

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (CSPR)

International Forum for Sharing of Experiences Among Civil Society On PRSP Implementation and Monitoring

Civil Society groups in various PRSP formulating countries have been involved in PRSP processes at various levels. A number of country PRSP's are complete and governments have now gone into full implementation of these plans. PRSP formulation in different countries faced various challenges and commitment to implementation of these plans is even a greater challenge. Some Civil Society groups are working with their governments to implement PRSP's, others are monitoring implementation while others are participating in both.

Civil society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is a Zambian network of civil society organisations formed in October 2000 with the initial purpose of ensuring effective civil society input to the PRSP. Now CSPR looks beyond PRSP formulation to poverty issues at a broader level. CSPR of Zambia will be hosting a workshop that will bring together civil society actors from various PRSP formulating countries.

The workshop will provide a learning forum for civil society to;

- (i) Share country experiences on PRSP implementation
- (ii) Evaluate Civil Society's participation in PRSP implementation,
- (iii) Share approaches and methodologies being employed by different Civil Society groups in PRSP monitoring at various levels,
- (iv) Learn best or worst lessons in PRSP implementation and monitoring.
- (v) Assess the impact of PRSP implementation on the poor (for countries that are advanced in the implementation).
- (vi) To brainstorm on 'The Role of Civil Society beyond PRSP Monitoring'.
- (vii) To look at the various advocacy issues that are being or should be taken up by civil society around PRSP
- (viii) To explore the possibilities of South-to-South networking and collaboration on PRSP issues.
- (ix) Any other key issue that may be suggested by participants

The plans:

A. The Date/Place

- i. 23^d and 24th June 2003, Lusaka Zambia*
- ii. Venue will be Mulungushi Village Complex*

B. Participants:

- 1. At least eight countries to provide a formal input. Possible ones include Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, Nicaragua/Honduras and Zambia.
- 2. A total of 45 participants

3. An IMF/World Bank representative from Washington DC, additional resource person (not necessarily from a PRSP country but with an international/wide knowledge on PRSP's).
4. CSPR will meet both travel and lodging expenses for the participants providing a formal input to the workshop.
5. Other countries interested to participate in the workshop are welcome to do so, but will be required to meet their own travel and lodging costs.

Discussion Themes

1. **World Bank/IMF perceptions of the status of PRSP implementation and monitoring** – cross-country experiences (IMF/WB)
2. **Engaging Civil Society in PRSP implementation and monitoring in Zambia** – Presenter from Zambia
3. **Efficacy of Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation by Government and Civil Society** – Presenter from Uganda
4. **Assessment of Civil Society Participation in PRSP implementation and monitoring in Tanzania** - Presenter from Tanzania
5. **Key Issues in implementation and Monitoring of PRSP in Malawi: The role of Civil Society** – Presenter from Malawi
6. **A SWOT Analysis of the PRSP: A Civil Society perspective** - Presenter from Ghana.
7. **Important Lessons (good and bad) from Civil Society for PRSP Implementation and Monitoring** – individual country case studies
 - Nicaragua/ Honduras
 - Mozambique
 - Angola
8. **Institutionalizing PRSP implementation and monitoring** - International speaker
9. **Brainstorming topics**
 - Role of Civil Society beyond PRSP monitoring
 - Advocacy Issues on PRSP by Civil Society
 - South to South PRSP Networking

For more details contact the CSPR Secretariat Information Officer (Ivy):

Telephone: 260-1-290154

Fax: 260-1-293489

Email: cspr@zamnet.zm