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GHANA
District-based poverty profiling, mapping and pro-poor planning as a monitoring and evaluation tool

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FOREWORD

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According to a Bambara adage, *'He who knows all will not die'*. Today, is an evident desire, in many countries of the West African region which have launched decentralisation reforms since the 1990s, to try out new approaches and new methods of cooperation to build local monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity![1]. By sharing with the readers some of the experiences and lessons learned from these new M&E approches, this publication aims to make a modest contribution to the knowledge available on the subject.

This publication is for all actors in development, working in the field of decentralisation and local governance, especially practitioners and policymakers working on issues connected with capacity building in the area of monitoring, evaluation and democratic control of local governance structures.

The case study presented in this document has been prepared in the context of an exercise that aimed to document, analyse and learn from experiences with different approaches/methods and instruments for building the capacities of different actors in decentralisation and local governance, and in particular, the capacities of local government to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of these complex reform processes.

This learning exercise started in Mali. It has been a joint initiative by the *Réseau* de *Réflexion et d'Échanges sur le Développement Local* (REDL[2], a Malian network of development organisations and programmes working in the field of decentralisation and local development), the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV-Mali), the Malian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Government (MATCL) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), an independent foundation based in Maastricht in the Netherlands, in cooperation with several development organisations working in West Africa.

The purpose of this exercise has been to jointly map and document relevant experiences in the West African region and share 'good practice' and lessons learned. A total of 11 case studies from different countries of the West African region were prepared during this exercise, and a seminar held under the auspices of the MATCL in Bamako on 17 and 18 May 2006 provided a forum for a structured exchange of experiences.

This case study **'District-based poverty profiling, mapping and pro-poor planning as a monitoring and evaluation tool'** has been prepared by Bruno B. Derry and Audrey Dorway.

1- Taken from the welcome speech given by Mr. Ibrahima Sylla, decentralisation advisor at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Government (MATCL) of Mali, at the sub-regional seminar 'Building capacities for monitoring and evaluation of decentralisation and local governance in West Africa: exchange of experience and learning'.

2- For more details see http://www.snvmali.org/actus/redlinfo0606.pdf. The REDL members taking part in this learning exercise were SNV-Mali; the Programme d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales (PACT), a project in support of local government run by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ); l'Aide de l'Église Norvégienne (AEN), Norwegian Church Aid; CARE International in Mali; the Programme d'Appui aux Acteurs de la Décentralisation (PAAD), a development programme of HELVETAS-Mali; the Swiss Association for International Cooperation; 'Solidarité, Union, Coopération' (SUCO), a Canadian NGO; the Association of French Volunteers (AFVP); and the Programme Gouvernance Partagée (PGP), a programme financed by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Bruno B. Dery is a Deputy Director with the National Development Planning Commission of Ghana. He currently heads the decentralized M&E Division and is directly responsible for developing the District M&E Framework. He had previously done research and development work with international organisations in several countries.

Audrey Dorway is a development practitioner who is employed with GTZ as a development planning specialist. She has experience relating to the local government system in Ghana, and was a team member responsible for the nationwide implementation of the poverty profiling, mapping and pro-poor programming exercise.

The case study describes a poverty mapping and profiling approach which has been jointly developed and tested by the National Development Planning Commission of Ghana, the German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ GmbH), the Ghana Poverty Reduction Programme of the Social Investment Fund and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. This approach has been conceived for actors in local governance at the district level in the context of decentralisation and with a view to support the implementation of the countries poverty reduction strategy at the local level.

While this poverty mapping and profiling method was originally developed with a view to facilitate pro-poor planning and a better targeting of interventions to the poor, the authors argue it can also form the basis for monitoring and evaluating the effects and impacts district development plans as well as other projects and programmes have on the poor.

The facilitators of this joint documentation, analysis and learning exercise would like to thank the authors, the members of the Malian REDL network and the organisations working in other West African countries that have supported and co-financed the preparation of the different case studies. Through the generous support of these organisations and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) these case studies are being published in both French and English and will also be included in a more comprehensive publication, bringing together all the case studies and the results of the regional seminar held in May 2006.

They would also like to express their gratitude to Mr. Ibrahima Sylla, decentralisation advisor at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Government of Mali, for his indefatigable support for the success of this joint initiative. Last but not least, they would like to thank Tony Parr for his language editing work.

INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) brought poverty onto the global development agenda and encouraged all nations to renew their commitment to the battle against poverty. As a result, governments and development agencies all over the world are now paying more attention than ever before to measures to improve the quality of life by reducing poverty. The need to formulate Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) also brought the issue of poverty to the fore in almost all socio-economic and political debates in developing countries. The PRS process presents a range of challenges, from facilitating and managing effective participation to identifying policies for pro-poor growth. By making its PRS its main development policy instrument, the government of Ghana is displaying its commitment to poverty reduction and wealth creation, especially in rural areas.

In order to make the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I & II) more effective in addressing the needs of the poor, the Ghanaian government has been pursuing a number of programmes, including special presidential initiatives. Whilst the comprehensive nature of these pro-poor policies and programmes is the strength of the current approach to poverty reduction, it is also its weakness, as the programmes are not sufficiently targeted at the poor. Policies and programmes i n t ended to help the poor cannot succeed unless the government and other stakeholders know who the poor are, where they live and how they are likely to respond to different growth strategies. Thus, providing information on the spatial heterogeneity of poverty can greatly assist anyone wishing to identify the poor and find out where they live and what causes their poverty.

Poverty is a multi-faceted problem that tends to vary considerably in terms of space. The pro-poor targeting of development initiatives is both a political and a technical procedure. The political process in Ghana often results in the packaging of comprehensive support measures that address the needs of the poor as identified and prioritised by the government. When this political approach is pursued as a way of pro-poor programming, it tends to skew the responsibility for poverty reduction unduly towards the government, generating a recipient mentality among the poor and creating dependency in the community.

The political approach has to be balanced with a technical approach that seeks to address the root causes of poverty and strengthen the coping mechanisms of the poor. This technical approach starts with indicators such as low income, poor health, unemployment, etc. However, it uses these symptoms as entry points towards understanding the forces and factors that combine to keep people poor. Thus, instead of addressing the symptoms as the actual problems, the technical approach is interested in the causes of poverty and how they prevent the poor from breaking out of the mould. This is where the techniques of poverty profiling and poverty mapping come into play.

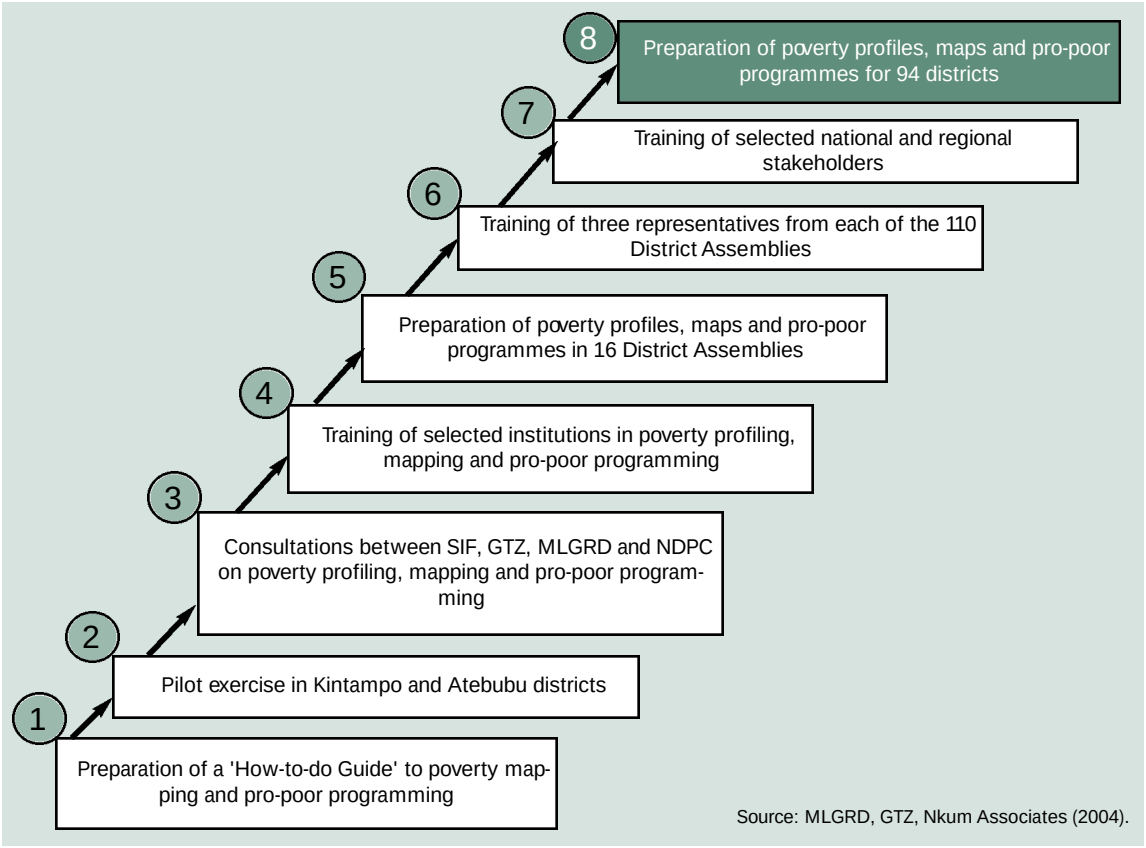
Basically, poverty profiling and mapping are a set of tools and procedures that enable development agents to identify the incidence and prevalence of poverty, locate the groups that are regarded as poor, and describe and categorise them in socio-economic clusters as well as in geographical terms. Poverty profiling and mapping can be performed as a quantitative and computer-supported exercise that manipulates a socio-economic dataset obtained through a population census or a carefully organised survey.

The project that is the subject of this paper used an alternative, participatory form of poverty profiling and mapping pivoted on a series of guided dialogues, involving the poor themselves and the agencies that supply services to them.

This approach, based on a participatory dialogue, brings together quantitative data on poverty and the poor, as well as qualitative information on how the poor perceive themselves, what they consider as the causes of their poverty, and the coping mechanisms they use in organising the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. The result of this participatory process is that both the poor and change agents interested in helping to reduce poverty gain a better understanding of the forces that keep people poor, the minimum threshold of support that could get the poor out of the poverty trap, and the technical and human resources needed to initiate poverty reduction support measures.

Acting in collaboration with the Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and the Environment (MLGRDE), the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Social Investment Fund (SIF), the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) embarked on a nationwide project to compile poverty profiles and maps for all the country's 110 districts. The aim was to help make the pro-poor targeting of development initiatives more effective. The participatory methodology for poverty profiling and mapping was first piloted in two districts and later implemented in 16 districts. In 2004, assistance was given to the remaining 94 District Assemblies in preparing poverty profiles, maps and pro-poor programmes. The implementation process is summarised in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Implementation - poverty profiles, maps and pro-poor approach



Source: MLGRD, GTZ, Nkum Associates (2004).

1. Methodology

The use of participatory methods is one of the core elements of poverty profiling, mapping and programming. The methodology allows for grass-roots involvement and inputs from local civil servants. Another feature is that the symptoms of poverty are not addressed in designing interventions. Instead, interventions stem from identifying the causes of poverty and how these combine to keep people poor. The approach uses planning tools and procedures that are both quantitative and qualitative. Another noteworthy aspect is the use of existing institutional structures for implementation purposes.

The district poverty-profiling and mapping technique consists of five steps that can be completed in five or six days using existing technical expertise. The District Planning and Coordinating Units (DPCUs), NGOs/CSOs, private-sector actors and traditional authorities in the district come together in a process lasting two or three days to prepare a district profile and make a preliminary analysis of local pockets of poverty. The process then goes into the poor areas identified in the first step to engage assembly members, local council staff and focus groups comprising women, young people, settler communities and other identifiable groups so as to validate, correct and/or refine district-level perceptions and finalise the poverty profiles and maps for the district.

Organised as a series of dialogues between the poor, the poverty profiling and mapping process generates fairly accurate data on the poverty situation in a district and identifies the factors and forces that cause and maintain poverty. The process also generates ideas for realistic target-group and gender-specific interventions that could help alleviate poverty in the district in question.

2. Presentation and analysis of the approach

2.1. The context of decentralisation and local governance

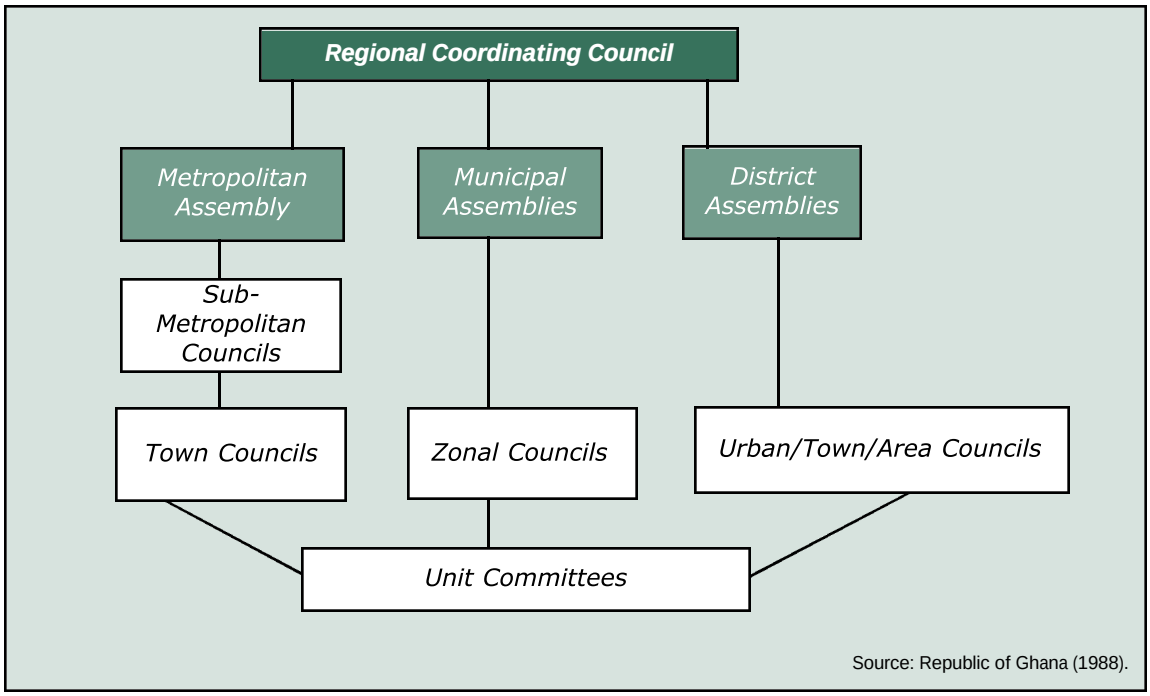
Although the Fourth Republican Constitution of 1992 provides a broad framework for the government's policy of decentralisation, the Local Government Act of 1993 was enacted to devolve authority, resources, competences and capacity from central government to lower administrative and political structures and the communities. The decentralisation policy was intended both to strengthen local government and to encourage citizens to participate in governance and local development. The policy also sought to promote popular participation and ownership of the development process, so that all are part of the development process, within the framework of national policy. The main features of the policy include:

- redefined roles, functions and structures of institutions at various levels of government;
- the transfer of responsibility for 86 statutory duties to local government bodies;
- empowering District Assemblies as the prime administrative, planning, development, budgeting, legislative and rating authorities in their areas of jurisdiction;
- modifying the criteria for district and sub-district elections by removing literacy as a qualification for those seeking to stand for election;
- restructuring the allocation and transfer of development resources so that these are managed and controlled by the District Assemblies, in the form of discretionary funds placed at the disposal of the districts.

Salient features of Ghana's local government system

The local government system introduced by the 1988 legislative reforms is a four-tiered structure (see Figure 2), with a Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) at the top, followed by Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and the Urban/Town/Area Councils. The Unit Committees are at the base.

Figure 2: Ghana's local government system



Source: Republic of Ghana (1988).

There are ten regions, each headed by a Regional Minister who is appointed by the President. All regions have a Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), which consists of representatives of District Assemblies (DA) and Traditional Authority (TA).

Each district (currently 138) has a District Assembly consisting of elected and appointed members. Seventy per cent of the members are elected by the population, and the remaining 30 per cent are appointed by the President. Of the seats reserved for appointees, 50% are intended for women. In spite of this, women account for only a small proportion of District Assembly members - less than 10 per cent.

District Assemblies are headed by a District Chief Executive (DCE), who is nominated by the President. The DCE acts as the District head and the central government representative at district level.

2.2. Purpose of and demand for the tool

The poverty-profiling, mapping and pro-poor programming tool was developed to meet the demand for a technical means of improving the targeting of poverty reduction programmes drafted under the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I). Finding ways to reduce poverty and inequity is a daunting challenge for local and national authorities in Ghana. One important aspect of this challenge is the spatial heterogeneity of poverty. District Assemblies and NGOs/CBOs in Ghana are asking for more and more geo-referenced information on the location of the poor and the magnitude of poverty so that they can set priorities, target interventions, empower local communities and improve their understanding of the causes and effects of poverty.

This tool was designed to strengthen the capacity of district-level actors to design their own poverty reduction programmes by taking a bottom-up approach. The tool also provides an objective basis to improve the targeting of poverty reduction programmes, and generates local data that can provide a baseline for monitoring and evaluation.

The principles underpinning the tool are based on evidence that poor people tend to work very hard, using their own coping mechanisms to survive and improve their lot. They remain poor because their efforts do not earn them enough income or enable them to gain better access to those goods and services they require in order to escape from poverty. Therefore, if poverty reduction measures are to be effective, they must first recognise and understand the barriers poor people need to overcome in order for their efforts in producing, distributing and consuming goods and services to bring them more direct benefits.

Identifying spatial patterns of poverty using maps provides new insights into the causes of poverty. For example, do physical isolation and poor agro-ecological resources prevent people from escaping from poverty? This in turn can affect the type of interventions under consideration. Poverty maps can be used to improve the allocation of resources. They can help the authorities to decide where and how to target anti-poverty programmes. Geographic targeting, as opposed to across-the-board interventions, has been shown to be a useful means of maximising coverage, while minimising leakage to the non-poor. Geographic targeting at community level can help to make anti-poverty programmes more effective, for example by promoting subsidies in poor communities and cost recovery in less poor areas.

Detailed information on the spatial distribution of the poor can also assist policy-makers, executive agencies and development partners in designing socially and geographically targeted pro-poor policies and programmes. With more and more attention being given to poverty targeting below the district level, detailed poverty maps should provide development planners with a powerful tool.

Poverty mapping should also help the District Assemblies and the sub-district structures to take account of the national and regional priorities set in the GPRS II with regard to programme design, development financing and the monitoring of poverty reduction indicators.

Table 1: Key stakeholders and their needs

Stakeholders	Needs and demands
National policy-makers	■ Good governance and general policy framework. ■ A yardstick for setting standards. ■ Information on main areas of deprivation.
NGOs	■ Assistance with targeting of interventions.
District administrators	■ Advice on resource allocation. ■ A means of justifying the allocation of interventions for poverty reduction. ■ A source of baseline data on the poverty situation in the district.
Development partners	■ Assistance with targeting of interventions.
Consultants	■ A source of baseline data on districts.
Communities	■ Assistance with monitoring the implementation of projects. ■ Assistance with questioning the allocation of resources.

Source: MLGRD, GTZ, Nkum Associates (2004) .

2.3.The moderators and participants

District-based poverty profiling, mapping and pro-poor planning was designed and implemented by the following actors.

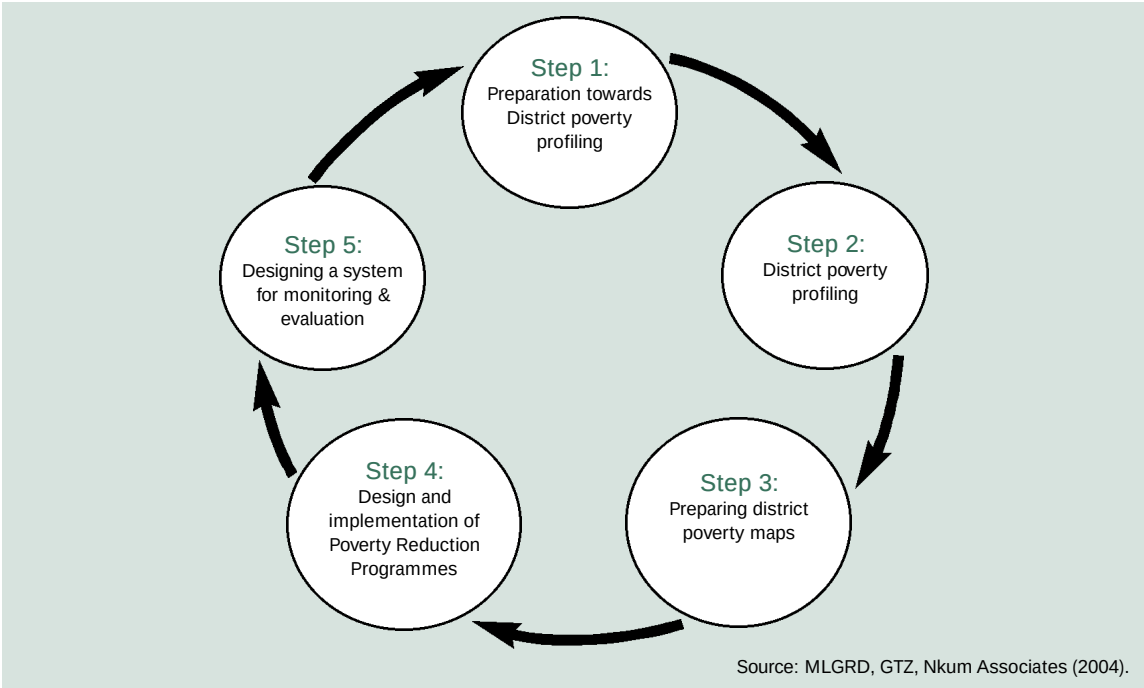
The consultants engaged as facilitators to coach the district teams were experts in development planning and poverty reduction in Ghana. They drafted a training manual and performed a pilot profiling and mapping exercise in two districts. They were then engaged to train trainers and professionals from four institutions, viz. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the University of Development Studies (UDS), the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), and Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). These trainers were then tasked to lead the teams in the 16 districts that were to prepare poverty profiles and maps. The consultants were subsequently re-engaged to facilitate the up-scaling exercise in the remaining 94 districts.

The knowledge and skills of the participants varied from one district to another, depending on the composition of the respective teams. This was also reflected by the varied quality of the outputs. Whereas high-quality work was produced in some districts, sub-standard reports were received from other districts.

2.4. Key elements of the tool

Figure 3 summarises the key steps in the poverty profiling mapping and pro-poor programming process.

Figure 3: Key steps in the poverty profiling and mapping process



Source: MLGRD, GTZ, Nkum Associates (2004).

The first of the five steps involves setting up and preparing a technical team to undertake the exercise. The district technical team consists of staff of the district administration and sector departments (i.e. the expanded DPCU), major NGOs/CSOs operating in the district, traditional council members and major private-sector operators. The team is introduced to the principles and concepts underlying participatory poverty profiling and mapping. They are then assisted in

procuring the necessary updated base maps and assembling data on the local poverty situation. This district-level data may include the results of the Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaires (CWIQ), relevant data from the latest census and statistics from the Ghana Living Standard Surveys. The sector departments may use data from their district database and strategic plans. This is where the quantitative data and research findings from other poverty reduction or poverty mapping initiatives in the district come in useful.

The second step in the process is preparing a poverty profile for the district. Since each district has certain socio-economic and cultural characteristics that distinguish it from other districts, the district profile seeks to capture these peculiarities along with other standard measures of poverty. Some of the standard variables relate to access to health care, education, water and sanitation, credit, extension services and markets. Over and above these variables, other variables used specifically by local people in describing their poverty status, as well as the perceptions of service-providers regarding the dimensions and manifestations of poverty in the district, are then identified and recorded in the form of a simple matrix. This results in a poverty profile for the district, showing the various target groups and gender-specific dimensions. The tool also allows each of the target groups to indicate and specify the variables which they use to describe their poverty, specify the causes of their poverty and show the efficacy or otherwise of their respective coping mechanisms. The district poverty profile which emanates from this step is a vivid description (in quantitative and qualitative terms) of the extent, dimensions and causes of poverty, as well as the potential of and the coping mechanisms used by various groups of poor people.

The third step involves preparing district maps and identifying pockets of poverty and areas that are better endowed. The poverty data, perceptions, dimensions and manifestations of poverty are translated into maps showing the spatial distribution of the various dimensions of poverty in the district in question. This is done in the form of thematic maps showing:

a) the spatial distribution of settlements by population;

b) the location of infrastructure, services and facilities;

c) the hierarchy of settlements in terms of service centres;

d) access to services and facilities;

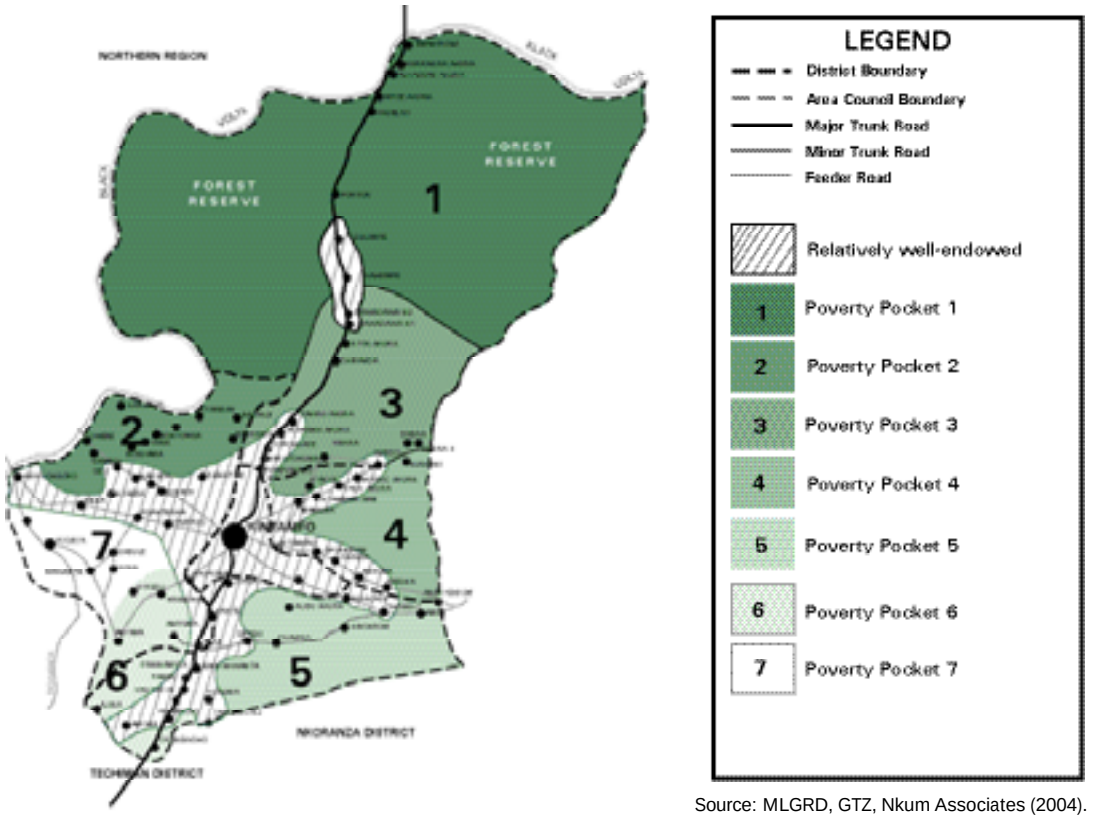
e) volumes and centres of major production;

f) commodity flows and market outlets;

g) volumes of area/town council contributions to district assembly revenue.

These thematic maps are then converted into composite maps showing areas of deprivation (i.e. poverty pockets) and areas that are better endowed. Figure 4 below is an example of a composite poverty map.

Figure 4: Composite poverty map for Kintampo District



Source: MLGRD, GTZ, Nkum Associates (2004).

The fourth step involves designing pro-poor development programmes. Strictly speaking, it means mapping out, in terms of sectoral and geographical space, a number of potential pro-poor programmes that could address the problems that the poor need to resolve. Due to the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, a holistic approach embracing all sectors needs to be taken to the design of pro-poor or poverty reduction programmes. Yet this inter-sectoral, multi-departmental approach must be strategic in its focus and content. For this reason, the fourth step in the poverty profiling and mapping process identifies key areas of sectoral intervention at identified nodal points that could address both the immediate and the long-term causes of poverty in terms of prioritised sectors and geographical space. The existing capacity (in terms of infrastructure, human capital and financial resources) for performing pro-poor interventions is also identified at this stage. This leads to the delineation of possible strategic support measures for reducing poverty in the poverty pockets, nodal points and defined sectors. The potential for economic growth and income redistribution benefiting specific groups of poor people is also brought together at this point.

The final step of the process involves clarifying and benchmarking the indicators that could be used to measure the improvement in people's living standards. These indicators (along with national and regionally consistent or standard poverty variables) are then built into a simple framework that enables the poor and their service-providers to track the level of change which is acceptable evidence of an improvement in their socio-economic well-being. A simple monitoring and evaluation model can then be designed to track:

- the extent to which poverty has been reduced among the various target groups and across genders;
- the reasons for success or failure;
- the reactions of beneficiaries to programme implementation and outcomes; and
- the lessons for future planning and policy-making.

2.5. Sustainability and ownership

Ownership and a capacity for sustainable management and repetition were created at various levels. At a local level, the exercise was performed by district teams consisting of technical personnel and representatives of civil society and the traditional authorities, with technical coaching from external facilitators. The training programme was designed to involve the District Coordinating Directors, Planning Officers and Town and Country Planning Officers. The main purpose was to equip local authorities with the capacity they need in order to prepare and implement local poverty reduction programmes. Essentially, the poverty profiling and mapping project built capacity at a district level for analysing and understanding the manifestation of poverty, the coping strategies and mechanisms used by the poor and the appropriate targeting of poverty reduction interventions. The outputs, as a result, were their own efforts and are owned by them.

At a national level, the role played by the collaborating institutions was also vital to the sustainability of the exercise. Policy-level institutions, which are responsible for decentralisation and local governance, were active partners in the process. Their involvement commenced during the planning and design stages, through implementation to monitoring and evaluation. Institutions such as the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the National Development Planning Commission took part in the upscaling and implementation of the exercise nationwide. The NDPC integrated the poverty profiling model into the National Development Planning Guidelines for the 2006-2009 period. By this measure, sustainability has been created as the process will feature in the medium-term development plans of all 138 District Assemblies. While national policy-making institutions provided technical support, development partners such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) provided financial support.

Consultants played a vital role during the planning stage, acted as facilitators for the training-the-trainers and orientation workshops for District Administrators, and coached the district teams during the upscaling to the 94 districts.

2.6. Challenges and lessons learned

Two major challenges were encountered. The first was a matter of competing activities. Because of the numerous and uncoordinated capacity-building interventions taking place at a local level, many District Planning Coordination Units and other departments were overloaded during the period when the project was running. This resulted in competing demands on their time and resources, resulting in interruptions in the work plan.

The second challenge related to local technical capacity which, in some cases, was not up to the task. Although teams were formed in all districts, some members were transferred and others resigned during the course of the project. Additionally, some districts lacked key personnel such as Town and Country Planning Officers who were needed to perform the vital task of preparing accurate district maps.

Despite these problems, the project succeeded in strengthening the capacity of the district technical teams, including representatives of local government (District Assemblies), the traditional authority and civil society. The broad composition of the technical teams also helped in documenting local knowledge. A laudable outcome is that the poverty profiles and maps were used to design and implement targeted programmes for dealing with areas of deprivation in the districts in question.

2.7. Present use of the tool and the way forward

As already mentioned, the tool is intended to improve the targeting of poverty reduction programmes at a district level. It is currently being used mainly for the purpose for which it was designed. Numerous district-based NGOs, development partners and District Assembly administrators are using the output to target their interventions as shown in Table 2. However, the model has great potential as a monitoring and evaluation tool thanks to the vast amount of district-specific data it generates. We recommend that a poverty mapping and profiling exercise be conducted in each district after five years. The current data and maps will then provide a basis for analysing any changes in the poverty situation during this period.

Table 2: Current use made of poverty profiling, mapping and pro-poor programming output

Type of stakeholder	Name of institution	Focus of operations	Use made of output
NATIONAL POLICY-MAKER	National Development Planning Commission[3]	1. Designing policies to guide the country's development e.g. GPRS I & II, National Planning Guidelines etc. 2. As a participatory monitoring and evaluation tool.	Tool incorporated into Planning Guidelines. Tool incorporated into District M&E Guidelines.
NGOs	'KITE'	Promotion of cost-effective energy services for agro-processing. Interventions focus on communities without electricity.	Baseline information to assist in selecting communities for direct intervention.
	Assemblies of God Development And Relief Services	Capacity-building programme for selected groups; members of the Ghana Association of Social Workers to be trained in targeting of poverty reduction interventions at district level.	Information in reports will be used to create awareness among members of the Association of methods for targeting poverty reduction programmes.
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	USAID: Trade and Investment Programme for a Competitive Export Economy	Nationwide programme which seeks to make Ghana's private sector more competitive by creating an enabling environment and strengthening the capacity of the private sector.	Baseline data for identifying vulnerable areas, so that interventions can be targeted directly at households in these areas.
	World Food Programme	Supplementary Feeding Health and Nutrition Education is one aspect of the WFP's programme in Ghana. The idea is that children and expectant and nursing mothers should be able to meet their nutritional needs under the GPRS. The area of operation consists of the regions in the north of Ghana.	Data used as baseline information in preparing the next Country Strategy for the WFP Nutrition Programme.

3- The National Development Planning Commission is an institution mandated by Articles 86 and 87 of Ghana's 1992 Constitution to guide the formulation of development plans and monitor and evaluate the country's development efforts.

Type of stakeholder	Name of institution	Focus of operations	Use made of output
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	A consultant was engaged for a rural electrification project in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions.	Reports used as a source of baseline data for conducting a socio-economic study in preparation for a rural electrification project.
	German Bank for Reconstruction (KFW) Feeder Roads Project	Study for the construction of feeder roads in the Volta, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo regions.	The maps were of particular interest, as a source of information on existing feeder roads. The reports were used as a source of data for a socio-economic study paving the way for the project.
	European Union	A consultant was contracted for a capacity-building programme for district education offices, with the aim of improving their responsiveness.	Review of district-specific data from an educational perspective.
CONSULTANTS	Kesse, Tagoe and Associates	Contracted to prepare a land use plan for selected areas in the Greater Accra Region (GAR).	Baseline data on salt deposits in the Dangme areas of the GAR.
	Consultants for Agricultural and Rural Development Services (CARDS)	Contracted by EU Micro-Projects Programme.	Baseline information for the next stage of the EU's Micro-Projects Programme.
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES	Asanteman Council of Ashanti Region	GoG/World Bank Project supported the Asanteman Council in a project aimed at promoting the participation of traditional authorities.	Baseline information for preparing development plans for all local authorities in the Ashanti region.

Source: Impact Monitoring Report, GTZ/LG-PRSP (2005).

3. Conclusions

There is inevitably a spatial dimension to welfare and poverty. Although the spatial distribution of poverty remains one of the oldest puzzles, it is also a highly contemporary issue. The incidence of poverty in a specific area may be attributed to a variety of lifestyle-related and environmental factors. The characteristics of the location, including socio-demographic and environmental data, are a valuable source of information in moving down the road to poverty reduction.

The results of poverty profiling and mapping suggest that there is considerable heterogeneity in poverty levels between and within districts in the same communities. The exercise has identified areas in which the poor are heavily concentrated. The results also help to explain why certain areas are poorer than others. If this type of detailed information is linked with other socio-economic and geographical data, it becomes even more useful in assisting efforts to target the poor.

In conclusion, the poverty profiling and mapping tool helps to make the targeting of pro-poor development interventions more effective, and provides baseline information for monitoring and evaluation. The maps are important tools for effectively implementing poverty reduction programmes under the District Medium-Term Development Plans for 2006-2009.

ANNEX I: ACRONYMS

CARDS	Consultants for Agricultural and Rural Development Services
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWIQ	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaires
DA	District Assembly
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DBO	District Budget Officer
DCD	District Coordinating Director
DCE	District Chief Executive
DPCU	District Planning and Coordinating Unit
DMTDP	District Medium Term Development Plan
DP	Development partner
DPO	District Planning Officer
GAR	Greater Accra Region
GPRS I	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
ILGS	Institute of Local Government Studies
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
KFW	German Bank for Reconstruction
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, departments and agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLGRDE	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and the Environment
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PM&E	Participatory monitoring and evaluation
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
RPCU	Regional Planning and Coordinating Units
SIF	Social Investment Fund
TA	Traditional authority
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

ANNEX II: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ANNEX III: RESOURCE PERSONS AND USEFUL LINKS

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Useful links:

http://population.wri.org/

http://www.ecdpm.org/

http://www.snvmali.org/

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/evaluation/methods/pcm.htm

http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/strategies

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