Review of MDG-F Joint Programmes Key Findings and Achievements

Executive Summaries

MDG-F
MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND

Preface

In December 2006, the United Nations and the Government of Spain signed a landmark agreement, establishing the MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) – a global initiative aimed at tackling poverty and supporting national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. With approximately US$900 channeled towards key development goals the focus has been on triggering real change in people's lives and influencing public policy making it more responsive to the needs of the poor.

As a United Nations initiative, the MDG-F has embraced a multi-sectoral approach that builds on the expertise of over 25 UN agencies, bringing them together to build on their comparative advantage. Devising integrated programmes that address the multiple dimensions of poverty has proven helpful in addressing complex development challenges. With a firm conviction that national ownership and leadership is instrumental to all poverty reduction efforts, the MDG-F has worked with partners to pilot models and support existing national programmes that can be scaled up into national policy frameworks.

The MDG-F is one of the major cooperation mechanisms dedicated to promoting the achievement of the MDGs and encouraging the "Delivering as One" UN system's agenda. Working closely with UN agencies, national governments and other national partners, the MDG-F has financed a portfolio of 130 joint programmes across 50 countries around the world, covering eight thematic areas: children, food security and nutrition; youth employment and migration; culture and development; gender equity and women's empowerment; private sector and development; conflict prevention and peace building; environment and climate change; and democratic economic governance.   Through their work, the joint programmes have contributed to the promotion of human development and to progress towards the MDGs.

A series of eight thematic studies were commissioned by the MDG-F Secretariat to capture a tremendous amount of achievements, experiences and positive impact in the lives of communities across five regions over the past six years. The studies have been prepared by independent thematic experts who have provided invaluable input and technical knowledge. They are based on extensive desk reviews, interviews with selected joint programmes and a thorough analysis and synthesis of inputs and contributions. Many of the MDG-F joint programmes are still ongoing and are expected to be completed no later than June 2013.

The MDG-F Secretariat wishes to thank the 130 joint programme teams and 50 national governments for their commitment to eradicating poverty and advancing on the MDG through the concrete results achieved with these programmes. The MDG-F is also grateful to all the participating UN agencies who have contributed to the advancement of structured inter-agency cooperation as well as the knowledge management convener agencies for their valuable efforts in capturing and sharing knowledge emerging from each thematic area.

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Children, Food Security and Nutrition

Thematic study executive summary

Background

The challenge of food security and under-nutrition

Over the past two decades, developing regions have made significant progress in reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger, but improvements have slowed down since 2007. According to *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012* report*,* nearly 870 million people were still suffering from chronic under-nutrition in 2010-2012[i], the very large majority in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia[ii]. Achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing by half the share of hungry people in the developing world by 2015 still remains a key challenge[iii]. Tackling food insecurity and under-nutrition is crucial to reducing poverty and inequalities across the globe. UNICEF has recently reiterated that preventing child stunting could help break the cycle of poverty.

The MDG-Fund Children, Food Security and Nutrition Thematic Window

The thematic window on Children, Food Security and Nutrition (CFSN) of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) was launched in 2008, with the overarching objective to accelerate progress towards the achievement of MDG 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and of MDG 4: reducing child mortality. US$134.5 million were allocated to 24 Joint Programmes (JPs): 8 in Sub-Saharan Africa; 7 in Asia; 8 in Latin America; and 1 in Europe and the CIS[iv], representing the largest thematic area of intervention of the Fund. The 24 countries that received assistance under the CFSN window have various social development characteristics, but available data indicates that 18 of the 24 countries hosted about 35% of the under-nourished people of the world in 2010-2012[v].

Achievements and Results

Common Programmatic Objectives

At the country level, the JPs were implemented by multiple United Nations Agencies in collaboration with local counterparts, working together to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable households. Three main programmatic outcomes guided the work of the JPs: (1) promoting integrated approaches for alleviating child hunger and under-nutrition; (2) advocating and mainstreaming access to food and child nutrition into relevant national and sub-national policies; and (3) reinforcing the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of food security.

The main contribution of the Joint Programmes

The thematic study on CFSN puts into light some key achievements reached by the JPs across the 24 countries. In particular, the study highlights progress in the following five areas:

- The advocacy work undertook by the JPs facilitated policy dialogue on food security and under-nutrition, and helped integrate food security and child malnutrition issues into mainframe national and sub-national policies.
- The focus on capacity development allowed the JPs to reinforce the monitoring and surveillance systems in the regions of intervention, as well as to strengthen service delivery and knowledge management.
- The JPs promoted the implementation of innovative cross-sectorial and holistic approaches that contributed to alleviating child hunger and under-nutrition.
- The JPs provided direct support to women and children affected by food insecurity and under-nutrition through integrated packages.
- The JPs addressed inequality issues by targeting the most vulnerable groups.

Support to national and sub-national governments to incorporate nutrition security into policies and programs:
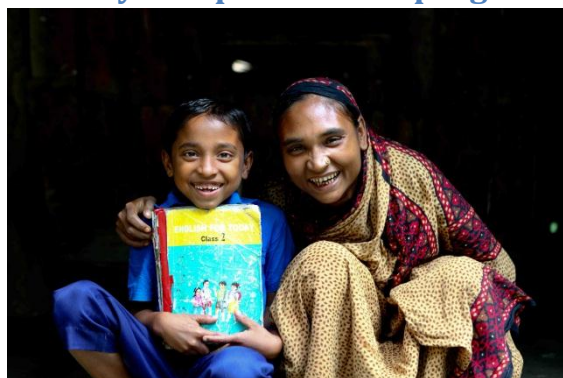
The overall aim of the JPs was to enable policy dialogue based on global evidence, with the aim of incorporating nutrition and food security into policies. The advocacy efforts of the JPs have resulted in major achievements with the revision or development of food/nutrition policies at the national and sub-national level. Noticeable improvements were also completed with respect to national monitoring frameworks and nutrition surveillance systems. In 9 countries, programmes were designed to directly complement on-going national programs (Peru, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Cuba, Senegal, Mauritania, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau and Bangladesh).

Capacity development to strengthen service delivery and knowledge management:

Capacity building activities have been a success across all JPs. They have mostly consisted of the following types of efforts: (1) promoting programme decentralization and constituting regional and lower level management synergies;, (2) enabling improved programme coverage and quality through mapping and local area planning;, (3) making guidelines and protocols for programmes available in the field;, (4) implementing additional advocacy and communication activities and improving on-going advocacy through media and materials (in local languages);, (5) support to for training and re-training of critical programme functionaries, community and household stakeholders;, and (6) strengthening supply in some cases (provision of food, micronutrient supplements, weighing scales, new WHO growth charts).

Knowledge management was also enabled through targeted training offered to national academic and professional institutions (adding nutrition to school curricula, recipe trails and documentation), and through mass media strategies to mainstream nutrition information and initiate sustained dissemination.

Innovative Programmes: 'Integrated packages for women and children':

Community level integrated packages to address hunger and malnutrition in women and children were implemented across almost all JPs. This consisted mainly of developing cross-sectorial interventions addressing malnutrition and implementing them in targeted areas/vulnerable communities. The main activities included: (1) Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP); (2) intense nutrition, health, and hygiene advocacy; (3) Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) to promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF); (5) improving health and immunization services for women and children; (6) micro-nutrient and food supplementation; and (7) expanding treatment and rehabilitation of severely malnourished (SAM and MAM) children (both at community and facility levels). The integrated packages gave equal emphasis to preventive (nutrition and health education), and curative (nutrition rehabilitation centers) strategies and implemented a mix of direct and indirect interventions.

Alleviating child hunger and improving food security through multi-sectoral approaches:

Other community pilots implemented to improve household and community food security were: (1) promotion of home and school gardens; (2) advocacy and training of school children and families in dietary diversification; (3) increasing production of locally available foods; (4) preparing fortified complementary foods at the local levels (training to improve local complementary foods); (5) improving agricultural technologies; (6) support to micro enterprise for the production and consumption of nutritious foods by vulnerable households; (7) improving safe drinking water and sanitation facilities; and (8) other income-generating activities (IGAs), especially for women's groups.

Addressing inequalities:

Food insecurity and under-nutrition often intersect with other types of deprivations, and an analysis of social indicators across the 24 countries of intervention indicates that some groups are more vulnerable than others. In Latin America, indigenous people appear to have less access to healthcare (Guatemala, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru). Similarly, in South Asia, religion and caste influence the use of maternal health and delivery services, in addition to household income status and women's education. In Sub-Saharan Africa, indigenous populations dwelling in rural areas show a higher prevalence of child and mother under-nutrition.

All 24 JPs focused on addressing inequalities. In Latin America, the JPs in Cuba and Bolivia focused more on the most vulnerable municipalities. In Guatemala, Colombia and El Salvador, the JPs supported indigenous communities to improve child nutrition. Brazil empowered its indigenous populations by supporting their demand for the respect of their human rights to food and healthcare.

In Africa, the JPs in Mali and Mauritania targeted the most vulnerable regions and municipalities so as to reach the poorest households. Angola also directed its efforts to improve the health, nutritional and educational status of poor and vulnerable groups. Senegal focused on reinforcing the capacities of vulnerable groups to fight under-nutrition. Similarly, in Asia, the JP in China addressed the needs of women and children belonging to vulnerable households.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/128wxaV

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Thematic study executive summary

Background

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The Millennium Declaration identified Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) as one of eight Millennium Development Goals and stated that it was an effective means to combat poverty, hunger and disease, as well as to stimulate development that is truly sustainable. Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG 3) was established to "Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015." The MDG Summit 2010 called for further action to ensure gender parity in education, health, economic opportunities and decision-making through gender mainstreaming in development policymaking. An important route to achieving gender equality is by empowering of women through education, employment and political representation, as well as by ensuring women's access to reproductive health services. Another fundamental step towards the realization of gender equality is to eradicate all forms violence against women.

The MDG-Fund Gender Equality Thematic Window

In light of these developments, the 13 Joint Programmes (JPs) under this thematic window were designed to address gender equality in a broad and holistic manner, thereby contributing to the fulfillment of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls. The overall design, purpose and structure of the Joint Programmes were rooted in the recognition that GEWE are vital for the realization of human rights for all. The main thematic issues selected reflect a deep understanding that in order to achieve gender equality, both *de facto* and *de jure,* it is necessary to build a society in which women and men share equally in the distribution of power and influence and have equal access to education, health, decent work and livelihoods.

The Joint Programmes were carried out in countries with varying degrees of poverty and levels of development, as well as distinctive political, economic and social conditions. They were all designed to address national development priorities in keeping with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and taking into account the goal of "Delivering as One". Most of the programmes involved a wide range of partners and the application of a multidisciplinary multi-sector approach due to the fact that gender equality is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be addressed in all spheres and areas (health, education, employment, political participation, etc.). Numerous beneficiaries and stakeholders (both duty-bearers and rights-holders) were targeted at all levels. A majority of the JPs involved the sectoral ministries and line ministries responsible for service provision; they thus reached a large number of government officials, including those working at local government level. Most of the programmes identified beneficiaries/rights holders whose human rights were not respected and protected and who largely belong to the most disadvantaged and excluded population groups.

Nearly all of the Joint Programmes (11) tackled Gender-Based Violence. The other main thematic areas were Economic and Political Empowerment of Women, and issues related to Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS. Diverse approaches and interventions were applied at different levels, ranging from strategies to improve and implement national laws and policies which were found in the vast majority of Joint Programmes, to capacity building interventions at the local level targeting municipalities and local government bodies. All of the JPs included some form of training, which varied from formal capacity building initiatives to holding information sessions as a means to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of women and girls. Interventions were also undertaken at the individual level by working directly with the intended beneficiaries to strengthen their capacity to claim and exercise their human rights. All the Joint Programmes also concentrated their efforts on increasing public awareness and knowledge through the creation and diffusion of information and expertise, as a means to bring about social change with specific results at the policy level. This was achieved through, for example, communication and advocacy activities, the development of studies and policy papers, and the use of diverse tools and training materials.

Achievements and Results

For the most part, the programmes were envisaged to help bring about positive social change in the lives of the rights-holders/participants/beneficiaries and, at the same time, build the capacity of the duty-bearers at all levels to fulfill their corresponding duties and obligations. Social change was visualized and anticipated in the design and planning phase of the Joint Programmes, which called for multi-stakeholder collaboration and a multi-sectoral approach, thereby constituting a collective

effort to transform attitudes and behavior within society. The notion of social change was generally based on a set of assumptions and the identification of conditions that need to occur to bring about such transformations. Therefore, in all of the JPs, regardless of the thematic area being covered, specific examples can be found of the way social change was achieved in terms of behavior and attitudes among the beneficiaries, both rights-holders and duty-bearers.

The interventions and approaches selected for the programmes fall into four categories:

Capacity development to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Changing behaviors related to violence against women and girls was a major component of the programme in Bangladesh. Some 23,986, people including journalists, employers, managers, trade union leaders, district officials, teachers, judges and prosecutors, members of the Sex Workers Network, and many others received awareness training on GBV.

The Joint Programme in Colombia was implemented at the national level and in four regions of the country, with notable results. There is reported evidence of an increase awareness of GBV among members of the media and in the political campaigns. New strategic alliances were formed which have brought together government institutions and civil society, and new spaces and mechanisms for dialogue have been created. In all, the programme was able to strengthen the institutions responsible for prevention of GBV and the provision of services to victims. Particularly noteworthy is the strengthening of data collection systems and the creation of a solid body of evidence from which to develop public policies.

Addressing governance issues was a key factor for the success of the programme in Morocco as well as the partnerships that were established between 13 ministerial departments eight UN Agencies

and civil society as represented by 40 NGOs. As a result of the programme, penal laws were improved to protect women and children, women and girls were reportedly empowered as actors of development, women's rights were integrated in policies and programs of local government, and a range of social services (e.g. health, justice, police) were established in six regions for victims of violence.

Legislative and policy frameworks, and gender-responsive budgeting

An important achievement of the programme in Brazil was strengthening the capacity of the Special Secretariat for Women's Policies (SPM) and the Special Secretariat for the Promotion of Policies on Racial Equality (SEPPIR) to ensure gender and racial perspectives in all policies, programmes and public services. A specific outcome was the development of a methodology for monitoring the SEPPIR Action Plan.

The programme in Guatemala aimed at the implementation of the National Policy for the Promotion and Development of Women (PNPDIM) and the Policy for Equal Opportunity (PEO) 2008-2023. To achieve this, it strengthened the capacity of the Presidential Secretary for Women (SEPREM) and the Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women (DEMI). These efforts enabled the integration of the national policy by eight Ministries and Secretariats (e.g. Education, Health, Economy, Labour, Agriculture and Finance) as well as a significant increase in the national budget for SEPREM, which is expected to ensure its continuity and sustainability.

In Nicaragua, there is reportedly a growing commitment on behalf of the mayors in the 15 municipalities targeted by the Joint Programme: an estimated 113,814 women were mobilized and consulted for the formulation of gender responsive budgets and local gender policies, and 23,098 women participated in local government decision-making processes regarding the financing of their income-generating projects. These positive developments at the municipal level led to gender mainstreaming in the national budget and the establishment of institutional measures such as creating gender units in national government commissions, among other results.

Advocacy and communication

A good example of advocacy efforts to enlist the support of key duty-bearers was evident in Vietnam. Field visits by Members of Parliament to four regions were made possible by the Joint Programme. Subsequently, the parliamentarians raised issues of concern within their communities in Parliament in order to hold line ministries accountable.

In Timor-Leste, a campaign on GBV was conducted with a total of 81 awareness raising events, including 26 newspaper articles, two television programmes and five national radio programmes. A total of 68,500 information materials were developed and disseminated carrying messages on GBV, child protection and human trafficking.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the programme produced a number of studies, policy papers, surveys and training manuals. A study on women's cooperatives entitled "Mainstreaming Gender Equality Concerns in Palestinian Cooperatives" was a major achievement. The study is expected to lead to specific capacity building proposals that will contribute to strengthening women's

cooperatives. A survey on violence against women in the work area -- the first of its kind -- was developed, and a Help Line was created that operates 16 hours per day, seven days a week. As a direct result of the Joint Programme, six ministries are now working together to implement the National Strategy to combat GBV.

Establishment of networks and mechanisms

ın Bangladesh, the programme supported the legal establishment of the Sex Workers Network, which allows them to advocate for their rights. In Brazil, as a result of advocacy efforts supported by the Joint Programme, the Red de Mujeres del Noreste (Network of Women of the Northeast) was established and became associated with the Federation of Women Journalists for Latin America. In Guatemala, the JP designed the Instituto Autonomo de Formación Política de Mujeres Indígenas (an independent institute for capacity building of indigenous women) and provided a number of tools for its creation. This included a political and communication strategy to empower 35 women identified with potential for elective office in several regions of the country. In Ethiopia, for the first time in two regions, Women's Savings and Credit cooperatives were formed.

Besides Gender-Based Violence, programmes focused on two thematic areas: Economic and Political Empowerment of Women, and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS.

Economic and Political Empowerment of Women

In many parts of the world, gender equality is undermined by women's lack of access to resources, rights and entitlements. As many as nine Joint Programmes focused on the economic and political empowerment of women. In Bolivia, the programme focused on increasing the economic empowerment of the most disadvantaged and excluded women, improving the lives of an estimated 4,640 women by increasing their incomes and enabling them to support their families and reach a certain level of economic independence. An estimated 12,817 women obtained either a birth certificate or an official identity card. Emphasis was also placed on women's economic rights, on their right to participate in decision making processes, their right to access information and to public and private spaces for negotiation as small business owners.

Reproductive Health

In **Ethiopia,** a baseline survey indicated that adolescent girls and women have limited reproductive health knowledge and girls between 15-19 years of age are seven times more likely to be infected by HIV than boys. The JP supported training on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and family planning services. The increased knowledge by the women beneficiaries of reproductive health, combined with reproductive health services, have led to improved health behavior. Community conversation was one of the approaches that stimulated dialogue and consciousness on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health issues. Communities gave testimonies of observable changed behavior among beneficiaries of the Joint Programme.

Key Lessons and Recommendations

Strong leadership was deemed essential: The choice of lead government agency made a difference in the level of leadership provided. It was also noted that when the offices of the Resident Coordinator, Agency heads and senior government officials provided strong support, the Joint Programmes had greater success during their implementation.

Targeting the most excluded groups is an effective strategy to reduce inequalities and contributes towards achieving gender equality and the MDGs in particular.

The important role of civil society was inherent in most of the Joint Programmes, but was not always elaborated.

Increased knowledge of human rights: Some programmes caused significant change in the lives of disadvantaged women as a result of the knowledge they gained on human rights and of the importance, for example, of having an identification card or birth certificate in order to be active citizens.

Political will is fundamental for sustaining the achievements towards GEWE: Since government authorities and particularly legislators are constantly changing, institutional building through capacity development is essential in order for results to be sustainable. Thus, awareness-raising, sensitization and capacity building must be continuous and ongoing.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/WdmsHx

Environment and Climate Change

Thematic study executive summary

Background

Environment and Climate Change

Environmental issues have been increasingly visible in the development agenda in the last few decades. The notion of the environment as a development factor has moved efforts from strictly natural resource preservation to more contemporary notions that sustainable development should be people-centered, yet at the same time in harmony with the environment. This is also underlined by the concept that sustainable development incorporates economic, social and environmental variables in an integrated manner.

Yet this concept of furthering development without degrading the environment has proven highly elusive, at a global level as well as at national and local levels in developing countries. Forest and other natural habitat losses, overexploitation of natural resources, chemical contamination and lack of safe water and sanitation in a large proportion of the developing world are some environmental issues that continue to affect societies and hinder development. Furthermore, a close link exists between poverty and environmental degradation. This is a root problem of many development issues, particularly for the poor who directly rely on natural resources for their livelihood. Poor nations and poor societies face severe environmental problems, among them scarcity of, and unequal access to, resources.

The MDG-Fund Environment and Climate Change Thematic Window

The Environment and Climate Change Window supported 17 Joint Programmes (JPs) worldwide, with a total allocation of US$89.5 million. These JPs aimed at contributing to the achievement of MDG 7 on environmental sustainability, particularly the target of integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, and reversing the loss of environmental resources. In addition, these JPs are linked to other goals, such as contributing to the achievement of MDG 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The work in this window has also been widened to comprise climate change, in particular, adaptations to the adverse impacts of climate change.

JPs in this window have sought to take integrated approaches, not only in the sense of dealing with environment *and* development in a cohesive manner, but also in addressing the issues at multiple policy and action levels with the involvement of multiple stakeholders. They also sought to reduce poverty and environmental vulnerability through the support of interventions that improved environmental management at both the national and local levels and enhanced people's capacity to adapt to climate change.

Achievements and Results

The JP interventions have produced a series of accomplishments. The key results have been to enhance the capacity of developing nations (in a variety of settings) to establish and implement policies that intersect natural resource management with development. They have increased consciousness on environmental issues and rights as they relate to the development process. This including areas such as climate change adaptation for communities and countries being forced to respond rapidly to this phenomenon. Pilot projects have demonstrated that very concrete activities can result in important achievements in natural resource management, in sustainable development and in adapting to climate change. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that building the knowledge base of environmental matters as they relate to development is a cornerstone for improving conditions and is mutually supportive of capacity building.

Enhanced governability and institutional capacities, including policy frameworks

JPs have contributed to improved governability and institutional capacities to deal with the environment and climate change. The activities have resulted in both new policy frameworks and support of existing institutional capacities, as well as enabling activities and action plans for managing natural resources while sustaining development. Activities were implemented created dialogue and practice at national and local levels. In Peru, local governments have mainstreamed environment and climate change issues into community development plans and budget operational plans in a participatory manner.

In China, the JP notably supported the development of the Basic Energy Law, and in Colombia, the National Policy on Integrated Hydrological Resources Management included strategies proposed by the JP dealing with vulnerability and climate change adaptation issues. Programmes also supported the development of local actions plans (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Afghanistan), resulting in more efficient tools for advancing the local administration of environmental resources.

Environmental consciousness, including climate change impact

Through outreach and training, stakeholders undertook activities that raised consciousness among community members on environmental issues and how these affect their well-being and livelihoods (Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama). Awareness raising was also aimed at decision-makers. In Egypt, the programme, through advocacy efforts, supported the Energy Efficiency Unit of the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers, making energy efficiency the responsibility of all major energy consuming productive sectors. In China, the awareness of more than 200 companies was raised on climate change and corporate social responsibility. Education (formal and informal) and training have been important areas of work within the window. These efforts included training of community development councils as well as

government personnel in the management of natural resources, community mobilization and community-based interventions addressing strategic capacity gaps of policymakers (Afghanistan), training on green business options for students and businesses (China), and water management (Jordan), among others.

Within the Peruvian and the Turkish programs, formal training, education and capacity building platforms in climate change and in other environmental issues were shaped. In Peru, a formal Diploma program in climate change science and management was developed. In Turkey, the JP supported certification courses for staff from government and institutions on climate change and other environmental issues, as well as the convening of university groups of experts.

Improved knowledge base of environmental issues, including climate change

Activities have also been carried out with the aim of strengthening and improving the knowledge base of environmental issues, how they relate to human development, and how new phenomena such as climate change are having an impact on livelihoods. Some programmes have supported the development of diagnostic instruments and indicators such as integrated use of hydrological resources (Guatemala) and food security and vulnerability mapping and surveys (Senegal). Other JPs have focused on the establishment of baseline information to improve policy frameworks (China, Egypt) and vulnerability assessments for policy development (Colombia, Jordan). Several JPs developed and delivered training instruments. For instance, in Mozambique, farmers received training on drought-resistant crop seeds as a measure to adapt to climate change and in the Philippines, the JP developed Climate Change Vulnerability and Assessment Tools for four key sectors (health; water resources; coastal resources; and agriculture/forestry/biodiversity sector).

Pilot projects

Many achievements have been attained through innovations and pilot projects, as well as different types of direct interventions. These dealt with increasing access to finance (Philippines, Egypt), improving access to water and sanitation for the poor (Mozambique, Mauritania, Guatemala, Nicaragua), promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Mauritania, Guatemala), and increasing clean energy service delivery (China), among others. A synergy between direct interventions and capacity building can be observed. Many projects were demonstrative (with a 'learning by doing' approach) while many also included more specific training and capacity building components as part of the interventions.

Conclusions

The Environment and Climate Change Window of the MDG-F is a highly complex work arena. The subject matter is intricate and layered. When working with environmental issues within a development context, the conceptual areas (and, necessarily, the intervention areas) deal not only with natural resources and environmental factors, but also with social and economic factors, vulnerabilities and inequalities. Therefore, the window dealt with an all-inclusive and cohesive approach to meet the challenges and face the issues.

Sustainability

The sustainability of projects, programmes, and outcomes is contingent upon many variables, and the long-term impact and sustainability of JP achievements rely, basically, on the uptake of these achievements by the local and national actors involved in the program's interventions. Evidence suggests that their sustainability and replicability, albeit depending on many factors, has a greater likelihood of occurring if activities create and leave increased capacity with local populations, NGOs and civil society organizations for these small-scale projects. Furthermore, greater sustainability probabilities exist when the interventions respond to local needs, fulfilling capacity and knowledge gaps. As in all international projects of this sort, sustainability and durable change is more likely when the projects are designed and implemented to insert themselves in, as well as strengthen, the institutionality of the different nations in order for them to face environment and development issues (including climate change adaptation). When programmes fulfill local needs, such as the financial mechanisms created by the JPs in the Philippines and Egypt, for instance, the likelihood of sustainability and continuance is strengthened.

Recommendations

A series of recommendations are made in the report for generating enabling environments, programmatic recommendations and future steps, and specifically in knowledge sharing as well as in advocacy efforts in the Post 2015 arena.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/Wghz05

Youth Employment and Migration

Thematic study executive summary

Background

Youth Employment and Migration

There are more young people in the world today than ever before, 1.3 billion of them living in developing countries[1]. The global financial crisis and economic downturn have resulted in the largest cohort ever of unemployed young people around the world, with 80.7 million young people struggling to find work in 2009[2].

Youth unemployment is a global challenge that needs to be understood not only within the broader employment question, but for its consequences in terms of the increasing numbers of young people who migrate annually in search of alternative livelihoods and opportunities within their countries and abroad.

The MDG-Fund Youth Employment and Migration Sector Thematic Window

The formulation and management of integrated youth employment, social and migration policies is an area in which many countries have had little experience until recently. Against this background, the MDG-F YEM thematic window was conceived, to work with governments in improving the policy coherence of interventions targeting at-risk population groups, reducing the risks of poverty and vulnerability, and, in parallel, empowering young people towards economic and social mobility.

The MDG-F YEM thematic window responds and provides support to countries in complex operational environments where young people invariably experience multiple layers of disadvantage. While each of the 15 Joint Programmes (JPs) has been contextualized according to country situations, all have aimed to increase the chances of young people in gaining access to decent work, self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, as well as promoting respect for youths' fundamental rights. The JPs have also promoted socially inclusive development and worked to improve the situation of migrants.

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[1] Brookings Institute Report , Global Compact on Learning Series, *Taking Action on Learning in Developing Countries*, 2011. http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2011/06/09-global-compact

[2] ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth*, 2010 http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_elm/---trends/documents/publication/wcms_143349.pdf

Achievements and Results

The study identified five main intervention/results areas, with institutional strengthening and capacity building activities cutting across all areas to trigger sustainable changes at national and local levels:

Heightened awareness on youth and employment issues

Targeted advocacy and communications campaigns have contributed to improving understanding among institutional stakeholders, social partners, the private sector and civil society on youth issues from rights-based perspectives (including poverty, gender, social inclusion and regional disparities), building consensus around youth targets and looking at how JPs can more broadly contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. Outreach has also raised awareness among the general public and direct beneficiaries -- including disadvantaged youth, migrant workers and women in low paid domestic work -- about basic rights and how to access essential services,.

Enhanced knowledge base on the challenges and difficulties facing young people

Research and analytical surveys have strengthened the knowledge base in several countries on the multi-faceted challenges facing young people in different regions and communities, the barriers to workforce entry for the most vulnerable population groups, and the connections and relationships between youth unemployment, migration and social inclusion. In this area, and as inputs to evidence-based policymaking, institutional capacities have also been strengthened in the formulation of new youth indicators and the collection and analysis of quantitative data. As a result, policy environments are becoming more responsive to the needs of young people.

Strengthened policy and institutional environments

Great strides have been made in embedding youth employment targets for the most 'at-risk' groups (including women, ethnic minority groups, migrant workers, returnees and the children of migrant families) within national development policies and planning frameworks. In certain countries, the support of the JPs resulted in the trialing of innovative programmes that increase access to social protection and/or improve the governance of migration, minimizing the risks and heightening the positive impacts of migration. Regional and local employment policies and action plans were also reinforced in a number of countries, as well as the legal and administrative frameworks for new enterprise creation.

As a result of support from the JPs, policy intentions and priority setting have been transformed into measurable actions in the shape of Youth Employment Action Plans (YEAPs) in different countries. A great achievement is the real allocation of financial resources at national and regional levels to support these action plans, either through existing budgetary frameworks or through the creation of Youth Employment Funds, and the piloting of alternative models to finance youth employment interventions at the local level, such as solidarity remittance schemes.

The creation of new government departments, the formalization of inter-ministerial working groups and the facilitation of participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue have also contributed to improving the coordination of actors with responsibility on youth issues and providing more coherent responses to youth needs, while minimizing the duplication of efforts. Coordination mechanisms have offered a space for young people, public institutions and civil society organizations to dialogue, to work together and to plan strategically. Indeed, the work on designing policies and action plans has been a vehicle to accord youth a louder voice in policy and programme development.

Tailored measures for young people (pilot projects)

In the first instance, targeted pilot projects have improved access to quality education and training opportunities for young people, including a better match between secondary education and vocational skills training and skills-in-demand within local economies. Working through Youth Support Structures, pilot projects have also facilitated the creation and validation of active labour market measures for young people with low levels of education or lacking in formal qualifications. Entrepreneurship training has contributed to the promotion of self-employment and enterprise creation opportunities, with opportunities explored in locally productive sectors and promoted through increased access to lending institutions.

Strengthened capacities to manage and deliver youth support services

The JPs have substantially contributed to strengthening key technical, functional and operational capacities within national institutions, government line ministries and departments, public employment services and regional and local governments with a mandate for youth, with training based on an assessment of institutional needs and priorities.

The explicit reinforcement of localized youth support services, such as One-Stop-Shops, Youth Employment Service Centres and Resource Centres, has diversified the types of assistance available to young people at the community level and opened up access to labour mediation, counseling, psycho-social support, education, employability, and entrepreneurship and occupational skills training for the most vulnerable population groups. A significant achievement of several JPs is that, as a result of being trained as advocates, peer educators and service providers in their own communities, youth leaders and Councils

have themselves become more active protagonists in efforts to support young people in disadvantaged communities.

Conclusions

Lessons Learned

The study examines some of the cumulative lessons learned over the three years of joint programme implementation in 15 countries. In the first instance, it looks at enabling factors for the formulation and implementation of youth, employment and migration policies and programmes that also contributed to their success and sustainability. As a body of work, the JPs have offered several significant lessons for the design of demonstration policies and pilot projects targeting vulnerable young people. Secondly, it looks at enabling factors with respect to the roll-out of tailored measures for young people. Thirdly, it provides an overview of the lessons learned from joint programming as a technical cooperation strategy at country level.

Recommendations

Finally, the study provides a set of recommendations: i) for shaping national policies and programmes to tackle YEM challenges; ii) for shaping technical cooperation interventions on youth employment, social and migration policies; and iii) for knowledge sharing and advocacy efforts.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/VLaTo4

Democratic Economic Governance

Background

Democratic Economic Governance of Utilities

Democratic economic governance can be seen as the exercise of democratic principles and good governance practices in political and economic decisions involving the management of public funds, resources and affairs. Good governance ensures that the voices of the poor and vulnerable are heard. The interaction amongst all stakeholders – the state, private sector and civil society – influences the extent to which political and economic institutions and processes deliver for all, especially the poor.

The democratic economic governance of utilities is a critical challenge for developing countries because universal and affordable access to such services is crucial for progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 2006 UNDP Human Development Report (HDR) highlighted how lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation may constitute a barrier to achieving several MDGs. Enhanced access is also key for sustained economic growth and sustainable human development[3].

The MDG-Fund Democratic Economic Governance Thematic Window

The thematic window is focused on democratic governance of public utilities, supporting interventions that enhance access to, and provision of, services by utilities, increasing their efficiency and affordability at both national and local level, and ensuring that the poor participate and benefit from these services. This window includes 11 Joint Programmes (JPs) worldwide with a total value of almost US$60 million Most of the participating countries have focused their work on water, with the exception of Albania which also responded to development needs in the energy sector. The JPs were implemented in Albania, Angola, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and the Philippines.

The programmes work in various areas, including: i) capacity building and support to regulatory revisions and decentralisation of water supply and sanitation responsibilities, along with the strengthening of sector governance; ii) development of new and innovative mechanisms for the financing of water supply and sanitation infrastructure; and iii) involvement of civil society representatives and enhancement of the role of women in relevant planning and policy making. The strategies of the JPs include participatory and rights based approaches, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups and marginalised communities.

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[3] Government of Spain-UNDP MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F). Terms of Reference for the Thematic Window on Democratic Economic Governance.

Achievements and Results

The JPs have achieved valuable results in improving access to water and sanitation as well as in attracting investments in water supply infrastructure. In Bosnia & Herzegovina, 260,000 citizens benefitted from the programme's activities and 50,000 of them have received improved water supply services, including better water quality and quantity. In Ecuador, 4,750 people benefitted from improved access, continuity and quality of water. In Honduras, nearly 35,000 people obtained access to water and sanitation; the programme also supported 3,330 households in adopting adequate hygiene practices, which benefitted approximately 16,000 people.

In Mexico, the improvement of water and sanitation services in schools benefitted a school population of 2,317. In Nicaragua, water and sanitation projects implemented in communities and schools on the Caribbean Coast improved access and water supply sources for almost 17,000 community members. In the field of infrastructure investment, the JP in Bosnia & Herzegovina directed US$1.25 million of investments in small infrastructure projects to increase water supply coverage. In Honduras, the JP leveraged nearly US$4 million from the Central American Economic Integration Bank for rural infrastructure. In the Philippines, the 36 municipalities where the JP operates have been prioritized under the SALINTUBIG program of the government, which will provide up to US$0.23 million per municipality for the development of water supply systems.

In addition to quantifiable results obtained so far, there are a number of elements in the design, approach and methodologies of the JPs which make them relevant interventions and ensure their sustainability.

Capacity development

The Joint Programmes have achieved good results in terms of enhancing the capacity and ability of the poor to participate and influence processes of reform and policy development. Joint Programmes supported consultative processes leading to the development of water policies and strategies in Guatemala and Albania. Working with public officials, community members, and local associations among others, JPs improved water governance capacities and service delivery (Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Philippines).

Most Joint Programmes focused on the inclusion of vulnerable groups resulting, for instance, in increased women's participation and leadership in water projects (Angola); active participation of women and community youth groups in Municipal Management Boards (Bosnia & Herzegovina); priority to participation of ethnic minorities, indigenous and Afro-descendants groups (Nicaragua); and increased directive roles played by women (Guatemala). Valuing and incorporating cultural diversity has also facilitated participation and inclusion of beneficiaries and their knowledge in development processes. Specific methodologies -- such as the Healthful School and Home methodology applied in Honduras, which developed greater awareness and improvement of sanitation conditions in the rural community of Hacique -- are good examples for replication.

Generation of public-private and civil society dialogues

Several JPs contributed to the active engagement of local people and target groups, encouraging a broad public-private dialogue, including civil society, when conceiving and implementing public policies and reforms. JPs fostered participation of user groups in decisions to reform the water and energy sectors (Albania); ensured the active engagement of residents through the formation of Municipal Management Boards and strengthened Water Boards (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador, Nicaragua); and facilitated networks to foster coordination and public-private dialogue (Panama, Paraguay, Angola, Guatemala).

Promotion of social-contracts

JPs contributed to the promotion of social contracts through specific work on the functioning, sharing of responsibilities and involvement of stakeholders in the water and sanitation sectors. JPs contributed to a water contract model and Consumer Complaints Management System (Albania); transfer of certain liabilities of (semi) public institutions to communities (Angola); a Proposed Act for Providing Water and Sanitation Services (Ecuador); an initiative for Citizenship Monitoring for Water and Sanitation (Mexico); an integrated approach to water resources management (Paraguay); revision of finance instruments (Philippines, Ecuador); and criteria and measures for social policy for water supply, including rules for subsidizing vulnerable groups (Bosnia & Herzegovina).

Actions to support long-term strategies

To ensure that contributions made will support long-term planning and strategies, JPs have focused on fostering local ownership and ensuring demand-responsive approaches that are relevant to country needs and priorities, and that are complementary to the on-going efforts of national partners. JPs have also made valuable contributions to building enabling environments that ensure the rights and assets of all stakeholders.

This has included revising policies and laws (Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Philippines), examining the potential impact of reforms (such as an increase in tariffs in Albania), and strengthening regulatory agencies for sanitation services (Paraguay). By strengthening institutions, the JPs have made a long-term impact on how those institutions deal with policy, regulations, implementation, execution and oversight. The JP in Bosnia & Herzegovina participated in the establishment of the Department for Water in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and in the formation of Municipal Management Boards. In Ecuador, the JP contributed to strengthening social organization in communities. In Guatemala, the JP facilitated the creation of the Water and Sanitation Unit, and in Honduras the National Water and Sanitation Council has been strengthened in its role as the governing body for policies and planning in this sector.

Conclusions

Sustainability

All Joint Programmes have a solid grounding to continue contributing to the achievement of the MDGs. The articulation and social inclusion found in all JPs is a key aspect for social contracts,

dialogue and long-term strategies necessary to achieve democratic economic governance. This is even more feasible when accompanied by continuous work in capacity development.

Most of the activities implemented by the JP are part of larger strategies and programmes that are coordinated by national partners with other support. This has been crucial in facilitating ownership, alignment, complementarity and continuity to relevant efforts. The JPs have contributed significantly to capacity development. These capacities (technical, for leadership, for governance) facilitate long-term application and set the basis for replication, resulting in political and social sustainability.

Sustainability is also seen as a result of the complex and numerous linkages which the JPs have managed to propose, establish and coordinate. These new areas of collaboration become political instruments and management bodies which enable dialogue, collaboration, integration and drive for knowledge transfer and continuity of actions.

Recommendations

Promote linkages to overcome fragmentation and facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration. Water sectors in most countries tend to be fragmented. The current paradigms of Integrated Water Resources Management and Human Rights Based Approaches lead the way for sector reforms, and synergy of interventions and investments in water and sanitation.

Facilitate and support the formation of Water Boards for local development. The formation of Water and Sanitation Boards at regional and municipal level helps to establish areas of cooperation and dialogue between stakeholders. It is important to consider aspects of capacity building and financial support for their efficient functioning.

Empower vulnerable groups for community development. Empowering vulnerable groups is essential to address inequalities.

Support governance through empowered institutions. Strengthening institutions is key to enabling them to deal with policy, regulations, implementation and delivery in an effective manner. This embraces governance reforms, legislation, apex bodies, local authorities, river basin organizations, water utilities and a range of other institutional arrangements at different levels.

Support sector strengthening with improved management instruments. Enabling decision-makers to make rational and informed choices, through relevant instruments and methods, constitutes an important support in this sector.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/13l4EM9

Development and the Private Sector

Thematic study executive summary

Background

Development and the Private Sector

Poverty in its many dimensions persists stubbornly worldwide, not just in pockets, but in extensive areas. While the private sector can play a role in efforts to reduce poverty, traditional "business-as-usual" models may have little impact. "The private sector undoubtedly has an important contribution to make because of its central role as an engine of growth. But driven as it is by profit considerations, it is unlikely to take a lead in promoting social justice," the 2010 UN/ IDS study on the MDGs and inequalities warned.[vi] To be effective, private sector and development interventions need to be multi-targeted in approach and engage multiple partners.

Private sector and development (PSD) is about economic growth as a means to human development. According to the 2008 report *Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with the Poor*, published by the UNDP Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative, PSD models "include the poor at various points in the value chain: on the demand side as clients and customers, and on the supply side as employees, producers and business owners. They build bridges between businesses and poor people for mutual benefit in the supply chain, in the workplace and in the marketplace. The benefits from inclusive business models go beyond immediate profits and higher incomes. For business they include driving innovations, building markets and strengthening supply chains. And for the poor they include higher productivity, sustainable earnings and greater empowerment."

The MDG-Fund Development and Private Sector Thematic Window

The thematic window supports 12 joint programmes (JPs) in four continents with an allocation of US$63 million.   Many of the programmes are targeted at agricultural value chains. Other sectors addressed include tourism, urban settlements and handicrafts. Several programmes tackle multiple value chains, while others take a multi-sectoral approach. The programmes are medium to large scale, typically targeting enterprises (firms, cooperatives or associations) and/or households. Some programmes are approaching 10,000 beneficiaries (Cuba, Viet Nam). Others, while being tightly focused in terms of direct beneficiaries, have a large multiplier effect due to successful policy reforms (El Salvador).

PSD interventions face a set of constraints, including: ineffective regulatory environments, inadequate infrastructure, restricted access to financial products and services, limited market information, and missing knowledge and skills.   In addressing these constraints, the joint programmes have employed a very wide range of interventions, including innovation, investment, capacity building, partnership and advocacy.

Achievements and Results

The JPs have achieved concrete instances of increased net income and employment for poor households. For instance, in Cuba, producers saw an increase of 68% in sales of beans and a 55% increase in sales of rice to state produce markets in 2011 compared to 2010. In Serbian rural municipalities, visitor numbers and off-farm income increased 20-25% between 2010 and 2011. In Viet Nam, the indigenous weavers cooperative Vong Ngan won a VND 300 million contract by participating in the October 2012 Hanoi Gift Show.

Just as important but harder to measure is the economic empowerment that many of the programmes have achieved through capacity building, particularly for women. The 12 JPs are all also aiming to influence policy, and thereby leverage greater benefits to huge numbers of pro-poor enterprises either sectorally, regionally or nationally. The programmes are supporting pro-poor business in some of the poorest regions and with vulnerable groups often suffering multiple dimensions of poverty. These groups include women, youth, ethnic minorities and indigenous communities, and some programmes have explicitly targeted such groups.

The JPs have operated in five areas: innovation, investment, capacity building, partnerships and advocacy.

Innovation: adapting products and processes to win new markets

The programmes have found ways to unlock incremental innovation in products and processes. In Upper Egypt, SALASEL worked first with a wealthier farmers' association and only once that work was demonstrably successful were poorer farmers engaged. In Dominican Republic, all seven banana producers' associations have now embraced innovation in the organic and fair trade banana sector. In Serbia, the JP rebranded the countryside with its rich culture as a tourist destination for foreigners, and also for city-dwelling Serbs. In Peru, the programme has helped research, design and produce four new creative industry 'tourist circuits' with an emphasis on craftsmanship, organic agriculture, food, cultural heritage and ecology.

Investment: removing market constraints & upgrading equipment

One of the main obstacles to unlocking needed investments by poor entrepreneurs is not lack of money itself but a risk-averse investment climate. Ethiopia's edible oils value chain had masses of potential – domestic and export - but many dozens of individual actors were too fragmented and mistrustful to undertake upgrading. The programme succeeded in forming new business entities to build up trust - and is now attracting inward investment. Programmes in Serbia and Peru have provided direct support to local partners and producer groups.

Other investment successes in terms of removing market constraints include Viet Nam's programme, which developed a partnership with the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries that is prepared to invest in the handicrafts sector. In Costa Rica's Brunca region, efforts are being made to cut red tape and reduce the time taken to register a business from 50+ days to 10 days, as part of the regional competitiveness plan. A new competitiveness index will be monitored down to the cantonal level, exposing all abnormal business constraints.

Capacity building: leveraging the strengths of the poor as producers and consumers

Most of the programmes have offered training and technical assistance to help move producers along the value chain. In Cuba, the programme has improved incomes and food security for thousands of producers, many of them women. In Bolivia, nearly 2,000 small-holder farmers have already gained organic certification and are also improving their own nutrition levels.

In the PSD window, great efforts have gone into entrepreneurship training, from management practices and risk management in Cuba and access to credit in Dominican Republic to small farm management in Egypt and Ethiopia and green product design in Viet Nam. Another example is in El Salvador in the construction sector.

Partnership: combining resources, knowledge and capabilities with others

Programmes have managed to engage dozens of implementing partners at different points of the programme, despite formidable coordination challenges. The private sector has been drawn into programmes; in Turkey, the main textiles business association ITKIB has internalized training programmes into their offer to 16,000 members, thereby ensuring impacts at scale. Egypt's programme support for Post Harvest Centres (PHC) has enabled the Farmers' Associations to develop alliances with the private sector and establish new market linkages through participation in trade fairs like the Farm Gate – Fresh Gate exhibition in November 2010. Chipsey is now sourcing potatoes from one farmers' association for their best-selling crisps in Egypt. In Costa Rica, the programme attracted US$0.77 million from 12 local counterparts in 2012. Among these, substantial resources are coming from four ministries, as well as support from universities, foundations and the Federation of Southern Municipalities. Cement supplier Holcim has been engaged in El Salvador's construction sector, building on its existing social responsibility commitments. In addition, the programme has networked 34 smaller firms into the construction supply chain.

Advocacy: engaging in policy dialogue with government

Business-government relations in many countries are problematic, especially for pro-poor small businesses. In El Salvador, the programme succeeded in capturing the attention of senior policymakers with a carefully targeted set of reforms in land tenure and banking. In Serbia, the government has taken ownership of the rural tourism sector. The programme developed a National Rural Tourism Master Plan and submitted it to the government; in doing so, the JP managed to get the subject of rural tourism firmly on the policy agenda, in terms of economic diversification. The Ethiopian oil seed programme's objectives and implementation modality fit the Ministry of Industry's agro-industry strategy so well that the programme has been seen as an opportunity for the Ministry to turn several of the key recommendations of its agro-industry master plan into concrete interventions.

Conclusions

Most programmes can boast of successes in most of the five areas described above, although some have focused more on some interventions than others. This is not surprising, as the 12 joint programmes differ in many ways, not least in terms of their experience with PSD, their geographical locations and their progress.

Despite this diversity, the core strategy of each programme can be understood by looking at its position on three axes: innovation, complexity and impacts.

The first strategic axis for the programmes is innovation: whether to focus on radical innovation – building a new value chain, as in El Salvador's focus on self-building – or on the incremental upgrading of an existing value chain – such as Egypt's horticulture sector. The choice depends on recognizing the degree of risk-aversion among poor households and the existence of local champions who can demonstrate success.

The second strategic axis is complexity, or the degree of 'joint-ness' in the joint programmes. Some programmes have adopted a relatively focused attack on one or a few bottlenecks in the value chain (Turkey), engaging those partners directly implicated, while others have gone for systemic interventions with multiple partners (Cuba). The difference is between managing a handful of key relationships or many dozens of stakeholders.

The third strategic axis is the type of intended impacts, and, therefore, the achievable scale of beneficiary numbers. Most programmes have tried to achieve *both* direct economic benefits (income, jobs and firm formation) as well as economic empowerment through capacity building. Capacity building efforts in the form of training reach large numbers of beneficiaries (over 8,700 in Cuba), while direct technical assistance or grant support may be limited to 50-100 firms.

Sustainability

Some of the programmes have already made good progress in terms of securing their sustainability, through embedding ownership with relevant ministries (El Salvador, Peru, Serbia) or attracting investor interest (Ethiopia, Egypt, Viet Nam). Donors are increasingly becoming aware that achieving scale in PSD programmes can take a long time - sometimes longer than the programme funding timescale.

Four 'rules of thumb' can thus be discerned about planning for sustainability:

- The better aligned the programme is to government priorities (Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Serbia, Turkey), the better the prospects for continued policy support (until a change of administration, at least);
- Rely on several champions to take forward parts of the joint programme (Egypt);
- The simpler and lower-tech the interventions, the more likely the chance of them being carried on by local business advisers (eg Turkey, Serbia, Viet Nam)
- The sounder the business model, the better the prospects of attracting private finance (Ethiopia).

Recommendations

Green jobs: Identify during the evaluation process which interventions have had the greatest 'green' impacts (generating new 'green and decent work' and improving sustainability along the value chain);

Encourage more South-South networking among peer programmes, either on a supply-chain or geographical basis;

Capture the most successful capacity building techniques developed by the programmes and make them available in user-friendly format;

Understand the lessons from the programmes in middle income countries (MICs) to feed into the post-2015 anti-poverty agenda for MICs; and

Engage systematically with other PSD portfolio programmes.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/13l5851

Conflict Prevention & Peace Building

Thematic study executive summary

Background

The challenge of conflict prevention and peace building

About 1.5 billion people live in areas where violent conflict limits their ability to live, work and get educated. Social and economic inequalities and lack of good governance and the rule of law still represent the greatest challenges in the achievement of the MDGs and in determining the transition to sustainable development and democratic participation in decision-making processes. Conflict can reverse developmental gains by decades and it is a huge impediment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The gap in MDG performance between post-conflict or conflict-affected countries and other developing countries has widened, and the reality is that no low-income fragile state has achieved any of the MDGs. Inequities are staggering: 60% of the world's undernourished people, 61% of the impoverished and 77 % of children not enrolled in primary school live in conflict-affected or fragile countries. About 65% of people with no access to water and sanitation, and 70% of infant deaths worldwide occur in the most fragile countries. Many of these most vulnerable people live in countries in Latin America or in Sub-Saharan Africa. Many of the fragile states that have experienced violent conflict have a high chance of relapsing into violence.

Peace building is about reducing the risk of relapsing violence and conflict. One crucial aspect of the relationship between development, peace and security is the capacity and legitimacy of the State. After a violent conflict, the provision of social services by the state can go a long way towards (re)establishing trust and legitimacy and reinforcing commitment to the peace process—especially if inequity and discrimination issues were some of the drivers of the conflicts and disputes.

The MDG-Fund Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Sector Thematic Window

The 20 Joint Progammes (JPs) under the thematic window on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (CPPB) received a significant allocation of US$ 94 million from the MDG-F to support interventions focusing on conflict prevention and violence reduction, livelihood improvements to mitigate youth violence, and the fostering of dialogue and equity. The 20 countries of intervention experience differing degrees of conflict, but one common premise across all JPs is ensuring that people know and exert their rights as an important component of a peace building and conflict prevention

strategy. Some JPs also pursued more context-specific outcomes, such as helping Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) or building the capacity of a particular minority.

JPs' interventions can be grouped under the following thematic areas:
  ➢ Promoting and Protecting the Rights of IDPs (Mexico, Serbia, Croatia)
- Conflict and Violence Prevention (Serbia, Sudan, Guatemala, FYR of Macedonia, Haiti)
- Access to Justice, Strengthening of the Rule of Law (Afghanistan, Mauritania, Bolivia, Mexico)

- Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Community Dialogue (Colombia, FYR of Macedonia, Chile, Serbia)
- Citizen Security (El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti)
- Preventing Conflict, Targeting the Most Vulnerable Areas (Lebanon, DR Congo).

The JPs supported a variety of stakeholders, including the most vulnerable populations, the government at the national and/or local levels, and civil society, community and local leaders.

Achievements and Results

Key trends
An analysis of the JPs' key achievements has revealed the following trends:

Integrated multi-sectoral approaches: The cases of Serbia, DR Congo, Mexico and Colombia stand out for creating a good synergy among key stakeholders, leading to integrated results that better serve the beneficiaries.

Equity: Three JPs stand out in the area of addressing inequalities: Chiapas/ Mexico, Narino/Colombia, and Southern Serbia were particularly successful in tackling inequities in marginalized communities.

Regional Trends in Citizen Security: Latin America is a good example of how the JPs helped foster best practices in CPPB to:
- Support national dialogue processes to prevent and transform the impact of conflicts on the basis of consensus (Nicaragua, Honduras).
- Promote the strengthening of national and local capacities to mitigate the impact of conflicts (Bolivia, Mexico, Colombia).
- Improve citizen security in Central America through the support and design/implementation of national citizen security policies (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala).
- Support institutional and legal frameworks (Mexico's new law in Chiapas).

Inclusion of a Gender Dimension in Joint Programmes: Social inclusion of women is important for sustainable development, reconciliation and conflict prevention (Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, Chile).

Sustainability and replicability
Regarding the sustainability and possible 'replicability' of many of the JPs, the cases of Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, Lebanon, Serbia and FYR of Macedon**i**a provide interesting practices**.**
In the area of **'Promoting and Protecting the Rights of IDPs'**, a new Law on the prevention of internal displacement in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, has been quite innovative in its approach to protecting

the rights of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities. It put displacement on the political agenda, and is now owned by the regional government as well as the newly empowered beneficiaries. The law is significant in the context of a growing internal displacement challenge at the national level in Mexico, due --in areas outside Chiapas – to narco-traffic. This law protecting the rights of the displaced and most marginalized has a good chance not only of becoming sustainable in Chiapas, but also of being replicated in other regions of Mexico.

The JP in Colombia, likewise, stresses community and government participation, including a close interaction with civil society, women and youth groups. This approach makes it a prime candidate for sustainability and provides evidence of national and local ownership.

In Eastern Europe, another JP that focuses on marginalized minorities and their rights has a good potential for sustainability. The reason for the success of the programme in Southern Serbia is the close collaboration with the government on ownership, visibility of results and impact. The root causes of conflict in the region are inequity, discrimination and economic issues. The JP projects targeting youth and women have been successful because they focus on creating economic opportunities for marginalized populations. These youth and gender initiatives have a good chance of being replicated across other vulnerable communities in Southern Serbia.

Citizen security is a common concern in Latin America, and especially in Central America. El Salvador provides a good practice in citizens security which is not only sustainable, but has also provided a good example to other countries in Central America who are now replicating this approach, such as Panama and Costa Rica.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

The study identified a series of key factors for generating an enabling environment at the programmatic level:

- ➢ Local Ownership: Pursue locally owned solutions and the principle of 'do no harm'. Local ownership starts with ensuring that peace building priorities, needs and approaches are determined locally.
- ➢ The governance of solutions needs to be localized. Increased access by vulnerable communities to social services and legal aid is crucial, as is better access to information about their rights and about services. The examples of Serbia, Mexico and Colombia showed how this approach helps vulnerable and ethnic communities be less marginalized.
- ➢ Foster trust: Enabling factors within the programme approach include outreach to communities. Design of capacity building initiatives and selection of trainees—adapted to the local context and to beneficiaries--is also crucial. Multi-sectoral partnerships and dialogue are essential. Ensuring that programmes create mechanisms to bring local actors together for dialogue and co-operation helps build trust and social cohesion as well as the resilience of communities.
- ➢ Empowering and strengthening the capacities of individuals, communities and institutions to manage conflicts is essential to peace building. Focus is also needed at community level to increase resilience in local institutions and civil society.
- ➢ Ensure inclusive participation at all stages. Community participation fosters ownership and accountability.
- ➢ Leverage equity to build peace. Redressing inequalities is crucial to peace building.

- ➢ Pursue innovative partnerships. The scale and multidimensionality of peace building demands collective engagement.
- ➢ Mainstream gender in all peace building interventions, including gender disparities and GVB; strengthen the peace building roles of women and girls.

The way forward: the Post-2015 development agenda and the MDGs.

The MDGs, agreed in 2000, helped galvanize anti-poverty efforts by setting out eight ambitious goals to be achieved by 2015. But with less than three years left, many of the goals will be missed -- particularly in fragile settings-- and social inequality is becoming a pressing issue following the Arab Spring.

One important lesson from the MDGs is that any new framework must be formulated transparently and inclusively, informed by the voices and knowledge of people living in poverty and exclusion.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/Wp9tNi

Culture and Development

Thematic study executive summary

Background

This thematic study aims to capture the main achievements of the 18 Joint Programmes (JPs) [vii] funded under the thematic window on Culture and Development of the MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F).

Even though cultural aspects are not explicitly referred to within the MDGs, the last decade has witnessed an increasing recognition of the links between culture and human development. This connection was made explicit in the Outcome Document of the MDG Review Summit held at the UN General Assembly in September 2010, as well as in two other recent resolutions. Other international milestones in recent years include a number of legal documents (including UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions) and major international reports (including the 2004 edition of UNDP's Human Development Report, entitled *Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World*, and the two UNCTAD / UNDP *Creative Economy Reports* published in 2008 and 2010), as well as policies, programmes and publications designed by several local, regional and national governments, development agencies, regional and international organizations and NGOs.

The 18 JPs funded under the MDG-F's thematic window on Culture and Development stand as a substantial contribution to this area, taking account of the financial resources provided and the innovative and diverse approaches implemented. The main arguments given for the affirmation of culture's place in human and sustainable development are twofold. On the one hand, culture is seen as a resource to achieve international development objectives in other fields of human activity, including the alleviation of poverty and social exclusion, the promotion of health and education and the preservation of the environment. On the other hand, culture is also affirmed as a substantial component of human and sustainable development, rather than merely existing as a tool for the achievement of results in other fields.viii Activities supported under the thematic window's 18 JPs, which are diverse in terms of the countries where they have been implemented, the topics addressed and the achievements sought, attest to both these perspectives.

Achievements and Key Results

On the basis of the evidence collected, the study identifies six thematic areas of impact, some of which can be related directly to MDGs (poverty reduction, education, health, environment) and others which can be seen as key factors in the achievement of the MDGs and which can be related simultaneously to several MDGs (development and strengthening of cultural capacity, and contribution to governance and policy-making). They are briefly summarized below:

Strategies aimed at poverty reduction

All JPs included activities aimed at enhancing economic capacities and broadening income opportunities in the cultural sector, often with a focus on disadvantaged communities. The main intervention areas included supporting productive capacity in the cultural industries and related sectors, and encouraging the economic potential of cultural heritage (notably tangible heritage). All JPs have provided small-scale producers with training and capacity-building opportunities and with adapted resources to foster production, distribution and/or consumption of their products. Evidence has also been found of the increase in income and employment generated by these interventions in several countries, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The training of women in the crafts sector has been seen to contribute not only to broadening their economic opportunities but also to enhancing women's role in the household and the community, leading to a reduction of gender-based violence and an increased ability to manage family budgets and discuss taboo subjects (Cambodia, Senegal). In the field of cultural heritage, JPs have contributed to the inclusion of two cultural sites in Senegal in the World Heritage List, as well as the design of management plans for the preservation of heritage sites and the attraction of cultural tourism (Egypt, Turkey, etc.).

Access to and improvement of education

Some of the methods used by JPs to contribute to the achievement of international objectives in the field of education, including MDG 2 (Achieve Universal Primary Education) are: the development and cultural adaptation of educational programmes, approaches and tools to tackle obstacles to education; the promotion of intercultural understanding in the educational context; and the design of educational strategies with cultural content aimed at making education more attractive for disadvantaged groups. Several studies have also been conducted in the context of the thematic window, most of them aimed at analysing cultural content in existing educational programmes and seeking ways to foster integration of disadvantaged and minority groups in the educational system. Relevant examples have been found in, among others, China, Costa Rica and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Access to and improvement of health

The thematic window has provided the opportunity for the design and implementation of very innovative programmes in the field of health, including the cultural adaptation of health techniques, the promotion of dialogue between formal and traditional health practitioners and the design of new governance and policy frameworks in the field of health. Whereas only a limited number of JPs have addressed these issues (China, Ecuador, Mozambique, Namibia), models and achievements presented hereafter could inspire developments in other countries, insofar as the necessary adaptation measures are considered. Programmes have often simultaneously focused on issues addressed by MDGs 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) and 5 (Improve Maternal Health), whereas fewer initiatives have dealt with MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases).

Contribution to environmental sustainability

Plans for the joint management of cultural and natural heritage sites -- the assets of which reinforce one another -- and the enhancement of traditional techniques for the preservation of natural resources are some of the areas in which cultural activities have contributed to environmental

sustainability. Evidence of contributions to the achievement of MDG 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) has been found in a few cases (Egypt, Senegal, Mozambique).

Development and strengthening of cultural capacity

Several activities supported under the thematic window have contributed to strengthening beneficiary countries' ability to develop cultural policies and programmes aligned with the achievement of development objectives. By reinforcing the knowledge base, raising awareness, fostering the adoption and implementation of new laws, policies and governance models, building individual and organizational capacities, and creating new cultural infrastructures, these initiatives address some of the hindrances that have traditionally prevented stronger links between the culture and development agendas; they also serve to recognize the substantial role played by cultural resources and capacities in the promotion of sustainable development.

Specific examples include: the setting-up of new cultural information systems, particularly in Latin America, as well as specialized databases and baseline studies (Ethiopia, Mauritania, Cambodia, etc.); the promotion of participative mapping exercises fostering the inclusion of minority groups (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, China); the adaptation of national legislation to international standards; the improvement of governance structures and support policies; the design of new postgraduate courses (Albania, Honduras); and the improvement of local cultural infrastructure (Senegal, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Honduras, Morocco, Cambodia, etc.).

Broader governance developments

The results of certain JPs can be linked to broader national political objectives, including the strengthening of constitutional values (Ecuador), regional integration (Bosnia & Herzegovina), the preservation of cultural identity (Occupied Palestinian Territories) and the promotion of decentralisation processes (Morocco, Nicaragua, Mozambique, Bosnia and Herzegovina). Programmes have also fostered the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the institutional and political context as well as the participation of women in public life (Morocco, Ecuador), and have contributed to the empowerment of women through the broadening of social, economic and civil opportunities.

Conclusions

Sustainability

Several JPs or individual interventions supported in the context of JPs have become sustainable after their initially-envisaged lifetime. This includes the design of new framework programmes which build on the legacy of the JPs (Ecuador, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Nicaragua, Egypt, etc.), the institutional integration of JPs' processes and products, improvements in the knowledge base, the branding and visibility of

the programme's key aims and achievements, and the sustained results of training and capacity-building activities.

Replicability

Several activities funded in the context of the thematic window have become models for replication in other areas of the beneficiary country or in neighboring countries. Key aspects facilitating the replication of programmes include: the innovative and successful nature of some of the pilot projects implemented (e.g. support to the cultural and creative industries, promotion of intangible heritage, integration of an intercultural perspective in health and educational policies, development of cultural mapping exercises, etc.); the promotion of participatory models; and the trend towards decentralization, which allows the transfer of models among different local authorities within one country.

Lessons learned

On the basis of the evidence presented and the positive and negative experiences observed, some lessons which could inform future programme design can be identified and are briefly presented in the main study. They concern the design of programmes, the cultural dimension of development programmes, the links between poverty reduction and culture, the governance of programmes, awareness-raising, and monitoring and evaluation.

Recommendations

Enabling environment. The conditions conducive to a more dynamic cultural sector, which can enhance its contribution to the achievement of international development objectives, could be strengthened through a number of strategies. These include: better integrating cultural development support into broader economic strategies; diversifying funding sources; better analyzing the potential in national and international markets; and addressing inequalities through structural analysis, participation and specific opportunities.

Tackling cultural aspects. The specific cultural dimension of international development programmes and projects should be strengthened by reinforcing cultural policies, providing specialized training, improving the knowledge base, developing and implementing cultural impact assessment tools and fostering awareness-raising.

Knowledge sharing and advocacy in international forums. Finally, and in the context of preparations for the post-2015 agenda for international development, knowledge-sharing and awareness at international level should be fostered by increasing the visibility of JPs' outputs, encouraging cross-country learning and stressing the specific, distinctive elements of culture.

Access to full report: http://on.mdgfund.org/Zy5uR4

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[i] *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012,* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 2012.
[ii] Millennium Development Report 2012, United Nations, New York, 2012.
[iii] The proportion of people who suffer from hunger is measured by the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age, as well as by the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption.
[iv] The MDG-F funded 24 CFSN JPs: 8 JPs in Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal; 7 JPs in Asia: Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Philippines; 8 JPs in Latin America: Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, 1 JP in Europe: Albania.
[v] Data for the 6 other countries (Afghanistan, Albania, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Timor-Leste) was not available. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012,* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 2012.
[vi] http://www.mdgfund.org/sites/default/files/MDGs_and_Inequalities_Final_Report.pdf
[vii] In the UN context, a Joint Programme (JP) is a programme involving two or more agencies, resulting from a joint programming process. Within the context of approved agency country programmes and signed agreements, a JP is outlined in a single document, which describes the linkages between and responsibilities of all participating agencies. Different funding mechanisms can be adopted. The use of JPs has been fostered in recent years. For additional information, visit http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=237 [Last visit: 28/11/2012]
[viii] See Section II.2 for more detailed information about these arguments and additional references.