PART FOUR

How Can Policy Choices Help Workers in Periods of Major Change?

Structural Adjustment and the transition from central planning often bring wrenching changes for workers and their families. But is the pain they bear due to the faulty design of reform policy, or to the failed development strategy that reform is now in the process of uprooting? Are workers suffering a disproportionate burden of the costs of adjustment? We look at these questions in this part of the Report. Chapter 15 surveys the similarities and differences of the difficult adjustments that many countries are now going through, and how labor fares in each case. Chapter 16 analyzes who gains and who loses during these episodes of major economic upheaval. Chapter 17 considers a menu of microeconomic choices that can both speed the transition and ease its impact on workers.