

The 11th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners
2nd – 7th October 2005
Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa, Kenya
DRAFT MOMBASA COMMUNIQUÉ

Preamble

The 11th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners was held in Mombasa, Kenya from 2nd – 7th October 2005 under the theme “Integrated Labour-Based Approach (LBA) for Socio-Economic Development”. The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences on the application of LBA;
- Share and identify the impact of LBA on socio-economic development; and
- Provide the participants with opportunity, through plenary and break away groups, to discuss and debate various issues as raised in the discussion papers;

Two hundred and fifty participants, among them, practitioners, planners, policy makers, researchers, funding and development partners and all others involved in infrastructure development from the African region and beyond attended the seminar from 19 countries. Fifteen papers were presented and discussed in four sessions under the following sub-themes:

- Community Participation and Performance-Based Contracting;
- Impact Monitoring, Evaluation and Environmental Sustainability;
- Training, Research and Development; and
- Policy and Up-Scaling, Sustainable Financing and Resource Allocation.

In addition to paper presentations and discussions, the participants undertook one-day fields visit to Mombasa Road Improvement Site (Vikwatani – Mtopanga Road), Kilifi Road and Environmental Site and an excursion at Bamburi Haller Park, Mombasa.

HAVING deliberated on the important and relevant issues on integrated labour-based approach for socio-economic development for five days focusing on the following major issues:

- Lessons learned;
- Impact on socio-economic development;
- Capacity building;
- Up-scaling and sustainability;
- Challenges and opportunities;
- Strategic direction; and
- Next steps.

RECOGNISING the importance and the potential of LBA in socio-economic development through the provision of infrastructure and related services, with opportunities for involvement of community and both public and private sectors;

COGNISANT of the relationship between poverty, the high rate of unemployment particularly in rural areas and urban slums and the limited access to infrastructure and services;

TAKING NOTE of the immense, varied experiences and lessons learned from piloting LBA projects and programmes that have been reported in this and past regional seminars and becoming conscious of the need for the up-scaling and taking forward LBA with respect to socio-economic development;

ENCOURAGED by the admiration shown by and participation of the seminar participants through presentation of papers and discussions thereof of these regional seminars, experience sharing and networking and therefore the unswerving wish to continue holding of these seminars and the need to employ and implement LBA practices for enhanced socio-economic growth;

GRATEFUL for both the technical and financial involvement and support of our development partners in popularizing and advancing LBA and their continued keenness to support these initiatives;

REALISING the limited commitment and support by Government's for up-scaling, mainstreaming, dialogue between all the sectors and sustaining LBA in socio-economic development;

AWARE of the challenges, constraints and inadequate capacity, with respect to technical, financial, institutional framework, equipment, human capital and cultural issues that have and continue to hold back the wider application of LBA;

NOTING the efforts and indeed the progress made by several countries since the 10th Regional Seminar in Arusha and the continued commitment of Governments to provide better living conditions of their citizenry through preparation of poverty reduction strategy papers and subsequent development of economic recovery strategies aimed at achieving national development goals; as well as regional commitments and goals, such as that made by the African Union Heads of State at the Extraordinary Summit for Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September 2004 and the Millennium Development Goals;

NOTING ALSO the commitment of African Union Heads of State at the Extraordinary Summit for Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ouagadougou for the Promotion of the Agricultural Sector and Rural Development,

Sustainable Management of the Environment for Food Security and Development of Support Infrastructure;

AGREEING with the Plan of Action of the Africa Union Heads of State Extraordinary Summit for Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ouagadougou to place employment creation as an explicit and central objective of our 11th Regional Seminar for sustainable poverty alleviation and with a view to improving the living conditions of our people particularly in the fields of infrastructure, agriculture and rural development and environmental conservation;

AND AGREEING further with the African Union Heads of State Extraordinary Summit for Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ouagadougou to promote an effective and speedy implementation of actions and programmes for:

- Promoting public and private sector reforms for employment creation;
- Promoting public works programmes in infrastructural development;
- Creating productive labour absorbing jobs through labour intensive approaches;
- Promoting subcontracting of services in large-scale projects to cooperatives, Non Governmental Organizations and Small and Medium Size Enterprises owned by members of the local community;
- Encouraging public-private partnerships in order to promote productive employment in the formal and informal sector; and
- Ensuring adequate incomes and labour standards for jobs creation;

The 11th Regional Seminar participants **HEREBY RESOLVE** to uphold, take full advantage of, mainstream and up-scale the use of LBA in the provision of infrastructure and related services in order to create wealth particularly among the poor communities, through the employment of the following strategies:

1. Creating of Enabling Environment

(i) Policy: Impress upon Governments to speedily continue developing and implementing relevant policies that will favour the up-scaling, mainstreaming and optimizing the employment of LBA in order to ensure adequate support and sustainability. These policies should clearly guide the procurement and engagement of local contractors and communities in LBA projects.

(ii) Institutional Framework: Impress upon Governments for the urgent need to create inter-ministerial cooperation for policy coherence on use of local resources and decentralised institutions charged with policy operationalisation, formulation of development plans, monitoring and evaluation for faster implementation and less bureaucracy in decision-making and resources management with regard to LBA practices.

- (iii) **Legislations:** Impress upon Governments to institute and bring into being appropriate, amend existing and enforce legislations and procurement procedures in order to favour the use of local resources.
- (iv) **Contracts:** Impress upon Governments to develop appropriate contract conditions and/or clauses to compel LBA contracting for all suitable infrastructure programmes, taking into consideration special circumstances of LBA stakeholders.
- (v) **Incentives:** Impress upon Governments to address disincentives in fiscal policies presently favouring foreign recourse use over local resource use, such as import duties and taxation favouring use of foreign machines rather than local labour and local manufacturing.

2. Capacity Building

- (i) **Training:** Impress upon relevant Government institutions, private sector (for example, workers and employers organizations) and other training institutions to enhance the integration and mainstreaming of LBA in their curricula. This entails the development of and/or review of relevant curricula for LBA inclusion and developing demand responsive courses to the needs of LBA practitioner's, trainers of trainers, policy makers and other stakeholders at all levels.
- (ii) **Research and Development:** Impress upon Governments, research institutions and other stakeholders for continued support for labour based research practitioners and research institutions to embark on LBA research and development, incubation through science parks, dissemination of research findings and up-scaling of proven best practices.
- (iii) **Awareness Raising/Advocacy:** Impress upon Governments, workers and employers organizations and other stakeholders to accelerate the promotion of the benefits of LBA through lobbying, information dissemination and awareness campaigns.

3. Allocating Resources

- (i) **Financial:** Impress upon Governments to 'ring-fence' resources for LBA interventions, establish and implement prudent financial systems and at the same time call upon the participation of local financing institutions by providing credit facilities in order to ensure sustainable access of funding by LBA practitioners.

- (ii) **Equipment:** Impress upon Governments through the relevant departments and other stakeholders to operationalise a system of enabling local contractors to access equipment.
- (iii) **Linkages.** Impress upon Governments, private sector, civil society, workers and employers organizations and other stakeholders to continue establishing mechanisms of linking various programmes related to socio-economic development by optimising resource utilisation. In addition, linkages should emphasize enhancing networking and sharing of information and data.

4. Mainstreaming Cross Cutting Issues

We call upon Governments through the relevant departments, civil society, private sector and all the stakeholders including civil society to mainstream health issues (for example, HIV/AIDS), gender, environment issues and governance in all LBA interventions.

THEREFORE, we call upon the Governments, development partners, civil society, private sector and the other stakeholders to develop/implement an operational plans for LBA. Further, we recommend that the 12th seminar reviews the progress made towards this direction.

SIGNED

Regional Seminar Chair

Date: 7th October 2005