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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# Integrated data and information management for social protection: Background Concepts

Keynote Speech

Valentina Barca and Richard Chirchir

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# Outline

- Why integrated data and information management?
- What does integration imply, in practice?
  - Breadth and depth of integration, a framework
  - The building blocks of integrated data and information management, clarifying terminology
  - How these building blocks can work together for integration
  - Different practical approaches to consolidating information



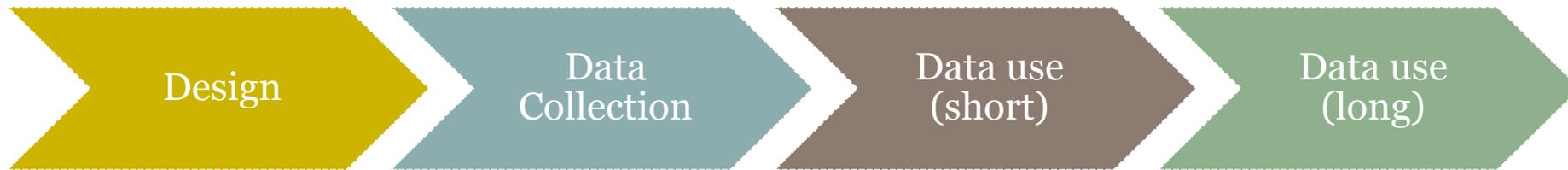
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# Why integrate data and information management for SP?

Considerable agreement...

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# Why integrate data and information management for SP?



- Policy clarity
- Increased focus on inclusiveness and responsiveness
- Institutional arrangements and link to wider policy

- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Less burden on staff (less paper, less reporting)
- Establish a 'common entry point' (Single Window Service!)

- Common targeting can ensure more equitable approach based on objective and comparable information
- Avoid fraud and 'double dipping'
- Common payments, grievance and other systems

- Facilitate oversight/M&E of multiple schemes
- Increase transparency/accountability
- Increase knowledge on poverty and vulnerability
- Bens can transition between schemes
- More effective emergency responses



**Source:**

Jan Banning's series on  
'Bureaucrats and their offices'

**One of the risks!**



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# What does 'integration' imply, in practice?

Very different country experiences...

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# What does 'integrating' imply, in practice?

Interestingly, **no unified view** on this... depends on:

## A) Different objectives pursued (often overlapping)

- Integrating to have an **overview** of who is receiving what, **coordinating** interventions, facilitating planning and more generally providing combined monitoring and evaluation (M&E) across programs (Governments)
- Integrating to **consolidate targeting** processes so they serve multiple social programs – aim is to minimise errors of exclusion and inclusion while increasing cost efficiency and transparency (mainly World Bank)
- Integrating to **integrate operations and services** (e.g. ILO 'Single Window Service' concept)

## B) Historical trajectory within the country and institutional set-up

- What already exists? What is practically feasible?

What has this led to? Confusion!





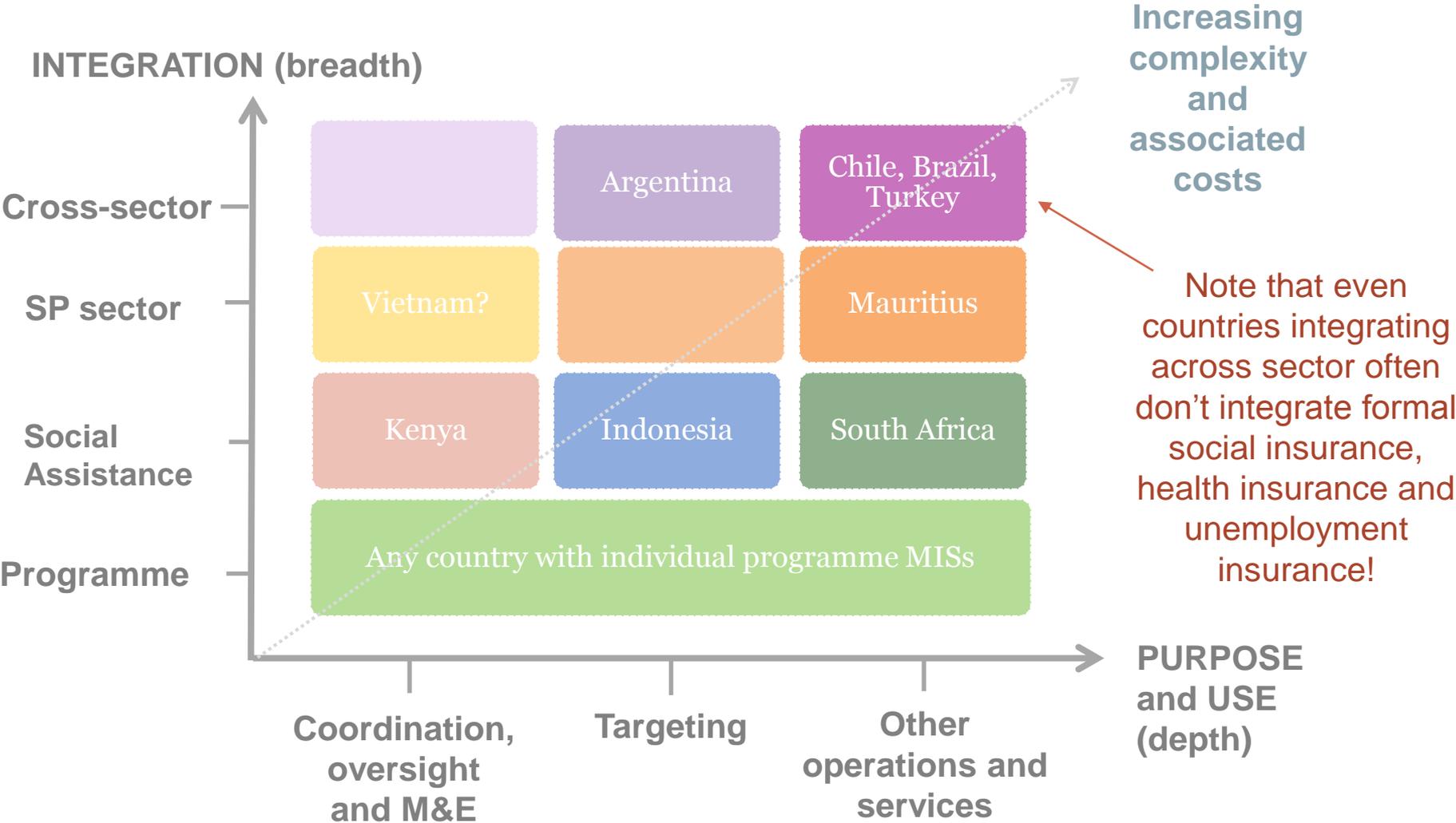
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# a. Breadth and depth of integration

Imposing a framework!

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# Framework: breadth and depth of integration





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# b. The building blocks of integrated data and information management

Clarifying terminology!

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## Two main building blocks...

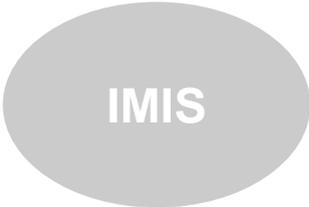
- **Database or Registry:** In a computerised environment, ‘databases’ and ‘registries’ are overlapping concepts, both for storing/retrieving information.
  - *Database*—a system to organise, store and retrieve large amounts of data easily.
  - *Registry* (a pre-ICT origin)—an official written record of names or events or transactions.
- **MIS**—a system that transforms retrieved data from a program’s database (or in some cases, different databases linked to different modules) into information that can be used for efficient and effective management.

# The same applies to integrated information management!

- **Database/registry**, which houses comprehensive (i.e. not program specific) information on potential and actual beneficiaries.
  - ✦ We call this the **Single Registry**, the term most widely accepted in the literature.
- **Application software**, which systematically transforms data into information, links it to other databases and analyses and uses the information.
  - ✦ We call this the **Integrated MIS (IMIS)**.



Single  
Registry



IMIS

Country/source	Database ('Single Registry')	Associated system for integrated information management (IMIS)
Turkey	Common Database (poverty inventory)	Integrated Social Assistance Information System
Iraq	Central Beneficiary Database	Social Safety Net Information System
Lebanon	National Database of Poor Households	MIS
Kenya	Single Registry	Single Registry Reporting System for Social Assistance (MIS)
Pakistan	National Socio-Economic Registry—described as a 'Single Database'	MIS
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Poverty Database	Ministry-wide MIS
South Africa	SOCPEN database	SOCPEN (though the NISIS is under development)
Indonesia	Unified Database	MIS (but not often explicitly mentioned)
Mexico	Single Registry of Beneficiaries (Padron Unico de Beneficiarios)	Integrated System for Information and Identification of Beneficiaries (Sistema Integrado de Información e Identificación de Beneficiarios)
Chile	Registry of Social Information	Integrated System for Social Information
Samson (2006)	Single National Registry	Not mentioned
Castaneda and Lindert (2005)	Unified Household Information Registry	Not mentioned
Irrazaval (2004)	Sole Registry of Beneficiaries (Registro Unico Beneficiarios)	System for the Integration of Databases (Sistema de Integracion de Base de Datos)
UNICEF and World Bank (2013)	Common Beneficiary System	MIS
International Labour Organization—Single Window Services	Single Registry	MIS

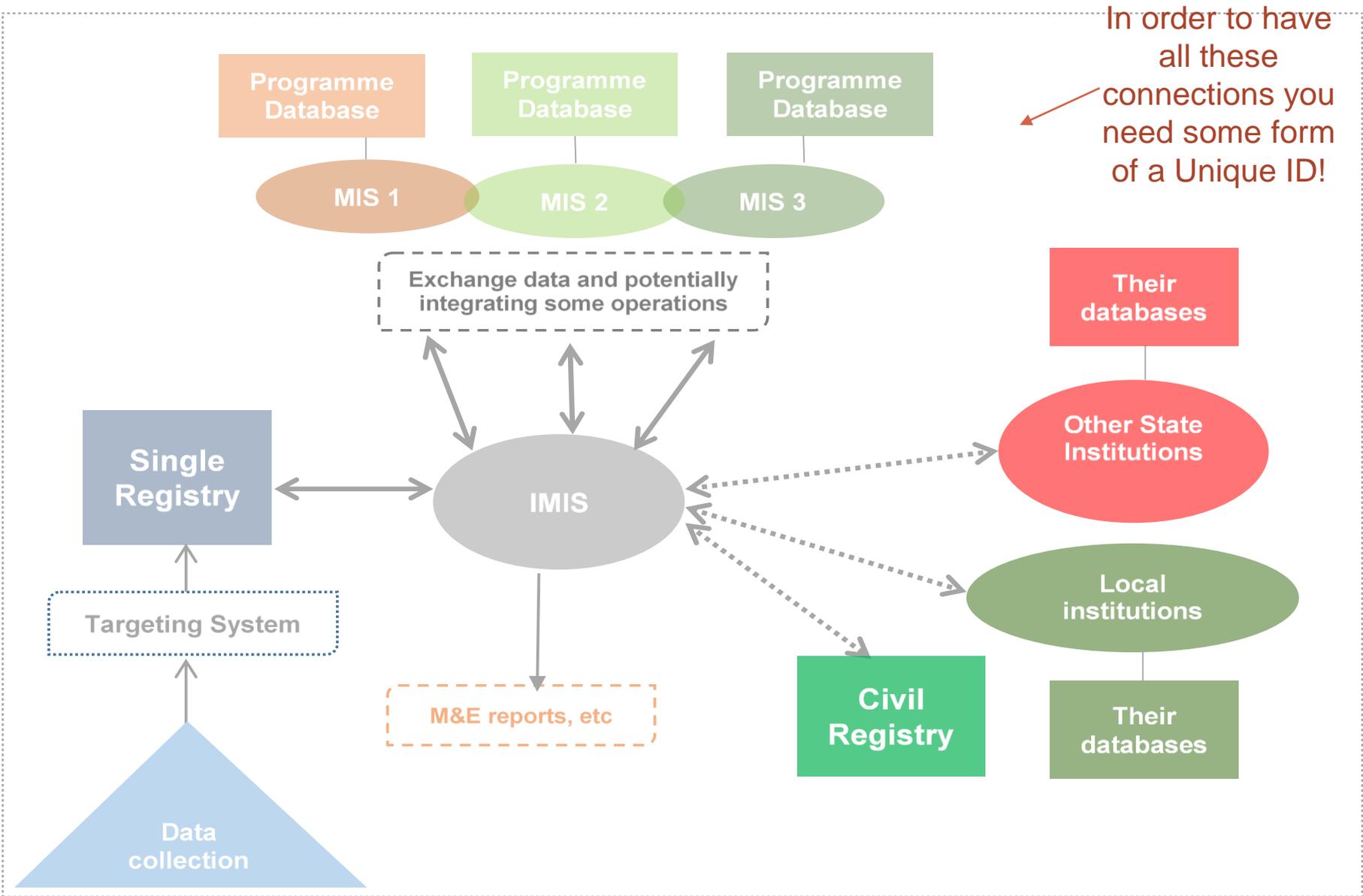


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# c. How these building blocks can work together for integration

Typified information technology set-up  
for integration

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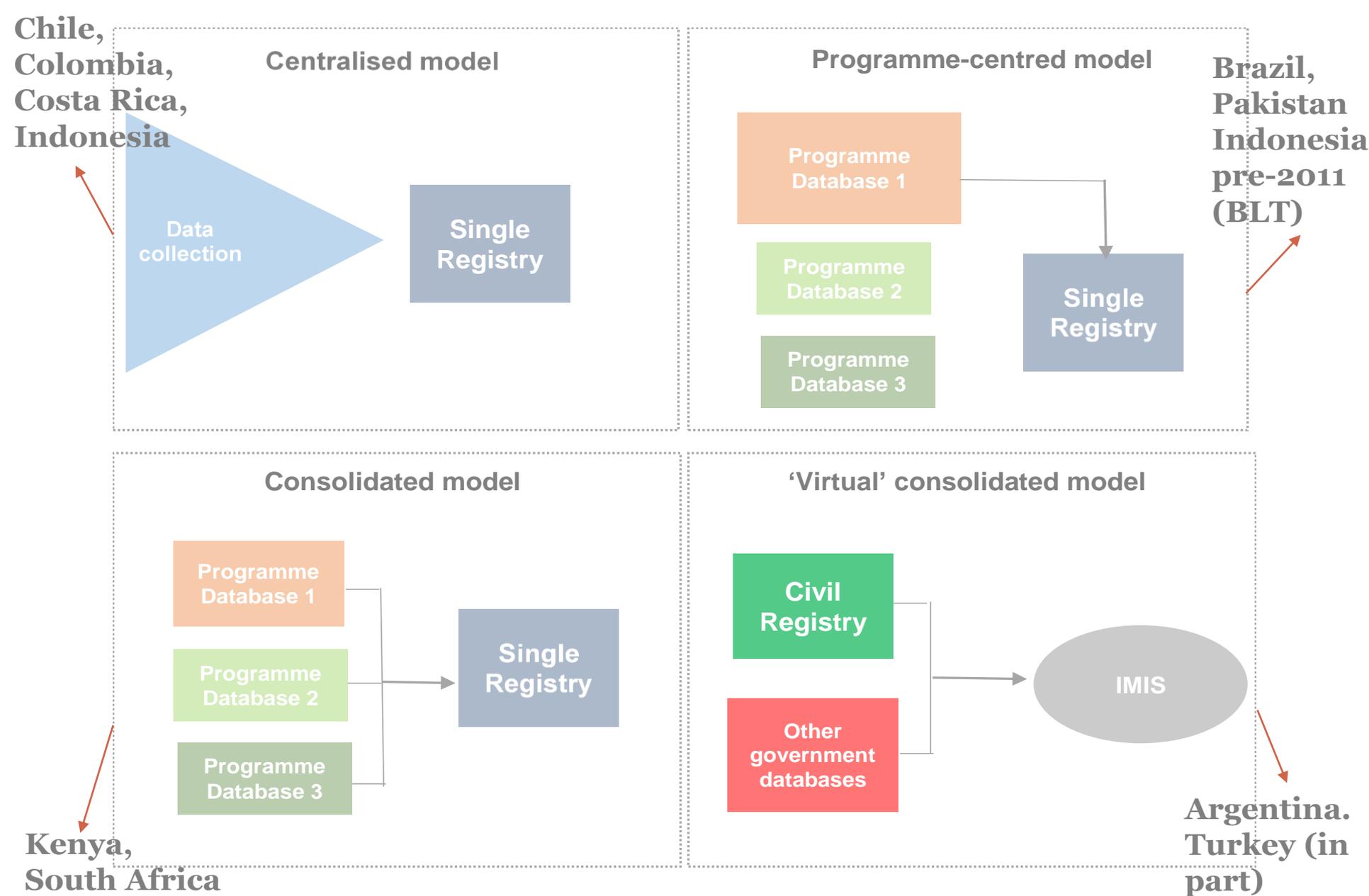
Source: Authors' elaboration. Boxes indicate databases. Circles indicate software applications.



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d. ...and different practical approaches to populating information for ‘Single Registry’

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Thank you