



Consultation and Dissemination Strategy
PEP's Links to Policy, Academia and the General Public¹

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¹ This strategy paper was inspired in large part by IDRC (2003) and Liguton (1994).

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“If you cannot - in the long run - tell everyone what you have been doing, your doing has been worthless.” Erwin Schrödinger

1. INTRODUCTION

The creation of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) network is the culmination of an evolution from country-based projects toward thematic networks within the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) program. This presents some challenges and some opportunities for consultation and dissemination activities, and requires us to rethink our links to policy makers, academia and civil society. The principal challenge is to maintain strong local and national links, whereas network-type research creates new opportunities to create regional and international links.

In defining the objectives of our consultation and dissemination (CD) strategy, we must keep in mind that the ultimate goal of PEP is to reduce poverty through evidence-based policy making. Research is of little use if it is not effectively disseminated to policy makers who have the power to act upon poverty, as well as to other poverty researchers and the general public who may learn from it. While we should be realistic about the extent of influence PEP research may have, particularly given the small grant mechanism adopted, in this document we seek to generate ideas on how to efficiently optimize dissemination with limited resources. Often, effective dissemination activities can require very limited inputs and may even generate direct non-monetary benefits to researchers themselves (e.g. extension of network of contacts).

Basically, there are three different types of impacts that we may seek to achieve in disseminating research². First, the goal may be to expand the basic knowledge of the audience both about the research questions themselves and about techniques used to analyze them. Second, the goal may be to contribute to a policy debate by providing new data, analysis and ideas. Third, and most ambitiously, the goal may be to modify existing policies. Generally speaking, we assume that most PEP dissemination activities will actively pursue (and, to a certain extent, be responsible for attaining) the first two goals with the hope that, where appropriate, this may lead to policy reforms, although PEP researchers will, obviously, have no control over, or responsibility for, this.

But dissemination is only one side of the interaction we must seek with policy makers, academia and the general public. In the other direction, we must seek to consult each of these bodies in defining, implementing and interpreting our research in order to ensure that it is as policy relevant and credible as possible. The goal of this strategy paper is to ensure that this interaction occurs in an environment of ongoing dialogue guaranteeing the best possible research with the largest possible impact. This strategy is open to revision and updating at any time, as new ideas and opportunities emerge and as existing ideas are tested.

The nature of PEP research, which seeks to monitor and measure poverty, analyze its causes and consequences, and evaluate the poverty impacts of government policy, has rich implications in terms of policy formulation. Attention should be paid, both by the PEP office and researchers themselves, to the opening of policy windows, such as the PRSP process, that can be used to increase interaction with (and influence on) policy makers. Community-Based

² We build on ideas developed in Lindquist (2001), but modify them somewhat.

Monitoring System (CBMS) work provides ongoing input on the poverty situation and the impacts of policies at the community level. Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA) work examines how a broad range of macro-economic policies affect the poor and provides a laboratory to explore the poverty impacts of alternative or accompanying policies. As its name indicates, the Poverty Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis (PMMA) subnetwork examines all these aspects of poverty.

We will consider, in turn, three types of CD activities: Direct contact, specific events (e.g. forum, debate, conference, workshop, etc.) and publications. While each of these activities is conceptually distinct, they may, of course, be related. For example, direct contacts may be used to identify participants in specific events and these events will, in turn, hopefully create new direct contacts for PEP researchers. Note also that certain activities, in particular events and publications, may simultaneously target policymakers, academia and/or civil society. For each, we distinguish PEP's interaction with policymakers, academia and civil society, who we refer hereon to as PEP's CD partners. A distinction is also made between the level at which this interaction occurs: local, national, regional or international.

Throughout this strategy paper, we will attempt to indicate both what we see as researcher responsibilities and mechanisms through which the PEP project office can provide support. In particular, researchers are requested to include a draft CD strategy in proposals submitted to PEP:

- i) demonstrating the relevance of the proposed research to a specific challenge, problem and/or issue;
- ii) identifying key CD partners and strategies for interacting with them;
- iii) outlining past CD activities of team members in past projects and in the elaboration of the current proposal.

This strategy will weigh strongly in the proposal review, along with the scientific merits of the proposal itself. The goal, however, is primarily constructive, aiming to get researchers thinking about ways of increasing their interaction with CD partners both to better understand the important issues and to disseminate their findings. Although it is hoped that some CD activities will already begin before or immediately after proposal approval, project office support will be provided to revise the CD strategy with a view to finalizing it at the same time as the interim report as a condition for receiving the second grant disbursement. In the context of PEP's devolution strategy, PEP project office CD activities will be progressively devolved to researchers and southern institutions. The PEP project office will also seek to make many of these activities (web site, email lists, etc.) as self-sustaining as possible. While this strategy is specific to the PEP network, it is clear that PEP is part of the larger MIMAP project and will seek to coordinate its CD activities with MIMAP.

Before looking in detail at specific CD activities, we present a quick overview of the three types of CD partners – policy makers, academia and civil society – in the following section.

2. CONSULTATION AND DISSEMINATION PARTNERS

2.1 Policy Makers

The ultimate goal of PEP research is to inform and influence policies to combat poverty or, in the case of policies aimed at other objectives, to ensure that their poverty impacts are properly taken into account. In the words of Liguton (1994, p.1):

“For the MIMAP Project, it means relaying to policymakers a good information base on the possible effects of macro adjustment policies on households and firms which could serve as their basis for (1) anticipating the nature and extent of social adjustment costs on certain sectors; (2) adopting adjustment policies that would have the least unfavourable impact on the vulnerable groups of society; and (3) designing the safety nets needed.”

Given the limited analytical capacities in most developing country governments, dialogue with PEP researchers can provide a mechanism to ensure that policy making is increasingly based on scientific and poverty-sensitive research methods with support from international experts. Liguton (1994, p.2) stresses that “the results/findings of the Project should be explained to policymakers and the general audience in the simplest way possible for them to easily understand and appreciate the implications”. At the same time, policy makers at all levels can contribute importantly to the identification of important research issues, the design and implementation of appropriate research methodologies and the interpretation of research results. Note that interaction at the national level should include not only government officials, but also national representatives of international organizations, as they may have considerable influence on national policy making.

2.2 Academia

Interaction with academia also has consultation and dissemination dimensions. On one hand, it is hoped that the dissemination of PEP research to fellow researchers will provide them valuable information to be used in their own research and/or introduce them to new research techniques. Dissemination will, in particular, contribute to PEP’s capacity-building impact beyond researchers directly financed by the network. On the other hand, PEP encourages dialogue among PEP researchers and with other academics in order to provide PEP researchers with broader knowledge of existing results and analytical techniques relevant to their research interests.

2.3 Civil Society

PEP aims to contribute to informing and influencing public opinion in matters related to poverty policies. In the long term, public opinion can play a determining role in the elaboration, implementation and sustainability of policies to combat poverty. At the same time, civil society institutions, such as NGOs, unions, community associations and community leaders can provide useful perspectives in the identification of poverty research issues, the design of a research strategy and the interpretation of research results. A strong dialogue with civil society is an essential part of an effective CD strategy.

2.4 Identification of Key CD Partners for a Specific Project

The appropriate CD partners will depend importantly on the specific research questions/policy issues addressed by the research. It is likely that some projects will make strong links to policy makers while others will more target academia and civil society, depending on the nature of the proposed research and the intended outcome. To the extent that they are capable, researchers should provide a short discussion of how policy is made in the areas they are researching. Beyond identifying the relevant ministry, researchers may be able to identify the specific departments/divisions (even individuals) involved. This discussion may also go further to discuss whether there is a current policy debate to which the research will contribute, the contending viewpoints and their representatives both within government, as well as in academia and civil society³. A clear understanding of the policy debate and actors can provide strong guidance in the elaboration of all aspects of a team's CD strategy: people/institutions to contact directly, to invite to specific events, to send publications, etc. Indeed, this understanding should influence even the elaboration of the research project itself. In the policy relevance section of their proposals, researchers should seek to identify the crucial research questions/policy issues, the contending viewpoints, and the testable hypotheses that underlie each viewpoint.

In the following three sections, we present the three principal types of CD activities constituting the PEP CD strategy: direct contact, specific events and publications. For each activity, we present the underlying strategy, a few examples from past MIMAP experience⁴, and the respective roles and responsibilities of researchers and the PEP office.

3. DIRECT CONTACT

3.1 Strategy

The MIMAP experience suggests that direct contact is perhaps the most powerful mechanism for dialoguing with CD partners. Direct contact can be made, in increasing order of proximity, by regular mail, email, telephone or meetings. Through long-term and ongoing interaction, policy makers, fellow researchers and civil society representatives develop trust in specific researchers and research teams while also acquiring a better understanding of their research activities and methods. As the relationship develops, CD partners are more likely to consider seriously the results of their research and they are also more likely to devote the time and energy to provide useful feedback. As Liguton (1994, p.2) puts it: "For purposes of effecting changes in practice, behavior or attitude, meanwhile, group communication and face-to-face interaction are better means."

Ideally, there should be close dialogue with CD partners at each stage of the research cycle: identification of the research issue, design of the research proposal, implementation, examination of the interim and final reports, and dissemination/discussion of results. In the first stages, key CD partners should be informed of the project objectives and methodologies and their input should be actively sought. This is useful not only for the ideas that they may provide

³ See Lindquist (2001) for an in-depth discussion.

⁴ Many more examples are provided in IDRC (2003).

at this key stage of project design, but also to ensure that they will feel involved in the project and consequently be more receptive to the final results. Periodic reporting of project progress, including interim reports, will then ensure ongoing input and continued implication of CD partners. At the final stage, direct contact with key CD partners can help in interpreting project results, drawing implications and ensuring that CD partners take account of these implications in their future academic, policy-making and civil society activities. Note also that direct interactions initially related to PEP activities can serve as an initial step toward interactions between PEP researchers and CD partners that go far beyond the PEP projects themselves to include new research activities requested by policymakers or technical assistance, for example.

By its nature, of the three PEP networks, the CBMS network has the strongest links with CD partners at the local (community) and national levels. MPIA research focuses primarily at the national level and thus these teams should seek dialogue with CD partners at this level⁵. There may be some scope for interaction with local CD partners in the case of specific PMMA projects, although there is little past experience in this regard.

3.2 MIMAP experience

MIMAP projects have experimented with various mechanisms to directly interact with their CD partners. These interactions can range from informal discussions with specific CD partners to their integration in MIMAP teams. CBMS work is founded on direct and ongoing interaction with local policy makers and society, who eventually take responsibility for the project itself. Direct interaction with other academics at the national, regional and international level is the basic motivation of PEP's network format. On the policy front, MIMAP team members have often been directly integrated into poverty-related policy making activities. One may be concerned that the independence and objectivity of researchers could be compromised by such close contact, although past experience shows no evidence of this and indicates that the experience has been overwhelmingly positive.

Here are a few examples of direct interaction between MIMAP researchers and CD partners drawn from IDRC (2003):

- The MIMAP team in Benin is directly involved in evaluating, preparing a poverty profile, refining survey methodology and conducting a poverty survey in the context of Benin's PRSP process, primarily through requests by the Danish Embassy.
- In Palawan province for instance, MIMAP researchers worked over the past 5 years with provincial and local government officials to implement a community-based poverty monitoring system (CBMS) across the province. In addition, the Province of Palawan developed, for the first time, a Human Development Report of the Province of Palawan, in collaboration with MIMAP and the Centre for International Migration and Development (2000). Upon the request of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the MIMAP-Philippines team used the CBMS data to assess the welfare of the population in the barangays in Palawan covered by DSWD. The DSWD used the report in its assessment of its policies and programmes related to the delivery of basic social services in Palawan.

⁵ Some MPIA projects may address regional issues, in which case contact should be sought with the corresponding regional institutions (e.g. ASEAN or UEMOA secretariats).

- During the first phase, a member of the Nepalese MIMAP team was elected to the National Planning Commission (NPC) to oversee the social sector. In addition, the team leader was engaged in NPC on poverty and employment issues for the purpose of preparing the Ninth Five Year Plan. Consequently, the MIMAP research results were used by the NPC in designing the Ninth Five Year Plan. The results were of great interest and use to various NGOs and INGOs in their planning and design of development interventions.
- The Moroccan MIMAP team has collaborated directly with SISERA and the World Bank Institute in Africa.
- The household survey carried out by the MIMAP-Pakistan project provided a reliable data-base to estimate 1998-99 poverty levels. The MIMAP-Pakistan study became a very useful tool as the Government's data on poverty was lacking. In particular, the results of the household survey were included in the Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategies (PRGS), a negotiating document between the IMF and the Government of Pakistan. The study demonstrated poverty trends and provided information for the most recent period of 1998-99 for both rural and urban areas of the country. As a benchmark for poverty reduction strategy, the MIMAP-Pakistan household survey was named as the 1998-99 Pakistan Socio-Economic Survey.
- Research conducted in the Burkina Faso MIMAP project has been used by their country's PRSP team to develop their PRSP strategy
- The Philippines MPIA team has been asked by government agencies to simulate changes in the tax structure and the oil industry, as well as the impact of the Asian crisis and the peso devaluation.

3.3 PEP researcher activities

PEP researchers are strongly encouraged to directly interact with CD partners throughout the research cycle: identification of research issues, elaboration of proposal, project implementation, discussion of interim and final reports, and dissemination. A major challenge for PEP researchers will, therefore, be to identify and establish contact with key CD partners right from the beginning through the presentation and discussion of project objectives and methodologies.

Once the key CD partners are identified, PEP researchers should consider the following methods for entering into direct contact with CD partners:

- Distribute PEP brochures, draft project proposal (or summary thereof), interim report, final report, policy briefs, working papers, etc. to key contacts, possibly in person.
- Request advice on policy relevance, technical issues, interpretation of results, sources of data/information, etc.
- Present and discuss proposal and reports
- Participate in academic and policy seminars, fora, groups, etc.
- Participate in PEP and MIMAP meetings and email discussion fora.

A section of the CD strategy should outline whether the team has already consulted local or national CD partners (depending on the research issue), indicating if possible which partners were consulted (by name or by function and department) and briefly describing the input provided by them. While this consultation is not obligatory, it will be considered favorably in the proposal evaluation process as evidence of both the proposal's policy relevance and the research team's links to CD partners.

PEP encourages teams to combine senior and young researchers. While the goal is primarily to encourage capacity building among young researchers, it is hoped that the inclusion of senior researchers will also imply better direct contacts with CD partners, as these types of contacts generally take time to develop. Cooperation in CD activities between MIMAP- and PEP-financed researchers at the national level is also actively encouraged to take advantage of all existing personal contacts. MIMAP teams in particular have developed a number of CD activities and direct contacts in the past that may be helpful to new PEP teams in the same country.

3.4 PEP office support

The PEP project office supports direct contact with key CD partners in a variety of ways. At the national level, it will seek to assist PEP researchers in their efforts to establish contact with key CD partners. At the regional and international levels, the onus for establishing contact and dialoguing with CD partners is primarily on the PEP project office, rather than individual researchers, although the latter may provide substantial assistance. In particular:

- Personal contacts of PEP scientific committee and resource persons will be used, where possible and appropriate, to introduce PEP researchers to local, national, regional or international CD partners.
- PEP will also contact the IDRC regional office and the national Canadian Embassy to present the project and request that they provide any assistance they can to PEP researchers seeking introduction to local, national and regional CD partners.
- The PEP office will seek to inform key officials in regional and international institutions of PEP research activities.
- Attempts will be made, in collaboration with PEP researchers, to draw together at a regional or international level the results of PEP research in comparative analyses, which may be of more direct interest and importance to regional and international CD partners.
- PEP meetings are the occasion to put researchers in direct contact with researchers, international experts, policy makers and civil society representatives. In addition to scientific committee members and “permanent” resource persons, efforts will be made to invite representatives of key CD partners to specific meetings.
- Through PEP email discussion fora, the project office will seek to maintain ongoing direct contact with a large number of CD partners.

4. SPECIFIC EVENTS

4.1 Strategy

PEP researchers are encouraged to organize or participate in a variety of national and international events that favor dialogue between PEP researchers and CD partners: forums, debates, conferences. Participation in these events may target one or several of the following objectives: present PEP research results, obtain input/feedback from policy makers on PEP researchers, or bring PEP researchers and policy makers together to discuss poverty-related policy issues. These events allow strong exposure of PEP research to a large audience in a dynamic and focused context.

Events may target one CD audience in particular – policy makers, academia or civil society – or a combination of these. Events targeting academia are particularly appropriate to present and discuss technical and methodological aspects in detail, whereas if policy makers or civil society representatives are involved, efforts should be made to avoid technical issues and address the basic research insights and policy implications.

In organizing such events, it is particularly useful to name key CD partners as discussants to ensure that a few read the reports carefully and to break down any research-CD partner barriers. The event need not focus exclusively nor even primarily on PEP research and may instead favor bringing together a variety of perspectives for a more lively and, ultimately, constructive debate. Researcher and PEP contacts with local and national government officials and representatives of international organizations should be used to ensure the participation of key individual/agencies. PEP publications should be made available to participants at these events.

4.2 MIMAP experience

Here are some examples of specific events organized or attended by MIMAP researchers in the past:

- MIMAP-Philippines has also hosted and actively participated in a wide variety of national and international symposiums. The visibility of the MIMAP-Philippines project at local, regional, national, and international levels has enabled MIMAP researchers to engage, interact, and exhibit their findings to various government agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- The MIMAP team in Morocco collaborated with the Association of Moroccan Demographers to organize a study day on Poverty in Morocco: Concepts, Indicators and Relation with Demographic Variables. A senior Moroccan minister, representatives of international organizations and a number of ambassadors were among the participants.
- One of the major channels for the dissemination of the MIMAP-India research results has been through the Workshops/ Advisory Committee Meetings. These workshops/ meetings have proven to be the ideal forum for interaction between academic leaders in India, senior officials from Planning Commission and the MIMAP-India team. These meetings/workshops were used to discuss ongoing and future work and project results in order to increase their acceptance as well as to get valuable suggestions and comments.

- MIMAP-Vietnam MPIA work has been presented at various fora including: the Regional Conference on Poverty Reduction Strategy co-organized by UNDP, WB, IMF and ADB in Hanoi in December 2001; the International Conference on Policy Modeling in Brussels in July 2002; the 6th National Mathematical Conference of Vietnam in September 2002; and the Global Development Learning Network, organized in January 2003 by the WB in the form of a video-conferences with participation of lead researchers from the WB, Cambodia, Lao, Mongolia and Vietnam.
- Two members of the Burkina Faso MIMAP team were invited by their Minister of Finance to organize and/or participate in national and regional poverty debates jointly organized by the World Bank and the PRSP country teams. The regional debate included four countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Sénégal. Among the various discussions/seminars prepared by the MIMAP-Burkina team were 4 national thematic discussions. The national debates consisted of the PRSP team, representatives of civil society groups, and government ministries.
- Several MIMAP teams have been involved in organizing and conducting training projects for public servants, notably in collaboration with the World Bank Institute.

4.3 PEP researcher activities

PEP-financed researchers are strongly encouraged to organize or participate in such events and should be aware that this will be considered favorably in the evaluation of future proposals they may wish to submit to the PEP network. When more than one PEP-financed or MIMAP-financed team is active in a given country, serious consideration should be given to the possibility of organizing a joint event in order to maximize the exposure of PEP research. In particular, PEP researchers are encouraged to consider:

- Organizing one-time fora, debates, seminars, symposiums or conferences related to present their research and/or discuss related issues.
- Organize regular PEP seminar series for presentations by: i) all PEP teams in a given country, ii) individual members (particularly younger researchers) within PEP teams; and/or iii) other researchers working on PEP-related research.
- Organize meetings of a formal or informal “national advisory council” regularly bringing together policy makers, academics and/or civil society representatives to present and discuss project objectives, progress, difficulties (technical issues or data access) and results.
- Present PEP research or participate in the discussion in events organized by others.

4.4 PEP office support

While local and national events (depending on the research issue) should generally be spearheaded by PEP researchers themselves, the PEP office generally takes responsibility, in collaboration with PEP researchers, for organizing regional or international events bringing together PEP research from multiple countries. The PEP office can provide support to all these events in a number of ways:

- The PEP network offers grants of up to \$CAN 2000 on a competitive basis to PEP-financed MPIA and PMMA researchers to organize national or local events (see section 3 of the PEP grants manual for details).
- CBMS grants include a provision for organizing workshops to presenting the design and results of projects.
- In addition to financial contributions, the PEP office can provide advice and support in organising the event, particularly in designing the event and contacting certain invitees.
- PEP meetings encourage dialogue between PEP researchers, international experts, and CD partners at all levels. To this end, well-know international experts, and representatives of national governments, regional, international and donor organizations are invited to PEP meetings.
- Consideration is also given to the possibility of organizing, at the beginning or end of a PEP meeting, a day-long policy debate on specific poverty issues.
- PEP also participates directly in the organization of stand-alone regional events on occasion, such as the October 2003 joint seminar with MIMAP and the Asian Development Bank on “Poverty, Trade, and Growth: Issues for Policy Research” in Manila.
- PEP encourages interaction between PEP researchers and international researchers and policymakers through competitive grants to participate in training workshops, study visits and international conferences. Researchers are informed of such activities through periodic emails, PEP-Talk and the PEP web site (“Events outside PEP”). Presentations of PEP research in top-level research provides PEP researchers with valuable input on their research activities while disseminating to a large and influential audience.

5. PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

5.1 Strategy

The use of publications and media constitute relatively low-cost mechanisms to disseminate PEP research widely to CD partners at local, national, regional and international levels. Publications and, to some extent, media have the added advantage of durability, ensuring that recipients can refer to them whenever needed. In particular, this may take the form of reports, articles, working papers, bulletins, newsletters, policy briefs, newspaper articles, television/radio interviews, books, pamphlets or web sites. Publications can be distributed to direct contacts or representatives in local or national governments (depending on the research issue), regional and international organizations, NGOs and donor representatives. Liguton

(1994, p.2) points out that the use of mass media is particularly effective in “creating awareness and increasing knowledge”. Note that some of these activities can be begun from the outset of the project in order to introduce the project to CD partners and set the stage for future CD activities.

5.2 MIMAP experience

Here are a few examples of the use of publications and media to disseminate MIMAP research results taken from IDRC (2003):

- The MIMAP team in Morocco has distributed working papers to more than one hundred national and international addresses, particularly: government officials responsible for planning, social programs, poverty alleviation; national economic media; embassies and aid agencies; economic faculty libraries; etc.
- Dissemination of information continues to be a priority for MIMAP-Philippines through the preparation of its quarterly bulletin, research papers, and the project website. Several national government agencies that have been regular recipients of the MIMAP-Project Updates and the project’s quarterly bulletin, and have expressed the usefulness of these publications in their organization’s respective work. Among these are the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Nutrition Council, and offices of selected senators. Likewise, various MIMAP research work, featured in selected issues of the MIMAP’s newsletter, have also been featured in the Philippine Star, one of the country’s leading daily newspaper.
- A priority agenda of MIMAP-Bangladesh is the dissemination of the project information. For this, study series, working paper series, policy briefs, newsletters, journal articles, monographs, project website and other means of publication have been widely used.
- The MPIA network is currently completing a book on the poverty impact of trade liberalization that groups together eight country studies from Africa (Benin, Senegal) and Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam).
- A number of African MIMAP papers will be published in the *Revue d’économie du développement*

5.3 PEP researcher activities

PEP-financed researchers are strongly encouraged to publish their research results and to interact with local media. They should be aware that this will be considered favorably in the evaluation of future proposals they may wish to submit to the PEP network. As stipulated in PEP research grant contracts, PEP researchers have the right to publish, in any form, the results of the Project, or any other information prepared or produced as a result of this grant, and are not required to obtain the consent of PEP to do so. They are, however, required to recognize the support of PEP by including in all publications the following acknowledgement:

“This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network, financed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).”

Activities to be considered include:

- Publication of research results in PEP working paper series
- Publication of PEP policy briefs
- Participation in PEP collective volumes
- Contributions to PEP Talk
- Publication of journal articles based on PEP research
- Publication in other working paper series, books, newsletters, etc.
- Initiation of and participation in media interviews
- Dissemination, particularly at the national level, of PEP and PEP-related publications to CD partners (a distribution list or dissemination strategy for publications should be provided with the team's CD strategy).

5.4 PEP office support

The PEP office can contribute to this effort in a number of ways.

- It is currently in the process of developing a standardized PEP working paper and policy brief series that will be posted on the PEP web site. A list of new PEP working papers will be provided in future editions of PEP Talk, which is sent to a long and ever-growing list of CD partners. Final PEP and MIMAP reports will be automatically considered for publication in the working paper series. The evaluation will be made by the relevant network leader in consultation with one member of the network's steering committee. The researcher will be responsible for presenting the working paper according to predefined presentation guidelines and may be asked to revise certain aspects of the paper before publication. A member of the PEP office or a senior PEP researcher will edit the presentation of the paper. These working papers will also be indexed and disseminated through RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), SSRN (Social Science Research Network) and other Internet-based listing services.
- Researchers are also invited to submit one-page policy briefs based on their PEP-financed research for publication by the PEP network. The relevant network will evaluate policy briefs alone. PEP working papers and policy briefs will be distributed internationally and posted on the PEP web site. In addition, the PEP research teams will receive 50 copies for local and national distribution⁶.
- The PEP office will also play a key role in the edition and publication of books bringing together and comparing related PEP research from multiple countries. One example is the MPIA book on trade liberalization and poverty, which is currently being finalized.

⁶ This number may be increased on justified request by the PEP research team.

- The PEP network offers an award of \$CAN 300 for PEP-research based publications in international journals included in the Econlit journal list.
- The PEP office is also in the process of developing a brochure presenting the PEP network and subnetworks⁷ that it will ask PEP researchers to help distribute to local and national policy makers.
- The PEP periodical newsletter - PEP Talk - is distributed to a large (700+) international distribution list including researchers, policy makers, donor representatives, NGOs, et. It will, increasingly, present the results of PEP- and MIMAP-funded research.
- The PEP web site currently has more than 350 subscribers. PEP working papers and policy briefs will be published on the web site and it also hosts email discussion fora.

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⁷ A brochure for the CBMS network has already been prepared and was distributed at the first CBMS interim meeting.