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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

## DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

POVNET PROGRAMME OF WORK 2009-2010

FINAL STATUS REPORT OF THE POVNET TASK TEAM ON EMPOWERMENT AND PRO-POOR  
GROWTH

17-18 March 2011, OECD, Paris

*This document is for discussion under Item VIII of the draft agenda of the meeting of the DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET) [DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2011)2/REV1].*

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## FINAL STATUS REPORT

### THE POVNET TASK TEAM ON EMPOWERMENT AND PRO-POOR GROWTH

POVNET is asked to provide final input on the form and types of dissemination of the outputs of the Task Team as well as ways to ensure the best take up of the guidance. The Policy Guidance Note will be presented to POVNET on 18 March 2011.

#### 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 demonstrate how these contribute to pro-poor growth.

#### II. 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:

1. Stories of empowerment (see Table 1)
2. Good Practice Notes on specific topics (see Table 2)
3. A 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. Thirteen stories of empowerment have been selected for publication out of a total of 20 stories gathered. The stories describe incidences of empowerment from the point of view of those empowered and others involved. They are written and published so as to be interesting and informative in themselves. Within the portfolio of products produced by the team they are used to show in practical ways how empowerment happens, to provide illustrations for the series of good practice notes on channels for donor involvement and on how donors can best support empowerment

processes and. The stories are currently being copyedited into the final formats by a consultant. An introduction to the series accentuating the main messages emerging from the stories of empowerment has also been produced. The stories will be printed and made available online. In both the printed and electronic version links will be made available to longer and more detailed versions of the stories as well as links to additional information on the individual projects and programmes described in each story. See Table 1 for a list of stories. A number of stories of Empowerment will be made available at the POVNET meeting on 17 and 18 March 2011.

### ***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 were identified on a rolling basis and a lead donor agency has been assigned each topic. Eight out of ten good practice notes have been finalized and endorsed by the Task Team, Two good practice notes are still under revision and discussion. The good practice notes will be made available individually online as well as printed and packaged together. Key messages from the good practice notes will be presented to POVNET on 18 March 2011. Please see Table 2 for a list of themes covered in the good practice notes.

### ***Policy Guidance Note and Policy Statement***

5. The Task Team has engaged an expert on empowerment to draft the policy guidance note. Together with the members of the Task Team this consultant has also provided technical guidance and feedback on the stories of empowerment and the good practice notes. The policy guidance note draws on the main messages from the stories of empowerment and the good practice notes. Main policy messages distilled from the Policy Guidance Note will be presented to POVNET at its 17-18 March meeting along with a short policy statement.

## **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 has participated in all Task Team meetings and has drafted a good practice note on Women's Economic Empowerment.

## **V. Developing Country Participation**

7. Developing country experts have been participating in Task Team meetings held back to back with POVNET plenary meetings. 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 a developing country perspective. The developing country experts will next participate in the Task Team on 4 and 5 November 2010. Priyanthi Fernando is also drafting a Good Practice Note on Social Movements.

**Table 1****Stories of Empowerment**

<b>Name and location</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Status</b>	
Indigenous People, Nepal	Danida	Sent to the editor	<b>1</b>
Federation FNAM, Mali	SDC	Sent to the editor	<b>2</b>
Democratisation and Participation, Bangladesh	SDC	Sent to the editor	<b>3</b>
Empowering Rural Citizens, Madagascar	SDC	Sent to editor	<b>4</b>
SEWA, India	IFAD and ILO	Sent to the editor	<b>5</b>
Learning Routes, Colombia	IFAD	Sent to the editor	<b>6</b>
Puno Cusco, Peru	IFAD	Sent to the editor	<b>7</b>
Faso Jigi (Agri-culture Union), Mali	IFAD	Sent to the editor	<b>8</b>
Empowerment through enhanced Literacy, Nepal	GTZ	Sent to the editor	<b>9</b>
Empowerment and working with youth, Kenya	ILO	Sent to the editor	<b>10</b>
Business development with disabled women, Ethiopia	ILO	Sent to the editor	<b>11</b>
Violence prevention, South Africa	KfW	Sent to editor	<b>12</b>
Micro-credit, Sierra Leone	KfW	Sent to editor	<b>13</b>

**Table 2.****Good Practice Notes**

Topic	Lead and (supporting Agency)
Empowerment, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	IFAD (SDC/SIDA)
Empowerment, Decent Work and Pro-Poor Growth	ILO
Empowerment in Local Development	Irish Aid (IFAD)
Empowerment and Phasing Out	SDC (Danida)
Empowerment , Monitoring and Evaluation	SDC (Gendernet and Sida)
Legal Empowerment	GTZ (ILO)
Empowerment and Social Movements	Priyanthi Fernando (ILO)
Empowerment, Fragility and Conflict	ODI, Lyndsay Hilker
Empowerment and Aid Modalities	Jacinta Muteshi
Women's Economic Empowerment	GENDERNET (DfID)