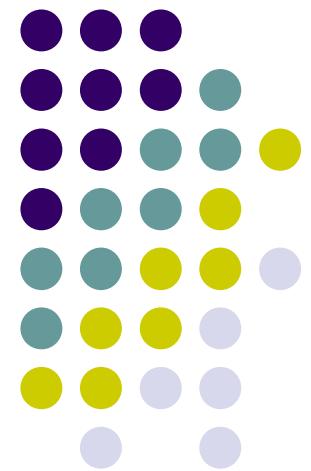
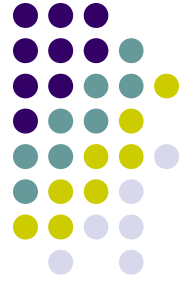


Parliamentary Involvement in Poverty Reduction: Perspectives on the Past and Potential for the Future



Helsinki, Finland, September 15 – 19, 2003

Overview of Presentation:



- What is the PRSP?
- What about Parliaments?
- Why Involve Parliaments?
- Comparative Involvement of Parliaments
- Trends
- PRSP Policy Process and possible entry points for Parliaments
- PRSP and Budget Review
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Oversight
- Conclusions

What is the PRSP?

Annual Meetings, September 1999

– new departure



Core Elements of Poverty Reduction Strategies:

1. Poverty Diagnostics:

Understanding the features of poverty and the factors that determine it

2. Policy Actions:

Choose priority actions to reduce poverty in the short and longer term

3. Indicators & Monitoring:

Set targets and identify indicators of Progress; systematically monitor Results; feedback into decision-making

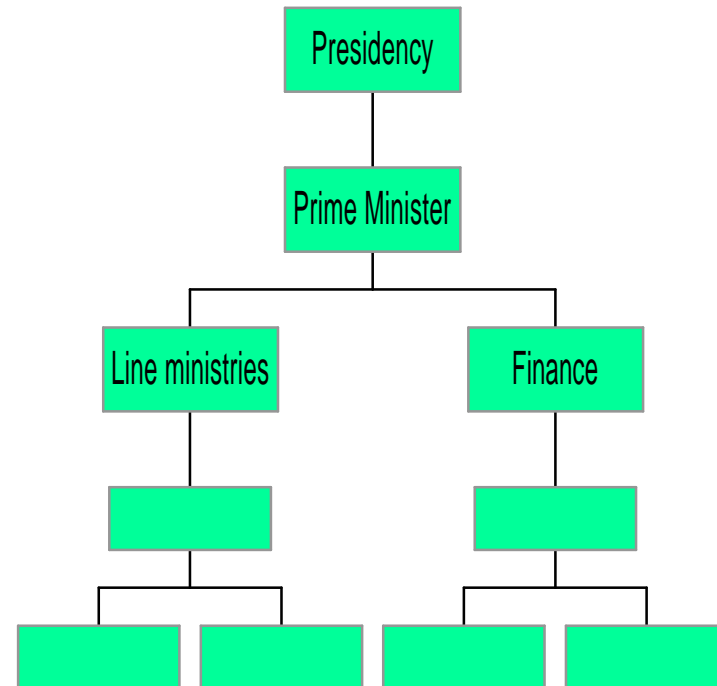
4. Participatory Process:

Varies across countries, but common features relate to the nature of the development dialogue, mechanisms for institutionalizing participation within and outside government

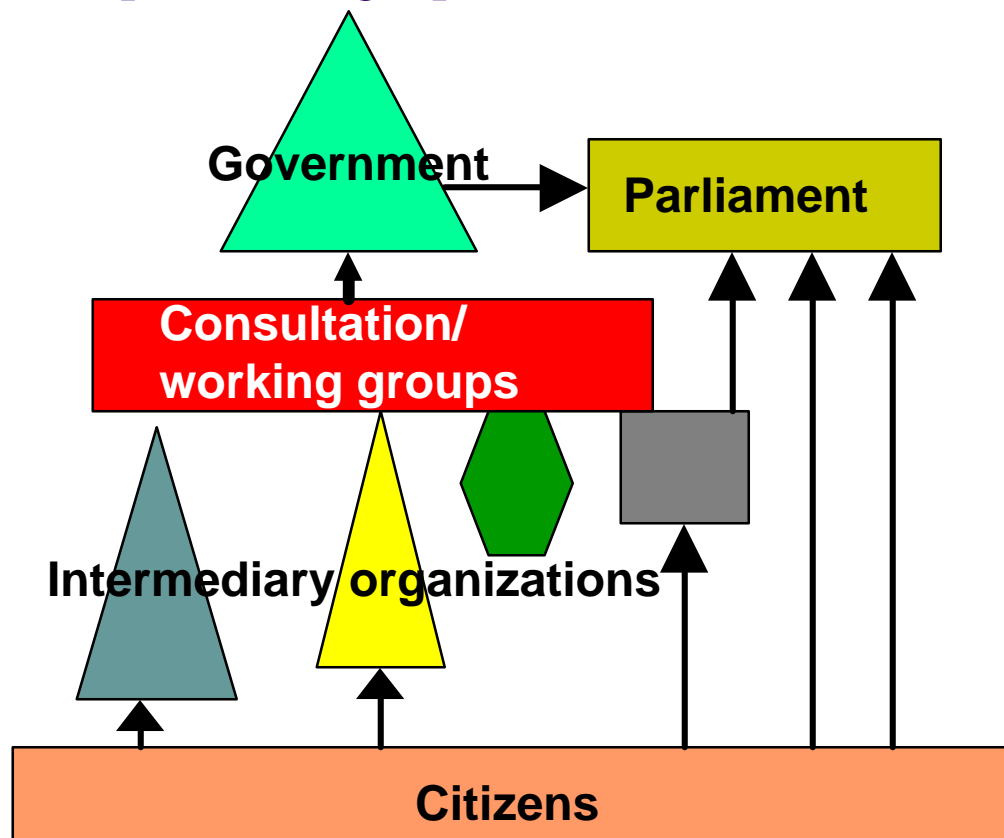
Institutionalising the PRSP within government



- **Policy Formation**
- **Integration**
- **Coordination**
- **Decentralization**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**



Institutionalising the PRSP outside government: *The participatory process*



What about Parliaments?:

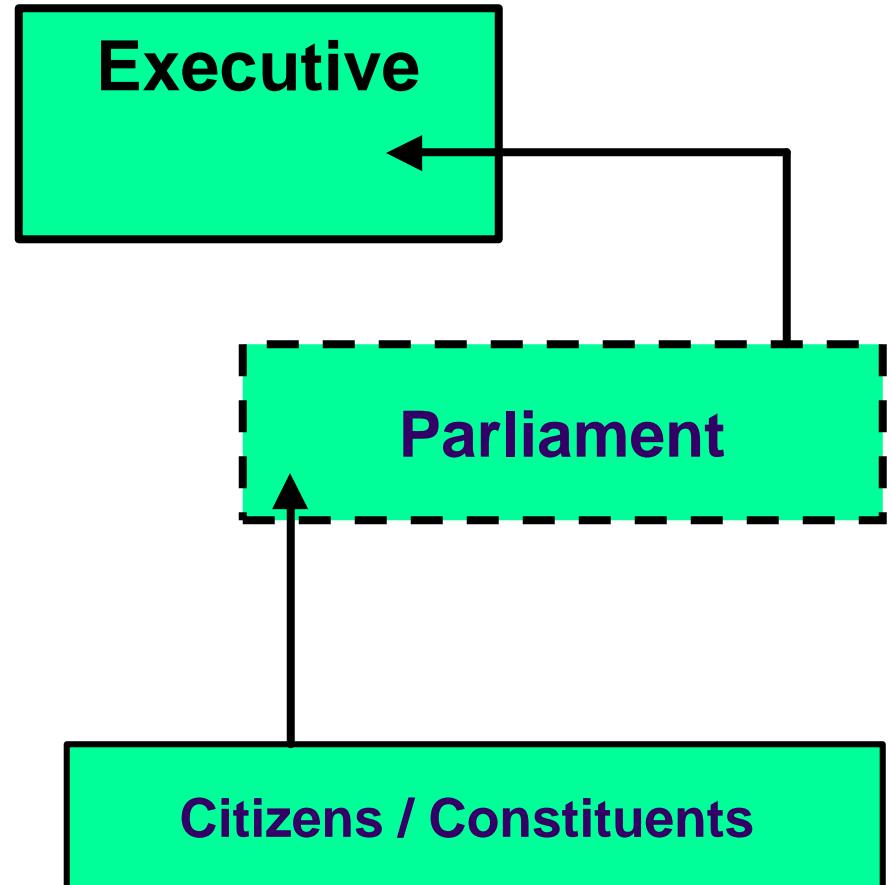


- Limited involvement of Parliaments to date
- Individual MPs included but *not the institution*
- 2002 Joint WB/IMF review of the PRSP – findings
- Donors and NGOs concerned about representative and electoral processes

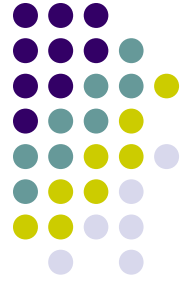
Why should Parliaments be involved?:



- Parliament's representative and oversight function
- Country ownership of PRSP and strengthening political will / cross party support
- Institutionalization of participatory processes for improved policy making and poverty outcomes



Parliaments in the PRS: Evidence of Progress



- Parliaments and MPs engaged in PRSP consultations
- PRSPs presented to Parliament in about half of the full PRSP countries
- Weak involvement of Parliament in poverty policy prioritization – but improvement
- Some PRSPs reviewed by parliamentary committees (public accounts and/or Finance)

Comparative levels of Parliamentary Involvement during Design:



Tanzania:

- Presentation & discussion of results of regional workshops with Parliament

Burkina Faso and Uganda:

- PRSP presented Parliament for ratification prior to submission to Bank and Fund

Tajikistan:

- Participation of MPs in PRSP working groups
- Parliamentary approval

Mauritania:

- MPs members of working committee monitoring PRSP process
- Debates on poverty in parliament
- Parliamentary approval of PRSP

Guyana:

- Plan to establish sectoral committees to strengthen accountability on poverty reduction

Azerbaijan:

- MP participation in some 15 PRSP working groups

FR Yugoslavia:

- Creation of Standing Committee on PRSP
- Strengthened links with Finance and Budget Committee

Comparative levels of Parliamentary Involvement for Full PRSPs:



- **Presented to Parliament:**
 - More Draft or Full PRSPs being presented to Parliament. *Examples:* Azerbaijan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Niger, Tajikistan, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia
- **Policy Prioritization:**
 - Limited given Parliament's constitutional role vis-à-vis the Executive. *Examples:* Kyrgyz Republic, Nicaragua
- **Review by Committee:**
 - Some PRSPs being given more detailed review. *Examples:* Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique
- **Monitoring and Evaluation of PRSP by Parliament:**
 - Limited involvement to date



PRSP Status in Latin America:



PRSP with Annual Progress Report:

- Nicaragua

PRSP:

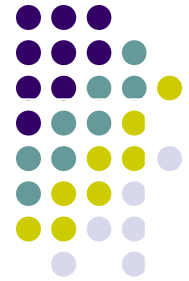
- Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras

“PRSP Plus”:

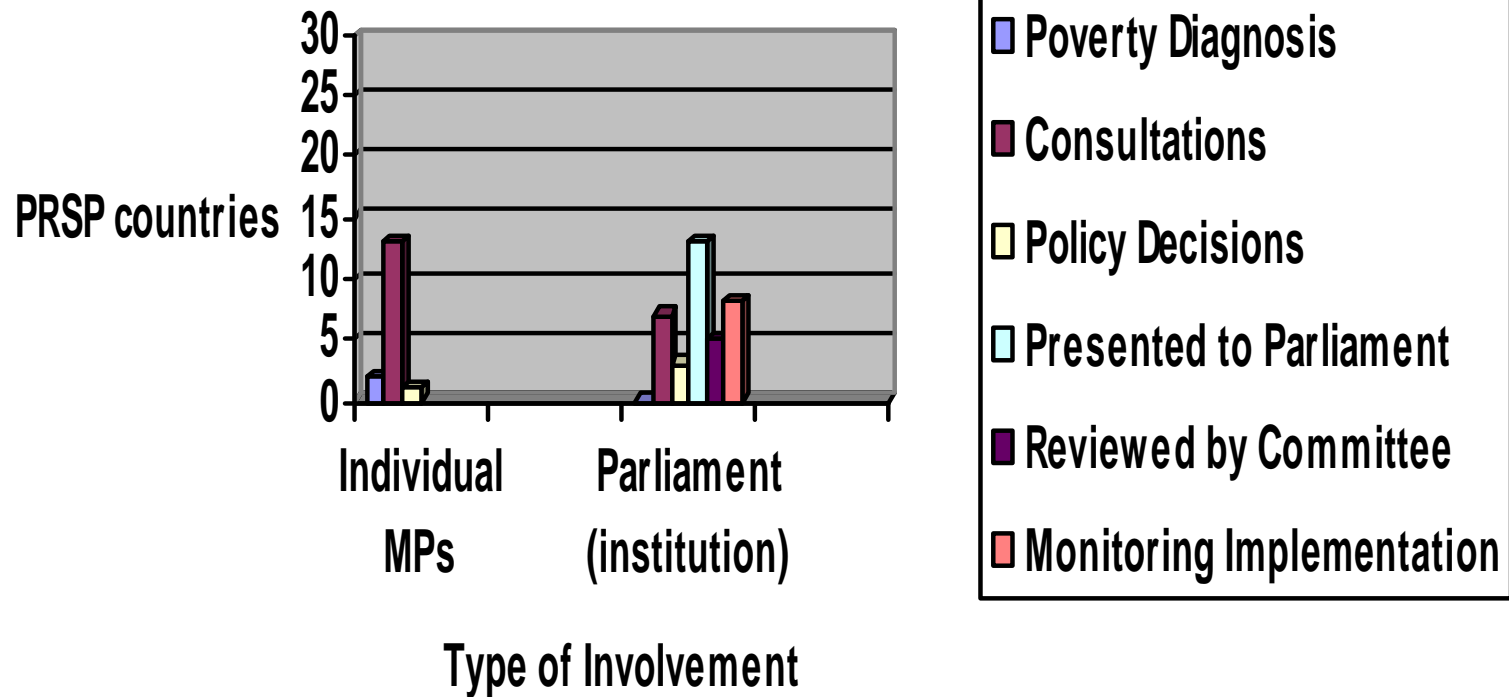
- Brazil, Guatemala, Paraguay

I-PRSP in Preparation:

- Dominica, Haiti

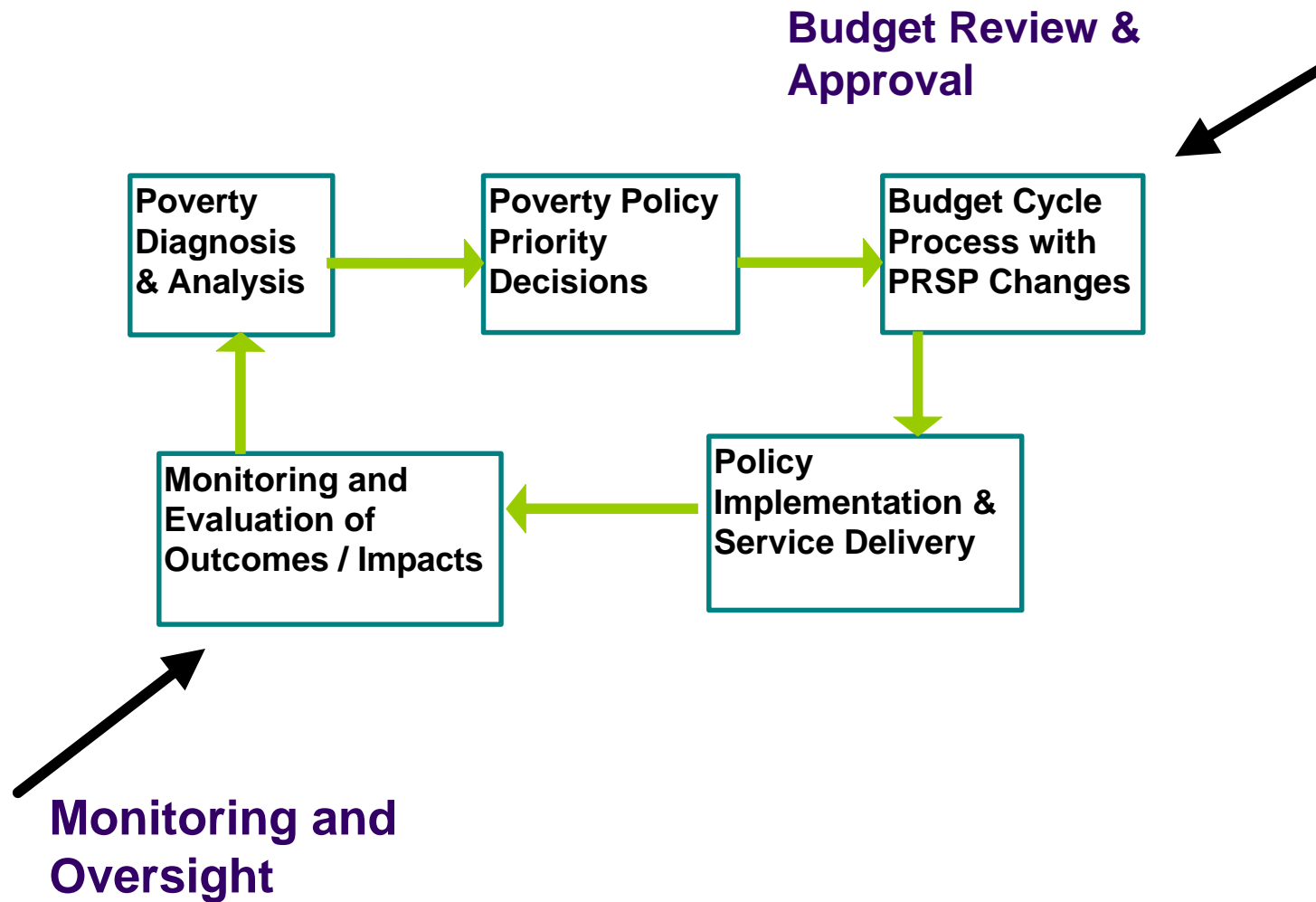


Trends in Parliamentary Involvement



Sharkey and Dreger, *"Parliamentary Involvement in the PRSP"*
World Bank (May 2003)

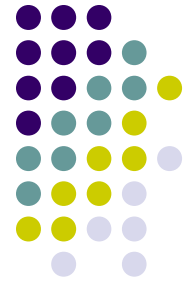
The Policy Process – Entry Points for Parliament



PRSP and Budget Review & Approval:



- Constitutional mandate: budget review and approval
- PRSP priorities and objectives: link to the budget
- Constituency relations: citizens' priorities
- Finance / Budget and Sectoral Committees: PRSP and budget coherence
- Parliamentary Staff: research and analysis role complements Executive-driven document

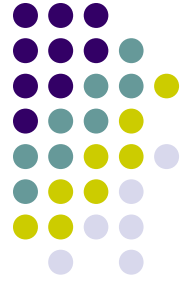


Monitoring and Oversight:

Encouraging signs from PRSP Implementation:

- The National Assembly of **Benin and Guyana** reviewing PRSP implementation;
- Sectoral committees established in **Guyana**
- the Executive must report quarterly to Parliament in the **Kyrgyz Republic**
- **Ghana & Azerbaijan** have formed parliamentary committees on PRSP implementation, M&E.

Conclusions:



- Parliamentary involvement increasing, and being defined by countries – not donors
- Involving Parliament *should* help institutionalize country ownership, participation, genuine cross-party political support
- Given parliament's constitutional mandate, PRSP obvious “*entry point*” for meaningful input to design and oversight of poverty reduction
- Oversight, M&E of PRSP builds on traditional roles for Parliament (e.g Budget Approval, Oversight, Constituency Relations)