



Reducing Poverty Is Achievable Finding Those Who Are Hidden By Inequalities

Summary of the Wikiprogress online consultation

Background

In the run up to the OECD Global Forum on Development (GFD) taking place on 4-5 April 2013, Wikiprogress – a global Web 2.0 platform to share and exchange knowledge on progress issues in order to evaluate social, environmental and economic progress – organised an online consultation on “Reducing Poverty Is Achievable – Finding Those Who Are Hidden By Inequalities”. The consultation was organised in partnership with the OECD, Paris21, Save the Children, ODI's Development Progress, the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), UNICEF, Jeune Afrique, The Africa Report, the European Report on Development (ERD), Wikigender, Wikichild and the Global Progress Research Network (GPRNet).

The consultation ran from 6-15 March 2013, gathering a total of 55 comments highlighting the stories of individuals, families, communities and societies that have been excluded by social and economic inequalities. Comments included examples of successful programmes, policies and methodologies that have made a difference in people's lives, as well as recommendations for a new development framework. The outcomes of this consultation will be presented at the OECD GFD, an event hosted by the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate, the OECD Development Centre, the OECD Statistics Directorate and Paris 21, in co-operation with the European Report on Development and Jeune Afrique.

This summary aims to highlight the main outcomes of the online consultation. A synthesis report reflects the results of the consultation in more detail. **Both reports do not represent the views of the OECD or any of the partner organisations listed above.**

Main outcomes of the Wikiprogress discussion include:

- ◆ Participants identified societal groups that will require more attention in the future, as they are marginalised, vulnerable and exposed to multiple and intersecting inequalities;
- ◆ Participants identified a range of approaches as essential to address inequality;
- ◆ Priority should be given to people who are the most excluded from society because of multiple and cumulative inequalities;
- ◆ A well-being and a human rights-based approach can significantly contribute to the process of defining and developing the post-2015 agenda;
- ◆ Measurements of progress in reducing poverty should be transparent, focused on those who have been excluded and country specific.

Synthesis report and entire discussion of the consultation available at:

[http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Online_Consultation: Reducing poverty is achievable](http://www.wikiprogress.org/index.php/Online_Consultation:_Reducing_poverty_is_achievable)

Key findings

The consultation responses have been broken down into three main sections in the synthesis report: the first section identifies those who are excluded due to inequalities; the second section introduces some approaches to address inequality; the last section sets out concrete action points and recommendations proposed by the participants including proposed post-2015 goals.

Section 1: The first element of the consultation was to uncover those groups that have been excluded by social and economic inequalities. Among the societal groups that participants to the consultation highlighted as being the most marginalised, vulnerable and exposed to multiple and cumulative inequalities were: children, adolescents – and in particular adolescent girls –, mothers, older people and people with disabilities. Many participants pointed to gender equality as an entry point to understand the complexities of intersecting inequalities.

Section 2: During the discussion, participants proposed a range of approaches they deemed as essential to address inequality. The concepts and approaches that participants wanted to highlight to the Global Forum on Development were: the necessity to think in terms of wellbeing and progress; adopting a human-rights based approach with equality, equity and dignity for all at the core; think in terms of “multiple inequalities”; define “poverty”; and include both rural and urban contexts.

Section 3: Strong opinions came out during the consultation that the views of beneficiaries of current post-2015 debates should be thoroughly taken into account, as they are rarely consulted. Participants put emphasis on: public consultations and participatory processes; good governance and public policy; the promotion of social mobility; ensuring sustainable peace; the implementation of better measurements and statistics; and the use of technology. There were also many key actions specifically mentioned in reference to the post 2015 development agenda.

Questions asked

- ◆ How can we ensure that all of these inequalities are addressed, since they have an impact both at individual and societal level?
- ◆ What are the most effective ways to tackle the factors that drive these inequalities? How can we measure progress on reducing poverty in the years to come?
- ◆ How can the broader concept of progress inform post-2015 approaches to poverty reduction? How can well-being and progress indicators contribute to the broader process of defining and developing the post-2015 agenda?
- ◆ What are country experiences for reducing poverty and increasing well-being using this approach? What is the role of development agencies to help advance this agenda?

Participants

The consultation brought together perspectives from all corners of the world, including: Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States and many more. Participants included international organisations, governmental agencies, research institutes, policy analysts, statisticians, gender experts, development practitioners, international and local NGOs and civil society.