



A finger on the pulse

In 2003 Cordaid wants to focus on the question what PRSP's actually do deliver. To answer this question more information is needed about the quality of discussion between civic organisations and government institutions. Also the (or lack of) concrete linkages between policies to reduce poverty and actual results in the field need to become clear.

On forehand Cordaid believes that to make PRSP's work, monitoring on different levels (national, district, local) is extremely important especially when it is combined with relevant feedback mechanisms to question policymakers and inform the general public. Cordaid wants to engage in a debate with NGO's in several (African) countries to learn and to define Cordaid's own role more clearly within the context of PRSP's and the activities partners of Cordaid have developed.

This year Cordaid has started a programme called "Finger on the pulse". Together with partners Cordaid wants to find ways to strengthen the work of partners beyond its funding activities. For example by taking the initiative to produce and publish a kind of PRSP watch with, on the one hand, a focus on best practices in the field of monitoring and relevant feedback mechanisms. On the other hand, information on governmental poverty reduction policy intentions and its implementation could be part of such a publication.

Together with the Dutch health organisation Wemos Cordaid has organised a seminar in 2002 about the relationship of PRSP's and health policy. For this year Cordaid and Wemos will look more closely on the involvement of the Dutch government in sector policies and its consequences for the implementation of PRSP's. Most likely this information can be used for lobbying efforts in the Netherlands.

We look forward to continue the debate on what PRSP's actually deliver and how collaboration can be strengthened to develop relevant instruments and strategies to make PRSP's real tools of poverty reduction.

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