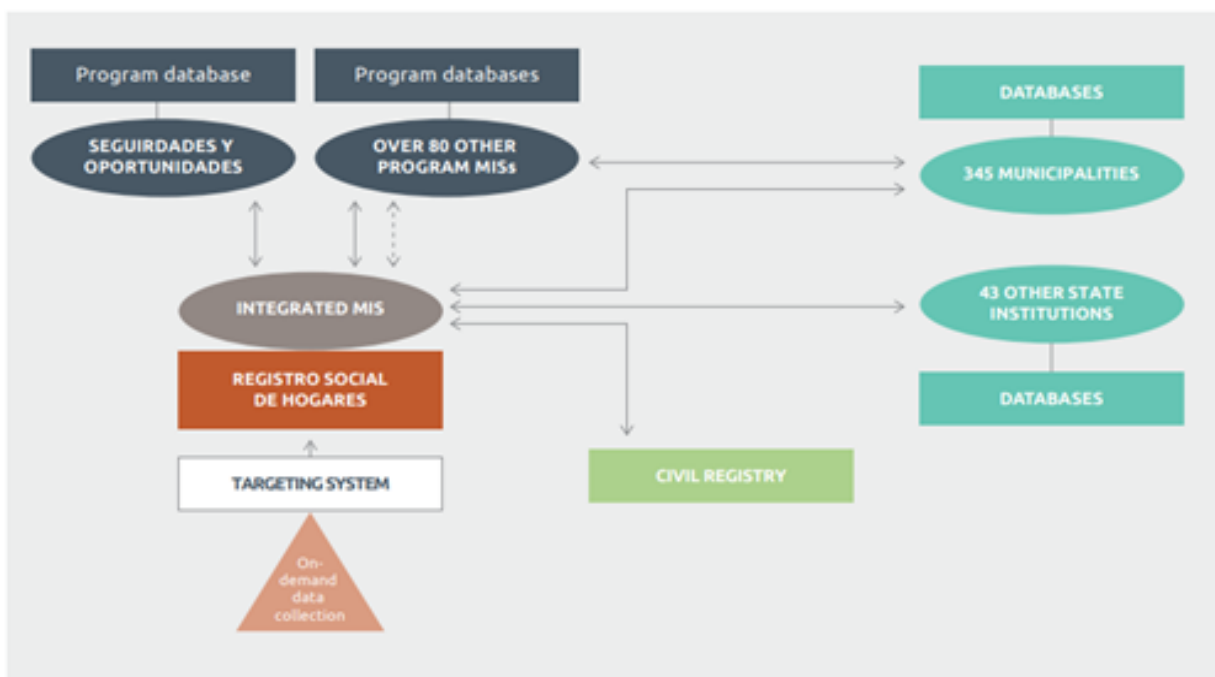
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Social registries are information systems that contain data on beneficiaries of social programs. The information in these registries is often used to support identification, registration, and eligibility determination for social programs. There are some use cases for interoperability between social registries and databases with livelihood-related data such as labor program information and employment-related markers. This article explores such cases in Chile, the Philippines, and Sierra Leone.

One such country is Chile, which has a social registry system called the Social Information Registry (RIS), which is comprised of smaller social registries like the Social Registry of Households (RSH) and an Integrated Beneficiary Registry (RIB). The connection between the RSH and the other information systems in the RIS "permits coordination of both the demand for social programs (via the Social Registry) and the supply of programs (via the Integrated Beneficiary Registry)" (Leite et al., 2017).

The RIS also connects several other information systems that have data on taxation, unemployment/health insurance, property and vehicle and property ownership, and other such information markers. This data is sourced from several databases controlled by different state entities, municipalities, and government bodies that control social safety nets like Chile Solidario (Barca & Chirchir, 2014). This data is then used to create "eligibility thresholds" to identify beneficiaries of Chile's social programs (Barca & Chirchir, 2014).

Figure 12 Chile's RSH: overall structure

(Barca, 2017)

Certain Chilean institutions can access the data of the RIS, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, particularly the National Institute for Agricultural Development (INDAP). The INDAP uses the data from the RIS "to inform eligibility for its 18 different programmes, linking data to its farmer registry" (Barca & Hebbar, 2023).

The linkage between the INDAP and the RIS allows for "Support for the determination of eligibility for INDAP programmes via the social registry's socio-economic classification" and
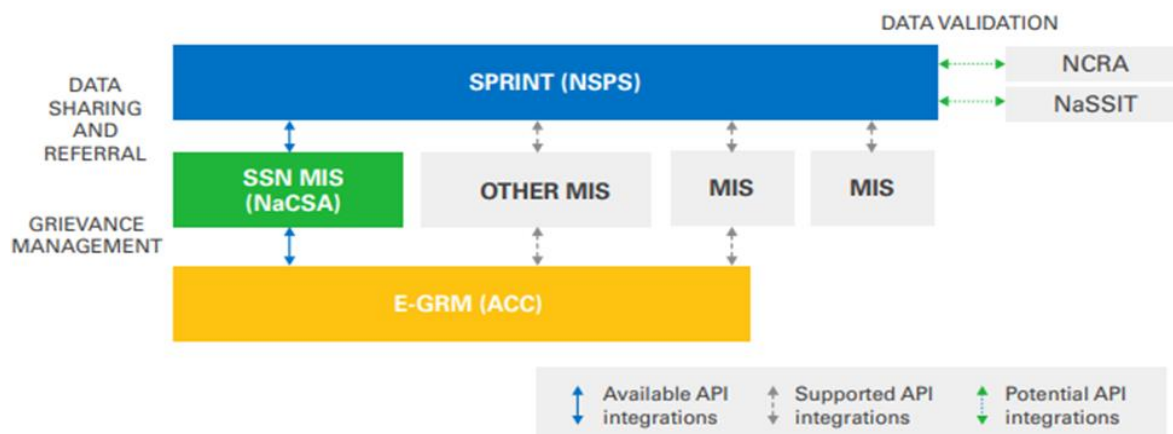
"Strategic segmentation of farmers into different groups to better design programmes that respond to their needs" (Barca & Hebbar, 2023). While Barca and Hebbar do not discuss the relationship between the RIS and the INDAP in detail, it is evident that information sourced from the RIS in conjunction with INDAP-sponsored programs enables the Chilean government to target needy farmers more efficiently.

The Philippines uses a social registry called the Listahanan, which features a proxy-means test that allows for the identification of poor Filipinos through an "income-based poverty estimation methodology" that designates certain households as "poor" (Velarde, 2018). The Listahanan's PMT uses a combination of household-specific and individual-specific metrics to determine poverty, which is cross-referenced with province-specific poverty measures to determine which Filipinos are poor. Once this data has been collected, it is disseminated to each municipality to allow each community to rectify inclusions/exclusions and ensure that poverty metrics accurately reflect poor and non-poor (Velarde, 2018).

The primary livelihood program in the Philippines is the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) which draws data from the Listahanan and is administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The SLP seeks to reduce poverty and inequality by promoting employment among the poor, specifically in the agricultural, forestry, and fishing industries. The SLP emphasizes the Pantawid conditional cash transfer, which transfers money to households involved in these industries (Acosta & Avalos, 2018). The SLP also has programs like the "micro-enterprise development (MD) track" and the "employment facilitation (EF) track" (Acosta & Avalos, 2018).

The MD track "provides participants with access to funds and training to set up their own microenterprise," while the EF track "provides employable individuals access to locally available jobs through public-private partnerships" (Acosta & Avalos, 2018). Participants in either track also can gain access to track-specific funds to assist in their enterprise or employment search. The SLP partners with multiple government agencies to source jobs for EF track participants and works with the Public Employment Service Office to "link beneficiaries with local jobs" (Acosta & Avalos, 2018).

Despite being in its rudimentary stages, Sierra Leone's Social Protection Registry for Integrated National Targeting (SPRINT) has become increasingly integrated with Sierra Leone's social safety nets and "lifecourse programs" (Government of Sierra Leone, 2022). The SPRINT's main function according to the Sierra Leonian government is "to facilitate targeting and registration for programmes" via information sharing through the centralized registry (Government of Sierra Leone, 2022). Specifically, SPRINT stores information on household records, manages beneficiary lists for welfare programs, and can store grievance claims made by Sierra Leonians, all of which contribute to the targeting system for the various social programs that Sierra Leone has created in the past decade.

Key Processes of SPRINT (Government of Sierra Leone, 2022)

Some of the programs that rely upon SPRINT for information are livelihood-related, such as the Pro-Poor Growth for Peace Consolidation Program, which fosters youth "employment creation and income generation activities" (Government of Sierra Leone, 2022). Other livelihood programs in Sierra Leone include the Employment Promotion Program, which "promotes young entrepreneurs and provides training for young jobseekers in business and agro-processing entrepreneurship skills," the Youth in Agriculture Project, which seeks to decrease youth unemployment by establishing farms and provide "training in entrepreneurship, marketing basics and market access," and the Youth Empowerment in Commercial Transportation Pilot Project, which loans vehicles to youth to allay their employment and transport troubles. The future success of these programs is highly dependent upon the extent to which Sierra Leone's government can refine the SPRINT and accurately target unemployed youth.

Linkage between social registries and livelihood programs allows for segments of the population to be classified as in need of assistance in the case of Chile and the Philippines and allow these populations to receive cash transfers, employment search assistance, employment training, and other forms of livelihood-related aid. Linkage between the two also bolsters the progression of newly labor programs in developing nations like Sierra Leone, which depends upon its social registry system to identify youth in need of labor assistance. Sierra Leone's SPRINT system, the Philippines' Listahanan, and Chile's RIS may serve as a blueprint for other nations that wish to integrate their information systems into welfare-related structures and increase the efficiency of safety net targeting.

Country and Social Registry Name	Program(s) supported by SR	Intake/Registration Processes	Data Management Structure and Extent of Interoperability
Chile; Social Registry of Households (RSH)	- Supports over 80 programs	- Currently on-demand - Began as a census sweep in the 1980s, with periodic registration waves - System now has on-demand registration and online application since 2010	- Centralized data warehouse - Fair amount of interoperability with other information systems like RIB - Data exchange with various other information systems

Philippines; Listahanan	- Supports several programs, including the SLP - Began as a pilot for one program, the Pantawid CCT - Now serves 52 programs involving several levels of government and multiple agencies	- Nationwide en masse registration - Registration began in 2007, sweeps were also carried out in 2009/10 and 2015 - Households can be added to the Listahanan via a grievance system after registration sweep is closed	- Data is self-contained – Little to no interoperability with other systems as of 2017
Sierra Leone; Social Protection Registry for Integrated National Targeting (SPRINT)	- Four programs across two implementing agencies as of 2017 - Sierra Leonian government has since/is currently working to incorporate nutrition, education, and employment programs segmented by age	- Targeted en masse in specific areas and among specific groups - Registry differentiates between households actively benefitting from a program and households not benefitting - Original intake carried out by communities and contracted teams, subsequent intake conducted at district level	- Data is self-contained - Little operability save for with household ID system

(Leite et al., 2017)

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