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The UNDG Policy Network for MDG/MD (Policy Network) is facilitated by the same team of MDGNet.

The MDG Policy Network facilitates the UN joint technical and policy advisory support to UNCTs. It also provides a roster of advisors of the UN Development Group to facilitate in-kind technical advisory support.

Voices from the Field – Our Experiences

UN JOINT MISSIONS in MALAWI

By Richard Dictus, UN Resident Coordinator



[Background] In recent years, relations between the Government and the UN system have been evolving, both in quality and scope of dialogue, since the impact of “Delivering as One (DaO)” has made itself felt in Malawi. In 2009, with the start up of the

One UN Fund and the first tranche of funding from the Expanded Window, a greater emphasis has been given to the independent, neutral and impartial role that the UN can play to support the achievement of MDGs. This can be done, first and foremost by enhancing aid effectiveness and supporting key aspects of national capacity. The UNCT Malawi decided to explore these issues more in-depth through a series of UN joint support missions to UNCTs, facilitated through UNDG platforms. [Two missions were facilitated by the Policy Network and the other two by the Coordination Practice Network.]

The first mission took place in 2009, generating stronger focus on capacity issues in the effective implementation of the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (SWAP), so called the “Agriculture Development Programme (ADP).” The ADP was developed by the Government with technical support from the World Bank and FAO. The implementation of the ADP is critical to reduce hunger, poverty and ensure better health in the country. Against this background, the UN joint mission was organized to highlight clearly

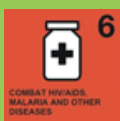
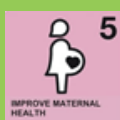
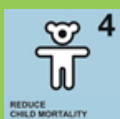
differentiated roles that UN agencies could play in building critical capacities for programme management, accountability and monitoring and evaluation, all of which are important components to implement the ADP. This indicates that there is ample scope for UNDG Agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNDP and others), to support the Government in the agricultural sector. The mission will be followed in February 2010 by an interagency capacity diagnostic exercise, which will set a trend for the way the UN system - using capacity development as its entry point for DaO in SWAPs. [This UN joint mission in 2009 consisted of IFAD Tanzania, FAO (Mozambique and Headquarters) and UNDP to facilitate the exchange of “lessons-learned” among neighboring country experiences in supporting the implementation of Agriculture SWAP]

The second inter-agency technical mission focused specifically on the mainstreaming of MDG planning and costing through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies and what action UN agencies need to take to ensure a continued upward trend in MDG achievement. The conclusion of the mission indicated a clear shift in focus from MDG planning and costing methodologies, to overall capacity development for the management of SWAPs (including the expansion of SWAPs to various sectors) and integrating aid flows into national processes. The implications of how the UNCT needs to engage these new dynamics are still being reviewed. [This second mission consisted of advisors from ILO Headquarters, UNICEF Regional Center in Nairobi, and UNDP Regional Center in Johannesburg].

MDG Good Practice (Publication & Databank)



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We have received more than 220 cases in response to a call for contributions made on 3 September, 2009 to Policy Network focal points, and October and November 2009 to MDGNet members and civil society organizations. The MDG Good Practices publication is expected to be released in March, 2010. The publication includes a brief analytical section for each Goal. It highlights key constraints, which each good practice has addressed in a specific country context. This publication does not present an exhaustive list of “best” practices. Rather, it aims at sharing concrete country-specific constraints, some of which are sector-specific and/or implicit in terms of their linkages with MDG targets, and various approaches each case has applied.

Databank Now Online for MDG 1 (Other MDGs coming soon!)

Meanwhile, in order to widely share cases to colleagues, edited cases for MDG 1 are available on line at <http://www.undg-policynet.org/?q=node/36>

MDG 1 Good Practice Databank:

Please share your comments on posted cases at mdg.goodpractice@undg.org

Good Practices are classified by internal constraints or/and external challenges, which each Good Practice tried to address (target(s)).

Please click each practice for the entire introduction of the case. Each case contains key elements of success, lessons learned and best practice.

MDG 1: KEY CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES	MDG 1: GOOD PRACTICES
<p>Barriers to economic growth and income equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-poor macroeconomic reforms • Decentralization • Conditional Cash Transfers 	<p>China: 8-7 Poverty Reduction Programme Chile: Growth with Equity National Development Strategy Uganda: National Fiscal Decentralization Programme Malawi: Social Cash Transfer Scheme Mexico: Oportunidades Kenya: Cash Transfer Programme for Orphan and Vulnerable Children Georgia: Food for Work Programme - Implementing Capacity Building Iraq: Iraq Reconstruction and Employment Programme Mozambique: Community Safety Net Programme Food-Based Safety Nets</p>
<p>Lack of incentives for better development results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional Cash transfers 	<p>Mexico: Oportunidades Kenya: Cash Transfer Programme for Orphan and Vulnerable Children Bosnia and Herzegovina: Inner Drina Rehabilitation Programme</p>

All the cases are categorized in accordance with types of constraints. Those include limited access to assets and capitals; limit of capacities to implement policies; and ineffective utilization of existing resources. More cases will be added on a rolling basis.

MDG Roster of In-house Advisors from the UNDG

Profiles of 52 Advisors across UN agencies, funds and programmes are available on line <http://www.undg-policynet.org/?q=node/5>



Please send e-mail to mdg.goodpractice@undg.org for any questions or comments on this News Letter and the Policy Network in general.