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# Monitoring Poverty Trends and Performance:

## A Fine and Fading Line

RENATA LOK DESSALLIEN

### Abstract

**T**oday, with so many countries formulating strategies to accelerate poverty reduction on a national scale, decisionmakers need to know the impact of their strategies. National poverty trends express these results to some extent. At the same time, most of us now perceive poverty as multidimensional. Some characteristics are income/consumption (equated with “means”), human terms (or “ends”), freedoms, choices, and participation. Regardless of the specifics of one’s concept of poverty, that concept is probably multifaceted. How have our approaches to monitoring poverty evolved to keep pace with our concepts and our information requirements? This presentation looks briefly at how we tended to monitor poverty in the past, reviews what we should aim at monitoring now, and proposes an integrated approach for poverty information systems.

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Renata Lok Dessallien is the Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program office in Myanmar. This paper is to be delivered at the *Asia and Pacific Forum on Poverty: Reforming Policies and Institutions for Poverty Reduction*, to be held at the Asian Development Bank, Manila, 5-9 February 2001.