



Facets of poverty in Burkina Faso: Analysis of the results of the CBMS pilot survey*

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Burkina Faso is an agricultural country situated in western Africa. It is bordered by Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the south, Mali in the northwest, and Niger in the east. As of mid-2002, its population was estimated at 11.8 million, with a growth rate of 2.4 percent per year.

Despite significant economic and social progress in recent years, the people remain extremely poor, as demonstrated in the two priority surveys conducted by the government showing the proportion of poor people rising from 44.5 percent in 1994 to 45.3 percent in 1998.

In response to this situation, many studies on poverty were carried out in Burkina Faso and national, regional and even local surveys were conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (NISD) with the support of the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other donor agencies. Unfortunately,

even if the quantitative data on poverty and well-being that were set up were significant, they are not being produced on regular and closer frequencies, resulting in a largely segregated set of data. Moreover, the surveys and data collection did not involve the local communities and did not describe poverty in the villages.

To remedy these shortcomings, the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) team in Burkina Faso, following the examples of other Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) member countries, undertook the development of an appropriate methodology, the CBMS, for poverty follow-up in the country. The objective was to enable local and national decision-makers to have permanent, reliable and regularly updated data on poverty evolution in all the regions of Burkina Faso.

The CBMS was pilot tested in selected places in Burkina Faso and its method-

ology, which was also used for the general survey, was based on the following participative approach:

- involving the local communities in data collection and empowering them through their acquired know-how in local planning, follow-up and evaluation capacities of the various activities for poverty reduction; and
- developing awareness and capacities among the communities to generate and use local information (data).

0 2

Inside

CBMS Network members convene in June 2004 in Senegal	5
CBMS Network develops knowledge base for the PEP website	5
CBMS Network welcomes new partners	5
CBMS Cambodia presents design to stakeholders	6
Camarines Norte CBMS updates	7

*Excerpt from a CBMS Network Research Paper presented during the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network Conference held on November 4-8, 2003 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

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Research Results

Facets of poverty...from page 1

Results of CBMS pilot survey¹

The pilot survey, which ran from June to July 2002, covered five villages (Kabo, Koaltanghin, Lilbouré, Pelegtenga, Rallo) and one semi-urban area, Sector 1 of Yako. It included 1,283 households made up of 10,977 persons. The results obtained were reported per village/sector depending on the fields selected, namely: nutrition and food security, health and hygiene, education, incomes and land property, material living conditions, social implications, vulnerability to crises, and personal dignity. These various poverty facets are illustrated by indicators, which were calculated based on the results of the survey.

Demographic characteristics

The demographic data of the pilot survey provide information on the characteristics of the surveyed villages.

Table 1, for example, shows that no village exceeds 2,400 persons. The most populated is Kabo with 2,394 persons while the least populated is Sector 1 of Yako with 1,182 persons. Kabo has also the most number of households with 290 while Rallo has the least with 173 households.

The highest average size of household is in Rallo (11 persons/household) while in Sector 1 of Yako, the size of the households is lower at 7 persons/household. It can thus be deduced that the average size of the households in rural areas is higher than in a semi-urban area.

¹For details on the methodology and results of the pilot test of CBMS in Burkina Faso, see CBMS research paper entitled "Facets of Rural Poverty in Burkina Faso: Case of the Department of Yako/Province of Passore."

Except for Sector 1 of Yako, more than 81 percent of households in the survey site are male-headed. The highest proportion of these households are found in Pelegtenga and Rallo while the least is found in Yako. This is a characteristic related to the visible changes in the city.

There is also a higher number of females in the overall population of four villages and in Yako (Sector 1). In Pelegtenga, however, there is a reverse in the situation as the presence of a gold site attracts more male workers.

Meanwhile, Kabo has the most number of disabled people with 86 while Koaltanghin has the least with 39 people.

Various facets of poverty

Through the results of the pilot survey, the various facets of poverty experienced by the population of the various zones concerned are brought out through the following indicators: nutrition and food security, health and hygiene, education, material living conditions, social implications, vulnerability to crises, and personal dignity.

Nutrition and food security

Food insecurity is general in all the villages because the available cereal stocks as indicated by the heads of households cannot cover the pre-season period from June to October. The average number of meals taken per day within the

households is less than three for adults and four for children. In addition, the quantitative and qualitative insufficiency of the daily meals of children has a harmful effect on their growth and development.

Health and hygiene

Health is an element of well-being. In assessing the health or medical situation and hygiene of the population of the villages concerned, the results of the pilot survey show that health supply is very low—almost nonexistent—in the survey site. The medical infrastructures in the survey site appear to be very few.

Inventory of fixtures of the medical infrastructures. In particular, Lilbouré, Koaltanghin, Kabo and Rallo do not have any infrastructure. Unlike the other villages, meanwhile, Pelegtenga has a Health and Social Promotion Center (CSPS), a maternity and a pharmaceutical depot. This is due to the existence of a gold mining site which attracts more people and requires the development of medical infrastructures. Sector 1, on the other hand, has only one drugstore; it is being accessed more than those in the other villages because of its convenient location.

Apart from the drugstore, which is private, the few infrastructures of Pelegtenga are public services run by

Table 1. Selected demographic data from the pilot survey

Description	Villages					
	Kabo	Koaltanghin	Lilbouré	Pelegtenga	Rallo	Sector 1 of Yako
Total population	2,394	1,998	1,632	1,957	1,814	1,182
% male	46.3	46.5	46.3	50.6	46.8	46.5
% female	53.7	53.5	53.7	49.4	53.2	53.5
Number of disabled people	86	39	54	57	46	41
Number of households	290	240	194	212	173	174
% male head	81.0	83.8	85.1	94.8	91.9	65.5
% female head	19.0	16.3	14.9	5.2	8.1	34.5
Average size of household	8.3	8.3	8.4	9.2	10.5	6.8

Source of data: CBMS pilot survey - June/July 2002



An enumerator interviews a household in one of the CBMS survey sites in Burkina Faso.

government officials, i.e., a male nurse for the CSPS, a midwife for the maternity and a manager of the pharmaceutical depot trained and assigned by the state.

Distances compared among the villages. Since there are no infrastructures in the survey site, the residents are compelled to cover certain lengths in distance to reach the medical centers.

From Lilbouré, the closest CSPS and maternity clinic are 5 kilometers (kms) away while the dispensary and pharmaceutical depot, 8 kms. From Koaltanghin, the closest CSPS, pharmaceutical depot and maternity are 7 kms away. Pelegtenga has a CSPS, a maternity and a pharmaceutical depot. As for Kabo and Rallo, the CSPS, pharmaceutical depot and maternity are located 4 kms away from both villages. Meanwhile, in sector 1 of Yako, the CSPS is only 1 km away while the maternity is 2 kms away.

If the national standard is considered, i.e., 5 kms between the place of residence and closest medical center, then Lilbouré and Koaltanghin can be regarded as underprivileged.

Attendance in medical infrastructures. If the percentage of the population who

go to the modern medical structure is to be considered, then Kabo village comes at the top with 83.3 percent of its population making use of the medical structures, followed by Koaltanghin (62.8%). The others register an attendance of a little more than 40 percent for each.

Average of patients' evacuation. In spite of the distances the population have to cover to go to health centers, no village has a medical evacuation means. When necessary, each household manages with the affordable means, individually or through village solidarity assistance. Bicycles or donkey-driven carts are used for patients' evacuation to the nearest health center, which is generally located in Yako.

Immunization. The vaccine coverage of the population is also very limited. Only the vaccine against meningitis has been administered to a high percentage of the population in all the villages as a result of its emergence as an epidemic and the public awareness campaign waged against it.

Hygiene of the population

The hygiene of the population can be evaluated through the communities/households' use of toilets and soap.

Data show that more than 80 percent of the households use the outdoors (ponds and backwaters) for their personal waste disposal needs, making the risk of diseases quite high in most villages inasmuch as water from the backwater or ponds is also used for drinking.

Meanwhile, in terms of using toilet soap, the survey indicates that in each village, more than 50 percent of the population use soap. Soap is used more in Pelegtenga (96.5% of the population) than in the other villages, certainly because of the presence of the gold mining site. Gold washers spending several hours amidst dust buy lots of soap to clean themselves. The highest percentage of people not using soap, meanwhile, is found in Koaltanghin.

Education

The results of the pilot survey clearly indicate that the population of the five sample villages are undereducated and nonliterate despite the existence of a school with three classes in each locality.

Schooling level is low as very few children reach secondary school. The enrollment rate in primary school is lower than 40 percent for the majority of the villages.

Literacy development

Literacy development refers to alternative ways of learning how to write and read. It generally relates to those who were not able to go through traditional teaching structures and addresses the needs of both adults and children who did not go to school. Literacy courses may be given in French, Arabic or in a particular national language.

As gleaned in Table 2, at least 80 percent of the population in the five villages and almost 40 percent in sector 1 of Yako are not educated.

O 4

Research Results

Facets of poverty...from page 3

The state of undereducation cannot be faulted to the lack of school infrastructures. What was found as a reason was either the lack of financial means to pursue education or the lack of appreciation by the populace on the essentials of education and literacy development.

Land property, incomes and agriculture

The five villages covered by the survey are agriculture zones. Access to land is significant and determines in many cases the social condition of the individuals and households.

When examining the distribution of the population according to access to land and that of the households according to the right of land use, one encounters

a dilemma in terms of coherence of results. Indeed, this shows an aspect of the complexity of land problems experienced by the rural areas. Until now, land belongs to the landlords and families not to individuals. The high percentage of tenants puts a constraint to private investment albeit the fact that financial opportunities do exist.

Generally, the incomes of the surveyed population come mostly from agriculture, market gardening and breeding as seen in Table 3. Seasonal employment is the dominant condition. There is also a high dependence rate among households (more than 50%). This constrains individual income growth.

The existing credit system in the locality is underdeveloped and covers few households. Given the size of the households, one notes that less than half of the members provide for incomes in all the localities.

In terms of agricultural production, the technology/technique employed is old-fashioned. Artificial or organic fertilizers are not being used. Largely used for plowing is *daba*. Few households have access to an irrigation system. Consequently, the level of productivity is low resulting to a low level of income. Since income is an essential component of the well-being and standard of living of the

households, it can be deduced that the standard of living is also low.

Material living conditions

The people and their environment, possession of some assets and the source of water supply constitute the analysis benchmarks of the living conditions of the population. In the rural areas, there is no running water nor electricity. Drinking water or water coming from the public fountains, modern wells and drillings is not accessible to all. Thus, the exposure to water-borne diseases is quite high. The rate of latrine construction is also very poor and becomes a source of parasitic diseases. In general, cleanliness in the domestic environment is not a collective concern. The main buildings are in mud and few of them have a secured cement floor except in sector 1 of Yako where conditions are relatively less hard.

Social implications, vulnerability to crises, and personal dignity

The level of organization in a village or sector is a relevant indicator of the degree of residents' commitment in the community's life. Being consulted on a decision concerning the household or community shows the regard for the individual in family or community life. Meanwhile, a household unable to bury correctly its dead following the customs and habits of the community is an indicator that a household is marginalized.

The results show that the level of mobilization in village associations is low. Hardly can one find one person out of three being members in an organization in the villages. Less than 40 percent of the population are consulted for significant decisions.

Table 2. Percentage of population who are not educated

Villages	% of Population not Educated
Kabo	88.9
Koaltanghin	92.2
Lilbouré	78.7
Pelegtenga	82.2
Rallo	85.6
Sector 1 of Yako	37.5
Total	79.7

Source of data: CBMS pilot survey - June/July 2002

Table 3. Sources of household incomes

Description	Villages					
	Kabo	Koaltanghin	Lilbouré	Pelegtenga	Rallo	Sector 1/Yako
Main source of income						
April/September	Livestock produce	Sorghum*	Livestock produce	Livestock produce	Sorghum	Market gardening produce
October/March	Onion	Niébé*	Niébé	Niébé	Niébé	Peanut
Existence of credit structure	no	yes	no	no	no	yes
% of households not having access to credit	95.5	96.7	100	98.6	91.2	89.7
% of population with seasonal employment	91.3	98.3	88.5	56.3	96.4	55.4

*Sorghum is a variety of millet while niébé is a variety of small bean of various colors.
Source of data: CBMS pilot survey- June/July 2002

CBMS Network members convene in June 2004 in Senegal

The CBMS network members will convene on June 16-20, 2004 for the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) annual conference to be held in Senegal. Preparations are ongoing for the week-long conference which will feature recent developments on the CBMS work of member research-

ers and bring together current and potential users of CBMS data. Part of the program will include a field visit to selected CBMS pilot sites in Senegal. The Senegal conference will be followed by a CBMS field visit in Burkina Faso from June 23-24, 2004. *

CBMS Network develops knowledge base for the PEP website

In order to meet the information-sharing needs of the various project teams, researchers and stakeholders of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) program, the PEP Network has established its own website at www.pep-net.org. The site serves as a platform for the network's research advocacy and a repository of resources wherein researchers, institutions and the public would find most, if not all, of the information on the PEP program and its subnetworks, namely, the community-based monitoring system (CBMS), modeling and policy impact analysis (MPIA), and poverty monitoring, measurement and analysis (PMMA).

In support of this undertaking, the CBMS coordinating team facilitated the

continuous updating of the content of the PEP website by providing documents, papers and links to available literature on local poverty monitoring systems done in various countries across regions. As of this writing, for instance, the website contains recent research papers and proposals from the 12 country initiatives under the CBMS network. It also keeps documentation and proceedings from previously held CBMS and PEP conferences and training activities, and features available software applications for CBMS and links to CBMS-related sites.

Finally, an online forum on CBMS-GIS was likewise made available in the PEP

0 8

CBMS Network welcomes new partners

The CBMS Network formally welcomes new CBMS partners in Cambodia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana and Lao PDR with the approval of the following proposals:

- Establishing a Commune-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Cambodia by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in Phnom Penh;
- CBMS in Pakistan: A Proposal for the Pilot Project under the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in Islamabad;
- Proposal for Developing a Regular Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS) in Bangladesh by the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Dhaka;
- Implementation of a Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Ghana by the Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA) in Accra; and
- Establishing a Commune-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Lao PDR by the National Statistical Center (NSC), Committee for Planning and Cooperation in Vientiane.

Said proposals were approved after a thorough evaluation by the CBMS Network Steering Committee.

The new initiatives in Cambodia, Pakistan, Ghana and Lao PDR involve the development and pilot test of CBMS methodologies while the initiative in Bangladesh expands the earlier CBMS work done in the country. *

CBMS Cambodia presents design to stakeholders

The CBMS Cambodia team held its first national seminar entitled "Working Towards a Commune-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Cambodia" on November 27, 2003 with the primary objective of presenting the design of its proposed community-based monitoring system (CBMS) to various stakeholders.

The seminar, which was well attended by representatives of the government, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and the donor community, had His Excellency, San Sy Than, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), Ministry of Planning, giving the introductory remarks and His Excel-

▼ *Dr. Vu Tuan Anh and Dr. Celia Reyes, CBMS Project Leaders in Vietnam and the Philippines, share the experiences of their respective countries in implementing CBMS.*



► *Mr. Sophal Chan (far right), CBMS Team Leader in Cambodia, with his colleagues, explains how CBMS can address the gap in the current commune database in Cambodia.*

lency, Chay Than, Minister of Planning, delivering the opening speech. The presence of these officials signals a good start for the Cambodian project since the Ministry of Planning is an agency that could play an important role in the institutionalization of the proposed commune-based poverty monitoring system (CBPMS).

Apart from the Cambodian representatives, Dr. Vu Tuan Anh and Dr. Celia M. Reyes, CBMS Project Leaders in Vietnam and the Philippines, respectively, were also invited to share the experiences of their respective countries in implementing the CBMS.

Representatives of the communes where the CBPMS will be pilot-tested spoke on the gaps in the current commune database. The CBMS research team, consisting of Chan Sophal of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), the project's implementing institution; Kim Net of the NIS; and Chea Rithy of

the Seila Program,¹ then presented the proposed design which aims to address said gaps.

After the meeting, Dr. Reyes and Dr. Tuan Anh met with the Cambodia CBMS research team to discuss the details of the proposed design as well as the links with government agencies and other stakeholders. In addition, Dr. Reyes met with representatives of two NGOs who expressed interest in using the CBMS in the localities where they are operating.

Meanwhile, an English version of the questionnaire was sent to the two project leaders for their comments and after a thorough review, the final design has been approved. As of date, the questionnaire has already been pre-tested in six villages and the CBMS data are now being processed manually. The full census in the selected six communes comprising 12,000 households will commence in May 2004. *

¹The Seila (a Khmer word meaning stone foundation) Program was conceptualized and established as one of the programs of the Cambodian government and is implemented by ministries concerned with local development and decentralization.



Camarines Norte CBMS updates

Mercedes conducts training on manual data processing

Following the training on data collection, the Municipality of Mercedes, through its Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) led by Coordinator, Mr. Anthony Era, conducted a training on manual data processing last February 23-24 with the assistance of the MIMAP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team. Participating in the training were the CBMS enumerators who administered the CBMS questionnaire.

The training module included a sequence of lectures and practical exercises similar with the training components used in other municipalities. The

CBMS Team taught and shared the skills that the enumerators must learn to tally the accomplished questionnaires. One of these is how to recognize the nature of the figures so that one could do table validation and checking. This was supplemented by the topic regarding the interpretation of indicators to enable the participants to understand the meaning of a specific indicator.

At the conclusion of the training, Mr. Era discussed the importance of the timeliness of the data and stressed the need for the participants to conform with given schedules.

Four municipalities in Camarines Norte hold joint SEP workshop

On February 26, four municipalities of Camarines Norte, namely, Basud, San Lorenzo Ruiz, San Vicente and Talisay held a joint Socioeconomic Profile (SEP) Writing Workshop through their respective MPDOs with the assistance of MIMAP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team at the PAKRISPAM Center, Talisay, Camarines Norte.

The Talisay Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC), Ms. Mirian Hernandez, welcomed the participants to the workshop, after which the CBMS Team presented the rationale and importance of the SEP especially to barangays.

The participants, consisting of barangay officials, employees, and CBMS enumerators, participated actively in the series of lectures and writeshops. The training was interactive, with time allotted for practical writing so that the participants could come up with a draft and explanation by the end of the training.

The Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) of Camarines Norte through Ms. Florinda Abogado also attended the training. After the training, the drafts of the SEP were finalized and submitted to the MPDOs for comments. *

San Lorenzo Ruiz hosts a review session on computerized data processing and indicator mapping

Because of the growing need and call for the computerization of municipal databases, the Municipality of San Lorenzo Ruiz hosted a review session on computerized data processing and indicator mapping using the CBMS-Natural Resources Database (NRDB). The review session was organized through the MPDO and the MIMAP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team.

Aside from the staffs from San Lorenzo, representatives from the municipalities of Basud, Labo and Talisay also attended the review.

The municipalities were eager to start with the computerization of their databases in order to further facilitate the understanding of their constituents on the welfare conditions of their LGUs through a numeric and location-specific perception of household status.

Facets of poverty...from page 4

Concerning marginalization, two households out of five are unable to bury their dead decently following customs and habits.

The perception of poverty

Another objective of the pilot survey was to know how the surveyed population, living in an area classified among the poor in Burkina, perceive the concept of poverty. In all the six localities involved in the pilot survey, poverty is perceived mainly as food shortage with 61 percent of the population perceiving it as such. Lack of employment is seen as the second indicator of poverty while the lack of income comes as the third highest perceived indicator of poverty.

Lessons learned

Finally, the pilot test of the CBMS in selected villages in Burkina Faso has unveiled a number of lessons aimed at improving the system in its next phase of implementation, namely:

- The population expressed a keen interest in having a poverty monitoring system.
- Monitoring tools should be reviewed to reflect mostly the low local capacities.

- It is necessary to review the questionnaire to make it easily understood.
- The household questionnaire should be made substantially lighter in order to reduce the interview time.
- The grassroots have the capacity to process simple indicators. *

Knowledge base...from page 5

website. This forum was organized in order to answer queries and provide assistance to interested CBMS network members in setting up, creating and maintaining their respective CBMS-NRDB¹ databases. The resource persons for this forum are the same as in the NRDB training held during the PEP conference in Hanoi last November 2003 composed of Mr. Richard Alexander, Mr. Dirk Heinrichs and Ms. Jasminda Asiro. The forum serves as a good communication tool to help CBMS network members in applying GIS in their respective CBMS undertakings. *

¹The Natural Resource Database (NRDB) is a free software capable of storing spatial (shapefiles) and nonspatial (texts and numbers) data as well as generating maps, reports and graphs ideal for presentation and analysis of poverty attributes in the community. The software was developed by Richard Alexander. See www.nrdb.co.uk for more details on NRDB.

CBMS Network Updates is the quarterly newsletter of the CBMS Network Project. This work was carried out by the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada.

The **Updates** may be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format for free from the Project's website. The site can be accessed through <http://www.pep-net.org>.

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