

Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?

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Statistics from the World Bank (WB) show that in 2013, 10.7 percent of the world's population lived on less than 1.90 US dollar a day and half of the world's extreme poor live Sub Saharan Africa. Amongst these, a vast majority of the global poor live in rural areas; they are poorly educated and employed in the agricultural sector. Such statistics reveal that poverty eradication measures have not yet been mainstreamed into the development efforts in many countries in the global South. Therefore in making poverty eradication an integral objective of policies, OCAPROCE International proposed the following:

Governments of developing countries should deepen and diversify partnerships with financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the private sector and civil society organizations towards creating alternative engines of growth that are more equitable, alongside existing conventional approaches. For example, while governments can be guided to bypass the structures that undermine healthcare, education and agriculture by adopting meaningful decentralization, the financial institutions can work with the private sector to design sustainable enterprises for low income communities.

Also, poverty alleviation measures within policy formulation should fall in line with the underlying causes of inequality and insecurity. As poverty and conflicts have often operated hand in hand, government policies that seek to reduce insecurity will be fundamental in creating peaceful and productive economies.

In 2005, the World Bank launched its "make poverty history" campaign which was an urgent call for governments and various stakeholders across the world to become more active in strategies to end poverty. The strategic follow-up to this call may take the form of rethinking strategies of engagement with third world countries e.g. in foreign aid provision. In providing aid and development assistance, financial institutions and other private sector donors should set guiding principles for which developing countries must adhere to. This means that donors can enforce values and practices of transparency that lead to less corruption and more revenue for poverty alleviation and social services. This will compel governments in poor countries to design and implement corrupt free poverty alleviation policies.

Moreover donors should also adopt growth models that seek direct partnership with people at the grassroots. This means that instead of only governments-donor partnerships, development funders can decide to work directly with the people. By so doing, governments will be forced to reduce the political bureaucracies that often obstruct poverty alleviation policies. This direct partnership with the people can be carried out in conjunction with community groups and should be part of a cohesive set of policies with decentralized education, health care and government. These tools will respond to the bottlenecks implied in Sach's (2005) definition of poverty as a situation where there

is lack of affordability, accessibility, upward social mobility and a general inability to meet the most basic needs. This resonates with Sen, (1999) argument that inadequate income is a strong predisposing condition for an impoverish life. All these problems can most effectively be solved at the grassroots. Thus, the bottom-top approach to poverty alleviation should be encouraged.

Climate change has a devastating impact on poverty alleviation (and overall development) and adaptation determines the fate of millions of people. Governments should be pressed to respecting the climate change agreement and this means encouraging governments to create more sustainable economies. This means advancing a new age of sustainable growth in a global context, which must be seen as vital for not only fighting poverty and insecurity, but ensuring the wellbeing of future generations.

In conclusion, making poverty eradication an integral part of policies will entail that donors seek to bypass the structures that inhibit shared prosperity by advocating and enforcing decentralization in assistance packages and new ideas towards poverty alleviation. It is only through these diversified approaches that the WB task to “make poverty history” by 2030 can be accomplished.