



## **International training on "Leveraging Local Assets for Community Economic Development" April 8 – May 2, 2013**

**Conducted by the Weitz Center for Development Studies in partnership with  
TAG International Development**

### **Background**

*Poverty alleviation and development are missions which cut through countries and sectors. Much has been done to achieve these aims by aid, donations and international support. However, after dozens of years of such efforts, we are still witnessing deepening poverty, poor living standards and lack of social and economical mobility among many in the developing world. As a response, recent years have seen growing understanding and acknowledgement that in order to promote economic growth and alleviate poverty there is a need to support locally-led programs and projects which aim at sustainable development.*

*One of the reasons for local inability to employ aid and donations for sustainable development is "The Leaky Bucket": financial and other resources flows into the local area with none or little local presence and immediately leaves the area. For example – an enterprise established by foreign corporation in a local area but business services are procured out of the local area, the revenues invested elsewhere, the executives and their family live outside the local area, etc.*

*Plugging the leaks in the local economy requires local communities and institutions (and their development partners) to identify and harness local assets into the development process and better understanding of the linkages between community and economic development. These linkages are critical especially, but not only, in poor communities. The scope and volume of economic activities in poor communities are limited. Poor communities hardly enjoy the fruits of economic growth; they are unattractive to private sector activities; and lack support systems for community and economic development. These factors lead to poverty and to disempowered and disintegrated communities.*

*Since the early days of statehood, Israel has given high priority to adopting policies, establishing support structures, and encouraging initiatives aimed at generating economic growth and community building simultaneously. In response to decentralization, globalization and socio-economic changes in the last few decades, the development of local communities in spatial and socio-economic peripheries in Israel emphasized development from within the community. Through these processes, Israeli experts, communities and institutions gained experience in leveraging local assets (such as people's skills and talents, institutional capacities, civil society organizations existing infrastructure and natural resources) to collaboratively promote local economic development for the benefit of the local community. Within this framework, new tools were developed and implemented to integrate socially excluded groups in the development process.*

*This international training is based on the recognition that each and every community have assets and resources that can be leveraged for community economic development, and that a resilient and inclusive community can better meet the challenges of fighting poverty and managing crisis. It will assist delegates from communities to reach these aims by drawing on methodology developed in the Weitz Center and in international organizations such as Tag International, for LED: local economic development, and by basing on the Israeli experience in the field.*

## **Objectives**

The seminar is aimed at:

- Providing an analytical perspective on the links between community economic development;
- Emphasizing community assets and social networks as keys for development;
- Providing tools for promoting local community and economic development;
- Sharing Israeli experience and best practice in poverty alleviation and community economic development;
- Training participants in utilizing approaches and tools for local community economic development.

Through lectures, field visits, group work and meeting with Israeli experts from various fields, the participants will be exposed to the following themes:

- Local assets for community and economic development: Uncovering and mapping community assets; Assets Based Community Development (ABCD) Approach: focusing on tourism, environmental resources, agro-industries and PPPs
- The role of local government in promoting development: Strengthening local capacities and examining various mechanisms which can be employed by local government for development
- Employing stakeholders for development: building PPPs, strengthening cooperation between government and non-government organizations; promoting youth movements and youth leadership groups; sustaining coalitions in services

Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as in field visits.

## **Selection of candidates**

The seminar targets professionals, policy-makers and high officials from local authorities, regional institutions and organizations and ministries, directly involved in municipal administration and municipal financing, planning, economic development, social and community development and social services, environmental management and other related areas

Selected participants must submit prior to the seminar:

- A short abstract of a project (maximum 500 words) they wish to formulate throughout the seminar (please note that only 5-6 projects will be selected to be developed in small groups)
- A short presentation on the role of local authorities in promotion of strategic development in your respective country or local area

Further instructions will be sent in advance to the selected participants.

## **Application Process**

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, [www.weitz-center.org](http://www.weitz-center.org). The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent as a **Word Document** attachment to our office ([ronit@weitz-center.org](mailto:ronit@weitz-center.org)) not later than 15 February 2013.

## **Scholarships**

The scholarships includes: 25 days with full board, tuition, accommodation (two participants in a double room) and meals, medical insurance (not included dental services, eye glasses, chronic illnesses and pregnancy) and transportation from/to the airport in Israel. The scholarship does not include airfare or transportation costs from participants' home to Israel.

It should be taken into account when booking the flight tickets that the scholarship covers exclusively from 7 April (arrival day) to 2 May (day of departure). Any liability or expense out of this term shall be entirely at the expense of the participant.

## **Arrival and transportation**

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to the Residence in Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the training. Transportation will be free of charge only if transported by this company.

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after passing through Customs, in the gallery of level 1 (Arriving Passengers' hall, left staircase near gate 2, towards "Launch Arbel".)

### **Medical Insurance**

MASHAV will provide a medical insurance for the participants for the duration of the course. It excludes dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses.

MASHAV and Weitz Center are **not** responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

### **About MASHAV**

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

### **About Weitz Center**

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

### **About TAG International Development**

Tag is a global charity specializing in providing unique Israeli humanitarian expertise and social innovation to developing countries. Our expert partners, primarily in the not-for-profit sector, provide us with their expertise and best practice in areas such as disaster preparedness, agriculture, and community. A charity rooted in Jewish social values, Tag's work transcends borders, religion, race and politics. We work on the ground with established charities, government agencies, community networks, and development organizations. We aim to build and harness local capacity and leverage unique expertise to ensure a sustainable and systemic impact. Tag's scope is global. We currently operate a variety of projects in Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, India and the Solomon Islands. Our projects focus on vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, refugees, disabled and at-risk communities. Tag's mode of operation is to identify, together with local partners, development opportunities that are suitable to pressing and emerging needs, and devise and assist in the planning and implementation of tailor-made programs using Israeli humanitarian expertise. Tag works with established local partners and knowledge partners in Israel to develop and deploy creative and effective development projects.

### **Additional Information**

Any additional information is available at:

**Weitz Center for Development Studies**

**Mrs. Ronit Shpindel**

**P.O.Box 12**

**Rehovot 76100, Israel**

**Tel: 972-8-9474373**

**Fax: 972-8-9475884**

**Cell: 972-54-6655233**

**E-mail: [ronit@weitz-center.org](mailto:ronit@weitz-center.org)**