

IEG Approach Paper
Getting to Poverty: Lessons from the World Bank's Record on
Supporting Poverty Reduction in Country Programs

Report to the Board of Executive Directors from the
Committee on Development Effectiveness
Sub-Committee Report*

Meeting of February 12, 2014

The Sub-Committee (SC) of the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) considered IEG's Approach Paper entitled *Getting to Poverty: Lessons from the World Bank's Record on Supporting Poverty Reduction in Country Programs* (CODE2014-0001).

The Sub-Committee welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Approach Paper, and acknowledged the relevance and timeliness of the proposed evaluation in the context of the Bank's poverty agenda and change process. Members broadly supported the defined scope and methodology of the proposed evaluation. They underscored the need for a pragmatic and practical exercise that could feed into the preparation and design work that is underway with the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) and the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and, in this respect, asked for more clarity on the useful inputs the evaluation will bring. Members particularly welcomed IEG's commitment to closely coordinate with Management by providing early inputs and by sharing knowledge and findings as they emerge to help optimize the development of the SCD and CPF.

Members recognized that the evaluation will examine a period where the Bank did not have a strategic decision and corporate guidance on poverty reduction. They encouraged IEG to place focus on the factors that explain the diversity of outcomes and the gaps associated with data availability and quality, as well as the drivers for effective utilization of data in Bank's engagement with partner countries and in the formulation of country programs. As regards sampling criteria, while members appreciated that the evaluation will cover a wide spectrum of countries, including low-income and fragile and conflict affected situations, many members emphasized the need to consider certain underlying issues related to poverty such as vulnerability, inequality and gender, in order to reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty. The Sub-Committee requested that the evaluation capture both lessons-learned and good practices and inquired whether the title of the evaluation can be phrased in a clearer fashion.

Members strongly welcomed IEG's clarification that the evaluation will be conducted within the ambit of the confirmed policies and the agreed definitions and targets that the Board and the Governors have endorsed. While the evaluation is proposed to focus on extreme poverty reduction, members cautioned that poverty reduction is expressed as part of the WBG twin goals which are intertwined and that shared prosperity may also contribute to extreme poverty reduction.

* This report is not an approved record.