

Mayor of Cotonou, Benin bares 6-point agenda in light of CBMS results



Left and bottom right: Typical source of drinking water

Typical dwelling unit

Mayor Nicéphore Diéudonné Soglo

The city council of Cotonou, Benin, through its Mayor, the Honorable Nicéphore Dieudonné Soglo, has outlined several priority programs, projects and activities (PPAs) for the city, which are expected to uplift the living conditions of households, particularly those located in the 13th District of Cotonou.

This developed after the CBMS Team in Benin unveiled its report in 2006 highlighting the substantial deficiencies in the provision of basic infrastructure, utilities and social services in the district composed of the areas of Agla, Ahogbohoulé, Aibatin, Gbedegbé, Houénoussou and Missité.

6-point agenda for Cotonou

Mayor Soglo, who served as Prime Minister of Benin from 1990 to 1991 and President from 1991 to 1996, has defined the

following priorities in Cotonou's 6-Point Agenda:

1. Building of Public Latrines

The town council proposed to build public latrines in the areas of Agla, Ahogbohoulé, Aibatin and Houénoussou.

2. Building of a Public Health Center

The only public health center which caters to the healthcare needs of the entire population in the 13th district is located in Houénoussou. Owing to its distance to the other areas, it is convenient to build another public health center in Agla.

3. Strengthening of Electricity and Water Supply Networks

The town council proposed to strengthen the electricity and water supply networks in order to allow the households in the 13th district to have access to electricity and water.

4. Facilitation of an Anti-Malaria Campaign

A joint action between the town council and the Ministry of Health aimed at protecting the population from Malaria will be facilitated.

5. Building of Water Kiosks

The town council will build water kiosks for households that do not have the means to subscribe to the Benin National Water Company.

6. Building of a Technical Learning School in Gbedegbe

There are already two colleges of general education in the 13th District but these are located very far from the area of Gbedegbe which is in need of either a college of

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general education or a technical college. Hence, the inclusion of this item in the agenda.

To accomplish the above, the town council will collaborate with the district head, the area leaders and the development committees in the following tasks: determination of the construction sites, estimation of the cost of the projects and cost-sharing arrangements, exploration of the possibility of seeking complementary financing from development partners, and identification of arrangements pertaining to the management of the infrastructures after their construction.

The City of Cotonou where the 13th District is located is the economic capital of Benin as well as its largest city. It houses many of the country's government and diplomatic services and is considered as Benin's *de facto* capital even if the official capital is Porto-Novo.

Strategic recommendations

Meanwhile, the CBMS Team in Benin has also made the following recommendations to the local authorities in the District of Adogbé in light of the CBMS survey results in the area:

- * Provision of access to electricity to households especially because only less than a third of the population of the district of Adogbé use electricity.

- * Construction of a stand-pipe fountain for the households that use water from unprotected wells (24.4 % for the entire district).

- * Installation of a facility that will recycle household waste (82.6 % of the total number of households in the district still dispose of their wastes in nature).

- * Provision of access to an improved hearth for all the households of the Adogbé district where the majority use firewood (71.3 %) in order to reduce consumption and to slow down desertification.

- * Installation of public latrines to reduce defecation in nature. This is especially prevalent in Azéhounholi and Voli where 44.3 percent and 40.4 percent, respectively, of their population do not have access to sanitary toilets.

- * Construction of school buildings for both primary and secondary levels.

- * Establishment of a public transport system to serve the district of Adogbé.

- * Construction of a public health center in Azéhounholi where the inhabitants still have to travel for 60 minutes in order to reach a health center.

CBMS in Benin

Two years after the CBMS was pilot tested in the country, the CBMS Project Team in Benin has successfully installed the system in three communes in the country, collected information from a total of 16,300 households composed of a total population of 57,850, and drafted profiles of these communes based on the CBMS data gathered from these sites.

Patterned after a national survey known as Integrated Modular Survey on the Living Conditions of Households, the CBMS initiative in the country aims to provide disaggregated data at the local level to support the decentralization process which started in December 2004.

The country's Observatory of Social Change at that time only monitored poverty and measured its impact at the national level and could not provide disaggregated information at the commune, district and area levels.

During the development phase of the project, the CBMS Team in Benin was able to identify a core set of indicators that were collected for each commune (see table below).

The initial development of CBMS work in the country was administered by the Cellule d'Analyse de Politique Economique (CAPE), in cooperation with the CBMS-Benin Project Team headed by Dr. Marie Odile Attanasso. *

CBMS Core Indicators, Benin

Dimensions	Indicators
Demography and Social Characteristics	Population by age and sex, population structure, sex of household head, etc. Illiterates by age and sex
Health and Nutrition	Distance between health centers and dwelling units, prevalence of common diseases, classification by order of importance of common diseases
Conditions of Dwelling Units	Proportion of households according to type of dwelling, proportion of households according to the construction materials of the roof of dwelling units, proportion of households according to number of rooms
Access to Water and Sanitation	Proportion of inhabitants who use different types of water supply sources and toilets
Access to Energy	Proportion of individuals according to the mode of lighting, proportion of individuals according to the mode of energy used in the kitchen
Possession of Inheritance	Proportion of individuals according to the type of inheritance
Socio-community data	Distribution of education, health, boutique market and transport service infrastructures
Migration	Proportion of individuals who have migrated

CBMS Research Grants Program attracts 18 applications from research institutions worldwide

The CBMS Network Research Grants Program, which provides funding to support new CBMS initiatives in developing countries, has recently attracted a total of 18 applications from research institutions worldwide. Eleven of these proposals came from Africa, five from Asia, one from South America and another from Europe. The titles and proponents are summarized in the table below.

Thus far, only the proposal submitted by the SMERU Research Institute in Indonesia titled *"The Implementation of CBMS in the City of Pekalongan, Indonesia"* had been approved by the CBMS Steering Committee while the rest are still undergoing review.

According to the CBMS Network Coordinating Team, which is administering the research grants program, up to nine grants in the maximum amount of US\$ 50,000 will be awarded to research institutions, national government agencies and local government units from developing countries except for those countries where the CBMS is currently being implemented such as Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The grants will be for the development and pilot testing of the CBMS in countries which do not as yet have a CBMS and for the support of the expansion and institutionalization of the CBMS in countries that have found them to be feasible. One of the major considerations in the evaluation of the proposals is the assurance that the proposed design adheres to basic CBMS features and will work in the local context.

Grant applications are categorized into two: (1) development and pilot test of a CBMS, and (2) expansion and institutionalization of a CBMS. Aside from the financial support, grantees will be

given opportunities to participate in the CBMS and PEP network's training workshops and conferences, access to the CBMS network's database as well as access to technical support from the network's pool of technical advisors. *

CBMS Network: Project Proposals 2007-2008

	Title	Country	Project Proponent
AFRICA			
1	CBPMS in the Communes of So-ava and Parakou	Benin	SSCP/BENIN
2	MDG CBMS in Malawi	Malawi	African Institute for Development Research
3	Development and Pilot test of a Child Poverty CBMS in South Africa	South Africa	Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
4	Developing a Sierra Leone Community-Based Poverty Assessment Tracking System	Sierra Leone	Moyamba District
5	Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction in Rural Cameroon using the CBMS Approach	Cameroon	Institute for Agricultural Research and Development
6	Fostering Poverty Reduction Mechanism through Rigorous Research and Monitoring of Poverty Stricken Issues for Decentralized Human Development	Liberia	Liberia Democratic Institute
7	Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Nigeria: A Community Participation Approach	Nigeria	University of Nigeria Nsukka
8	Application of Community Directed Intervention to Combat Poverty, Improve Access to Health and Education in North Eastern Nigeria	Nigeria	Youth Development and Social Research (YDSR)
9	Climate Change and Poverty in Arid South Africa: Using a CBMS Approach to Determine Local, Regional and National Planning Implications	South Africa	Center for Development Support, University of the Free State
10	Community-Based Monitoring System in Kumi District, Uganda	Uganda	African Training, Research and Innovation Network (A-TRAIN)
11	Community-Based Monitoring System in Cote d' Ivoire	Cote d' Ivoire	Unite de Regionale d'Enseignement Superieur de Korhogo (Ures Korhogo)
ASIA			
1	CBPM in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	SPARC-University of Colombo
2	Yunnan Rural CBMS Project Development and Pilot test	China	The Center for Community Development Studies
3	The Implementation of CBMS in the City of Pekalongan in Indonesia	Indonesia	SMERU Research Institute
4	CBMS Network Research Proposal	Thailand	Department of Agricultural and Resource Economic, Kasetsart University
5	Community Empowerment through Community-Based Monitoring System in Mongolia	Mongolia	Centre for Social Development
SOUTH AMERICA			
1	Developing a CBMS in the Northern Region of Peru	Peru	Universidad Catolica Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo
EUROPE			
1	Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS) in Albania	Albania	Statistical Research Center & Information and Technology (SRC&IT)

5th National CBMS Conference highlights immense progress in use of the CBMS

Now on its fifth year, the National Conference on the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) held on January 30 to February 01, 2008 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel is so far the biggest gathering of CBMS stakeholders from all over the country.

Keynoting the opening day of the event was Secretary Domingo Panganiban, Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). Also sharing the stage with him as keynote speakers for the other days were Dr. W. Randy Spence of the Economic and Social Development Affiliates (ESDA-Canada), and Under-Secretary Austere Panadero of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

In his keynote address, Secretary Panganiban underscored the need for timely and accurate information on the number, location and actual living conditions of the Filipino poor. He acknowledged that the paucity of information has had serious repercussions on the government's bid to improve basic services in impoverished communities and reduce poverty levels in the country. He concluded that the adoption of the CBMS is a significant step forward in the nation's struggle to give more Filipino families a just share of the national wealth and therefore deserves the support and commitment of everyone.

Meanwhile, Dr. W. Randy Spence, who once served as Senior Program Specialist in economics for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada) and as Director of IDRC's Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia in Singapore, spoke about how some central dimensions of well-being are generally not measured and targeted. These dimensions include physical safety, agency and empowerment, and dignity or

the ability to go about without shame, employment, psychological and subjective well-being.

He said that the CBMS currently includes some of these missing dimensions but added that: (i) the security and employment indicators of CBMS can be further expanded, and (ii) empowerment and dignity indicators can be added. He disclosed that these additional indicators of well-being will be pilot tested in the Philippines to determine the extent of their added value, in relation to the cost of data collection using these new indicators in the CBMS, and to enable the refinement and simplification of such indicators for potential use in the Philippines and other CBMS countries. According to him, it is anticipated that the additional information on security, employment, dignity and empowerment will help further improve the design and

effectiveness of local government budgets, services and programs.

For his part, DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero said that CBMS data can indeed be used in identifying the priority development issues at the local level. He stressed, however, that the main challenge for local government units (LGUs) today is to translate the diagnosis into appropriate interventions and mobilize resources to finance their implementation.



Dr. W. Randy Spence
ESDA-Canada

Views from the local level

As if in answer to the challenge posed by Undersecretary Panadero, Mayor Antonio Raymundo Jr. of Orion, Bataan said that while his administration's initial focus was to use CBMS as a tool to localize the Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs), today, the whole municipality and all its 23 barangays are also using CBMS results as basis in formulating their Annual Investment Plans and identifying priority programs, projects and activities. For instance, the Php65,000 allocation for small infrastructure projects for each barangay was scrapped to give way to MDG-responsive projects such as construction of water systems, construction of additional health facilities and provision of additional medical equipment.

Meanwhile, Governor Maria Valentina Plaza of the Province of Agusan del Sur recounted how CBMS results have facilitated the formulation of appropriate interventions and the targeting of eligible beneficiaries for said programs. For example, the CBMS has provided inputs to the planning of the provincial government's Convergence Development Program (CDP) as well as the prioritization of geographic areas. The CDP

aims to pool together local resources in order to have a focused and integrated strategy that would maximize the impact of programs and projects for economic and social development. At present, 32 barangays and households whose monthly incomes do not go beyond Php2,000 are being targeted.



Sec. Domingo
Panganiban, NAPC



Undersecretary Austere
Panadero, DILG

5th National CBMS...from p.4

Another program that has used the CBMS outputs during its planning is the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP). Specifically, it used the CBMS outputs in evaluating the welfare status of barangays and in ranking them in the municipalities of Santa Josefa and Prosperidad. Meanwhile, analysis of CBMS-generated data on indigenous peoples (IPs) in selected areas has been conducted by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in evaluating applications for Certificates of Ancestral Domain (CADT).

On the other hand, Councilor Celia Flor of Bacolod City discussed the research findings of the CBMS-Gender Responsive Budgeting study and noted that the system has provided a clearer understanding of the status of women and men, particularly on the following areas: household roles, asset ownership and community/political participation. Ms. Nancy Spence, Director of ESDA-Canada and former Coordinator of the Women in Development of CIDA's ASEAN Regional Development Program, compared the CBMS-GRB to other global models. She said that the CBMS-GRB initiative is a best practice model which is more responsive to women's needs. She also expressed optimism that the initiative could develop spin-offs into advocacy areas and be replicated in other countries in Latin America and Africa.

Messages of support and commitment

The commitment and support from a wide range of stakeholders for the CBMS has been steadily growing over the years. Mayor Ramon Guico, National President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, for instance, committed to support the implementation of the CBMS to broaden the participation of the municipalities in what he described as a "worthwhile undertaking". He said that one of the areas that the League wants to replicate in Philippine municipalities is the innovation and excellence of their members in the implementation of the CBMS.

On the part of the country's national planning body, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Director Erlinda Capones of the Social Development Staff said that the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) for 2004-2010 targets the expansion of the CBMS coverage to all LGUs by 2010. This implies that the daunting challenge of socially marketing the CBMS, conducting orientation sessions, facilitating the training modules and coaching the data gathering and processing activities to the country's 81 provinces, 136 cities, 1425 municipalities and 41,995 barangays must be met.

CBMS-UNDP Development Grants

One of the highlights of the conference was the awarding of a total of PhP1.56 million to the third set of grantees of the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program. The grantees included 8 LGUs from Agusan del Sur, Camarines Norte, Eastern Samar and Palawan. The funds will be used to finance barangay-based poverty reduction programs identified through the survey results of the CBMS.

Launched during the 3rd National Conference on CBMS, the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program was formed to build partnerships among communities and various sectors in the design and implementation of appropriate interventions in pursuit of meeting the MDGs, in particular, poverty reduction. It also aims to promote good governance and greater transparency in resource allocation through evidence-based needs identification, program design and impact monitoring.

Participant demographics

The 3-day conference has attracted the biggest attendance as yet of the various stakeholders in the country with over 350 participants composed of local chief executives, development practitioners, policymakers, academicians and researchers from north to south of the Philippines.

Dr. Celia Reyes, PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, noted how the participant demographics have changed through the

years. "We initially started with a sprinkling of local government units but today, they constitute the majority of participants to this annual gathering of CBMS stakeholders," she said.

At least 3 governors attended the conference, together with 55 mayors, a number of councilors and barangay officials and several LGU personnel.

Monitoring the achievement of the MDGs using CBMS

The event was jointly organized by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), with generous support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines, Social Watch Philippines, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

With the theme "Monitoring the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Philippines Using CBMS," the conference consisted of keynote presentations and panel discussions on the following: (i) localizing the MDGs using CBMS, (ii) managing health service delivery and population management using CBMS, (iii) CBMS repositories, (iv) local level planning and budgeting, (v) using CBMS for program targeting and impact monitoring, (vi) using CBMS as a tool for implementing regional development strategies, (vii) improving local governance and accountability through CBMS, and (viii) enriching partnerships for scaling up MDG initiatives and poverty reduction using CBMS.

The conference was also preceded by a two-day training on advanced courses on data processing and poverty mapping where 41 CBMS implementers and trainers from various LGUs, national government agencies and non-government organizations attended. *

ZRDC, partners set guidelines for pilot testing of CBMS-Zambia project



Enumerators during a briefing/orientation

The Zambia Research and Development Centre (ZRDC), the presidential office, government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units and local communities in Zambia have set the guidelines for the pilot testing of the poverty data collection project called Community-Based Monitoring System-Zambia (CBMS-Zambia) in Mungule.

The project management team (PMT) of ZRDC, a social and economic development consultant in Zambia, and the CBMS team have conducted several meetings with the involved groups to orient the latter on the project, including how the collected data will be used for local planning, policymaking and project prioritization. The data to be collected during a four-month period will also be made available to higher offices such as the Office of the President for the monitoring of the implementation of the CBMS project.

In this regard, all the participating parties have signed a memorandum of understanding providing for transparency in the research outputs.

The PMT, which designed the project's data collection instruments, built working relationships and conducted consultative meetings with the various stakeholders at the community level to come up with the guidelines for the CBMS-Zambia pilot testing.

During the meetings, baseline statistics about the pilot sites, including a rough map of the sites, were gathered. Several

suggestions were also made on how to conduct the pilot test as follows:

1. Participation of more players in the project, including their conceptualization of implementation methods and strategies;
2. Grant of access to all stakeholders on the information gathered to ensure resource accountability, allow multisectoral monitoring of the project, and instill confidence and trust in the research outputs for easy assimilation and decisionmaking by policymakers; and
3. Provision of transportation and logistical needs, including t-shirts for identification and raincoats, to the enumerators.

In addition, the following courses of action were likewise recommended:

1. Affirmation of the local traditional ruler (e.g., local chief, ward councilor and the Local Development Committee) as project overseer through round table discussions;
2. Signing of a Conformance and Abidance Agreement with relevant health departments to ensure the ethical conduct of research, particularly the handling of highly sensitive data such as HIV/AIDS

status of individuals, and observance of culture norms to avoid the stigma that seems to aggravate some patients' health conditions;

3. Treatment of all CBMS-Zambia information and publications as a property of the Zambia government and sharing of all intellectual property rights among the implementing institutions, i.e., the ZRDC and the funding agency, the International

Development Research Centre (IDRC);

4. Securing of clearance from the Ethics Committee of the University of Zambia (UNZA) before any information is made available for public consumption;
5. Presentation of project reports to relevant committees before these are released to the public;
6. Assembly of teams representing

different pilot areas; and

7. Translation in one major language of all the data collection instruments and communication mediums.

The participation and support of the community members in the CBMS-Zambia pilot test gives the PMT a positive headstart in the implementation of the project. *



Typical source of drinking water

CBMS Team conducts stakeholder meetings to sensitize communities on LPMS

In preparation for the data collection activities that were scheduled to be carried out during the first quarter of 2008, the Kenya CBMS Team held a series of stakeholder meetings on the Local Poverty Monitoring System (LPMS) in the Tana River District from May-November 2007.

According to the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD), the meetings helped the project team to introduce the LPMS to key stakeholders and get their commitment and support accordingly. The team also gained a meaningful understanding of the local dynamics in the pilot sites, the local terrain features and their potential impact on the research activities that are going to be conducted in the area. As a result, the team was able to develop a more realistic work plan.

Meetings with key stakeholders

Conducted intermittently over a span of seven months, the stakeholder meetings involved consultations and dialogues with district and divisional officers, non-government organizations and community-based organizations. The project team initially contacted the Tana River District Commissioner's Office where they were able to secure a clearance to conduct the research in the area.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Chief for Laini sub-location offered to facilitate the mobilization of village elders and the provision of security for the project team. On the other hand, the district officer of Bangale Division encouraged the team to carry out the research in the area since it would provide them with data on the relationship between conflicts and poverty in the district.

The project team also met with Mr. Kofa Kasse, District Coordinator of the Kenya Red Cross, who informed them that the Red Cross has trained local volunteers who are sent to monitor field conditions on a regular basis and bring back reports that guide their office in making rapid responses. As a result, the team decided to explore the possibility of partnering with the Red Cross, particularly in getting the services of their volunteers in the data collection activity.

Meanwhile, the project team also met with Mr. James Odour, the Coordinator of the Natural Resources and Drought Management Component of the Arid Lands Resource Management Project funded by the World Bank, who informed them that they get information for their resources and drought management systems directly from the field through local monitors but saw a need for the community to know what each indicator means to them. The team pointed out to Mr. Odour that this is a gap that the LPMS Project hopes to fill. This will be done through a training that will be offered to community members in order to help them analyze and interpret village-level indicators.

The project team also met with the United Nations World Food Program (UN-WFP) Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM) Unit which carries out biannual assessments in order to come up with the approximate number of people affected by various hazards and identify the most vulnerable among them. According to Joao Manja and Allan Kute, Program Officers of the VAM Unit, it has been a challenge for them to group people into wealth groups because people claim that they are all poor so that they can get aid. They added that since they belong to a research institution

and do not have a "relief tag" commonly associated with organizations such as UN-WFP, they might be able to do this wealth ranking activity.

Change of pilot sites

The stakeholder meetings also resulted in the change of two out of the three pilot sites originally identified in the project team's project proposal.

Mr. Harisson Morowa, District Arid Lands Resource Management Officer, informed the project team that the initially sampled sub-location- Hola Mission in Galole division - would not give the team adequate information concerning the livelihood patterns of the residents because the sub-location is in Hola Town. Mr. Morowa argued that it might be difficult for the research team to ascertain 'genuine' from 'false' information since most of the town dwellers are not permanent residents of the district. They might also give their opinions from a third party perspective, thereupon skewing the data collected. He therefore suggested to replace the Hola Mission with the Laini sub-location in Galole Division which has a population of marginal mixed farmers. Mr. Morowa also informed the team that Meti sub-location in Bura division has the same livelihood pattern as the Laini sub-location (marginal mixed farmers) in Galole division. He likewise advised the team to replace Meti sub-location with Walesorhea sub-location (livestock keeping) in Bura division.

Based on said advice, the team decided to retain the Tarasaa sub-location (mixed farming) but replace the two original sites of Meti and Hola Mission sub-locations in favor of the two sub-locations recommended by Mr. Morowa. *

7th PEP Meeting to be held in the Philippines



Researchers of the 3 subnetworks of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network and resource persons pose for the camera at the close of the 6th PEP Meeting held last June 14-16, 2007 in Lima, Peru.

Development practitioners from all over the world will converge in Manila, Philippines for the 7th Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network Meeting on December 9-12, 2008.

The meeting will bring together at least 200 researchers and various stakeholders from Asia, Africa and Latin America to share recent developments and methodologies on poverty analysis as well as to discuss new findings of various research initiatives of the three sub-networks of the PEP, namely, Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA), Poverty Monitoring and Measurement Analysis (PMMA) and the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). Among the highlights of this year's meeting will be a policy forum of PEP researchers with invited national and local planners and other development partners, particularly on issues and challenges relating to inclusive growth. For more updates on the meeting, visit the 7th PEP Network Meeting section of the PEP website at www.pep-net.org. *

CBMS Network Updates is the quarterly newsletter of the CBMS Network of the PEP Project. This work was carried out by the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies with financial support from the Government of Canada through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The **Updates** may be downloaded free from the Project's website:
<http://www.pep-net.org>.

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