

Challenges in Monitoring the Social Impacts of Global Policy Shocks at the National and Local levels

By Tomas P. Africa. Prepared for the CBMS Session Program, 8th PEP Network General Meeting, June 2010, Dakar, Senegal

- a) Household income
 - Diminishing remittances
 - Reduced labor income
 - Rising poverty
- b) Shelter
 - Housing insecurity
- c) Water & sanitation
 - Less access to safe water and sanitation
 - Less spending on other basic services (e.g., transportation, communication, electricity and water)
- d) Health & nutrition
 - Limited access to basic social services
 - Worsening health and nutrition situation

- e) Education
 - Waning school attendance
- f) Employment
 - Returning overseas workers
 - Rising unemployment
 - Rising underemployment
 - Rising child and elderly employment
- g) Security
 - Worsening peace & order
- h) Others
 - Smoothing out household consumption (loans, sell/pawn assets)

Potential Indicators discussed in the CBMS Technical Workshop [February 2009 in Metro Manila]

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [1]

Social Reform Agenda [1995] to enable people to have access to opportunities for undertaking sustainable livelihoods espoused under the agenda for change.

1 of 10 flagship programs:

→ Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS) implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [2]

CIDSS Objectives

- alleviate poverty through an integrated delivery of social services;
- empower families and communities through the total family approach and community organizing;
- monitor and evaluate changes in the quality of life of targeted poor families based on the Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) approach, and;
- institutionalize CIDSS strategy in local development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities for sustainability.

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [3]

MBN Concept (1)

- a strategy to ensure that basic needs for survival, security from personal harm, and enabling needs of the individual, family and community are attended to.
- degree to which a Filipino family achieves MBNs served to measure its quality of life. If family is unable to meet its minimum basic needs on a sustained basis, then the family is considered deprived of these basic needs and is therefore in a state of poverty.
- those who are classified to be at the highest level of deprivation are then targeted for priority assistance.
- put into operation through a system of gathering data using monitoring forms at the community level by volunteer monitors (CVMs).
- the government officially adopted the Minimum Basic Needs-Community-Based Information System (MBN-CBIS) in 1995.

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [4]

MBN Concept (2)

The set of MBN-CBIS indicators to be monitored was formulated by an inter-agency technical working group (IAC-TWG) composed of representatives from key Executive Departments of the national government in the social sector:

- Social Reform Council
- Presidential Commission to Fight Poverty,
- Department of Social Welfare and Development,
- Department of the Interior and Local Government,
- Department of Health,
- Population Commission,
- Department of Labor and Employment,
- Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and
- Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [5]

MBN Concept (3)

Thirty-three (33) indicators were identified and grouped into indicators of survival, security and enabling needs:

- Survival: 15 indicators on food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation, clothing,
- b) Security: 9 indicators on shelter, peace and order, income and livelihood, and
- Enabling: 9 indicators on basic education and functional literacy, people's participation in community development, family or psychosocial care

IAC-TWG included

- many existing social indicators into the MBN framework.
- about a fourth also related to the MDG indicators

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [6]

MBN Concept (4)

From a statistical standpoint, Incorporated several social statistics into a government-recognized development framework and approach to be pursued nationwide. And this happened without the active participation of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS).

Monitoring of poverty alleviation efforts and other socio-economic development initiatives need not emanate from the national statistics office. The statisticians can assist in developing and transferring the technology of generating accurate, precise and cost-efficient information.

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [7]

The possibility of aggregating community-level statistics to the national level should be downplayed. In the case of the Philippines, this would entail the summarization of more than 40 thousand villages, even more if communities [which can be smaller than a village] were to be considered.

An assessment of the MBN form by statisticians showed:

- lack of procedures to validate the data during its collection;
- no uniform interpretation of concepts used;
- no available manual of instructions or procedures;
- inappropriate phrasing of the questions to be able to come-up with quantifiable indicators;
- inclusion of questions in the household questionnaire requiring the answer from the community; and
- construction of indicators such that some were positively phrased, while others negatively phrased, resulting in confusion in identifying unmet needs.

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [8]

Community-based statistics would have to be relevant to the community for the monitoring process to have meaning and to work. This though would have serious implications on the uniformity of questions and variables to be included in the monitoring, as well as the processing of the questionnaires.

- needs and conditions vary from one locality to another, e.g. *several communities merely wanted the monitoring of a few indicators such as lack of potable water and sanitary toilets that made their farmers sickly despite fertile lands and irrigation available nearby. cultural communities wanted a measure of ancestral domain holdings.*
- while volunteerism (in data collection, processing and presentation) encouraged people participation, the capabilities of some of the CVMs mattered and the quality of information derived was affected.

Community-based Monitoring System: Philippine Experience [9]

However, aggregation to the next level of administration, say from village to town or city, could be explored and could be feasible if systematized and institutionalized.

This system could also support governance:

- assist the local government unit (LGU) identify who and where the poor are, how many are poor and what the poor needs in terms of their MBNs.
- could be adopted by LGUs as a tool for planning and budgeting/programming and therefore significantly improve resource allocation at the local level.

National Surveys --- Poverty Monitoring: Philippine Experience [1]

There is not one survey instrument/vehicle that would respond to and satisfy the needs in the area of poverty alleviation for policy makers, program formulators and project implementors at the national and local levels.

- Family Income and Expenditures Survey – conducted every 3 years; among others, basis for computing the official poverty measures, also distribution of families by income class, income deciles distribution, sources of income, spending pattern by income class and poverty related indicators like housing characteristics.
- FIES poverty estimates --- generally income-based and multiple dimensions of poverty were not being monitored.

National Surveys --- Poverty Monitoring: Philippine Experience [2]

APIS

- envisioned to be undertaken in the years without the FIES to provide flash non-income indicators (correlates) of poverty that can be used as inputs to the development of an integrated poverty indicator and monitoring system in the country.
- presents a socio-economic profile of Filipino families and other information relating to their living conditions:
 - own or owner-like possession of house and lot,
 - roofs and walls of housing units made of strong materials,
 - access to safe water,
 - with sanitary toilet,
 - children 6-12 years old enrolled in elementary,
 - children 13-16 years old enrolled in high school,
 - with members 18 years old and over gainfully employed, and with
 - working children 5-17 years old.

National Surveys --- Poverty Monitoring: Philippine Experience [3]

APIS

- The World Bank also participated and provided technical assistance to the survey. It influenced the inclusion of questions to monitor the effects of the 1997 Asian financial crisis on households.
- About 15 MBN-CBIS indicators were included in the APIS so that an overlap may be established between the two data sets at the provincial level.

APIS arose during the Asian financial crisis in 1997; a review came in 2006, before the sub-prime mortgage crisis of 2007-2010. However I find the review cutting down on a few questions on access to health and education facilities for some unexplained reason/s.

Poverty Monitoring: Philippine Experience

<p>National</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Provincial</p>	<p>Family Income and Expenditure Survey, Annual Poverty Indicators Survey</p>
<p>↑</p> <p>Provincial</p> <p>↑</p> <p>City/ Municipality</p> <p>↑</p> <p>Barangay (Village)/ Community</p>	<p>Community-Based Monitoring System</p>

Thank you very much.