



Discussion: Implications of the Global Recession on Civil Society, Aid and Policy Implementation

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Economic Implications on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

- Substantial Export Revenue losses from a decline in export volumes ; (\$251 billion, 2009; \$ 277 Billion, 2010)
- Depressed Economic Growth Projection for 2009: 2.7%, from 5.8% in 2008;
- Varying degrees of vulnerability:
 - 42%/19 countries – High vulnerability
 - 51%/23 countries - Medium Vulnerability
 - 7%/3 Countries – Low vulnerability
- Increased Stock Market Volatility – stock market indices declined 67 per cent in Egypt and Nigeria between March 2008 and March 2009;
- Potential knock-on effects on banking sectors in selected African countries with large numbers of foreign owned banks; including Botswana, Lesotho and Zambia



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Economic Implications (2)

- Foreign exchange-rate depreciations – notably in South Africa (27 %), Nigeria(27%)
- Commodity Price Declines: Agricultural Raw Materials, Metal Prices and Fuel
- Declines in Remittances from Europe, North America and the Gulf - between \$ 1-2 billion
- Disruptions to Private Capital Flows, FDI: notably in the DRC, BHP Billiton’s suspension of nickel prospecting, Zambia and South Africa
- Declines in South-South Trade?: Slower growth in China (from 12% in 2007 to 7.5% in 2009), India 5% growth 2010



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Potential Social Impact

- Declines in per capita income, averaging 11%
- Critical setbacks to meeting MDGs:
 - Infant Mortality: 200,000-400,000 additional deaths p.a. between 2009 and 2015
 - Regression on poverty and hunger goals: 50-90 million additional people living in extreme poverty;
 - Lower levels of food Security: more people classified as ‘chronically hungry’ ,
 - Disruptions to ARV treatment in 23 developing countries (representing 60% of People Living with HIV/AIDS)

Good Political Governance: Necessity or Lower Order Priority?

- Does Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights Protection become a lower priority in the face of:
 - Pressing Economic Policy needs: formulation and implementation of policy to promote growth and keep inflation under control;
 - Protection of spending critical to future growth (e.g. Essential Infrastructure Development)
 - Reinvigoration of Doha Round Talks?
 - Development Partner Funding constraints - Irish, Canadian and Italian examples?

The case for Good Political Governance: Stronger than ever?

- Stronger political oversight, accountability and transparency in post conflict states more critical as the risk for instability increases?
- Effective early warning systems as the prospect of public unrest and repression increase increasingly important
- Support for political opposition, media and other oversight mechanisms crucial
- Support for African continental initiatives charged with fostering good governance (APRM and AU, RECs)
- Most importantly, effective Civil Society Engagement with Policy increasingly critical



Effective Civil Society Engagement with Policy: Critically Important

- Effective Policy Advocacy Critical;, however SSA Civil Society Organisations often face critical organizational challenges,
- Vital that CSOs engage effectively with policy through:
 - **Focused and effective strategic planning:** identification of new priorities and approaches to potential challenges
 - **Effective/Efficient Network Management:** policy engagement through civil society coalitions/consortiums
 - **Greater Political Sophistication/Savvy** – a reform of government/CSO relations, a greater willingness to actively engage with formal and informal power structures;



Effective CSO Policy Engagement in Times of Crisis (2)

- Sound Economics and Evidence- Based Advocacy crucial
- Wider use of Social Accountability Tools increasingly critical, have been effective elsewhere: The APRM, Citizen Report Cards, Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys, etc..
- Innovative use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) increasingly important;



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Discussion

- New priorities for civil society and development partners?
 - What areas should civil society focus on?
 - What are the current constraints, opportunities?
 - What support is required for local partners?
 - For traditional partners: what are the implications of the recession on engagement with civil society?
 - What are the implications of changes in the political climate in Europe?



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Further Discussion Points

- The need to support Pan African Institutions – more critical?
- Should development partners and civil society initiate a discussion on restructuring engagement with civil society or contemplate exit strategies?

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