



GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Platform-Info (5): World Development Report 2008

Dear Platform Focal Points, Colleagues and Friends,

After our Donor Consultation Workshop at the beginning of December in Washington (minutes available on our website www.donorplatform.org) and New Year, the works on WDR 2008 are picked up again.

Last week, a Civil Society Consultation Workshop was taking place in Toronto, and within the following weeks authors and editors are working heavily on the so called yellow draft. This short overview should give you an idea about the time-frame of WDR 2008:

Bank-wide review (yellow)	March 31 st , 2007
Internet draft released	April 15 th , 2007
Discussion with Board	June 15 th , 2007
Finalized and to printer	July 31 st , 2007
Release and dissemination	Oct 1 st , 2007 through June, 2008

Best practices / Case studies (1): World Development Report

A selection of your case studies contributed to Derek Byerlee's team directly or via the Platform, has already been integrated in the draft report. To assure quality and empirical evidence, as well as the adequate use of these case studies, the authors of these contributions will be contacted in the next weeks for further information.

So if you have submitted case studies from your organization, please already prepare for collecting background documents, such as progress reports, monitoring and evaluation documents!

To support the editors and authors in this communication, Mr. Antti Seelaff, Young Professional Officer in the Platform and Liaison Person to the WDR 2008, has been seconded to the World Bank from last Monday onwards, for a period of three months. His tasks are supporting the WDR-team in (i) selecting the best case studies available, (ii) quoting the case studies accurately, and (iii) selecting the case studies with a regional balance. To fulfill this task, we envisage a transparent information exchange and communication between the editors and the submitters of the case studies.

As announced by Derek during the donor consultation workshop last December, the editors seek to downplay the role of donors, in order to raise the report's acceptance by partner countries governments. For this reason it is anticipated to cite all case studies, used in the report, as contributions of the Platform.



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Best practices / Case studies (2): Online Database on what works in A&RD

With support from Mr. Stein Bie, who is seconded to the Platform secretariat by NORAD, a small number of reference case studies are currently elaborated. As at this moment, the case studies at hand consist only of max. 2 - page overviews, we will have to complement more detailed information on each case study. Besides the result-orientation of our descriptions, we would also like to point out, why we consider them as a best practice, as also which internal and favourable external factors made the approaches of the described interventions successful ones.

Other upcoming activities with respect to the anticipated database of best practices are developing suggestions for a common format of how to present the case studies (i), and working with our technical support to develop options and requirements for the online presentation of the case studies (ii).

To widen the scope and therewith the value of our database of best practices, we aim at including links to available case studies and evaluation reports or databases on the websites of our member organizations as well as links to relevant databases on the websites of organizations and agencies who are not a Platform member.

Dissemination of the WDR 2008

Maybe one of the most important aspects will be the distribution of the World Development Report 2008, and the communication of its main messages. One of the anticipated aims of the report is to reverse the trend of declining resources allocated to our sector. To achieve this, the report's main messages have to be also communicated to decision-makers outside the agricultural sphere.

Derek Byerlee has already announced that he regards the Platform as one very useful partner for this dissemination of the WDR 2008. The idea for WDR 2008's dissemination is to bring together decision-makers from within the agrarian / rural sector with decision-makers of other sectors (ministries of finance, infrastructure, etc.) which need to be involved in formulating and implementing a successful rural development strategy. After the World Bank's presentation of the report, the participants should discuss and decide which of the WDR's argumentations and recommendations match their countries' situation, and how they can integrate these fitting messages into their country development strategies.

Within the next weeks, Platform staff together with the editors will come together in order to substantiate the Platform's contributions to the dissemination of the World Development Report 2008.

With a positive outlook to these upcoming activities, we send you our best regards!

Sincerely,

Platform Secretariat

Bonn, 30.01.2007