

Marshall Plan Against Poverty

Presented by Vasish Ramkhalawon

Context

- ▶ To improve standards of living of the population and to introduce holistic approaches that will promote a sustainable socio-economic development and environmental protection in the republic of Mauritius.
- ▶ Areas:
 - ▶ Social protection;
 - ▶ Social Housing;
 - ▶ Social Inclusion and community development;
 - ▶ Access to education and skills development, health, Living Standard and food security;
 - ▶ Employment and sustainable livelihood/Economic opportunities for the most vulnerable groups including people with disabilities;
 - ▶ Women empowerment and feminization of poverty;
 - ▶ Youth economic empowerment;
 - ▶ Access to services, including, electricity, water, sanitation, transportation, ICT facilities;
 - ▶ Environmental protection and its link with Social Integration

Preparation

- ▶ A press communique informing about the setting up of the Marshall Plan Unit, also requesting submission of memoire etc. from the public, NGOs/CSOs, private sector organisations/foundations etc. The stakeholders were given more than one months to submit their memoires
- ▶ Pre-mission meeting with JEC, NCSR and MACOSS
- ▶ Review the relevant government documents and publications, data from Statistics Mauritius, internationally available data (HD, poverty data and trends, MDGs reports, UN, etc.

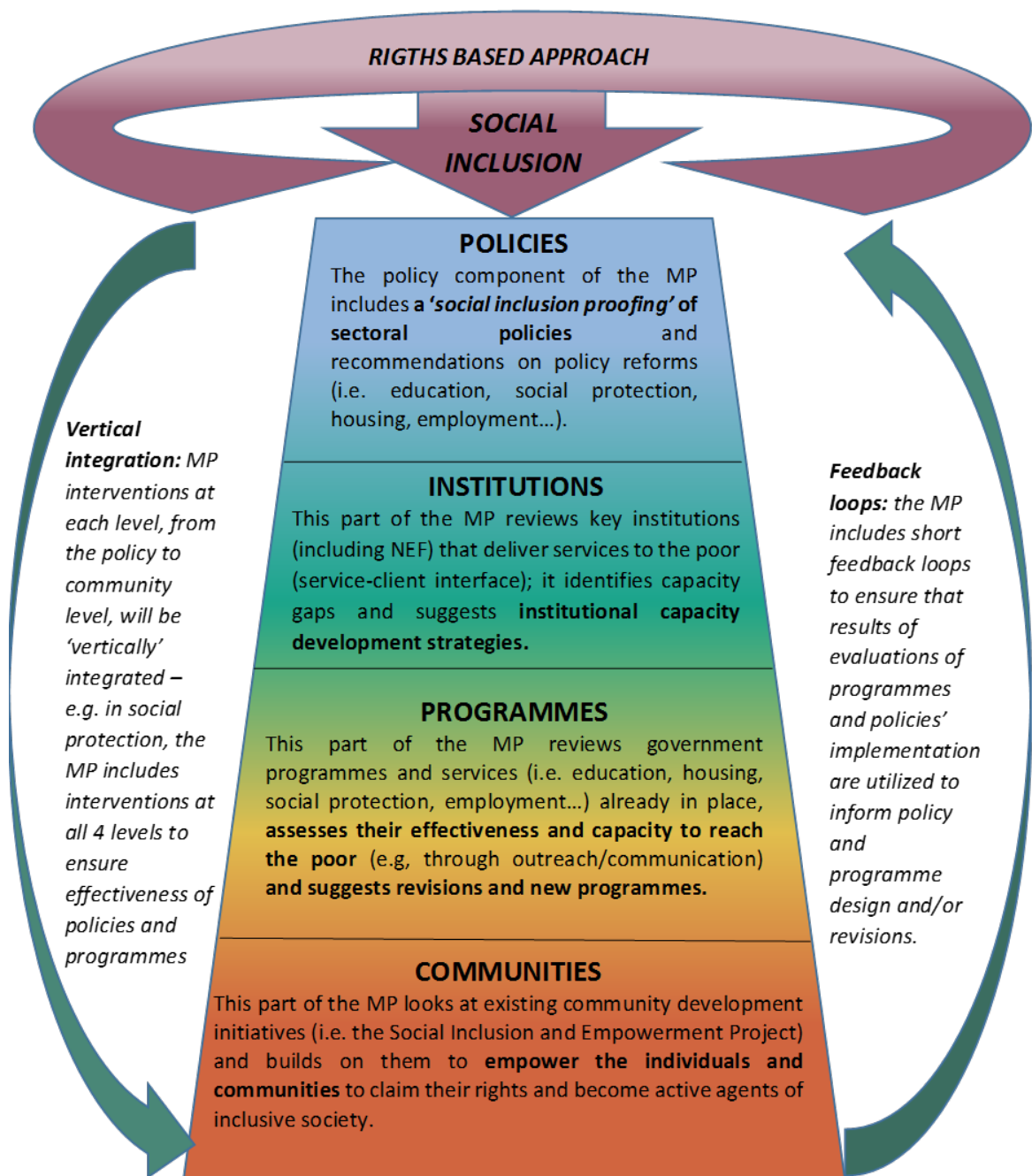
Mission

- ▶ Rigorous and participatory approach to encourage maximum participation from different stakeholders (local communities, government institutions, private sector and other national and international socioeconomic actors) to gain in-depth understanding of the Mauritius context paying particular attention to different pro-poor Government programs/ schemes.
- ▶ Data collection using primary and secondary sources. This included open-ended discussions with various partners; interviews with vulnerable groups, civil society, private sector, Officials of government institutions etc.
- ▶ Stakeholders met:
 - ▶ PMO
 - ▶ MoFED
 - ▶ Several Line Ministries and Implementing Agencies
 - ▶ CSO
 - ▶ JEC
 - ▶ NCSR
 - ▶ MACOSS
 - ▶ DCP
- ▶ Stakeholder Workshop

The Plan

- ▶ Articulated around 39 actionable and costed proposals, framed within 11 sections.
- ▶ Initiatives in the areas of social protection, employment, social housing, education, health, environment and equity in service delivery, including with a focus on Rodrigues, have been designed to address poverty and inequality.
- ▶ The plan devises an approach tackling the root cause of exclusion through a community-based approach to service delivery.
- ▶ Promoting gender equality and greater opportunities for young people are themes integrated throughout the plan.
- ▶ A plan for all citizens. Full realization will require a complex interplay of actors and actions. Its success will depend notably on i)
 - ▶ mobilizing society to support the plan, and exploring a new social compact to reduce poverty and inequality
 - ▶ adopting sound implementation arrangements and strengthening public institutions
 - ▶ refocusing the National Empowerment Foundation
 - ▶ redefining CSR from Corporate Social Responsibility to Corporate Sustainability
 - ▶ setting a clear poverty line to identify the poor and neediest.

Marshall Plan Framework



Social protection for social inclusion

- ▶ Establish a Rs. 1.3 bn Marshall Plan Social Contract Scheme to alleviate poverty and promote empowerment
- ▶ Progressively replace Social Aid with a new Marshall Plan Social Contract (except for specific categories)
- ▶ Integrate other existing empowerment programmes into the SRM
- ▶ Establish NEF social workers as mentors for beneficiaries of Marshall Plan Social Contracts and other social schemes
- ▶ Recruit social workers at NEF to limit the number of families per social worker to 150 families maximum
- ▶ Address under-coverage of least developed areas by opening two additional Social Security Offices
- ▶ Set up a mobile technology to reduce costs, modernize and improve outreach and access to information on social programmes
- ▶ Institute monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes delivered via SRM

Community-based approach and social marketing to promote inclusion, constructive values and work ethics

- ▶ Community-based Service Delivery for Social Inclusion
- ▶ Set up a Marshall Plan Community Scheme to fund community initiatives on a competitive basis
- ▶ Apply social marketing tools to promote positive and constructive social behaviour such as work ethics

Guiding principles for the Marshall Plan Community Scheme's selection of community proposals

Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate the following:

- **Community ownership:** the community is the principle recipient of the MPCS funds and owns the funding proposal
- **Capacity:** the community and its partners have the capacity to implement the activities outlined in the proposal
- **Pluralism:** proposals are submitted by a partnership of government and non-government actors
- **Coordination:** proposals include evidence of coordination amongst government and non-government actors
- **Sustainability:** the proposal should contain an exit strategy
- **Results:** the proposal should state clear and measurable expected results and a lean and participatory (citizens engagement) monitoring framework

Employment

- ▶ Enhance access to training and placement opportunities for the poor
- ▶ Set up a social enterprise incubator
- ▶ Encourage inclusive procurement so that at least 5% of procurement comes from small vulnerable business enterprises and cooperatives
- ▶ Introduce public works programmes to create employment and skills enhancement opportunities for low-skilled workers and long-term unemployed
- ▶ Promote social inclusion and cohesion through jobs

Social Housing

- ▶ Introduce housing subsidy payments to complement direct supply of dwellings
- ▶ Set up joint decentralized offices for NEF and NHDC
- ▶ Accelerate the dismantling of asbestos housing in the pockets of poverty

Education

- ▶ Introduce a “School Completion Premium” to be paid to children from poor background as an incentive to complete secondary-level education
- ▶ Increase the participation of vulnerable groups in technical and vocational education and training
- ▶ Implement community-based early childhood care and education services in pockets of poverty
- ▶ Establish Community Schools to promote emotional, physical and creative learning

Health

- ▶ Increase access to mobile clinics in pockets of poverty for youth-friendly and stigmafree health care services
- ▶ Pilot a Youth Peer Education Network in pockets of poverty to break social barriers

Environment

- ▶ Sustainable Land Management for Enhanced Livelihoods
- ▶ Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone for increased socio-economic and ecological benefits
- ▶ Enhancement of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Systems for Poverty Reduction

Big Data

- ▶ Introduce a citizens reporting mechanism and assess impact on public service delivery in pockets of poverty
- ▶ Analyse telecom data for monitoring public service provision in pockets of poverty
- ▶ Use big data analytics for tracking and addressing school drop-outs

Redefine CSR: From Corporate Social Responsibility to Corporate Sustainability

- ▶ Channel CSR funds into the Marshall Plan Community Scheme
- ▶ Introduce Social Impact Bonds
- ▶ Promote Corporate Sustainability

Institutional Arrangements for implementation of the Marshall Plan and impact evaluation

- ▶ Set up a coordination mechanism for Marshall Plan implementation
- ▶ NEF Reorientation
- ▶ Design an Official Poverty Line for Mauritius

