

## **International Workshop – Call for Papers**

### **What Works for Africa's Poorest? Practice and Policy**

**Monday 13 January, 2014 (1130 – 1700)**

**Grand Buildings, 1-3 The Strand, London, WC2N 5HR**

#### **Background**

While there has been substantial progress in reducing poverty in recent years, in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) there is consistent evidence that hundreds of millions of people are trapped in extreme poverty. While the proportion of desperately poor Africans may be dropping, absolute numbers have increased. Despite some African countries experiencing rapid economic growth, and some progress in human development (especially child mortality), many poverty reduction initiatives – be they mediated by economic growth or by public action – have not benefitted the extreme poor.

There are, however, a number of programmes that have begun to provide support to the poorest people, households, social groups and regions so that they too can subsequently access the benefits that may come from growth and public policies. Such programmes (including social assistance, food-for-work, nutrition schemes, etc.) and practices are vitally important in moral terms, reducing human deprivation and suffering, but also in more instrumental terms, such as achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which increasingly entail reaching the poorest.

This workshop aims to contribute to global poverty reduction by generating useful knowledge about practical actions, public policies and the programs that have helped the poorest people in Africa improve their lives.

#### **Workshop Structure and Objectives**

The workshop focuses on practice and policy examining the experience of successful initiatives and experiences - what works to make a real dent on extreme poverty. There will be a mix of participants coming from NGOs/CSOs, research and academic backgrounds and donors representing a diversity of experiences from SSA.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To identify the policies and practices that are most effective in supporting the poorest and identify the features that explain their success.
- To raise the awareness of policymakers and the public about the means by which Africa's poorest people can be assisted.

The workshop will adopt a life course approach, focusing on gestation, infancy and childhood, youth, active employment, and old age programs that have helped the very poorest. These may include, but are not restricted to, abstracts/papers that outline country case studies and examples of maternal and child health, nutrition, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC), food-for-work, cash transfers, pensions and grants, basic health services, funeral assistance programmes, etc.

The papers from the workshop will form the foundation of an edited book, to be published by Practical Action (building on the success of our earlier *What Works for the Poorest* (London, Practical Action) book in 2009).

#### **Call for Papers**

We invite submission of an extended abstract (minimum 2 pages), or draft papers, addressing the aforementioned issues.

Abstracts/papers should be submitted by Thursday, 19 December 2013, to [wwfpafrica@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:wwfpafrica@manchester.ac.uk). Authors will be notified of acceptance by Monday, 23 December. Limited funds are available for travel costs to attend the workshop, and we will try to focus these on participants from the global South. Authors should inform us if they would require support for travel costs. For more information, please contact the convenors.

#### **Convenors**

- Dr David Lawson, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester (Tel: +44 (0)161 275 0415)
- Professor David Hulme, Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester (Tel: +44 (0)161 306 6436)