

**COUNTRY EXAMPLES OF PRS FORMULATION,  
MONITORING AND EVALUATION BY  
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

**Analysis of the Proposed 2005/2006 Malawi National Budget** JULY 2005  
*Malawi Economic Justice Network*

The 2005/06 Budget Analysis report by MEJN seeks to help civil society, parliamentary committees and other stakeholders to understand the budget as tabled in Parliament on 10 June 2005. [www.sarpn.org.za/](http://www.sarpn.org.za/) (...)

**Driving Under the Influence: Senegal's PRSP Process** MAY 2005  
*Social Justice Committee*

This report argues that lack of government capacity resulted in a highly protracted and limited participatory process, while the IMF and the World Bank intervened to influence the direction of the macroeconomic framework of the PRSP. Overall, the process fell short of being country owned or country driven.

[www.s-j-c.net/English/ejustice/publications/](http://www.s-j-c.net/English/ejustice/publications/) (...)

**Eurodad Country Update: Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategies in 2005** MAY 2005  
*Eurodad*

This update takes a critical look at the development of Zambia's forthcoming second poverty reduction strategy, highlighting civil society concerns and exploring the lessons Zambia's initial experience might shed for other countries about to engage in a round-two PRSP.

[www.eurodad.org/](http://www.eurodad.org/) (...)

**Participatory Monitoring of PRS and Pro-Poor Expenditure in Selected Districts and Areas of Arusha Region, Tanzania** NOVEMBER 2004  
*Hakikazi Catalyst*

This report makes a contribution to the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan by monitoring budget inputs, outputs and outcomes for the PRSP priority sectors of education, health, agriculture, water and roads, in grassroots communities in selected areas of Arusha Municipal and Arumeru Districts in Arusha Region. [www.hakikazi.org/papers/](http://www.hakikazi.org/papers/) (...)

**Civil Society Organizations and the PRSP Process in Bangladesh: Lessons Learned** 2004  
*FIM*

This paper argues that the PRSP process in Bangladesh is yet to be truly participatory and nationally owned. [www.fimcivilsociety.org/](http://www.fimcivilsociety.org/) (...)

**Developing Strategies for Effective Civil Society Involvement within the PRSP Processes: Lessons from the Ugandan Experience** 2004  
*FIM*

This paper argues that by devising clear action strategies that took advantage of a relatively conducive political environment, Ugandan civil society organizations have been highly effective in their engagement in the PRSP process. [www.fimcivilsociety.org/](http://www.fimcivilsociety.org/) (...)

**Are PRSPs Combating Rural Poverty in Honduras and Nicaragua?** AUGUST 2004  
*Trocaire*

Although the PRSPs in both countries recognize inequality as an important determinant of poverty, this paper argues that they fail to adequately address inequity in the distribution of income and resources as a means of reducing poverty.

[www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/](http://www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/) (...)

**PRP Implementation and Performance, Impact on National Development, Constraints, Challenges and Way Forward** AUGUST 2004  
*Civil Society for Poverty Reduction Zambia*

This report describes the CSPR approach to monitoring and evaluating the PRSP process. CSPR is monitoring the Government's commitment to PRSP implementation through allocation and disbursements to poverty reduction programmes (PRP) in the national budget. The report describes PRSP monitoring results for 2004 and concludes that a greater commitment and political will is needed for PRSP to be considered a genuine agenda for Zambia's poverty reduction.

[www.cspr.org.zm/Reports&Updates/](http://www.cspr.org.zm/Reports&Updates/) (...)

**Tracking Poverty Reduction Expenditures under the PRSP: An Analysis of 2002 and 2003 Budgets** JUNE 2004  
*Civil Society for Poverty Reduction Zambia*

CSPR Zambia participated in the process of formulating a PRSP for Zambia. This report seeks to assist Government, civil society and other stakeholders in monitoring implementation of the PRSP, while tracking resources that have been used under the PRSP to fight poverty.

[www.cspr.org.zm/](http://www.cspr.org.zm/) (...)

**The Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy: A Position Paper** OCTOBER 2003  
*ISODEC*

This report argues that the PRSP process in Ghana and the development of the Ghana poverty education strategy have generally been participatory and country-generated. However, both have been done within conditions laid down by the donor community. [www.isodec.org.gh/Papers/GPRSpositionpaper.PDF](http://www.isodec.org.gh/Papers/GPRSpositionpaper.PDF)

**Civil Society Participation in Rwanda's Poverty Reduction Strategy** SEPTEMBER 2003  
*IDPM – University of Antwerp*

This report argues that there has been very little civil society participation, and that any other outcome would have been quite unlikely, possibly even undesirable. It argues that donors should dramatically tone down their ambitions, and set country-specific, and limited but firm benchmarks that a government must respect in its relations with civil society. [www.ua.ac.be/](http://www.ua.ac.be/) (...)

**The PRSP Process in Uganda** DECEMBER 2002  
*Uganda Debt Network*

The case of the PRSP process in Uganda shows how CSOs can influence policy planning at the macro level. In examining civil society participation in the preparation of the PRSP, the paper analyses broader issues including achievements, opportunities and challenges faced by CSOs. [www.udn.or.ug/pub/prsp.pdf](http://www.udn.or.ug/pub/prsp.pdf)

**Strengthening Civil Society from the Outside? Donor-driven Consultation and Participation Processes in Poverty Reduction Strategies: The Bolivian Case** OCTOBER 2002  
*IDPM–University of Antwert*

Certain civil society organizations played a role in the PRSP in Bolivia, but their involvement alienated some other parts of civil society, like social movements and indigenous peoples. The impact of CSO participation remained limited to social issues. [www.ua.ac.be/](http://www.ua.ac.be/) (...)

**Comparative Analysis of Five African Countries with Completed PRSP (Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda)** 2002  
*AFRODAD*

These studies on the participation of civil society in the processes leading to the preparation of PRSPs found that the conversion of the content and process of national initiatives into PRSPs undermined local ownership. [www.afrodad.org/prsp/pdf/synthesis.pdf](http://www.afrodad.org/prsp/pdf/synthesis.pdf)

**GUIDES TO CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT  
IN THE PRS PROCESS**

**Who's Richer, Who's Poorer?: A Journalist's Guide to the Politics of Poverty Reduction Strategies** 2005  
*Panos*

This guide provides information for media personnel on the basic issues surrounding PRSPs. It asks what impact, if any, the papers have on reducing poverty and suggests some ways in which the media can help to instigate public debate. The guide presents the principles underlying the PRSPs and explains the differences between them and structural adjustment programmes. [www.panos.org.uk/files/prsptoolkit1.pdf](http://www.panos.org.uk/files/prsptoolkit1.pdf)

**Online Guide to Civil Society Engagement in Advocacy on Economic Justice and PRSP** MAY 2004  
*Trocaire*

This guide aims to help civil society organizations build their capacity to engage with economic justice issues and the PRSP process in their countries. It adopts the PRSP approach as a framework for identifying areas for civil society engagement in advancing economic justice. It features over 100 valuable training resources, case studies and commentaries. [www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/](http://www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/) (...)

**Influencing Poverty Reduction Strategies: A Guide** MARCH 2002  
*Oxfam UK*

This guide is intended as a resource for organizations concerned with influencing and monitoring national policy-making in developing countries to benefit the poor. It focuses on policy-making in low-income countries. [www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/) (...)

**Guide to PRSPs** NOVEMBER 2001  
*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*

This guide argues that the PRSP framework provides a new opening for trade unions to engage with their governments and demand a role in policy-making. The PRSP also gives unions a chance to work with NGOs and other entities of civil society and form meaningful relationships with potential allies for future campaigns. [www.icftu.org/](http://www.icftu.org/) (...)



**POVERTY  
REDUCTION  
STRATEGIES**

**PERSPECTIVES FROM  
Civil Society**

This resource sheet produced by UNDP lists some key papers and reports on poverty reduction strategies (PRS) from the perspective of civil society organizations.

For full web links and more information, please visit:

[www.undp.org/cso](http://www.undp.org/cso)

[www.undp.org/poverty](http://www.undp.org/poverty)





## CIVIL SOCIETY VIEWS ON THE PRS PROCESS

**Poverty Reduction: Are the Strategies Working?** JUNE 2005  
*World Vision UK in partnership with WV Zambia and WV Bolivia*  
This report argues that fundamental improvements to poverty reduction strategies are required if the PRS is to become the mechanism for the poor to influence and hold the national poverty reduction processes accountable.  
[www.worldvision.org.uk/resources/](http://www.worldvision.org.uk/resources/) (...)

**The Poverty Reduction Strategies: A Survey of the Literature** June 2005  
*Forum Syd*  
The survey concludes that when it comes to the five principles of the PRSP, neither contents nor process meets the standard. However, when PRSPs are well entrenched nationally, they have a fair chance of being implemented. Locally elaborated PRSPs simply stand a greater chance of success and to become long-term policy, as they are part of the local political culture. [www.eurodad.org/](http://www.eurodad.org/) (...)

**Eurodad Submission to WB/IMF PRS Review** June 2005  
*Eurodad*  
Contending that the PRS process adopted by the World Bank and the IMF in 1999 has failed to live up to its promises of enabling a country-driven, participatory and poverty-focused development process, Eurodad presents policy proposals for the Bank and the Fund to ensure that their roles contribute to the fulfillment of PRSP principles. [www.eurodad.org/articles/](http://www.eurodad.org/articles/) (...)

**Denying Democracy: How the IMF and World Bank Take Power from People** MAY 2005  
*World Development Movement*  
This report argues that despite the rhetoric on 'country-owned' PRSPs, the process has been characterized by a series of flaws that reduce, rather than increase the influence people in developing countries have over policies implemented by their governments.  
[www.wdm.org.uk/democracy/democracy.pdf](http://www.wdm.org.uk/democracy/democracy.pdf)

**Participatory Learning and Action 51: Civil Society and Poverty Reduction** APRIL 2005  
*International Institute for Environment and Development*  
This special issue of *Participatory Learning and Action* captures the experiences of Southern CSOs engaged in the monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of poverty reduction strategy processes. It explores the ways in which CSOs are working to articulate and realize the rights of poor people, and examines the accountability of governments and other powerful actors to the poor.  
[www.iied.org/NR/](http://www.iied.org/NR/) (...)

**CIDSE/Caritas Internationalis Submission to World Bank/IMF 2005 PRS Review** APRIL 2005  
*CIDSE / Caritas Internationalis*  
CIDSE argues that national policy decision-making must be brought within a country-owned, participatory, accountable decision-making framework. The question of how to achieve and sustain this objective must be central to the PRSP. [www.cidse.org/docs/](http://www.cidse.org/docs/) (...)

**PRSP as Theatre: Backstage Policymaking and the Future of the PRSP Approach** SEPTEMBER 2004  
*CIDSE / Caritas Internationalis*  
This paper opines that PRSPs have in many cases become "theatre." The processes fulfilled have little bearing on the actual policies implemented. The real decisions are taken elsewhere, such as through national budget implementation and trade negotiations.  
[www.cidse.org/docs/](http://www.cidse.org/docs/) (...)

**Rough Diamond: PRSPs and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Bank and IMF** SEPTEMBER 2004  
*World Vision*  
This report argues that the World Bank and IMF have not analyzed and prepared for the political economy of PRSPs, failing to help governments and civil society to work together in policy-making. The PRSPs must be rescued and reformed if the MDGs are to be met by 2015. [www.global-poverty.org/PolicyAdvocacy/](http://www.global-poverty.org/PolicyAdvocacy/) (...)

**Second Generation Poverty Reduction Strategies: Synthesis Note** JULY 2004  
*Overseas Development Institute*  
This paper examines the particular challenges and opportunities confronting countries formulating and implementing their "second generation" PRSPs. [www.prpsynthesis.org/synthesis10.pdf](http://www.prpsynthesis.org/synthesis10.pdf)

**Politics and the PRSP Approach: Synthesis Paper** JULY 2004  
*Overseas Development Institute*  
The findings of these case studies suggest that pro-poor change is possible but that change is largely incremental.  
[www.prpsynthesis.org/wp237\\_politics\\_synthesis.pdf](http://www.prpsynthesis.org/wp237_politics_synthesis.pdf)

**PRSP: Lessons Learnt—Recommendations to the World Bank, IMF and Donors for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation of PRSPs** APRIL 2004  
*Trócaire*  
This briefing synthesizes the Trócaire experience with PRSPs. It finds that donors are not much more likely to harmonize aid with national priorities—or with one another—and the IFIs continue to impose the same conditions which characterized structural adjustment with scant regard for national ownership.  
[www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/](http://www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/) (...)

**PRSP: Are the World Bank and IMF Delivering on Promises?** APRIL 2004  
*CIDSE/Caritas Internationalis*  
This review looks at the quality and results of the PRSP in 19 countries, with a focus on the effectiveness of the IMF and World Bank roles in the PRSP process. [www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/](http://www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/) (...)

**From "Donorship" to Ownership? Moving Towards PRSP Round Two** January 2004  
*Oxfam International*  
The authors find that despite opening new spaces for dialogue, PRSPs have been disappointing both in process and content. On process, Oxfam recognizes that PRSPs have been a step forward, but "consultation" is a more appropriate description than "participation" in almost all cases. [www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/) (...)

**Reducing Poverty or Repeating Mistakes?** DECEMBER 2003  
*Church of Sweden Aid, Diakonia, Save the Children Sweden and The Swedish Jubilee Network*  
Produced by the Swedish People Participating in Poverty Reduction (PPPR) programme, this report outlines the perspectives, positions and recommendations of PPPR partners on the PRSP process and policy content, and implementation and monitoring.  
[www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/develop/](http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/develop/) (...)

**Between Grassroots and Governments—Civil Society Experiences with the PRSPs** SEPTEMBER 2003  
*Danish Institute for International Studies*  
This paper focuses on civil society experience with locally identified priorities in planning and implementing PRSPs. It presents a range of challenges and dilemmas for CSOs in their efforts to combat poverty. Special attention is given to civil society initiatives in poverty eradication and CSO responses to PRSPs in provinces, districts and communities.  
[www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/WP2003/sup\\_grassroots.pdf](http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/WP2003/sup_grassroots.pdf)

**CIDSE/Caritas Internationalis Input to the IMF's Independent Evaluation Office and the World Bank's Operations Evaluation Department Evaluation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers** AUGUST 2003  
*CIDSE/Caritas Internationalis*  
This review looks at the quality and results of PRSPs in ten countries with a focus on the effectiveness of the IMF and World Bank roles in the process. It recommends that the two institutions take specific initiatives related to their own internal structures, processes and policies. [www.prsp-watch.de/publikationen/](http://www.prsp-watch.de/publikationen/) (...)

**Failing Women, Sustaining Poverty: Gender in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers** MAY 2003  
*Christian Aid*  
This report makes a gender analysis of the PRSPs of Tanzania, Bolivia, Malawi and Yemen. It concludes that gender issues appear in a fragmented and arbitrary way in PRSP policy priorities and budget commitments. While women's needs are raised, especially in the health and education sectors, gender is not integrated or mainstreamed in the PRSPs. [www.christianaid.org.uk/indepth/](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/indepth/) (...)

**Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: A Poor Package for Poverty Reduction** JANUARY 2003  
*Focus on the Global South*  
This report considers that little has changed in the substance, form and process of World Bank and IMF programmes. "Poverty" is used as window dressing to peddle more or less the same Structural Adjustment Programmes to low income countries that led them into a state of chronic economic crisis to begin with.  
[www.focusweb.org/content/](http://www.focusweb.org/content/) (...)

**PRS-Watch List Serve**  
*Eurodad*  
Subscription to the Eurodad PRS-watch newsletter offers readers a combination of short analytical pieces on key developments on various themes, and summary documents, invitations and requests from external sources. [www.eurodad.org/aboutus/](http://www.eurodad.org/aboutus/) (...)

## CIVIL SOCIETY VIEWS ON PARTICIPATION IN THE PRS PROCESS

**PRSPs, Minorities and Indigenous Peoples—An Issues Paper** JULY 2005  
*Minority Rights Group International*  
This report argues that while some governments are collecting disaggregated data on minorities and indigenous peoples, they seldom consult or invite these groups to participate in the design of policies or programmes to alleviate poverty.  
[www.minorityrights.org/](http://www.minorityrights.org/) (...)

**Rethinking Participation: Questions for Civil Society about the Limits of Participation in the PRSPs** APRIL 2004  
*Action Aid USA/Action Aid Uganda*  
While acknowledging the benefits of CSO engagement in public PRSP consultations, this paper raises important questions for CSOs about the limitations and constraints of consultations documented over the last four years. [www.actionaidusa.org/](http://www.actionaidusa.org/) (...)

**Children and Young People Participating in PRSP Processes—Lessons from Save The Children's Experiences** 2004  
*Save The Children*  
This paper outlines the experience of Save the Children in facilitating the participation of children and young people in PRSP processes. It explores the difficulties and challenges of involving children, and argues that children and young people can make a significant contribution to developing effective strategies to tackle poverty.  
[www.savethechildren.org.uk/](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/) (...)

**Lessons Learnt on Civil Society Engagement in PRSP Processes in Bolivia, Kenya and Uganda** JULY 2002  
*Institute of Development Studies—University of Sussex*  
This report recommends that in order to ensure quality participation, coordinated efforts should be made to decentralize skills and information downwards. Simultaneously, complementary horizontal relationships between civil society actors and government should be sought. PRSP-initiated processes such as consultations, Participatory Poverty Assessments and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms provide spaces for decentralizing capacity building. [www.ids.ac.uk/](http://www.ids.ac.uk/) (...)

**Capacity Building for Engagement in Economic Policy** JUNE 2002  
*Eurodad*  
This broad review of literature on participation by the Economic Policy Empowerment Programme, an initiative of Eurodad, examines poverty reduction strategies to define what constitutes good practice in civil society participation, and to begin to identify entry points and successful strategies. [www.eurodad.org/epep/](http://www.eurodad.org/epep/) (...)

**Quality Participation in Poverty Reduction Strategies** FEBRUARY 2002  
*Christian Aid*  
Research commissioned by Christian Aid in Bolivia, Malawi and Rwanda concludes that exclusion has marked the PRS process. The report argues that governments need to pro-actively seek the direct participation of ordinary people, in particular excluded groups, and the involvement of a broad range of CSOs.  
[www.christian-aid.org.uk/](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/) (...)