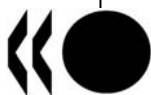


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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

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DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TASK TEAM ON EMPOWERMENT AND PRO-POOR GROWTH

24 (p.m.) - 25 March 2010, OECD, Paris

This document is for DISCUSSION and DECISION under Item IV(b) of the agenda for the meeting of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) [DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2010)2].

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PROGRESS REPORT

THE POVNET TASK TEAM ON EMPOWERMENT AND PRO-POOR GROWTH

POVNET is asked to provide final guidance on the shape, form and types of dissemination of the expected outputs of the Task Team

I. Background of the Task Team

1. In 2008 POVNET set up a Task Team to further its work on Empowerment and Pro-Poor Growth. In its 2009-2010 Terms of Reference POVNET agreed that the work should identify and share knowledge on how donor approaches and partner government policies can support empowerment processes of poor women and men, and how these contribute to pro-poor growth.

II. Expected Outputs

2. The outputs of the Empowerment Task Team's work include relevant and practical guidance on promoting empowerment processes in a number of specific areas and contexts of relevance to pro-poor growth, together with an overarching set of principles which will help donors (particularly their field offices) and their partners to better understand and promote empowerment processes of poor people. The work is based on evidence from and experience of successful approaches to empowerment which have allowed poor people to participate in and benefit from economic activity. As well as promoting good practices the guidance will also help donors and their partners to avoid potential pitfalls where aid delivery approaches and actions have been disempowering. The outputs will be a portfolio of products recounting empowering processes of poor people, including:

- i) Stories of empowerment (see Table 1)
- ii) Evidence-based good practice notes on specific topics (see Table 2)
- iii) An overarching policy guidance note showing how empowerment is fundamental for pro-poor growth and the ways and means that donors can effectively promote it.

III. Progress on Outputs

Stories of Empowerment

3. Eighteen stories of empowerment have been gathered and half of these have been presented and discussed in the task team. The final format of the stories is still to be defined and will be decided on during the Task Team's meeting on the 24 and 25th of March 2010. The stories are mainly being used to identify channels of donor involvement and illustrations for the series of good practice notes produced by the team. A synthesis paper introducing the stories and accentuating the main messages emerging from the stories of empowerment will be drafted by the secretariat and circulated to the Task Team by mid May 2010. Please see Table 1 for an updated list of stories.

Good Practice Notes

4. The Task Team is producing a series of good practice notes for policy makers and practitioners on specific topics that are critical for donors when working in the nexus between empowerment and pro-poor growth. The themes of the good practice notes have been identified and a lead donor agency assigned each topic. Four drafts have been submitted and several outlines have been discussed in the team, including papers on: Legal Empowerment and Pro-poor Growth and Empowerment, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. These are all available on the POVNET secure site. Further outlines and second drafts will be discussed during the Task Team's meeting on the 24 and 25th of March 2010. Please see Table 2 for an updated list of topics for the good practice notes.

Policy Guidance Note

5. The Task Team has engaged a consultant to draft the policy guidance note. Together with the members of the Task Team the consultant is also providing technical guidance and feedback on the stories of empowerment and the good practice notes. The policy guidance note will draw on the main messages from these products and it will be finalised by the end of 2010. Emerging policy messages will be presented to the Task Team on the 24 and 25 March 2010. A first written draft of the policy guidance note will be circulated for the Task Team by mid-May 2010.

IV. Working with other DAC subsidiary bodies

6. The broad DAC focus on empowerment compels POVNET to work closely with other subsidiary bodies of the DAC, and where possible, develop joint products. GENDERNET participate in all Task Team meetings and is drafting a good practice note on Women's Economic Empowerment as well as assuming a supporting role in producing a good practice note on monitoring empowerment.

7. GOVNET's work streams on aid accountability and human rights are also of relevance to the Task Team work. At the last meeting GOVNET presented a concept note for a seminar to present some good examples of how rights-based work can lead to income poverty reduction outcomes for the poor. GOVNET was looking for suggestions on issues and entry points as well as some volunteers to contribute in preparing and delivering the seminar. Employment, Land Rights and Social protection were all identified by members as areas with a lot of potential. The high priority that POVNET work gives to policies which can be delivered and have impact in the informal sector/economy in order to be relevant to poor people and the need for any work on rights to have a similar focus was also emphasised.

8. No volunteers, however, were forthcoming – and it was suggested to GOVNET that they should bring the issue back to the next POVNET plenary meeting at the end of March. Since this discussion took place during the last Task Team meeting in January 2010, the secretariats of POVNET, GOVNET and GENDERNET have revised the initial proposal. The reworked seminar agenda which proposes to further joint entry points on empowerment of poor people originating in the policies of the three respective networks will be presented to POVNET on 23 and 24 March 2010.

V. Developing Country Participation

9. Developing country experts have been invited to participate in and comment on the work of the Task Team. Following a selection process three experts joined the last Task Team meeting held back to back with POVNET in October 2009. The group is comprised of: Priyanthi Fernando, Sri Lanka, Marjorie Mbilinyi and Alais Ole Morindat, Tanzania. The developing country experts are also following the work of the Task Team online and serve to assure relevance of the products from their perspective. The developing country experts will next participate in the Task Team on 24 and 25th March 2010.

Table 1.**Stories of Empowerment**

Name and location	Agency	Status
Indigenous People, Nepal	Danida	1 st draft discussed in TT
Pastoral Communities, Tanzania	Danida	1 st draft discussed in TT
Save the Forest Movement, India	Danida	1 st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th of March
Federation FNAM, Mali	SDC	1 st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th of March
Democratization and Participation, Bangladesh	SDC	Under collection
Madagascar	SDC	Outline to be sent to secretariat by 15 th of March
Educating Girls in Serengeti, Tanzania	Irish Aid	To be collected in November
Urban Squatter Settlement, Zambia	Irish Aid	In discussion with partners
Self Employed Women (SEWA), India	IFAD and ILO	1 st draft discussed in TT
Learning Routes, Colombia	IFAD	Already gathered, English version to be submitted to secretariat
Puno Cusco, Peru	IFAD	1 st draft discussed in TT
Faso Jigi (Agri-culture Union), Mali	IFAD	1 st draft discussed in TT
Violence Prevention, South Africa	KfW	In discussion with partners
Support Micro-Finance, Congo	KfW	In discussion with partners
Empowerment through enhanced Literacy, Nepal	GTZ	1 st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th of March

Table 2

Good Practice Notes

Topic	Lead and (supporting Agency)	Status
Empowerment, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	IFAD (SDC/SIDA)	First draft discussed in TT, 2 nd draft circulated by 15 th of March
Empowerment, Decent Work and Pro-Poor Growth	ILO	Outline submitted, First draft received
Financial services and markets		Proposed
Empowerment in Local Development	Irish Aid (IFAD)	Outline discussed in TT, First draft received
Empowerment, phasing out and sustainability	SDC (Danida)	Outline submitted, first draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th of March
Empowerment and Monitoring	SDC (Gendernet and Sida)	Outline submitted, First draft received
Legal Empowerment	GTZ (ILO)	First draft discussed in TT, 2 nd draft received
Empowerment when working with organizations, federations and social movements		Proposed
Empowerment, Fragility and Conflict	Secretariat (consultant)	First draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th of March
Empowerment and Aid Modalities	Secretariat and SIDA to develop outline	Outline to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th of March
Women's Economic Empowerment	Gendernet (Irish Aid)	Outline received