



EFFECTIVE AID FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: A LOOK FROM THE GROUND UP

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016 | 11:30 AM TO 3:45 PM

RADISSON BLU HOTEL | DAKAR, SENEGAL

What knowledge is needed to implement the inclusion agenda in sub-Saharan Africa? How can local researchers and aid institutions, across new and old donors, work together to support the inclusion agenda in sub-Saharan Africa?

Existing development research on sub-Saharan Africa suggests that the most useful insights on the question of effectiveness in development assistance emerge from the micro level. This poses a major challenge for the design and implementation, based on reliable evidence, of development actions in a terrain as vast and varied as Sub-Saharan Africa. The imperatives to 'leave no one behind' – sanctioned by the pledge by UN members in the Agenda 2030, and the African Union's Agenda 2063– imposes an unprecedented effort to support quality, context specific, empirical knowledge on inclusion, and new ways to leverage and share this knowledge with the twin goal of supporting both more effective development assistance, and more effective national policies.

The Global Development Network (GDN) and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) convene a half day policy dialogue bringing together high level policy makers, top representatives of aid agencies, and senior African researchers to address some of the questions below:

Has development assistance been effective in supporting the inclusion agenda in SSA, so far? What has the role of knowledge and evidence been in the past, and what should be the next research priorities? How should development assistance work, across new and old donors, to support fact-based policy making at the national level? How can local researchers and aid institutions, across new and old donors, work together to support the inclusion agenda in sub-Saharan Africa?

In two consecutive roundtables, the dialogue will first tackle the general challenges of effectively supporting fact-based policies on inclusion, and then discuss key lessons from the financial inclusion sector. The event is part of a GDN research capacity building program implemented in partnership with AERC, and funded by USAID. The aim of the overall program is to support the emergence of African voices on the question of the effectiveness of development assistance. The aim of the dialogue is specifically to discuss whether (and how) support to local research capacities on questions of effective development are a winning strategy to strengthen the voice of recipient countries in debates about development assistance.

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PROGRAMME | 03 December from 11:30 AM to 3:40 PM

11:30am-1:00pm **Roundtable Discussion 1:**

The stakes of policy makers, local researchers and aid agencies in generating knowledge for inclusion: from stronger national policies to more effective development assistance

The extent to which aid is effective in supporting national development agendas, is a research as much a policy question. In the case of African economies, we still do not know to what extent the returns to aid to Africa have been positive, that is how much aid has contributed to long-term social and economic development. At the micro level, however, recent research points to growing empirical evidence that targeted aid to particular sectors and activities yields positive results. Development partners, domestic and international, must find ways to support, catalyse, use and share the knowledge that is generated on aid effectiveness, in ways that support directly national decision making. What initiatives can trigger a virtuous cycle between research, evidence and fact-based policies for inclusion, sector by sector?

Moderator

- Francesco Obino, Program Manager, GDN

Speakers

- Kerfalla Yansane, Senior Minister in the President's Office, Guinea
- Léonce Ndikumana, African Development Policy Program, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Deborah Brautigam, Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy and Director of the International Development Program (IDEV), and the China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC
- Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

1:00pm-2:00pm **Lunch**

2:00pm-3:30pm **Roundtable Discussion 2:**

Who is in charge of de-risking development in SSA? Knowledge, domestic financial inclusion efforts, and the role of aid agencies.

Despite decades of efforts in the financial inclusion landscape, scale and impact remain a challenge for the sector, particularly at the continental level. Some argue that opening access to financial services is not enough, especially if regulators themselves don't play a strategic role. De-risking is emerging as a critical strategy for financial inclusion, which government actors, and perhaps also development partners, can play a critical role to design and implement. How should de-risking be approached, and structured to ensure greater inclusion? What knowledge will be instrumental (and is currently missing) to do so?

Moderator

- Lemma Senbet, Executive Director, AERC

Speakers

- Kerfalla Yansane, Senior Minister in the President's Office, Guinea
- Njuguna Ndung'u, Former Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya
- Issouf Soumare, Professor and Director of International Relations, FSA ULaval, Université Laval, Canada
- Victor Murinde, Professor of Development Finance, University of Birmingham

3:30pm-3:40pm **Closing Remarks**

- Witness Simbanegavi, Director of Research, AERC

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