

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Initiative

An Independent
Evaluation of the World
Bank's Support Through
2003



The evaluation's scope and methodology

- ten **country case studies** with stakeholder **surveys**
- **Albania, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Vietnam**
- workshops, thematic studies, cross-country analyses, focus groups with Bank staff



Progress so far



- better than Policy Framework Papers
- increased attention to poverty diagnosis
- more stakeholders involved
- better government/donor dialogue
- relevant, should be supported....but hasn't reached potential



Initiative's design inhibits country ownership



- PRSP is a condition for access to IDA
- more focus on producing documents than on improving domestic processes
- little guidance on adaptation to country conditions



Joint Staff Assessments don't deliver

- JSAs designed to:
 - Provide the Bank and Fund Boards with an assessment of each PRSP
 - Send feedback to country authorities
- but aren't achieving goals due to:
 - Analytical gaps and lack of candor
 - Neglect of country's own processes
 - Limited dissemination to country stakeholders



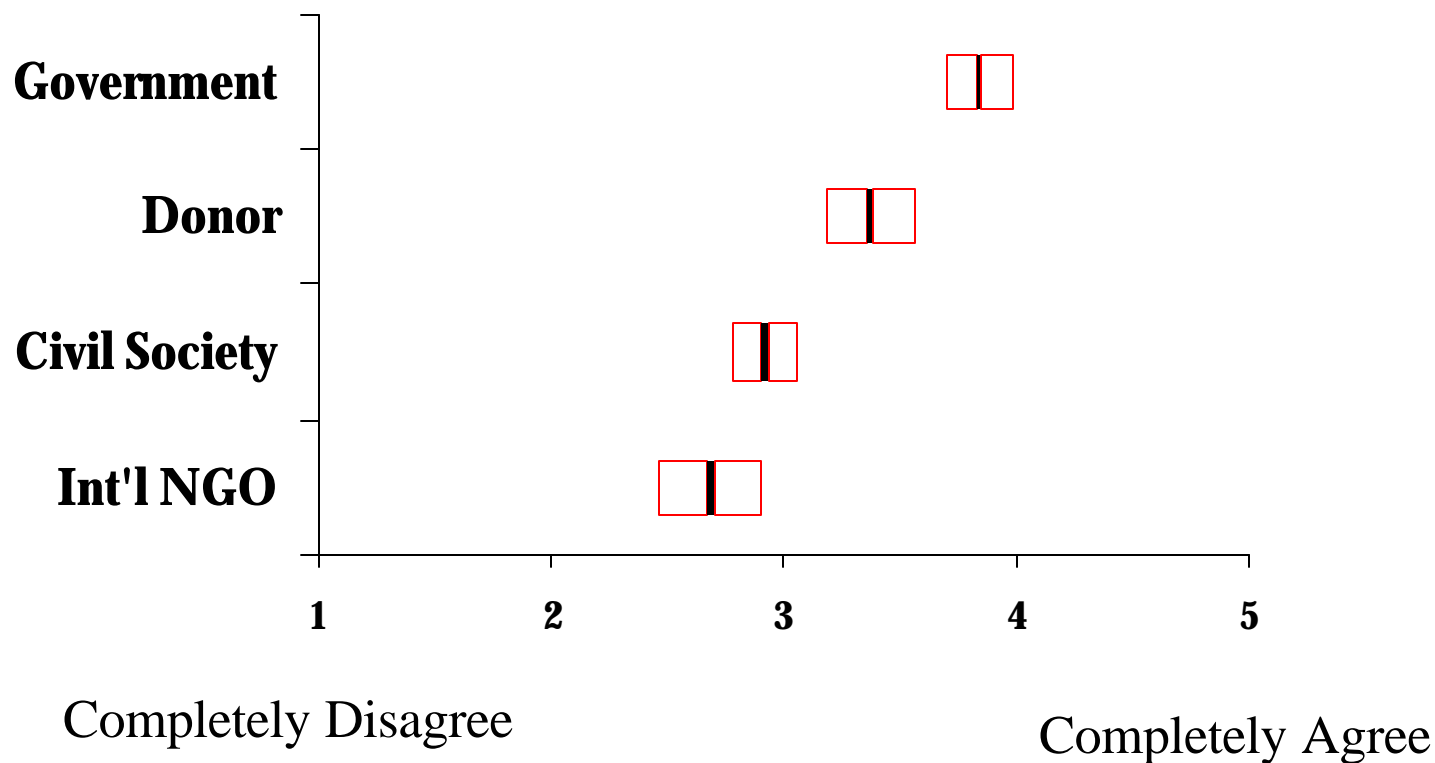
Country commitment varies



- central ministries committed... sector ministries on the sidelines
- wide consultations during *formulation* petered out during *implementation*
- parliaments rarely involved
- NGOs had more input... but saw little influence on strategies



Was the PRS Process Country-Driven?



Source: Survey of national stakeholders in the 10 case study countries



Donor alignment not yet evident



- donors' *processes* improved... where governments already manage aid well
- donors - including Bank - haven't defined how program *content* will change
- lack of prioritization in PRSPs makes alignment difficult to demonstrate



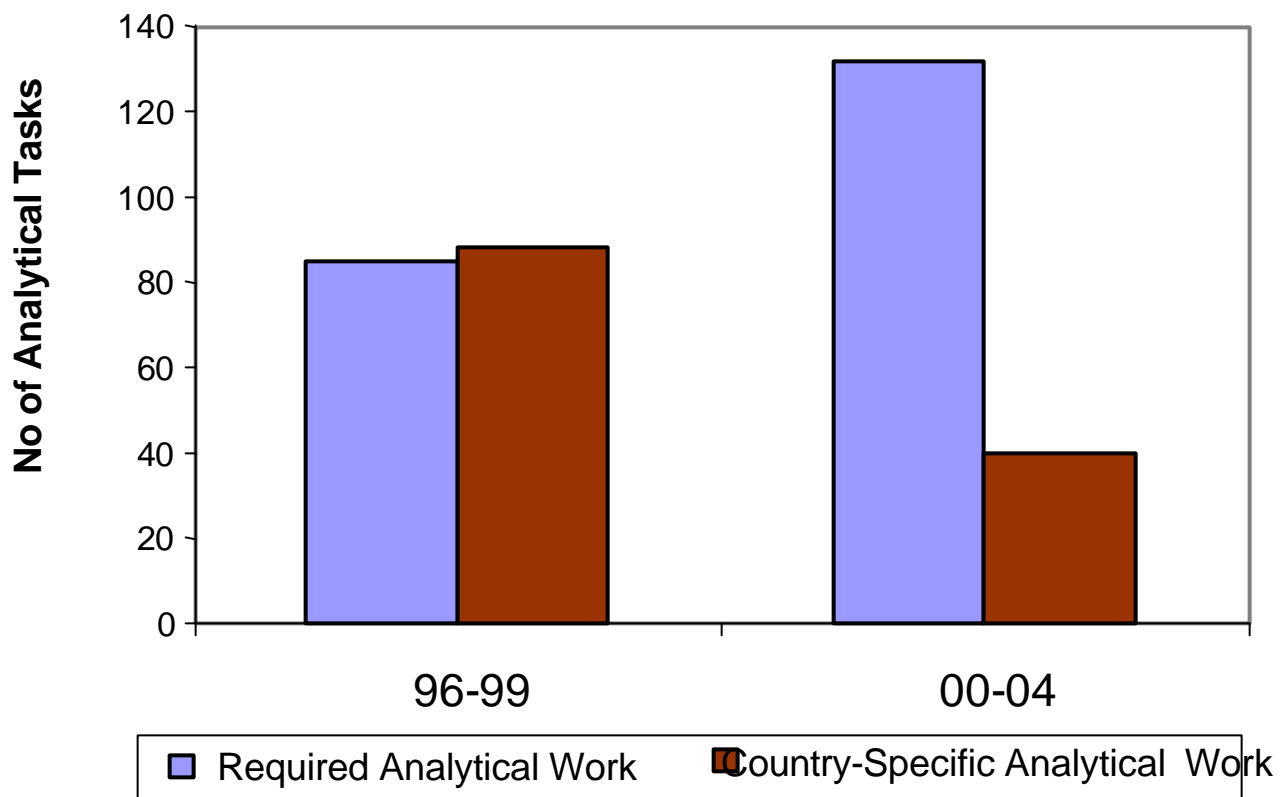
Strategies do not feature poverty impact and growth



- weak analytical base
- narrow public expenditure focus
- inordinate attention to the social sectors

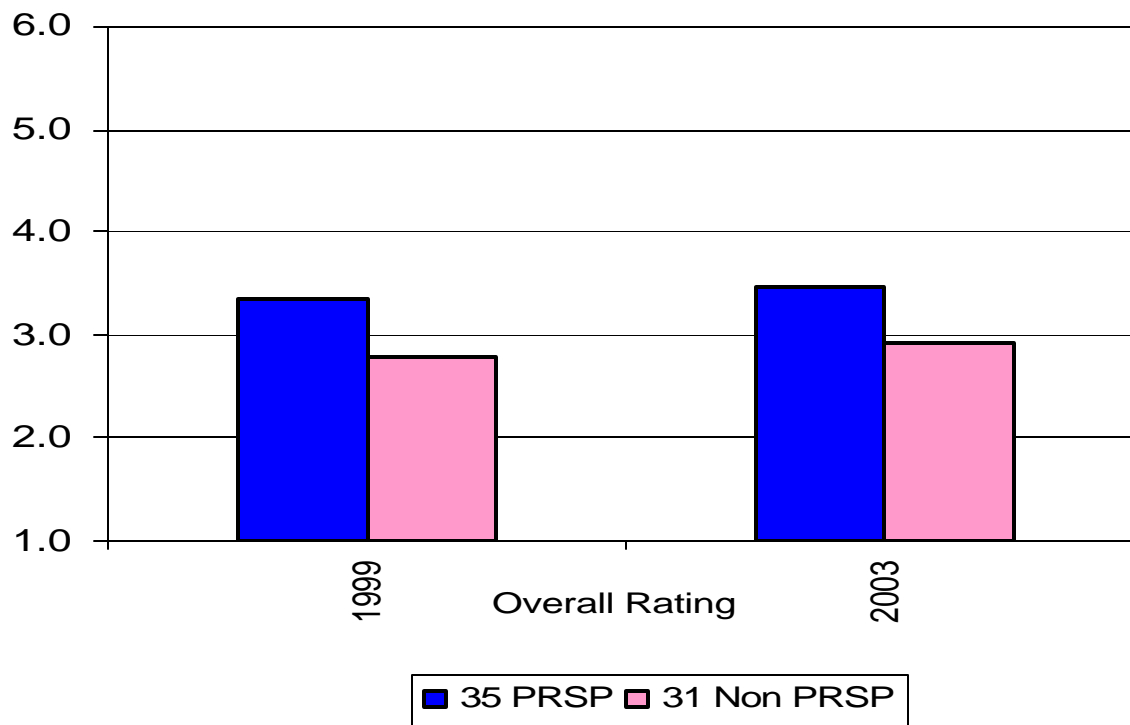


Bank's country-specific analytical work declined



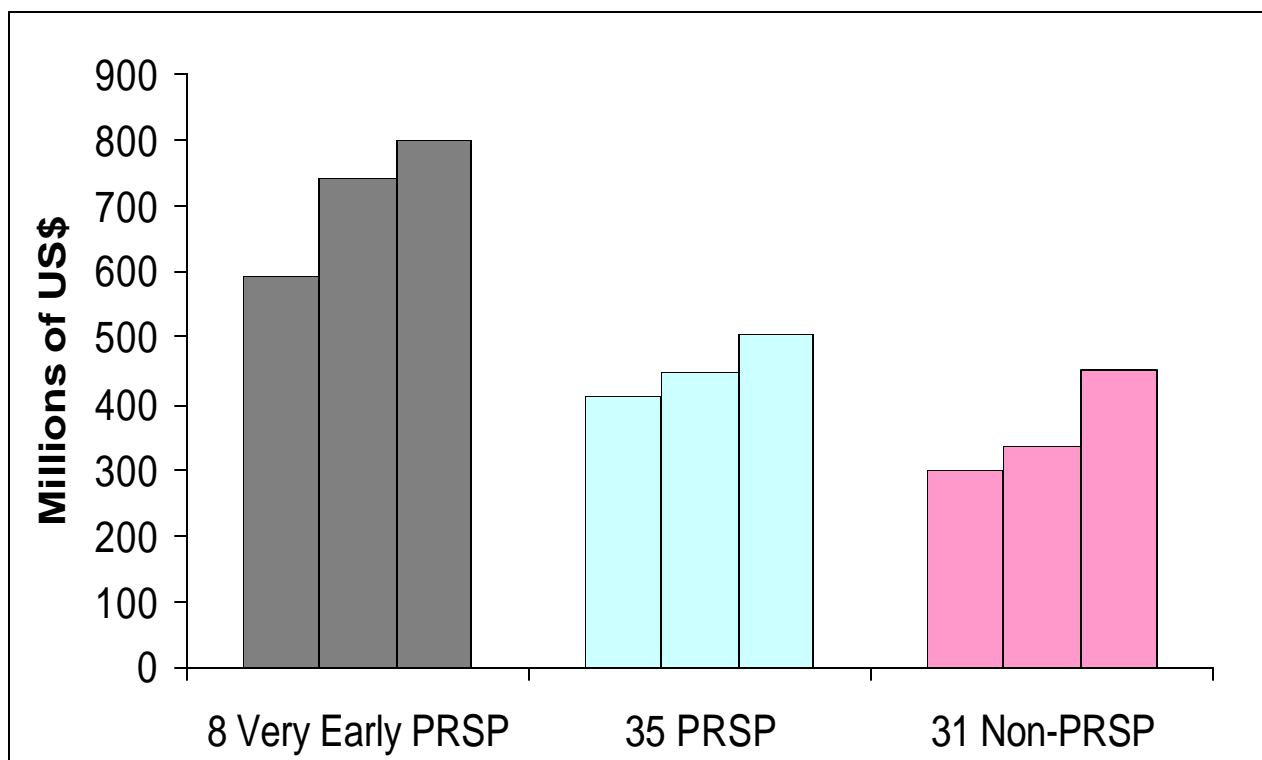
PRSP countries began with better policies

Absolute Levels of CPIA – 1999 and 2003



Aid to PRSP and non-PRSP countries increasing

Average Net ODA Flows Per Country 2000 - 2002





Poverty impact still unknown

Progress on MDGs Between 1999 and 2003 (12 PRSP Countries)

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty	NOT ENOUGH DATA
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	Improved
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	NOT ENOUGH DATA
Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality	No improvement
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	NOT ENOUGH DATA
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	NOT ENOUGH DATA
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	Improved
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	NOT ENOUGH DATA



OED's recommendations

- Focus on improving domestic processes...not submitting documents.
- Change Board review and staff assessment processes to improve country ownership.
- Help identify actions with the most poverty pay-off.
- Use PRSP to define a partnership framework with mutual accountability.





The End

