Betting on chance in Colombia

How game network operators succeed in providing financial services to the poor while other networks fall behind





Value Duality

Chance, a betting game

Less expensive than lottery

Can be played daily

Poor people bet more

US \$ 1.78 B a year in betting & gaming

Game networks increase access to services

Remittances Postal

Banking CBs

Reload Energy, phone, TV

Payments Utilities, credit,

state subsidies,

insurance.

SuRed: 46.000 terminals and street sellers

Via: 10.000 terminals

Background

Population 46.93 million Work Unemployment 9.9 % Informal workers 51.3% Mobile Phone 46.1 million Poverty Below poverty line 7.2% At US \$ 2 a day 15.8%

Despite financial inclusion efforts, people do more transactions over game networks

Banking

US \$ 7.7 Billion in 4 yrs
Banking correspondents

62.4% adults have bank accounts

Game networks

US \$ 3.8 Billion each year Domestic Remmitances

63% transactions US \$ 50 or less

Methodology

Video-
ethnography

Participant observation In context semi-structured interview

18-24 informal workers and street sellers in public spaces.

Aim

- •How do current transaction and financial services fit within their behaviors?
- •How can behaviors and values inform the development of new and better services?

Activities

Looking at behavioral patterns in contrasting situations
Identifying values that drive behavior
Transforming values into guidelines for developing services

Context

Displacement

Parental absence

Low education opportunities

Informality "rebusque" (re-search)

Low, unstable income

Unemployment

Vulnerability

Restrictive regulations

Banco de las Oportunidades

No access to credit

High banking costs

Armed conflict

Territorial dispute
State Vs Illegal groups

Contrasting behaviors

























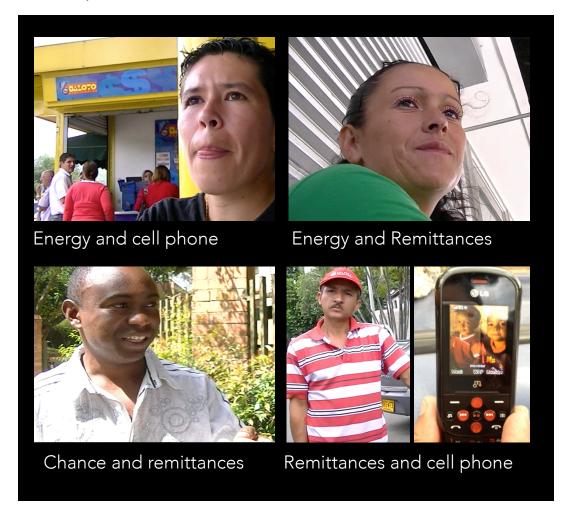








Example 1



A point for multiple services

Values

- ✓ Immediacy
- ✓ Simplicity
- ✓ Reassurance
- √ Easy access
- ✓ Minimal processing

Parameters

Integration activities under a simpler, common process

Example 2



Using alternative paths for finances

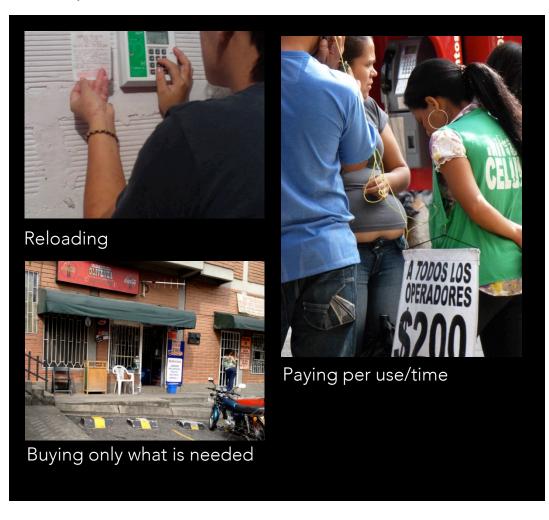
Values

- ✓ Immediacy
- ✓ On-site
- ✓ Adapted requirements
- √ Focused on sustenance

Parameters

Models that privilege flexibility even at higher costs

Example 3



Short accumulation cycles

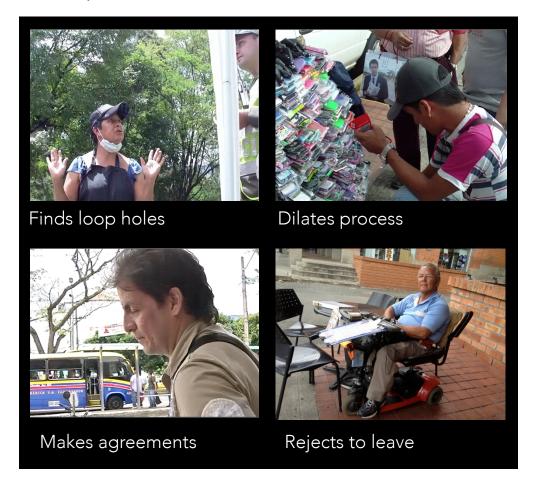
Values

- ✓ Easier control
- ✓ Self-regulation
- √ Adaptability of use
- ✓ Transparency

Parameters

Income cycles determine usage cycles

Example 4



Bending rules of Public Space for the right to work

Values

- ✓ Acknowledgement of right to decent work
- ✓ Territorial establishment
- ✓ Access to market

Parameters

Permanence on a site is a sign of stability

Example 5



Public Space as an intangible asset

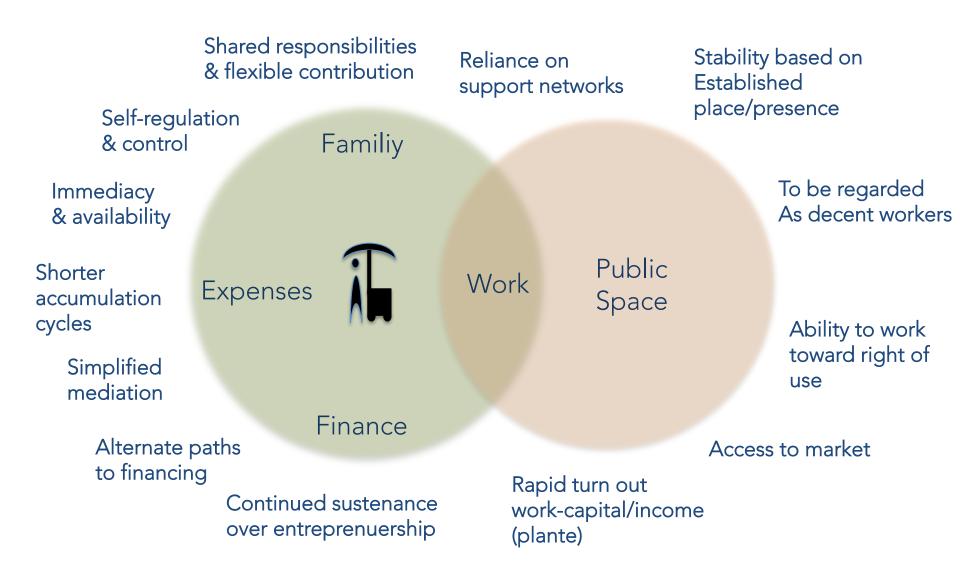
Values

- ✓ Profit potential of place
- ✓ Ability to work towards right of use

Parameters

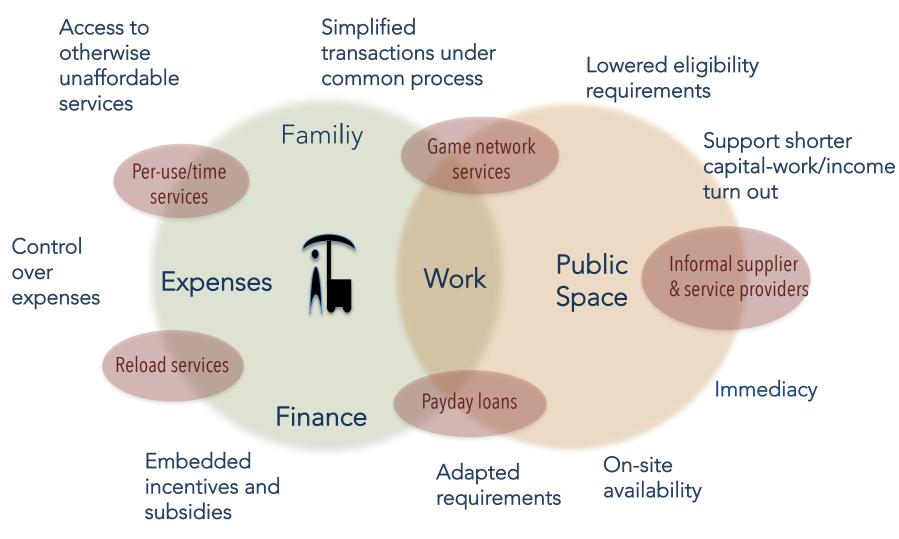
Acknowledgement of "informal assets" earned through work

Shared Values

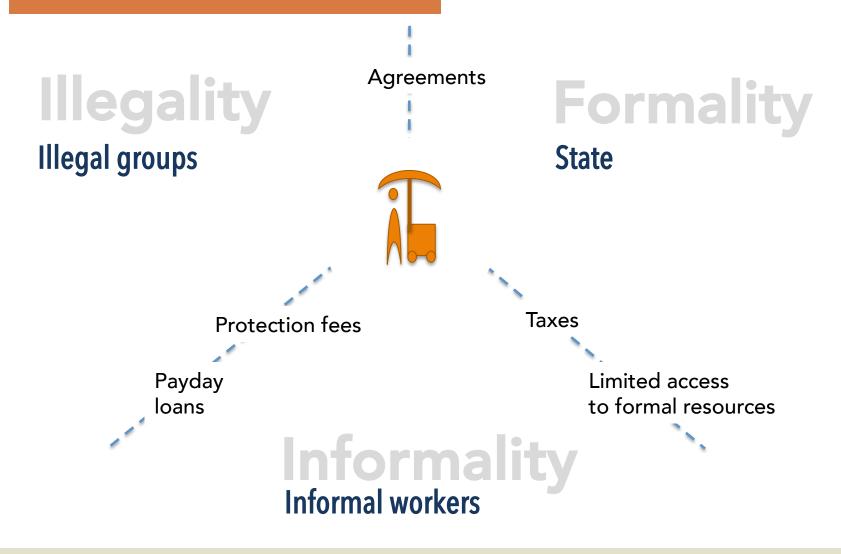


Adopted tools

Game networks are just part of the puzzle



Paradox



Illegality to pay for legality

Informality to support formality

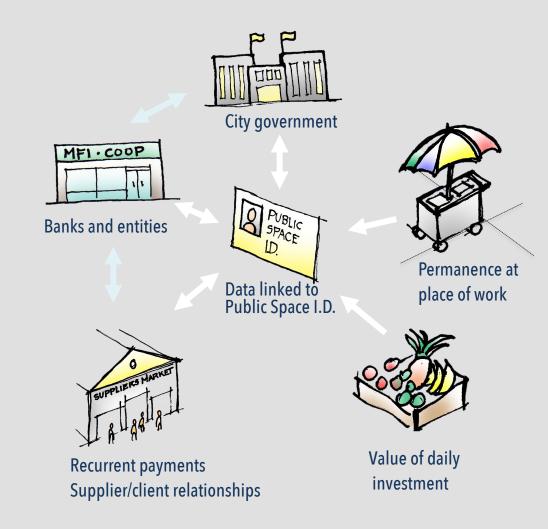
Visualize eligibility > Amplify value > Simplify access > Support continuity >

>> 01 Visualize eligibility

Allow users and groups to build an alternative history of their economic activity.

Personal history can support access to individual financial services.

Guild history helps to gain recognition and develop specific initiatives.

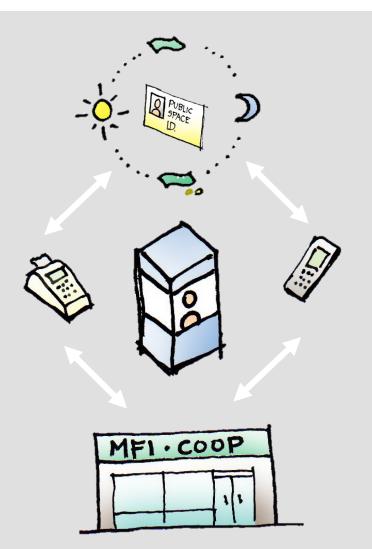


Visualize eligibility > Amplify value > Simplify access > Support continuity >

>> 02 Amplify value

Offer short cycle credit/loans based on "plante" (money needed for a day of work e.g. US \$ 5 – 10 to pay within days.

Integrate to vital payments such as utilities, state subsidies, remittances, phone reloading and suppliers (agro and merchant cooperatives).



Visualize eligibility > Amplify value > Simplify access > Support continuity >

>> 03 Simplify access

A common step-process for transactions across all points of contact facilitates adoption.

A clear and transparent fee structure with automatic deductions increases users' trust.



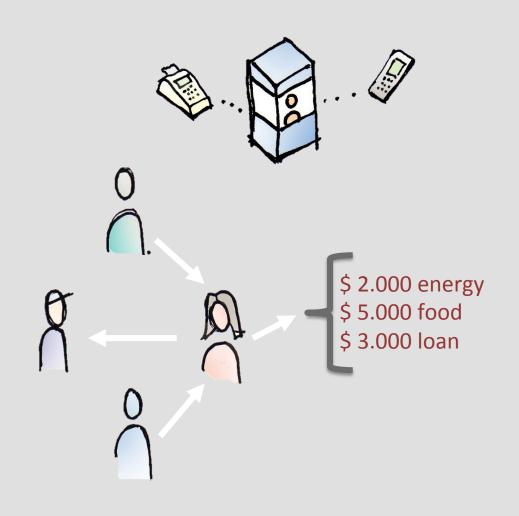
Energy company Loaded \$ 5.000 Subsidy \$ 4.803 Kwh 26.5 Deducted \$ 500 Balance - \$ 10.000 Finance inst Loaded \$ 10.000 Balance - \$ 10.500

Visualize eligibility > Amplify value > Simplify access > Support continuity >

>> 04 Support continuity

Build on existing / adopted platforms e.g. for mobile payments, game networks can serve as exchangers and mediators.

Support family groups as "single users" to gather, share and manage payments.



Final thoughts...

Current model

Privilege entrepreneurship

Increase bank accounts

Regulate rates

Needed model

- > Promote sustenance
- > Support credit
- > Regulate transparency

