

CSPR Inception Workshop for Civil Society's Engagement in the Formulation of Zambia's 5th National Development Plan

In the framework of the MDG-processes and the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiatives donor committed themselves to align their development cooperation efforts to the Poverty Reduction Strategies or any National Development Strategy focussing on poverty reduction.

Reviews of Poverty Reduction Processes have revealed a certain disillusionment (57 countries, 45 countries with full PRSP, 30 out of the 57 countries from Africa):

- 1) deficits in the political process (to nationalize the PRS and to own it; also a dominance of macro-economic concerns as pushed by the IFIs)
- 2) missing institutional capacities (e.g. serious gaps between the paper and any operational plan as well as adequate costing tied to realistic targeting within the PRSP)
- 3) structural causes of poverty are not enough addressed (e.g. decentralisation policies are not implemented, but also governance issues like transparency, accountability, separation of powers and checks and balances are not yet observed in full)
- 4) no clear priorities set for the poor (e.g. priorities on social sectors and related budget commitments by government)
- 5) non or weak involvement of the electorate (e.g. parliament and district councils)
- 6) weak participation and involvement of civil society (e.g. civil society's views critical of the macro-economic parts in the PRSP are not observed)
- 7) no adequate structures on subnational level to formulate, implement and monitor PRS (e.g. consultative process was mainly on national levels and DDCC are not yet on a working level to give a meaningful input to NDP)
- 8) limited possibilities of poor and marginalized people to participate in and influence national policies and PRS/NDP (self-mandated and self-qualified participation of civil society)

Cooperating partners and the NDP

Is the NDP a welcome approach to CP

Yes.

Cooperating Partners engagement in the process and support to the implementation

Financing. MoFNP, SAGs, HIP but to a lesser extend involvement of civil society. Donors should avoid to establish a parallel communication structure without involvement of cv or the electorate.

Cooperating Partners view on the role of civil society in the NDP process

Self-mandated, self-qualified and institutionalized participation of cs is of utmost importance. Otherwise NDP can not claim to be the plan of the people of Zambia.

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