

**Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection
(JCTR)
Presentation on
The Implementation of the Constituency Development
Fund (CDF) from a Religious Perspective**

**THE MLGRD CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT
FUND IMPLEMENTATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

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11th December 2023, MICC



OUTLINE





Introduction

- On 05th December 2023, JCTR received an invitation letter from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) to make a presentation on the implementation of CDF from a religious perspective.
- Human dignity is the epitome of all developmental discourse in societies. From the book of Genesis (Gn 1:27 – We learn that God created mankind in his image). It is this inherent image of God in each person that we derive our human dignity. Therefore, the end of development is to promote human dignity for all.
- Drawing insights from a Pope’s encyclical called “Popularum Progressio” (on the development of peoples) which was published on 26 March 1967, we learn that Development, the New Name for Peace.

QUOTES

“The progressive development of peoples is an object of deep interest and concern to the Church. This is particularly true in the case of those peoples who are trying to escape the ravages of hunger, poverty, endemic disease and ignorance; of those who are seeking a larger share in the benefits of civilization and a more active improvement of their human qualities; of those who are consciously striving for fuller growth”. Popularum Progressio 76



quote

- *“(64) When we fight 13 poverty and oppose the unfair conditions of the present, we are not just promoting human well-being; we are also furthering human's spiritual and moral development, and hence we are benefiting the whole human race. For peace is not simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day toward the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among people”. PP 76*

Connecting CDF to a religious perspective

- The objective of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) which is to alleviate poverty and foster community development. This objective of CDF resonates with the religious perspective on promoting human dignity through development.



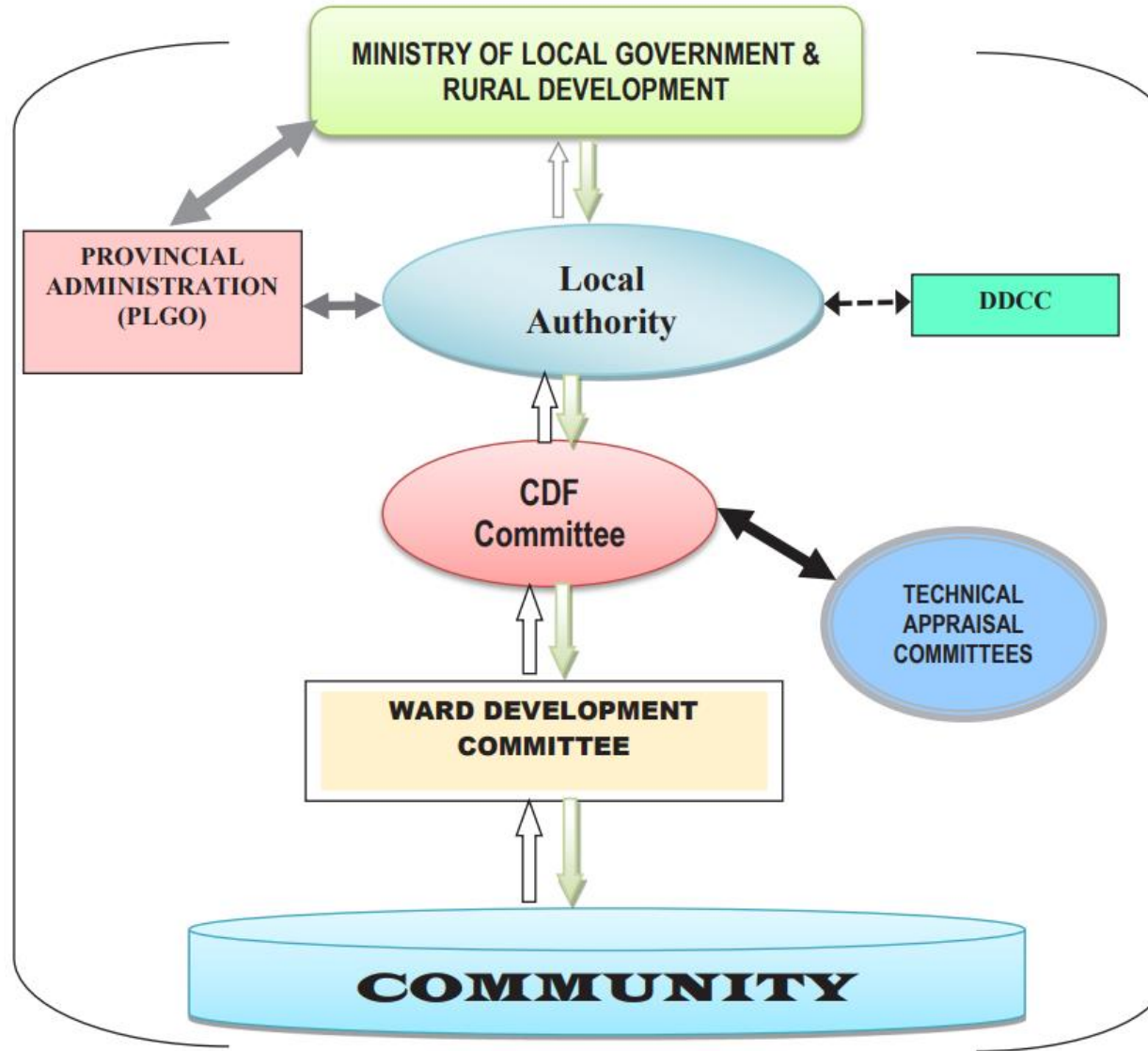


quote

- *“Today we see people trying to secure a sure food supply, cures for diseases, and steady employment. We see them trying to eliminate every ill, to remove every obstacle which offends a person's dignity. They are continually striving to exercise greater personal responsibility; to do more, learn more, and have more so that they might increase their personal worth. And yet, at the same time, a large number of them live amid conditions which frustrate these legitimate desires pp 1*

Quote on the principle of subsidiarity

By intervening directly and depriving society of its responsibility, the Social Assistance State leads to a loss of human energies and an inordinate increase of public agencies, which are dominated more by bureaucratic ways of thinking than by concern for serving their clients, and which are accompanied by an enormous increase in spending. In fact, it would appear that needs are best understood and satisfied by people who are closest to them and who act as neighbours to those in need. It should be added that certain kinds of demands often call for a response which is not simply material but which is capable of perceiving the deeper human need. One thinks of the condition of refugees, immigrants, the elderly, the sick, and all those in circumstances which call for assistance, such as drug abusers: all these people can be helped effectively only by those who offer them genuine fraternal support, in addition to the necessary care



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Positives and Benefits

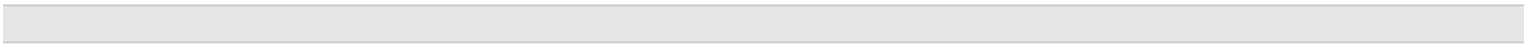
- *Promoting accessibility to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)*
- *Enhancing economic emancipation of women, youth and community members*
- *Enhancing social service delivery*
- *Enhancing infrastructure development at Local Level*
- *Allowing community members to participate in the project selection process*
- *Enshrining CDF in the Constitution and other pieces of legislation*
- *Ward Development Committees as the entry point to CDF*
- *Delegating the Provincial Administrators to be approving CDF projects*
- *Consistently budgeting for CDF*
- *Local Authorities prioritizing community projects that started as community led projects*

Challenges and Recommendations

Handwritten mathematical notes and diagrams on a chalkboard. The notes include:

- $D(x) = -2 + 3 + 4.31447$
- $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = x^2 \cdot x$
- $x^2 + y^2 = ab + 4c$
- $A \cap B$, $A \cup B$, $C \times (2b+1)$
- $men = 984 + n^{20}$
- $x = 9.22$
- $\sum_{x=2}^{n=14} N_{50} \cdot x - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{984 + x^2 + p \cdot ab}$
- $x \leq 549$
- $\beta = 9 + x^2 + y^2$
- Diagrams: A grid with shaded cells, a graph of a downward-opening parabola, a graph of an upward-opening parabola, and a box containing binary code: $\begin{matrix} 010112 \\ 010002 \\ 200010 \\ 011002 \end{matrix}$

CHALLENGE	RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
Lack of financial and adequate administrative support to WDCs	Provide transport or financial support for transport and refreshments	Local Authorities and MLGRD to ensure this through the CDF guidelines



WDCs not attending meetings where contractors who to undertake community projects applied are announced	Mandate WDCs to attend meetings where contractors who applied are announced (Local Authorities must provide means for the WDCs to attend meetings).	MLGRD to provide for this in the CDF guidelines
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Community members belonging to multiple cooperatives or applying to multiple constituencies	Develop a database	MLGRD to create data base on beneficiaries. MLGRD to provide guidance in the CDF guidelines on beneficiaries belonging to multiple groups
Low accessibility of CDF loans and grants among women and youth in rural communities	Simplify the CDF application forms	MLGRD, Non-State Actors etc
Procurement challenges and delays	Local Authorities to internalize the ZPPA	Local Authorities
Limited capacities of WDCs to effectively monitor community projects	Build capacities of WDCs in monitoring community projects and producing timely reports (Trainings)	Local Authorities and non-state actors (CSOs etc)
Weak Monitoring and Evaluation systems	Develop M&E Systems for each Constituency to govern the	Constituency Office, MLGRD and Local Authorities

Cooperatives and clubs disintegrating after receiving funds	Conduct due diligence before approving cooperatives and clubs	Local Authorities
Local Authorities struggling to monitor those benefiting from scope 3 (skills development and bursaries)	Local Authorities to create an inter-district collaboration to ensure learners are in schools	Local Authorities
Delays in commencing implementation of CDF projects	Local Authorities concluding paper work on time	Local Authorities
Local Authorities cutting budgets for applied projects by cooperatives and clubs (leading to change of projects)	Adequately engage cooperatives and clubs whenever there is a budget cut	Local Authorities
WDCs not producing monthly reports	Build capacities of WDCs on report production Develop a reporting template	MLGRD and Local Authorities
Poor quality of community projects	Continuously monitor implementation of community projects	Local Authorities, WDCs and Community members
Management of Local contractors undertaking CDF projects	Conduct due diligence and serious adherence to ZPPA	Local Authorities and MLGRD
Local Authorities struggling to produce CDF quarterly, biannual and annual progress reports.	Employ more staff at the Local Authorities to manage CDF projects. MLGRD demanding for reports before disbursing resources	MLGRD to employ more staff at Local Authority (those managing the implementation of CDF).



Reports on decisions made on CDF after monitoring not being shared with community members	Simplify reports by producing abridged versions and translation to local dialect	Local Authorities
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No deliberate platforms for Local Authorities to provide feedback to WDCs.	Create dialogue platforms between WDCs and Local Authorities to give feedback on rejected proposals	MLGRD to provide for guidance on WDCs and Local Authorities meeting (at least quarterly).
Low accountability perception on CDF among community members, leading to distrust of the CDF processes	Disseminate information to community members on the CDF progress (monitoring reports) and conduct robust civic education	Local Authorities
Limited information about CDF information among community members	Increase CDF advertisement (radio, posters and announcements)	MLGRD to provide guidance on % allocation from the 5% admin cost to be allocated to advertisement.
Delays in disbursements	Local Authorities to ensure the reports and requests are on time	Local Authorities
Numerous executive directives, leaving little room for approving community selected	Limit CDF budget ceiling for the executive directives.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to put a ceiling on the Executive directives per CDF budgetary

Political influence in community project selection processes	Revise the CDF Act on the composition of CDFC	Ministry of Local Government, Non-State actors and the legislature (NAZ) to ensure the scope of the CDFC is expanded
Lack of financial motivation for the WDCs to meet their mandate	Revise the LG Act No 2 of 2019 on the WDC role being voluntarily	National Assembly of <u>Zambia</u> , and MLGRD to ensure WDCs are financially incentivized.
Low participation by marginalised groups (people living with disabilities)	Develop deliberate interventions for the marginalised groups to participate (even in CDFCs)	Local Authorities and MLGRD to ensure social inclusion to enhance participation of people living with disabilities.



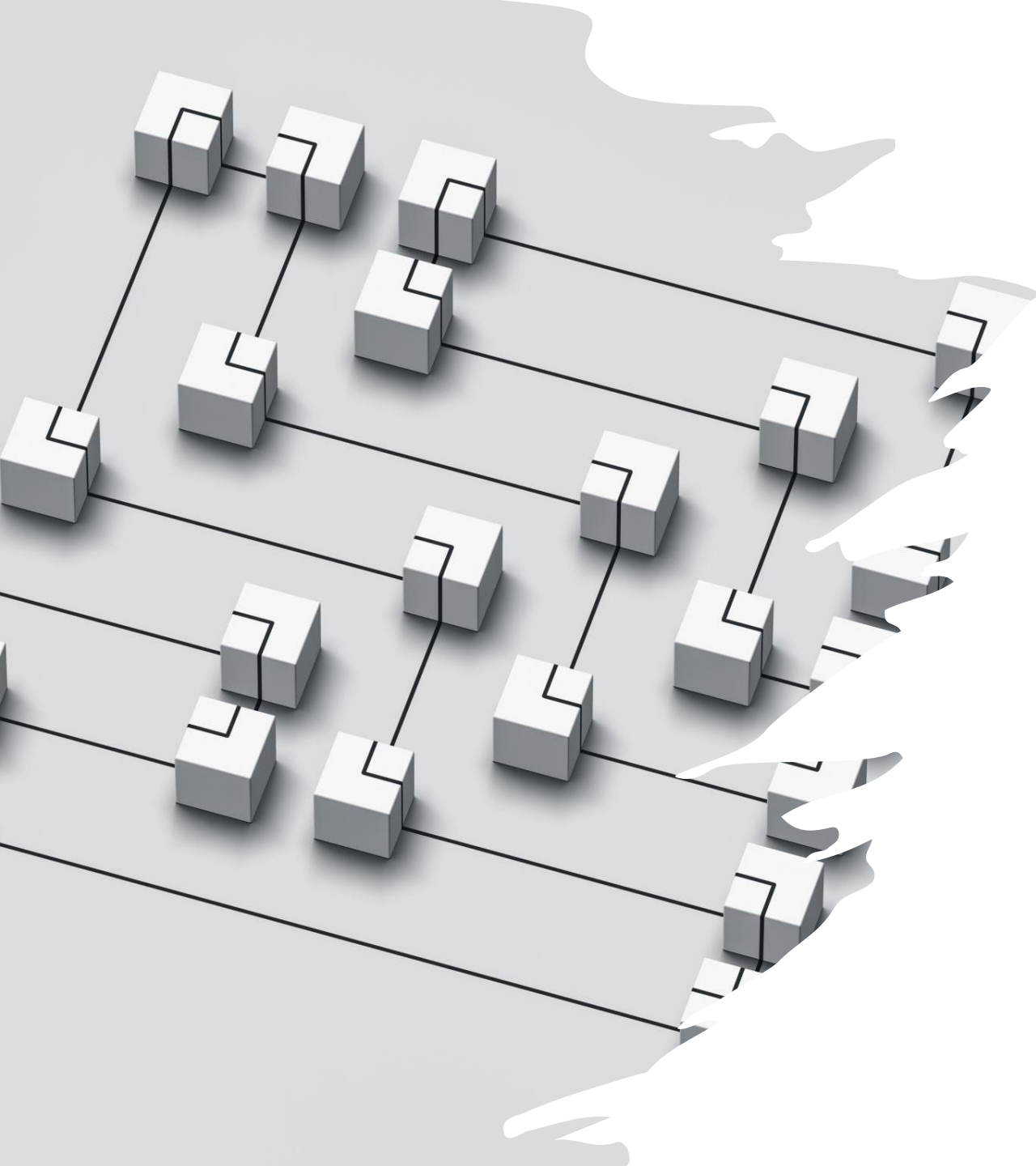
Opportunities

- **Funds already budgeted for CDF**
- **Availability of CDFCs**
- **Willingness of WDCs to execute their mandate**
- **Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**
- **Legal and Legislative framework**
- **On-going projects**
- **The revised 2023 National Decentralization Policy**
- **Generosity of Constituency Offices**



Conclusion

- The implementation of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is aimed at uplifting the living standards and conditions of community members through poverty alleviation and community development. This is because development is the new name for peace.
- CDF must fulfill the religious principles of subsidiarity, common good and human dignity.



- For an effective implementation of CDF aimed at the development of CDF, it is encouraged that the Local Authorities take seriously the information flow chart.
- One of the epic positive is the enhancement in accessing economic, social and cultural rights (education, health, water and sanitation etc).



- In this presentation, the challenges have been shared in the context of transparency, accountability, community participation and social inclusion in the implementation of CDF.



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Case Study

Advocacy on Socio-Economic Development

2023-12-11

Implementation of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF): A Religious Perspective

Sauti, Kunda John

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