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COUNCIL**

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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Expert Group Meeting on Adopting the Sustainable  
Livelihoods Approach for Promoting Rural Development  
in the ESCWA Region  
Beirut, 21-22 December 2009


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

*By*


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# The Adoption and Implementation of SLA

## Best Practices, Challenges, and Constraints


Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009



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01
Outline

- **Process**
- **Challenges and Constraints**
- **Best Practices**
- **Conclusion**

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2

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01
**Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA)**

- Target/Focus:
  - Comprehensive: Country-program;
  - Livelihoods.
- No “**dogma**” in applying SLA
- Not a “toolbox”


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01
**Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA)**

- Process: Integration
  - Of development programs / project interventions
  - Into **ongoing** monitoring / evaluation

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03
Outline

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03
Challenges and Constraints

- Participation / Social Inclusivity
- Disaggregating Project Interventions
- Empowerment
- Holistic interventions
- Resilience
- Dynamism and flexibility
- Governance
- Partnerships

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**03 Participation, social inclusivity, enhancing livelihood strategies**

- Design weaknesses:
  - Lack of consultation of local stakeholders
  - Especially vulnerable groupsL 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 **v/s** 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 v/s 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,

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## 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.

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03

## 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



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**02** **Outline**

- **Process**
- **Challenges and Constraints**
- **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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02 Agro-processing

- Food Processing:
  - “Value Added” Farming,






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02 Agro-processing

- Small Scale / Optimal
  - **Adapted** to:
    - Local needs
    - know-how
    - natural resources
  - interconnected Elements:
    - Sustainable Livelihood Framework





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02
Agro-processing

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

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15




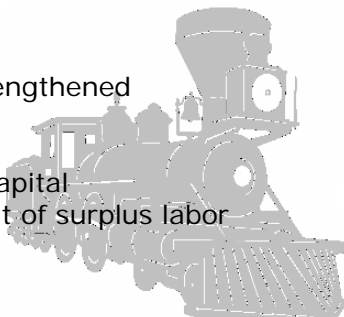
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02
Local Transport

**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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02
**Post-Disaster Reconstruction**

- Disaster-prone locations,
  
  
  
  
- Opportunities:
  - Create jobs
  - Safe housing initiatives
    - Participatory process
    - Appropriate technologies
    - Adapted to **local** needs, res



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02
**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.



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02
Water and Sanitation

- Sanitation:
  - Disease Prevention,
  - Hygiene and sanitation

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

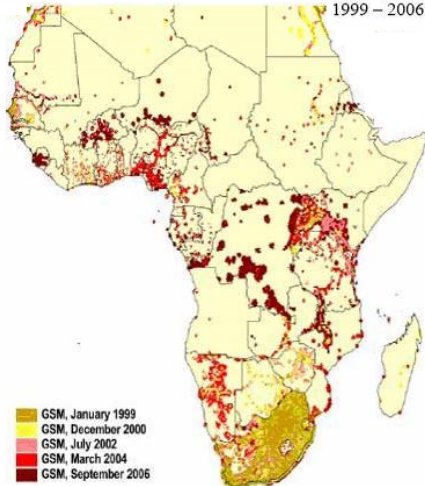
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02
Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)

- Information:
  - Relevant,
  - Reliable,
  - Timely


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




GSM, January 1999  
 GSM, December 2000  
 GSM, July 2002  
 GSM, March 2004  
 GSM, September 2006

Source: Buys, Dasgupta, Thomas and Wheeler (2008)

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04
Outline

- Process
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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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## 04 Overcoming Practical Challenges to Participatory Policy Making


- Politics,
- Bureaucracy
  - Hierarchy and co
  - Stigma of the po
  - Irregularity in go collaborative pro
- 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

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## 04 Overcoming Practical Challenges to Participatory Policy Making

- Politics,
- Bureaucracy
- Finance
  - CDCs cannot dire
  - CDCs leaders are devote time to co
- Poverty

- Accounts and leadership training for CDCs activists
- Promote direct funding links between federated CDCs and relevant funding agencies
- Reimbursements to cover CDCs expenses

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24

#### 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.