



KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

# **Synthesis RIDSSA Research Projects and African Policy Dialogues**

**Dr Saskia Hollander, INCLUDE Secretariat**

## Three (sets of) guiding questions

- 1) Which actors are strategic in promoting inclusive development in SSA, and what are their specific roles?
  - > Roles of actors involved in ID?
  - > Are these actors strategic?
- 2) Which incentives and power dynamics prevent strategic actors from formulating and/or implementing inclusive development policies?
  - > Which incentives and power dynamics prevent inclusion of marginalized groups?
- 3) What works to ensure that strategic actors promote and implement inclusive development policies?
  - > How can progressive private sector actors be supported?
  - > How can non-progressive actors be encouraged?
  - > How can inclusion of marginalized groups and cso's be supported?

# Five Research Projects

Project	Strategic Actors	Aim
<b>Inclusive Business Strategies</b>	Businesses	How can inclusive businesses be used to promote inclusive development?
<b>Barriers to Batwa Inclusion in Rwanda</b>	Local authorities	How can Batwa be linked to local authorities in order to communicate their needs?
<b>Agricultural Partnerships</b>	Governments and private sector	How they can governments and private sector be nudged to be involved in partnerships that also include smallholder farmers?
<b>Informal Workers' Political Leverage</b>	Local and national authorities ; Informal workers' organizations?	How can informal workers' organizations be supported to better defend the needs of informal workers?
<b>Economic Empowerment and Sex Work</b>	Local and national authorities ; civil society organizations?	How can strategic actors support sex workers in Kenya and Ethiopia?

# Three African Policy Dialogues

	Strategic Actors	Aim
<b>Utafiti sera on social protection in Kenya</b>	National authorities, national and international NGOs	How can strategic actors be encouraged and supported to promote social protection in Kenya?
<b>Youth employment in Mozambique's extractive industry</b>	National and local authorities, national and international NGOs, research institutions	How can strategic actors be encouraged and supported to promote youth employment in the extractives sector in Mozambique?
<b>Utafiti Sera on employment creation in Kenya</b>	National authorities, national and international NGOs, research institutions	How can strategic actors be encouraged and supported to promote employment in the sugar and horticulture sectors In Kenya?

# What is strategic action?

“An intervention undertaken with the long-term goal of contributing to political, institutional and social change, such as creating jobs or expanding services”

*BUT ....*

- Inclusive policies can be *unintended* outcome
- Actions can be intended to promote inclusive development, but not successful

# Which actors are strategic?

- Actors who have formal decision-making power and who are in a position to exercise leadership (institutional perspective)
- Actors who have the legitimacy and power to influence decision-making' (agency perspective)

Question: What about marginalized groups and the organizations that represent them?

## What are the constraints (strategic) actors face?

- Caution required: drawing general lessons from different types of projects
- Beyond institutional constraints; also including power dynamics
- Four general constraints or challenges to strategic action for inclusive development

# Challenge 1

National economic (trade) interests tend to prevail over local interests:

- A lack of commitment to supporting the agriculture sector (APDs Kenya & Mozambique)
- Revenues from export-based value chains in the extractive sector are not adequately invested in local communities (APD Mozambique)
- Government is more pro-active in mobilizing public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the export-based value chain than in local food value chains ('Agricultural Partnerships' project)



## *Challenge 2*

Commercial (business) interests do not always coincide with local needs

But:

- Mobile money transfer service: business opportunity AND social value creation

In general though:

- Trade-off : private sector involvement at expense of local needs (for example smallholder farmers' participation and choice)

## Challenge 3

Global interests may (often unintentionally) induce local stigmatization:

- International NGOs and their partner organizations in developing countries use global narratives on indigeneity to refer to the Batwa communities in Rwanda, which is not in line with state thinking
- Special attention to sex workers as 'vulnerable' or 'marginalized' groups, also by NGOs and donor organizations, leads to their increased visibility in society, triggering reactionary responses

# Challenge 4

Strategic action is often constrained by institutional context:

- Party politics determines strategies of informal workers and their representatives
- Weak governance, financial and knowledge constraints limit effectiveness of strategic action
- State authorities sometimes (intentionally and unintentionally) restrict agency of marginalized groups

# Which lessons for policy and practice can be drawn?

- Again, caution required: different projects, general lessons
- Much is context-specific, but sometimes processes can be steered
- Five general policy lessons

# Lesson 1

Building alliances is crucial for strategic action:

- Change can sometimes be driven by actors with no formal decision-making power, as long as they work together and form the right alliances (smallholder farmers, Batwa, informal workers, sex workers)
- Alliances can help to overcome financial constraints (PPPs)
- Alliances can help overcome knowledge and skills gaps (PPPs, alliances governments, educational institutions and private sector to match qualifications with labour market demands)

## Lesson 2

Focus on trust-building in research and interventions:

- Obvious, but often forgotten!
- Lack of trust hinders effectiveness of interventions
- Building trust is intangible and a long-term process
  - ❑ Collective action to provide services can help building long-term trust
  - ❑ Role of religious institutions; for example Catholic church in Rwanda in Batwa inclusion

## Lesson 3

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' when it comes to strategic action:

- Being strategic not only depends on outcome and intention, but also on enabling contextual factors (e.g. quality of governance, electoral system, morality politics)
- These also determine the possibility to build alliances

## Lesson 4

The fact that context matters implies that inclusive development interventions are more effective when *embedded in the local community and/or economy*

- Importance of secondary towns for employment creation (Synthesis PE)
- Local embeddedness needed to overcome misrepresentation and miscommunication (Batwa and sex workers)
- Local embeddedness implies business opportunity (M-Pesa)



# Lesson 5

Continuous importance of research for strategic action for inclusive development to guide interventions:

- Context-specific knowledge; needs and perceptions marginalized groups
- Interventions and research should be process-oriented rather than (only) result-oriented
- Interventions should be locally-led

**THANK YOU!**

**INCLUDE**

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES