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Corporate Responsibility

How Can Corporate Social Responsibility Deliver in Africa? Insights from Kenya and Zambia

CRED Perspectives 3

Dominic Ayine, Hernán Blanco, Lorenzo Cotula, Moussa Djiré, Candy Gonzalez, Nii Ashie Kotey, Shaheen Rafi Khan; Bernardo Reyes, Halina Ward, Moeed Yusuf,

Poverty reduction and sustainable development will not be achieved through government action alone. Policy makers are paying increasing attention to the potential contribution of the private sector to such policy objectives. The concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) is sometimes used as shorthand for businesses' contribution to sustainable development. A number of core development issues are already central to the international CSR agenda. But what does this mean at the national level, particularly in those countries in which sustainable development challenges appear most intractable? Does CSR resonate among local stakeholders? This paper describes key aspects of the emerging CSR agenda in Kenya and Zambia – in order to explore what it would take to help unlock the potential private sector contribution to sustainable development in each country.

Published by IIED

2005, 2pp

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MDGs

How to Make Poverty History: The central role of local organizations in meeting the MDGs

Edited by Tom Bigg and David Satterthwaite

Whether or not most of the MDGs are met depends on more effective and pro-poor local organizations being engaged in all aspects – from determining what should be done, to doing it, and to monitoring progress. So it also depends on donor agencies changing to support this. If this is neglected, it is unlikely that most of the MDGs will be met. If the poor lack voice and influence, rights and protection by the rule of law, then much-increased donor flows and even debt relief and fairer global markets are unlikely to bring them much benefit. The people on whose poverty the programmes of all donor agencies are justified surely have a right to a greater influence on what is done and by whom. As the examples given in this book show, this greater influence can transform the quality, scale and cost-effectiveness of development assistance. It can also contribute much to building more effective governance systems, but doing so from the bottom up – which is where it is most needed.

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