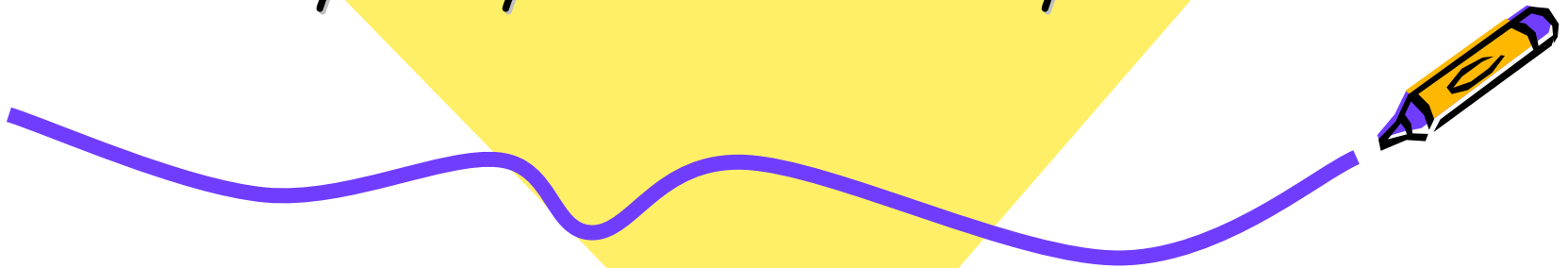


# Monitoring Government Policies

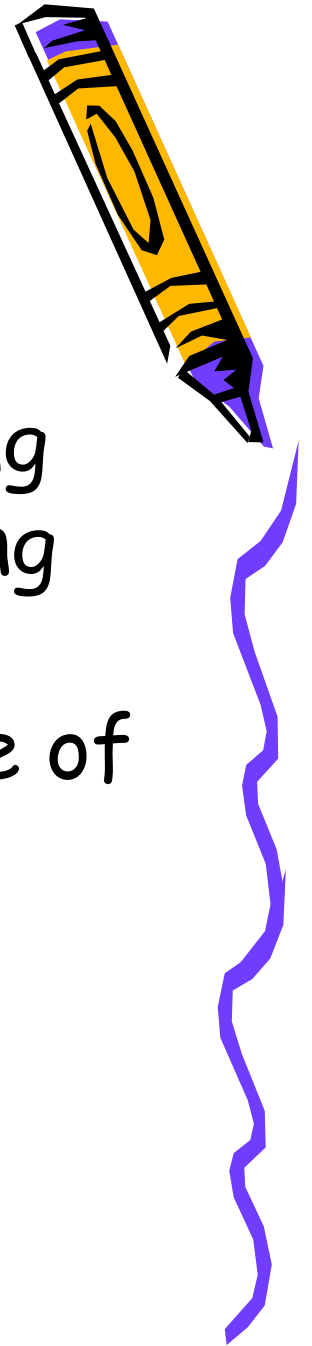
Policy analysis and advocacy course



# What is Policy Monitoring?

- Policy monitoring is about gathering evidence on a policy while it is being implemented and then using your findings to influence future course of action.

- It is about looking at the information/Evidence available to support/argue a particular issue



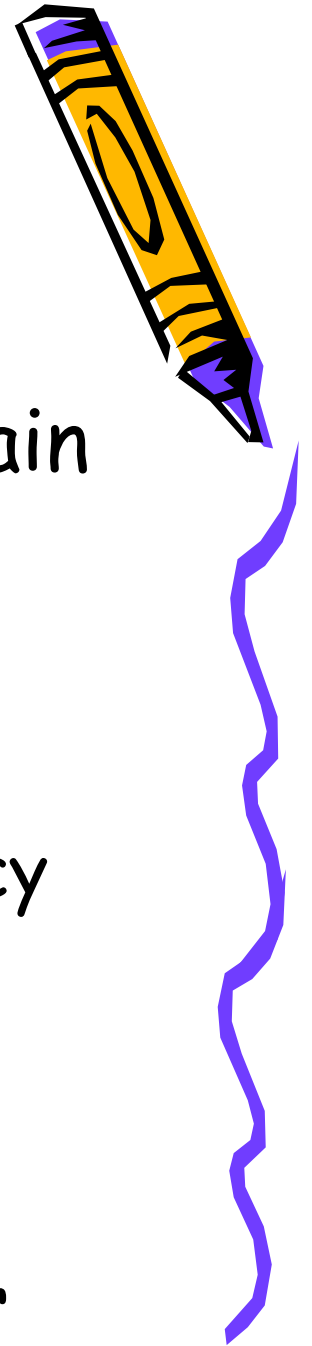
# What is policy monitoring cont.....

- Policy monitoring involves three main components:

a) gathering evidence about the implementation of a government policy

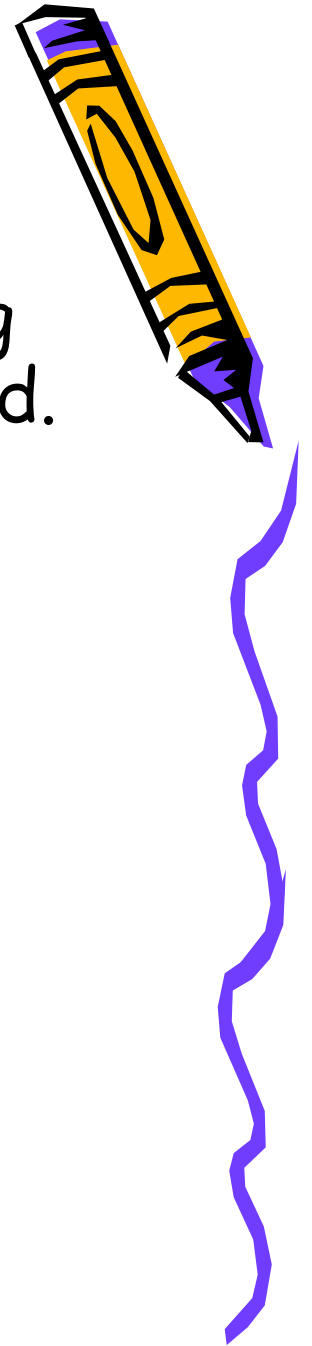
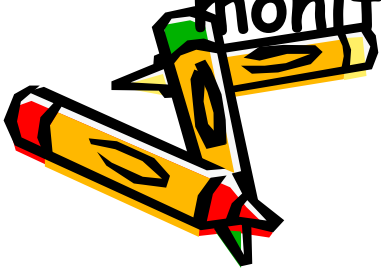
b) analysing that evidence

c) using the evidence to advocate for change



# Monitoring Perspectives

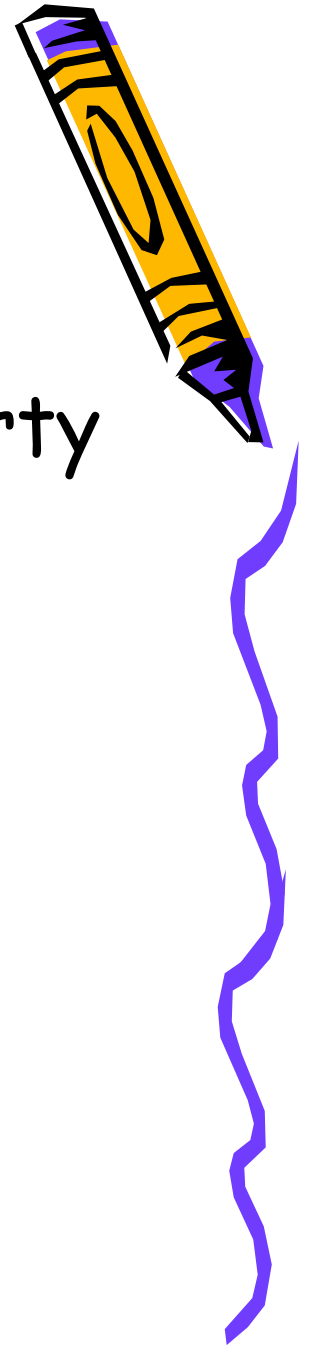
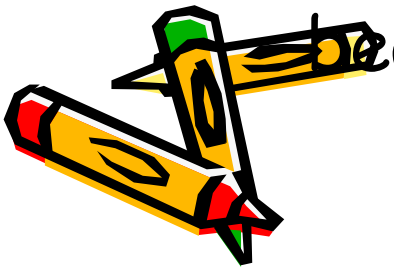
- There are many ways to monitor government policies. All policy monitoring is informed by a perspective of some kind. It may be commitment to human rights, compassion for the poor, dedication to non-violence, the desire to strengthen democracy etc.
- Your guiding principal to monitoring will help you define the broad aim of your policy monitoring.
- From what perspective/Focus will you monitor your issue?



# Types of Policies

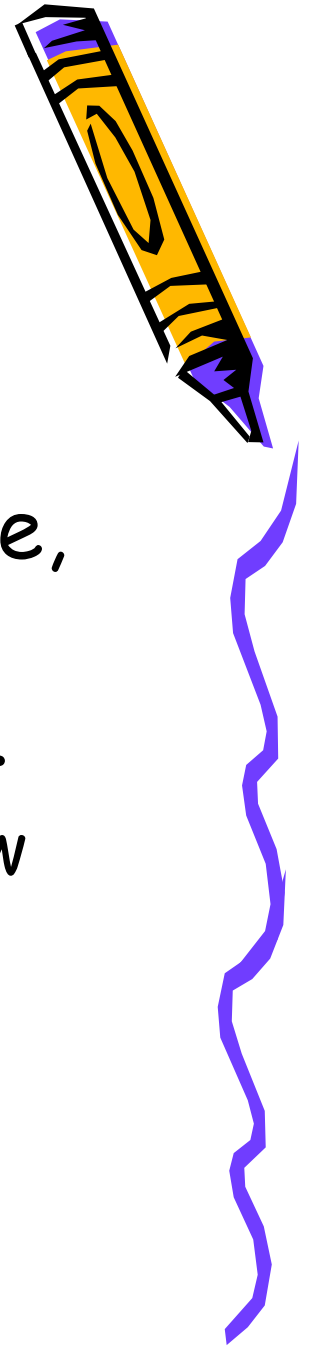
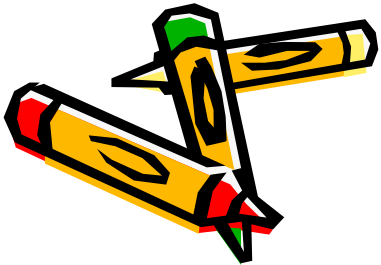
- There are many different types of policies, but those related to poverty Include:

- **Sectoral Policies:** Relates to the delivery of services such as health, education, water, finance, housing, policing, welfare, justice, agriculture etc.
- Many sectoral policies have a direct bearing on people's everyday lives.



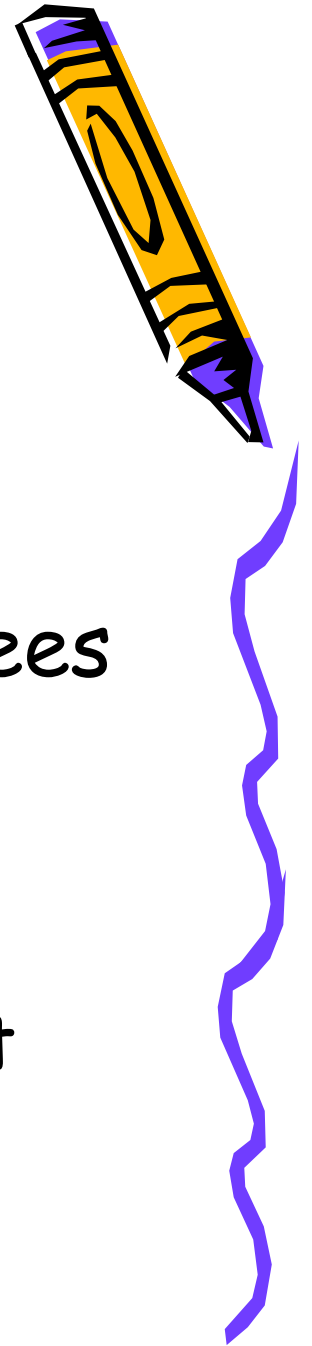
# Types cont.....

- Macro-economic policies: such policies are used to regulate government income and expenditure, curb inflation, promote economic growth, and stimulate job creation.
  - Macro economic policies influence how much money will be available for spending on goods and services to reduce poverty.



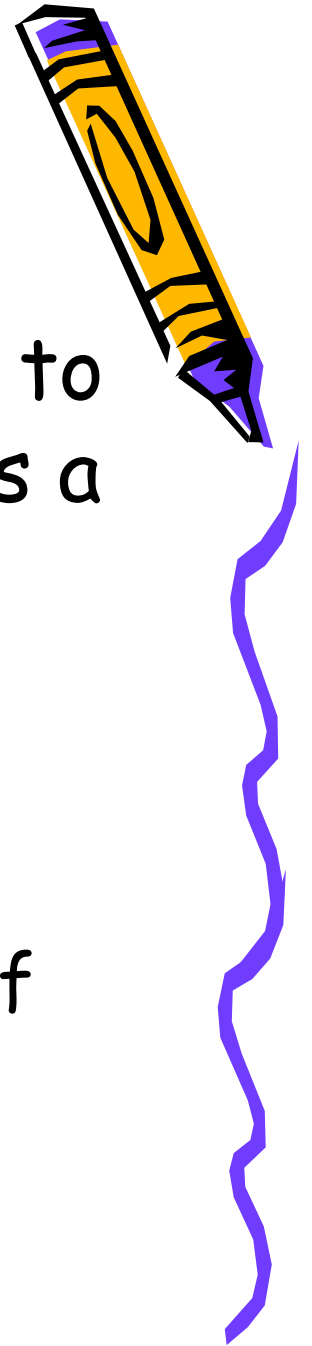
# Types cont...

- Institutional Policies: Gov, create policies to guide and manage their own countries institutions, employees and work processes.
  - Involves policies on how public funds should be managed, performance of staff, and public finance management



# Types cont....

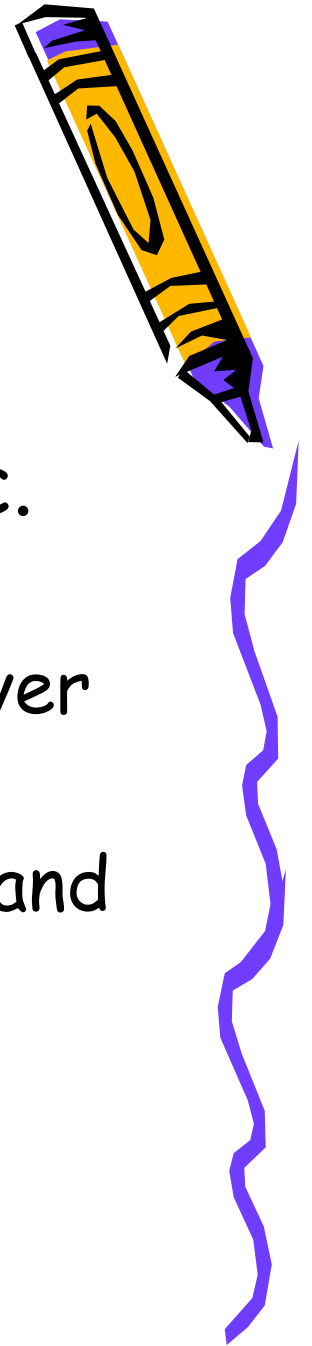
- Regulatory policies: They are used to impose norms and standards across a wide range of areas including pollution, food safety, medicines, endangered species etc.
  - Formal monitoring bodies are often created to ensure that these kinds of policies are adhered to.





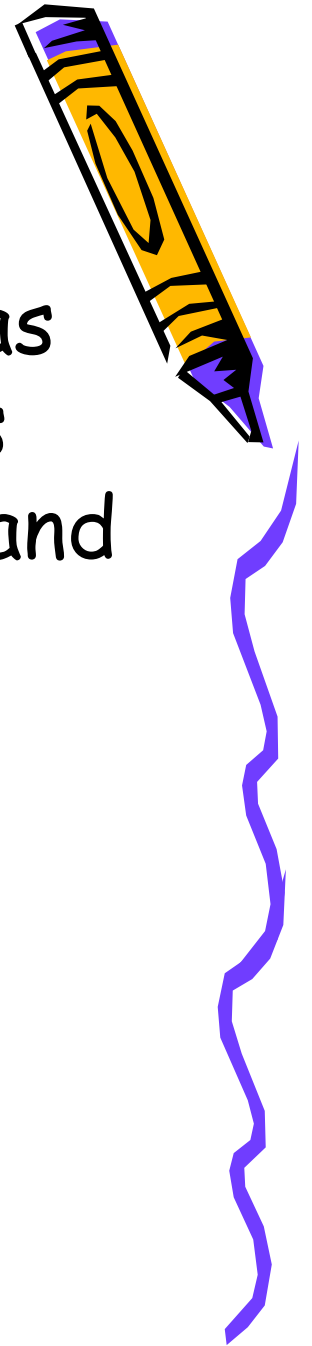
# Types cont....

- National Development Plans: These include PRSP's, development plans, vision plans, national strategies etc.
  - They state how a gov. plans to bring about positive changes in a country over a given time.
  - They combine sectoral, institutional, and macro-economic policies discussed above.



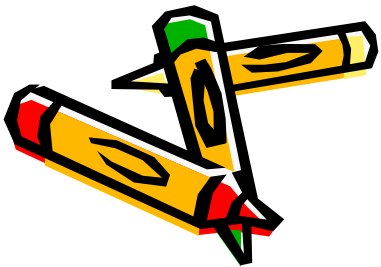
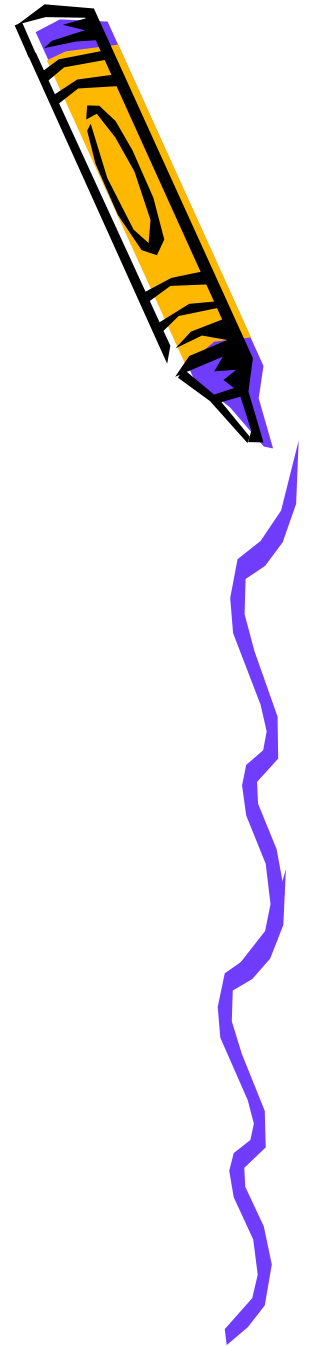
# Types cont...

- Global and regional Policies: Such as human rights treaties, agreements etc. all influence policies adopted and implemented by gov.
  - It is useful to monitor discrepancies between national and international treaties and how this undermines progress for your issue.



Note: Important to  
determine level of  
monitoring.

What are the determining  
factor?



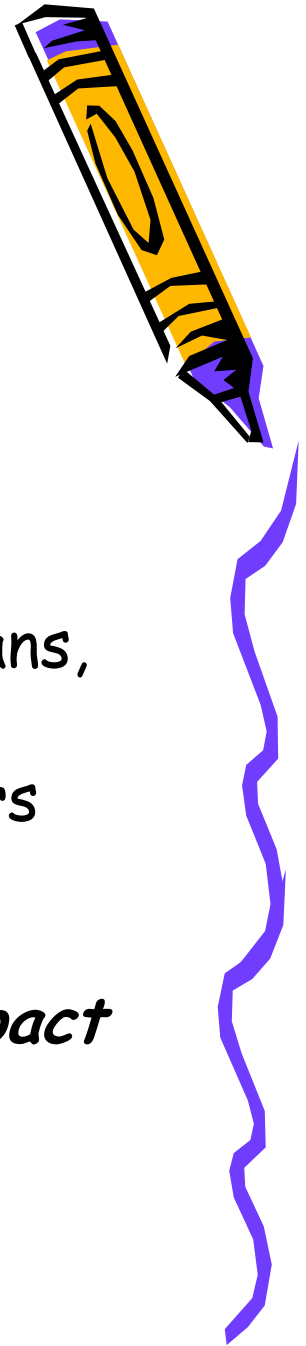
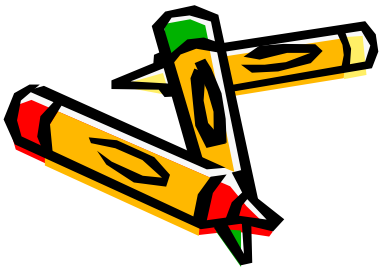
# Which Policies to Monitor: Identifying Relevant policies

- When you start to investigate the policies you want to monitor, you will notice they are in various stage of development (draft proposals, or discussion papers)
- Once adopted policies differ in legal status. Some become law, but as you know not all policies are turned into legislation.
- When identifying policies to monitor, consider their legal status as it will determine what sanctions can be applied if a policy is not implemented as planned



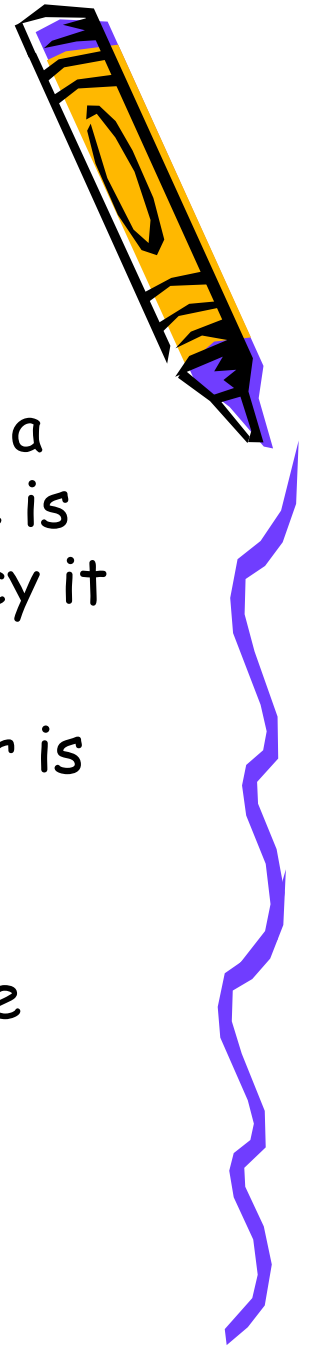
# Group Work: Identifying Relevant Policies for your Issue

- Using the malnutrition problem case.
- At what level would you monitor the implementation of a policy in response to this problem? Regulatory, national development plans, global policies have an impact?
- Which sectoral policies, institutional, or others have an impact?
  - *This questions help you identify those policies that have direct and indirect impact on the issue*



# Defining Your Monitoring Objectives

- It is not possible to monitor everything about a policy. You have to be selective. The challenge is to identify which aspects or parts of the policy it would be most crucial to monitor.
  - One way to help you decide what to monitor is to pinpoint all the questions you find worth asking about the policy
  - you could also draw your questions from the research conducted



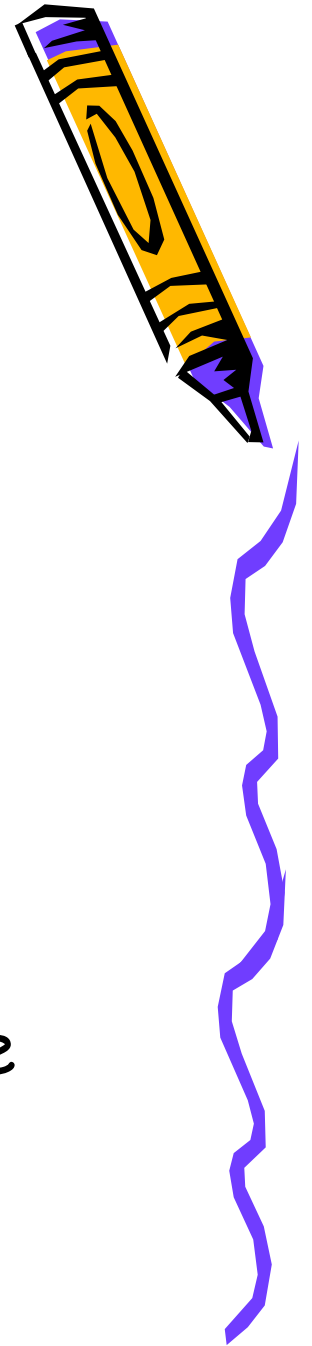
# Monitoring process...

- Looking at the policy from Gov. point of view:
  - 1. What are the aims and objectives of the policy?
  - 2. Who are it's intended beneficiaries?
  - 3. who is meant to implement the policy?
  - 4. what is the nature of goods and services are meant to be delivered?
  - etc



# OPEN DISCUSSION

- What questions would you raise in looking at the policy from the beneficiaries perspective?
- What questions would you raise to the government based on your current Issue?
  - Address this from the effects of the issue to the beneficiaries already discussed class





# Setting your Monitoring objective

- Once you have identified the questions you want to ask about a policy, it is easy to re-state these as monitoring objectives .
- Question on Policy: Will pple loose jobs as a result of policy?
- Reformulated as MO: Our objective is to track how many people loose their jobs as a result of this policy over a one year period.



# Monitoring objs cont...

- Monitoring objectives have to be SMART
- -Specific: That their meaning is clear
- -Measurable: That they can be measured
- -Achievable: They are realistic enough to be achieved
- Relevant: They are suited to your outcome/Goal

~~Time~~-Bound: They have an expected timeframe for achieving results



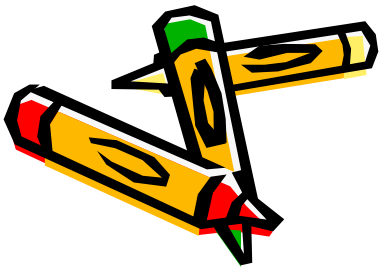
# Monitoring objs cont...

- Objectives are at 3 levels of an issue.
- Development goal: What the policy is meant to achieve in the long run
- Immediate Objective/Purpose; What the policy is meant to achieve after the various activities have been implemented
- Immediate results: What the policy is meant to achieve immediately that will have a direct gain to the beneficiaries



# Task

- Come up with a set of monitoring objectives for the malnutrition problem. Make sure the objectives are Smart.



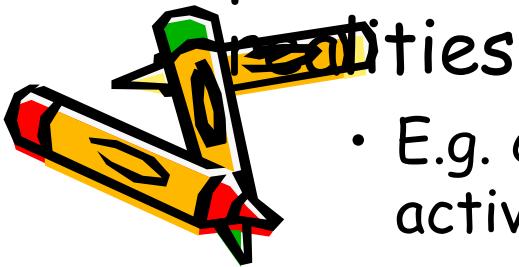
# What kind of Evidence do you need?

- It is important to think about the kind of evidence that will make power players sit and listen to you. Evidence is based on concrete data from research.
  - Evidence could either be quantitative or Qualitative
  - You could use primary sources of evidence or secondary
  - (look at your Monitoring Objectives and think about the evidence you will need for each objective).



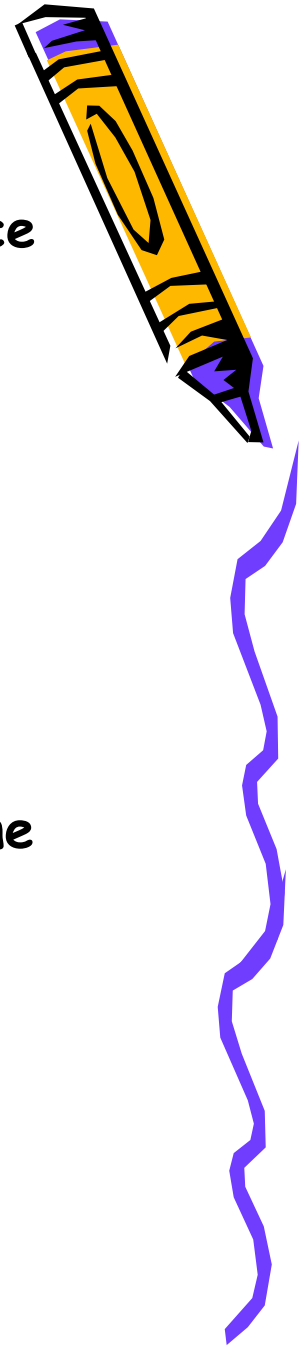
# Indicators - What are they?

- An indicator is a unit of measurement
  - E.g. of deaths caused by small arms
- An indicator tells us something about changes in a system
  - e.g. reduction in small arms from a certain level to another
- An indicator helps to qualify and simplify phenomena and helps us understand complex realities
  - E.g. communities involved in economic development activities that contribute to security



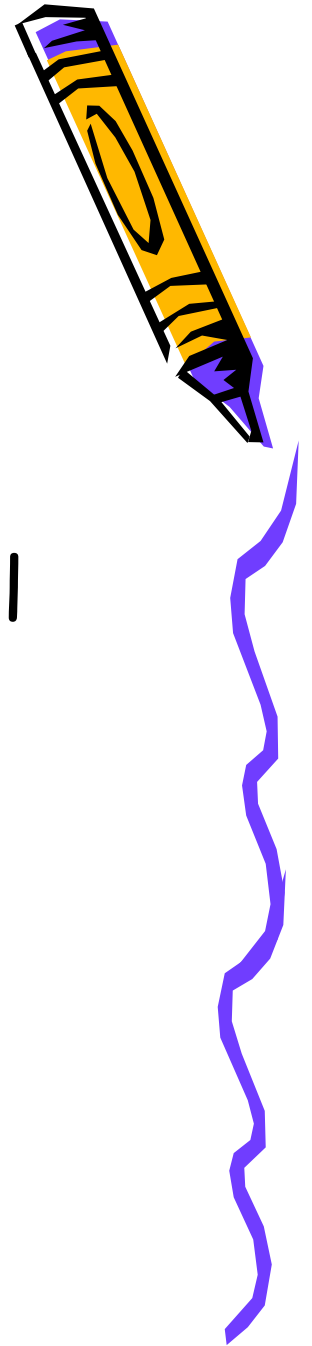
# What can they do?

- Good indicators must be useful to their intended audience
  - (e.g. kilometres of road per square kilometre?)
- Indicators provide information
  - about the functioning of a specific system for a specific purpose
  - to support decision making and management
- Indicators help quantify and aggregate data to determine whether change is taking place
  - O. of weapons in a place
- Indicators need to help decision makers understand why change is taking place
  - Decrease in the number of armed robberies



# Choosing Indicators

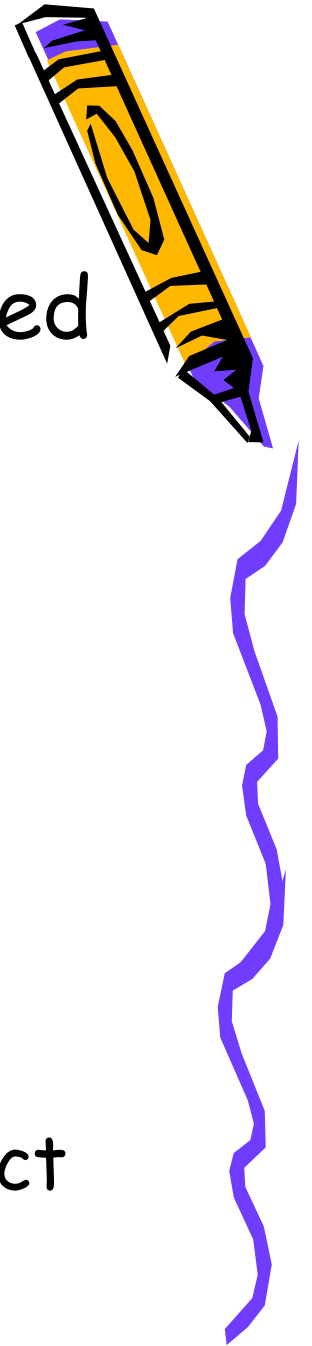
- Indicators are a way of measuring progress.
- There are no prescribed set indicators that can be applied to all policy monitoring projects.
- Indicators are developed based on your monitoring objectives.





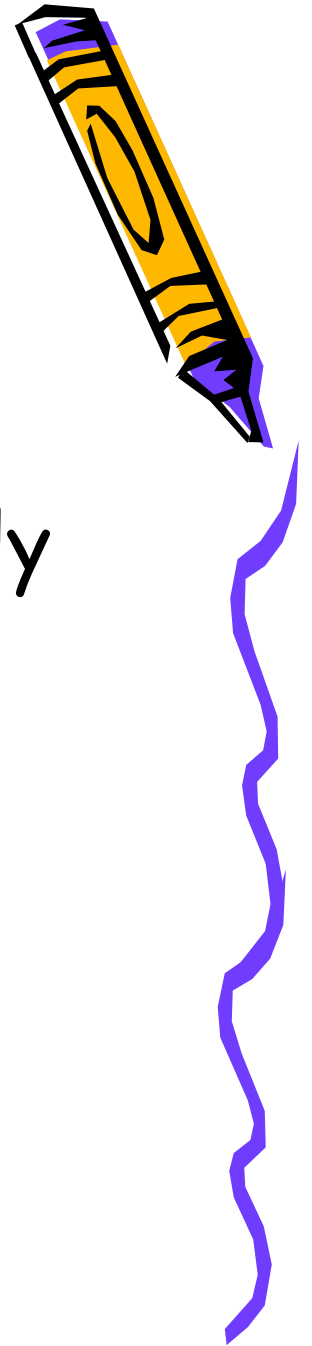
# Indicators....

- E.g.: Monitoring objective: Increased access to Mother and child health services
- Monitoring Indicators:
  - No of women accessing the health services
  - No of health clinics in district X
  - No of women have safe deliveries
  - Decrease in maternal deaths in district



# Quantitative and Qualitative indicators

- Quantitative are concerned with numbers and amount and are usually measured or counted
- Qualitative data is concerned with Descriptions and attitudes. They assess behaviour change.



# Conclusion

- Look at the objectives that you have developed and come up with a set of indicators for your Goal, Purpose, and expected results. Make sure your indicators have a baseline.

