Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SLA
BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES, AND CONSTRAINTS

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The Adoption and Implementation of SLA

Best Practices, Challenges, and Constraints

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Outline

• Process

• Challenges and Constraints

• Best Practices

• Conclusion
Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA)

- Target/Focus:
  - Comprehensive: Country-program;
  - Livelihoods.

- No “dogma” in applying SLA

- Not a “toolbox”

Process: Integration

- Of development programs / project interventions
- Into ongoing monitoring / evaluation
Outline

- Process
- Challenges and Constraints
- Best Practices
- Conclusion

Challenges and Constraints

- Participation / Social Inclusivity
- Disaggregating Project Interventions
- Empowerment
- Holistic interventions
- Resilience
- Dynamism and flexibility
- Governance
- Partnerships
03 Participation, social inclusivity, enhancing livelihood strategies

- Design weaknesses:
  - Lack of consultation of local stakeholders
  - Especially vulnerable groups, the poor and landless, including women.

- Socio-Religious limitations: women’s mobility / presence in public.
  - Time waste: explaining, negotiating,
  - Women’s lack of involvement in project design

- By themselves, participatory processes are not sufficient to:
  - Ensure the equitable participation of socially marginalized groups.

- Misplaced Focus:
  - Nature of the livelihoods strategies vs Range of available assets,

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03 Disaggregation of project interventions

- Methodical Data collection/categorization:
  - The poor are not a “homogenous group”,
  - Tendency to select “randomly” project participants.

- Land ownership vs Land access:
  - Access to land not always an indicator of poverty,
  - Affordability of inputs
    - seeds, seedlings, fencing and irrigation equipment,
    - Major issue in case of limited land access,
Empowerment

- Knowledge v/s Literacy:
  - Illiteracy:
    - limits information flow,
    - Magnified by ill-adapted basic literacy training,
    - Differential access to training between genders
  - Field Staff:
    - unclear as to the objectives and benefits
    - give participants little ownership of the learning process.

Holistic interventions

- Monoculture production:
  - Household vulnerability: unforeseen events,
  - Community Resilience: single income earner,
  - Reduction of Crop Variety:
    - Food Diet / Health Effects,
    - Biodiversity,
- Focus on:
  - Resilience
  - Governance
  - Partnerships
02 Outline

• Process

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• Best Practices

• Conclusion

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02 Best Practices

• Agro-processing
• Local Transport
• Water and Sanitation
• Rural Livelihoods

• Micro or Small Scale Enterprises (MSE’s)
• Information & Communication Technologies (ICT’s)

• Post-Disaster Reconstruction

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Agro-processing

• Food Processing:
  – “Value Added” Farming,
02 **Agro-processing**

- **Key areas affected/improved:**
  - Income generation
  - Food security
  - Nutrition
  - Social and cultural well-being,

- **Increased Efficiency**

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02 **Local Transport**

**Holistic interpretation:** 2 Key Layers

- **Physical:**
  - Access to market
  - Time saving
  - Easing burden of accessing / using natural capital

- **Socio-Economic:**
  - Social network: Enhanced / Strengthened
  - Acquiring new knowledge
  - Create opportunities
  - Diversify: income / Source of Capital
  - Resilience: facilitated movement of surplus labor

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Post-Disaster Reconstruction

- Disaster-prone locations,

- Opportunities:
  - Create jobs
  - Safe housing initiatives
    - Participatory process
    - Appropriate technologies
    - Adapted to local needs, resources

Micro or Small Scale Enterprises (MSE’s)

- Diverse:
  - “Adds up”
- Enhance resiliency,

- Per unit of output:
  - Proportionally more livelihoods

- Technological change:
  - Leverage local comparative advantage,
    - “Scale up” opportunities and outcomes

- Women empowerment.
02 Water and Sanitation

- Sanitation:
  - Disease Prevention,
  - Hygiene and sanitation

- Water:
  - Ensuring maximum returns,
  - Minimize opportunity costs

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02 Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)

- Information:
  - Relevant,
  - Reliable,
  - Timely

GSM Cell Phone Expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1999 – 2006

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04 Outline

• Process

• Challenges and Constraints

• Best Practices

• Conclusion

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04 Overcoming Practical Challenges to Participatory Policy Making

• Politics,
  – Suspicious of community-based organizations (CBO’s) which may weaken their own support base
  – Political capture of CBOs
  – Destructive party politics

• Bureaucracy
• Finance
• Poverty

  -Raise politician’s awareness of the benefits from supporting and working with CBO’s
  - No party affiliation of CDCs leaders
  - Partnerships: increase resilience against “political capture”

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Overcoming Practical Challenges to Participatory Policy Making

- Politics,
- Bureaucracy
  - Hierarchy and control
  - Stigma of the poor
  - Irregularity in government-community collaborative projects
- Finance
- Poverty

- Make housing and community development committee a statutory body for all municipal councils
- Training and raising awareness for government officials on the use of community action planning methods and the benefits of partnerships to both sides
- Partnerships to improve bargaining power

- Accounts and leadership training for CDCs activists
- Promote direct funding links between federated CDCs and relevant funding agencies
- Reimbursements to cover CDCs expenses
04 Overcoming Practical Challenges to Participatory Policy Making

- Politics,
- Bureaucracy
- Finance
- Poverty
  - Social/power inequalities and social exclusion

-Federate to increase bargaining power and resilience against threats.