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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TASK TEAM MEETING ON EMPOWERMENT

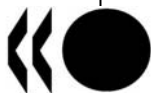
22 January 2010, Room D (Château), OECD Conference Centre, Paris

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE POVNET TASK TEAM ON EMPOWERMENT

22 JANUARY 2010, OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE, PARIS

I. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda (DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2010)A) was adapted to allow sufficient time to discuss the most developed GPNs made available for the meeting.

II. Human Rights and Pro-Poor Growth

2. Lisa Williams, GOVNET, presented a draft concept note to the Task Team regarding a joint seminar between GOVNET and POVNET exploring the interlinkages between Human Rights and Pro-Poor Growth. The Task Team was hereafter asked to consider which of the proposed entry-points the seminar should be focusing on. The Task Team expressed interest in several topics for the seminar, including labour rights, food security, land right and social protection. However, no Task Team members could commit to contributing towards organising the seminar. It was suggested that the GOVNET proposal be tabled for discussion at the next POVNET plenary meeting and that Task Team members should circulate the concept note internally in agencies to potentially interested colleagues with a view to having positions in advance of the POVNET meeting.

II. Stories of Empowerment

3. The secretariat presented a brief introduction of the evolution of the stories and the agreed format which these should follow (please see the summary record of the Task Team's meeting on the 22nd October 2009, DCD/DAC/POVNET/M(2009)8). After this a number of stories were presented on which the Task Team provided feedback. Task Team members were encouraged to share these and more detailed comments with the author in writing before **Friday February 5th 2010**. It was also decided that eventually the secretariat should produce a short synthesis paper (2-3 pages) introducing the stories, their background and with reference to the individual stories explain the different kinds of empowering processes that can be found in each of these. Generally it was felt authors should remind themselves that the stories need to:

- Express several perspectives, including that of the donor.
- Depict a map of those involved; stakeholders, donors, and partner organisations to identify key players involved.
- Elaborate on moments of change, when did the change happen, and why.
- Spell out clearly what the pro-poor growth dimension of the story is.
- Make obvious what the empowering elements of the story are.
- Elaborate on moments of conflict and ensure several perspectives are integrated.

III. Good Practice Notes

4. First drafts of GPNs were presented and discussed. It was agreed that written comments should be sent to the author before **Friday 5th February 2010**. It was also decided that each GPN should be associated with a supporting agency that provides substantial and timely comments to the author before it is submitted to the Task Team. See Table 2 for an updated list of GPNs, their respective supporting agencies and status of completion. The outlines which were not discussed in the meeting (Monitoring, and TORs of GPN on Conflict and Fragility) can be found on the secure site and comments should be provided to the authors by the 5th February 2010

a) Legal Empowerment of the Poor and its Relations to Pro-Poor Growth

5. Christina Hackmann, GTZ, presented the first draft GPN on Legal Empowerment. The GPN discusses issues concerning definitions of legal empowerment after which it focuses on 4 fundamentals of rights: rights enhancement, awareness, enablement and enforcement. The GPN also intends to integrate issues of social rights and accountability in its further development which was welcomed by the Task Team. The GPN will seek to expand the definitions as defined by the Commission of Legal Empowerment of the Poor in order to include aspects of poverty reduction rooted in the pro-poor growth and capability framework. In the main controversies section, the GPN concentrates on the difficulty of assimilating external (donor country) legal systems in developing countries and how this approach has failed to serve poor people because it neglects the importance of local knowledge and systems of power. The conclusion is still to be developed. The supporting role in the further development of this paper will be done by ILO.

6. The Task Team complimented the paper and also the fact that it was circulated well in advance to allow members proper time to read and prepare their comments. The following suggestions were made:

- Issues of citizenship should be made clear, who are included/excluded in existing legal frameworks.
- Separating land rights from property rights could clarify the discussion.
- The use of the term empowerment should be aligned to the working definition agreed by the Task Team.
- Political aspects and controversies around fighting discrimination should be included.
- The donor's role as actors in empowerment processes should be elaborated, how are they working on this topic and with whom?
- How legal empowerment could be integrated in the informal sector should be developed.
- The differences of legal empowerment at individual, group and state level should be brought out.
- Incorporating a case study of an innovative approach to legal empowerment would benefit the paper.
- Include what and how donors are assisting with implementation of international ratifications.
- The text should include findings on good (or bad) practice which should be illustrated by the case studies – these might be better presented in boxes rather than in the main text.
- The GPN should reflect the central place of empowerment in the POVNET work on promoting pro-poor growth (e.g. the 2006 Policy Statement).

b) Fostering Empowerment Processes in Donor Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (NRM)

7. Roberto Longo, IFAD, presented the main messages of the GPN including a need to focus on implementation rather than design when working with local level NRM. Four other issues were accentuated as being of high importance: 1) promoting fairer and more secure NR entitlements; 2) supporting participatory knowledge generation; 3) better organization of producers/value chains; and 4) organization around and participation in governance processes. These issues were shaped around three main questions; what to do, how to do it, and who to do it with. Also political aspects of empowerment and NRM were mentioned and the GPN recommends that empowerment is strategically supported by donors as an entry point for pro-poor growth.

8. The Task Team complimented IFAD for the GPN and its rich coverage of the topic. It was decided that Esse Nilsson, SIDA, and Laurent Ruedin, SDC, would inform IFAD of colleagues who can assume a supporting role on the GPN by Friday, February 5th. The Task Team provided the author with the following suggestions;

- The texts should be shortened.
- The GPN would benefit from making links to the legal empowerment GPN.
- Issues of policy coherence and how trade and development policies sometimes conflict could be brought forward.
- The policies are fine, but attention should also be given to why certain policies do not work.
- The sections on *what*, *how* and *who* could be shortened and made a little more digestible/interesting.
- The last section on *How to* and the role of donors should deepen what are the obstacles to the realisation of the principle listed at the end (*To recap*). These principles are well known but keep being poorly translated into practice, what are the reasons? and how to deal with them?

c) Empowerment in Local Development

9. Catherine Dom, the consultant working for Irish Aid, presented and summarized the extended outline of the GPN on Local Development. The GPN focuses on the lack of empowerment in local social networks and organisations as well as a lack of empowerment in local political decision-making processes, and questions how and if development in these areas actually lead to pro-poor growth outcomes for poor people. The Task Team appreciated the raising of the issue of power and how this relates to participation, accountability and service delivery at the local level. Finally the Task Team was asked to consider a few issues for the further development of the GPN, including differences in urban/rural development, and gender and youth.

10. The Task Team welcomed the topic and commended the depth of the GPN outline. It was decided that Roberto Longo, IFAD, will assume a supporting role on the GPN. The following suggestions were made to the author:

- Power-mapping might assist the GPN's further development in order to produce a better picture of the various players at the local level.
- Linkages should be made to IFAD's work on local development and poverty reduction.

- “How to” and practical entry points for donors are missing; the ideas and principles are well known but keep being poorly translated into practice, what are the reason? and how to deal with them?
- The paper is too comprehensive and needs substantial cutting down

IV. Planning and Time Frames

11. The chair informed the Task Team that it should have a portfolio of finished products to present to POVNET during its meeting around October 2010. After this a tour de table on products provided information on the status of each Task Team members’ products. Please see an updated list of the work plan Table 1 on stories and Table 2 on GPNs.

12. Furthermore it was agreed that the secretariat would contact Timo Voipio (Finland) and Anders Baltzer Joergensen (Danida) regarding providing a supporting role on ILO’s GPN on Empowerment and Decent Work.

The following deadlines have been agreed:

Friday February 5th 2010: Written feedback to the authors on all documents of the present Task Team meeting.

Monday March 15th 2010: Send first drafts of stories and GPNs to be discussed in the next meeting to the secretariat (Table 1 and Table 2).

V. AOB and date of next meeting

13. The Task Team will meet next back to back with POVNET on the afternoon of 24th and the whole day of 25th March 2010 in Paris.

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	1st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th March
Federation FNAM, Mali	SDC	1st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th March
Democratization and Participation, Bangladesh	SDC	Under collection
Madagascar	SDC	Outline to be sent to secretariat by 15 th 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	First draft discussed in TT
Learning Routes, Colombia	IFAD	Already gathered, English version to be submitted to secretariat
Puno Cusco, Peru	IFAD	First draft discussed in TT
Faso Jigi (Agri-culture Union), Mali	IFAD	First 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	1st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th March
Empowerment and working with youth, Kenya	ILO	1st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th March
Business development with disabled women, Ethiopia	ILO	1st draft to be sent to secretariat by 15 th March
Empowerment and Disability	Finland	Under collection

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 March
Empowerment, Decent Work and Pro-Poor Growth	ILO	Outline submitted, First draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th March
Financial services and markets		Proposed
Empowerment in Local Development	Irish Aid (IFAD)	Outline discussed in TT, First draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th March
Empowerment, phasing out and sustainability	SDC (Danida)	Outline submitted, first draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th March
Empowerment and Monitoring	SDC (Gendernet and Sida)	Outline submitted, First draft to be circulated by 15 th of March
Legal Empowerment	GTZ (ILO)	First draft discussed in TT, 2 nd draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th March
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 March
Empowerment and Aid Modalities	Secretariat and SIDA to develop outline	Outline to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th March
Women's Economic Empowerment	Gendernet (Irish Aid)	First draft to be submitted to secretariat by 15 th March

Table 3
Agreed Work Plan and Milestones

Milestone	Deadline
POVNET approval of Terms of Reference and work plan	POVNET meeting 17-18 March 2009
Request Storyline identification	
Storyline briefs Definition of Task Team member lead and supporting roles on Good Practice notes	3 April 2009
Selection of Storyline	23 April 2009 – On-going
Gathering and writing Stories	Ongoing
Drafting Good Practice notes	New drafts to be circulated by 15 th March 2010
Review and updating of list of products	POVNET meeting March 23 rd and 24 th 2010
Finalizing Good Practice Notes	On-going process throughout 2010
Drafting Policy Guidance Note	End of 2010, first outline to be presented in June 2010

**Participants list for DAC Network on Poverty Reduction (POVNET)
Empowerment Task Team**

22/1/2010

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