An Introduction to

The Kenya Participatory Impact Monitoring Exercise

KePIM

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Introduction

This presentation will give a brief overview of the KePIM exercise and process, which is being implemented by the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Human Resources and Social Services Department in the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Poverty Eradication Commission, with assistance from the GTZ Social Policy Advisory Services Project.

The presentation shall firstly highlight the objectives of the exercise and show where it fits into Kenya's PRSP process, before dwelling on what is actually involved in the implementation, with a focus on how it will use its feedback loops to influence future policy decisions.

The Objective of KePIM: Ensuring the Voices of the Poor are Heard

KePIM can be described as a methodology, utilising participatory monitoring and evaluation tools to assess the effectiveness of various poverty-focused policies and programmes on alleviating the poverty situation of their target groups. This is done in a manner that consults directly with the poor and which allows for this information to be fed back into the policy-making arena. As such it is designed as a process, with a number of phases.

KePIM's stated objective is to *"Consult with the poorest sections of the community to ensure their voices are included in the policy making process, particularly in light of the formulation of*

the PRSP". This systematic consultation is designed to help keep policy makers informed about progress in implementing, and assessing the impact of, the PRS.

The process of developing Kenya's I-PRSP and PRSP entailed detailed consultations with a wide number of groups in society, and it is widely accepted that it is important that these consultations are continued through out the lifetime of the PRSP. In this regard KePIM offers the opportunity to continue consulting with the poor, in particular on the impact of policy, and to attempt to ensure that their voices are included in the policy making process in the future through its Feed Back loops.

KePIM and the PRS

In terms of the PRS and its emphasis on consultation and participation KePIM can make a contribution in terms of

1. **Poverty Analysis and Diagnostics** - giving a broader view of what poverty is and increase the quality and relevance of existing information
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation** - in assessing the impact of a particular policy, and by giving the views of the poor in terms of the changes actually experienced
3. **Consultation with the Poor** - helping to ensure the poor themselves actually get to participate, by going further than the usual consultative process with government officials and other local elites, and continuing to do so after the initial consultation phase in the drafting of the PRS is finalised.

The exercise will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation strategy of the PRS – it will help in *"carrying out periodic assessments in the various interventions and initiatives and programmes undertaken by stakeholders in the process"* (Page 62, Paragraph 273) and ultimately the results of the exercise will be reported to the broad based National Technical Task Force on M and E (chaired by CBS)

The Phases of the Exercise

In total there are five phases involved in the KePIM exercise. The ***Preparatory Phase*** involved establishing an institutional framework; reaching consensus on the objective, purpose and results; and ensuring that there was a clear understanding of the roles that each individual will play. A lot of time has been spent on this phase of the exercise - more than was initially planned – however in the long-run this will help to ensure that there is increased ownership of the project.

The ***Policy Analysis Phase*** reviewed the extent that previously expressed priorities of the poor, identified in PPAs and other exercises, and the goals and objectives of the National Poverty Eradication Plan (NPEP) have been translated into the IPRSP and subsequent PRSP. It also identified the goals and targets which each selected policy set. Priority areas for further study were identified and assumptions were developed and tested.

The ***Data Collection Phase*** is carried out by multi-disciplinary teams of four, using participatory methods of data collection, including a stay in the community, to solicit people's opinions and perspectives on poverty and related policies (this is the stage we are currently at).

The ***Analysis of the Results*** will take place at a number of stages; daily, at the end of each site visit, at district level and nationally. After the completion of the analysis at site level, the results are fed back to the community to solicit their comments. The team who are collecting the data will be responsible for the daily and site analysis. The district analysis is the responsibility of all those operating in the district, and the national report will be completed by a team with a knowledge of the policy situation in the country, and who have been involved in the data collection. **Scaling Up of Results is a major concern at this level- and while there is no accepted way of doing this, every attempt will be made to ensure that conflicting results are identified as they emerge on a daily basis, attempts to cross-check these are made through further consultation and investigation, and in the final report care will be taken to ensure that minor pieces of information are not used to exaggerate findings beyond their real significance. Conflicting arguments will be presented with reasons for why respondents feel this may be the case.**

The ***Dissemination of Results*** phase is designed to ensure that the valuable lessons generated by the exercise on policy related matters are fed back to those who can change policy– this is why the exercise involved senior planners and decision makers in the preparation phase, and in the identification of key information gaps.

What Information is Being Collected

Four policy areas were selected for further investigation - Food Security; Water and Sanitation; Primary Health Care; and Basic Education. The areas for investigation were selected based on the expressed priorities of the poor – these priorities were identified from three previous Participatory Poverty Assessments (PPAs), carried out in 1994, 1996/7 and 2001, and in the information generated during the consultations for the development of the PRS.

The national level policy in these four areas was then investigated to see how it matches the previously expressed priorities – this included reviewing the iPRSP and early drafts of the PRSP along with the National Poverty Eradication Plan (NPEP) and existing sectoral plans, to see to what extent the priorities were reflected *(One of the more general findings has been that many of the concerns have been addressed in the writing of policy – the difficulty has been in matching implementation strategies to policy).*

From this a data collection checklist was developed – and information is being generated on these areas using participatory methods of data collection.

Where is the Information being Collected

Six districts were purposively chosen, taking into account a variety of factors, including population density, involvement in previous Participatory Poverty Assessments, (any district that had taken part in the January PPA was excluded, but deliberately included one that took part in PPA-ll (Kwale) offering the possibility of some qualitative comparisons on changes in the poverty situation), their ranking in terms of a specially calculated composite poverty indicator

(comprising proportion of households without access to safe water, proportion of the population who never attended schools and percentage of the population living below the poverty line) while ensuring as broad a spread of provinces as possible.

The data will be collected in three sites in each of these districts between September and November 2001 – the actual sites will be selected in consultation with district level staff, to ensure that as wide a diversity (in terms of geography, agro-ecological spread and ethnicity) as possible is included.

How will the Information be Collected

KePIM, like its predecessor the PPA, will concentrate on facilitating local populations to build on and analyse their own reality surrounding poverty, unlike the PPA however it has been designed as a process with a strong link to policy analysis.

Generally KePIM will use methods associated with PRA and RRA, including tools such as Semi Structured Interviews, Trend Lines, Seasonal Calendars, Sketch Maps and various other visualisation exercises to generate information.

Ensuring that the principles associated with this type of exercise are followed (such as triangulation of data and feeding back of results for comment and improvement) should help to achieve acceptability of the results.

Choosing who to consult can raise some controversy, particularly regarding the representative nature of the respondents – criticism can be levelled at sites purposively selected based on poverty criteria – however we feel that this offers one of the best ways of getting the views of the poor on the impact of policy on them.

KePIM's Feedback Loops

KePIM is a process that involves utilising a number of feedback loops, each of which contributes to the improvement of the exercise and eventually results in an "iterative process". Some of the potential (and actual) loops are highlighted in this diagram.

The first shows how, after the concept is developed, it is discussed with policy makers, and their suggestions are taken on board before the concept is finalised.

The second loop represents how, following the identification of the areas for investigation and the relevant document review has been carried out, a consultation process with potential users of the information on priority areas for investigation is carried out. This leads to the development of a draft of the interview checklist.

The third loop represents the development and refinement of the interview checklist, which involves intensive consultations with those who will collect and use the information; after that the checklist is tested and improved before proceeding to data collection.

The fourth loop represents the discussion of the results with the community following the collection of the information using the improved checklist – this gives the community the opportunity to clarify and correct any misinformation that there may be before the site reports are produced.

The fifth loops represents the feedback session with the district administration – when the improved results from the community are fed back to those who work at district level, giving them the opportunity to correct any errors or misinformation, and to give their opinion on the information that has been generated.

The sixth loop takes the revised and improved district reports to produce a national level report – when this is finalised it is fed back to those who were consulted in the first loop, filling their information needs on the impact of policy with the end result that changes and amendments are made to policy to reflect the priorities of the poor.

Other loops, which are not shown, include the opportunity to integrate the exercise with traditional quantitative surveys.

Integrating the Results into the Policy Process

In conclusion, it must be said, that the success of the KePIM exercise will be judged by whether its results have been integrated into the mainstream policy process. This is no easy task – however, during the design of KePIM, attempts have been made to ensure that the link to the policy process can be reinforced. This can be achieved by –

1. The exercise is being implemented jointly by Human Resources and Social Services Department and Central Bureau of Statistics in the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Poverty Eradication Commission at the Office of the President – the MPF and OP are by far the most influential government agencies in the setting of policy.
2. Officials from all of these agencies have been involved in the setting of objectives and agreeing on the timetable for implementation, as well as setting the priority areas for investigation
3. KePIM is integrated within the M and E system for the PRS, which outlines government's commitment to poverty issues and including the participation of groups outside the government in policy making.
4. The existence of a policy analysis phase entails developing an understanding of the relevant macro-policies (such as NPEP and PRSP) and sector policies, (Health, Education, Water and Sanitation) to inform the data collection process and facilitate the links later to policy in the report writing phase.
5. By including an information and results dissemination phase, this will promote results and push for their use in changes in policy.

Thank you For Your Time and Appreciation

This has been a brief introduction to the KePIM process, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time and attention, and invite any questions, which you may have on the presentation.