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 eof 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.