



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Testing new approaches

Published by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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In 2012 the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) adopted a new cross-sectoral strategy on poverty reduction entitled 'Fighting Poverty More Effectively – Worldwide!'. GIZ was commissioned to translate the instructions contained in the paper into model projects. The declared objective was to drive innovation at the regional, national and international levels. This meant trying out new ideas, testing new approaches and creating new conceptual models – or placing old ideas in a new context in order to sustainably improve poor people's quality of life.

The GIZ sector programme 'Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction' asked their colleagues in Germany and in the field to propose innovative projects. Together with BMZ Division 300 the programme selected seven measures for reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs. The selection included a wide range of themes and broad geographical distribution.

The projects, which ran for 12 – 18 months, each received funding of up to EUR 100,000 from BMZ. More than EUR 300,000 of partner funds was also mobilised. The projects were implemented in close cooperation between the internal and external partners, and the sector programme.

The measures generated results and lessons in a wide range of thematic areas. As the three examples below demonstrate, the measures are relevant not only with respect to the Post-2015 Agenda:

- Since the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network was established in September 2013, 29 countries and nine institutions of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have joined. After introducing the Multidimensional Poverty Index some countries – like Mexico – have already been better able to align their national policies with poverty reduction.
- In Tajikistan, radio programmes on legal issues broadcast by a popular channel were met with keen interest among the impoverished population. Furthermore, 850 people were advised by highly-qualified, independent lawyers; this led among other things to maintenance payments and pension entitlements being sorted out, and the award of land rights. The project thus demonstrated that information and independent legal advice can be used to reduce poverty directly.
- In Ethiopia, community score cards were introduced in four towns to prompt a productive dialogue between citizens, local governments and service providers. The aim was to improve the quality of service delivery and local governance. The regional government was so impressed by the outcome that it then commissioned GIZ to produce a regional handbook on community-based monitoring (CBM) so that it could also roll out the instrument in other towns and cities.

By publishing this folder we would like to share the lessons learned and provide some inspiration – in the hope that one or two readers will then get in touch with us to find out more. We look forward to hearing from you.



Measuring and fighting poverty in a multidimensional way

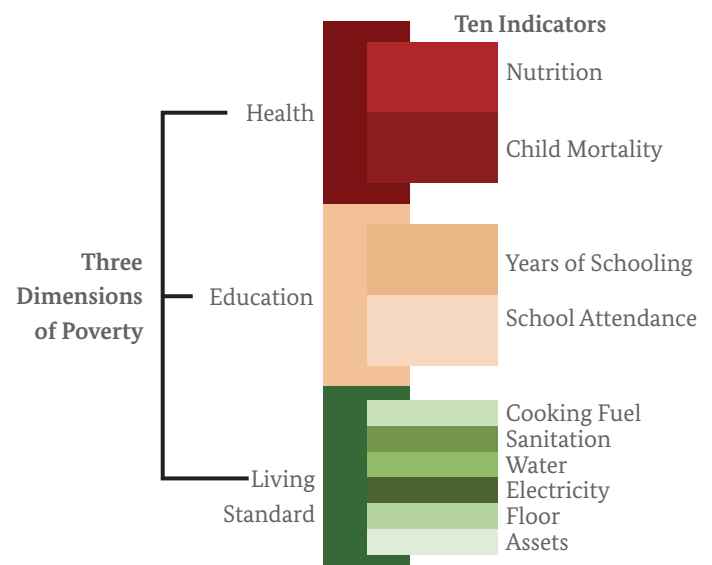
Connecting policymakers to introduce a new method of measuring poverty

We can only measure well-being and progress if we look beyond income poverty and consider factors such as environmentally sound, sustainable and inclusive growth.'

This quote by Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD, acknowledges that measuring poverty in purely monetary terms in relation to the poverty threshold of US\$ 1.25/day fails to yield a full picture of the reality. If we wish to make public policies more pro-poor and implement government programmes more effectively – and many of our partner countries do – then we must identify poor target groups more accurately and understand their various needs. To accomplish this we need new methods for measuring poverty that capture its different dimensions.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The new Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was introduced internationally in 2010 when the United Nations Development Programme published its Human Development Report. The Index was developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The global MPI measures three dimensions of poverty: education, health and living standard, which are assigned ten different indicators. A household is considered multi-dimensionally poor if it achieves a weighted deprivation score of at least 33 per cent by these measures. Since the Index is based on household data, these data on deprivation can be disaggregated by region or ethnic minority. This brings considerable advantages for identifying target groups and for project implementation.



Quelle: OPHI

Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)

A rapidly growing number of countries are showing keen interest in introducing new methods for measuring poverty. These include especially middle-income countries that have been highly successful in reducing poverty, and wish to sharpen the focus of their policies in light of marked regional disparities.

Generating high-quality data and developing statistical capacities at the national and local levels is a major challenge, however. To deal with this challenge, OPHI offers advisory services and training measures on the ground.

This measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)



Speakers at the Side Event at
the 69th UN General Assembly
(September 2014).

Photo: © OPHI

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Policymakers, academics and practitioners learning together across national borders

Since May 2012, on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIZ Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Programme has been supporting the OPHI in scaling up the MPI. This measure focused on establishing the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN). The MPPN was officially launched in Oxford in 2013 at a ceremony attended by the Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen, the President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos, and numerous high-level representatives. By mid-2014 the network already included leaders and policymakers from 29 countries and nine institutions among its members.

Over the last few months the inclusion of multidimensional poverty measurement in the new Post-2015 Agenda has also become a key issue. At the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2014, OPHI organised a corresponding side event, involving among others the governments of Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Germany.

MPI – a key element of national poverty reduction strategies

In addition to numerous advisory and consultancy assignments to disseminate information on the MPI and the network, during the course of this innovative measure twelve training units have already taken place worldwide. Four countries – Mexico,

Colombia, the Philippines and Bhutan – and Brazil's two federal states Minas Gerais and São Paulo, have already introduced the national MPI. Eleven other countries are in the process of doing so, including China, Tunisia, Turkey, Viet Nam and El Salvador.

In some countries the MPI is already helping align national policies more closely with the needs of poor sections of the population. In Mexico, for instance, the national poverty reduction strategy is already leading the 'crusade against poverty' based on the results of the MPI. And in Colombia it has emerged that for poor households, access to formal employment, school attendance and access to services for infants are matters of particular urgency.

How can you use the MPI and enable the network to grow?

The advantages of the new MPI for improved management of German development cooperation are obvious. The data collected at household level will also be of use during evaluation. To find out more about existing or planned MPI surveys, please go to www.ophi.org.uk or contact the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Programme. If your partner country is not a member of the network, you can grow the initiative by discussing its advantages with your partners. We would be glad to supply you with materials in any of several languages upon request.

Click here to find out more about the MPPN: www.mppn.org.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Authors	Marion Koch, Sabine Meyer
Design	Ira Olaleye
Printer	druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt
As at	November 2014
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.	

On behalf of	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)		
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Helping poor people obtain their rights

An example from Tajikistan: legal empowerment helps reduce poverty

No one doubts that the rule of law is a key prerequisite to economic growth and poverty reduction. But can it also help reduce poverty directly? The answer is yes. But only if citizens know their rights, and know how to claim them. In many countries, however, considerable deficits exist in this regard.

The pilot project in Tajikistan demonstrated the importance of public awareness-raising campaigns and legal advice provided by independent lawyers. When the state ensures that poor people are able to solve their civil law problems – by securing their inheritance, for instance (see box on page 2) – this often means a decisive improvement in their financial circumstances. And it creates trust and confidence in the state.

Tajikistan is the poorest of the USSR successor states

In 2009, 50 per cent of the rural population and 37 per cent of the urban population were living below the international poverty threshold of US\$ 1.25 a day. In that same year income poverty was highest in the project region of Khatlon. The reasons for this include the poorly diversified economy, which focuses on just a few major sectors such as aluminium and cotton production, and the extreme dependence of large sections of the population on fluctuating remittances from Tajik migrant workers in Russia.

Poor people often live in ignorance of their rights, and since affordable legal advice is usually unavailable to them, they are at a disadvantage when claiming their rights from state bodies. Furthermore, poverty often leads to a feeling of powerlessness in the face of those who wield power, and a lack of confidence among poor people in their ability to solve their own problems.

This measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- GIZ regional programme 'Promotion of the Rule of Law in Central Asia'
- Femida – Tajik Centre of Social and Legal Support of Women and Teenagers
- Sipar – Tajik National Bar Association
- Chashma – a pro-poor NGO in Khatlon

This is compounded by the fact that the legal thinking dating back to the Soviet Union, for instance regarding the need for civil status documents, is no longer present in some regions. Yet if someone is unable to prove their identity, it becomes more difficult for them to claim their rights.

Broad awareness raising and individual legal advice must go hand-in-hand

The measure aimed to make poor sections of the population in the districts of Shahrtuz, Khubodiyon and Nosiri Khusrav in southern Tajikistan more aware of their rights. It also aimed to enable them to claim these rights effectively.

A broad public awareness campaign disseminated information on family, labour and property rights. Every week Tajikistan's most popular radio station 'Sadoi Dushanbe' broadcast a half-hour programme on 'law and justice' that enabled listeners to speak to lawyers directly about their problems and obtain initial advice. At the same time, monthly 'legal days' were held in the three districts. Here, lawyers offered legal advice free of charge. This was



Lawyers from Sipar and Femida (left) during the radio programme on 'law and justice'.

supplemented by a permanent telephone hotline run by lawyers from Sipar and Femida (for more details, see above).

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A single legal action won can put an end to the poverty of an entire family

These offerings met with an unexpectedly keen response among the population. The radio programme 'Law and Justice' was broadcast on 60 occasions, and more than 500 listeners' questions were answered. Due to the strong demand the programme was extended from 30 to 40 minutes. Almost 40 legal days took place in the project region, during which 850 individuals received advice. Some of them subsequently received further support, e.g. to help them file legal applications or bring legal actions. Over 1,000 queries were dealt with by the telephone hotline.

Better legal information enables people to argue their case more self-confidently

This is demonstrated by the fact that many people are now more successful in claiming their rights from public authorities and courts. For instance, just under two thirds of the citizens advised at the legal days went on to approach the responsible state bodies. Seventy per cent of these succeeded in claiming some or all of their rights (185 out of 265). This meant for example that land titles were awarded, and maintenance payments and pension claims were sorted out.

Although the local authorities in some cases strongly resisted accepting the submission of legal applications or legal actions,

only nine per cent of all actions, applications and petitions were submitted by lawyers and not by citizens themselves.

Divorce and maintenance were two of the issues raised most frequently in the provision of legal advice. Several successfully resolved cases show that the position of women and girls was strengthened – and not only when filing legal applications with public authorities, but also within their family unit.

Independent lawyers are better able to deal with arbitrary local bureaucracy and red tape

The widespread corruption and inefficiency of state bodies can block or delay proceedings, however. The project demonstrated that these obstacles can be overcome with the support of experienced lawyers who are independent of local power structures. Given the huge influence wielded by local authorities in the province, mobile legal advisory services provided by lawyers from the capital proved more effective than support delivered through local legal aid centres. As a result, citizens' trust and confidence in public institutions have grown – as has their confidence in their own ability to claim their rights from the state.

Building on the positive experiences in Tajikistan, GIZ's regional programme is currently preparing similar measures for implementation in Kyrgyzstan.

Ms R. (see photo) lived together with her mother and two brothers in a house. When her mother died the brothers seized the house: Together with her son, who was a minor, Ms R. was literally thrown out on the street. Her petitions to the responsible jamoat, the local government body, came to nothing. She even had to go into debt to pay for the information and certifications she required. A local lawyer provided Ms R. with extremely unprofessional advice.

A jamoat chairman then told her about the legal days. A lawyer there advised and supported her in claiming her rights. Finally a court settlement was reached between Mrs R. and her brothers. This provided for part of the land included in Mrs R.'s mother's estate to be divided off.



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Printer druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt

As at November 2014

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division Division 300 (Sectoral and thematic policies; poverty reduction and social protection)

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Citizen participation – not just during planning

Community-based monitoring (CBM) – an effective tool for inclusive urban development

If a newly built road in a developing country somewhere in the world shows defects just a few weeks after completion, then what usually happens is – nothing. Yet in the Ethiopian town of Yirgalem things followed a different course. After a citizens' committee had established that the contract had not been properly executed, the local authority made sure that the low-quality paving stones were replaced and the road repaired. Should we interpret this as a textbook example of how effective community-based monitoring (CBM) can be?

Vision of CBM in urban development

CBM, a procedure successfully used for instance in nature conservation projects, involves citizens collecting and evaluating local data and information. The idea is that citizens participate not only during the planning phase of a measure, but also during its implementation by monitoring ongoing activities and checking the work performed. This brings the local authority and service providers into a productive dialogue with citizens, which also improves the quality of the services provided. When citizens notice that their voices are being heard in their municipality and that – as in the example from Ethiopia – the 'stumbling block' is being removed, their trust, confidence and satisfaction with the local authority automatically increase. CBM can thus also promote empowerment, particularly when marginalised sections of the population are encouraged to participate and articulate their needs. Urban poverty can only be reduced by including impoverished marginal groups in political, social, economic and cultural structures processes.

This measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- GIZ sector programme 'Policy Advice for Municipal and Urban Development'
- GIZ programme 'Urban Governance and Decentralisation'
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

Overview study of CBM

In actual fact, there are currently only a few examples of the use of CBM in urban development. This is confirmed by an overview study commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and managed by the GIZ sector programmes 'Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction' and 'Policy Advice in Urban Development'. The study reports on measures to pilot CBM in Ethiopia. Its results are complemented by analyses performed in other towns and cities by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the non-governmental organisation Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), which take into account the perspectives of both local governments and inhabitants. These studies add general validity to the overview study's conclusions.

The overview study was presented at a joint event at the World Urban Forum held in April 2014 in Medellín, Colombia. The sub-studies by UCLG and SDI will also be published. Together they will help form opinion in the international urban community.





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Pilot studies in Ethiopia

Yirgalem and Assosa are two rapidly-growing medium-sized towns that are representative of Ethiopia's urbanisation processes. Urban poverty, youth unemployment and a lack of basic service delivery are creating huge challenges for the local authorities there. As part of the overview study, community score cards were tested in these two towns. The indicators for awarding the scores were identified in advance by the meeting participants. Citizens' representatives and service providers use the score cards to rate existing services independently of each other – in Yirgalem it was the construction of paved roads, in Assosa the introduction of municipal solid waste management. The different perspectives are then discussed with the local government, and specific steps are agreed to improve services.

CBM prompted a productive dialogue

As well as bringing about direct improvements as outlined in the examples above, the pilot projects in Ethiopia also made the local governments more aware of the need for greater participation and transparency in decision-making processes. At the same time the citizens' representatives learned how to articulate their views and needs effectively. Above all, though, the dialogue initiated through CBM helped reduce mistrust between citizens

and service providers. These positive experiences led to discussions on further options for applying CBM. Two other towns have since piloted community score cards. And the success achieved has prompted the regional government to commission the GIZ programme involved to develop a CBM handbook so that it can roll out the instrument in other towns and cities in the region.

Empowerment remains the goal

The lessons learned in Ethiopia need to be seen in their local context. To answer the question posed at the outset, bearing in mind what CBM sets out to do, we should not necessarily see this as a textbook example. However, in a country like Ethiopia, where state authority, control and security usually take precedence over the civil and political rights of individuals, these experiences do mean a transformation of political culture. Moreover, the overview study did show that where CBM has been used internationally, the lessons learned have been incorporated into local decision-making processes only to a limited extent. Presumably this is because local governments fear that their decision-making freedom might be curtailed. If they advocate CBM at all, they advocate it as a means of improving the quality of services and administrative procedures, but not as a means of empowering their citizens. Nonetheless this should be our goal, at least in the long term, if we aim to achieve inclusive urban development.

'This kind of open, face-to-face communication between service providers and users is a good thing, because it helps create a transparent relationship between local government and citizens. It helps the service providers to feel responsible and take note of the fact that citizens do indeed see and understand the gaps in service delivery.'

– Spokesperson for Yirgalem town council

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Printer druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt

As at November 2014

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division Division 300 (Sectoral and thematic policies; poverty
reduction and social protection)

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First step toward change

People with disabilities taking part in poverty reduction strategies in sub-Saharan Africa

According to World Bank estimates, approximately one billion people are currently living with a disability, some 80 per cent of them in developing countries. Poverty often causes disability – and vice versa. In too many countries people with disabilities are still socially marginalised, cannot attend school or get a job, and disability remains a taboo. There is a lack not only of information, but also awareness and sensitivity to the problems of those affected – as well as knowledge of how to achieve inclusion. A first step toward improving the situation of people with disabilities is to involve them in the preparation and implementation of national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

This measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD)
- National Union of Disabilities' Organisations, Rwanda
- Federation of the Associations of Persons with Disabilities, Senegal
- Disabled People South Africa (DPSA)

A project in Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa

Although the governments of Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the people affected and the Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) they have formed were barely involved in the PRSP processes at all. A one-year measure therefore set out to mainstream the concerns of people with disabilities, and make their inclusion a cross-cutting task in all areas of state planning and action.

Objective: mainstream inclusion systematically

On behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the sector programmes 'Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction' and 'People with Disabilities' provided support for one year to the 'Alliance for Poverty Eradication', a project run by the Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD). The project supported the DPOs of Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa in making an active contribution to national poverty reduction processes, and in strengthening the rights of people with disabilities so that they can participate in the economic development of their countries. In all three countries this involved:

- **Support of advocacy measures**
Policy recommendations and practical steps to implement them were identified. Cooperation with the media was strengthened. A contract was concluded with the radio station Voice of Africa, which now reports on the situation of people with disabilities twice monthly, and presents exemplary initiatives.
- **Capacity development**
Some 320 members of the DPOs underwent training. By developing their capacities for budget planning and results-based management, the training aimed to encourage especially young people and women with disabilities to participate more and exert greater influence.
- **Dialogue events with government representatives**
Workshops were held with some 80 government representatives to raise the political profile of the idea of inclusion.
- **International meetings**
Two round tables were held to facilitate an international exchange of experiences. The agenda covered advocacy strategies, training content, good practice examples and how to make further cooperation sustainable.



International meeting in Kigali,
Rwanda (August 2013).

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Results in the countries

Rwanda: Disability-sensitive PRSP implementation in districts

The National Union of Disabilities' Organisations of Rwanda has consulted with the Rwandan National Council of Persons with Disabilities on the government's district development plan. Technical teams were established in five out of 30 districts. District officials have been appointed as designated liaison officers for people with disabilities; they are now mainstreaming inclusion in budget planning processes. Databases set up at district level and containing information on people with disabilities are also enabling the authorities to develop services and projects that meet target-group needs.

Senegal: Institutionalised exchange on inclusion

In cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance a committee comprising government and NGO representatives was set up to evaluate the PRSP and deliberate on its implementation. The Federation of the Associations of Persons with Disabilities is closely involved in the implementation of the PRSP and is advising the government on a disability-sensitive monitoring system.

South Africa: Successful advocacy through continuous cooperation

The process of exchange initiated between the National Planning Commission and the organisation Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) led to close working relations. This is exemplified by the

fact the National Development Plan is now available in Braille. A strategy for inclusion has been developed that includes indicators for measuring success. DPSA is also holding information events on the inclusion of children as part of the national campaign against school dropout.

Conclusion: Participation begins by taking part in planning processes

If people with disabilities – who according to World Bank figures make up an estimated 22 per cent of the population in low-income countries – are to help shape poverty reduction strategies, their participation must first of all be institutionally mainstreamed. Secondly, people with disabilities and their organisations must be encouraged to step up their civic engagement. To do that, they must be able to communicate effectively. And because mutual learning works well, an international sharing of lessons learned should be sought from the outset.

'There are no better experts on the inclusion of people with disabilities than the people who live with disabilities themselves.'
Are you already using this expertise in your project? For more advice, see the BMZ brochure '[Inclusion at a glance – 10 ways of including people with disabilities in German development cooperation projects](#)'.

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For nature and against poverty in the Amazon

Comparative study on transfer programmes with conditionalities for environmental protection in Brazil, Ecuador and Peru

The Amazon basin is home to the largest tropical rainforest in the world. It covers 44 per cent of the territory of South America, and exerts a considerable effect on the climate of the entire planet. The Amazon rainforest is considered the jewel in nature's crown. Yet it faces a growing threat from the extensive deforestation caused by soybean production, cattle farming, unregulated mining and the construction of hydropower plants.

Within each of the nine riparian states, figures for the Amazon region are always below average. Around half the total of just under 39 million people in the region – of whom approximately 600,000 belong to indigenous groups – are living below the poverty threshold. Inadequate infrastructure in the education and health sectors and the lack of formal employment opportunities are among the obstacles to reducing poverty.

Brazil has by the far the largest share of land (64 per cent) and population (75 per cent).

In the slipstream of development

For many decades, the Amazon region was in the slipstream of the development efforts made by the various countries. There were neither measures to support local development, nor social programmes for the poor population. Only in the last few years have programmes existed in the Amazon countries that for the first time link nature conservation with poverty reduction.

This measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- GIZ regional programme 'Strengthening the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization'
- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

Study designed to prompt debate on social inclusion

On behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), a comparative study was performed of programmes in Brazil, Ecuador and Peru that wish to mitigate climate change and preserve the forest, while at the same time promoting economic and social development in the Amazon. The results and recommendations of the study will be submitted to ACTO (see box), with a view to stimulating a debate on these innovative programmes between the countries in the region. The study was therefore designed not to compare the relative merits of national programmes, but instead to highlight a variety of successful approaches. This should enable decision-makers in the ministries concerned to use the lessons learned to design similar programmes in their own countries.

The regional organisation ACTO: In 2002, on the basis of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) signed in 1978, the Amazon riparian states Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela formed the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). Its declared objective is to reduce the asymmetries between the countries and foster sustainable cooperation in the region on a coordinated basis. The organisation sees itself as a permanent forum for political dialogue. In 2011 the foreign ministries of the ACTO member countries decided to support exchange on social inclusion in the Amazon and the coordination of corresponding measures.



The Amazon riparian states Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela.

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For the first time, programmes recognise and acknowledge the environmental services provided by the inhabitants of the Amazon

The programmes covered by the study target families in poverty that can help conserve and sustainably manage natural resources. The transfer payments are made only if and when the households commit to implementing measures that will protect the environment.

Although transfer programmes with conditionalities have been implemented with some degree of success in Latin America since the 1990s, acknowledging existing practices to protect the forest is uncharted territory. As a result, indigenous communities in particular for the first time now feel appreciated for the important role they play in managing the forest sustainably and preserving biodiversity. At the same time, behaviours that damage the forest have been reduced through the financial incentives created by the programme and through the establishment of alternative sources of income.

What has been achieved in the countries so far?

The Brazilian programmes have made both environmental protection and poverty reduction their express objectives: they link the preservation of biodiversity with the strengthening of citizens and training elements. So far, more than 73,000 families have benefited from the *Bolsa Floresta* and *Bolsa Verde* programmes by receiving regular compensation payments in return for services to protect the environment (as at 2012/2013). The deforestation rate in the *Bolsa Floresta* zones in 2012 was just 3 per cent of the rate normally found in other regions (0.009%

compared to 0.3%).

The programmes in Ecuador and Peru, on the other hand, have made environmental protection their supreme objective and are offering economic incentives for small farmers to protect forests. *Socio Bosque* in Ecuador and *Programa Bosque* in Peru are thus offering an economic alternative to illegal wood use. In Ecuador, so far some 35,000 families have been supported and agreements have been reached with 2,000 communities and individuals to protect 1.1 million hectares of forest (as at 2012). In Peru, more than 2,300 families have been supported and agreements have been reached with four regional authorities to protect 42 million hectares of virgin forest. It is not yet possible to draw any conclusions on the socio-economic results of the programmes, partly because these will only become fully apparent in a few years' time..

Conclusion: It's early days yet

It is still too early to judge precisely how effective the programmes have been, as the existing data on deforestation rates and standard of living for the participating families are not yet sufficient to permit final evaluation. Nevertheless, *Bolsa Floresta* shows that we are moving in the right direction. This is also demonstrated by the policy paper 'Human Progress within Planetary Guardrails – A Contribution to the SDG Debate' published in June 2014 by the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU). Accordingly, measures to preserve humanity's natural life-support systems are 'not only a prerequisite for increasing prosperity among the world's low-income groups; they can also become the driver of such increases.' With this in mind, it would appear to make sense to transfer these innovative programmes to other countries.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
	Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany Programme 'Eradicating Poverty – Reducing Inequality' Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5 65760 Eschborn, Germany T +49 (0)6196 79 - 0 F +49 (0)6196 79 - 1115 E reducepoverty@giz.de I www.giz.de/good-governance
Authors	Jörn Geißelmann, Sabine Meyer
Design	Ira Olaleye
Printer	druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt
As at	November 2014
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.	

On behalf of	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)		
Division	Division 300 (Sectoral and thematic policies; poverty reduction and social protection)		
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Economic empowerment of disadvantaged women

Gender-sensitive analysis and optimisation of agricultural value chains in Jordan and Morocco

In the World Economic Forum's 2014 *Global Gender Gap Report*, the Middle Eastern and North African states trailed behind the rest of the world. In these mostly conservative societies, the everyday life of women and girls is shaped by patriarchal attitudes and laws that discriminate against them, and which are seen as part of the Arab and Islamic identity. In rural areas women also suffer high levels of illiteracy, which is a further obstacle to emancipation. The gender divide is reflected in the low percentage of women working outside the home: in Morocco and Jordan, the countries covered by the project, only 27 per cent and 16 per cent of women respectively were formally involved in gainful economic activities outside the home.

In agriculture, women are at the lower end of the value chain

It is more urgent than ever before to strengthen women's potential, not only from a gender perspective, but also to improve food security and for economic reasons. Heightened competition in the wake of globalisation demands more effective organisation along the value chains in the agriculture sector. Since 2012 the regional programme EconoWin has been supporting seven partner organisations in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt to help empower women in value chains. Two of the organisations are receiving support on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in conjunction with the GIZ sector programme Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction.

Objective of the innovative measure

The objective of the innovative measure was for poor women in rural parts of Jordan and Morocco to produce and sell agricultural

The measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- GIZ's regional programme Economic Integration of Women in the MENA Region (EconoWin)
- The Jordan Royal Scientific Society
- The Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (the Moroccan Small Enterprise Promotion Association)

produce under hygienic conditions with no harm to their health or the health of consumers. Their involvement in value chains was to become more professional and more lucrative, their standard of living was to be improved and their status within the family and within society enhanced.

Important points in the procedure adopted

1. **Free competition to find the best project proposal** provided for a transparent selection of partners and economically relevant sectors: NGOs and social enterprises in the four countries were asked to submit project proposals with a view to improving an agricultural value chain. A committee made up of regional, national and international experts selected the most promising. The two proposals with the greatest potential for reducing poverty were then supported as innovative measures (see overleaf).
2. **A gender-sensitive analysis of the value chain** investigated the positions and responsibilities of men and women at all levels. Are they involved in different ways? Can we identify gender-specific knowledge? Who controls profits and investment? How do decision-making processes operate? Do women have access to information and new techniques and



Point of sale of this dairy farmer
from Jerash in Jordan



Members of a cooperative in Ouazzane, Morocco, pack dried figs

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technologies? How can women improve their status without risking the loss of their jobs?

3. **Short-term activities strengthened ownership.** The *quick-win initiatives* conducted before the launch of the actual measure did not require any third-party funding but achieved tangible results after three to four months. This gave local economic actors more faith in their own ability to develop the value chains.

Strengthening women dairy farmers in Jordan ...

Along with the Jordan Royal Scientific Society further training in production techniques was provided for 20 poor women dairy farmers in Borma Province. A room for the hygienically sound production of butter, cheese, ghee and labneh was set up. The women also attended training courses on quality standards and marketing as well as the empowerment seminar 'Arab Women Speak Out'. At markets they gained sales experience. Above all, however, meeting quality controls opened up the opportunity for them to sell their quality products through the parastatal Urdon programme to shops and large supermarkets. This enabled the small-scale producers to increase their income by 127 per cent on average.

... and promoting women's cooperatives in Morocco

In the provinces of Chefchaouen and Ouazzane, five cooperatives with a total of 55 female and 7 male members focused on figs and enhanced the value added locally. Construction measures

(drying plant, room to fumigate the figs) improved production conditions; in conjunction with the Moroccan Small Enterprise Promotion Association, the *Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise*, training courses were held and an excursion organised. These covered both technical aspects of processing and drying figs as well as business aspects: efficient management, marketing and sales, and establishing products on the market. One quarter of the women saw their income rise in the first year of project activities; 40 per cent reported that their position had improved and 80 per cent have been able to establish new business contacts.

Empowerment bears fruit

In an initial evaluation of all value chain projects supported by EconoWin, 85 per cent of women reported that they were more self-assured and that their work had gained greater acceptance within society.

In conjunction with Oxfam-Québec, the gender-sensitive value chain approach has been explained in a manual entitled *The 'Why, What and How' of Gender-Sensitive Value Chains: A Practical Guide*. The Jordanian Ministry of Interior then integrated the gender-sensitive approach into its inclusive rural economic development policy, and government institutions in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt have expressed their intentions of following suit.

The gender-sensitive optimisation of value chains has proved to be a good way of achieving economic empowerment for women, even women suffering pronounced legal and social disadvantages, thus helping overcome discrimination against them.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
	Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany Programme 'Eradicating Poverty – Reducing Inequality' Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5 65760 Eschborn, Germany T +49 (0)6196 79 - 0 F +49 (0)6196 79 - 1115 E reducepoverty@giz.de I www.giz.de/good-governance
Authors	Jörn Geißelmann, Sabine Meyer
Design	Ira Olaleye
Printer	druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt
As at	April 2015

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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Whistle-Blowing in the fight against corruption in Nigeria

How the internet-based Trade Route Incident Mapping System (TRIMS) is fostering good governance

Etannibi Eo Alemika, the Nigerian expert in the sociology of law, maintains that corruption in Nigeria might well be one of the greatest obstacles to democracy, economic development and security. In 2010 Human Rights Watch reported that widespread corruption in the Nigeria Police Force was fuelling abuses against ordinary citizens and undermining the rule of law in Nigeria. And, against the background of the most recent terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamic extremists, Transparency International sees a correlation between corruption and the security situation. When state institutions are weak, where the people have no trust in the security forces and where the borders are not secure a good breeding ground exists for terrorist groupings. These are poor conditions for economic development in a country that suffers extreme poverty. Almost two thirds of the Nigerian population live below the poverty line of USD 1.25 per day.

Corruption undermines economic development

Corruption is an obstacle to generating added value. It results in massive material damage and undermines the competitiveness of Nigerian traders and producers: we must look behind these abstract terms to identify the day to day reality faced by small entrepreneurs and street vendors in the project area, the state of Ogun in the south west of the country, bordering on Benin. They are regularly stopped on the street by officials and forced to pay bribes to the police, the customs authorities and the immigration authorities. Not infrequently these controls trigger violence and

The measure was implemented in cooperation with:

- The GIZ's Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment Programme (SEDIN)
- The Office of the Governor, Ogun State
- Ogun State Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (OGUNCCIMA)

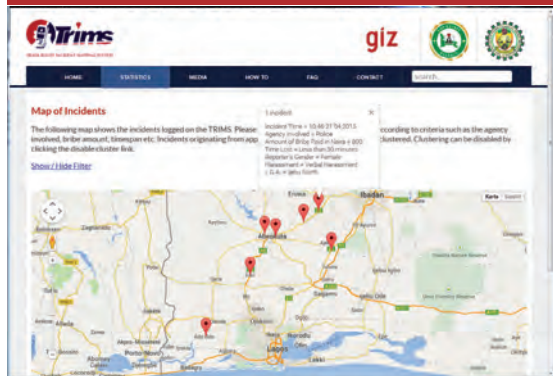
human rights violations when someone refuses to pay up. The situation is compounded by the use of sexual violence, which is a particular risk for the many women traders. Against this background, the GIZ programme in the region, *Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria (SEDIN)*, is seeking new ways to prevent corruption.

Reporting openly on corruption and sexual violence

Mobile phones and the social media have opened a new dimension in the fight against these unlawful actions: geocoded text messages from victims can be collected anonymously on a crowdsourcing platform and published in the form of an interactive map. The measure aims to introduce a public complaints mechanism which can serve as the foundation for a dialogue between civil society and public authorities.



Using posters, brochures and radio spots to promote awareness about TRIMS



The TRIMS
crowdsourcing
platform

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How does TRIMS work?

TRIMS brings the whistle-blowing approach to the customs and transport of goods sectors for the first time, and adapts it to suit the Nigerian context. One important feature of TRIMS is the use of modern, but generally available information and communication technology. In future any individual affected by corruption or violence can send an anonymous text message to an internet-based crowdsourcing platform. The message reports where the incident took place, which authority was involved, whether or not violence was used, how long the victim was delayed, and the sum the individual was forced to pay in bribes. Since no names are given, the system cannot be misused to denounce others.

Raising the awareness of local actors

The project team initially concentrated on activating as many local actors as possible. A management team, consisting of the Ogun state government (The Office of the Governor), the umbrella organisation of chambers of commerce and industry (Ogun State Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture) and the GIZ programme, was set up, as was a TRIMS Advisory Group (TAG) which brought together key actors from the public and private sectors and from civil society. TAG is the 'public face' of the TRIMS initiative and conducts education and information work in the field of anti-corruption. In October 2014 it launched a large-scale awareness campaign using posters, brochures and radio spots; at the kick-off event TRIMS was presented to several thousand small traders, most of them women.

Problems encountered in technical implementation

Parallel to the establishment of the management structure, work started on the technical implementation. It soon became clear that, in spite of initial assurances to the contrary, the technical preconditions for implementation were not in place on the part of Nigerian mobile phone providers. A clearance certificate from the National Security Advisors was also demanded because of the potential security risk involved in passing on data. This delayed the launch of the measure. The website www.trimsonline.org finally went online in March 2015. The objective is to receive a minimum of 1,000 text messages by summer 2015.

The measure was integrated into the ongoing SEDIN programme. There are plans to extend the measure to cover other Nigerian states.

Outlook

The innovative measure aims to put in place a transparent complaints system, to motivate those affected to report incidents, and to initiate a public dialogue about abuses. The social media offer the chance to monitor the official response directly, and the chance to step up public pressure and thus improve governance. Nigeria is still a long way from achieving this. Initially people must be motivated not to simply accept injustices. 'The time of simply looking away is over,' writes the professor of law Etannibi Eo Alemika. 'Young and old are coming together to found a social movement that will take on corruption in Nigeria.' TRIMS can offer valuable support to their cause.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
	Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany Programme 'Eradicating Poverty – Reducing Inequality' Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5 65760 Eschborn, Germany T +49 (0)6196 79 - 0 F +49 (0)6196 79 - 1115 E reducepoverty@giz.de I www.giz.de/good-governance
Authors	Marion Koch, Sabine Meyer
Design	Ira Olaleye
Printer	druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt
As at	April 2015

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division	Division 300 (Sectoral and thematic policies; poverty reduction and social protection)
Addresses of the BMZ offices	BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535 - 0 F +49 (0)228 99 535 - 3500 poststelle@bmz.bund.de www.bmz.de
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Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices

Bonn and Eschborn,
Germany

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Design and Layout

Ira Olaleye, Eschborn

Printed by

druckriegel GmbH, Frankfurt
Printed on FSC-certified paper

Photo credits

Cover: © GIZ / Michael Tsegaye

As at

November 2014

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division 300 (Sectoral and thematic policies; poverty reduction and social protection)

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