Mapping the portfolio can provide insights into the relevance and effectiveness of a portfolio. It is a useful exercise for a team to understand how the portfolio affects the situation of people living in poverty. The exercise is a way of assessing and visualising the portfolio in terms of its’ poverty focus and gaining new insights into the composition of the portfolio.

An understanding of the situation of people living in poverty is useful for this exercise, which can serve as an important input into operational decision making. The steps below assume that the team has already conducted a poverty analysis. However, if this is not the case it might be necessary to begin the workshop with a review of some basic poverty data from the specific context.

A mapping exercise can be held as one or as a series of workshops. It is recommended that the whole team participate to contribute to a shared understanding of links between the portfolio and the poverty analysis. Experience shows that it is worthwhile taking sufficient time to conduct this exercise and ideally to conduct the mapping over the course of two sessions.

The mapping exercise can be divided up into the following main steps:

1. **Revisit the conclusions of the poverty analysis:** Which groups are living in poverty and in which dimensions? What are the underlying causes of poverty in the context?

2. **Mapping exercise:** Depending on the size of the team this step can be done together or you can divide up into smaller sub groups. If you divide up into smaller groups, it is preferable that you have some degree of familiarity with each other’s contribution (i.e. same sector). The overall purpose of the step is to assess each contribution and map the results together per one or more of the following criteria:

   a. Which dimensions of poverty are addressed (usually reflected in the expected outputs and outcomes) by the contribution?
   b. Which causes of poverty are addressed by the contribution?
   c. Which groups living in poverty are addressed by the contribution?
   d. In what time perspective does the contribution expect to contribute to results for people living in poverty (short term, medium term, long term)?
3. **Visualizing the mapping:** Consider visualizing the results of the mapping exercise to better see patterns (see examples below).

4. **Discuss the findings:** Does the mapping surprise you? Did any patterns or trends emerge that you did not expect?

Example from Social Unit:

Example from Kosovo: