



## **ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTIONS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY: GAPS, CHALLENGES AND PROGRESS**

### **Virtual Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)**

15 May 2024

#### **Key Messages and Recommendations**

##### **The characteristics of the poor and trends in multidimensional poverty**

- ❖ According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), half of the poor, who numbered 1.1 billion in 2023, are children.
- ❖ Poverty is characterised by rural dwellers (84 per cent), by people living with disability who have higher multidimensional poverty than monetary in 51 countries, by middle-income countries as well as low-income countries, and by regional and sub-national locations.
- ❖ At the household level, higher patterns of educational deprivation among women (for example, higher numbers of girls than boys who are out of school) are found in households living in multidimensional poverty in certain countries.
- ❖ In terms of trends, progress has been made towards a world without poverty, driven by South Asia. At the country level, a significant progress happened in some of the poorest countries. Among the ten countries with the fastest reduction in poverty, seven were in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ However, progress is uneven and worrying. In Africa, the number of people who are poor has increased. Also, children, who are poorer than adults in most countries, reduced poverty more slowly than adults, or did not reduce it at all.
- ❖ An acceleration of poverty reduction efforts is critical in sub-Saharan African countries, especially given their susceptibility to other shocks of a climate, conflict, or economic type. To do so, it is important to examine the places where poverty has fallen and look at the legal frameworks, the institutional frameworks, the NGO and bottom-up efforts, the top-down public policy efforts to find what had worked and to share those stories, and to unlock the imagination and the goodwill of other actors.
- ❖ Countries and organisations should invest in data collection because the existing data are very incomplete so it is not possible to determine whether the world is on track to eradicate poverty.

##### **Challenges faced in eradicating poverty, in particular, among children and women**

- ❖ To eradicate poverty, in particular, among children and women, there is a need for a top-down and bottom-up collaboration in devising and implementing social programmes.
- ❖ It is important to foster local and nimble organisations (such as informal networks, local networks and faith groups) that have high motivation and wide access to protagonists on a daily basis, and empower and let local actors and communities participate. Sustainable and systemic resources must be provided to those networks to ensure their local action.
- ❖ It is also important to reduce inequality and include and empower those living in poverty in policy making. Give them a voice, let them participate, merge their knowledge, especially from women and children, with the views of experts (academics and policymakers).
- ❖ There is also a need for public spaces, which are not just parks but also streets. They should be safe, equitably distributed and shared across generations because these can foster community well-being and mental health alongside other activities.
- ❖ Promote the creation of system of local monitoring of the social conditions and participation on the implementation of programmes
- ❖ Invest in collecting data on non-material deprivation, inequality and discrimination at local, municipality and national level.

##### **Feminisation of poverty**

- ❖ Poverty has historically been measured in monetary terms. But poverty is not just a lack of income but also a lack of economic, political, social and cultural rights. It is important to foster local and nimble organisations
- ❖ A major cause of gender inequalities and feminisation of poverty is the lack of such rights among women.
- ❖ Therefore, a human rights approach, that is, investing in human rights, is needed to build women's capabilities and counter the feminisation of poverty.
- ❖ Access to resources, opportunity, and a role in decision-making should be part of the poverty calculus. It should also be recognised that the connection between poverty and capabilities can be found across UN documents.
- ❖ The private sector has a major role to play as well, by integrating gender principles in its environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. For example, giving equal pay for equal work, advancing feminisation of leadership, using a human rights agenda in investment decision making in the business sector, having stakeholder engagement with women and supply chain management that looks at women's rights.

### **Financing poverty eradication and domestic resource mobilization**

- ❖ Insufficient resource mobilization is hindering poverty eradication initiatives in lower-income countries.
- ❖ The challenges facing low and lower-middle-income countries in financing poverty eradication efforts are formidable, encompassing issues such as inadequate resources, limited revenue streams, and inequalities exacerbated by ineffective tax systems and transfer payments. Moreover, the volatility of financing sources and the growing impact of climate change add further complexity to these endeavours. Addressing these challenges demands a comprehensive approach, including measures to boost domestic resource mobilization.
- ❖ Increasing domestic resource mobilization requires a multifaceted approach that involves both government actions and broader societal efforts.
- ❖ Measures that boost domestic resource mobilization include progressive taxation, broadening the tax base, enhancing tax compliance, fund utilization from micro-finance schemes and other financial inclusion initiatives, capitalizing opportunities offered by digital finance, promoting inclusive economic growth, strengthening governance and accountability, and engaging the private sector.

### **Innovative policies and programmes for eradicating poverty**

#### **Global level**

- ❖ Formation of a global institution of governance with supervisory role is to deal with: leadership and vision institutional reforms, stakeholder engagement, review of progress (monitoring and evaluation).
- ❖ Provision of basic services for all and social equity and encouraging young people to embrace agriculture to provide insufficient labour.
- ❖ Social protection, productivity and diversification, and governance at various levels.
- ❖ Provision of a strategy on how to eliminate corruption.
- ❖ Application of a new format to group countries, for instance, using clean energy consumption: countries could be grouped using this definition: development that utilizes clean, sustainable and locally available energy sources for residential, transport and industrial needs with enhanced ecosystem services constantly for at least 50 years.

#### **National level**

- ❖ Taming land subdivision at recommended levels to maximize productivity and sustainability, for instance, having a farm size of 2.8 to 3.5ha, particularly in urban areas, and market access to be less than 4km.
- ❖ Training farmers on agricultural innovations that would increase productivity and contribute to maximization of their incomes while also ensuring environmental sustainability (use of labour, energy for value addition and ecosystem conservation).
- ❖ Improving water access and security to peri-urban areas, while also integrating the youth in farming.
- ❖ Diversification of crops, including indigenous crops, neglected/orphan crops and organic farming.
- ❖ Entrepreneurship development among small-scale farmers for income diversification.
- ❖ Promoting research, technology and dissemination to continually inform decisions.
- ❖ Strengthening food remitting and rural urban linkages (for better diffusion of resources, technologies and information dissemination).
- ❖ Infrastructural development (to improve accessibility- markets, health, financial institutions, and social networks).
- ❖ Focus on small-scale farmers.

- ❖ Appreciating the role of women in agriculture by enabling them access and ownership to productive resources- land, labour, capital, information, social networks, etc.
- ❖ Poverty eradication should integrate 7 nexus issues: food (land and biodiversity), climate, water, energy, population (economy) and, conflict, disease (pandemics e.g. COVID-19).
- ❖ There are strategies to deal with food (biodiversity), water, energy and climate.
- ❖ It is possible to end global poverty and food insecurity through better food system governance.
- ❖ All actors in the food system should collaborate in the process of policy formulation, playing their different roles.
- ❖ Methodology for eliminating poverty should be agreed upon by stakeholders (government and non-state actors)
- ❖ Assessment of poverty in a multidimensional way in terms of current status and ranking for all sub-Saharan African countries before policy implementation is a necessity.
- ❖ Poverty eradication begins with the transformation of the food system, which is characterized by gender inequalities and marginalization, vulnerability to climate risks and shrinking resources.
- ❖ Education, bank accounts, mobile phones, electricity, water, sanitation, etc. are very important for eradicating poverty. There is a need to invest in data to be able to measure poverty regularly, update estimates, incentivize actions and recognize and celebrate success.
- ❖ There is a need to disseminate data and to allow researchers to engage, process data, and to come up with innovative solutions. It should not be just academic researchers, but also those in civil society organizations or government offices, perhaps including sub-national offices since they can come up with innovative solutions to poverty eradication.
- ❖ There is a need to collaborate and to have joint solutions to a problem like poverty eradication. The focus should be on helping and improving the lives of the bottom 50 per cent. The poor need to be identified and public policies need to be implemented. NGOs should gear towards poverty eradication. Ideology and political economy can divide the entire apparatus of change.