

# **Community Learning, Environment and Informal Economy**

## **ROLES AND FUNCTIONS**

Community Learning is about people in the community having access to information, skills and ideas-new and traditional . that help them improve their lives. This approach is seen as a major tool for empowering people to participate in their communities, social and economic development, emphasizing life-long learning and the connection between this and sustainable development.

Community economics is about how people make their livelihoods and access income generating opportunities to improve their quality of life. Work in this area is concerned about developing the informal sector in various ways such as: skills training, developing domestic and international markets for handicrafts, food products and other informal sector products and services, and improve access to microfinance.

Community environment is concerned with the physical and social environment in which people live. It is about building safe, healthy and sustainable communities with positive values such as co-operation, respect for rights, cultural pride and identity..

## **VISION AND MISSION**

The vision and mission of this section is in accordance with the Integrated Community Development Policy of the department which is to build a vibrant, knowledgeable and productive communities for a sustainable future.

## **THE KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF THE GOVERNMENT CAPTURED UNDER THIS SECTION INCLUDE:**

1. Establish and Strengthen the District Focal Points for Community Learning and Development Centers.
2. Strengthen Governance Mechanism for ICD Policy Implementation
3. Literacy is for life (LIFE)
4. Community Capacity Enhancement Initiatives (CCEI)
5. Empowerment and Social Justice Microfinance Program
6. Integrated Community Development Project
7. Social Impact Assessment (SIA)
8. Community Development Assistance Project
9. Personal Viability (PV)
10. Partnership with Learning Institutions

## **CONVENTIONS, LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES**

The Department through the division aligns its programs and activities through the following;

International Conventions:

1. Universal Human Rights Declaration
2. Sustainable Development Goals
3. Informal Sector Growth and Control Act

National

1. National Constitution
2. PNG Vision 2050
3. Development Strategic Plan
4. Integrated Community Development Policy
5. National Informal Economy Policy

## **HOW LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES ARE IMPLEMENTED.**

Key priority areas of these legislations and policies are translated into Branch Annual Work plan and as included in the Department Five Years Plan and Annual Operational Plan.

The primary strategy in implementing the Integrated Community Development Policy is through the Community Learning & Development Centers (CLDC). This concept is seen as the primary way to build learning and developing communities.

## **POLICIES DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE POLICIES THAT ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AND REASONS WHY OTHER POLICIES ARE NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED.**

With the division for Community Learning, Community Environment and Informal Economy (Community Economics) the Integrated Community Development Policy was developed in 2007 and to date it is the overarching policy that the branch as well as the department facilitate to implement programs and activities.

The policy has been implemented at minimal level due to inadequate resource support as well as capacity issues. The Policy is currently under review.

One of the major reasons that would hinder the implementation of priority activities and programs would be low or lack of funding.

## **PARTNER ASSISTANCE**

The department through the division facilitates the development and implementation of the integrated community development programs in partnership with Provincial and District Administrations, Local Level Governments, NGOs, CBOs and churches, development partners and other stakeholders.

For the betterment of the people and the positive outcomes the department through the division must work closely with partner agencies to carry out implementation of programs and activities.

The department must take a lead role when programs and activities are to be implemented. Implementation of the sectional work plan by respective divisions must be priority of the division. Partner agencies and stakeholders assist with necessary support in terms of funds and technical advises, skills and knowledge training or transfers.

Transfer of knowledge and skills from Technical Advisors provided by the Development Partners to support the work of the Sections is vital as it also boost the knowledge capacity of the manpower.

## **FUNDING AND STRATEGY**

If there is a shortfall in resource allocation we would reprioritize activities to focus on the most important activities that need to be implemented to address urgent situations, then seek support from the partners to implement the urgent priorities.

Also leave some room for flexibility for other pressing issues that get on the divisions agenda.