

Synchronized Needs Assessments, Planning and Monitoring of the PRSP and MDGs

Overview:

Connecting Ethiopia's PRSP and its MDGs—in assessing needs, planning and monitoring—has led to increased coordination, efficiency and effectiveness in development planning, financing and implementation.



ETHIOPIA

Highlights:

▪ As the PRSP and MDGs require similar data, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), with support from the donor consortium, decided to link the annual targets and performance indicators of its PRSP Policy Matrix and Annual Progress Reports (APRs) with MDG indicators.



▪ It also aligned the timing of its MDG report and PRSP's APR, which encouraged incorporating MDG-based recommendations into the PRSP and increased the efficiency and use of data collection and analysis.

▪ In addition, in 2004, the GoE—with support from the UN Country Team, World Bank and the Millennium Project—began a series of detailed assessments of actions and costs needed to achieve the MDGs in critical sectors. These assessments involved simultaneous research and modeling on the basis of activities listed in the existing PRSP.

▪ In May 2004, donors pledged nearly the entire US \$8 million budget for the period through 2008 for strengthening the national M&E system, and the GoE adapted and installed *Devinfo* software for tracking development data based on the MDGs and making data readily available to non-technical audiences.



Results:

Connecting the GoE's PRSP to the MDGs—and synchronizing monitoring on both—has increased national ownership and commitment, coordination of UN and donor approaches, dialogue and MDG incorporation into the policy debate.

Other specific results include the assessment of needs, actions and costs for a 10-year plan and initiation of a comprehensive financing strategy to achieve the MDGs; preparation of an MDG-based PRSP in 2005; and improved quality and quantity of aid delivery.

Ethiopia's has qualified for US \$3.3 billion in additional relief under the Highly-Indebted Poor Country initiative, thus reducing debt service from 10 to 5 percent of the annual budget until 2015.

Lessons Learned:

• Vesting responsibility for PRSP and MDG planning and monitoring in the same government office can increase coordination, planning and pro-poor outcomes.

• Synchronizing PRSP and MDG implementation and reporting strategies can streamline actions, reduce transaction costs, and improve results.

• Tying indicators and targets in the PRSP to the MDGs is an important consideration in linking the frameworks.

• An MDG needs assessment and MDG-based PRSP can reframe the debate and boost development outcomes.



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