

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966729103321
Titolo	The poverty reduction strategy initiative : an independent evaluation of the World Bank's support through 2003 // [report was prepared by a team comprising Bill Battaile ... et al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC, : World Bank, 2004
ISBN	1-280-08572-X 9786610085729 1-4175-4579-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xviii, 105 pages : illustrations ; 28 cm
Collana	Operations evaluation studies
Altri autori (Persone)	BattaileWilliam G. <1964->
Disciplina	338.91/09172/4
Soggetti	Economic assistance - Developing countries - Evaluation Economic development projects - Developing countries - Evaluation Poverty - Developing countries
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Foreword -- Acronyms and Abbreviations -- Summary of Findings and Recommendations -- 1 The PRSP Initiative: Objectives and Relevance -- What Is the PRSP Initiative? -- What Is This Review Evaluating? -- An Assessment of Relevance -- 2 Implementation of Design Features -- Application of the Underlying Principles -- The Value Added of Process Requirements -- 3 Preliminary Results -- Value Added in Planning and Links to Implementation -- Capacity Enhancement -- Preliminary Outcomes -- 4 Alignment of the Bank's Assistance -- Alignment of CAS Formulation -- Alignment of the Bank's Financial Assistance -- Alignment of the Bank's Analytical Work -- 5 Findings and Recommendations -- PRS Process -- PRSP Content and Analytical Underpinnings -- Partnership and Alignment -- Looking Forward -- Annexes -- A: Summary of the BWI Policy Papers on the PRS Initiative -- B: Guidelines for Country Case Studies -- C: PRSP Status of 81 IDA-Eligible Countries as of May 2004 -- D: Survey of National Stakeholders in the 10 Case Study Countries -- E: Review of Joint Staff Assessments of PRSPs -- F: Management Response -- G: Chairman's Summary: Committee on Development

Effectiveness (CODE) -- Endnotes -- References -- Boxes -- 1.1 Stated Objectives of the PRS Initiative -- 1.2 Key Evaluative Material for This Review -- 1.3 Some Common External Criticisms of the PRSP Initiative -- 1.4 The PRSP Initiative Means Different Things to Different People -- 2.1 Parliaments and the PRSP -- 2.2 Participation Has Largely Not Been Sustained -- 2.3 Coordinated Donor Support for PRSP Formulation in Ethiopia -- 2.4 PRSP Helps Donors Coordinate Budget Support and Streamline Performance Monitoring -- 2.5 JSAs Play Different Roles for the Bank and the Fund -- 2.6 Key Findings of IEO Review of JSAs. 2.7 Good Practice Treatment of Alternative Growth Strategies -- 2.8 New Government in Albania Uses APR to Adjust the PRSP -- 2.9 APR Requirements Unconnected to Domestic Processes -- 3.1 The PRSP Has Raised Awareness about Exploring Synergies across Sectors -- 3.2 Good Practice: Rolling PERs Analyze Options and Problems in PEM and Detailed Blueprints for Change -- 3.3 Weak Sub-National Capacity Makes Implementing PRSPs More Difficult -- Figures -- 1.1 Poverty Reduction and Growth below Expectations in the 1990s -- 1.2 A Country-Level Results Chain -- 2.1 Was the PRS Process Country-Driven? -- 2.2 Opinions Diverge on Participation -- 2.3 PRSP Process Scores High on Partnership Aspects, but Much Lower on Current Quality of Donor Coordination -- 2.4 JSAs Are Weak in Some Areas -- 3.1 Is the PRSP Process Focused on Outcomes That Benefit the Poor? -- 3.2 Post-PRSP Expenditures Continue Pre-PRSP Trend -- 3.3 Quality of Policies and Institutions in PRSP and Non-PRSP Countries -- 3.4 Average Net ODA Flows per Country -- 4.1 World Bank Lending Has Shifted to PRSP Countries -- 4.2 PRSCs Have Less Sectoral Concentration Than Previous Adjustment Lending to PRSP Countries -- 4.3 Sectoral Allocation in Bank Lending and PRSPs -- 4.4 Core ESW Increased in PRSP Countries, and They Receive More Core Diagnostic ESW Than Non-PRSP Countries -- 4.5 PRSP Alignment of the Bank's Analytical Work Was Not Rated as Highly as Alignment of Financial Assistance or Strategy -- Tables -- 2.1 Case Study Countries -- 2.2 Top 10 Priority Sectors in PRSPs by Expenditure -- 3.1 Progress in MDGs for 12 PRSP Countries with Annual Progress Reports.

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## Sommario/riassunto

The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Initiative was introduced in 1999, by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with the aim of making development aid more effective in reducing poverty in low-income countries. This publication gives an independent assessment of the PRS Initiative, reviewing the extent of progress made so far, with particular focus on the role and effectiveness of the World Banks support. The analysis draws on discussions with national stakeholders in PRS countries as well as from country case study reports from Albania, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Vietnam. Findings include that the PRS Initiative has led to improvements in the poverty focus of national strategies in some low-income countries, but its benefits have been varied, especially in more difficult country environments lacking strong governance and aid management processes. To address these issues, significant changes are identified in relation to process, content, partnership framework and alignment aspects.

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