

MAIR

MKUKUTA Annual Implementation Report (MAIR) - 2006/07



Cluster Two: Improved Quality of Life and Social Well-being

Cluster two deals with activities which promote “Improved Quality of Life and Social Well-being”. The broad outcomes will be (a) improved quality of life and social well-being, with particular focus on the poorest and most vulnerable groups and (b) reduced inequalities in outcomes (e.g. education, survival, health) across geographic, income, age, gender and other groups.

Goals

- To ensure equitable access to quality primary and secondary education for boys and girls, universal literacy among men and women, and expansion of higher, technical and vocational education
- To improve the survival, health and well-being of all children and women and of specially vulnerable groups
- To ensure access to clean, affordable and safe water, sanitation, decent shelter and a safe and sustainable environment - and thereby reduce vulnerability from environmental risk
- To ensure adequate social protection and the provision of basic needs and services for the vulnerable and needy
- To ensure effective systems to permit universal access to quality and affordable public services

Key Challenges

To achieve the desired goals, we will have to rise to the following six challenges:

- Better quantity and quality of education
- Better gender equity in education
- Better health services
- Improved water and sanitation services
- Meeting the needs of vulnerable groups
- Ensuring there are enough trained staff in the service sectors

Lessons Learned:

MKUKUTA's outcomes-based approach helps to spotlight the cross cutting nature of most development initiatives.

Education

Increasing the percentage of teachers with relevant qualifications is in itself a necessary but not a sufficient condition for quality improvement.

Health:

There has been progress in reducing malnutrition, infant and child mortality, and stunting and wasting. A great role in this was played by increased immunization and vaccination, linked to nutritional improvements.

Water and Energy:

Inadequate access to basic social services such as water and alternative sources of fuel undermines education initiatives at household level - especially for females. Fetching water and fuel uses a lot of time that could be used in other more useful ways.

Trained Staff:

Most rural communities and underprivileged areas lack adequate facilities, including housing. This discourages most qualified social sector workers from working in those areas.

Community Participation:

Most of the goals in Cluster two will fail to be met without the participation of local communities. Their planning, material and financial contributions to development projects is crucial and procedures are needed to harness them.

The Way Forward:

The way forward involves addressing the challenges which are noted above. The following topics stand out:

- The challenges call for stakeholder participation to work out quick measures that will make it possible to achieve MKUKUTA goals.

- There is need to improve the quality and quantity of education by increasing the number of qualified and professional teachers, and improving school facilities. There is also a need to remove gender differences at all education levels.
- Staff training will continue as a way of strengthening the management of public resources. There will also be distance learning for workers in the social sector - especially those in rural and underprivileged communities.
- The efforts of all health stakeholders will be needed to reverse the negative trend in maternal mortality and in HIV/AIDS.
- Guidelines and mechanisms for mainstreaming Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) issues must be developed. They should include building the capacity of officials to deal with issues related to disabilities and the elderly. The social protection arrangements for vulnerable groups need to be improved. There will be a continued effort to improve the quantity and quality of social services through public-private partnerships (PPP).
- Environmental campaigns will be scaled up to raise awareness about environmental conservation and protection.

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