

North – South Cooperation in the Field of Social Policy

*The EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
ICSW FINLAND AND THE TANZANIA COUNCIL
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (TACOSODE)
(Tanzania)*

Brazil 2006

About the presentation

- This paper presents a project which is still in its early phase. It is too early for results but this paper outlines an exciting new initiative by two ICSW members.
- Why? – Because we think that the idea is important, although we cannot be absolutely sure about the results. There is no time to wait – global scene is changing.

GENESIS OF THE COOPERATION

- At its 31st International Conference of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September, 2004; the Executive Committee of ICSW agreed to the adoption of a **“Globalizing Social Policy”** as part of its poverty reduction measures to combat global poverty.

- Both countries have a history of universal social policy (of course from very different backgrounds both in economic and ideological terms).
- The actors of ICSW Finland and TACOSODE are both interested in seeking new strategies of social policy in the age of Globalization.

Global challenges

- Globalization affects everybody.
- Countries of North and South are seeking the best ways to adapt to global changes.
 - The use of natural resources.
 - Demographic changes.
 - New technologies.

Global Policies

- Social Summit (Copenhagen 1995)
- A Better World for All (Geneva follow up conference 2000)
- The Fair Globalization-report 2004 (International Labour Organization ILO): A fairer distribution of the results of globalization.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDG:s)
- Helsinki-Process (Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland)

Global Governance?

- These broad-scale policy documents seek better global governance through increased cooperation between international bodies, nations, companies, non-governmental organizations and private citizens.
- It is people at the local level who feel the real impact of globalization and improved governance.

Global / Local

- *"There cannot be a successful globalization without a successful 'localization'."* Juan Somavia (ILO) <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/fairglobalization/index.htm>
- Tools are needed: the traditional form of development assistance has been economic eg building tractor factories and paper mills.
- What if development assistance did more to improve local social policy and thus improve global governance?

Experience in social policy can be shared ...

- There are a plethora of views on the correct model for social policy.
- In the discourse on global social policy, the variety of "best practices" should be presented and discussed.
- The pros and cons of different models can be analysed with the help of comparative research, but also development of the models and local adjustment of models developed elsewhere is needed.

WB and other international actors

- Some of the central actors in development policy (World Bank among others) are taking a greater interest in social policy.
 - The international financial institutions' view of social policy is based on and influenced by neo-liberal economic policy and is often influenced by residualist and selectivist social policies.
- However, there are alternatives to the residual model for developing countries.

Finland and Tanzania

- Our countries have a long history of cooperation:
 - close-knit cooperation between our governments and NGOs
 - the goals and priorities of both countries are in a good coherence.
- The presidents of both countries, Ms. Halonen and Mr. Mkapa, cooperated in ILO-report 2004.

Finnish development policy

- As in other Nordic countries, Finland has adopted a universal concept of social policy.
- In its development policy goals, Finland is committed to:
 - poverty reduction
 - development of social and health care sectors
 - employment issues
 - locally relevant new solutions for communal and public social security

DEVELOPMENT AND REFINEMENT OF THE PROJECT IDEA

Globalising Social Policy is a wide concept which is slowly being explored for possible adoption. Because of this wide interpretation of the concept, it was important to have a series of discussions and negotiations between the partner organizations so that a common position and the kind of cooperation to be reached.

- The discussions and negotiations started with a visit of a Finnish delegation to Tanzania to meet and discuss the modalities of cooperation between STKL and TACOSODE. One such meeting was held in Arusha, Tanzania during a World Bank conference on New Frontiers for Social Policy. Another meeting was held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania where concrete recommendations were made to initiate the process of cooperation between Tanzania and Finland.

- This was followed by a visit to Finland by a delegation from TACOSODE to:
 - develop further the project idea, and
 - To learn at the ground what our Finnish counterparts are doing in mitigating the plight of poverty to its most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised people.

Visits made by TACOSODE officials to Jyväskylä and Joensuu Cities were particularly rewarding and useful as we could learn how the House of Partnerships (in Jyväskylä) and Citizen's Centre (in Joensuu) operated for the benefit of the disadvantaged and marginalised people, and how the same also caters to the services of NGOs and CBOs.

- Having visited these places, it was then agreed that:
 - “the cooperation between the STKL and TACOSODE should be based on a project entity that is interlinked with and in support of the political guidelines on welfare of both partner states.
 - It will also be based on strengthening the goals on participation by citizens as well as creating new functional approaches between the public and the voluntary sector”.

Long Term Goal

- The long term goal is to create a broad and sustainable development structure and network cooperation that, in the event of mutual targets, may later incorporate new national, local and international partners in the field of education, research and development, albeit on a separate funding base.

- The goal envisaged is linked with the global social policy of ICSW. The idea is also to work in cooperation with other similar projects. In this way, the dialogue and advocacy work of the South-North (EU, UN) as well as the South-South (AU, SADC, EAC etc.) can be strengthened.

- Geographically, the project will be situated in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania at the initial phase. The goal is that new forms and principles of action will be tested and later on expanded to other parts of the country.

PROJECT'S EXPECTED RESULTS

- Expected project results during the different phases of implementation shall be as follows:

A) Mid-term results (2007-2009):

The joint identification and analysis of the regional development needs of welfare;

- Outlining the partnership network and commitment to join development work; and
- Increasing know-how of network and joint development work.

B) Long-term results (2009 and beyond):

- The capacity and resources of TACOSODE strengthened in the Tanzanian civil society;
- Mutual cooperation and information flow strengthened and broadened between NGOs in the working area of TACOSODE;

- Partnership for joint development work strengthened and mutual cooperation and division of work agreed upon;
 - Regional and systematic production of information launched in the working area of TACOSODE;

- Education and development structures strengthening cooperation between organizations in the process of formation;
- New citizen-based welfare models are tested, assessed and gradually adopted in the working area of TACOSODE;

A national welfare centre established within TACOSODE;

- TACOSODE fund-raising skills strengthened; and
- TACOSODE possessing an adequate and capable staff and working premises well suited for the needs of its members, and the needy

The Overall Results:

- The overall result is a stronger and more capable TACOSODE that, on its part, supports its member organizations (more than 200 in the country), strengthens civil society as well as the opportunities for citizens to participate and make a difference in the reduction of poverty levels in the country.

MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

- The project under preparation will be managed by both TACOSODE and STKL. The project will have a Finnish-Tanzanian steering group that will support the development work of the project. The steering group will meet once a year in Finland or Tanzania.

- Working groups smaller than the steering group will be formed in both countries. These working groups will monitor, consult and direct the management of the project in practical terms.

- The project will be monitored and assessed in terms of reaching targets in the meetings of the steering group. In support of mutual interaction, the use of electronic tools will be devised and strongly encouraged. During project implementation and meetings arranged, both verbal and numerical feedback will be gathered. As well as reports, both narrative and financial, will be developed and prepared.

RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECTS

- The main part of resources to implement the project will hopefully come from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

- While the major part of the resources to finance the project is expected to come from the Finnish government, STKL and TACOSODE will also contribute significant inputs to project implementation.
- TACOSODE's contribution will mainly be in housing the project in Tanzania as well as the provision of time and human resources, particularly back stopping services to the project.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

- Proper reporting procedures will be developed during the planning phase. Reporting will assume the following dimensions:


- Reporting to both the governments of Tanzania and Finland
- Reporting to other important stakeholders like the International Council for Social Welfare, and the like;
- Reporting to other organizations and in institutions that will take part in project implementation.

ENVISAGED CHALLENGES

- Unlike Finland, where the target group i.e. the most vulnerable people form the minority, in Tanzania this group constitute the majority. Therefore the project is more likely to stimulate demand that may not be easily met

CONCLUSION

- Both partners seek a long-term partnership where development, research and experience-sharing strengthens the activities of both organisations.
- Through strengthening both STKL and TACOSODE both will be better equipped to undertake social development.



Thank you for
your
attention!