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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

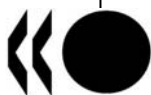
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TASK TEAM MEETING ON EMPOWERMENT

7-8 June 2010, SIDA, Stockholm

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POVNET TASK TEAM MEETING ON EMPOWERMENT

7 & 8 JUNE 2010, SIDA, STOCKHOLM

SUMMARY RECORD

I. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda (DCD/DAC/POVNET/A(2010)4) was adopted.

II. Good Practice Notes (GPNs) – 2nd drafts

a) Legal Empowerment of the Poor, BMZ/GTZ

2. The Task Team complimented the alterations made to the GPN and its coherent structure. A few changes were suggested to finalise the paper, including:

- The box on the first page needs to carry key messages for donors rather than generic statements from the paper.
- The introduction should be altered to include stronger links to Pro-Poor Growth (PPG) and relate more closely to the content of the note.
- Include only one case study in each text box.

b) Empowerment through Local Citizenship, Irish Aid

3. Earnan O’Cleireigh, Irish Aid, presented the GPN on local development. The Task Team commended the development of the paper and suggested the following alterations to be made to the final draft:

- The structure should be streamlined by having fewer and broader headings, and made more modular to facilitate readers interested in specific sections.
- The text should clearly define what are tools, evidence, examples and principles.
- Further efforts should be made to reduce the length of the paper.

c) Monitoring and Evaluating Empowerment, SDC

4. Laurent Ruedin, SDC, presented the GPN on monitoring and evaluating empowerment which is now in its final stage and has benefitted from a comprehensive consultation with the EVALUNET secretariat. The paper was complimented for its clear structure, open style and focus on key messages. For its final draft it was suggested the paper includes:

- A discussion of results as they are defined differently by donors and other stakeholders. Emphasise moving towards country-owned results and not just away from donor-centred ones.

d) Empowerment in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (NRM), IFAD

5. Roberto Longo, IFAD, presented the revised draft of the GPN on empowerment and NRM. The Task Team complimented the development of the paper and suggested the following when finalizing the draft:

- The “what to do section” needs to focus on what donors *should* do, not only what they *are* doing.
- Spell out the links between empowerment and agricultural development, even when they appear obvious.
- If possible highlight bad practices.
- The text should be shortened (consider cutting down the number and size of boxes).
- Include aspects of property rights/land reform.

e) Decent Work and Empowerment for Pro-Poor Growth, ILO

6. Christoph Ernst, ILO, presented the draft GPN. The Task Team welcomed the enhanced structure of the paper and suggested the following alterations made to the final draft:

- Identify the “problem” being tackled (indecent work) earlier in the draft.
- Insert what donors can/should do in the key messages box.
- Include disempowering aspects of indecent work and show how decent work empowers people.
- Highlight the role of the donor in supporting and responding to the decent work agenda.
- Enhance aspects of informal work, including in urban areas; show the decent work agenda is relevant to both rural and urban areas and how decent work measures can work in the informal sector.
- Begin with how things are (livelihoods) and then move on to how things should be (formal work).
- Include aspects of women working in the informal economy.
- Explain, briefly, the issue of risks.
- Cut down the section on social protection.

III. Discussion of Good Practice Notes – 1st drafts**a) Women’s Economic Empowerment, GENDERNET**

7. Carina Lindberg, GENDERNET, presented the first draft of the GPN on women’s economic empowerment which was well received for covering a lot of ground and important issues. In preparing the second draft the paper should include:

- Women migrant worker’s rights.
- A section on controversies, including quotas, informal work, and how the market economy’s neglect of the care economy may be disabling pro-poor growth.
- Initial sections of the paper should have a PPG-focussed analysis that identifies the key empowerment domains for the involvement of poor women in economic activity to set the

agenda for the paper – this should bring the paper to address agricultural production, processing and local trading.

- The paper should identify the specificities of poor women's livelihoods and target them.
- Participation in markets is a key issue rather than international trade.
- Include how public expenditure can be designed to promote women's economic empowerment, further gender equality in economic opportunity and WEE – such as rural roads or public works programmes or rural water supply management.
- Emphasise the role of education in relation to knowledge and services and build the case for women's education as a driver of the poverty reduction impact of growth.
- Include aspects of collective action.
- Bring in DfID's work on women's economic empowerment.
- Household inequality effects on WEE and how to address.

b) Empowerment and Phasing Out, SDC

8. Laurent Ruedin, SDC, presented the first draft of the GPN on empowerment and phasing out. The Task Team welcomed the paper and its focus on sustainability. The following recommendations were suggested:

- Include recommendations on working with existing institutions versus institutions dependent or created by donors.
- Reflect on “phasing over” from donor to government, and how to turn projects into public programmes and “responsible” exit.
- Integrate aspects of do no harm in project design.
- Provide guidance on responsible exit strategies: exit should be defined at entry.
- Draw on relevant parts of the M4P work on sustainability issues.

c) Empowerment and Aid Modalities, (TORs) SIDA/Secretariat

9. Esse Nilsson, SIDA, presented a draft TORs for the GPN on Empowerment and Aid Modalities. The following recommendations were made:

- The GPN should look at evaluations of all forms of aid modalities including projects, GBS, SWAPs, and PRSP processes to assess strengths and weaknesses in the different methods.
- Similarly to evaluations done on GBS in relation to gender, the GPN should look at do's and don'ts of working on empowerment in different contexts.
- The paper should link to the other GPNs to identify when empowerment works.
- The key messages should concern how to mainstream empowerment by using all the aid modalities at hand.

d). Empowerment and Equity, Finland

10. Timo Voipio, Finland, informed the Task Team that the GPN on Empowerment and Equity was currently under production and that a draft would be ready towards the end of June. This will be circulated in advance of the next Task Team meeting in September.

IV. GPN - Use and Dissemination.

11. The Task Team brainstormed on dissemination and use of the good practice notes. It was decided to produce a standard booklet with the policy guidance note and thematic good practice notes which should also be made available individually online. In order to promote the products a launch of the products was considered, including producing a short video introducing the work. Showing the importance of the work to the 5 dimensions of poverty successfully established by the earlier POVNET guidelines could help dissemination. It was furthermore stressed that consultants and students are good avenues for disseminating the products. It was also suggested to link up with the Train4Dev network in developing training based on the products.

V. Trial Story

12. It was decided to proceed with having all stories edited by the consultant hired for the trial story. A few recommendations, however, need to be stressed, including having a clear pro-poor growth angle and making messages to donors clear in every story. It was furthermore agreed that every story sent to the consultant should be accompanied by three key messages communicating what the story is about to help guide the consultant when editing the stories. Also, the consultant should be provided with the contact details of all members of the Task Team so that these can be contacted for any further information needed by the consultant.

VI. Stories of Empowerment

13. The Task Team split up into groups to assess the stories received thus far according to the agreed criteria. The comments to each individual story can be found in Table 1 below. It was agreed the stories that still needed further work should be altered according to the comments and circulated 2 weeks before next meeting. The stories which received a “go” should incorporate the comments made at the meeting and as they are finalised they should be sent to the consultant, no later than 15 July. Before forwarding the story it was decided the authors should:

- Identify the author of the stories (agency/collaboration of agencies).
- Pick out three key messages to guide the editor on what to focus on.
- Include in a box a description of who the key players in the story are.
- Be more narrative and avoid using too much development jargon.

VII. Policy Guidance Note

14. Rosalind Eyben presented the first draft of the policy guidance note on empowerment and pro-poor growth. Overall it was felt the draft was too long. The first two sections could be cut back considerably, moving on sharply from empowerment (what it is) to why it is important for pro-poor growth. The draft should obviously not be a summary of the GPNs and stories but set itself as a “cover” or “chapeau” for them. Early on the report should show the urgency of the message (using POVNET as well as World Bank material). An important part of the draft should concern the routes to empowerment, how these are important for pro-poor growth, and how donors can support them. This should be followed by

showing the changes required in donors to support empowerment for pro-poor growth. The Task Team suggested the following alterations when preparing the second draft:

- Explain the different transmissions between empowerment and pro-poor growth and set out more clearly what we know about how donors can support them.
- Consider putting the routes to empowerment in a diagram.
- Emphasize the importance of empowerment and its relation to pro-poor growth and to sustainability.
- Link more to the GPNs and stories of empowerment.
- Use references to boxes in section on implications for donor practice rather than introducing new ones.
- Make sections 3 and 4 the heart of the paper, and cut down sections 1 and 2 substantially (12-15 pages in total).
- Make links from the empowerment agenda to other development agendas, including the MDGs.
- Persuade donors why empowerment is integral for poverty reduction and pro-poor growth.
- In the routes section, the link between empowerment and markets should be reinforced.
- The introduction needs to show the urgency of the topic, the need to improve on present approaches and to integrate POVNET's multidimensionality approach to poverty reduction.
- It was decided an altered version should be circulated to the Task Team for comments prior to the second draft being presented at the next meeting.

VIII. AOB and date of next meeting

15. It was decided the Task Team will meet on 27 and 28 September 2010.

Deadlines:

Stories: Those stories that received a “go” should incorporate the comments made and be sent to the Secretariat to be forwarded to the consultant as they are finalised, no later than 15 July. Other stories should be circulated two weeks in advance of the next meeting.

GPNs: The GPNs in their 2nd or 3rd draft stage, and thus almost finished, should be finalised and circulated before 15th July. First drafts GPNs discussed in Stockholm and new drafts should be circulated two weeks in advance of the next meeting (10 September 2010).

Policy Guidance Note: Comments on the Policy Guidance Note should be sent to Rosalind before 18 June 2010.

Table 1

Stories of Empowerment

Name and location	Agency	Status	Recommendation Ready/needing more work
Indigenous People, Nepal	Danida	2nd draft discussed in TT	Yes, go ahead with story. Spell out the link to pro-poor growth more clearly. Consider the balancing act: yes, pro-poor for indigenous people, but what impact does <i>not</i> building the dam have on other people? Lessons for donors include: ADB's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) did not identify the area's indigenous people => EIAs need to be complemented with additional analysis/policy instrument(s). ADB did not foresee an increase in the water level, but the indigenous people did => there is a need to involve local people in assessments.
Pastoral Communities, Tanzania	Danida	1 st draft discussed in TT	Yes, go ahead with story. Add captions/names to photos. The inclusion of more voices from the conservationist organisation is encouraged. Make the link to pro-poor growth, for example in terms of access to resources. Lesson for donors: User groups can provide a successful basis on which to form interest groups.
Federation FNAM, Mali	SDC	1st draft to be sent to Secretariat by 15 March	Yes, go ahead with story. Make clear if the process of <i>Yérékimé</i> will continue beyond its current phase. Spell out the link to pro-poor growth more clearly. In particular, illustrate the specific economic benefits to individual artisans. Lesson for donors: Keep a distance and more strategic relationship between donor and beneficiary.
Democratisation and Participation, Bangladesh	SDC	1st draft to be circulated by mid-May	Yes, go ahead with story. Make the story less project oriented/praising. Make link to pro-poor growth, using as an example the raising of taxes. Lesson for donors: Capacity building measures and changes in administrative procedures and processes had a positive impact.
Empowering Rural Citizens, Madagascar	SDC	Outline to be sent to Secretariat	Do not go ahead with story <i>unless there is time and resources available to do more research</i> . The language is too 'developmentish'. Make clear when and how empowerment took place. The group feels that the policy messages about local governance comes across clearer in the story from Bangladesh.
Educating Girls in Serengeti, Tanzania	Irish Aid	1 st draft discussed in TT	Needs more work. Requires further research in Tanzania to make it acceptable It is not only a question of rewriting. PPG : No, link between education and PPG is not made Narrative : ok Messages for audience: to whom? Who is supporting the Kimko friends? multiple perspective : no Edge: No Other issue : The way tradition / culture is treated is problematic as is the use of quotation.

Name and location	Agency	Status	Recommendation Ready/needing more work
Self Employed Women (SEWA), India	IFAD and ILO	2 nd draft discussed in TT	<p>Yes, go ahead with story PPG and Empowerment :Ok Narrative: Should make clear from ILO perspective (in general for all stories, the institutional position of the writer should be explicit). Messages for audience: Ok, maybe one should spell out more clearly that donor also learn and change. Multiple perspective: Ok, but would be interesting to interview a UNIFEM representative supporting SEWA Edge: SEWA helped ILO to rethink women's work: national statistics invisibilized women's work: <i>"the support between SEWA and ILO is reciprocal and mutually reinforcing."</i> could be more edgy.</p>
Learning Routes, Colombia	IFAD	Already gathered, English version to be submitted to Secretariat	<p>Yes, go ahead with story but integrate recommendations. PPG and empowerment : good Narrative : If we would follow a palanqueiros would it be possible to focus on a few aspects and have the rest of the information more in background: everything is a bit at the same level. For country office, not credible as it is too sweet, <u>there should be more of what IFAD has done</u> in order to be useful. Multiple perspective : not clear, maybe we could have a box summarizing who is who: clearer ideas of the different organisations involved: PROCASUR ... Who is telling the story? Edge: yes Other issue: Too sweet, competition learning is also about discomfort. Need more on challenges.</p>
Puno Cusco, Peru	IFAD	2 nd draft circulated by mid-May	<p>Yes, go ahead with the story. PPG and empowerment : OK Narrative: should make the selection, co-finance scheme clearer earlier. Messages for audience : ok Multiple perspective: The quote of Roberto <i>"The driving principle of the Corredor, says IFAD country program manager Roberto Haudry..... Organizations and technical experts."</i>p.4 should come earlier as this explains the very principle of the story. Edge: people losing because of belonging to a political party. Other issue: Do not name CARITAS, instead some INGO ... as CARITAS has not been involved in the story. Keep the quote which is key but avoid the explicit mention.</p>
Faso Jigi (Agriculture Union), Mali	IFAD	2 nd draft circulated by mid-May	<p>Yes, proceed with the story. Perhaps a little more creative/narrative. Add more voices. Needs more edit as it is long. Draw out messages/examples of empowerment. Very organisational – fine, but need clarifications.</p>

Name and location	Agency	Status	Recommendation Ready/needing more work
Empowerment through enhanced Literacy, Nepal	GTZ	1st draft to be sent to secretariat by mid-May	Yes, proceed with the story. Links to pro-poor growth should be highlighted. Empowering aspects of the capacity building components in the PLC groups should be unfolded. On page 3, re. the group dismantling a non-representative local forestry committee and reinstating a more democratic one = needs elaboration to draw out what made the PLC members empowered to act in such a way.
Empowerment and working with youth, Kenya	ILO	2 nd draft to be circulated by mid-May	Needs more work. The story read as narrative reporting, which could be enhanced. More perspectives/voices should be included. Although income generating activities for poor youth could read as PPG the sustainability of the programme was questioned. Did the govt subsidize this, and what would happen once it finished? A few numbers on how many people benefiting and participating in the project would be useful. Moments of change in relation to empowerment could be enhanced. Were they happening simply because the youth suddenly gained a higher income? Messages for donors do exist (such as keeping expectations realistic and importance of mobilization of youth). These, and more could, however, be enhanced.
Business development with disabled women, Ethiopia	ILO	1st draft to be circulated by mid-May	Needs more work. The link from begging to entrepreneurship was a little too fantastic/unrealistic. Some of the aspects derived from disabled people in the Abilis story should maybe be incorporated. It would be interesting to know how many people the project was/is reaching. Moments of change could be enhanced, spelling out when the disabled people are empowered and how they broke down the barriers that were keeping them poor/disempowered. Include some more on the organizational relations between ILO, ABILIS, National institutions and how that works/doesn't work.
Empowerment and Disability	Finland	Under collection	Needs more work. Too descriptive, a story of the organisation rather than the people and the empowerment that the disabled people experienced. Moments of change unclear. Needs more information about the people/stakeholders. Perhaps rewritten in combination with ILO story on Ethiopia.

Table 2.**Good Practice Notes**

Topic	Lead and (supporting Agency)	Status
Empowerment, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	IFAD (SDC/SIDA)	2 nd draft discussed in TT, final draft to be circulated by 15 July
Empowerment, Decent Work and Pro-Poor Growth	ILO	2 nd draft discussed in TT, final draft to be circulated by 15 July
Financial services and markets		Proposed
Empowerment in Local Development	Irish Aid (IFAD)	2 nd draft discussed in TT, final draft to be circulated by 15 July
Empowerment, phasing out and sustainability	SDC (Danida)	First draft discussed in TT. 2 nd draft circulated by 10 September
Empowerment , Monitoring and Evaluation	SDC (Gendernet and Sida)	2 nd draft discussed in TT, final draft to be circulated by 15 July
Legal Empowerment	GTZ (ILO)	2 nd draft discussed in TT, final draft to be circulated by 15 July
Empowerment when working with organizations, federations and social movements	Priyanthi	Fist draft to be circulated by 10 September
Empowerment, Fragility and Conflict	Secretariat (consultant)	Fist draft to be circulated by 10 September
Empowerment and Aid Modalities	Secretariat and SIDA to develop outline	Fist draft to be circulated by 10 September
Women's Economic Empowerment	GENDERNET (Dfid)	2 nd draft to be circulated by 10 September

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 10 September 2010
Review and updating of list of products	POVNET meeting 3 and 4 November 2010
Finalizing Good Practice Notes	On-going process throughout 2010
Drafting Policy Guidance Note	End of 2010, 2 nd draft to be presented September 2010

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