

Comments on Barriento's presentation on
Social Pensions in Low Income Countries

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Points worth underscoring:

- Desirability of thinking closely about how social pensions fit not only into pensions strategies but into social assistance strategies.
- Heterogeneity of country context, program design, results
- The need for further research on social pensions and household behavior: re household formation; household earnings, savings, monetary and non-monetary welfare;

Can the author push further:

on appropriate policy context, he says (on slide 11)

Social pensions are a stronger policy option:

- *i) where they complement other poverty reduction programmes; or*
- *ii) where other programmes are absent and political support for poverty reduction is limited.*

So where are they not desirable? Doesn't that cover the universe?

The programs reviewed, their context, financing, cost and genesis are quite different and their impacts not well studied. Are we to infer that they are all successful? Or would we, in fact, have before the schemes started or even now, recommend some other policies/programs?