

Tips for trainers

TIPS FOR TRAINERS

Developing indicators for monitoring poverty reduction strategies

by **SEND Foundation of West Africa**

When talking about participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) of poverty reduction strategies, many practitioners grapple with the idea of what kind of indicators to use. The Social Enterprise Development (SEND) Foundation of West Africa has developed some indicators. They use these to assess the performance of the Government of Ghana in the use of Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) funds. The PM&E initiative has been dubbed the *Ghana HIPC Watch*. It works through District HIPC Monitoring Committees, which are made up of community and civil society representatives.

SEND, Ghana HIPC Watch and the District HIPC Monitoring Committees held workshops to deliberate on the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2003-2005, and what it set out to do. They developed three broad domains or areas of indicators. These are:

- good governance;
- accountability; and
- equity.

The broad objective of the PM&E has been to carry out quarterly performance assessments on the use of HIPC funds by the Government of Ghana. The PM&E uses the three indicators listed

above. Here we present key questions used to guide the assessment in the domains of good governance and accountability.

Good governance

- Who makes decisions about which 'poverty focused' project will be supported with HIPC funds?
- Who approves the HIPC budget?
- Who submits proposals for the HIPC budget?
- Who are consulted before the HIPC budget is finalised and submitted for approval?
- What form of consultation, if any, with community-based organisations, unit committees, takes place before the HIPC budget is finalised?
- How does the district assembly give information about HIPC funds to the public?
- What kind of information about the HIPC fund, do the district political and administrative officers normally give out to people?
- How often is such information given to the public?
- Do district officers ask for feedback or the opinion of the people on the information that is given out?
- Do the people in the district comment on or give their opinion on the information they get from

the district officers?

- Are people's opinions or views concerned with HIPC funds and/or HIPC funded projects?
- Do the people (either individuals or groups) often come forward for information about HIPC funds or HIPC funded projects for the district?
- How often do they come for such information?

Accountability

- When were HIPC funds paid to the District Assembly?
- How much was paid?
- How did the district know about the payment of this money?
- When did the appropriate district officers know that HIPC funds had been paid to the District Assembly?
- Were the members of the District Assembly informed about the payment? When were they informed?
- Was the presiding member informed about this payment? When were they informed?
- Did the public in the district know about this payment? When were they informed?
- Has a HIPC drawing account been opened by your district? When was it opened?
- At what bank is the HIPC drawing account?
- Who are the signatories for the

HIPC drawing account?

- How much did the District Assembly receive this reporting quarter from the HIPC fund?
- How much was not spent or used?
- Where is the money that was not spent or used?

You can read more about the Ghanaian PM&E process and the District HIPC Monitoring Committees on pages 32-38, in Siapha Kamara and Harriet Yeboah's article 'Bringing the poor into advocacy: a look at Ghana HIPC Watch'.

■ Source: Ghana HIPC Watch, SEND Foundation of West Africa. 'Performance Assessment of Government of Ghana Utilisation of HIPC Relief Fund in Northern Ghana.' October 2004

A bore-hole provided for a community with HIPC funds



Photo: SEND Foundation

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