



# Ensuring That No One is Left Behind

**The Cooperative Sector as a Partner in the  
implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development**  
**Ingrid Fischer November 2016**

# The role of the cooperative enterprise model in implementing the SDGS in least developed countries

## Challenges and strategies of cooperatives in implementation of the SGS

# Experience of cooperatives in LDCs

Goals 2, 3, 5

- Ghana The c-op network also gives visibility to families who are practicing the GMF approach and enables them to model positive gender equitable behavior among peers.

## Goal 4:

Credit and Thrift Societies in Sri Lanka provide after school tutoring to members' children so that they can be more competitive on entrance exams for secondary and post secondary education opportunities.

## Goals 8, 13, 15

In Uganda working together through formalized co-op structures enabled farmers to contract to build solar dryers to reduce the risk of spoilage due to rainfall, and were able to sell excess drying capacity to non-members to increase reinvestment income for the co-op.

## Goal 16

During the Maoist uprisings in Nepal (1996-2006), co-ops were allowed by government to continue to operate without interference as they were seen to be politically impartial and community owned.

## What are problems faced by cooperatives in LCDs making it difficult for them to realize their full potential?

- Weak, outdated and patronizing co-operative legislation coupled with lack of understanding of those charged with implementing and upholding co-op laws
- View of government and donors of cooperatives as channels for development rather than partners in development.
- Poor governance and management capacity

## What initiatives could be used by Gov's and the UN system to promote the roll of coops in LDCs?

- Recognize that co-operatives work most effectively as networked systems and invest in building the networks. Ensure that development initiatives with co-operatives do not undermine the networks and/or subvert democratic member control and economic participation
- Invest in renewing co-operative laws to reflect the ICS and current operating environments. Invest in capacity building of people responsible for implementing and upholding co-operative laws



- Recognize co-ops as development partners not delivery channels, consult with coops movements before imposing new laws or doing development to them
- Invest in building governance and management capacity including conflict resolution
- Recognize that co-ops social outcomes are dependent on enterprise viability