

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP AND EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

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Background

- When the MDGs introduced in 2000, Jamaica was in the process of implementing the 1996 National Industrial Policy (NIP) and related strategies having completed the 1990-95 cycle of five -year development plans
- History of 5-year plans since the first 10-year development plan in 1959
- All the plans up to the NIP focused primarily on the macro economy - some emphasis on the social sector and little or no attention to the environment

Background

- The primary emphasis was on turning around the fortunes of the economy which had been in a protracted period of structural adjustment
- The NIP came on the heels of the first Rio Conference on Sustainable Development and therefore reflected the three pillars of SD but the **integration of the pillars was not strong**
 - (skewed towards issues economic, but included poverty reduction, and education)
- The pre MDG period - the preparation of the National Poverty Eradication Programme, 1995, and Jamaica National Environmental Action Plan, 1995 both related to the commitment to Agenda 21
- The poverty programme was an attempt to soften the adjustment experience and was part of the Human Resources Development Programme with significant investments in education, health and social welfare

Background

- Since 2009, Jamaica has embarked on more integrated/sustainable planning through the long term SD plan Vision 2030 Jamaica- National Development Plan
- With four interrelated goals, the plan promotes sustainable prosperity featuring human development, environmental health and viability, economic prosperity and social cohesiveness
- The goals and targets of the MDGs serve as an integrating thread through Vision 2030 underling the thrust towards sustainability planning

Governance

- The institutional and implementation framework for Vision 2030 are linked to a series of 3-year MTF, business strategic plans of MDAs, the budget and relationship with IDPs
- Thematic Working Groups (inclusive & wide stakeholder membership)
- Vision 2030 has M and E framework which monitors progress through biennial reports, dashboard of indicators linked to the Strategic Outcomes of each Goal
- Update to the public on key indicators in the Quarterly Press briefing
- Periodic update to Cabinet

Governance

- These features of Vision 2030 implementation and monitoring are being used to shape preparation for the SDGs
- Also grounded in the Consultation Code of Practice for the Jamaican Public Sector
- A multi stakeholder/inter-ministerial working group co chaired by the MFAFT and PIOJ set up to formulate a National Outcome document for the SDG
- Opportunity for incorporation of SDGs into the MTF 2015-2018 currently under preparation in highly participatory process

Performance on the MDGs (2014 assessment)

- Mixed experience with the MDG targets
- Initially achieved targets of Goal 1 but poverty has been increasing since the 2008 global recession and its negatives impact on Jamaica
- Lagging on a number of targets
 - Goal 3 - promote gender equality and empower women: despite significant gains in the education system
 - affected by relatively low levels of female representation in Parliament (11% in 2011)
 - relatively high female unemployment rate (18% compared to 10% although educational enrolment features higher percentages of girls)

Performance on the MDGs (2014 assessment)

- Goal 4: Way behind in reduction of child mortality; declined by 25% since 1990 but Jamaica cannot achieve the targeted 75% reduction
- Goal 5: Maternal mortality- a) far behind b) on track c) achieved
- Goal 6: HIV/AIDS etc. - Largely on track
- Goal 7: Environmental Sustainability: Achieved one target, lagging with respect to policy integration and unable to properly assess others (biodiversity loss, slum dwellers) because of data availability and definitional challenges, respectively
- Goal 8: Developing Global Partnership- **On track** but problems of indebtedness

Challenges

- MDGs primarily targeted at improved human development through social development while fostering environmental sustainability but lack focus on simultaneously fostering economic development
- The result is that slow growth/no growth, heavy reliance on IDPs and Indebtedness (among some countries) limit ability to consistently invest in social development

Challenges

- Some targets were unrealistic given the development profile of some countries (e.g. middle income) and the level of investment that would have been required to meet them
- The targets measure quantitative change but fails to recognize the cultural nuances which may hinder success; undervalues qualitative changes made
- Reporting requirements are data intensive

Considerations for the SDGs

- Alignment between the SDGs and countries national development plans and aspirations to secure priority investment
- The SDGs should also be aligned to other international agreements to enhance their effectiveness while reducing the likelihood of duplication, and possibly onerous reporting
- SIDS, LDCs should receive special attention, particularly with respect to data management – this is an area of deficiency which lends itself to early intervention
 - Better data collection capacity needed to assist in proper assessments, development of appropriate strategies and for adequate reporting

Considerations for the SDGs

- Targets must be realistic, might best be described as a range to accommodate all categories of developing countries - with low to high development index
- The SDGs adopted have to be underpinned by the principles of SD and their integration; must demonstrate understanding that social development is one part of the development triangle
 - ▣ Macro economic development to drive job creation
 - ▣ Framework for mutually beneficial trade between developed and developing countries
- Partnerships will be critical - NGOs should be capacitated to be real development partners not alternative governments

Considerations for the SDGs

- Private sector partnerships -IDPs could assist in building economic robustness in developing countries through sustainable investments in the private sector
- Mutual benefit of SDGs to developed and developing countries should be highlighted and become part of the narrative
- IDPs should assist in bridging the financing gap ... performance has to be better than previous where actual investment fell well below pledges

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