Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana through CBMS: Case of Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana

Editor's Notes
The research article featured below is based from the research paper entitled “Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana using the CBMS” prepared by Dr. Adelaide Agyeman, Dr. Paul Boadu, Mavis Akuffobea, Nana Asafu-Adjaye Yamoah, and Dr. Wilhemina Quaye of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSIR-STEPRI) in Ghana.

Background Information
Ghana continues to battle against poverty, unemployment, and inclusive growth, among others. Since 2016, the Government of Ghana has strived to address issues of inequality and marginalization in the country by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which there is a need for baseline data used to monitor progress in terms of achieving the goals. The adoption of the SDGs has led to the integration of SDG indicators into the country’s national development plans. The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), other government agencies, civil society organizations, and key organizations in the private sector have all made efforts to tackle specific developmental issues in line with the SDGs.

Localizing the SDGs, however, requires prioritization and modification of...
certain indicators in order to better suit local communities in Ghana. At present, programs like Ga Dangme, which covers the coastal area of Ghana and Atebubu in the Forest Savannah Transition zone of the country, are implemented to monitor and evaluate the SDGs at the local level.

Figure 1. Coverage of 2018 CBMS Census in Selected Communities in Atebubu-Amantin District in Ghana

By implementing a community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in Atebubu-Amantin District of Ghana in 2018, the local research team pilot tested the use of the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP). The system enables districts to collect and generate local level data on the different dimensions of poverty. While it generates a core set of indicators, the system has flexibility to accommodate community-specific indicators relevant to a particular country as well as other indicators that can aid more in depth analysis of emerging thematic concerns such as the SDGs, among others. CBMS also provides the necessary local level data for generating the MPI, which was used to measure poverty in this study.

Following the success of Ghana’s CBMS implementation in 2004, a CBMS census was again conducted in the country. This allowed the district planning unit to assess the poverty status of the communities through the core welfare indicators and SDGs. The 2018 CBMS census covers 2,713 households in selected communities in the Atebubu-Amantin municipal.

More photos during the CBMS census in selected communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana:
**SDG Profile of Selected Communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana (2018)**

**Goal 1 - No Poverty**
- Majority of the population are income poor: 75 in 100 or 75.3% of the people are poor according to the international poverty line ($1.9/day).  
  
  *1 USD = 5.3 Ghanaian Cedi (GHS)*

**Goal 2 - Zero Hunger**
- 5 in 100 or 5.2% of the children are malnourished.

**Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being**
- 30 in 100 or 29.5% of the people have access to basic services.

**Goal 4 - Quality Education**
- 71 in 100 or 70.9% of youth 6-11 years old are attending primary school.

**Goal 5 - Gender Equality**
- 25 in 100 or 24.5% of children 12-15 years old are attending secondary school.

**Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation**
- 47 in 100 or 47% of the people have access to safe water.

**Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy**
- 62 in 100 or 61.8% of the households have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern electricity.

**Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- 5 in 100 or 5.3% of the people are unemployed.

**Goal 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- 50 in 100 or 50% of the households are living below 50 percent of the median income.

Source of basic data: CBMS Census in Selected Communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana (2018)

Full details and results on the other SDGs are contained in Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana using the CBMS by Agyeman et al. 2018.
News Updates

Summary and Conclusions

Results show that issues related to income poverty, income inequality, and access to basic services such as access to safe water and sanitary toilet facilities, among others, are the main challenges in selected communities in the Atebubu-Amantin municipal.

Around 75% of the surveyed population were classified as poor according to the international poverty threshold and 50% of the households are living below the median income. More than half of the population have no access to safe drinking water (53%), while almost three-fourths of the population have no access to sanitary toilet facilities (71%).

The results also reveal that a high proportion of youth aged 6-11 years old are in primary school (at 70.9%), but only few of the youth aged 12-15 years old are in secondary school (at 24.5%).

Meanwhile, only four households have access to local disaster risk-reduction strategies. Interventions should therefore seek to develop and implement comprehensive strategies for dealing with climate change and other natural disasters in the selected communities in Atebubu-Amantin municipal.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

Based on the analysis of the data from the CBMS census in Ghana, below are some of the team’s proposed policy recommendations to improve the well-being of the communities in relation to the SDGs:

Poverty

Poverty reduction strategies should be put in place. Atebubu-Amantin is a purely farming community and crop diversification should be encouraged as a strategy for reduction of rural poverty. Crop diversification can ensure improvements in productivity and yields and greater availability of food and nutrition to the rural poor.

Access to basic services

There is an urgent need to increase public and private investments in sanitation services, housing and water supply to improve access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and improved housing construction materials of the rural population. Policy interventions should target rural communities to improve access to adequate sanitation facilities and services (e.g., construction of decent public toilet facilities).

Unemployment

An investment policy approach is required to encourage the creation of new jobs and income opportunities in the selected communities, including facilitating access to credit at lower rates as well as insurance for farmers and small businesses. More specifically, emphasis should be on promotion of non-agricultural industries such as mining, service industries, construction and commerce as a source of income.

Climate Action – disaster risk reduction strategies

The vulnerabilities of the people to climate change must be addressed by supporting training and capacity-building of the communities to effectively implement adaptation programs to climate change at the local level and invest resources to enhance research aimed at adapting to the challenges of climate change.
CBMS-Kenya Project Team Holds CBMS Data Validation Workshop on March 6, 2019

A CBMS data validation workshop was organized by the CBMS-Kenya project team on March 6, 2019 at the Nokras Riverine Hotel outside of Murang’a Town. This event is in line with the team’s report on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya and their thematic paper which explores the effects of social capital on women empowerment in Murang’a County, both of which are under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)II initiative of the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Network.

The aim of the workshop was to validate the census data that was collected in Gikindu location between February and March 2018. The workshop brought together locals, local government, the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, Ministry of Devolution and Planning representatives, and Murang’a County representatives and gathered a total of 18 participants.

The workshop was moderated by Dr. Patrick Chege Kariuki who also gave the opening remarks. Mr. Michael Murigi presented the SDG report and Dr. Phyllis Machio presented the theme paper which explores the effects of social capital on women empowerment in Murang’a County. This was followed by an open discussion where participants are asked to give feedback on the data presented. Among the findings presented were the poverty incidence in the study site (at 26.3%), the existence of food shortage problems (at 1.6%), and the lack of access to safe drinking water (at 43.6%).

These additional inputs and explanations, in turn, have allowed the project team to understand the figures better in order to propose policy recommendations which include diversifying farm enterprises by commercializing bee keeping and fruit farming to reduce income poverty, promoting the use of rain water harvesting accompanied by agricultural technologies such as greenhouse farming and drip irrigation to boost food production and reduce food shortage, and funding water infrastructural development and services to improve water supply.
CBMS Data Validation Activity Conducted in Gabane Main Kgotla, Botswana

Selected under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II initiative of the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Network, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) project team in Botswana is led by project leader Dr. Happy Siphambe and is composed of project researchers Ms. Mavis Kolobe, Dr. Malebogo Bakwena, Ms. Itumeleng Oageng, Ms. Tshogofatso Motswagae, Dr. Lexi Setlhare, and Dr. Keamogetse Setlhare.

On April 9, 2019, the CBMS-Botswana project team conducted a CBMS data validation seminar at Gabane Main Kgotla in Botswana. This activity is meant to ensure that the data collected is in line with or close to the reality that community members are familiar with as well as to better understand why Gabane Village is faring well and/or lagging behind in certain SDG indicators.

The seminar began with welcome remarks from Chief Pule of the Gabane Village, followed by Dr. Siphambe’s brief discussion on the objectives of the project, background on the CBMS design, and the advantages of using CBMS in localizing the SDGs, among others. Meanwhile, Dr. Bakwena presented the team’s report on SDGs in Gabane Village, Kweneng District and led the discussion thereafter. After gathering inputs from the participants and recognizing what has been achieved, what issues remain unsolved, and what challenges have been encountered, the project team ended the 1-day seminar by sharing their recommendations and what could be the ways forward.

Some of the findings in Gabane Village include a poverty incidence of 16.3% (using the national poverty line), a high pre-school non-attendance rate of 49.9%, and a low youth program beneficiaries coverage of 1%. To deal with the issues identified from the Gabane case study, a number of policy recommendations were raised by the Botswana project team. These include reviewing the labor legislation in terms of the current minimum wage rates which are not currently linked to the cost of living in Gabane in order to alleviate poverty, speeding up the implementation of the Education and Training Strategic Sector Plan (ETSSP) 2015-2020 which will increase enrolment in early childhood and pre-primary education, and intensifying efforts through education and other communication means to make youth aware of the opportunities offered by the Young Farmers Fund (YFF) and the Youth Development Fund (YDF).
CBMS Network Team Holds CBMS Orientation in Benguet

On June 7, 2019, the CBMS Network Team conducted a 1-day orientation on the CBMS design, rationale, process, and uses at the Provincial Governor’s Office Conference Hall in Benguet which was attended by key officials/representatives from LGUs Atok, Itogon, Kabayan, Kapangan, Kibungan, Mankayan, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay, and representatives from the Provincial Governor’s Office (PGO) of Benguet, the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) of Benguet, the Office of the Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (OSSP) of Benguet, the Department of Interior and Local Government - Cordillera Administrative Region (DILG-CAR), the Philippine Statistics Authority Field Offices of CAR (PSA-CAR) and of Benguet (PSA-Benguet), and the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. (JVOFI).

The event was organized in order to help set up Benguet’s provincial data base. Ms. Jeanira Okubo, Executive Assistant to Governor Crescencio Pacalso of Benguet, shared that, although there have been attempts to create the data base in the past, knowledge on utilizing technology in the data collection and on data processing as well as coordination efforts between and among the concerned staff of the municipalities and of the province may have been inadequate and needs improvement.

The orientation was divided into two sessions and an open forum was organized after each session to accommodate queries and inputs from the participants. President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and CBMS Network Team Leader Dr. Celia Reyes led the first session which covered topics such as the background on CBMS, rationale for CBMS, key features of CBMS, and an overview of the uses of CBMS data, among others.

On the other hand, the second session focused on the implementation of CBMS which involves topics on the CBMS process, requirements, and expected outputs. The topics were presented by CBMS Research and Administration Officer Anne Bernadette Mandap, CBMS Senior Research Associate Jasminda Quilitis, CBMS Program Assistant Jezha Lee Nabiong, CBMS Research Assistants Carmela Predo, Nastasha Brigitte Kuan, and Mary Coleen Anne Nicolas, and CBMS Project Administration Assistant Kristine Madreliño.
Training of Trainers on CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) Module 2: Processing Data, Poverty Mapping, and Building of CBMS Database

The Department of Interior and Local Government - Bureau of Local Government Development (DILG-BLGD) conducted a five-day training on the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) Module 2: Processing Data, Poverty Mapping, and Building of CBMS Database for 43 DILG trainers from Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, CAR, and NCR. It was held on April 8 to 12, 2019 at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel in Ermita, Manila.

CBMS Network Team members Jasmina Quilitis, Carmela Predo, Mary Coleen Anne Nicolas, Jezha Lee Nabiong, Natasha Brigitte Kuan, and Aron Joshua Gregorio were invited to participate in the training workshop and provide technical support.

Day 1 topics include the Overview of CBMS and CBMS APP, File Management, Data Cleaning, Overview of QGIS and StatSim, among others. The topics that were discussed on Days 2 to 4 focused more on the processing of core indicators, BPQ, and other relevant indicators as well as poverty mapping.

Each region was asked to generate and present their own set of poverty maps. Meanwhile, the presentations on Day 5 concentrated on other ways of generating data through the use of SQL syntax and mapping other CBMS data.

At the end of the CBMS APP Module 2 training workshop, participants were familiar with the CBMS StatSim, QGIS software, and spatialite files, and equipped with basic knowledge on processing data and interpreting the figures, preparing poverty maps and generating the CBMS Database.
CBMS Studies on Financial Inclusion, Youth Unemployment, Women Empowerment and Monitoring the SDGs Presented at the 2019 PEP Annual Conference

Latest research findings from the ongoing CBMS country project studies were recently presented during the CBMS sessions of the 2019 Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) conference held in Capetown, South Africa. The CBMS sessions, organized by the CBMS Network Team of DLSU-AKI in May 30-31, 2019, provided the platform for knowledge exchange and discussion among CBMS researchers and policymakers from the project sites on the results, key findings and policy implications of emerging issues on youth unemployment, financial inclusion, gender disparities in agriculture and rural poverty, women empowerment and localizing the SDGs. During the said CBMS sessions, representatives from CBMS research partner institutions from Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nicaragua, Togo, and Uganda presented the highlights of the respective CBMS Project Team’s research studies that aimed to examine specific thematic issues in the respective countries using local level data generated from the implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in the study sites and provide recommendations for policy and program action.

On Youth Unemployment

Dr. Happy Siphambe, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Botswana and CBMS-Botswana Team Leader presented the findings of the CBMS Project study on the determinants of unemployment and labor market transitions of the youth in Botswana. Using CBMS data from Gabane, the study finds that majority of the youth were not able to participate in any of the government employment programs, and this was due to lack of knowledge on the programs and/or complexities in the processes in their accesses formalities. Moreover, the youth population who were able to participate in government labor market programs faced higher probabilities remaining in employment or from moving from unemployment state to employment as compared to those who were not able to access the programs.

On Financial Inclusion

Mr. Abel Tewolde Mehari, Lecturer at the Arsi University, Ethiopia and member of the CBMS-Ethiopia Team, on the other hand, shared the key findings of the CBMS Project study on the determinants of financial inclusion among the youth using CBMS data from Addis Ababa City and Shirka Wereda. The study highlighted how technology utilization, religion, and culture affect financial service provision among the youth.

In the case of Uganda, Dr. Margaret Banga, Senior Lecturer at the School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University...
financial services (with more men having greater access compared to women). Among the barriers to financial inclusion found by the study include lack/absence of income, lack of knowledge on how financial services work, and long-distance to service facilities. Meanwhile, the study also found a limited access to mobile financial services which was attributed to people not having phones due to its high cost.

On the other hand, the CBMS Nicaragua Team represented (via a Skype presentation) by Dr. Selmira Flores, Executive Director of Institute of NITLAPAN of the Central American University in Nicaragua, and CBMS Project Co-Team Leader Dr. Guillermo Bonnerman, shared the key findings of the CBMS project study, implemented by NITLAPAN, on the challenges of financial inclusion for rural women in Nicaragua. The study, using CBMS data from selected sites in Río Blanco in Nicaragua, found that rural households face institutional credit discrimination. It highlights the presence of psycho-social barriers to financial inclusion faced by women within households with only 26.1 percent of women who want to apply for financial loan that have the support of their partners. The study also finds that while Credit promoters are doing social monitoring, the scope of that monitoring very often leaves out the way in which partners within the family distribute their resource management and income generation responsibilities.

On Gender Disparities and Women Empowerment

Dr. Wilhelmina Quaye, Director of Science and Technology Policy Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Ghana and CBMS-Ghana Team Leader highlighted the results of their study using CBMS data from 20 communities in Ghana pointing out to the existence of some socio-cultural barriers to women participation in development programmes such as the case of the C:AVA project. Among these barriers are the need to seek permission from spouse, gender roles in households, and time spent by women on household chores. The C:AVA Project was intended to be an intervention tool to address gender gaps, empower women and improve on the livelihood situation of its beneficiaries in Ghana.

On the other hand, Dr. Dandonougbo Yevesse, faculty at the Université de Lomé in Togo and member of the CBMS Togo Project Team, pointed out that using latest CBMS data from the prefecture of Danyi and Tsevie, the study found gender disparities among men and women farmers particularly in terms of education and income dimensions. The study found that there were more women farmers (44.1 percent) who have no education compared to men farmers (15.10 percent). Furthermore, data revealed a 44.1 percent income gap between men and women farmers which was attributed to barriers in access to land and education.

Dr. Phyllis Machio, Lecturer at the University of Kenya and CBMS Kenya Project Team Leader, also shared the findings of their project study on Social Capital and Women Empowerment using CBMS data from Muranga County. The study finds that women
empowerment increases with education. Older women are also noted to be more empowered than younger ones. More educated women are also more likely to own enterprises, assets and to have savings. Relating this to access to government funds and micro-credit finance, the study found only 24% of women accessed micro credit/finance. Educational attainment seems to play an important role as, only 13% of those with no formal education were able to access credit while about 44% of those who have accessed credit have tertiary education.

On Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals

Using data generated from the implementation of CBMS in selected study sites in Cibitoke and Kirundo Provinces in Burundi, Ms. Jeanine Nkunzimana of the Ministère des Finances, du Budget et de la Coopération Economique Direction de la prévision et de la prospective in Burundi and CBMS Burundi Project Team Leader, presented the status of meeting the SDGs using the CBMS-SDG indicators in the said communities. Initial findings of the study reveal that 72.8 percent of the households in the communities are multi-dimensionally poor and are deprived in at least 33 percent of the weighted indicators. More than half of the households have experienced food shortages and about 61.7 percent of children are found to be stunted (experienced poor nutrition). Access to basic services (water and sanitation, and electricity) is found to be a need in the 2 communities with about 44.7 percent of the households having no access to improved water source, and only 4.9 percent of the households with access to electricity. Meanwhile, the usefulness of the CBMS for localizing the SDGs in the context of more informed policymaking was also shared by Dr. Wilmelmina Quaye of CBMS Ghana Project Team during the PEP Policy Conference plenary session on Evidence Use in Policymaking held on June 1.

Feedback on the CBMS Findings

Among the government officials who participated in the discussion of the CBMS research findings and policy implications of the study as well as to provide recommendations for institutionalization of CBMS at the country and local levels were Mr. Stanley Makosha, Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Office of the President in Botswana, Mr. Mayanja Gonzaga, Commissioner/ Monitoring and Evaluation (LGs) from the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda, Mr. Meatchi Tchaou, Director of Planning and Development at the Ministère de la Planification du Développement et de la Coopération in Togo, Mr. Engida Abebe Bekelle, Team Leader of Indicative Plan Preparation and Research Directorate of the National Plan Commission of Ethiopia, Mr. Ir Pontien Hatzimigna, SP/Ministère de la Decentralisation et de la Réforme Institutionnelle in Burundi, and Mr. Henry Njoroge Mwangi, Murang’a County Director for Gender and Youth Affairs in Kenya. During the CBMS sessions, said government representatives provided...
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Gender expert Ms. Nancy Spence comments on CBMS-Botswana’s presentation on the determinants of youth unemployment and labor market transition in Botswana

comments on the usefulness and relevance of the CBMS studies for policy and program implementation in the context of their countries, and also shared recommendations and possible strategies for institutionalization of CBMS in the country and at the local level.

Also present during the meeting to provide technical guidance and advice to the CBMS Project Teams and to discuss with the invited policymakers, were resource persons from the CBMS Network Office, and members of the PEP-CBMS Thematic Research Group led by Dr. Celia Reyes, President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and CBMS Network Team Leader; Dr. Felix Ankomah Asante, Director, Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana; Dr. Sudarno Sumarto, Policy Adviser, National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), and Senior Fellow SMERU Research Institute, Indonesia; Ms. Nancy Spence, Gender expert/adviser; and Dr. William Randall Spence, President of the Economic and Social Development Affiliates (ESDA) of Canada.

The organization and conduct of the CBMS Sessions of the annual PEP General Meeting was spearheaded by the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Office of the De La Salle University (DLSU)-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI) Manila in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).