

**2007 Government of Rwanda and Development Partners Retreat (DPR)
9 and 10 March 2007, Rubavu – Rwanda**

**Session 5 – Working Group 1
How do we ensure that EICVII results are integrated into the EDPRS?**

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Background - Why is it important?

National surveys have been conducted in the past two years. These include EICVII, which provides information on income poverty among others, DHS, which provides information on health and population, the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment, and *Ubudehe*, which gives the voices of the poor. It is vital that these findings are used to inform the Government's policy-making, so as to ensure that solutions to observed problems can be formulated and implemented in the EDPRS.

Proposal for discussion

The final results of the EICVII survey analysis are expected in March 2007. However, a number of preliminary findings from the household surveys have been identified:

- Poverty reduction was limited, particularly in light of the strong growth Rwanda experienced, during the past 5 years. The average income of the poor rose only marginally and remains below the extreme poverty line. There is strong need to speed up poverty reduction to achieve Rwanda's Vision 2020 and MDG targets.
- Over one-third of the population remains below the extreme poverty line. These people are unable to afford the minimum food consumption basket. It is essential that these people are empowered to participate in Rwanda's development.
- High population density is one of the most important constraints facing Rwanda, and a major cause of natural resources depletion and the subsequent deepening of poverty and hunger. Limited progress in fertility reduction and falling mortality rates mean that population growth is likely increasing. At the same time, the large unmet demand for contraception suggests quick gains could be made from comprehensive roll out of family planning services.
- People state they are least satisfied with progress in drinking water access and secondary education.

These results are being discussed among Government and with Development Partners at a number of fora, including the Annual Government Retreat in Akagera, EDPRS National and Technical Steering Committees, various sector working groups.

MINECOFIN proposes that these areas are highlighted for priority treatment in the EDPRS. In addition, a workshop in March will be held to discuss the final EICVII results and to ratify the priority areas, subject to further results becoming available.

Discussion Points

- 1) Participants are encouraged to discuss the MINECOFIN proposal and the extent that they agree with MINECOFIN's analysis of the key issues arising from the survey results.
- 2) Are there any other issues which Development Partners would like to put on the table to shape Government policy-making?

Anticipated Outputs

Plenary and Working Group participants should discuss the proposal contained in this document. By the end of the retreat, it is hoped that consensus is reached on the preliminary issues identified for EDPRS prioritisation. The outcome of the discussion is to be summarized by the rapporteur and reported back to the plenary in the form of **1 or 2** PowerPoint slides.