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MINISTRY OF STATE FOR PLANNING, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND VISION 2030

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PAPER ON THE ACTUAL USES OF CBMS FOR MDGS MONITORING IN KENYA

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Kenya is located in the Eastern part of the African Continent with the South Eastern part bordering the Indian Ocean. The country lies between Latitude 4° North to 4° South and Longitude 34° East to 41° East. It is bordered to the north by Sudan and Ethiopia, to the northeastern by Somalia, to the west by Uganda and to the south by Tanzania. The total land area is about 582,650 km^2, 2.3% of which is covered by both inland and marine waters. About 80% of Kenya's land area is arid and semiarid and is considered unfavorable for agricultural production. Since Kenya is an agro-based country, this has a significant effect on the growth of the economy and its capacity to feed its population. This, coupled with other challenges such as diseases presents Kenya with special development needs which are well articulated by the Millennium Development Goals.

1.2   DEMOGRAPHICS

The population of Kenya was projected to be approximately 39 million in 2009 (Economic Survey, 2009), up from 28.7 million recorded in the 1999 Population and Housing Census. This figure is expected to increase to 42.4 million in 2012. The population is predominantly rural (80%). The population segment of 15-24 years was estimated at 6 million in 1999 and is projected to increase to 8 million by 2012. The government's focus will be reviewing the current population policy in order to align its strategies and programmes around the MDGs and the Vision 2030.

Government's effort in tackling poverty in the country has resulted in an increase in GDP per capita from USD 650 in 2006 to USD 793.51 in 2008. Kenya has also managed to significantly reduce the population below the poverty line from 56% in 2000 to 46% in 2006. This translates to over 18 Million Kenyans living below the poverty line. Community Based Monitoring information will show poverty levels at the local level and assist in the continuous planning for interventions to facilitate the achievements of MDGs.

1.3   RECENT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

With the implementation of the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERSWEC) during the period 2003-2007, Kenya's economy grew remarkably, reaching a peak of 7.0% growth rate in 2007. However, real GDP growth slowed to 1.6% in 2008 as a result of both domestic and external shocks, which included post election violence, drought, high food and fuel prices and external financial crisis. The shocks affected the key sectors of the economy, almost reversing the gains in poverty reduction achieved during the 2003-2007 period. The key sectors that were adversely affected include agriculture, transport, manufacturing and tourism. The shocks also resulted in high inflation, poor balance of payments position, among others. However, the short rains in the last quarter of 2009, the interventions being implemented

within the Kenya's Vision 2030 and its first Medium Term Plan, the 2009/2010 budget, and the Economic Stimulus Programme, economic performance has been on an upward trend registering a growth in GDP of 2.6% in 2009. This growth rate is projected to double in 2010.

The government is committed to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. The current economic blueprint – The Kenya Vision 2030 – was developed with MDGs in mind. The Vision is anchored on three key pillars, namely, economic, social and political governance and has the MDGs-related sectors covered under the social pillar while the other pillars are enablers to the achievement of the MDGs. Vision 2030 has identified a number of flagship projects. At the same time, the Medium Term Plan 2008-12, which constitutes the first phase in the implementation of the Vision 2030, is aimed at accelerating the achievements of the MDGs by 2015. The government has also increased funding to all the MDGs-related sectors which include agriculture, health and education. The emphasis given to the MDGs in the Vision 2030 and the increased funding to the MDGs related sectors shows the Government's commitment to achieve the MDGs targets by 2015.

1.4   OVERVIEW OF THE MDGs PROCESS IN KENYA

Having signed the Millennium Declaration, Kenya started its MDGs implementation process in September 2002 when a national stakeholder's workshop was held to build consensus and promote understanding on the significance of MDGs, their links to the national planning frameworks, and to determine the best mode and frequency of country level reporting. Since then, the Kenya government and its development partners have committed substantial resources towards meeting the country's MDGs. The Government, with support of its development partners, undertook an assessment of Kenya's performance in each of the eight goals and published the first MDGs Status Report for Kenya in July 2003.

The Government has continued to collaborate with other stakeholders such as civil society organization in MDGs implementation. There is however need for harmonized coordination of development initiatives if the MDGs will be achieved by 2015.

1.5   POLICY SETTING FOR THE MDGs

The economic and social development policies pursued in post-independence Kenya have focused on alleviation of poverty, improvement of literacy levels, and reducing incidence of diseases. The Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 focused on the elimination of poverty, disease and ignorance. The paper also supported a policy of rapid economic growth in order to generate resources to meet the equity goal. Subsequent national development plans, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and the Economic Recovery Strategy 2003-07 have pursued goals that were closely focused on growth, poverty reduction, employment and the general well being of the

people. The Vision 2030 and its first Medium Term Plan 2008-2012 go a step further to identify regional development priorities. These processes have the same focus as the MDGs, and therefore, the MDGs are of continuous appeal to Kenyans.

The long term plan (Vision 2030), the Medium Term Plan, District Development Plans, Sector plans and the baseline surveys in most of the cases undertaken do not identify the neediest members of the community but gives a general picture of the country. In 2007 there was a realization that the Government was not specifically targeting the poorest people in the country. Community Based Monitoring System however, solves this problem because as a census it depicts the actual poverty levels and vulnerabilities of local communities. CBMS will ensure proper targeting of the needy people.

2.0 CBMS IN KENYA

The interest in CBMS process started when a Government Mission from the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development visited the Philippines between 18th and 24th November 2007 to learn and share experiences on the implementation of MDGs with partner organizations, both state and non-state in the Philippines. The Mission learnt that CBMS was being implemented by African Institute for Health and Development through a Local Poverty Monitoring System (LPMS) in Tana River District.

The Ministry realized that CBMS could be utilized in collecting information for planning on the welfare status and needs of people at the community and household level. At the same time it could be used in monitoring the implementation of Millennium Development Goals at the local level because it had indicators that were similar to MDGs indicators. Community Based Monitoring System also encourages participatory planning and development at the local level. This led to joint collaboration on CBMS implementation with African Institute for Health and Development in 2009.

During the first phase of MDGs project implementation, the Ministry funded the CBMS first National Conference in June 2009. It was in this conference that the CBMS concept was introduced to stakeholders and the results of the LPMS (Local Poverty Monitoring system) pilot study in Tana River District disseminated. Various stakeholders were sensitized on the CBMS concept and an action plan on implementation of CBMS in Kenya was developed. The way forward from this conference resulted in other CBMS programmes and activities that have been undertaken by AIHD and the Ministry.

The Ministry in collaboration with AIHD carried out a pilot study of CBMS in three of its nine MDG Districts namely; Kilifi, Kisumu and Muranga. It is in these Districts that three local authorities were selected. The study then narrowed down to one ward in every council. The findings of this study were shared with the stakeholders with the intention of using the data in

planning and resource allocation in those councils. The councils involved in the study committed themselves to mobilize resources to address the priority needs identified.

The Ministry also funded the Trainer of Trainers CBMS workshop in the month of February 2010. This was with the objective of training a pool of trainers in preparation for the up scaling of CBMS activities in Kenya.

The Ministry in collaboration with Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya organized a workshop for Civic leaders and local authorities' technical officers from 175 local authorities in Kenya. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize local authorities on MDGs with a view of mainstreaming MDGs in local authorities. It was in this forum that AIHD disseminated the findings of the pilot study and sensitized the participants on the concept of CBMS. All the local authorities felt that CBMS could complement the Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plans and provide factual information to guide resources allocation. All the local authorities expressed willingness and commitment to implement CBMS in their councils.

3.0 BENEFITS OF CBMS

Since CBMS is a census and not a survey, it provides accurate baseline information on poverty and welfare status of citizens at the local level. It provides reliable and comprehensive data which is very important in planning and implementation of development programs which are focused on poverty alleviation and in particular the Millennium Development Goals.

The process is able to generate area specific data on poverty. Poverty varies from one community to another i.e poverty is localized. Local communities know what they need and can prioritize their needs. This makes the tool to be flexible while at same time generating information on what people feel are their needs.

Local authorities and Civil Society Organizations can use CBMS data in allocating resources to their activities and in carrying out their investments. Since CBMS can capture the felt needs of local communities, local authorities and other stakeholders could come up with interventions that address the needs of local communities hence improving in their service delivery.

CBMS tool is useful in monitoring the implementation of MDGs, Vision 2030 and its Medium Term Plan and the District Development Plans in Kenya. The CBMS indicators have incorporated MDGs concerns. The indicators are also easily understood by local communities and can be used by the local people to monitor implementation of MDGs at the local level.

Local communities and local authorities have been able to understand and own the process of MDGs implementation at the local level through CBMS due to its participatory approach. CBMS utilizes the skills and inputs of local communities making it to be community led and owned process.

Support policy formulation by the government based on the ability of the system to provide up to date information on the welfare status and needs at the community and household level. For examples the Government can use the data in targeting and prioritizing programs like Constituency Development Funds, Local Authority Transfer fund and School Bursaries.

4.0 STRATEGIES FOR INSTITUTIONALIZING CBMS IN KENYA

The Ministry of Planning is working closely with Ministry of local Government (Reforms Programme), AIHD and Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya in institutionalizing CBMS in local authorities. AIHD will lead the process as the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 supports the CBMS process.

The CBMS data that will be generated in local authorities will be used to feed into the national and local planning. This means that National Plans and Local Authorities Service Delivery Action Plans (LASDAP) will be based on the needs of the local communities. Allocation of resources will also be needs based and prioritized.

In recognition of the role played by local authorities in the implementation of the MDGs, the Ministry in collaboration with Association of Local Governments Authorities in Kenya will continue to build the capacity of local authorities to ensure efficient service delivery. This will encourage more local authorities to adopt CBMS as a planning tool.

The Trainers of Trainers that were trained on CBMS will assist in training more stakeholders in the country on the Methodology.

5.0 Up scaling CBMS in Kenya

The Ministry of Planning intends to upscale CBMS activities in Muranga Municipal council and Kilifi Municipal Council.

The Ministry will also continue supporting CBMS capacity building activities in local authorities in the next financial year.

It is clear that Community Based Monitoring System is a useful tool in identifying needs and poverty levels in local communities. It can therefore be utilized in reduction of poverty and monitoring Millennium Development Goals. CBMS also improves governance and ensure proper utilization and allocation of resources.