

## Overview

CBMS is one of the tools developed in the early 1990s to provide policymakers and program implementers with a good information base for tracking the impacts of macroeconomic reforms and various policy shocks. It is an organized way of collecting information at the local level for use of local government units, national government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society and development partners for planning, program implementation and monitoring.

CBMS attempts to build and strengthen the capacity of planners and program implementers at the national and local levels for a more improved and transparent system of resource allocation and governance. A major objective of the CBMS is to assist in poverty reduction. In so doing, there are other corollary benefits achieved like building the capacities of local government units, increasing gender equity, and eliciting early warning signs of crisis.

Because the number of countries that implement and intend to implement the CBMS is increasing, a regional coordinating body tasked to facilitate the development and utilization of the CBMS for policymaking and governance was created. This coordinating body known as the CBMS Network is part of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). It is composed of researchers and analysts specializing in poverty measurement, development and implementation of local monitoring systems, and policy-impact analysis. In general, the CBMS Network aims to provide a reliable and credible information base for policymaking, program design and impact monitoring through the development and institutionalization of a community-based monitoring system.

Since the early 1990s, the IDRC has supported the design and pilot test of the CBMS in selected countries in Asia and Africa through its Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) Research Program. Today, the coordination of ongoing CBMS work is being implemented under a research grant from the CBMS Network whose financial support comes from the IDRC.

Inquiries regarding the CBMS network may be sent through:

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**NETWORK**



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## Network Activities

### ● Research

The Network provides technical and financial support for the development, pilot test and institutionalization of a community-based monitoring system. As part of this, the Network conducts research activities on the following themes:

- New CBMS methodologies and instruments
- CBMS for local governance
- Composite poverty indicators
- CBMS for gender responsive budgeting
- CBMS for localizing the Millennium Development Goals
- Impact monitoring and analysis of programs and projects

### ● Conferences, workshops and field/study visits

The dissemination of the research findings and recent developments in CBMS-related methodologies and initiatives is made possible through the organization of annual conferences, training workshops, field visits and study tour. Said activities likewise provide a venue for technical consultation on project-related work among CBMS researchers, invited resource persons and technical experts.

The Network provides financial support to CBMS researchers/local partners for their participation in PEP/CBMS organized conferences, training workshops, field visits and study tour. It also provides funding for the participation of Network members in selected non-network organized related conferences and workshops.

### ● Publication

A quarterly newsletter is prepared and disseminated to national and local planners and decisionmakers, members of the academic and research communities, and other development partners. Each issue features a summary of research findings and policy recommendations of CBMS Network researchers or local partners, and updates on activities of CBMS country projects, forthcoming network events, and other related initiatives.

Work is also ongoing on the documentation of the CBMS initiatives and lessons learned.

### ● Website

To facilitate the dissemination and sharing of project findings and other network-related information, CBMS research publications, database, updates on network activities and forthcoming initiatives are made available to the public at the Network website ([www.pep-net.org](http://www.pep-net.org)).

### ● Technical collaboration with government and non-governmental institutions

The Network provides technical assistance to government and non-governmental institutions, individual researchers and other interest groups concerned with the development and institutionalization of local monitoring systems for tracking poverty and other related applications of CBMS. Technical support is provided through the conduct of a series of briefings/orientation seminars and interactive training workshops on data collection, processing and analysis, long-term mentoring/coaching on CBMS-related work and dissemination of CBMS-related findings and policy recommendations.

## CBMS Methodology

### ● Data collection

CBMS data are collected through a household survey. Existing local personnel are tapped and trained as enumerators and field supervisors.

### ● Data processing

Data gathered are tallied and consolidated manually by trained data processors from the community. If possible, computerized processing is initiated even at the village level. Village level aggregates are then submitted to higher geopolitical levels for consolidation.

### ● Validation

Results of the survey are presented in a community forum where the extent of poverty in its different dimensions are assessed, causes of poverty are diagnosed and explained, and priority needs and appropriate interventions are identified.

### ● Establishment of database at the local level

Databanks are established at each geopolitical level for planning and monitoring purposes.

### ● Use of CBMS-generated information for development planning, program design, and policy impact monitoring

CBMS data and their analysis serve as inputs in the preparation of the annual development plans and socio-economic profiles at all levels of government as well as provide benchmark information for enriching the resource profiles of project sites of non-government organizations and development partners. Data from the CBMS also aid in the identification of eligible beneficiaries of poverty reduction programs and in the analysis of the impacts of development programs at the local level.

### ● Dissemination of findings

CBMS experiences and related findings are made available to planning bodies, program implementers and other interest groups through data boards, computerized databanks, publications and workshops and fora.