Federal Approach Paper

Briefing Note | June, 2019

Introduction

The Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) is a five-year Public Sector Accountability and Governance programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). PERL's support focuses on government, citizens and evidence-based advocacy around how governments organise their core business of governance which include, prioritizing, planning, resourcing, implementing, tracking and accounting for policies, plans and budgets used in delivering public goods and services that respond to the needs of citizens in an inclusive, and conflict sensitive manner and how citizens themselves are actively engaged with these governance processes.

PERL takes an integrated approach to supporting all aspects of governance reform leading to improvement in service delivery, using evidence, learning and adaption from practical experience. PERL works to facilitate processes that facilitate governance solution to sectoral service delivery reforms from centre of government reforms (i.e. more inclusive, responsive and evidenced policy, planning and budget development and implementation) which, enables governance actors inside and outside public service to jointly focus on specific service delivery problems that reflect local priorities, and demonstrate the link between improved central governance processes and improved frontline delivery of services. Key to overcoming blockages in service delivery is constructive partnership among citizen and government in planning, implementing and tracking delivery of goods and services and providing feedback to key decision---making processes. 'Learning and adaptation through engagement of reform processes by politically smart local actors is critical to PERL's success, ensuring reforms are locally led, realistic, responsive and relevant.

The PERL programme is being delivered through three pillars which plan and act together to support sustainable service delivery reforms: Pillar 1. Accountable, Responsive & capable government (ARC); Pillar 2. Engaged citizens (ECP) and Pillar 3. Learning, Evidencing and Advocacy Partnership (LEAP).

This brief describes PERL's approach to working at the Federal level with various governance actors, towards contributing to the ultimate goal of poverty reduction. PERL works within the overarching development framework of the Federal Government which is the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020. The vision of the plan is to promote national prosperity and an efficient, dynamic and self-reliant economy to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity. The plan is anchored on three objectives namely:

- Restoring economic growth
- Building a globally competitive economy; and
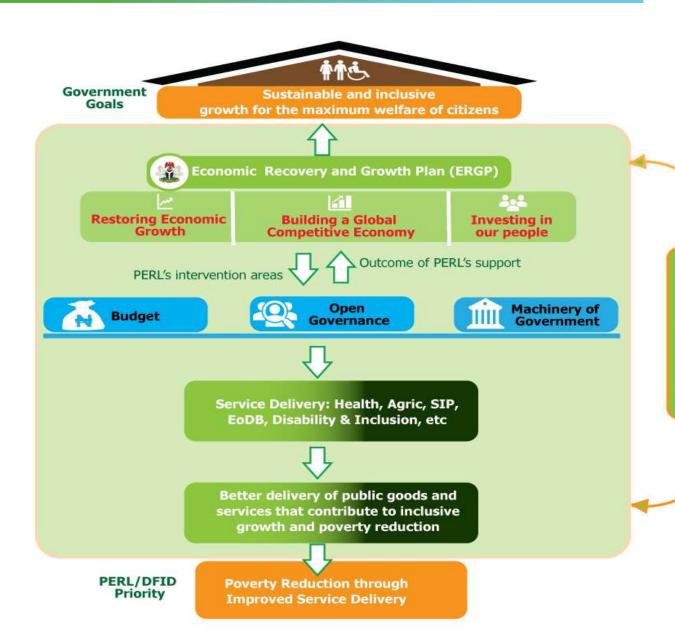- Investing in our people.

PERL is contributing towards achieving these objectives by facilitating partnerships among governance actors that strengthen core governance processes towards delivering better services in selected service delivery areas which have the most impact on the poor, these include: Agriculture, Health, Ease of Doing business, Social investment and disability and inclusion.

In doing this, PERL facilitates partnerships among governance actors across horizontal and vertical Governance systems and between Citizens and government for learning, replication and for capability enhancement that will lead to improved service delivery.

Given PERL's limited resources, the main focus has been to support core governance reforms and issues that are likely to have the biggest delivery payoff for the country, including the following:

- Catalytic process and behaviour change reforms that improve how the government works to plan and deliver change in an open and transparent manner (in budgeting, policymaking, economic planning, performance management and delivery tracking).
- Working with citizen groups to facilitate partnerships that will strengthen the capabilities of citizens to engage and partner with Government with the view of improving service delivery that meets citizens' needs.
- Strengthening processes and mechanisms that enhance linkages across the tiers and arms of governance (e.g. Cross Tier - National Economic Council, Social Investment Programme, OGP, COP, EODB, Legislations, SFTAS and service delivery in critical sectors, citizen-based performance and accountability tracking of IPPIS, GFMIS, Budget, etc., Cross Arm between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary).

PERL's partners include Government, Citizen Groups, Private Sector, National Assembly and the Media.

Government Goals — Sustainable and inclusive growth for the maximum welfare of citizens

Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)
- Restoring Economic Growth
- Building a Global Competitive Economy
- Investing in our people

PERL's intervention areas / Outcome of PERL's support

- Budget
- Open Governance
- Machinery of Government

Service Delivery: Health, Agric, SIP, EoDB, Disability & Inclusion, etc

Better delivery of public goods and services that contribute to inclusive growth and poverty reduction

PERL/DFID Priority — Poverty Reduction through Improved Service Delivery

PERL's interventions / approach — Facilitate partnerships to strengthen inclusive and responsive public policies, planning and budgeting for better delivery of public goods and services to citizens at the federal and national levels including Governments, Civil Societies, Private Sector Media, Legislature, etc.