

SCOPING STUDIES

Contributing to the design of DFIDSA's Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme

Background

This project is being undertaken by the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) based in Pretoria, South Africa. The project involves the conducting of scoping studies to contribute towards the design of the regional hunger and vulnerability programme (RHVP) that DFID is preparing to launch in southern Africa. The RHVP is the vehicle by which DFID plans to respond to four priority areas for intervention identified in its Regional Strategy Paper on Hunger and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, namely:

- Strengthening vulnerability monitoring and assessment systems
- More effective safety nets
- Promoting the role of the private sector and enhancing regional trade, and
- Strengthening regional policy discussions.

The RHVP is based on the premise that there are a number of policy and institutional limitations across the region that, if satisfactorily addressed, will enhance poor people's access to food and thereby meet a key objective of DFID strategy.

Purpose of Project

The purpose of the project is to inform the design of the DFIDSA's Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme, by identifying opportunities for DFID to support national and particularly, regional initiatives that will enhance food security by policy or institutional interventions in one or more of the above four priority areas.

Output 1: *Scoping issues and options for DFIDSA's possible contribution to improving vulnerability assessment systems & safety nets.*

This scoping study will examine how DFIDSA can best support regional vulnerability assessment and monitoring systems that can feed into and inform the design of safety nets in the region. Nick Maunder (leader) and Ben Roberts will make up Scoping Team 1.

Output 2: *Scoping issues and options for DFIDSA's possible contribution to improving regional food trade and food security policy.*

This will provide an analysis of the needs and opportunities for external assistance to a) improve regional market information systems in ways that will impact on the aggregate availability and affordability of food across the region, especially in poorer areas, b) enhance cross-border market arrangements, and c) enhance the effectiveness and policy impact of research-based food policy institutions & networks. Steve Wiggins, who is part of ODI's Forum for Food Security in Southern Africa will lead the Scoping Team 2, supported by Reuben Mokoena.

Output 3: *Scoping studies coordinated and inter-linkages understood*

The scoping studies and related processes will be carried out in a coordinated manner. This is to ensure the linkages between the issues being addressed by the two teams are explored, that there is read-across, and that this is constantly maintained throughout the process. James Carnegie is the Process Coordinator.

Output 4: *Regional stakeholders informed & have some ownership of both the process and content of the project*

It is important that regional stakeholders are involved in the process so as to both build on the information and knowledge in the region, and on current initiatives and keeps stakeholders informed of both the process and content of the design process. In this way the final Programme Memorandum will have wide ownership both regionally and within SADC member countries

Output 5: Project is managed effectively.

SARPN will have overall responsibility for the management, co-ordination and quality of the outcome of the scoping studies and adherence to the agreed timetable. Mike de Klerk, Acting SARPN Director will direct the project supported by SARPN Administration – Ingrid du Toit & Ilona de Villiers.

Approach and Methodology

The project consisting of two distinct, but closely articulated, scoping studies, conducted in parallel by two separate but co-ordinated teams. Other activities will be linked to these core processes and SARPN will ensure that the project will:

- Build on existing work in the region by including country and regional programmes, NGOs, private sector, DFID and other donor initiatives;
- Position the programme in the region; and
- Ensure adequate geographical & national coverage, noting that the focus will be on those most affected by the recent humanitarian crisis, but recognising the role of others

The work will be undertaken for a continuous seven-week period from 9 June until 23 July 2004. An outline schedule for the project and the scoping teams' activities includes:

Time	Activities
Prior work	Project planning Literature reviews for both studies
Week 1 7 June 2004	Core Team assembles – joint planning Reviewing secondary information & literature reviews Finalisation of research materials & aids Interview key stakeholders/informants in South Africa
Week 2	Joint team interviews with SADC in Gaborone, Botswana Begin country visits – Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland & Angola
Week 3	Country visits & interviews
Week 4	Country visits & interviews
Week 5	Country visits & interviews
Week 6	Complete country visits Collate and verify findings Follow up interviews – region & in-country
Week 7 19 July 2004	Regional workshop Finalise reports

SARPN will report to a DFID Steering Committee chaired by the DFID Regional Humanitarian Adviser, Tom Kelly. The Steering Committee will include a small team with representatives from DFIDSA and CSAD country offices and the Programme Design Consultant, Dr John Howell.

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