



MEDIA ADVISORY

From Evidence to Policy - Innovations in Shaping Reforms in Africa

The River Club: Liesbeek Parkway & Observatory Road, Observatory, Cape Town

EVENT PAGE: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2015/06/25/from-evidence-to-policy-innovations-in-shaping-reforms-in-africa> **RSVP:** Simona Palummo, spalummo@worldbankgroup.org

Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) is a versatile approach to assess the distributional and social impacts of policy reforms on different groups, with emphasis on the poor and vulnerable. This analysis offers insights into different policy options, supports the decision making process, can help mitigate potential negative impacts and identify pathways to more inclusive reforms. This conference brings together high-level government officials, practitioners and academics -- focusing on South-South learning and collaboration.

The University of Cape Town has a long and proud tradition of doing rigorous social science research and we welcome this opportunity to learn more about a variety of innovative methods for studying the impact of government policies on different groups in society.

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

8:30 – 9:00 am Coffee

9:00 – 9:15 am **Welcome and Overview for Day 2**

9:15 – 10:30 am **KEYNOTE 3: Making it happen – the political economy of policy reform**

Leonard Wantchekon, Professor of Politics, Princeton University

Chair: Pablo Fajnzylber, Practice Manager, World Bank

Discussant: Maitreyi Das, Global Lead for Social Inclusion, World Bank

10:30 – 11:00 am Coffee break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **SESSION 3: Engaging stakeholders and navigating reforms**

Talk-show style discussion highlighting examples of effective partnerships and inclusive stakeholder consultations. The session closes with Q&A.

Moderator: Maria Beatriz Orlando, Program Manager PSIA MDTF

Universal price subsidies in Cameroon

Carlo del Ninno, Senior Economist, World Bank

Enhancing poverty-orientation and local governance of the Locality Development Fund in Sudan

Moslem Ahmed Alamir, Senior Economist, World Bank

12:30 – 2:00 pm Lunch

12:30 – 2:00 pm **LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE: Challenges for producing and using evidence to inform policy making in Africa – and what can be done**

Mthuli Ncube, Professor of Public Policy, University of Oxford

Chair and discussant: Catriona Purfield, Program Leader, World Bank

2:00 – 3:15 pm

SESSION 4: Innovations in methods for PSIA #2

Expert presentations on select tools and methods of analysis, followed by Q&A.

Chair and discussant: Gabriela Inchauste, Lead Economist, World Bank

Bank

Municipal ICT capacity and its impact on the climate-change affected urban poor in Mozambique

Gaurav Relhan, ICT Specialist, World Bank

North Africa regional study on subsidies

Paolo Verme, Senior Economist, World Bank

Fiscal policy and the reduction of inequality in South Africa

Ingrid Woolard, Professor, School of Economics, University of Cape Town

3:15 – 3:45 pm

Coffee break

3:45 – 5:15 pm

CLOSING PANEL – Lessons learned and an agenda for moving forward

Chair and moderator: Pippa Green, Communication Manager, National Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth, based at SALDRU, University of Cape Town

Mthuli Ncube, Professor of Public Policy, University of Oxford

Shrikant Baldi, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and Planning, Government of Himachal Pradesh, India

Diaby Lanciné, Director General, Fight Against Poverty, State Ministry of Planning and Development, Cote d'Ivoire

Maitreyi Das, Global Lead for Social Inclusion, World Bank

Background

Addressing global development issues often requires effective policy reforms. Some of these reforms are justified from a fiscal and macroeconomic perspective, but may have unintended impacts on different groups of the population, particularly the poor and most vulnerable. Reforms have costs and benefits which are usually distributed unequally across different groups of the population.

PSIA involves the analysis of the distributional impact of policy reforms. The methods can be applied to a wide range of issues, e.g. budget reforms to enhance the effectiveness of government spending, institutional reforms; structural reforms and improved governance. PSIA is a systematic analytic approach that allows researchers to study the differential impact of policy reforms on different groups – e.g. rich versus poor, children versus adults or the elderly, men versus women, urban versus rural households. Effective PSIA is undertaken early in the policy change process so that it can inform the re-design of reforms, and address the risks to policy implementation.

PSIA focuses on assessing distributional impacts on well-being, including both its income and non-income dimensions. With poverty now recognized as multidimensional, development efforts - such as those envisaged in South Africa's National

Development Plan - are being targeted to address both income and non-income measures of wellbeing and poverty.

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