



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Israel**



**Weitz Center for
Development Studies**

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Course on

Local development and strategies for poverty reduction in Africa

June 29 — July 23, 2009

Introduction

Though macro economics and national policies and strategies provide the necessary policy and institutional framework for poverty reduction, it is increasingly recognized that local economic development play crucial role in eradicating poverty. Sub-national and local authorities have a key role to play. The realization of this role however depends on their capacity to design and implement effective strategies, programmes and projects which are centered on the common aspirations of their communities and localized MDGs.

Local authorities and sub-national levels can play a major role in this effort to eradicate poverty and achieving the MDGs by developing and implementing local strategies and tools.

Any strategy aimed at eradicating poverty must reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty and thus must be holistic in its approach. It has to extend across different disciplines and must encompass demographic, economic, social, institutional and political factors.

These strategies must focus on delivery of pro-poor social services and local infrastructure development, local economic development initiatives and natural resources managements; and should include implementation tools and capacity building as an integral component.

Objectives

In this light, this course is aimed at:

- Providing an analytical perspective on the nature and the causes of urban poverty, the effectiveness of policies in reducing poverty and the design of effective strategies.
- Emphasizing the role of local government in poverty reduction schemes.
- Emphasizing tools and platforms for implementation
- Sharing relevant Israeli experience in poverty alleviation.
- Training participants in the formulation of small scale, pro-poor, development projects at local level.

Program Scope and themes

Urban poverty – introductory presentations

- Multi-dimensional nature of poverty
- Approaches to development – concepts, definitions and indicators
 - Strategic planning for LED
 - Assets Based Community Development
 - Sustainable development
- Localizing MDGs

Local economic development

- What is LED
- Why cities are the focus of LED
- Support systems for LED
- The role of local government in LED
- Local partnerships for jobs and income generation
- Jobs generation for the poor and disadvantaged groups of society

Social services

- The role of social services in poverty reduction
- Gender planning and development
- Community development as a tool for promoting spatial and social peripheries

Infrastructure and physical pro-poor development

- Small-scale infrastructure development
- Project renewal – national urban renewal project
- Urban revitalization
- Environmental aspects of development
- Urban and Regional Passenger Transport Networks as a Means to Improving Economic Inclusion

Upgrading local governance and pro-poor public assets management

- Good governance and poverty reduction
- Local government capacity building – municipal tools case studies
- Participatory planning and development – reaching those excluded from benefits of development
- Homeland – Diaspora partnership for development
- Social aspects of economic crisis and social risk management

Project planning and formulation

- Case study analysis
- Project planning formulation and presentation
- Development project impact assessment

Guided practical exercise designed for individual and small groups, seminars and panels and professional field trips will be integrated into the course subjects' areas

Pre course requirements

- Preparation of a general country presentation and poverty reduction policies and practice.
- Background data and materials for project formulation at local level.
- A short reading list for case study analysis

Guidelines will be sent to participants in advance.

Admission Requirements

The Course is designed for professionals from Sub-Saharan African countries, working in the field of local economic development and urban poverty alleviation, with practical experience in such activities.

Application Process

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli Diplomatic Representative in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli Diplomatic Representative not later than June 1st, 2009.

Arrival and transportation

A Taxi Company called "Moni Sitton" will transport the participants to "Reisfeld Residence" of the Faculty of Agriculture, where the students will stay during the course. The transportation will be free of charge only by this company.

The Moni Sitton counter is located after the customs, at the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers' hall, near gate 13.

Responsibilities during the stay

The official responsibility of MASHAV to the participants is limited to the period of their stay in Israel during the course.

Insurance of personal belongings

The Foreign Ministry, the Weitz Center and the "Reisfeld Residence" are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings. It is the responsibility of the participants to make their insurance coverage in their respective countries.

Medical Insurance

The participants will have a medical insurance for the duration of their stay in Israel, except for dental treatments, pregnancy, eyeglasses, and chronic illnesses.

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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