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## **Sustainable Economic and Social Empowerment of the Ultra-Poor in Kenya – Conclusions from a Workshop and Meeting**

Final Draft, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

The conclusions from a meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October to consider a collective way forward for tackling deep and entrenched poverty in Kenya are set out below. The meeting involved multiple stakeholders<sup>1</sup> and it followed a workshop<sup>2</sup> entitled 'Achieving Graduation from Poverty at Scale in Kenya' held in Nairobi on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

- Stakeholders wish to collaborate to develop a national framework, led by Government, that will provide an umbrella and greater momentum to the efforts and programmes that aim to graduate ultra-poor Kenyans from poverty country-wide. The framework will offer county governments flexibility to operationalize in diverse contexts.
- There is desire to broaden learning and understanding amongst stakeholders of what is happening, and what is planned, across the institutional landscape related to improving the living standards of ultra-poor people that can, in turn, foster collaboration.
- Successful graduation from poverty by ultra-poor Kenyans happens in part because of connections they have with essential services and market systems. Focused efforts to graduate Kenyans from poverty can be complemented, and extended, by these broader efforts.
- While a definition for graduation from poverty was not established, and some did not feel comfortable with the term, several dimensions<sup>3</sup> of a future definition were agreed. A term to capture the nature of the intended work was proposed: *Sustainable Economic and Social Empowerment of the Ultra-Poor in Kenya*.
- The way ahead is informed by a set of high-level principles, rules, building blocks and considerations for targeting from the workshop to guide collaboration going forward; while gaps and unknowns on several fronts are acknowledged e.g. resourcing and capacity to scale-up, means to coordinate, financing and more.
- There are many ongoing poverty alleviation programmes underway in Kenya and additional graduation related investments are being designed. There is recognition of the need to build on existing models and continue learning and adapting as Kenya further develops and defines its social protection approach and programming to reach greater scale.
- Participants appreciated Kenya's national and county government leadership and participation in this important endeavour; and they appreciate the role the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, DFID and USAID played in supporting this workshop and agreed on the need for continued dialogue on poverty alleviation models in Kenya.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (including SPS and Department for Social Development), Kenya Vision 2030 Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, Council of Governors, Ministry of Devolution and ASALs (including NDMA), National Treasury, USAID, EU, DFID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank and WellSpring Philanthropic Fund.

<sup>2</sup> The workshop was co-convened by the Social Protection Secretariat, DFID and USAID. The workshop purpose was to a) shape a collective response to the complex problem of extreme poverty in Kenya b) build a shared vision of what graduation might look like at scale and 3) identify the means necessary to achieve this. Some 70 participants from national and county governments, development partners, NGOs and participants from graduation programmes participated and gave their views. See [www.graduationfrompovertykenya.org](http://www.graduationfrompovertykenya.org)

<sup>3</sup> Available in the forthcoming workshop report, see [www.graduationfrompovertykenya.org](http://www.graduationfrompovertykenya.org)