

Guiding Questions for Field Visit

The field visit is designed in a way that it is linked with the major thematic topics of the f2f. The program is still being fine-tuned. It will include exchange with local government authorities as well as with citizens. Participants will visit project sites of Helvetas/Swiss Intercooperation. Further details will follow.

1. For the discussion with subnational authorities:

Revenue Management: what are the mechanisms of fund allocation, i.e. what type of funds do subnational authorities receive from central government: What is the amount of centrally granted revenue in percent of their total revenue? How are these transfers happening in practice? (E.g. are they predictable, reliable, and transparent?) Is the transfer/budget allocation sufficient in view of their tasks and the needs in their locality? How much of own revenues do they generate (e.g. tax, fees etc.)?

Expenditure planning and management: How do subnational authorities develop their development plans; whom do they invite to participate, whom do they consult and how; who takes final decisions? Do they foresee any mechanisms to make sure that those in need and most vulnerable groups do also benefit?

How do they inform the public (and whom do they inform) about budgeting, including revenue and expenditures; and about implementation of the plans?

What is the articulation between the development funds and district plans? Are there other separate mechanisms for funding different projects? (e.g. for public infrastructure & services, private sector development)?

How do they ensure quality and maintenance of investments?

2. For the discussion with communities

Social fabric, organizational culture: How do people usually engage to address burning needs in their community? What forms of engagement exist among themselves, also with respect to informal authorities? How do they usually engage/interact with local authorities? Who participates?

Spaces for participation and accountability: How are they involved in defining priorities of development plans in their locality? Who participates and who does not participate? Do those most in need, vulnerable groups have a say? Do women have a say? Who finally decides?

How are they informed about budgeted expenditure and, on the other hand, about implementation of plans and related projects? Who is involved and in what way during implementation and monitoring? How far do they contribute to the revenue base of local authorities, e.g. by paying tax or fees?

Do mechanisms exist to raise concerns? Are complaints & redress mechanisms in place?

Impact: Who benefits; and to what extent?

3. For all discussions we will pay attention to dimensions of inclusion and exclusion

See questions inbuilt above