Annex 1: Programme

CSOs, Evidence & Policy Influence: A Regional Workshop
Jacaranda Hotel, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.
2 December 2004, 9:00 – 5:30

Background and Objectives

There is widespread agreement on the vital role that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) can play in influencing policies and practices to make them pro-poor. More and more CSOs are recognising the need to understand policy processes better and use evidence to engage with them more effectively. Sometimes, however, it seems that CSOs, policymakers and researchers live in parallel universes. This workshop focuses on how CSOs can use evidence to promote pro-poor policies. Active participation will be the cornerstone of the approach in the workshop, with emphasis placed on participants' own knowledge and experience.

The workshop will provide a forum for participants to:
(a) discuss the opportunities and challenges for CSOs to inform policy;
(b) learn about the latest worldwide research and practice in this area;
(c) share experiences about ongoing activities and what works;
(d) identify gaps for future work.

Audience

The workshop is designed for the senior staff of CSOs that are engaged with the use of evidence to influence policy in East Africa as well as other key stakeholders in the policy process (governments, donors, professional associations, etc.).
Workshop Programme

8:30 - 9:00  Registration
9.00 - 9.30  Opening, Introduction and Outline
            Self Introductions by Participants
9.30 - 10.30 Case Study of Energy policy in Ethiopia: What can CSOs do?
            CSOs, evidence and policy influence: Introduction
            Discussion
10.30 - 11.00 Coffee
11.00-12.30 Group work: Examples of CSO influence in policy processes & use of evidence – examples of success stories and failures.
            Feedback and discussion of the Group work
12.30 - 1.45 Lunch
1.45 - 2:15  Practical RAPID framework & Tools for Policy Influence
2:15 - 3:15  Group work. 3 groups:
            o one to look at Political Context/Evidence Interface;
            o one to look at Evidence/Links interface
            o one to look at Links/Political Context interface
            each to consider: i) specific examples of things that CSOs do in this area (& what other actors do) ii) what seems to work well
            Feedback and discussion
3:15 – 3:30  Tea
3:30 – 4:00  Challenges and Gaps: What next
4:00 – 5:00  Group work: What CSOs need to be able to better use evidence to influence policy (same groups as above)
            Feedback and Discussion of Options
5:00 – 5:15  Conclusion / Evaluation
            Close