

# Overview of Current Poverty Reduction Strategies

Presentation for  
*Tackling Poverty Together*  
Ndola Workshop  
27-30 October 2005

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
(ECA)

# Overview

- What are PRSPs?
- PRSPs in Africa
- PRSPs and Africa's youth
- Country example – Ethiopia
- Other African examples
- MDGs and the link with PRSPs
- Role of the ECA

# PRSPs

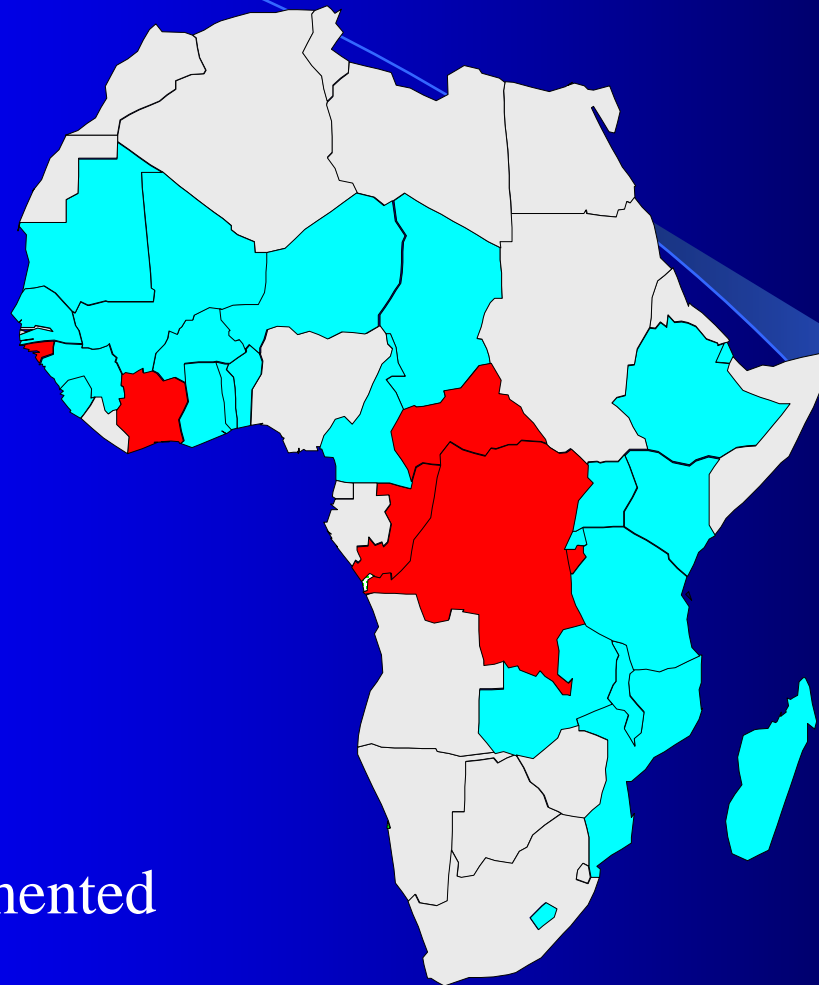
- PRSPs first emerged in 1999/2000
- Framework for priority setting (macroeconomic, structural and social policies)
- Facilitate cooperation with development partners (World Bank, IMF and UN agencies) and civil society (youth)
- Updated every 3 years plus annual progress report



# How are they different from previous approaches?

- Recognise importance of pro-poor growth
- Encourage national ownership and public consultation, prioritize public actions
- Linked to public expenditure and development assistance
  - A prerequisite for multilateral debt relief (HIPC initiative)
- Monitoring of poverty

# PRSPs in Africa (Oct 2005)

- 25 African countries have implemented full PRSPs
  - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
- A further 6 countries have interim PRSPs (I-PRSPs)
  - Burundi, Central African Republic, D.R.C, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau



-  PRSPs implemented
-  I-PRSPs implemented

# PRSPs and Africa's Youth

- Why is youth an important issue in PRSPs?
  - Poverty – 209 million young people (18%) live on less than US\$1/day, with 515 million (45%) surviving on less than \$2/day (WYR05)
  - Youth in SSA have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest unemployment rate (21%) after the MENA
  - Exacerbated by other dimensions – HIV/AIDS, poor education, conflict/wars
  - Youth poverty is multidimensional

# Youth and Employment in PRSPs

- ECA's Economic Report on Africa 2005
  - Out of 21 PRSPs (as of October 2004) only 11 had at least one core section analyzing youth employment
  - But 17 PRSPs contained some goals or actions targeting job creation for young people
  - Only 5 had the objective of improving decent work for young people

# Youth and Employment in PRSPs

- These PRSPs identify three general areas of action for youth employment:
  - Vocational training and technical education
  - Macroeconomic policies
  - Private sector development

# Example – Ethiopia's PRSP

- PRSP (SDPRP) was completed in July 2002 and covered the following youth related issues
- **Health**
  - HIV/AIDS – capacity building/training, strategic framework for fighting the disease, programs for out-of-school youth and street adolescences, substance abuse
  - Family health services
- **Education**
  - Improve farming skills
  - Non-formal education for those 15+ – basic skills training

# Example – Ethiopia's PRSP

- **Employment**

- Ensuring diligence and work preparedness
- Expand job opportunities through skill training

- **Agriculture**

- A cross-cutting issue as part of a agricultural development led industrialization

# Ensuring Diligence and Work Preparedness

“In this regard, there is a need for creating mechanisms in which the existing farming population can progressively improve its lot and benefit from development and thereby keep up its work preparedness and initiatives. The main areas of emphasis in this respect are the youth. In order for the youth to develop the desire to be engaged in agriculture and work diligently, it is necessary to create a conducive environment in which schools produce a productive and industrious citizenry, and in which educated youths employed in agriculture are able to seize opportunities towards raising their incomes to a level attained by youths working in other fields in the secondary and

# Progress Report for Ethiopia

- PRSP Progress Report out at the end of 2003
  - Coordinate the implementation of the SDPRP
  - Provide the basis for continuing dialogue with the donor community, private sector and NGOs
- In general progress is good
  - Access to education has increased – the gross primary enrollment rate rose from 64.4% in 2002/03 to 79.2% in 2004/05 (target – 65%)
  - But problems remain in terms of education quality

# According to the Progress Report...

- Participatory process – discussion on youth policy was undertaken with youth
- Capacity building for youth associations
- Youth assoc. have also been working on the issue of HIV/AIDS through prevention, cure and support activities
- But the report also acknowledges that youth unemployment remains “a major social problem”

# Other African examples

- Job creation for young people in PRSPs
  - Djibouti – development of SMEs, fishing, agrobusiness and tourism sectors
  - Madagascar – Setting up different agricultural activities for young people
  - Mauritania – Creating a multiservice terminal with access to a database for unemployed graduates

# Youth are still being overlooked

- View of poverty is static while youth poverty is dynamic
- Lack of data
- Commitments are not specific enough

# Millennium Development Goals

- **Goal 1** – Eradicate extreme poverty hunger
- **Goal 2** – Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3** – Promote gender equality and empower women
- **Goal 4** – Reduce child mortality
- **Goal 5** – Improve maternal health
- **Goal 6** – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- **Goal 7** – Ensure environmental sustainability
- **Goal 8** – Develop a global partnership for development

# MDGs

- MDGs linked to 18 targets and 48 indicators
  - medium to long-term
- MDG reports and indicators are used to monitor progress at the country-level, in regions and globally
- Youth
  - Target 16 (Goal 8) – “In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth”
  - But youth is also a cross-cutting issue

# MDGs

- **Goal 1** – Eradicate extreme poverty hunger
- **Goal 2** – Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3** – Promote gender equality and empower women
- **Goal 4** – Reduce child mortality
- **Goal 5** – Improve maternal health
- **Goal 6** – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- **Goal 7** – Ensure environmental sustainability
- **Goal 8** – Develop a global partnership for development

# Which countries are on track?

- North Africa
- Goal 1 (poverty) – Botswana, **Burkina Faso**, **Cameroon**, **Ghana**, **Lesotho**, South Africa, **Uganda**
- Goal 2 – Botswana, **Cape Verde**, Gabon, Namibia, **Rwanda**, **Sao Tome and Principe**, Togo and Zimbabwe
- Goal 3 – Botswana, **Lesotho**, Namibia, **Rwanda**
- Goal 4 – **Cape Verde**
- Goal 5 – Botswana, **Cape Verde**, **the Gambia**
- Goal 6 (HIV/AIDS) – Botswana, **Uganda**, Zimbabwe

# MDGs and PRSPs

- MDGs have to be embedded into national policies
  - Millennium Project
  - PRSPs are the main framework for achieving this in the short-term
- Youth involvement?

# The role of the ECA

- Who are we?
  - Est. 1958
  - One of five regional commissions under HQ
  - Mandate – support economic and social development of 53 member states, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development
  - Reports to UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

# The role of the ECA

- Provide more detailed analysis on PRSPs including youth
  - African Learning Group on the PRSP – A Youth PRSP-LG?
  - Economic Report on Africa 2005
- ADF V – Develop a youth programme
- MDGs ([www.uneca.org/mdgs](http://www.uneca.org/mdgs))
  - MDG Progress Report – “The Millennium Development Goals in Africa – Progress and Challenges”

# New Partnership for Africa's Development

- Vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal set up by the African Union
- Primary objectives
  - Eradicate poverty
  - Put African growth and sustainable dev on right path
  - Halt marginalisation of Africa in global world
  - Accelerate empowerment of women
- NEPAD Youth Programme