National development strategies for development cooperation: A case of Uganda

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Outlay of the presentation

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- Government development strategies
  - Poverty eradication Action Plan (PEAP)
    - Plan for modernization of agriculture (PMA)
Development cooperation

- Principles of cooperation
- Challenges
- Conclusions
Introduction

- Strategies aimed at reducing poverty.
- Enhance development effectiveness by emphasizing:
  - National ownership
  - Prioritizing poverty reduction and sustainable development, and
  - Addressing macroeconomic concerns and structural and social issues
Objectives of government development strategies:

- Maintaining macro stability
- Further liberalizing the economy to promote diversified, export-oriented growth
- Undertaking structural and institutional reforms
Government development strategies
Poverty eradication Action Plan (PEAP)

- Overarching document that outlines the countries development aspirations targets and policy direction.
- It lists sound priorities and outlines clear objectives and reflects a high degree of national ownership.
- Guided formulation of government policy since 1997.
PEAP pillars

- Macroeconomic stability (IMF/WB-BoU and MoF)
- Peace and security
- Good governance (Elections, Accountability, rule of law, etc)
- Enhancing the incomes of the poor (PMA, Micro Finance, etc.)
- Human development (UPE, Health, Water, etc.)
PEAP formulation and implementation....

- Do civil society and private sector play an active role in PEAP formulation and implementation?
  - The answer is YES
Formulation of PEAP
- Highly participatory
- Strong involvement of civil society
- Consultative workshops
- Regional and political consultations
Civil society participation....

- Both international and national NGOs participated in the PEAP process. A task force comprising of:
  - International NGOs included: Oxfam (UK), Action Aid (UK), VECO Uganda (Belgium), SNV (Netherlands) and MS Uganda (Denmark)
  - Uganda NGOs: Action for Development (ACFODE), Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET), Forum for Women Educationists (FAWE), UDN – the lead agency.
Academia and private sector participation....

- Centre for Basic Research, Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)
- Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU)
PEAP and Planning process……

- Framework within which the government’s planning effort is conducted
- Guides the formulation of Sector Wide Approaches -SWAPs (education, health, water, agriculture, etc.)
- Public expenditure implications of SWAPs are implemented through the budget under MTEF
- Links between PEAP and SWAPs are iterative
Has become the country’s overall planning framework guiding preparation of detailed sector strategic plans based on the Sector Wide Approach (SWAPs)

PEAP sets the framework for other plans but it is also the product of those plans.
PEAP implementation – partnership approach

- Heavily dependent on donor aid – Gov has strong ownership of policies
- PEAP gives the private sector and civil society a clear and undisputed shared responsibility for implementing the plan
- The private sector and civil society are welcomed both as providers of services and as counterbalance to government.
Program for modernization of Agriculture (PMA)
Program for modernization of Agriculture (PMA) is a blueprint for eradication of rural poverty through pro-poor agricultural policies and activities

- PMA pillars
  - Research and technology development
  - Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)
  - Agricultural education
- Rural Financial services
- Marketing and agro processing
- Sustainable use and management of natural resources; and
- Physical infrastructure
Development cooperation

- Subscribes to the same overall goals as the PEAP and uses the same indicators for monitoring achievements
- Agrees that a holistic cross-sectional approach is necessary to reduce poverty
- Buys into the budget support modalities to aid.
Development cooperation programmes focus on

- Poverty reduction - requiring a strategic, multi-faceted and sophisticated approach
- Good governance and decentralization
- Economic growth and private sector development
- Social development (health - HIV/AIDS prevention and control, education, roads, water and sanitation, etc.)
- Democracy and human rights.
Principles of cooperation

- Donor coordination/harmonization – Uganda Joint Assistance Strategy (UJAS)
- Principle of recipient responsibility – that is cooperation based on Uganda’s development strategies.
- Government of Uganda is responsible for planning, implementing (including procurement), monitoring and controlling activities in the cooperation programme.
Grants are reflected in public plans, budgets and accounts managed in accordance with national administrative standards and procedures – but to meet international standards and procedures.

Donors consult at macro and sector levels with government regarding the profile and priorities of their cooperation.
Challenges...
Challenges…

- Government revenue as a proportion of GDP stagnated around 13%, well below African average – level is too low to finance the present public sector service delivery and ensure the sustainability of the many donor-funded programmes.

- Good governance is vital for creating a conducive environment for development. Serious capacity constraints exits in most private and public institutions.
Public service delivery, particularly at the local level remains weak and systems of ensuring accountability are still not working well.

An effective, responsible and accountable public service is key to implementing effective poverty eradication policies.
Conclusions…
Conclusions…

- There is total alignment of donor development aid with national development strategies as well as the internationally agreed development goals like the MDGs.
- The PEAP formulation and implementation has resulted in fewer aid conditionalities in Uganda.
Thank you