

Regional commissions of partners (CRPs)

I. Background:

<p>1. Name of innovation: Regional commissions of partners (CRPs)</p> <p>2. Country - Region: Cape Verde</p> <p>3. Organization and originator: National Poverty Programme</p>	<p>5. Actors involved: Community development associations, regional commissions of partners (CRPs), National Poverty Reduction Programme, IFAD, Government</p> <p>6. Implementation date: 2 July 2004</p> <p>7. Type of innovation: (Technological, institutional, policy or knowledge sharing) Institutional and political</p>
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II. Key Issues:

8. Summary:

The programme has three main focuses: coordination, federation (CRPs) and community development associations. The corresponding structures, covering the island, municipality or grass-roots community, are the foundations of community organization and mobilization, ensuring participation in development processes and initiatives. The regional commissions of partners have a juridical personality and are set up by the community development associations, NGOs, decentralized government services and municipalities; they pilot the regional-level process of developing and implementing local poverty reduction programmes. On the basis of local plans they approve annual work programmes and budgets, and ensure institutional coordination with the National Poverty Reduction Programme's coordination unit. They provide advice and technical assistance to community development associations and carry out monitoring and evaluation of activities with major institutional partners for implementation of the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme in the region and communities, partly through their technical unit. The overall strategy consists of organizing beneficiaries and giving them credibility vis-à-vis outside partners by boosting their capacities and supporting and coordinating their actions within the framework of local poverty reduction programmes.

9. What issue does the innovation address?

The project leads to the emergence of sustainable, transparent and responsible organizations in terms of social aggregation, which is seen as a practical choice in the exercise of direct participatory democracy. Some essential aspects of the project concern the way the CRPs and community development associations tackle poverty reduction and local development, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable people (especially women), seeking to build up their capacities to formulate projects, undertake initiatives and establish partnerships with various partners, and boosting their autonomy.

10. Key success factors for replication:

The fundamental operating principles needed for replication are:

- For the community development associations, the participation of the majority of the families in the community, good circulation of information, discussion and selection of microprojects in general assemblies
- For CRPs, autonomy in decision-making, active participation of general assemblies and, within them, of representatives of the community development associations in decisions (especially during formulation of the annual work programmes and budgets of phase 2, selection of microprojects and formulation of the local poverty reduction programmes of phase 3).

Main results

- At least 80 per cent of the community development associations and four CRPs are operating according to the principles underlying their creation.
- The CRPs have entered into satisfactory contracts with local service providers to monitor the execution of microprojects, monitoring reports have been produced and the objectives set out in the annual work programmes and budgets have generally been achieved.
- At least 80 per cent of the microprojects financed respect targeting of the poorest people and are in line with the poverty reduction strategy laid down in the priorities of the CRPs.
- In the context of phase 3, where they will have increased autonomy, at least 80 per cent of the community development associations and four CRPs have begun to develop their own partnerships and raise additional resources to carry out their initiatives and apply their poverty reduction strategy.

11. Accessibility: (Poor, gender, youth, migrants...)

- Poor women, especially women heads of household (45 per cent of women are heads of households, mainly as a result of emigration)
- The unemployed, especially jobless young people
- Vulnerable groups (old people, undernourished people etc.)
- Workers in labour-intensive public works programmes

12. Difficulties encountered:

- Repeated delays in disbursements
- Problems with the project coordination unit: the long period of uncertainty that affected PCU staff in 2004 and part of 2005 was a major handicap in carrying out the unit's tasks
- Shortcomings in financial management and bookkeeping, which were rectified with the recruitment of new staff and increased training in accounting and finance
- Weakness of the monitoring and evaluation system, which is a recurrent problem
- Conflicts between town halls and CRPs, which are often seen as entailing local-level power-sharing

13. Financial aspects:

Financial control of the CRPs has been successfully implemented, quarterly reports are produced on time, as are bank reconciliation statements, annual audits and account controls, while training in bookkeeping for the CRPs is carried out every six months

III. Technical Summary:

(Main technical characteristics - In addition to section 8 summary)

- A bottom-up monitoring and evaluation mechanism based on the self-evaluation principle has been set up and is operating satisfactorily. It allows beneficiaries, especially women, to assess the impact of the programme on their living conditions, both physical (habitat, income, food, health etc.) and social (integration, participation in decision-making, access to services).
- The governing council of the CRPs is submitting satisfactory annual reports to the general assembly and the programme desk, and annual evaluation reports of the CRPs are regularly produced by the desk. The supervision report's evaluation is also generally positive on this point.
- Given the success of the programme, the Government and IFAD decided to expand it to other rural municipalities following the inter-cycle evaluation mission between phases 2 and 3.

IV. Follow up:

15. Key contacts:

Information given in the previous sections

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16. Useful web link:

- www.afriquenligne.fr/actualites/economie/
- www.ifad.org/operations/projects/regions/PA/factsheets/cv.pdf

17. Key documents: (Name of the document + Link or Contact or Co ordinates)

- Rapport de Mission de Pré examen Inter Cycle (= Report of the inter-cycle pre-examination mission), Claudio Furtado, 2007.
- Rapport de Mission (= Mission report), Claude Raynaut, August 2006.
- Aide Mémoire de la Mission Conjointe d'Examen Inter-Cycle (= Aide-memoire of the joint inter-cycle review mission), July 2007.
- Mission Inter-cycle: Rapport d'examen de la Phase II (= Inter-cycle mission: review report on phase 2) (not yet available).



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