



New Guidance on Poverty Assessments: Content and Process

Presentation given at a clinic on

Poverty Assessments: The Next Generation

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For more information, see <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/wbactivities/pa/index.htm>



Outline

- Where we would like to go
- Guidance on content
- Guidance on process



Where we would like to go

- Greater flexibility in coverage, recognizing that country situations differ as to:
 - data availability
 - capacity
 - existing work
 - status of the dialogue
- Greater recognition and use of work done by others
- Greater policy relevance (but not at the cost of less rigorous analysis)



Content

- Poverty assessments will need to include:
 - a synthesis of what is known in three key topical areas
 - an identification of gaps
 - some new analysis to address at least some of the gaps



Content

Key topical areas:

- Assessment of the poverty situation
 - levels and trends over space and time of key poverty indicators
 - poverty profile
 - sources of vulnerability
 - determinants of poverty



Content

- Analysis of the impact of growth and public action on poverty and inequality
 - impact of growth and changes in inequality
 - impact of key past policies
 - expected poverty and social impact of key proposed policies and reforms



Content

- Appraisal of systems and capacity for poverty monitoring and evaluation
 - adequacy and sustainability of monitoring capacity and institutions
 - adequacy and sustainability of evaluation capacity and institutions



Process in countries

- Good poverty assessments...
 - feed into participatory strategy design processes and policy analyses, rather than develop the *Bank's* strategy
 - support debate on methodologies, tools, etc.
 - build local capacity by working closely with local partners over the long run
 - are disseminated widely



Process in the Bank

- PAs should be linked to the CAS: inform the CAS and/or address key knowledge gaps identified by the CAS
- Concept Paper review meeting decides on scope: is it going to be a PA or not?
- No new procedures; regional procedures apply
- PRB provides "expert" peer reviewers, examples of good practice, periodic reviews
- QAG reviews as usual, but based on new guidance
- Teams include staff from various sectors