

Parliaments and Poverty Reduction

The National Democratic Institute

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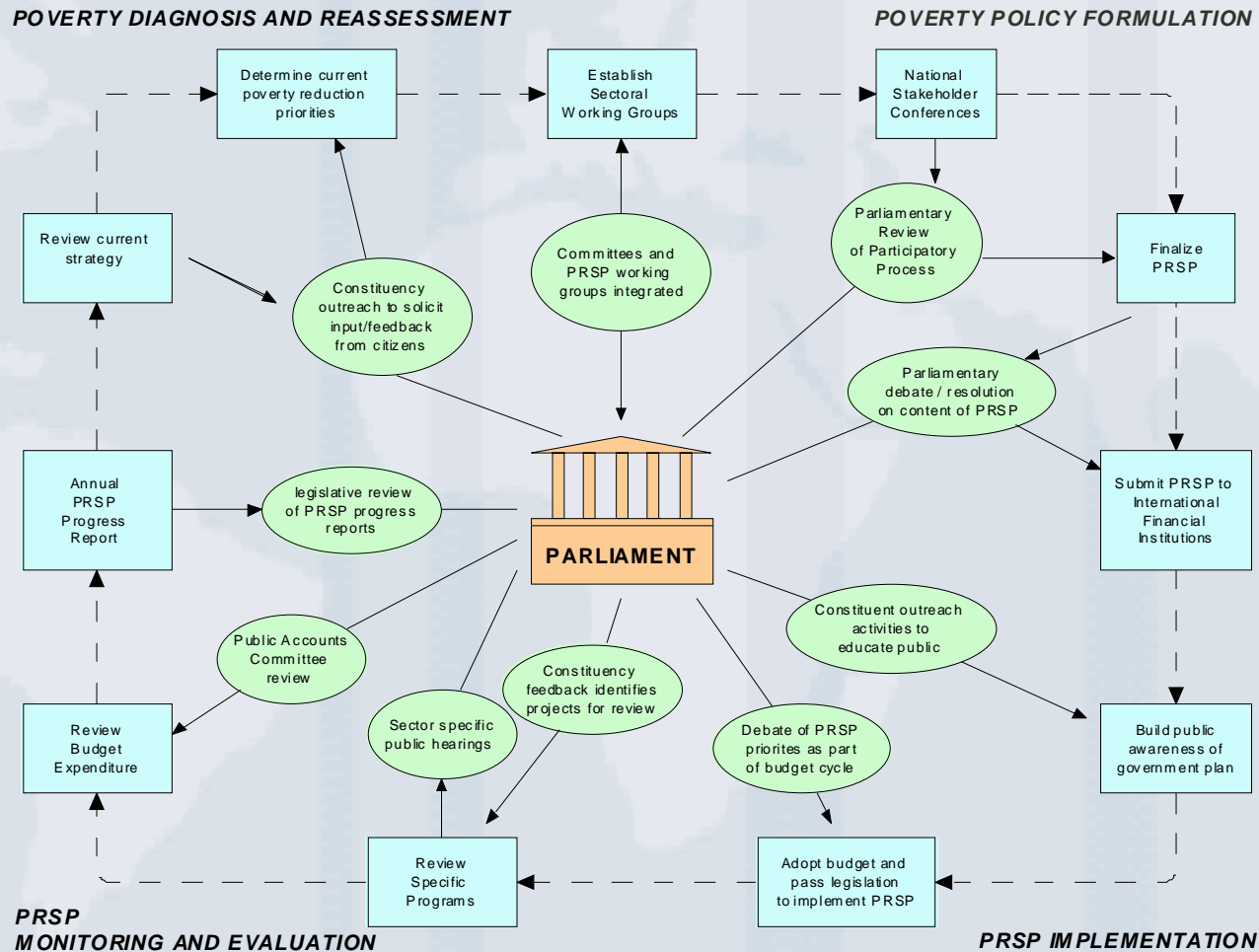
NDI Work in PRSP Countries

- A nonprofit international organization to promote democracy worldwide.
 - NDI is a political party institute that works abroad on a nonpartisan basis.
 - Main areas of activity include electoral processes, political party development, parliamentary strengthening, citizen participation
- Over 40 field offices in all regions of the world; roughly 20 involve parliamentary programming
 - Strong emphasis on local presence local partners, and ongoing technical assistance.

Institutionalizing Poverty Reduction Processes

- Sustainable poverty reduction means engagement with existing in-country institutions:
 - Recognition of their legal or constitutional role in policy process
 - Support for relevant capacity building where appropriate

The Central Role of Parliaments



Institutionalization through Parliamentary Engagement

- For policy stability through political transition;
- To leverage incentives for monitoring and oversight; and
- To build sustainable mechanisms for public and civic participation.

Parliamentary Engagement for Policy Stability / Formulation

- Support for the PRSP by Members of parliament (MPs) from both governing and opposition parties is important in ensuring that the PRSP's success will not be derailed by changes in the political environment.

Parliamentary Engagement for Oversight/ Monitoring

- Parliaments are constitutionally mandated to serve as a check on the actions of the executive, including policy implementation.
- This mandate—and domestic politics—may create incentives for immediate oversight and a basis for long-term monitoring capacity.

Parliamentary Engagement for Public/Civic Participation

- Elected to represent all parts of the population, legislatures may be a natural, sustainable inlet for public and civic participation.
 - Representation of constituencies
 - Relationships with civil society
 - Legislative hearings to gather and disseminate information about reform

