



# Enhancing Measurement, Monitoring, and Analysis of Poverty in Russia, A Programmatic Approach

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# Principles of Programmatic Poverty Work

- ⇒ Country-specific program of poverty work
- ⇒ Medium-term road map
- ⇒ Capacity building
- ⇒ Series of timely outputs, to inform the country's budget/policy needs and the Banks business needs
- ⇒ Ongoing dissemination process

# Russia's Programmatic Poverty Approach - Actors

## Collaborative Multi-Stakeholder Program

### ⇒ Bank:

- Multi-sectoral, HQ & Country Office team, with support from MTL & WBI, and consultants

### ⇒ Russian Government:

- Ministry of Labor & Social Development;
- Goskomstat (national statistical agency)
- Ministry of Economic Development & Trade;
- Ministry of Finance
- ... along with independent Russian researchers

### ⇒ U.K. DFID

# Russia's Programmatic Poverty Approach - Timeline

## Medium-term 4-year Program

- ⇒ Memorandum of Understanding (Apr. 16, 2002) -- broad objectives & commitments
- ⇒ Dynamic Implementation into 2 stages
- ⇒ Stage I (June 2002-December 2003)
  - Policy analysis of existing data
  - Capacity building in data, methods, and policy analysis
  - 20 activities were spelled out, in addition to “Call for Papers”
- ⇒ Stage II
  - Action Plan to be developed, and to be informed by Stage I

# Russia's Programmatic Poverty Approach - Outputs

## Multiple Products

- ⇒ Improved Methodology for Poverty Measurement
- ⇒ Improved Monitoring and Household Survey Instruments (sampling, survey design, training, ..)
- ⇒ Open Access to Household-level Data
- ⇒ Improving Administrative Data Statistics
- ⇒ Enhanced Capacity for Poverty & Social Impact Analysis
- ⇒ Analytical/Policy Poverty Assessment Report (FY04)
- ⇒ Analytical/Policy Poverty Assessment Report (FY06)

# Developing the Program

- ⇒ Key Objectives at the Outset – the Bank
  - Collaborative Poverty Assessment
    - Consensus on Poverty Methodology & Estimates
    - Open Access to Household-level Data
- ⇒ Key Objectives at the Outset – the Russian side
  - Enhance Poverty Monitoring Capacity
  - International Standards
  - Improve poverty reduction policies
- ⇒ Key Objectives at the Outset – U.K. DFID
  - Country Strategy Paper focus on Poverty, with focus on capacity building

# Strong Collaborative Partnership

- ⇒ Strong Government Ownership
  - Ministerial Request for Program
  - Inter-ministerial Coordination Council, with several Working Groups
  - Involvement in all key decisions
- ⇒ Strong Commitment and Support from Country Director
  - 2002 CAS - Annex outlines poverty program
  - Emphasis on demand-driven high-impact ESW
  - Multi-year funding commitment
- ⇒ Strong Partnership with DFID
  - Trust fund (£1.5 million )
  - Links to other DFID program

# Implementation Challenges - 1

## ⇒ Bank staff incentives

- Incentives for technical assistance vs. authored reports
- Incentives for cross-support in a multi-sector team
- Continuity of staff in a medium-term program

## ⇒ Government ownership may imply trade-offs with

- Product quality
- Timeliness
- Costs

# Implementation Challenges - 2

## ⇒ Accountability of Program Team

- Review meetings of six-monthly progress reports on the TA, Capacity building, and process, with Peer Reviewers
- Parallel Reviews of the substantive products

## ⇒ Decision-making processes

## ⇒ Time to manage the process

## ⇒ SAP! Code for multi-product program?

# Why do it?

⇒ Impact!

- Team's success is by being out of business!

⇒ ... Direction for poverty assessment work in ECA; e.g., Serbia & Montenegro; Kazakhstan.