International Conference

Leave No One Behind: the fight against poverty, exclusion and inequality

Gaborone, 20-21 March 2018

Mauritius, March 21, 2018
The Exclusive Economic Zone (“EEZ”) of the Republic of Mauritius extends over an area of about 2.3 million Km² (including approx. 400,000 Km² jointly managed with the Seychelles)
ABOUT MAURITIUS

➢ Became independent on 12 March 1968

➢ Acceded to the Status of Republic on 12 March 1992
POVERTY STATUS IN MAURITIUS - 2018

- Proportion of absolute poor people (living on less than $1.25 per person): < 1%
- Proportion of poor people (living on $2 a day per individual): < 2%
- There is an estimated number of 10,000 households earning less than Rs 9,520 per month (around 280 US Dollars);
- 14.4% of households earning less than 10,000 rupees (256 euro) per month
- 43.4% have a monthly income ranging between 10,000 rupees and 25,000 rupees (641 euro)
- 42.2% of Mauritian households earning more than 25,000 rupees every month,
- 6.2% who live with more than 70,000 rupees (1794 euro) in revenue
POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES
AND PRACTICES IN MAURITIUS

Institutional Framework

- The establishment in May 2010 of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment dedicated to poverty alleviation
- Establishment of the National Empowerment Foundation in 2008
- Setting up of National Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation in Dec 2016
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- To formulate policies and strategies that seek to combat poverty and social exclusion.
- To drive and coordinate initiatives for the social integration and sustainable development of vulnerable groups.
- To encourage and assist vulnerable groups to undertake income earning activities.
- To widen the circle of opportunities for the empowerment of the vulnerable groups.
- To eradicate absolute poverty and improve the living conditions of the absolute poor.
- To lay the foundation for sustainable human development and improve the life chances of children of poor families by providing a package of support programmes and opportunities for learning and development from a very early stage.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Founder</strong></th>
<th>Government of the Republic of Mauritius</th>
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<td><strong>Objects of the Foundation</strong></td>
<td>➢ Executive arm of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>➢ Identifying persons living in absolute poverty and assessing their needs</td>
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<td>➢ Implementing and harmonising any integration and empowerment programme or scheme</td>
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<td>➢ Proving accompaniment and counselling to people living in absolute poverty (Case Management Approach)</td>
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<td>➢ Monitoring of Social Contract signed by beneficiaries to track graduation of the poor out of poverty trap</td>
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<td>➢ Monitoring and evaluating any empowerment programme or scheme;</td>
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<td>➢ Keeping under review any change in the social or financial circumstances of any person who is receiving support</td>
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<td>➢ Entering into an agreement with any person for the provision of support and other services, and for monitoring and evaluating compliance with such agreement</td>
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| **List of Beneficiaries** | Registered Families found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius who have signed the Marshall Plan Social Contract |
# National Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation

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<th><strong>Registration Date</strong></th>
<th>30th December 2016 under the Foundation Act 2012.</th>
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<td><strong>Founder</strong></td>
<td>Government of the Republic of Mauritius acting through the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment</td>
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<td><strong>Source of Funding</strong></td>
<td>As from 01st January 2017, all companies are required to contribute through Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) at least 50% of their CSR money (2% of their chargeable income of the preceding year) to the new National CSR Foundation.</td>
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| **Objects of the Foundation** | To undertake programmes and projects in the following priority areas:  
- Socio economic development as a means of poverty alleviation;  
- Educational support and training;  
- Social Housing;  
- Supporting people with disabilities;  
- Dealing with health problems;  
- Family protection including gender based violence;  
- Leisure & Sports;  
- Environment & sustainable development;  
- Peace and Nation Building;  
- Road safety and security; and  
- Such other areas as may be determined by the Founder. |
| **List of Beneficiaries** | ➢ Individuals and families eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius and ➢ Individuals and families recognized as vulnerable groups. |
THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016

The main object of the Act is to promote, within the philosophy of enhancing social justice and national unity, social integration and empowerment of persons living in absolute poverty.

The Act provides for the setting up of such empowerment programmes or schemes necessary to:

- combat absolute poverty;
- provide support to persons living in absolute poverty; and
- encourage persons living in absolute poverty to integrate the mainstream society.
SIX PILLAR STRATEGY TO COMBAT POVERTY IN MAURITIUS

1. Inclusive Economic Growth
2. Investment in Education and Training
3. Strong Social Security System
4. Empowerment of poor families
5. Halt to intergenerational transfer of poverty
6. Combat Social Ills
SIX PILLAR STRATEGY TO COMBAT POVERTY IN MAURITIUS

- To translate the six pillar strategy into concrete actions, Mauritius is implementing a Marshall Plan against Poverty.
- The plan contains short, medium and long term strategies to address the root causes of poverty, among others the payment of subsistence allowance based on the new poverty threshold.
- To enable the execution of the proposals of the Marshall Plan against Poverty, Mauritius has in December last established a legal framework for the empowerment of the poor the Social Integration and Empowerment Act.
The Marshall Plan against Poverty

The Plan, adopted during the 2016/2017 Budget, is a comprehensive national strategy to ensure the realization of the Government Programme 2015-2019, the Government’s vision 2030, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; especially Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, and Goal 10: Reduce Inequality.
MARSHALL PLAN AGAINST POVERTY

An approach to tackle the root cause of poverty and exclusion through a community-based approach to service delivery. It is a holistic plan with an integrated package of initiatives in the areas of social protection, employment, social housing, education, health, environment and equity in service delivery, etc.
OBJECTIVES OF THE MARSHALL PLAN

- to eliminate absolute poverty; and

- to encourage change among vulnerable populations and service providers that would lead to economic empowerment, social inclusion and overall improved well-being of the disadvantaged groups.
NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY

Establishment of new absolute poverty thresholds

New absolute poverty thresholds were established based on a minimum of Rs 2,720 [around 80 USD with a maximum threshold of Rs 9,520 [around 280 USD] for a family of two adults and three children.

The threshold for Mauritius has been calculated at 40% above the international poverty line, the World Bank threshold of USD 3.10 Purchasing Power Parity equivalent to Rs 1,938 per person per month for developing countries as compared to Rs 2,720 per adult per month in Mauritius.

Establishment of a Social Register of Mauritius

Establishment of a Social Register of Mauritius comprising of registered families living in absolute poverty.
NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY

INTRODUCTION OF A MARSHALL PLAN SOCIAL CONTRACT

- A point of entry of beneficiaries found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius (living in absolute poverty) to benefit from an income support (monthly subsistence allowance) and other conditional cash transfers.
- By signing the Social Contract, beneficiaries agree to participate in relevant empowerment programme and commit themselves to work towards improving their conditions of living.

The purpose for the introduction of a Social Contract would be basically to
(i) alleviate poverty through the provision of a subsistence allowance and other Conditional Cash Transfers; and
(ii) improve the economic, social and human capital of people living below the established poverty thresholds.

It involves the:
- Transitioning from the Social Aid without conditions to Cash Transfer with Conditions
- Integrating empowerment programme as conditions for Subsistence Allowance
- Implementing a Case Management Approach
- Instituting monitoring and evaluation of programmes
NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY

CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS

Introduction of a new Income Support Scheme

The new Income Support Scheme caters for the payment of a monthly subsistence allowance to registered families who have been found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius and have signed a Marshall Plan Social Contract.

The quantum of the monthly subsistence allowance is the difference between the absolute poverty threshold and the assessed income of the family.

The objective of the subsistence allowance is to ensure that the basic needs of people living in absolute poverty are met.
NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY

CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS

Beneficiaries of the Marshall Plan Social Contract are also entitled to other Conditional Cash Transfers such as:

- **Child Allowance**
  - A monthly payment of Rs 893 per child (approximately 26 USD) based on a 90% attendance

- **Crèche Scheme**
  - A maximum monthly payment of Rs 2000 (60 USD) is effectuated to day-care centres in favour of each child admitted.

- **School Premium scheme**
  - Rs 15,000 (450 USD) for successfully completing the grade 9 level under the nine year schooling;
  - Rs 25,000 (750 USD) for successfully completing the School Certificate level or equivalent vocational certificate; and
  - Rs 35,000 (1060 USD) for those successfully completing the Higher School Certificate or equivalent technical qualification.

- **Resit Exam Fees**
  - Rs 10,478 to Rs 13,028 (around USD 315 to 390)

- **School Materials**
  - Rs 1500 to 2000 (approximately USD 45 to 60)
TARGETED EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

- **Educational empowerment** comprising Education & Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- **Economic Empowerment** including Youth empowerment and women emancipation, training & placement and Entrepreneurship & skill development programme
- **Social Empowerment** encompassing a series of empowerment measures related to Family Welfare, Child care, Living environment, Health etc.
- **Social housing empowerment** as per specific terms and conditions
National Budget 2017-18

To reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, promote social justice, economic empowerment and national unity, and protect the elderly and vulnerable ones

- Introduction of a negative income tax system to provide financial support to some 150,000 employees in full time employment and earning monthly emoluments of less than Rs 10,000. This initiative will cost about Rs 1.3 billion and will be effective as from 1st January 2018.
- Provision of decent housing units to low income families.
- Construction of Homes for low income elderly people
- Reducing Unemployment among the Youths and Women
To provide adequate social protection to the poor, the vulnerable and the elderly, promote gender equality and protect rights of children

THE ABSOLUTE POOR
- To empower the poor by engaging them in education and economic activities through a case management approach so that they move out of the poverty trap and become self-sustaining.

ELDERLY
- To improve the living conditions of the elderly by providing them with better welfare and protection for a healthy ageing population

WOMEN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS
- To safeguard the rights of women and children and promote their well-being
- To increase the female labour participation rate and women representation in Parliament
NATIONAL STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Formulating policies in the fields of health, social protection and security to cater for the needs of the elderly. (Ensure pension sustainability and the consolidation of existing social assistance schemes for the elderly)
- Focusing the Economic Empowerment Programme for the absolute poor on education, employability and improvement of living conditions.
- Enhancing the effectiveness of social safety net through the harmonisation of social protection policies and programmes.
- Promoting a culture of monitoring and evaluation for better social protection policy decision-making.
- Enhancing collaboration with NGOs in addressing social ills through the NCSR Foundation.
- Increasing employability of women through upgrading of skills.
- Setting up of community working groups to provide for a common platform comprising all stakeholders (public, private, civil society and CSR Foundation) to mobilize resources for poverty alleviation programmes.
- Restructuring of the National Empowerment Foundation to maximize outreach and coverage.
Thank you