



# Politics and Poverty in the Andean Region: Lessons Learned



## Focus of (collective) research

- What do parties propose to do about poverty and inequality?
- How does the political system influence poverty reduction efforts?

How:

- National reports, cases, inclusion assessment.
- Inclusive approach, participation of 25 parties.



## Common Issues Analyzed

- Polarization and the culture of confrontation
- Hyper-presidentialism and the subordination of the Parliament
- Weak party system
- Disconnect between national and subnational govts.



## From a long list of possibles, we prioritized

- Reflection on the research with parties, experts, media and cooperation
- Platform development
- Political dialogues on natural resources
- Local political movements and political parties
- Women parliamentarians
- Party groups in parliament



## One example: Going deeper, party groups in parliaments

*What is the appropriate balance between the party and the individual?*

Incentives skewed based on:

- Budget and staffing
- Electoral system
- Media attention
- Weak party system (and leaders outside the parliament)
- International assistance



## Lessons for us: Against the grain

- A dose of humility: small or big
- With a dash of reason: timeframes and flexibility
- Institutions matter, but people can make the difference
- Brokers of knowledge approach
- Inclusive and objective criteria: political parties
- Democracy and development: The twain must meet
- Think carefully about who is (or needs to be) at the table
- Issues-based approach.