

ACCURACY

Key Issues

Implementation Issues

- Quality control with users, 2005 and beyond
- Skills of the implementers (surveyors)
- Ease for staff to collect accurate info (link to real world poverty)
- Ease for clients to provide accurate info (link to real world poverty)
- Short time-frame implications

- Simple and accurate link to real world poverty
- Reduce biases/be sure test includes the same biases as the tool
- Four test countries as proxies?
- Ability to benchmark to national poverty line and \$1, \$2 per day lines
- Interpretations of the results by stakeholders

Future of Methodology

- Ability to verify or cross-check for accuracy
- Will indicators be standard over time?

Standards for Judging Accuracy

- Accuracy comfort
- Two kinds of error: which do we worry about more?
 - “Poor as “non-poor” or “non-poor” as “poor”
- Correlate with LSMS expenditure results
- Geographical differences in accuracy (across countries and rural v. urban)
- “Winning” tools based on accuracy ranking or absolute standards?
- Implications for required percentage of target group to be very poor?

LSMS/Expenditure Challenges

- Implications of non-expenditure indicators
- Is household poverty accurate enough?
- What if the percentage of clients identified as “very poor” was less than 20%?

Accuracy: Challenges and Solutions

- Challenge: knowing how accurate is accurate enough. Solution: It’s a political decision: consultations among USAID and stakeholders to determine
- Challenge: accuracy standard. Solution: If possible, choose methods with highest “universal” accuracy (might require more than one tool)
- Challenge: four countries as proxy. Solution: Plan future on-going tests.
- Challenge: Quality control with users 2005 and beyond. Solution: Limited number of surprise poverty assessment audits 2005 and beyond done by IRIS.

- Challenge: Biases. Solution: Conduct test under the same/similar conditions as the data will be collected by the MFI.
- Challenge: Two-week implementation period for test of accuracy. Solution: Dedicate many diversified resources, including local vendors, etc.
- Challenge: Defining the accuracy standard. Solution: Examine quality of the tool, and its courage to resist influence
- Challenge: Addressing shorter-term vs. long-term vulnerability, for example in natural disaster and war.
- Challenge: Addressing urban vs. rural poverty. Solution: Employ relative poverty lines
- Challenge: Socio-political differences, i.e. ethnic groups, different access to services. Solution: Include national survey.
- Challenge: Seasonality. Solution: Evaluate indicators for seasonality-insensitivity.
- Challenge: Measuring accuracy against both the \$1/day and national poverty lines. Solution: Use \$1/day only.

Zoom Lens Report

- Consider issues of political influence in interpreting the results
- Carefully consider the implication of non-expenditure indicators
- In understanding accuracy and trying to measure ‘accuracy comfort,’ we must remember that we are dealing with the “Least Imperfect” tool.