

USING COMMUNITY-BASED POVERTY MONITORING SURVEY METHODOLOGY FOR MDGs MONITORING IN VIETNAM

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I. COMMUNITY-BASED POVERTY MONITORING SURVEY

Since 1997, in the framework of the IDRC-sponsored MIMAP Network the research project on "Poverty Monitoring in Rural Areas of Vietnam" has started to study data availability, needs of local communities on socio-economic data, and capability of communities in data production and use. The pilot implementation of community-based approach in the community and household survey in some communes showed that the collection of basic information about socio-economic situations in general, and the poverty scenario in particular, is very helpful to the work of local officers and non-governmental organizations. Data are systematized at village and commune levels, and can be used immediately by local people in long-term development planning and poverty monitoring strategies. Moreover, the local people, including staff of local administration and social organizations are capable to conduct and organize survey if there is an "appropriate technology" of survey implemented. Several options of such survey "appropriate technology" has been developed and tested during the period of 1997-1999. Two types of survey, namely census and sampled survey, were conducted (sampled survey was conducted in 1997-1998 in 3 provinces with 1000 households, census was conducted in 1999 in 4 provinces with more than 10,000 households). Different groups of indicators were tested through implementation of different types of questionnaires. Data were processed by both manual and computerized ways.

The community-based poverty monitoring survey (CBPMS) includes the following basic principles:

- (1) Local ownership of CBPMS.
- (2) It is the local people who conduct the surveys themselves in their capacity as surveyors. The "external people" (government officers, researchers) are only responsible for guiding and supervising local residents.
- (3) The set of indicators reflects multi-dimensional poverty and should meet the immediate demands of local people on community and household data and information.
- (4) Qualitative and quantitative methods are used in tandem in data collection. To be more specific, the structured interview using a questionnaire ought to be supplemented by group discussions and interviews of key informants in communities.
- (5) So as to transfer methods, tools and survey results to local residents and authorities, the design of survey tools should follow these principles:
 - ▶ The questionnaires, software and output indicators have to be simple and easy for local people to understand and use.
 - ▶ The design of survey tools has to take into count the knowledge levels of the local people as well as the availability of data processing equipment and software in the localities. This is its big difference with the national surveys: At the national surveys, surveyors and data processing staff are skilled experts and well equipped

to handle modern technology. They also have enough time for deep analysis of collected data.

Since the year of 2000, the CBPMS methodology elaborated by the MIMAP-Vietnam research team has been used in some scopes for poverty research, management and evaluation of poverty reduction projects.

- *CBPMS in a poverty reduction project:*

In 2001-2003, CBMS methodology was used for baseline survey (in 2001) and repeated monitoring surveys (in 2002 and 2003) in the Poverty Reduction Project in two mountainous districts of Thanh-Hoa Province. In co-operation with CECI – the implementing agency of Canada, and district administration, CBMS was implemented in 34 communes (including 30 communes in the project areas and 4 communes outside the project areas). The survey sample was more than 1000 households. A baseline report and annual monitoring results were supplied to the project management unit and district administration. They were tools for poverty monitoring and evaluation of project activity impacts. [Socio-Economic Development Centre, 2001]

- *CBPMS in the system of national poverty observatories*

In 2002-2004, the CBPMS methodology was implemented in a system of poverty observatories so as to serve the data requirements of the National Programme for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Reduction, and Job Creation. Poverty monitoring surveys are to be conducted every year-end for three succeeding years (2002-2004).

In 2002, a system of poverty observatories has been set up in 12 provinces and cities. There are 20 communes, where 17 are rural communes and three are urban wards. There are more than 4,000 households and 20,000 individuals in the sample. Results of annual surveys were supplied to the Managing Office of the National Programme for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Reduction, and Job Creation. [Vu Tuan Anh and Vu Van Toan, 2003].

Analysis of some aspects of poverty and calculation of a composite poverty indicator were based on this CBPMS database. [Louis-Marie Asselin and Vu Tuan Anh, 2004, Vu Tuan Anh, 2005].

- *CBPMS in provincial system of poverty observatories*

In 2004-2005, the Departments of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of two provinces – Ha-Tay and Yen-Bai, have co-operated with the MIMAP research team to implement CBPMS in provincial poverty observatory systems.

In Ha-Tay – a province located in the Red River Delta, 30 communes in all 13 districts are considered as provincial poverty observatories. Two rounds of sample survey, which covers 3,700 households and 16,000 persons, has been conducted. Results have been used by local partners for analysis of poverty rate and different dimensions of poverty with aims to evaluate poverty reduction measures and readjust poverty reduction policies.

In Yen-Bai – a northern mountainous province, 10 communes in all eight districts are selected as provincial poverty observatories. Two censuses were conducted on 9,000 households consisting of 40,000 persons. The data collection was completed in June 2004 and May 2005.

- *CBMS at district level*

In the current phase of the research project, CBPMS is to be implemented at the district level in four provinces: (i) Yen-Bai, a northern mountainous province, (ii) Ninh-Binh, a province located in the Red River Delta, (iii) Quang-Nam, a province in the Central Coastal Region, and (iv) Lam-Dong, a province in the southern Central Highland. In each province, one

district is selected for survey. This CBPMS will supply basic database for management purposes of local development.

II. USING CBMS FOR MDGs MONITORING

Basing on Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and the country's own orientation, Vietnam has established its own 12 development goals (referred to as Vietnam's Development Goals or VDGs). The VDGs both fully reflect the MDGs and at the same time, take into account typical development features in Vietnam. The VDGs are integrated into the national socio-economic development strategies and program and also translated into specific targets.

The localizing MDGs in the Vietnam's context has some reasons:

(i) Vietnam has reached, or nearly reached some of the MDGs. For example, poverty rate has been halved between 1990 and 2000. Therefore, it's reasonable for Vietnam to define a new localized version of the poverty goal.

(ii) Though Vietnam performs well on some of the access goals – for example in basic education – there are urgent challenges associated with improving the quality of those services to international levels.

(iii) Vietnam has its own planning cycle with different start and endpoints from the MDGs. It is helpful to align the 25-year cycle of the MDGs with the five and ten year cycles of the Vietnamese planning horizons so measures and actions can be tailored to outcome targets for 2005 and 2010 which are, in turn, consistent with goals for 2015.

(iv) There are areas which are particularly challenging for Vietnam at its current stage of development but which are not covered by the MDGs. For example, although Vietnam has performed well in delivering basic social services, it has lagged behind in initiating necessary governance reforms which will be crucial to attaining some of the other outcome targets proposed in the national strategies.

Although VDGs have been integrated in the local socio-economic development plans, monitoring and evaluation of VDGs is carried out at the national and provincial levels, but not at local levels (district and commune), due to lack of necessary database. In order to increase people's knowledge on MDGs and VDGs, it has to introduce them to local people in form of quantitative indicators and qualitative assessment. For this, it's needed to collect data of localities.

CBPMS is firstly designed for the poverty monitoring and analysis. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. It is not only based on household income or expenditure. Therefore, in the experimental CBPMS system, which was initiated by the MIMAP-Vietnam research project, poverty is comprehensively reflected in a set of monitoring indicators that include both value indicators (income, some items of expenditure) and the basic households needs (e.g., food security, housing, transportation, access to other basic social services). There are three main sets of indicators: the community situation (availability of basic infrastructure facilities and common services), household living standards and implementation of poverty reduction policies and measures. Depending of purposes of survey, the structure of indicators set and concrete indicators can be modified. In order to reflect MDGs and VDGs, indicator set has currently been readjusted. Some indicators, such as child mortality, maternal health, number of people suffered by HIV/AIDS are added to questionnaire.

Currently, CBPMS with a simple questionnaire (4 pages) is conducted in two districts in Yen-Bai and Lam-Dong provinces. The type of survey is census. This experimental survey is to be summed up and it's experiences will be used for implementation of CBPMS in some other localities in the coming years.

MDGs	VDGs	CBPMS indicators
	<i>VDGs directly based on the MDGs</i>	
Goal 1: Halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015. Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015.	Goal 1: Reduce the percentage of poor and hungry households	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Reduce by 50% the proportion of people living below the international poverty line between 2001 and 2010.	1. Poverty rate
	<i>Target 2:</i> Reduce by 75% the number of people living under the international food poverty line by 2010.	2. Food poverty rate (based on lower poverty line)
Goal 2: Achieve universal access to primary education by 2015	Goal 2: Universalize education and improve education quality	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Increase net enrolment in primary school to 97% by 2005 and to 99% by 2010	3. Percentage of children attending primary school.
	<i>Target 2:</i> Increase net enrolment rate in junior secondary school to 80% by 2005 and 90% by 2010	4. Percentage of children attending secondary school.
	<i>Target 3:</i> Eliminate the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005, and the gap with ethnic minorities by 2010.	5. Percentage of children attending primary and secondary school by male and female.
	<i>Target 4:</i> Increase literacy to 95% of under-40-year-old women by 2005 and 100% by 2010.	6. Adult illiteracy rate by male and female.
	<i>Target 5:</i> By 2010 have improved the quality of education and increase full-day schooling at primary level.	
Goal 3: Reduce child mortality rates by two-thirds by 2015	Goal 3: Reduce child mortality, child malnutrition and reduce the birth rate	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Reduce the infant mortality rate to 30 per 1000 live births by 2005 and 25 by 2010 and at a more rapid rate in disadvantaged regions.	7. Infant mortality rate.
	<i>Target 2:</i> Reduce the under-5 mortality rate to 36 per 1000 live births by 2005 and 32 by 2010.	8. Under-5 mortality rate
	<i>Target 3:</i> Reduce under five malnutrition to 25% by 2005 and 20% by 2010.	
Goal 4: Reduce maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters by 2015 and achieve universal access to safe and reliable contraceptive methods by 2015	Goal 4: Improve maternal health <i>Target 1:</i> Reduce the maternal mortality rate to 80 per 100,000 live births by 2005 and 70 by 2010 with particular attention to disadvantaged areas.	9. Maternal mortality rate

Goal 5: Empower women and eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005	Goal 5: Ensure gender equality and women empowerment	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Increase the number of women in elective bodies at all levels	10. Number and percentage of women in elective bodies.
	<i>Target 2:</i> Increase the participation of women in agencies and sectors [includes ministries, central agencies and enterprises] at all levels by 3-5% in the next 10 years.	
	<i>Target 3:</i> Ensure that the names of both husband and wife appears on the land-use right certificates by 2005.	
	<i>Target 4:</i> Reduce the vulnerability of women to domestic violence.	
Goal 6: Halve the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water by 2015	Goal 6: Safe drinking water supply <i>Target 1:</i> Ensure that 60% of the rural population has access to clean and safe water by 2005 and 85% by 2010. This should be the case for 80% of urban people by 2005.	11. Percentage of households using safe drinking water sources.
Goal 7: Implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005 so as to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015	Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Extend forest cover from 33% in 1999 to 43% by 2010.	
	<i>Target 2:</i> Ensure there are no slums and temporary houses in all towns and cities by 2010.	12. Percentage of temporary houses in community.
	<i>Target 3:</i> Ensure that all waste-water in towns and cities is treated by 2010.	
	<i>Target 4:</i> Ensure that all solid waste is collected and disposed of safely in all towns and cities by 2010.	
	<i>Target 5:</i> Air and water pollution must attain national standards by 2005.	
Goal 8: Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015	Goal 8: Reduce HIV/AIDS infection and eradicate other major diseases <i>Target 1:</i> Slow the increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2005 and halve the rate of increase by 2010.	13. Number of HIV/AIDS cases in community.
	VDGs not directly based on MDGs	
	Goal 9: Reducing vulnerability	
	<i>Target 1:</i> By 2005, increase the average income of the lowest expenditure quintile to 140% of that in 2000 and to 190% of that by 2010	14. Average income of quintiles.
	<i>Target 2:</i> Reduce by half the rate of poor people falling back into poverty due to natural disasters and other risks by 2010	15. Number of poor households falling back into poverty.

	Goal 10: Improving governance for poverty reduction	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Effectively implement grass-roots democracy.	
	<i>Target 2:</i> Ensure budget transparency .	
	<i>Target 3:</i> Implement legal reform agenda.	
	Goal 11: Reducing ethnic inequality	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Preserve and develop the reading and writing ability of ethnic languages .	
	<i>Target 2:</i> Ensure entitlement of individual and collective land-use rights in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.	
	<i>Target 3:</i> Increase the proportion of ethnic minority people in authority bodies at various levels.	15. Number of ethnic minority people in authority bodies.
	Goal 12: Ensuring pro-poor infrastructure development	
	<i>Target 1:</i> Provide basic infrastructure to 80% of poor communes by 2005 and 100% by 2010.	16. Availability of basic infrastructure in commune.
	<i>Target 2:</i> Expand the national transmission grid to 900 poor commune centers by 2005	17. Proportion of households using electricity.

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APPENDIX:

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1. **Name of HH head:** Male / Female
- 2. **Village:**
- 3. **Commune:**
- 4. **District:**

HOUSEHOLD BENEFITED FROM POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL SAFETY PROGRAMS

5. War victims (*number of persons, if yes*)

1	War invalid		3	Relatives of dead soldier	
2	Sick, unworkable		4	Orange agent (dioxine) victims	

6. Beneficiary of social safety programs (*number of persons, if yes*)

1	Single old-aged		4	Unworkable	
2	Orphan		5	Blind	
3	Invalid		6	Other	

7. HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

	Name	Ethnicity	Birth year	Sex <i>M=0 F=1</i>	Education level	Child (6-15) school enrolment <i>Going to school =1 Drop out =2</i>	Main profession
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							

8. LAND USE: (m2)

1. Agricultural land:	
(a) Annual crop land	
Of which: Paddy land	
(b) Perennial crop land	
(c) Other agric. land	
2. Garden and residential land:	

3. Forestry land:	
(a) Natural forest	
(b) Planted forest	
(c) Barren land	
4. Water surface:	
5. Other land:	

9. PRODUCTIVE EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY: (Number of pieces)

1	Large tractor (over 15 CV)	
2	Small tractor (under 15 CV)	
3	Rice mill	
4	Water pump	
5	Generator	

6	Small hydro-power generator	
7	Motor boat, ship	
8	Truck, bus	
9	Car for rent	
10	Other machines	

10. CONSUMPTION DURABLE GOODS: (Number of pieces)

Bicycle	Motobyke	Motorboat	Tivi	Radio, video tape
Fridge	Telephone	Computer	Gas cooker	Car

11. ANIMALS (Number of head):

Buffalo, cow:	Horse:	Pig:	Goat, deer:	Pultries:	Others:
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12. HOUSING: (Circle)

Multi-storey brick house	One-storey brick house	Good wooden house	Wooden house	Bamboo house, tent	No owned house
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Did the HH received support from Goernment and community for housing improvement? Yes / No

If yes, what was received: (circle)

Material for roofing	House frame	Whole house	Cash subsidised VND	Credit VND	Water resevoire
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13. ELECTRICITY (circle)

National grid	Small hydro-power machine	Generator, accumulator	No electricity
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14. DRINKING WATER: (circle)

Taped water	Communal reservoir, tap	Rain water	Deep-drilled well	Dug well	Mountainous well	Lake, river
Should HH carry water home?				Yes / No		
If Yes: How far the distance is?				meter		

15. TOILET: (circle)

Flush toilet	Double-valve toilet	Simple toilet	Toilet on river, lake	No toilet
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16. BATH ROOM

Permanent bath room	Simple bath place	No bath room
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ANIMAL STABLE

Far from house	Closed to house	No animal stable
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19. INCOME: Real income during the last 12 months

	Income source	Value (VND)
1.	Cultivation	
2.	<i>Animal livestock, fisheries</i>	
3.	<i>Forestry</i>	
4.	Trading	
5.	Handicraft, transportation, construction, other off-farm activities	
6.	Stable salary	
7.	Casual salary of hired labour	
8.	Salary of HH members working in other cities, provinces	
9.	Pension, allowance, social security, etc.	
10.	Remittance from relatives, aid	
11.	Other income (<i>specify</i>)	
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21. IS THE HH POOR IN ACCORDANCE OF THE COMMUNE DEFINITION (yes=1)

2004:	2005:	2006:
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22. DOES THE HH FACE WITH ANY PROBLEM IN BUSINESS AND LIFE (yes=1)

1. Lack of business experiences		10. Natural disaster	
2. Lack of capital		11. Pest, epidemie of animals	
3. Lack of land		12. Have many small children	
4. Lack of irrigation		13. Have accident	
5. Lack of job		14. Sickness	
6. Lack of laborers		15. Single old-aged	
7. High price of input materials		16. Have drug user	
8. Low price of output products		17. Have alcohol drinker, gambler	
9. Cannot sell products		18. Other (specify)	

23. DID SOMEONE IN HH SICK? (number of person, if yes)

Malaria	Goitre	Tuberculosis	Petechial fever	Diarrhoea	HIV/AIDS
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24. MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

(Number of persons, if yes)

	2004	2005	2006
New-born baby in the year			
New-born baby dead			
Under-12 months- baby dead			
Under-5-year child dead			
Mother dead due to pregnancy and delivery			
Baby delivery at home without medical assistance			

25. HEALTH INSURANCE (number of persons)

How many persons receiving free-off-charge health insurance	
How many person using the free-of-charge health insurance for treatment during the last 12 months	

Access to health facilities? (number of sick persons used services during the last 12 months)

Commune clinic	District hospital	Provincial hospital	Private clinic	Pharmacy shop
Village nurse	Traditional heller	Religious servant	Self-treatment	No treatment

Comments of numerators on HH situation (is yes):