



Malawi – From Poverty Monitoring to PRS Monitoring

A Case Study on Institutionalising Monitoring
Presented at the Joint Donor Staff Training Exercise
in Maputo, Mozambique (April – May 2003)

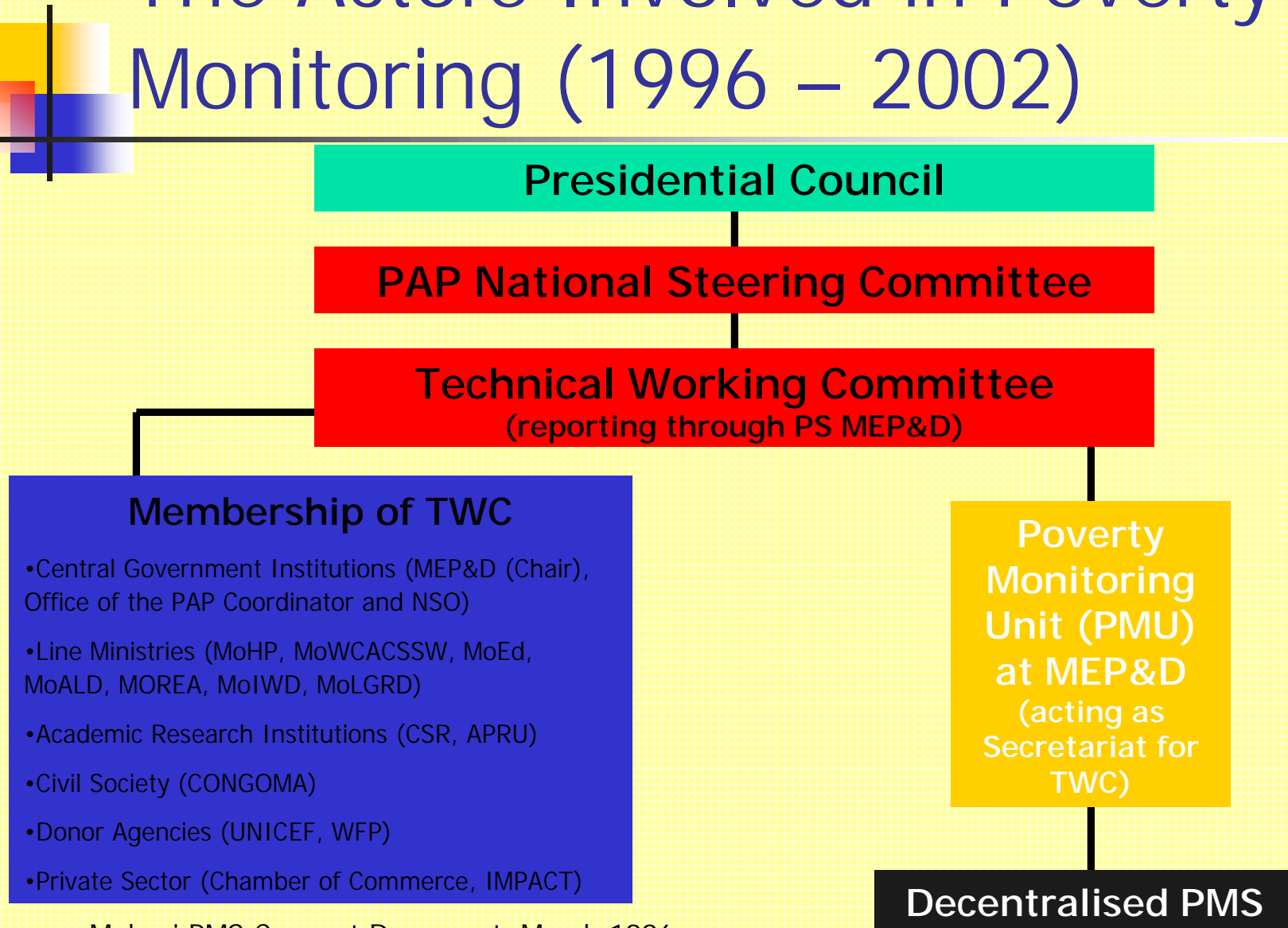
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The History of Poverty Monitoring in Malawi

- 1995 – Poverty Alleviation the "*operative development philosophy in the country*"
- 1996 – Poverty Monitoring System to "*monitor the progress of poverty-oriented policies, programmes and projects in terms of their impact, effectiveness and efficiency*"
- Three Specific Elements
 - Administrative monitoring system
 - Impact monitoring system
 - Statistical poverty measurement system

The Actors Involved in Poverty Monitoring (1996 – 2002)



Source: Malawi PMS Concept Document, March 1996



What Did the PMS Produce

- Undertake a number of studies and data collection exercises at the impact end of the spectrum
 - Integrated Household Survey (field work 1997-8)
 - Qualitative Impact Monitoring (field work 1997 and 2000)
 - Pilot Vital Registration System (1998 – 1999)
- Produced a number of reports on various dimensions of poverty
 - Malawi Social Indicators Survey
 - Statistical Booklet on Poverty
 - The Poverty Profile of Malawi
 - The Determinants of Poverty in Malawi
 - Assorted PMS Newsletters



Use of the Results

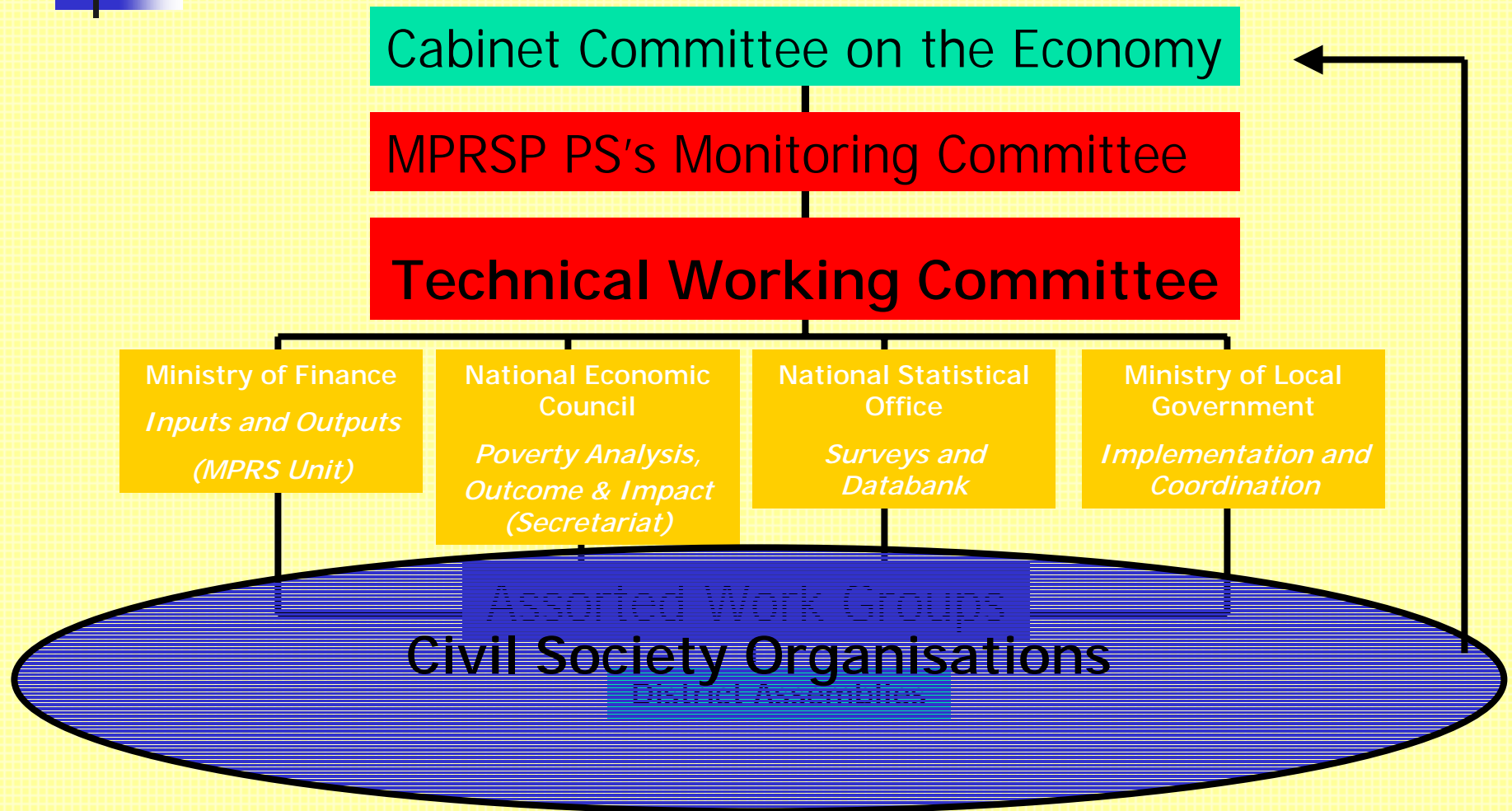
- Outputs of the system did not inform policy as much as hoped for
- Data collection largely supply driven
- Entire process outside the normal system
 - Dependent on a Presidential Council that never met
- Focus has been on impact monitoring – of little benefit to those who make day-to-day decisions
- PRSP has opened a door to change this



Monitoring in the MPRS – What is Being Monitored and How (2002)

- Inputs and Outputs – responsibility of MoF
- Outcome and Impact – primarily from administrative data and MISs
- Frequent complimentary data collection activities
 - Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire
 - Integrated Household Survey
 - Demographic and Health Survey
 - Qualitative Impact Monitoring

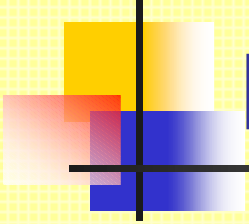
Institutional Set-Up for PRS Monitoring (from 2002)





Civil Society and MPRS Monitoring

- PRS commits itself to "*encouraging the development of other external monitoring systems, for example through civil society institutions*"
- CS are viewed as a means of disseminating information and are allowed some role in Public Expenditure Review (PER)
- Represented on Technical Working Committee (TWC)
- Experiences of PRS Formulation has created opportunity for CS involvement
 - Birth of Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) and sector groups in education, health and agriculture
- Civil Society have their own monitoring plans outside government proposal
 - Input Monitoring
 - Service Delivery Surveys



Who Will Use the Results and How

- MoF will withhold funding from those who do not return satisfactory activity based reports
- Shift away from solely impact monitoring should also contribute to demand
- Politically utilising existing systems rather than creating parallel ones
- Much stronger demand now from Civil Society as active participants in the process
- Demand from donors for information on the utilisation of HIPC resources



Donor Involvement in Poverty Monitoring in Malawi

- Accusations that some exercises are entirely donor driven (generally displaying better demand for results than MG)
- Many activities implemented outside the governments' monitoring system – undermining attempts at coordination
- Government at times feels “bullied” into accepting what donors want



Key Questions in Consideration of Group Work

Three groups should be formed – each to Address one of the following questions based on their experiences from the countries they work in and the evidence as presented in the case study from Malawi

Group 1 : Donor involvement in monitoring government policy

- What role should the donor community play in monitoring govt policy
- Do donors have a responsibility to fit their desires into govt plans

Group 2 : Donor involvement in ensuring the use of results

- In general, how to ensure results are used in an unreceptive environment
- Do donors have the space to influence policy reform with the results

Group 3 : Donor involvement in institutionalisation of monitoring

- How is it possible to ensure the lessons of the past are learned
- What way can donors assist in ensuring these lessons are learnt