Rethinking poverty eradication efforts post-2015

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Why post 2015 strategy?

- 2015 – MDG deadline presents an opportunity
- Intended purposes of MDGs: (i) a set of benchmark indicators for monitoring Millennium Declaration priorities to development progress and ending poverty; (ii) a narrative to communicate objectives of international devt cooperation
- Interpretation of MDGs by international community: (i) planning targets; (ii) performance measure; (iii) development strategy

MDGs and shifts in international agendas from 1990s to 2000s

- MDGs define ends, not means.
- Macroeconomic policy approach – Washington consensus
- Aid architecture – shift from loan conditionality to ex post rewarding good performers; shift from PFPs to PRSPs; shift from SALs to PRGFs; Paris/Accra
- Aid priorities – shift to social sector support
- National action on poverty – rise of CCTs

Post 2000 strategy

- MDGs as narrative

- MDGs set ends, not means/strategy

- Strategy

  - 'Washington Consensus' plus basic needs

  - Variety of national strategies; important experience in LA (growth/poverty reduction/inequality reduction)

MDGs - criticisms

- Composition and targets
  - narrow basic needs agenda (some correction in 2005);
  - underambitious /overambitious;
  - arbitrarily set targets ('unfair to Africa' - Easterly)
  - Poverty replaces development – 'faustian bargain'
- Process
  - lack of involvement of developing countries and civil society
  - Accountability monitoring stronger for developing countries than for donor countries
  - Weak buy in from developing countries and civil society (improving)

Criticisms cont'd

- Motivation
  - driven by aid agendas for mobilizing aid
- Distorting consequences for national and international priorities
  - 'Most Distracting Gimmick' (Atrobus) for NGO agendas;
  - Inappropriate performance measures that create 'false failures'
  - Overemphasis on social investment in aid expenditures, neglect of key priorities e.g. climate change, inequality, employment, productive investments,

Strengths – UN policy tool with unprecedented reach

- Power of numbers: mobilizing tool for support to development as a global priority
- Power of numbers: sets accountability framework, monitor performance
- Highlight neglected priority:
  - Development in global agendas
  - people and to poverty in development agnedas
- Consensus approaches in the international community
  - Coordination of some efforts e.g. data
  - Framework for stimulating debate

Post 2015: pathways (Langford)

- MDGs 1.1 – stay the course, extend the 2015 deadline

- MDGs 2.0 – Adjust the goals, targets and indicators, improve the process to strengthen accountability

- Post MDGs – Set new global goals, new process, reflect broader agenda, stronger N-S compact

Post 2015 strategy

- MDGs effectively communicate strategy
- Opportunity to rethink and communicate new strategy
- Key issues, question policy approaches and priorities

Broader, balanced agendas: key challenges

- Inequality within countries
- Climate change
- Global financial market crises
- Global commodity markets (fuel, food)
- Employment/productivity
- Democratic governance
- Human rights

Rethinking strategies: CDP agenda

- Impact of rise of new giants
- Economic integration – modalities and pace
- Climate change – new R & D, new rules
- Food security
- Demographics – aging and migration

CDP agenda (continued) alternative strategies

- Lessons of recent experience in Asia, Latin America, Eastern/central Europe

- *policies directly related to the MDGs (e.g. in the field of health, education, aid);*
- *the main drivers of domestic growth, including the role of agriculture- food production*
- *industrial policy*
- *growth oriented macroeconomic policies including financial regulation,*
- *policies for a 'realistic' assets distribution, taxation, employment and social transfers,*
- *the mobilization of domestic savings and avoiding dependence on foreign capitals*
- *energy policies in the field of mitigation and adaptation*
- *inclusive governance reforms to remove gender, ethnic and other discrimination*
- *reforms in the field of institutions, political systems, and popular participation.*

Redefine goals – broader, updated, more balanced

- Health
- Education
- Gender equality
- Environment/climate change
- Inequality
- Employment
- Productivity
- Global Trade, Technology
- Democratic governance (national and global)

Process – global goals as policy instrument

- Goal setting process – more participatory leading to greater buy in from national governments and civil society

- National process – single global goal, national adaptation

- Use as performance measure – criteria for success focused on rate of improvement not level of achievement