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Inaugural Report to the Committee on Human and Social Development

Table of Contents

Background	2
PART I. Recent trends in social development in Africa	3
PART II. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Sub-Programme “Social Development” during the biennia 2006-2007 and 2008-2009	9
PART III. Proposed Sub programme activities for 2010-2011	21

Background

After ECA's repositioning in 2006, a new Sub programme - Sub-programme 10 - Social Development was developed. The sub-programme is implemented by two Sections namely a) The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) /Poverty Analysis and Monitoring Section (MDGs/PAMS) and the Human and Social Development Section (HSDS). Within the context of ECA's strategic pillars of (1) Promoting regional integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities; and (2) Meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges, the main objective of the Sub-programme is to assist member States to improve their capacity in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes designed to promote social inclusion and integration and improve the standard of living and quality of life of all of citizens.

The Sub-programme seeks to accomplish this objective through: a) Research and policy analysis work on social development issues such as poverty reduction, employment, population and development, health, education, nutrition, ageing, disability and youth; b) Advocacy on the importance of designing social policies that promote social integration; c) Monitoring the progress made by countries in implementing the international and regional commitments made on social development, including the MDGs, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and d) Advisory services to member States and Regional Economic Communities through capacity building that bridges knowledge and skills gaps in social policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. The sub-programme is also responsible for ensuring that gender and social development are duly reflected in the work of other ECA divisions and SROs.

Against this background, a Committee on Human and Social Development (CHSD) was set up as the statutory body to provide policy guidance to the sub-programme. This inaugural report to CHSD consists of three parts: (i) PART I: An overview on recent trends in social development in Africa to provide context to the work of sub-programme 10: Social Development; (ii) PART II: Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Sub-Programme "Social Development" during the biennia 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 which details the progress on the implementation of the activities, outputs, outcomes and impact; and (iii) PART III: Proposed Sub programme activities for 2010-2011 which highlights the activities that the sub-programme will undertake in 2010-2011 biennium. It is expected that this report will help CHSD members to understand and appreciate the depth and breadth of the Sub programme activities and provide input into the identification of priorities for future activities.

PART I: Recent trends in social development in Africa

A. Introduction

Africa had sustained a relatively strong economic growth during much of the decade up to the 2008, the year when the financial and economic crisis erupted. This performance had been driven largely by increased global demand for African exports, improved macroeconomic management, continued structural reforms and rising capital flows. Although this was an encouraging trend, this positive economic growth did not translate into meaningful employment creation and poverty reduction.

The overall performance in social development during the period preceding the financial and economic crisis is rather mixed. On the one hand, Africa¹, made considerable progress in a number of social development areas, with some remarkable gains in such areas as primary school enrolment, measles vaccination, the use of insecticide-treated bed nets, reductions in HIV prevalence rates in some countries and on some aspects of gender equality. On the other hand, very limited headway was made on poverty reduction, eradicating hunger, maternal mortality and on addressing disparities due to gender, income, and disability.

B. Overall trends in poverty and human and social development

Poverty and unemployment

Data on income poverty in Africa are not complete, making close monitoring and tracking of progress on poverty eradication at the national and regional level a major challenge. According to recent estimates, the percentage of the population living in extreme poverty in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, using the new US\$ 1.25 per day international poverty line, increased from 200 million in 1981 to 380 million in 2005 (Chen and Ravallion, 2008). Meanwhile, unemployment rate in Central, East, Southern and West Africa declined only marginally, from 8.5 percent in 2003 to 7.9 per cent in 2008 (ILO, 2009). This trend is expected to be reversed in 2009, with a large number of jobs currently being lost in the construction labour-intensive sectors, such as textile, construction, and tourism, as well as capital-intensive sectors, namely the mining sector. A similar situation is likely to hold in North Africa, where a marked slowdown in tourism, construction and public works sectors is expected to push up the unemployment rate.

Unemployment tends to be higher among disadvantaged groups, including women, young people and people with disabilities (ILO, 2008). Also, given prevailing low labour productivity in many countries, almost 60 percent of those who are working in Central, East, Southern and West Africa are considered extreme working poor, earning less than US1.25 a day (ILO, 2009). All this indicates that the proportion of people in a vulnerable employment situation is high in Central, East, Southern and West Africa accounting for more than 70 percent. The

¹ The period under consideration and for which data are available is the period prior to the financial and economic crisis.

burden of vulnerable employment continues to fall heavily on women, who remain mainly in the agriculture and informal sectors

Education: remarkable increases in primary school enrolment rates

The average net primary school enrolment rate in Central, East, Southern and West Africa increased from 56 per cent in 1999 to 71 per cent in 2006. In North Africa the initial enrolment figures were above 85 percent in 1991, except for Morocco, which started from 56 percent in 1991 and reached 86 percent in 2003; no change has been registered since. The improvements in primary enrolment rates were driven largely by a combination of strong government commitment that has expanded primary education facilities, eliminated school fees, and appropriate support from the donor community (UN, 2008). Progress has been especially remarkable in Benin, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania, where primary enrolment has risen by more than 50 per cent since 1999 (UNESCO, 2009). If the current rates are sustained, many countries in Africa will be able to achieve the enrolment of 100 percent by 2015.

Although the primary enrolment rate has been improving, the primary completion rate is an area of concern. Between 1999 and 2006, the completion rate improved from 49 per cent to 60 percent in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, and from 86 per cent to 92 per cent in North Africa. The completion rates for girls in Central, East, Southern and West Africa are much lower for girls than for boys. The major reasons for dropping out of school include lack of resources to meet the costs, domestic care activities within households (particularly for girls), early marriages, child labour, teenage pregnancies, poor quality of education and long distance to school. It is important to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalised children are enrolled and remain in school through targeted programmes and interventions aimed at poor households and at girls. The pupil-to-teacher ratio needs to be further improved from 45 in 2006.

The gross enrolment ratio in secondary education in Central, East, Southern and West Africa rose from only 25 per cent in 1999 to 32 per cent in 2006. The tertiary gross enrolment ratio in Central, East, Southern and West Africa stood at around 5 per cent in 2006, compared to 17 per cent for developing countries and 25 per cent for the world. North Africa has made significant progress increasing enrolment in secondary and tertiary education. The major challenges affecting secondary and tertiary education include shortage of trained teachers and lack of resources to cover the cost of education.

The youth literacy rate improved from 68 per cent in 1995 to 86 per cent in 2007 in North Africa. In Central, East, Southern and West Africa, the literacy rate improved from 53 per cent to 62 per cent for adults and from 64 per cent to 72 per cent for youths aged 15 to 24 over the same period (UNESCO, 2009). However, it is important to note that large disparities in literacy rates are evident in many countries in relation to gender, poverty, place of residence, ethnicity, language and disability (UNESCO, 2009).

In 2006, the ratio of girls to boys' gross enrolment ratios in primary education reached 0.89 in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, and 0.93 in North Africa, thanks to efforts by governments and donors (United Nations 2008). North Africa achieved the strongest gains, with young female literacy rates increasing by over 20 percentage points from the 1980s to 2007, followed by southern Africa, East Africa, West Africa and central Africa, which recorded the lowest gains (UNECA, 2007). The literacy rate for young women in SSA increased from 58.6 per cent for the period 1985-1994 to 67.3 per cent in 2007. Yet the gap between the female and male literacy rates is not decreasing fast enough, especially in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, where the ratio of young female to male literacy rate has remained rather static over the last decade, at around 0.87 per cent.

Gender parity has deteriorated at the secondary level in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, where the gross enrolment ratio of girls to boys in secondary education fell from 0.82 in 2000 to 0.80 in 2006 (United Nations 2008). The gross enrolment ratio in secondary education for girls reached only 28 per cent. Far fewer African countries are making progress in achieving gender parity in tertiary education. The ratio of female to male tertiary enrolment ratios reached only 0.68 in Central, East, Southern and West Africa. In comparison, North Africa has achieved gender parity in enrolment in tertiary education (United Nations 2008).

Health: mixed progress in combating HIV/AIDS and other epidemics and reducing infant, child and maternal mortality rates

As a result of extensive and targeted prevention programmes, the HIV prevalence rate has either stabilized or declined in most African countries (UNAIDS, 2008). The adult HIV prevalence rate in Central, East, Southern and West Africa declined from 5.8 per cent in 2001 to 5.0 per cent in 2007 (UNAIDS, 2008). The HIV prevalence rate is lowest in North Africa (less than 1 per cent) and highest in Southern Africa, where in 2007 it exceeded 15 per cent in seven countries. HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of adult morbidity and mortality on the continent. However, in many countries of the region there are positive signs of behavior change that suggest a stabilization of the epidemic, especially among young people (15-24). The adoption of a safer behavior has resulted in a decrease of the number of new infections in Rwanda and in Zimbabwe. This shift in behavior is especially encouraging since young people have delayed the onset of sexual activity in seven of the most affected countries (Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia) (United Nations, 2008).

Thanks to declining prices of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), out of 4.6 million Africans living with the virus and requiring ARVs, nearly a third are undergoing treatment. The number of people who received antiretroviral treatment in Central, East, South and West Africa, as a whole, increased from 100 000 in 2003 to 1.3 million in 2006 and to 2.1 million in 2007 (UNAIDS, 2008). The corresponding coverage of people who received treatment improved from 2 per cent in 2003 to 28 per cent in 2006. Four countries have already achieved the goal of treating at least 50 per cent (Botswana, Namibia, Rwanda, and Senegal) (UNAIDS, 2008). In 2007, over 470 000 HIV positive pregnant women were reported to have received ARVs for prevention of mother-to-child transmission, an increase of over 50 per cent from the 2006.

While the overall unmet HIV treatment gap is still high, more attention should be given to women, who constituted 57 per cent of infected people in Central, East, Southern and West Africa in 2003 and 61 per cent in 2007 (UNAIDS, 2008).

Overall trends in TB incidence, prevalence and deaths have been rising in Central, East, Southern and West Africa in contrast to North Africa. By the end of 2006, 10 countries (Comoros, Egypt, Ghana, the Libya Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tunisia) had already halted and started to reverse overall and smear-positive tuberculosis incidence, as specified in the core MDG targets (WHO, 2008). In 2006, tuberculosis incidence, prevalence and death rates in Central, East, Southern and West Africa were 291, 521 and 59 per 100,000 people (excluding those infected with HIV), respectively. The rates for North Africa were 44 for tuberculosis incidence and prevalence and 4 for deaths.

In Africa Malaria is still the leading cause of child mortality and of anaemia in pregnant women. Although data on malaria incidence and death rates are not comprehensive, coverage of key malaria control interventions has increased in several countries due to availability of funding and increased national attention to malaria control. Two-thirds of African countries have adopted policies that include the use of drugs that are effective against malaria. By 2007, 25 countries had established a policy of treatment using artemisinin-based combination, with 20 of them introducing a countrywide policy shift from chloroquine (AUC and WHO, 2008). The use of insecticide-treated bed nets by children under 5 in malaria-risk areas in Central, East, Southern and West Africa is reported to have improved from 2.1 per cent in 2001 to 5 per cent in 2005 and 8 per cent in 2007 (United Nations, 2008).

Preventable diseases and malnutrition are still the leading causes of the high infant and under-five mortality rates. However, the continent has witnessed a decline in both rates. Between 1990 and 2007, the infant and under-five mortality rates declined from 111 and 187 per 1,000 live births to 89 and 148 for Central, East, Southern and West Africa declined and from 58 and 79 to 36 and 46 for North Africa. West and central Africa recorded the highest mortality rates and the lowest average rate of decline (1.2 per cent) compared to Eastern and Southern Africa (1.7 per cent) and North Africa (3.2 per cent). There is also wide variation within countries, with higher mortality rates recorded for rural and poor families.

Similarly, maternal mortality has been considerably reduced from 250 per 100 000 live births in 1990 to 160 per 100 000 live births in 2005 in Northern Africa. On the contrary, maternal mortality remains unacceptably high in the rest of the continent. In 2005, the rate stood at 760 (down from 790 in 1990) in eastern and southern Africa, and 1100 (the same as in 1990) in West and central Africa (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank, 2007). Also, the lifetime risk of maternal death is unacceptably high in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, at 1 in 23 compared to only 1 in 92 in the world and 1 in 8000 in industrialized countries. Obviously, the progress in reducing maternal mortality in Central, East, Southern and West Africa has been negligible, although there are significant disparities across countries arising from differences in income and other factors.

One of the key contributing factor to high maternal mortality in Africa is the high rate of adolescent pregnancies due to early marriage and teenage pregnancies. The risk of maternal mortality for very young mothers (15-19) is twice as high as maternal mortality risk for mothers aged above 20. UNICEF (2009) estimates that 70.000 very young mothers (15-19) die every year from pregnancy-related complications. About 80 per cent of maternal deaths are preventable if women have access to essential maternity and basic health care services. Efforts to expand the coverage of essential services and strengthen health systems should be combined with action to educate and empower women.

Vulnerable and marginalized groups

Slow progress on social development is most pronounced for marginalized and vulnerable groups in African countries, including women, older persons, youth, persons with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, internally displaced persons and indigenous people. The overall exclusion of these groups from society is reflected not only in their lower incomes and poorer outcomes in the labour market but also in terms of lower educational attainment rates, poor health status and under-representation in political processes and at policy- making levels.

Progress has been made in some countries in addressing the needs of vulnerable groups especially in the form of policies, laws, and targeted social protection measures. Overall, the main challenges in fostering the social inclusion of vulnerable groups include lack of implementation of the commitments and policies; inadequate financial resources to support spending on social programs; technical capacity constraints; lack of relevant data to support policies; war and conflicts and others. The need for the social inclusion of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and social protection systems has been magnified by the recent food and energy crises, which have had a negative impact on the lives of such vulnerable groups as women, children, persons with disability and the elderly. Moreover, the situation is likely to worsen considerably as a result of the global financial meltdown, since falling or suppressed wages and heightened inequality are being further compounded by the financial crisis. The impact of the crises underscores the need to strengthen existing national social protection systems and implement new ones to ensure that all the excluded groups are included into mainstream development.

C. Conclusions

In order to achieve a sustainable development, African countries should focus on social development issues that will not only complement economic growth but will also improve the lives of ordinary men, women and children across the continent, irrespective of their age, race, ethnicity, religion, social or other status. The issues include combating poverty and hunger, creating full employment and decent work opportunities for all, improving access to education and health-care services, promoting gender equality, ensuring the social inclusion of the vulnerable groups, designing effective redistribution policies and strengthening social protection systems. These issues are at the core of the social policy framework for Africa and the Windhoek declaration on social development, which were adopted at the conclusion of the first African Union conference of African ministers in charge of social development, held in

Windhoek in October 2008 and at the 12th Summit of the African Union in January 2009. It is important that these issues are fully addressed in order to achieve social development.

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PART II. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Sub-Programme “Social Development” during the biennia 2006-2007 and 2008-2009

A. Introduction

Since its establishment in September 2006 after the repositioning exercise, sub-programmes 10 Social Development implemented the some outstanding activities in the 2006-2007 biennium and is currently implementing the programmed outputs of the 2008-2009 biennium.

B. Activities undertaken by the Sub programme in the 2006-2007 Biennium

When the sub programme was created in 2006, the following remaining outputs in the 2006-2007 Biennium were delivered by the newly formulated sub programme after the repositioning exercise.

Parliamentary Documentation

Report to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on Millennium Development Goals/Poverty Reduction Strategies (2007)

The report provided an update on the progress that Africa is making towards the MDGs. The report was presented at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa on 29 March, 2007. The report was well taken by participants.

Recurrent publications

Assessing Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals, 2007: This report is a slightly expanded version of the report that was presented at ECA Conference of Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Addis Ababa on 29 March, 2007.

Non-recurrent publications

International migration and development: implications for Africa

The report was prepared through a desk review. The report provided background data and analysis on migration from an African perspective. It gave recommendations on how countries can manage international migration in order to maximize the benefits.

Bulletin on Sustainable Development in Africa

The report focused on capacity building for sustainable development in Africa and was aimed at informing member states on issues on capacity building for sustainable development.

Field Projects

The sub programme implemented the Development Account-funded project entitled “Enhancing Knowledge Sharing to support the Poverty Reduction Process in Africa”. Two training-

workshops– one for Anglophone countries and the other for francophone countries were organised where a total of about 35 senior government officials, regional economic communities and non-governmental organizations participated. The purpose of the workshops was to strengthen capacity in knowledge sharing and to expose them to the monitoring and planning possibilities that the MDG Mapper presents. In addition, the training aimed to provide the participants with tools and skills on how to effectively use a web-based electronic platform, and share experiences and documents across space. Under the same project, the sub-programme organized, within the rubric the PRS/MDG-LG, four electronic round-table discussions on the following themes: Growth strategies; ownership, leadership and accountability, capacity building and new aid architecture.

Overall sub programme assisted in strengthening the capacity of member states to design, implement and monitor pro-poor development policies consistent with the MDGs and the NEPAD priorities.

C. Activities implemented during the programme cycle 2008-2009

During this biennium two expected accomplishments were defined. These are:

(a) *Improved capacity of member states to design, implement and monitor poverty reduction strategies consistent with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the priorities of NEPAD; and*

(b) *Improved national capacity of member states to integrate social dimensions in all development sectors including addressing relevant MDGs and population concerns and the needs of socially vulnerable groups.*

The activities undertaken by the sub programme towards meeting these expected accomplishments were undertaken based on the assumption that: (a) policy and decision makers are committed to addressing human and social development issues; (b) member States are committed to the outcomes of regional and international agreements on employment, population, health, international migration and other related social policy areas; (c) there is broad political support for and commitment to poverty reduction and the Millennium Declaration and the priorities of NEPAD; and (d) there is support from development partners.

The sub programme implemented the following activities:

Substantive servicing of meetings

The sub-programme is servicing this first session of the Committee on Human and Social Development.

Parliamentary documentation

- The following four parliamentary reports have been prepared for submission to the first session of the Committee on Human and Social Development:
- The report to the Committee on Human and Social Development on recent social developments in Africa;

- Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Sub-Programme “Social Development” During the 2008-2009 Biennium;
- Assessing Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals, 2009;
- The progress report on the International Conference on Population and Development + 15;

The following parliamentary reports were prepared and presented to the First and Second Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa in 2008 and Cairo in 2009 respectively.

- The annual progress report on the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies in Africa (2008); and
- The annual progress report on the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategies in Africa (2009).

Ad hoc expert group meetings

The following ad hoc expert group meetings were organized during the biennium.

- The ad hoc expert group meeting on “Assessing and monitoring progress on human and social development in African countries” was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 21-22 August 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to peer review the draft African Social Development Report. The meeting was attended by policy-makers and experts from research and policy institutions.
- The ad hoc expert group meeting on “The role of sub national jurisdictions in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa” was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 7-9 May 2009. The meeting explored and interrogated the role of sub-national jurisdictions in efforts to achieve the MDGs in Africa and proposed a number of actionable policy recommendations for consideration and adoption by African policy makers, which were summarized in an Outcome Document. The meeting was attended by eighty-six participants, including high-level policy experts, practitioners and policymakers from sixteen African countries, African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), academia and civil society.
- The ad hoc expert group meeting on Youth employment opportunities in Africa was held on December 2-3 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was organised in partnership with the ILO Regional Office in Africa. The meeting brought together 28 experts from 6 countries to discuss how employment opportunities for young women through entrepreneurship could be promoted. The theme of the meeting was “Promoting employment opportunities for young women through entrepreneurship”. The meeting explored the challenges young women face and the opportunities they have to become an entrepreneur and the types of policy responses that are effective in supporting them achieve this goal. The meeting came up with achievable recommendations for varied stakeholders ie, UNECA, ILO, and other UN agencies involved in promoting youth employment as well as existing women’s associations.

The following ad hoc expert group meetings will be held in the last quarter of 2009.

- The ad hoc expert group meeting on Regional meeting to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in African countries will be held in November 2009. The objective of the meeting would be to take stock of progress made towards achieving the MDGs from 2000 to date and propose actions for fast-tracking progress towards attainment of the MDGs. The meeting will also develop an African common position to be presented at the 2010 United Nations (UN) MDGs Summit.
- The ad hoc expert group meeting on Assessing and monitoring progress on human and social development in African countries, focussing on the validation of the African Social Development Report , will be held in November 2009.
- Functional support to the Conference of Ministers on the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the International Conference on Population and Development. The conference of Ministers jointly organized by ECA, AU and UNFPA with UNECA as the lead coordinator, will be held on October 23rd 2009.

Other substantive activities

Recurrent publications

The status of implementation of the recurrent publications programmed for the current biennium is as follows.

- Assessing Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals, 2009. The report was jointly prepared by ECA, AUC and AfDB. The objective of the report was to assess progress made in meeting the targets of the MDGs in Africa and to contribute to the development of policies aimed at accelerating such progress.
- Assessing Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals, 2008. The report was jointly prepared by ECA and AUC. The objective of the report is the same as that of the report produced in 2009. This report informed the AUC Resolutions on MDGs.
- The Report on International Migration was prepared using desk research and country responses to the questionnaire on ICPD +15 review. The Report highlights effects and varied migration dynamics on the continent and proposes policy recommendations. It will be a useful tool for African policy makers on the subject. The draft report was peer reviewed by experts from IOM, UNFPA, and UNECA on September 24, 2009.
- The African Human and Social Development Report was prepared using desk research. The report is an inaugural report that provides the status of social development issues and was produced to provide policy makers with current information. This report focuses on the social dimensions of Africa's development challenges and will help fill an important gap in the spectrum of policy reports produced by ECA. This inaugural report of the African Social Development Report is on social integration and provides an African perspective to the concept of social exclusion/cohesion in terms of trends, challenges and recommendations for member states. The draft report was peer-reviewed internally within ECA and externally at an Expert Group Meeting in August 2009. The report is now being revised and finalised for the validation meeting that will be held in November 2009.

Non-recurrent publications

The status of implementation of the non recurrent publications programmed for the current biennium is as follows.

1. The report on role of sub national jurisdictions in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. It compiles analytical papers prepared for the ad-hoc expert group meeting on the same theme. The report is currently being considered for publication by Palgrave and Macmillan, following a submission of a book proposal. The proposed book intends to bridge this knowledge gap by: i) assessing progress made in meeting the targets of the MDGs at the sub national level as well as in addressing regional disparities, ii) reviewing fiscal policies and other instruments deployed by sub national jurisdictions to reach the MDGs, and iii) identifying obstacles that prevent sub national jurisdictions from contributing effectively to efforts to reach the MDGs
2. The report on youth employment opportunities in Africa with the title: “Youth Employment Opportunities in Africa: The Challenges of Being a Young Women Entrepreneur in the Informal Economy in Ethiopia” was prepared based on a survey of young female and male entrepreneurs in Ethiopia and presented to the ad hoc expert group meeting on Youth employment opportunities in Africa held in December 2008. The report confirms that young women entrepreneurs face a lot of constraints in pursuing their entrepreneurship activities. The report suggests using a comprehensive strategy that incorporates life cycle, work-family balance, and vulnerability issues in addressing the constraints.
3. Mainstreaming health/equity into the development agenda of African countries. The report was prepared using Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data for selected 10 African countries. The report confirms that systemic inequities in access by socio-economic gradient and location are serious impediments to accelerating progress towards health MDGs. The report notes that mainstreaming equity concerns in the MDG consistent national development plans is a necessary component of scaling-up towards achieving the MDGs.
4. The African Regional Review Report — International Conference on Population and Development + 15 entitled ICPD and the MDGs: Working as one; was prepared using data collected from member States using a questionnaire and country reports. The report reveals that much has so far been achieved in African countries relating to the objectives of ICPD PoA and MDGs in terms of policy formulation, development of appropriate legal frameworks, and the adoption of relevant international instruments. Many countries have moved forward to set up new institutions and strengthen the existing ones, and designed national as well as sectoral programmes and plans to address the various dimensions of population – poverty, gender, youth, access to health and reproductive health services, family planning, education, housing, transport, communication, data, research, etc. However, the report notes that more work need to be undertaken to ensure the implementation of the population-related policies.
5. The report on interventions for achieving the health Millennium Development Goals in Africa. The main objective of this report is to assess the progress made by African countries towards achieving the health MDGs; identify the major challenges; identify some

key health and non health interventions that can be adopted by countries to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs; and provide policy recommendations that can facilitate the acceleration of the health MDGs in Africa. The report will be completed soon.

6. The report on enhancing access to basic social services: The experience of African least developed countries. The objectives of the report are to assess the degree of inequality in access to basic services within African LDCs and analyze the policy frameworks of these countries in order to identify policy reforms that are needed to up progress towards the targets of internationally agreed development goals such as the MDGs and the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA). This analytical report is well underway. The report will be finalized at the end of October 2009.
7. The poverty maps and the Millennium Development Goals Atlas: The publication displays regional maps that feature progress towards attaining the targets of the MDGs in a number of African countries, for which data are available. It also shows maps of MDG progress at the sub-national level for five countries. Finally, the publication displays the MDG map for SADC region.

Technical cooperation

Fellowships and grants

The sub programme received three Young African Professionals and six interns. Through their activities with the sub programme the young professionals and interns have built their capacity to undertake research, formulate policies in terms of poverty reduction strategies, and integrating social dimensions in development policies.

Field projects

Three Development Account - funded projects have been implemented during the biennium 2007-2008. The first project Enhancing Knowledge Sharing to support the Poverty Reduction Process in Africa – built on the outcome of the ECA African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers). The broad objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity of African countries in the formulation of their poverty reduction strategies (PRS) and the implementation of the MDGs, through knowledge production and exchange. This project was completed in December 2008. The outputs of this field project include the following:

- The Training Workshop “Capacity Building to Enhance Knowledge Sharing on Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and the MDGs in Africa”;
- A technical manual on the use of quick place for community of practice users was completed;
- A manual on the MDG Mapper;
- The Young African Professionals (YAPs) contributed to this field project through the finalization of relevant research papers on: Higher education and the MDGs; Fiscal Decentralization and Outcomes: A Cross-Country Study with Implications for Africa in Achieving the Development Goals; and Debt relief and public health expenditure in Africa: What is the evidence? (near completion)
- Three discussion papers on: (i) Concept note on Learning Networks – Prof. Y. Nyarko; (ii) Growth, Inequality and poverty in Nigeria – Prof. B. Aigobhan; and (iii) Achieving

the Health millennium goals in Africa: the role of national Health Insurance Schemes –
Prof. O Mwabu

The second Development Account project which involves all five regional commissions, aims to enhance the capacity of member states in all five regions to design and implement development policies and programmes in a manner that substantially contributes to social inclusion, achievement of gender equality and health promotion. The aim of this project was to explore the possibility of additional MDGs targets/indicators to address socially excluded groups such as women, older persons, youth, persons with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons, PLWHA, street children and indigenous people. This project will be concluded next month. The main outcome of this project on the ECA side is the analytical report, which lays out additional targets/indicators that need to be included in the current MDG framework to ensure that it is inclusive of all the vulnerable people.

The sub-programme just commenced the implementation of a third DA project on strengthening African capacity to prepare MDG-consistent poverty reduction strategies. This project is a follow-up to the first. Building on the first, its aim is to strengthen African capacity to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate MDG-consistent poverty reduction strategies/national development plans. It encompasses a number of country studies and fellowships.

Besides the DA-funded projects, four other field projects were carried out with funding from the Joint Pool Fund partners and bilateral donors. The Pool Fund partners have supported two major projects: i) ECA Support to strengthen PRS, ii) ECA Peer Learning on PRSs/MDGs. A key component of these projects is the undertaking of analytical studies to support policy making to advance the MDG in Africa. These country studies focus on four themes: i) MDG-based planning which is addressed in 15 country studies, ii) the role of sub national jurisdictions in efforts to achieve the MDGs, analyzed in 4 country studies, iii) social protection and poverty reduction, reviewed in 10 country studies iv) mainstreaming African Peer Review Mechanism National Plan of Action into national development strategies, explored in 3 country studies. These projects also helped fund (2) training workshops on: i) New Directions for the PRS/MDGs-LG in Grand Baie, Mauritius, ii) Consultative meeting on the Scope for Social Protection.

Left over funding from Swedish funds helped fund the following activities: i) ad-hoc expert group meeting on the Role of Sub national in efforts to achieve the MDGs in Abuja, Nigeria, and ii) training workshop for parliamentarians on Achieving the Health MDGs through Equity in Health, held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Another project entitled “Strengthening integration of population and social policy issues in development planning” was initiated and completed. The project aims to improve national capacity of member states to integrate social dimensions in all development sectors including addressing relevant MDGs and population concerns and the needs of socially vulnerable groups. The activity completed under this project was the International conference on persons with disability that was jointly organized with Leonard Cheshire Disability. The conference

was successfully held in May 2008, with participation of 500 persons (government policymakers, persons with disabilities and experts). The aim of the conference was to provide a platform to inform delegates about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to gain their support for the implementation of the Convention and identify strategies to implement it. The conference was very successful and it came up with a call to action to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the convention.

The sub programme implemented another project HIV/AIDS Treatment Accelerated Programme in partnership with the World Bank, WHO and 3 pilot countries (Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Ghana). The project aimed to strengthen countries' capacity to scale up HIV/AIDS treatment in the three pilot countries. The sub programme undertook operational research on social determinants to adherence to treatment, and evaluation of public private partnerships and scaling up of HIV/AIDS treatment; and held 7 dissemination meetings. The project held 7 Regional Advisory meetings where the results of the studies were discussed. A knowledge network platform was also established to share and provide current information on HIV/AIDS, prevention and care.

The reports from the project include:

- Report on Evaluation of Public Private Partnerships in Mozambique under the Treatment Acceleration Programme
- Report on Evaluation of Public Private Partnerships in Ghana under the Treatment Acceleration Programme
- Report on Evaluation of Public Private Partnerships in Burkina Faso
- Report on Social and Economic Determinants to adherence in Burkina Faso
- Report on Social and Economic Determinants to adherence in Ghana
- Report on Social and Economic Determinants to adherence in Mozambique

Advisory services

Upon request, the sub programme also provided technical support on Botswana's national Population Policy. The advisory services aimed to improve national capacity of the member state to integrate social dimensions in all development sectors including addressing relevant MDGs and population concerns and the needs of socially vulnerable groups. SADC requested technical assistance of ECA in formulating a Regional Poverty Reduction Framework. Staff from the sub-programme held discussions with SADC's directorates and units and worked out jointly with the regional economic community a draft document, which provides a basis for the fully-fledged SADC Regional Poverty Reduction Framework that was developed subsequently.

Other Outputs

1. **African Youth Report 2009** on the theme "Expanding opportunities for and with young people in Africa" was prepared as a follow-up to the Fifth African Development Forum on "Youth and leadership in the twenty-first century". The main contribution of this report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the current status and trends in

selected key economic and social development dimensions relevant to youth, namely, education, employment, health, and participation in political and decision-making processes. The report reviews policy initiatives in these areas, highlighting best practices, and proposes clear recommendations to promote youth development in these areas.

2. **Training workshop for parliamentarians on Achieving the Health MDGs through Equity in Health**, held in Nairobi, Kenya, 15-17 September 2009, The objective of this training programme was to provide participants with the tools and knowledge on how to effectively mainstream health equity into development plans, and national budgets in order to accelerate the achievement of the MDG targets. Seventeen African parliamentarians from 13 African countries and the East African Legislative Assembly attended the workshop. One outcome of the conference has been the establishment of an informal association - the "Association of African Parliamentarians for the Promotion of the MDGs".
3. **Consultative Meeting on Accelerating progress in Africa towards the targets of the MDGs: What Scope for Social Protection** was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25-26 March 2009. The Sub-programme convened this meeting to help define a research agenda on social protection in Africa and to propose means of integrating social protection into the broader development agenda. Participants from selected African countries and other stakeholders attended the meeting.
4. A research workshop on **"New Directions for the African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategies and the MDGs"** was held in Grand Baie, Mauritius 19-20 June 2009. The workshop was designed to chart new directions for the African Learning Group on Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (PRS/MDGs-LG). The workshop recommended that revitalized PRS/MDGs – LG should focus on the following areas: Poverty and Inequality; Health MDGs; localization of the MDGs to sub-national governments and decentralized units; and capacity building.
5. **Survey on social conditions in Africa:** The sub programme prepared the survey on social conditions in Africa 2008 and 2009 as contribution to the Economic Report for Africa 2008 and 2009; and contribution to the Overview of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa in 2008 presented to the First and Second Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa in 2008 and Cairo in 2009 respectively

C. Results achieved

The following are highlights of some of the key results achieved:

a) Monitoring and Assessment of MDGs:

During the biennium, MDG reports and the MDG mapper were produced to monitor and assess progress made in the region.

- i) The MDG report 2009 was also presented at the African Statistics Conference after which it was used by the African Centre for Statistics in a number of settings and meetings. MDG reports have been well received, and have been the basis of *the resolutions adopted at the Conferences on accelerating progress towards the targets of the MDGs* in the region. Further, the reports were presented at meetings of the Executive Council of the African Union held in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt, June-July 2008, and in Sirte, Libyan Arab

Jamahiriya, July 2009 and *resolutions on the MDGs were adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State on the basis of the reports*. The reports also served as inputs for the work of the Secretary General's Africa MDGs Steering Committee. The growing recognition of the importance of these reports in shaping MDGs discussions in Africa has been further attested to by the enormous investment in their publication and use by the African Development Bank.

i) The MDG mapper which was developed jointly with ISTD is also an innovative tool for tracking, monitoring and reporting on the MDG progress. MDG progress Maps at the sub-national level for 8 countries were produced, emphasizing the importance of cascading monitoring and reporting to sub-national levels for improved targeting of MDGs-specific interventions. Encouragingly, *Ghana and Ethiopia used the Mapper in the preparation of their national reports on their development experiences presented at ECOSOC's AMR meeting*.

b) Improvement in the corpus of knowledge and tools for designing poverty reduction strategies/national development plans and monitoring progress:

In 2008, the sub programme organized six training workshops for policy makers, including one specifically for Parliamentarians. Currently, the sub-programme is completing 32 country studies (15 on MDGs-based planning; 10 on Social Protection; 4 on the Role of sub-national jurisdictions and 3 on "Towards a Unified framework for the PRS, MDGs, and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) National Plan of Action) on various dimensions of the MDGs aimed at improving capacity of member states in formulating, implementing and monitoring MDG-consistent poverty reduction strategies or at building a body of knowledge in sectors of critical importance to the achievement of the MDGs, thus contributing to the achievement of the above expected accomplishment. As a result of these training workshops, *SADC and UNDP Somalia have also requested for technical assistance from the sub programme which illustrates the relevance of these trainings*.

c) Capacity building:

- i) The sub-programme hosted three young African professionals under the Young African Professionals MDGs/PRS Fellowship Programme (YAPS) to undertake research and acquire skills in new areas. The YAPS has been a success: An alumnus is now concluding his PhD in Economics at the University of Maastricht, Netherlands, another at the University of Laval and the third is with the ECA Sub-regional Office for Central Africa. The sub-programme also offered training to 5 interns. *The internship and fellowship programmes have contributed to ongoing efforts across the continent to expand the pool of well-trained and well-informed young economic and social analysts*.
- ii) In order to provide policy options for consideration by African policy makers on leveraging sub national governments to accelerate efforts to achieve the MDGs, ECA successfully co-organized with the Federal Ministry of Finance of the government of Nigeria and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the MDGs (OSSAP/MDGs) a conference/workshop training that was held in Abuja, in May 2009 on the Role of Sub national

Jurisdictions in Efforts to Achieve the MDGs. Conference evaluations indicate that the vast majority of participants found the content of the presentations, discussions and policy recommendations useful and relevant to their work. More importantly, *an overwhelming majority of participants indicate the conference will help them in the areas of research and policy formulation as well as monitoring and evaluation of the MDGs.*

- iii) The sub-programme's work on youth (the African Youth Report 2009 and the report on youth employment opportunities in Africa) provided concrete support to the shaping of the African Union's programme on Youth development. The sub-programme contributed to the definition of the draft African Union Plan of Action for Youth Development that is to be implemented over the African Union's Decade on Youth 2009-2018. ECA was requested to contribute through advisory services to the development of the African Union Plan of Action for Youth by sharing the major findings of the African Youth Report 2009.
- iv) As a result of the Treatment Acceleration Project, the pilot countries were able to increase their capacity to scale up HIV treatment through the training on administering ARVs. Further, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS that were receiving ARV treatment increased including Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). In addition, through ECA facilitated regional panel meetings, and information dissemination, the project influenced the revision of the HIV/AIDS treatment policies, guidelines and protocols in pilot countries.
- v) Following advisory services from ECA, the revised population policy for Botswana was prepared.

d) Knowledge sharing and peer learning: The bold peer-learning and exchange-of-information activities, with over of 30 African countries participating and over **300** policy makers involved, also contributed to capacity building among member states.- *needs articulation*

e) Enhanced Advocacy

MDGs: The sub-programme also contributed to the analytical work of the Secretary-General's MDG Gap Task Force. Two Gap Task Force reports, 2008 and 2009, were published and the 2010 report will also soon be published. The Gap Task Force report is focused on MDG 8, which is on developing a global partnership for development.

An informal association - the "Association of African Parliamentarians for the Promotion of the MDGs has been recently set up to provide direction on the outcomes of the training workshop organized for African Parliamentarians on "Accelerating Progress in Africa towards the targets of the MDGs through Mainstreaming Health Equity in the Development Agenda". The sub-programme has supported advocacy work of ECA's Executive Secretary on African social development at international fora by providing inputs to his presentations. In conclusion, *all the above advocacy work is expected to garner both the domestic and international support needed to advance the MDG agenda in Africa.*

Disability: Evaluations by conference participants indicated that the conference provided them with a wealth of information that would enable them to work with their governments to change laws and ban discriminatory customs and practices to create an inclusive society where the rights of persons with disability are recognised. ECA and Leonard Cheshire Disability won a ‘Best Learning Experience Award’ from the International Visual Communications Association (IVCA) - a leading European body promoting ethical and effective business and public sector communications for successfully delivering the international conference and for raising awareness on the Convention and the need to implement it.

HIV/AIDS: ECA also developed a policy advocacy strategy where 20 African countries would adopt at least one CHGA recommendation in 20 months after launch of the Commissioners Report on HIV and Governance in Africa (CHGA) “Securing our Future” by the UN Secretary General – Ban Ki- Moon in 2008 .

D. Challenges and Lessons learned in implementing the programme

- i) Limited availability of up-to-date data on key social development indicators and other vital indicators from member States constrain monitoring on social development trends.
- ii) Poor telecommunications infrastructure in countries that creates special challenges in the use of e-based knowledge sharing/km tools.
- iii) Limited capacity in member states and in collaborating continental institutions such as RECs;
- iv) Demand –driven approach should guide the identification of projects and activities must be based on the real needs of member States. This requires careful listening to member States at meetings and conferences.

PART III: Proposed Sub programme activities for 2010-2011

Objective of the Sub programme: to strengthen national and regional capacity to achieve poverty reduction and inclusive and equitable sustainable social development, in line with the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Expected accomplishment

Enhanced national and regional capacity to design, implement and monitor social policies and programmes for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for effective delivery of social services.

External factors

The sub-program will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member States are committed to the implementation of regional and international policy frameworks on social development, especially commitment to and implementation of AU protocols and conventions and the NEPAD agenda; (b) partners are supportive of ECA's efforts and willing to scale up their collaboration to support ECA, member States and RECs; and (c) measures are undertaken by Member States to avail the sub programme with data and reports in a timely manner.

Outputs

A. Servicing of the meetings of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Servicing of intergovernmental meetings (1)

- i. Substantive servicing of second session of the Committee on Human and Social Development (2011).

Parliamentary documentation (3)

- i. Report to the Committee on Human and Social Development (2011);
- ii. Annual progress report on the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Africa (2010, 2011).

Ad hoc expert group meetings (3)

- i. Harnessing knowledge to achieve the MDGs in Africa;
- ii. Strengthening capacities to promote social protection policies in African countries.

B. Other substantive activities

1. Recurrent publications (3)

- i. Annual Report on the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Africa;
- ii. Annual report on the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Africa (1);

iii. Social Development Bulletin (1);;

2. *Non-recurrent publications (5)*

- i. African Youth Report
- ii. Harnessing knowledge to achieve the MDGs in Africa;
- iii. Implementation of “Securing our Future”: follow up to the report of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa;
- iv. Local level participation and achieving the MDGs.
- v. Report on international migration

3. *Technical Materials (2)*

- i. MDG-Mapper;
- ii. Training manual on MDG-consistent Poverty Reduction Strategies;

C. Technical cooperation

2. *Fellowships and grants:*

Eight visiting scholars, fellows and interns to support the work of ECA in various areas, including poverty reduction, social development, HIV and AIDS, and population

4. *Field Projects (4)*

- i. Building capacities to develop social protection systems for vulnerable groups (1);
- ii. Building capacity in health economics and health policy for better health outcomes in Africa (1);
- iii. Enhancing knowledge sharing on poverty reduction strategies (PRS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), through the Africa Learning Group on PRS/MDGs (1).
- iv. Addressing Maternal mortality (4)

3. *Advisory services (6)*

- i. Advisory services on MDG-consistent PRSs, mainstreaming social development and social integration issues in national development strategies (6);

4. *Training courses (1)*

- vi. Training courses, seminars and workshops: Training workshop for professionals on developing and operationalising an accountability index for monitoring commitments on HIV/AIDS in Africa (1)