

Who are we?

The PRSP Monitoring and Synthesis Project is a 3-year project commissioned by DFID. We will provide advice to DFID staff on key issues arising in the implementation of PRSPs, based on a synthesis of information about progress in-country. The project is being managed by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) under the direction of Alison Evans, Research Associate, and Erin Coyle, Research Officer.

What do we do?

The Synthesis Project has two main aims:

- To provide a means for streamlining information demands and synthesising relevant information on PRSPs within DFID HQ and within the wider DFID geographical network.
- To monitor progress regularly on PRSP implementation in selected countries and provide short-run feedback and longer term in-depth analysis for DFID on a number of key areas of interest.

These key areas of interest include:

- Ownership of and participation in the PRS process
- Budgets, public financial management and accountability
- Evolving linkages between PRSPs, PRGF and PRSCs.
- Changes in IFI behaviour
- Changes in other donor behaviour
- Review, evaluation and monitoring processes
- Comprehensiveness of the PRSP process

We intend to use primary materials, general information from secondary PRSP monitoring sources, as well as specific information from DFID country offices.

How do we relate to you?

If you are working on PRSPs or in an area that relates to PRSPs, we would like to know what you are doing and your views on how things are progressing. To understand the evolving situation, we need to hear from you, but we recognise that information demands are already very high.

So, in return for your input, the Synthesis Project will provide you with a **website** (forthcoming) to enable you to access information on PRSP developments, to share information with your colleagues, and reduce some of the fragmented information demands that you currently experience.

We will also send a **regular newsletter** and **issue briefings** on specific topics, enabling you to keep up-to-date with PRSP developments. There will also be more in-depth analytical work tailored specifically to support DFID's engagement with the broader dialogue on PRSPs.

Actions to take now

In the short run there are two types of action that we ask you to take.

First, country offices have received a brief **questionnaire** on PRSPs and the way DFID is working. This is part of a multi-donor study being carried out for the SPA working group on PRSP Processes and will form a crucial backdrop to work examining donor responses to PRSPs. Your input to this is vital.

Second, please habitually **copy us in** on all your reflections, trip reports, meeting summaries and other documentation that relate to PRSPs. Our email address for this is prsp@odi.org.uk. This will radically reduce our demands on your time, and prevent us from missing important information. Many thanks.

General PRSP Links

For more general information about PRSPs, please follow some of these links.

- The Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure at ODI: <http://www.odi.org.uk/pppg/cape/povertyreductionstrategies.html>
- The World Bank <http://www1.worldbank.org/prsp/>
- The IMF <http://www.imf.org/external/np/prsp/prsp.asp>
- GDNNet Africa <http://www.ids.ac.uk/gdn/afrwindow.htm>
- Afriline <http://www.afriline.net/prsp.html>
- The European Union http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/sector/poverty_reduction/index_en.htm
- The European Network on Debt and Development <http://www.eurodad.org/2poverty/indexpoverty1.htm>

Contact details

Copy us in on your documentation using: prsp@odi.org.uk

For other queries or information, please contact Erin Coyle on:

e.coyle@odi.org.uk
Overseas Development Institute
Costain House
111 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7JD, UK
+44 (0)20 7922 0321 (direct line)

Other Synthesis Work

Other synthesis work you may find valuable includes:

- The Potential for Using Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches in PRSPs – ODI (for DFID) (draft form)
- An examination of sub-Saharan Africa's existing PRSPs from social policy and sustainable livelihoods perspectives – OPM (for DFID)
- Good Practice in the Development of PRSP Indicators and Monitoring Systems – ODI (for SPA)
Available at: http://www.odi.org.uk/pppg/monitoring_report.pdf
- PRSP Institutionalisation Study – ODI (for SPA)
Available at: http://www.odi.org.uk/pppg/progress_report3.pdf
- Governance and PRSPs – DFID internal (draft form)
- Spatial considerations in National PRS Processes – Alison Evans (for DFID and WB)
- Review of the Integration of Environmental Issues into Selected PRSPs – DFID internal
- Becoming Poverty-Focused: Implications for Health Workers – CDS and DFID HSRC

If you would like copies of any of the above papers, please contact us on e.coyle@odi.org.uk and we will be happy to assist.