

partnership for
economic
policy

pep



2016 annual report



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Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors



2016 has seen numerous successes for PEP as a source of high-quality research for evidence-based policymaking, in building research capacity in developing countries, and in consolidating PEP's role as an international partnership organization. The vital role of PEP's continued support for developing country researchers is evident in the quality of the research output and the increasing uptake of evidence for policymaking. The year also saw major milestones in the consolidation of PEP as an international leader in high-quality development policy research; with a reviewed governance framework and a new Executive Director, PEP is well-positioned to go further in achieving its mandate.

As the final year of PEP's first Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) initiative – PEP's principal research and capacity building initiative – 2016 saw multiple PEP teams produce evidence addressing local development challenges in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. With 25 PEP national policy conferences held in 20 different countries in 2016 alone, attracting both high-level decision makers and the national media, PEP research was disseminated more – and to a wider audience – than ever before. Several projects were also presented at high-level international conferences, highlighting the quality and relevance of the research produced with PEP support. Furthermore, despite the complicated nature of policy processes, the dissemination strategies developed as part of PEP projects are proving to be highly effective, with more than 45% of project teams supported under the PAGE initiative (2013-2016) already informing policy decisions in their respective countries.

In 2016, PEP's core donors – UK Aid/DfID and Canada's IDRC – renewed their support, recognizing the successes and the importance of the PAGE initiative, with the launch of the PAGE II initiative. This new funding was granted to allow PEP to continue its excellent work supporting local efforts to produce essential empirical evidence on current issues and link it to policy action.

Other initiatives addressing key development issues - such as food security, agricultural transformation and technology adoption - were also continued or completed in 2016 with the support of other donors and collaborators, including Cornell University, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research – Science for Global Development Division (NWO-WOTRO), and the World Bank Group.

Since her appointment as Executive Director in October 2016, Prof. Jane Mariara has been working tirelessly to consolidate the new PEP Global Secretariat, now established as a unique and highly efficient structure of international project management and cooperation. All PEP programs will now be centrally coordinated by the Global Secretariat, beginning with the PAGE II initiative. PEP has also been cultivating new partnerships with key research institutions in developing countries to increase capacity building and improve the dissemination of policy-relevant findings and recommendations.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to PEP's outgoing board members: John Harriss, Stephen Wainaina, and Ponciano Intal Jr. who have contributed immensely to our organization. I would also like to welcome the three new members, joining in 2017: Nora Lustig, Haroon Bhorat and Fred Carden.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I thank PEP, its management, staff, partners and donors for their continued and renewed commitment to fulfilling PEP's mission. I also thank the large number of PEP researchers in developing countries who, despite facing many and varied challenges, go further to both provide an evidence base of the highest quality and to bring that evidence to strategic stakeholders and decision makers. Their commitment and determination are at the core of PEP's success and impact. As a Board, we are proud to be part of PEP's continued success and to be able to support, in a modest way, your endeavors.



Mustapha K. Nabli
Chair, PEP Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director



2016 was an important year for PEP, both in terms of achievements and transitions. PEP researchers held more dissemination activities and reached a wider audience than ever before, informing increasing numbers of policy decisions throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Institutionally, PEP has strengthened its position as a go-to organization for the implementation of international research initiatives with the launch of a new program to support locally-led policy analysis in multiple developing countries, and the consolidation of the unique structure that has become the PEP Global Secretariat.

With 2016 being the final year of the first Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) initiative – funded by UK Aid/DfID and Canada's IDRC – the research teams supported under this program were particularly focused on sharing their findings and recommendations with key national and international stakeholders and decision makers. In 2016 alone, a total of 25 PEP national policy conferences were held by PAGE research teams to both democratize and discuss findings with local stakeholders in all regions of the developing world. PEP's capacity building support remained vital at this stage of the research projects to improve the chances of the findings being used to inform policy. PEP's support has proven effective with more than 45% of PAGE I projects resulting in direct or indirect research uptake, as of December 2016.

In July, the first series of calls for proposals was launched for the new PAGE II initiative, with renewed funding from DfID and IDRC to build on the successes of the first PAGE initiative, receiving a record number of proposals from around the world. PAGE II comprises several new features and activities to further extend the support provided by PEP to local experts, including a new type of project for the institutionalization of expertise in specific research methods.

PEP has also been engaged in other special initiatives including the Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS) in collaboration with Cornell University, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). Several of the 12 projects supported as part of STAARS, and with financial support from IDRC, also benefited from strategic exposure in 2016, as they were presented at international events.

PEP completed and published the outcomes of two other projects in 2016. One supported by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to conduct analysis of alternative futures for food security in selected countries in Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia) and Asia (India and Pakistan), and the other was a special research grant by the World Bank Group to assess the multi-level economic effects of water infrastructure (irrigation and non-agricultural) development in the coastal region of Kenya.

Another special initiative, that will conclude in 2017, is for research and capacity development in Productive Employment in the Segmented Markets of Fresh Produce (PRESM) in Kenya and Peru. The main collaborators are VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD), the University of Nairobi, Fresh Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) and Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE) in Peru. The program is supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research – Science for Global Development Division (NWO-WOTRO).

I am pleased to say that 2016 ended on an extremely high note for PEP, marking the very smooth end of a six-month transition period, with a great outlook for the consolidation and stabilization of the organization. We are very grateful to Bekele Shiferaw for his assistance in the institutionalization of the Global Secretariat in Nairobi and his leadership of PEP over the last three years. Having only become fully engaged with PEP in October 2016, I am very proud to be part of the great milestones achieved towards the end of the year, closing old chapters, opening new ones, and building confidence among PEP stakeholders.

It is thanks to the dedicated efforts of PEP staff, local researchers, resource persons, and all of our partners that we have achieved so much over the past 12 months and that we will continue to produce policy-relevant evidence and build capacities in developing countries. I would also like to thank our donors, the PEP Board, management, collaborating institutions, and all other stakeholders for their continued support and look forward to working closely with you over the coming year.



Prof. Jane Mariara
PEP Executive Director

Board of Directors

The PEP Board of Directors is composed of distinguished researchers, representatives of various stakeholders, and independent global experts who are responsible for providing managerial oversight and guidance while monitoring the overall performance of the organization.



Mustapha K. Nabli
Chair

Manager
North Africa Bureau of
Economic Studies

Tunisia

Marie-Claude Martin
Treasurer

Senior Fellow
Center for International
Governance Innovation

Canada



Stephen Wainaina
Secretary

Economic Planning Secretary
Ministry of Devolution
and Planning

Kenya

Pramila Krishnan

Associate Professor
Economics for Development
Oxford University

United Kingdom



Leonard Wantchekon

Professor
Politics and Economics
Departments
Princeton University

United States

John Harriss

Professor
School for International Studies
Simon Fraser University

Canada



Ponciano Intal Jr.

Senior Researcher
Economic Research Institute
for ASEAN and East Asia

Indonesia

Jane Mariara
Ex officio member

PEP Executive Director
From June 2016

Kenya



Program Committee

The PEP Program Committee is responsible for strategic decisions related to the management of PEP, and the coordination of efforts amongst the partner institutions in the implementation of the annual program of activities, particularly in terms of thematic and regional coverage. The members of this Committee include the Research Directors of the PEP “Thematic Research Groups” (TRGs – see page 12), PEP Executive Director and Director of Communications (ex-officio member).



Jane Mariara

Executive Director
From June 2016

Kenya

Bekele Shiferaw

Executive Director
Until June 2016

Kenya



Maria Laura Alzua

TRG - Scientific Program Coordinator
Experimental research
CEDLAS-Conicet

Argentina

Celia M. Reyes

TRG - Scientific Program Coordinator
Community-based monitoring system
Angelo King Institute (AKI) of
De La Salle University

Philippines



Hélène Maisonnave

TRG - Scientific Program Coordinator
Macro-micro policy modelling
Université Le Havre

France

Luca Tiberti

TRG - Scientific Program Coordinator
Microeconomic analysis
Université Laval

Canada



Marjorie Alain

Ex officio member

**Director of Communications,
Monitoring and Evaluation**

Canada



About PEP

A global organization
to build local capacity in providing
contextualized policy solutions
for sustainable development

The Partnership for Economic Policy is an international non-profit organization that links researchers globally to enhance local capacity for policy analysis in developing countries.

PEP supports policy-engaged research that contributes to informing national and international debates related to economic policy for more inclusive and sustainable development.

With the continual support and interaction of world-leading experts and institutions – globally-linked through this venture – PEP has also become a veritable hub of expertise, knowledge and innovation in the field of development economics.

Vision

A global network that brings together researchers and research institutions from around the world, to build capacity and undertake research that provides contextualized solutions to key economic and social policy challenges in developing countries.

Mission

To build research capacity in developing countries, and put this capacity to work where it is most needed, to generate a relevant evidence base for development policy.

PEP had initially emerged from a special research program, implemented in 1990 by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, to examine the micro impacts of macroeconomic and adjustment policies (MIMAP).

In 2002, the two main institutions involved in this joint initiative, Université Laval in Canada and the Angelo King Institute in the Philippines, took the lead in transforming PEP into an international network of developing country researchers and institutions. These founding institutions were soon joined by other partners in Senegal (CRES, in 2005) and Peru (GRADE, in 2007) to contribute to managing the network regionally and globally.

In 2013 PEP was legally incorporated as a non-profit international organization, registered in the USA, and then granted residence by the Government of Kenya to establish its head office in Nairobi in 2014. This transition has led to the establishment of a new governance structure, including an international Board of Directors as well as a Global Secretariat, based in Nairobi and led by the PEP Executive Director.

Objectives

Strengthen local capacity for high quality and policy-engaged research
targeting lowest capacity and most challenging contexts

Produce new and reliable evidence through locally-based perspectives
to provide contextualized policy solutions to country-specific issues

Promote greater participation, visibility and influence of local expertise
at the national and international levels

Create or strengthen research-policy linkages
for sustainable impact in terms of evidence-based policy making

PEP research aims to promote contextualized policy solutions to emerging and country-specific development issues. To achieve this, PEP has developed a unique mechanism (see page 11) that enables local analysts in developing countries to:

- define and achieve their own research agenda
- meet the highest international standards of scientific research quality
- engage actively with policy stakeholders
- ensure broad dissemination and accessibility of their findings through strategic communication

About PEP

Global scope and linkages

Since its creation in 2002, PEP has evolved into a global partnership, with partner and collaborating institutions based in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. In 2014, PEP established a global office in Nairobi, Kenya.

To date, PEP has contributed to building the scientific expertise of nearly 800 developing country researchers, 46% of whom are women, through the support of 260 research projects in 58 developing countries – mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also in Eastern Europe and the Middle-East.

By the end of 2016, more than **12,500 people worldwide had registered on the PEP website** – to participate in and follow PEP news and activities.

In 2016, the PEP website was visited by approximately 51,000 users – twice as many as in 2015, and 54% of whom were first-time users. The majority of visitors were from Asia (36%), Africa (30%) and the Americas (20%), with Europe representing 12% of users. Together, these users accumulated over 204,000 page views (52% more than in 2014).

The geographic scope of PEP activities, combined with a “networking” type of organizational structure, provide a unique opportunity for locally-based, and usually isolated, Southern researchers to share and learn from experience with international peers. These exchanges allow for the comparison of research results, conclusions and/or methodological applications among countries and regions, as well as for increased South-South knowledge transfer through greater interaction of both individuals and institutions.

NORTH AMERICA

Université Laval
Québec, Canada

ASIA

AKI
Manila, Philippines

LATIN AMERICA

GRADE
Lima, Peru

AFRICA

PEP Secretariat
Nairobi, Kenya

CRES
Dakar, Senegal

About PEP

Global scope and linkages

Over the past few years, PEP has come to be regarded throughout the world as an important source of expertise, in terms both of its distinctive approach to research capacity building and the research methodologies it utilizes.

As a reputed supra-national research institution, PEP also provides the necessary infrastructure for Southern experts to participate in (and bid for) major international initiatives, which, in turn, contributes to establishing their national and international reputations and level the playing field with their Northern counterparts. By catalyzing their in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP research favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.

Started with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP is now a multi-donor funded international organization that receives support from a growing list of institutions.

Since its establishment, PEP has received support from:

- Australian Agency for International Development _____ AusAID
- Canadian International Development Agency _____ CIDA
- Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom _____ UK Aid
- Inter-American Development Bank _____ IADB
- International Development Research Centre _____ IDRC
- International Food Policy Research Institute _____ IFPRI
- International Labour Organization _____ ILO
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research _____ NWO
- United Nations Children Fund _____ UNICEF
- United Nations Development Programme _____ UNDP
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women _____ UN Women
- World Bank Group _____ WBG

In 2016, most of PEP activities were supported by DFID (UK Aid), IDRC and NWO.

Over the years, several PEP initiatives have also been commissioned directly by national governments in developing countries, especially in Africa – including the governments of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Morocco and Uganda.

In 2016 alone

+1,000 followers on PEP website/Facebook

51,000 visitors on PEP website (54% new)

81,865 downloads of PEP working papers

29,143 downloads of PEP policy briefs

About PEP

Research and capacity building

Capacity building

Most PEP-supported researchers and projects are selected through international calls for proposals and a highly competitive process. In 2016, PEP launched a series of calls for proposals under the PAGE II initiative, described on page 26.

In addition to research funding, research teams selected as PEP grant recipients are provided with various types of **resources, tools, training, support and advisement** (including international peer-



review) aimed at strengthening their expertise in the conduct of **high-quality and policy-engaged research**. Throughout a project cycle, PEP also supports a variety of activities that contribute to the researchers' professional development and acknowledgement (publications, conferences, etc.). This is called the **PEP Grant Plus mechanism**, the process of which is illustrated on page 11.

The progress of each project's research work is carefully monitored through ongoing interactions with PEP resource persons (international experts in the relevant methods and policy issues), as well as periodic research and technical progress reports. Thanks to this ongoing support and review mechanism, the evidence produced in the context of PEP-supported research is **guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality – with the unique trait of systematically providing a locally-based analytical perspective**.

Research



Among several peerless features of PEP is the breadth of policy issues and analytical perspectives - including tools and techniques in which PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons specialize – and that granted researchers can choose to be trained in the use/analysis of via PEP support.

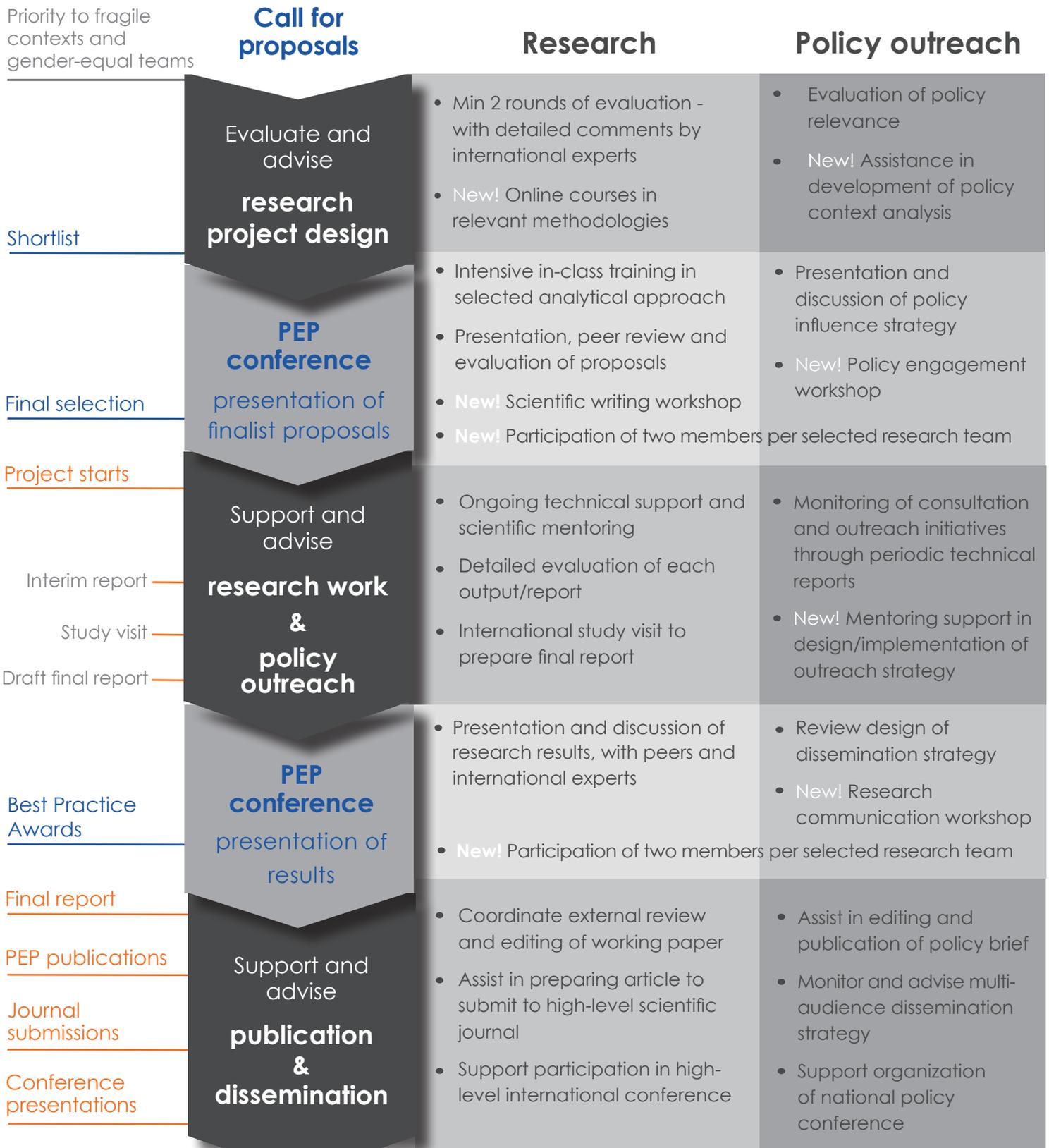
PEP currently has **four global thematic research groups (TRGs - described on page 12)** that contribute to building the capacity of developing country researchers while producing knowledge and an evidence base that is locally relevant. Through these various approaches, PEP research can explore a **broad range of policy issues related to poverty reduction and sustainable development - from education and employment to agriculture, food security, fiscal policies, inclusive growth, gender equity, health, income, migration, etc.** - while producing comprehensive and disaggregated analyses to address specific knowledge gaps and needs to inform policy.

In several cases, the development of PEP's distinctive set of research tools and techniques – acknowledged worldwide as some of the most valuable tools in the field – has been stimulated by their application in research projects supported by PEP, through innovations introduced by PEP's teams of international experts (see pp. 51-53).

About PEP

Grant Plus program

A unique program of manifold support and international peer review, that enables developing country researchers to overcome the usual impediments to conducting high quality research and advising policy in their home countries



About PEP

Thematic research groups

PEP currently has four global thematic research groups (TRGs), offering different programs of research support focused on specific analytical approaches that researchers can choose to apply and be trained in through their PEP project.

Developing and implementing the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) methodology to provide disaggregated data for multidimensional poverty analysis and improved policy formulation, program targeting, and impact monitoring, while empowering communities.

Community-based monitoring systems

The CBMS has been widely adopted by local government units in the Philippines where it was first developed as a tool for improving local governance. It has since been used for various thematic concerns including the SDGs, gender and development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. As of December 2016, CBMS has been implemented in 23 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin and Central America.

Building and using economy-wide models as "laboratories" to simulate macro policies/shocks and their impacts on welfare at the household level.

Macro-micro development policy modeling

This program combines sophisticated techniques of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling and household survey-based microsimulation.

Research supported in this program has also led to the development, by PEP-affiliated experts, of a series of reference CGE models which have since been used (downloaded) by over 2,039 researchers and policy analysts in 123 countries around the world.

Using experimental research to provide rigorous assessments of the impacts of policy interventions on a variety of outcomes – including both expected benefits and unintended effects.

Experimental research

Impact evaluations through an experimental approach include the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and field experiments, and thus the collection of primary data. As of December 2016, PEP has supported a total of 12 experimental research projects in 10 different Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Designing and applying concepts, techniques and tools to measure and analyze development issues at the microeconomic level in a multi-dimensional setting, primarily using household survey data.

Microeconomic analysis

This program combines microeconomic analytical tools to evaluate the impact of policies and shocks on individual and household wellbeing, as well as to monitor, measure and analyze poverty and inequality in a multidimensional setting. Research activities conducted through this program have stimulated the development, by PEP-affiliated experts, of innovative software tools for poverty and distributive analysis, DAD and DASP (for Stata). As of 2017, these tools have been downloaded by 7,527 and 8,120 users respectively, in 210 countries.

About PEP

Policy engagement and communication

In order to ensure the policy relevance and usefulness of the research it supports, all PEP projects must be designed in consultation with policymakers and stakeholders, who help identify the most salient needs and gaps in terms of data and the evidence base. Periodic consultations continue throughout the project cycle, to keep stakeholders informed and engaged.

PEP also devotes extensive resources to assist its researchers in creating strong policy linkages and implementing effective influence strategies, especially at the national level. Moreover, as part of the "Grant Plus" program, the research teams are provided with a series of complementary grants to organize or participate in activities for the dissemination of their findings and related policy recommendations.

In addition to ensuring dissemination of their findings to inform policy, these activities contribute to increasing the researchers' exposure, and thus building their reputation as experts, both at the national and international levels. As a result, the majority of PEP projects are reported to have a significant impact in beneficiary countries, either through the uptake of research findings in policymaking or greater participation of local expertise in



Monitoring and assessing impact

Over the past few years, PEP has developed a highly sophisticated, web-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that enables PEP staff to closely monitor the progress and achievements of supported projects, including and beyond the research work itself. Through this innovative system, PEP can assess the impact of its activities in relation to capacity building, dissemination of findings, promotion of local expertise, policy engagement and research uptake - following a list of performance indicators associated with the different objectives of PEP activities - see page 7.

The system is based on a series of online questionnaires that granted research teams are required to fill out and update periodically, reporting on the progress and ramifications of their PEP project in different areas. The information collected through these reports enables supervising bodies to quickly assess whether all recommended initiatives have been undertaken, whether the initial strategies are being implemented, as well as whether the team is on track to achieve their objectives or requires further assistance in specific areas.

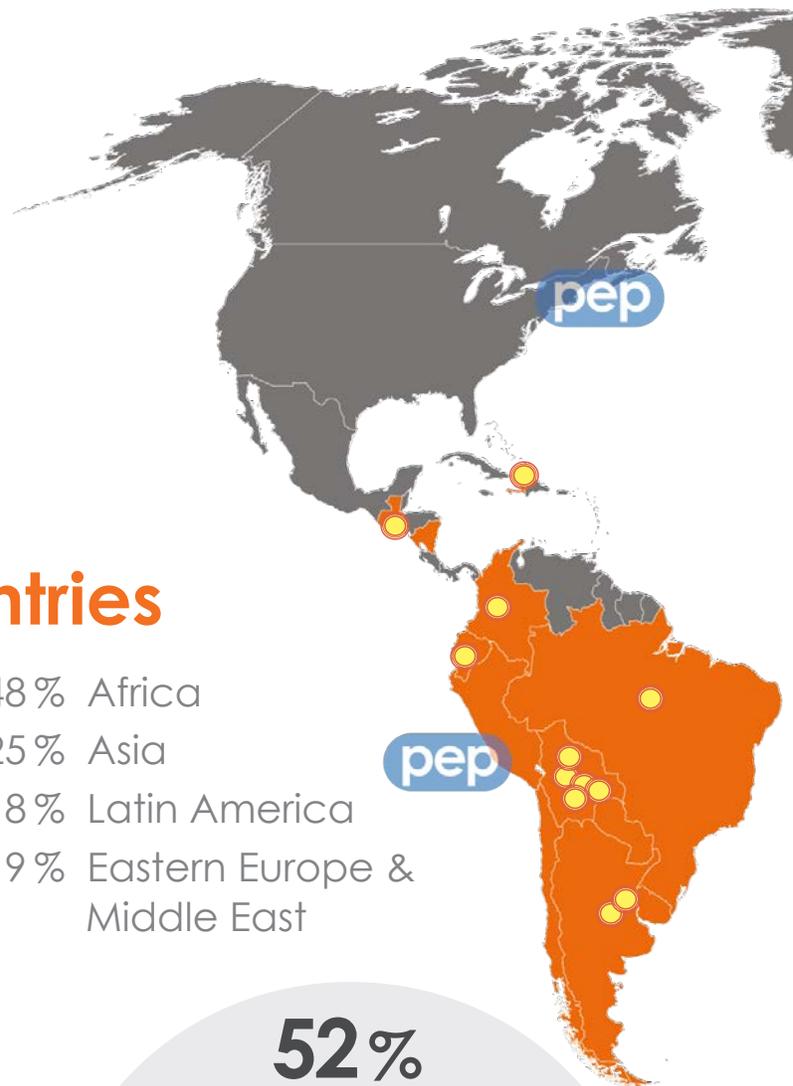


The results generate evidence as to the impact of PEP activities in developing countries, in the form of statistics (either at the organizational or program level, such as for PAGE - see pages 14-15) and in the form of qualitative accounts and testimonials, otherwise known as "PEP impact stories" - some of which are summarized on page 21.

The results generate evidence as to the impact of PEP activities in developing countries, in the form of statistics (either at the organizational or program level, such as for PAGE - see pages 14-15) and in the form of qualitative accounts and testimonials, otherwise known as "PEP impact stories" - some of which are summarized on page 21.

In 2012, with support from the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP launched a new initiative to support research and build local capacities in "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment" (PAGE) in developing countries. Below are the main features and outcomes of the program, completed by the end of 2016.

The high success and impact of the initiative has led both donors to provide support for a new series of projects, between 2016 and 2020 - find out more about the PAGE II program on page 26.



65 projects in 34 countries

45% in low income, fragile or conflict states

34% female team leaders

48% Africa

25% Asia

18% Latin America

9% Eastern Europe & Middle East

274 local researchers

46% in low income, fragile or conflict states

54% women

35 yrs average age at project selection

52% researchers experience major **career-promoting events**

39% events lead to **increased involvement in policy processes**

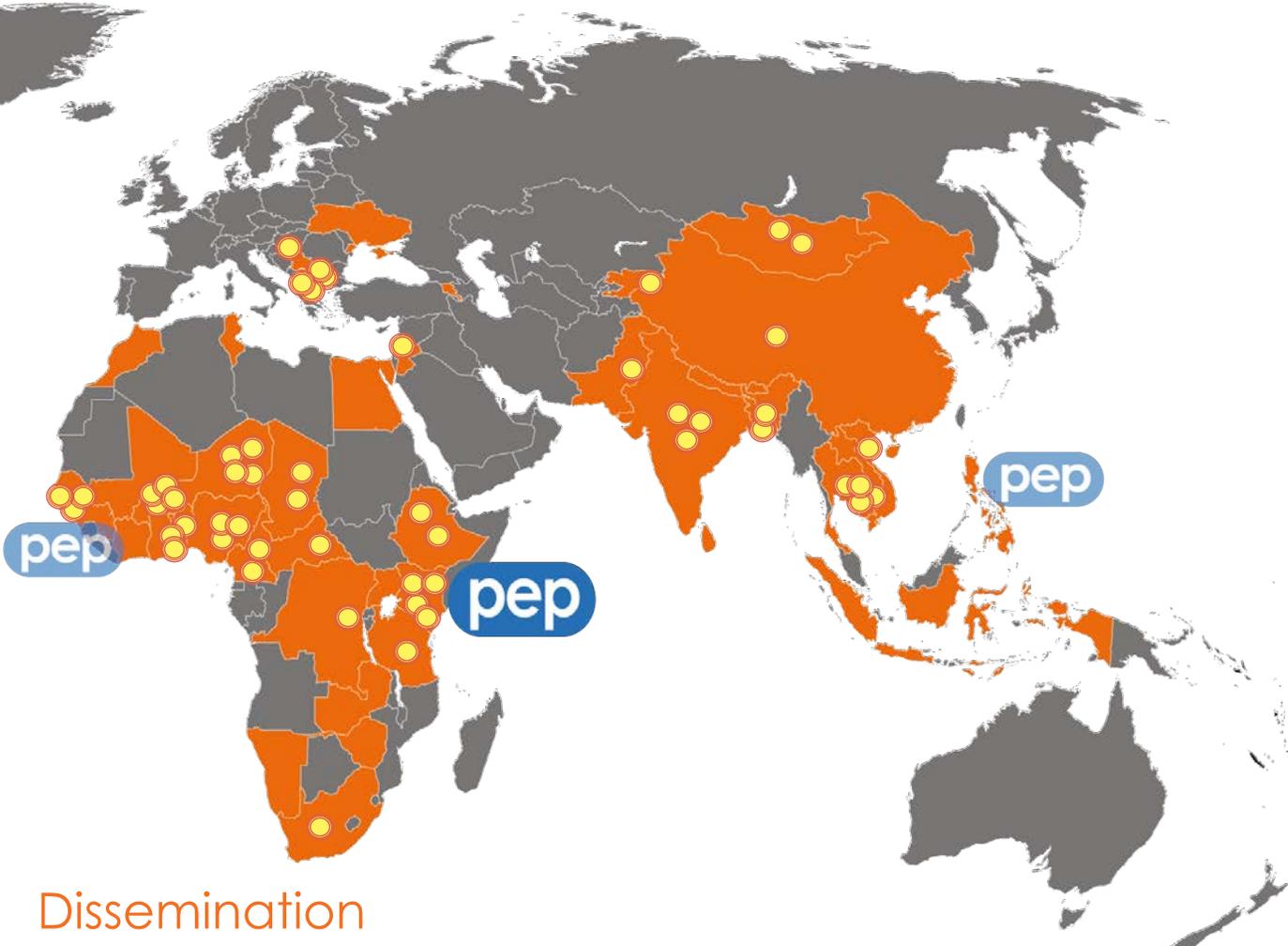
Publications

77 working papers
44,101 downloads*

54 policy briefs
26,299 downloads*

8 scientific journal articles*

* as of May 2017



Dissemination

 **39**
organize national
policy conferences

 **27**
present at interna-
tional conference

 **55%**
reported in
national media

Impact

52% research uptake

95% teams discuss findings directly
with policy stakeholders

69% engage policy stakeholders in
dissemination of findings

75% receive new funding/contracts
to pursue related research

21 projects result in **findings used
to influence actual policy decisions**

+13 with official/public **statements
from policy makers** that findings will be
used to inform future policy

About PAGE projects

PAGE research teams were selected on a highly competitive basis, through a series of open calls for proposals that were launched annually – in 2012, 2013 and 2014. While the calls were open to teams from all developing countries, priority was given to those from low income countries, fragile and/or conflict states (LFCs). Of the 420 project proposals submitted under the three PAGE calls, 152 were from LFCs and of the 65 selected for support, 29 projects were conducted in LFCs.

In order to ensure the policy relevance and responsiveness of the PAGE projects, PEP called upon a group of five policy specialists and stakeholders from different regions of the world (the PAGE Policy Group) to identify a list of priority issues, under the broad theme of inclusive growth and employment, that are especially relevant to addressing specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of the evidence base.

Priority issues identified for the three PAGE calls for proposals include:

- Providing social protection to the informal sector
- Safety net complementarities
- Youth employment and entrepreneurship
- Employment intensity of non-agricultural growth
- Entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender
- Discrimination in credit access for female entrepreneurs
- China's growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries
- Improving the targeting of public expenditures and social assistance
- Design of minimum wage policies and impact on youth and female workers
- The inclusiveness of growth: the role of labor markets
- Natural resources and employment
- Micro and small enterprises for economic empowerment and poverty reduction

45% of PAGE projects are in low-income countries, fragile and conflict states

In terms of analytical perspectives, or methodological approaches, the 65 projects supported under PAGE were grouped as follows:

27 microeconomic analysis

14 community-based monitoring systems

18 macro-micro policy modeling

6 experimental research

The following section presents general conclusions and findings drawn from PAGE projects across the globe, highlighting a list of specific themes that have emerged as particular trends from the research teams' perspectives following the evaluation of their countries' priority issues. The list of associated publications from PAGE projects is presented on pages 40 to 46.

The impact of migration and remittances on welfare and employment back home

PAGE projects from Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia and Senegal focus on the impact of migration and remittances on welfare and employment in their respective countries, with varied outcomes.

One criticism of remittances is that they can create a “dependency effect” among the left-behind family members who choose to rely on the remittances rather than continuing to look for employment themselves. This is found to be the case in [Cambodia](#) and [Senegal](#) with households receiving remittances demonstrating lower labor market participation than non-recipient households. In Senegal, however, households with migrant workers tend to spend more on education and health, suggesting that remittances contribute to improving human capital development.

The “dependency effect” was not found in the studies from Kyrgyzstan and Macedonia. In [Kyrgyzstan](#), remittances were found to be primarily used to finance current consumption expenditures. Similarly, in [Macedonia](#), remittances serve as an informal source of social protection, increasing consumption and improving health. A second study in [Macedonia](#) found that youth living in households receiving remittances are considerably more likely to establish their own business than youth and adults from non-recipient households.



Discrimination in credit access for women at the SME level



PAGE projects in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal focused on credit access for women at the SME level; their findings indicate that female entrepreneurship tends to be hindered more by social and cultural constraints than by limited access to financial services. While no direct discrimination of women with regards to eligibility for loans was found in any of these studies, all findings suggest that the relative difficulty faced by women (compared to men) in obtaining credit to support business activities is due to a variety of underlying social and cultural factors.

In [Cameroon](#), the Constitution grants women the right to property. However, tradition dictates that only men can own and dispose of property as they wish, meaning women face significant restrictions to providing collateral when applying for loans. In [Nigeria](#), access to credit is often more restricted for micro and small enterprises and most female-owned businesses fall into this category. Similarly, in [Senegal](#), the researchers observed discrimination against women for senior roles in business, i.e. positions with the responsibility for applying for financial services.

The story in [Bangladesh](#) is different, in that the constraints come from within the household, but the outcome is the same. Men tend to benefit significantly more than women from entrepreneurial loans, even when women are the direct recipients. Female beneficiaries allow male members of their households to use the loans for entrepreneurial activities while they allocate their own time to household responsibilities.

Effect of minimum wage policies on labor market outcomes



Advocates of a national minimum wage say it can help create a more equitable society by shrinking the wage gap of low-paid workers, while opponents argue that companies will hire fewer low-skilled workers resulting in increased unemployment. Findings from PAGE projects in Argentina, Ecuador, Cameroon, Bolivia, and Kenya indicate that setting or raising the minimum wage can have positive income and well-being effects, provided it is managed appropriately.

In [Argentina](#), increasing the minimum wage level was not found to reduce employment, nor increase informality. In [Ecuador](#), minimum wage raises were successful in increasing earnings for low-wage workers, and they may also be linked to reduced inequality. Furthermore, based on the findings from [Cameroon](#) – a wage increase

in the informal sector would significantly increase growth and well-being – the research team suggests that a minimum wage should be established and enforced in the country, including in the informal sector.

On the other hand, [Bolivia's](#) minimum wage policy has introduced biases into the labor market that have negative effects on vulnerable workers, particularly women, in terms of well-being and employment conditions. However, the team's findings indicate that these issues arise from employers only partially complying with the minimum wage regulations (e.g. raising wages but reducing hours) and that more moderate increases are less likely to result in these negative effects. The findings from [Kenya](#) also suggest that the minimum wage needs to be carefully managed to achieve a balance between the demand for higher wages and negative effects associated with minimum wage increases in the country - such as reduced growth, reduced labor demand, and reduced rural incomes.

Mining and employment

With many developing countries economically dependent on mining, revenue distribution and international market fluctuations can have widespread and varied effects. PAGE projects in Niger, Mongolia, Colombia, and Burkina Faso investigated the impact of extractive industries on their respective economies.

Two projects were undertaken in [Niger](#), one to look at the labor market and economic development effects of the oil and mining sector boom, and one looking at the public spending policies as the extractive industries develop. In both cases the researchers found that Dutch disease can be avoided through the careful implementation of government policy. Without well-targeted investment policies, the rise in mining and oil exports causes a loss of competitiveness in other sectors, stunting long-term economic growth. Well-targeted investments, however, can increase employment, household welfare, and economic development. Similarly, gold mining in [Burkina Faso](#) can help to reduce poverty and increase average income. However, targeted government interventions are also needed to prevent increases in inequality and child labor associated with gold mining.



In [Mongolia](#) and [Colombia](#), booms in the coal and oil sectors, respectively, can also have positive employment effects, including a shift towards formal employment in Colombia. However, Mongolia remains vulnerable to drops in the world price of metal ore, which would likely mean reduced employment.

Cash transfer schemes to provide social protection to vulnerable populations

PAGE projects in Nigeria, Argentina, and Serbia investigated how cash transfer schemes can be adapted to provide social protection to vulnerable populations in their respective countries and contexts. The findings from all the studies indicate that cash transfers can successfully reduce poverty and increase well-being.

In [Argentina](#), despite fears that cash transfers would encourage beneficiaries to stop looking for work, the findings indicate the opposite, with adult men from beneficiary households becoming more likely to be employed.

A non-contributory cash transfer scheme for elderly citizens living in poor households in [Nigeria](#) was found to significantly improve their well-being and that of their households. Similarly, the researchers in [Serbia](#) found that cash transfers that take account of revenues from informal work can improve the targeting and coverage of the social protection scheme and could lead to a reduction in child poverty by up to 1.6 percentage points.



Promoting youth entrepreneurship to tackle unemployment



A common strategy for reducing youth unemployment is promoting youth entrepreneurship, however, there are many reasons why young people decide to start their own business. PAGE projects in Bangladesh, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Argentina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Macedonia, investigated the factors that encourage youth entrepreneurship.

Findings from [Bangladesh](#), [Ethiopia](#) and [Chad](#), indicate that most young people who become entrepreneurs in these countries do so out of necessity, rather than as a profit-seeking activity. Similarly, the likelihood of youth entrepreneurship in [Kenya](#) increases among married people, which is attributed to the need to provide for their family. In contrast, coming from a richer socioeconomic background is found to encourage youth entrepreneurship in [Pakistan](#) and [Argentina](#).

In the cases of [Argentina](#) and [Pakistan](#), entrepreneurship is less out of necessity and is helped by higher levels of education and training. Additionally, participation in entrepreneurial training is found to increase youth entrepreneurship in [Ethiopia](#) and [Pakistan](#). The results from the Punjab Province in Pakistan indicate that higher general education and computer literacy encourage youth entrepreneurship. In [Chad](#), educational language seems to be a factor, with young people who choose Arabic instead of French more likely to be self-employed, but mostly in modest, informal micro-enterprises.

In the [DRC](#), there is a significant relationship between internal migration and youth entrepreneurship. While migration usually correlates to increased youth entrepreneurship in the informal sector, higher-educated migrants are more likely to create businesses in the formal sector. External migration of family members is shown to affect youth entrepreneurship in [Macedonia](#), with youth living in households that receive remittances considerably (up to 33%) more likely to establish their own business than youth and adults from non-recipient households.

Microfinancing of SMEs as a poverty reduction strategy



A number of PAGE projects found that microfinance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) reduces poverty. In the cases of Bolivia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, there were also significant positive implications for women's empowerment. However, this was not found to be the case in Bangladesh.

In **Bolivia**, municipalities with access to microfinance were found to have a significant reduction in poverty in terms of unsatisfied basic needs, compared to municipalities without access. Additionally, women in municipalities with access were found to have greater influence in household decision-making, indicating greater empowerment. These findings are similar to those for **Nigeria**, where microcredit beneficiaries were found to be significantly less vulnerable than non-beneficiaries, reporting reductions in both the frequency of child labor and food shortages in the household. Female microcredit beneficiaries were also found to be significantly more empowered.

In **Ethiopia**, the results of this study indicate that the micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector has the potential to support the Ethiopian economy in achieving its development goals and that focusing on female-oriented MSEs is a key strategy for reducing poverty nationally. However, efforts to support female-oriented MSEs through microcredit have not been successful in **Bangladesh** as the female beneficiaries allow male members of their households to use the loans for entrepreneurial activities while they allocate their own time to household responsibilities.

Providing social protection to the informal sector

PAGE projects involving community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) in Togo, Burkina Faso and Bolivia investigated different aspects of how the informal sector populations in each country protect themselves against shocks such as accidents and illness, as well as planning for old age. In each of these countries, the majority of the labor force works in the informal sector and does not receive social protection via their employer nor the state.

The evidence from **Togo** indicates that almost all (94.5%) informal sector workers are willing to pay for access to social insurance programs. Similar results were found in the areas of **Burkina Faso** where there is little social assistance for informal sector workers. In **Togo**, this willingness to pay for social protection is found to be affected by the monthly cost of social protection contributions and the type of social protection offered, with around 20% of informal sector workers being interested in health insurance and old age pensions. Men are found to be willing to pay more for access to social protection benefits than women. However, this may be because the proportion of women working in the informal sector with a monthly income below the minimum wage is higher than that of men.

In **Bolivia**, the PEP researchers found that although shocks to the household income – such as accidents, illness and death – can be mitigated or prevented through the implementation of social insurance programs for vulnerable households, the most common coping strategy currently is for household members to work multiple jobs.



Impact of PAGE

A reliable evidence base on key development policy challenges

A growing and gender-equal pool of skilful local policy analysts

New research-policy linkages and consultation practices

**Increased exposure, acknowledgement and participation of
Southern-based expertise, at home and abroad**

**Evidence-based policy decisions and interventions in favor of more
inclusive and sustainable development**

Supporting policy engagement to maximize impact

For a project team to be selected for PEP support, and to receive all subsequent grant payments, it must provide evidence that meaningful efforts have been made to consult, engage and communicate with key policy stakeholders and research users.

Each team's efforts and initiatives are monitored through the sophisticated PEP M&E system. Every year, since 2013, those most actively engaged in linking their PEP research with policy at home are rewarded through the Best Practice Award scheme. The winners of the 2016 awards are presented on page 25.

In addition to timely statistics on the achievement of specific indicators, the PEP M&E system collects qualitative information that enables PEP to produce detailed accounts of each project's ramifications and manifold outcomes at the national level.

Projects supported under the PAGE initiative were the first to be monitored through this system. The results - from 51 PAGE projects surveyed between 2013 and

2016 - show that PEP activities and support have an even farther-reaching impact than what was expected or even hoped for - whether the impact is channeled through the promotion of local expertise, or the acknowledgement and influence of specific research findings as an evidence base to inform strategic policy decisions.

By the end of 2016, **21 PAGE projects resulted in findings being taken up by local or national authorities as a direct source of evidence to inform or influence policy decisions**, whether through the design of new policies or the revision of existing ones. A few of these stories are summarized on pages 22-24. In 13 other cases, the findings were referred to by policy actors, in the context of official or public statements, as evidence that will serve to inform future policy decisions.

Nigeria

From evaluation of a state cash transfer program to creation of a new national social security scheme

In January 2017, the Nigerian government began a new national social security program providing a monthly cash transfer to one million of the country's poorest citizens. The program design follows recommendations based on findings from a local PEP team's evaluation of the impact of an unconditional cash-transfer scheme for the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria

The PEP study (2013-2016) was undertaken in collaboration with the Ekiti State Ministry of Labor, Productivity and Human Development – the government body responsible for implementing the state-level cash transfer program. This collaboration meant the team's findings were used to directly inform state government decisions relating to the program's implementation and expansion.

Throughout the course of their project, the research team was diligent in consulting with and informing key stakeholders, both at the local and national level, as the government developed the National Priority Agenda for the Vulnerable. Following a consultation meeting with the federal Ministry of Labor and Employment to discuss how the findings can relate to other vulnerable populations, the Nigerian government announced their plan to provide social security to 50% of vulnerable population groups, starting with unemployed youth. The team was then consulted on the implementation of the new national security program, as it is based on the Ekiti State model.



Serbia

Defining a new strategy to reduce child poverty

In September 2015, the Serbian Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs adopted a new policy of in-work benefit programs as part of the 2016 National Action Employment Plan (NAEP). This new policy was based on the recommendations proposed by a team of PEP researchers in their 2015 PAGE study looking at whether improved cash-transfers or promoting parental employment would be most effective in reducing child poverty.

From the earliest stages of the project, the research team consulted with the Assistant Minister for Labor Policy at the Serbian Ministry of Finance. In line with these consultations, the team modelled several possible redesigns to the existing benefits system to find which would improve targeting but without increasing costs. Among the team's recommendations is for the government to support monetary social assistance benefits that require recipients to regularly cooperate with the National Employment Service. Influenced by the PEP team's findings and recommendations, the new policy measures for the 2016 NAEP included a wage subsidy for able-bodied social assistance benefit recipients registered with the National Employment Service.

Senegal

Informing design of new national migration policy of Senegal

PEP findings are being used to establish a national migration policy in Senegal – the first for the country.

The PEP study (2014-2016), carried out by local researchers, investigated how migration and remittances affect labor market participation and human capital development in Senegal. Key recommendations from the study are to adopt a national migration policy and foster official channels for remittance inflows, as this was found to support human capital development through increased household spending on education and health.

Consultations with key national and international stakeholders and policymakers ensured their interest from the beginning of the project. In October 2016, the research team organized a national policy conference in collaboration with the DDCH (Direction du Développement du Capital Humain) - a government organization overseen by the Economic Planning and Policy Department of Senegal's Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning. During the conference, representatives of the DDCH stated that the results and recommendations of the PEP study would be used to feed their current work, in collaboration with policymakers and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to establish Senegal's first national migration policy. In March 2017, the DDCH and IOM publicly announced that they are working together to develop a migration policy for Senegal.



Development stated that she would share the team's evidence, linking the farm and nonfarm sectors, with the Ministry to assist with policy development.

Similarly, the representative of the Central Economic Committee stated that the team's findings would contribute towards a policy draft to be submitted to the government. A few months later, the Vietnamese government issued the Circular 81/2016/TT-BTC, supporting farmers in development of agricultural production with the aim of reducing rural poverty in Vietnam.

Vietnam

New policy supporting agricultural production based on PEP recommendations

In July 2016, a Ministry of Finance policy to support farmers in the development of agricultural production in Vietnam came into effect. The recommendations from a PAGE study by a team of local researchers investigating the impact of trade liberalization policies in rural Vietnam contributed towards this change in policy.

Throughout the research project, the team consulted with a number of policy stakeholders and advisors, which contributed to raising keen interest in the expected outcomes amongst key institutions. During a special policy advisory seminar, the representative for the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural

Central African Republic

Government revises action plan to include new research initiatives following PEP analysis

Following advocacy and findings by a team of PEP local researchers regarding the impact of Chinese investment in the CAR cotton industry, the Monitoring of Economic/Financial Reforms Unit within the CAR Ministry of Finance and Budget incorporated a new agenda for research initiatives into the Unit's 2015-2016 Action Plan. Specifically, the Ministry plans to use and develop tools and expertise for CGE modeling and simulation techniques in order to test policy options and inform decision making.



The PEP team built and used the first CGE model of the CAR national economy to analyze the effects of different investment options and market situations. As they actively engaged and discussed their findings with a number of key decision makers in various government ministries, the researchers positioned themselves as the country's top modelling experts. As such, the team leader was invited to train government staff in the related method and tools, as well as to join a work group, organized by the Office of the President, to analyze government investments.

Mongolia

PEP findings strengthen national strategy to tackle youth unemployment

Based on the findings of a team of local PEP researchers – that government-sponsored vocational training programs (VTPs) in Mongolia increase youth employment and monthly earnings among those who participate – the Mongolian Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP) has committed to the VTP policy. During the team's national policy conference in 2016, the Deputy Minister of the MLSP stated that the government is currently revising the VTP design, with support from the World Bank, and that the PEP team's findings would inform this work.

Additionally, the PEP evaluation project was conducted in close collaboration and consultation with the Metropolitan Employment Department (MED) in Ulaanbaatar – the principal implementation agency. This collaboration ensured that the team's findings would be used by the MED to improve the VTPs. Indeed, following the team's evidence-based recommendations, the MED changed the eligibility requirements for their VTPs, encouraging more unemployed youth to participate in the program. The PEP study also highlighted eligibility obstacles that meant the majority of enrollments for VTPs were not from the target population. In 2014, recognizing that many young unemployed people do not have a well-developed network in the job market, the potential employer requirement was dropped. The MED also simplified the registration process and increased promotional activities to encourage young unemployed people to take part in the programs.

Following the success and quality of this study in providing evidence for policy, and as the first randomized control trial conducted by local researchers in Mongolia, the research team members have become national experts, being consulted on the use of this methodology and solicited to conduct further studies.





2016 Best Practice Awards

Along with the creation of the PAGE program, PEP launched a new “Best Practice Award scheme” to reward (on an annual basis) the research teams who most actively engage in implementing an effective policy outreach strategy in the context of their PEP-granted projects, i.e. linking their PEP research findings to policy action at home. In 2015, criteria related to the quality of the team’s research work were also included in the qualification process. The evaluation of the teams’ related activities and performance is based on information collected through the PEP M&E system - see page 21.

Selected out of the 21 research teams supported under the third and final round of PAGE funding, the three prize winners of the 2016 edition of the PEP Best Practice Awards, listed below, were presented by the Chairman of the PEP Board of Directors, Dr. Mustapha Nabli, during the Annual Conference held in Manila in June (see page 32).



Burkina Faso - 1st prize

Gold exploitation, child labor and income disparities

Project leader: **Agnès Zabsonré**

Team: Juste Somé, Irene Haffin, Maxime Hagbo



Togo - 2nd prize

Willingness of informal sector workers to pay for social protection

Project leader: **Esso - Hanam Atake**

Team: Akoété Ega Agbodji, Malb Ama N'Danida Yagnimnim, André Melachio Tameko, Totouom Fotuè, Yevessé Dandonougbo, Abdul-Fahd Fofan



Kenya - 3rd prize

Entrepreneurship as a mechanism to address youth unemployment and poverty

Project leader: **Diana Kimani**

Team: Michael Murigi, Mumia Phyllis Machio, Patrick Chege Kariuki

Continuing to build local capacity for policy analysis on growth and employment

Given the success of the PAGE initiative (2012-2016), both the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada granted new funding to build on and extend this unique program.

This new funding will allow PEP to support an additional 50 projects of locally-led policy analysis on growth and employment issues in developing countries between 2016 and 2020. At least 40% of these projects will be selected in low-income economies and/or fragile states, and this new initiative will innovate additional types of support activities (listed below) to further enhance capacity among selected research teams, both in terms of scientific expertise and policy-engaged research communication.

The initial series of PAGE II calls for proposals (for the first of two funding rounds) was launched 2016 and generated an impressive response of **351 applications for support from 72 developing countries**. 142 of these proposals were from low-income economies and/or fragile states (LFCs).

By the end of 2016, after several rounds of evaluation and revisions, 33 of these proposals (including 16 in LFCs) had been shortlisted by the relevant PEP Thematic Research Groups (TRGs). Final selection of the projects to be supported under the first round of PAGE II will be completed following the presentation of proposals during the 2017 PEP Annual Conference.

New features under PAGE II

- **Online courses** in specific analytical approaches (proposal stage)
- Guidance in development of project's **policy context analysis** (proposal stage)
- **New training and mentoring support** in policy engagement and communication
- New type of support for **institutional capacity building** - see below

First PEP institutionalization project grant selected in 2016

In the context of PAGE II, PEP is experimenting a new type of support, conceptualized and channelled through the MPIA-TRG, to develop and establish expertise in policy analysis using Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models within selected research centers in developing countries, as well as to bridge research and policy through an institutionalized approach.

A total of 37 institutions (from 27 countries) responded to PEP's call in 2016 to benefit from this new type of support, among which a first recipient was selected in Mongolia - the Economic Research Institute (ERI), based in Ulaanbaatar.

Other initiatives

Building on fifteen years of experience and a unique network of development experts around the world, PEP has been increasingly called upon – by a number of international organizations, donor institutions and/or national government agencies – to coordinate research and/or capacity building initiatives around the world. The following section describes the initiatives that PEP was either leading or involved in, in 2016.



Foresight for food security in selected countries in Asia and Africa

Funded by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

This project involved analysis of alternative futures for food security in selected countries in Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia) and Asia (India and Pakistan). Through the application of economy-wide dynamic CGE modeling techniques, based on the existing family of PEP reference CGE models, the study aimed to assess alternative policy options to enhance food security in these four countries, with a focus on major food staples.

A team of international and national collaborators based in the four target countries, coordinated through the PEP secretariat in Nairobi, worked together to develop simulation scenarios. The team members used social accounting matrices (SAMs) and CGE models of their respective national economies that had been developed in the context of previous PEP-supported initiatives. Through these scenarios, the research team evaluated the potential impact of technological transformation and institutional reforms on food security, inclusive growth, and welfare in the target countries.

The findings were published as a series of three PEP working papers in 2016 (see page 40), one of which was presented during the 5th International Conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE) in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.



Assessing the impact of water infrastructure development in Kenya

Funded by the World Bank Group



WORLD BANK GROUP

PEP was awarded this special research grant by the World Bank Group to assess the multi-level economic effects of water infrastructure (irrigation and non-agricultural) development in the coastal region of Kenya.



In coordination with the CGE modeling work undertaken as part of the Food Security Foresight project described above, a team of PEP researchers have combined these macro modeling frameworks with microsimulation techniques (using national data survey from Kenya) to link the economy-wide impact to the distributional and poverty effects of planned infrastructure projects. As the project closed in June 2016, the findings were communicated through a series of papers submitted to the World Bank Group, and then summarized and published as part of the PEP policy brief series - see page 44.

Other initiatives

STAARS

Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces

Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada



International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international



In 2014, PEP was invited by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Cornell University and the World Bank to participate in a major African initiative for high quality research on Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS). The STAARS project aims to pursue in-depth, rigorous, policy-oriented research on the causal determinants of productivity and income growth, asset accumulation, rural employment and risk management in African agriculture and rural spaces.

The consortium identified Cornell University as the main technical lead and global center of excellence in developing this continental initiative, and was joined by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), as well as the CGIAR-PIM. Meanwhile, in recognition of its extensive and successful experience in strengthening and promoting local expertise for high quality research across the developing regions, PEP was invited to lead activities and efforts related to capacity development. Acknowledging the value of this important continental initiative, as well as the importance of PEP's contribution, IDRC extended initial funding to PEP to lead these efforts for two years (2015-2016).

Over this period, PEP created a **STAARS Fellowship Program** through which eight promising young African researchers were selected (on a competitive basis) to receive manifold support to 1) generate a reliable and policy-relevant evidence base on agricultural transformation in Africa - including the publication of high quality papers, and 2) promote their findings via strategic platforms, either at the national or international level. Among the eight STAARS Fellows, two are women and five from low-income countries. Each was paired with an international expert to provide mentorship throughout the research cycle, mostly from Cornell University but also from PEP and *icipe*.

A total of 10 research projects were completed through this program, resulting in the publication of 12 working papers and as many policy briefs. These projects were presented to targeted academic audiences, policymakers and other development practitioners during several international conferences and national policy workshops.



AFRICAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH CONSORTIUM
Consortium pour la Recherche Economique en Afrique



Cornell University



pep
partnership for
economic
policy



THE WORLD BANK

Other initiatives



Assessing the impact of segmented markets of fresh produce on productive employment in Kenya

Funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

In 2014, PEP was awarded a special research grant by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) – WOTRO Science for Global Development, through a competitive call for research proposals on “Productive Employment” under the “Research for Inclusive Development in Sub-Saharan Africa” (RIDSSA) programme.

As the lead institution of a consortium formed especially for this project, PEP has been working in close collaboration with several partners to conduct an analysis of the impact of structural transformations within the dynamic fresh produce sector on productive employment in Kenya. The study focuses particularly on the avocado production sector, and includes a comparative analysis from Peru to draw relevant lessons and good practices.

In addition to PEP, the institutions involved in this consortium include two in the Netherlands: VU University Amsterdam (VU), and the Amsterdam Institute for International Development (AIID); two in Kenya (local stakeholders): the University of Nairobi (UoN), and the Fresh-Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK); and finally PEP’s Latin American partner institution: Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE), based in Peru.

In 2015-2016, the researchers completed a major field survey, collecting and processing data from 800 households and 18 farmers’ organizations. In 2016, a collaboration was initiated with the International Trade Center (ITC) III Avocado Project, with closely-aligned research objectives, to implement new interventions and complete follow-up surveys. This project will be completed in 2017.



CBMS special initiatives

Leaving no one behind: Monitoring the SDGs through CBMS

The commitment to “leave no one behind” is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing the dignity of the individual. The challenge now faced is how to achieve these broad aims in very different geographic, socio-economic, and governmental environments. Large-scale data is required to operationalize the SDG mantra, to monitor how and to what extent each individual enjoys the rights and opportunities envisioned in the SDGs.

By using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to collect data on the different dimensions of poverty for each and every individual in the community, we are able to show the extent of multidimensional poverty that each individual experiences. In this way, the CBMS can provide the data to monitor the SDGs at the local level by gender, age group, ethnic origin, with or without disabilities, income group, and any other relevant profile.

As well as providing a vital support mechanism for improving transparency and accountability in local governance, the CBMS has proved useful for vulnerability risk mapping and analysis. The system also lends itself to monitoring trends and impacts including shocks (i.e. food and fuel price shocks, and global financial crises), child poverty, migration and development, gender and development, disaster risk reduction management, and climate change adaptation.

Since 2000, the CBMS has been widely implemented by many local government units in the Philippines and has been further developed and pilot-tested under the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP)-CBMS Program in selected sites in developing countries. These programs examine emerging issues on youth employment and entrepreneurship (in Bangladesh, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Africa), and on providing social protection for informal sector workers (in Haiti, Niger, and Togo).





Developing CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling

Since its creation in 2013, the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (CBMS APP) tool has proven key in the implementation of PEP-CBMS and Philippines programs. CBMS APP uses tablets to transmit data collected via standard CBMS instruments for data collection (core household profile and village questionnaires), data processing, and poverty mapping to the CBMS Portal where it can be accessed and managed.

This innovation – developed and pilot tested by the CBMS Network Team in the Philippines in 2013 – has responded to the growing demand from various users of the CBMS to fast track data generation for use in the preparation of development plans and budgets, and various development program initiatives, such as meeting the SDGs.

In 2016, the CBMS Network Team of the DLSU Angelo King Institute (AKI) for Economic and Business Studies further developed the CBMS APP tools, manuals, and training modules in preparation for capacity building activities for the new CBMS project grantees under the PAGE II program.

The development of the CBMS APP instruments has been undertaken to facilitate the primary data collection, data processing and database management of the PAGE-CBMS country project teams. These developments included:

- Reviewing the concepts and operational definitions with respect to national and international definitions and data requirements for the core poverty indicator system;
- Updating key sections in field census operations;
- Providing more and updated examples in the CBMS training modules;
- Strengthening security features for data transmission and access to the CBMS database/portal;
- Refining CMBS data processing to generate infographics as well as improving the automatically generated tables.



Conferences

In 2016, dozens of local research teams around the world invaded the public spaces in their home countries (policy conferences, press reports, TV interviews, etc.) to democratize the key findings and related policy implications from research work supported under the PAGE initiative.

Discussing PEP research around the world

To share and discuss research results, to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, and to enhance the visibility of its work and researchers, every year PEP organizes, supports, and participates in a variety of conferences and workshops, at the international, regional, and national levels in all regions of the world.

The **2016 PEP Annual Conference** was held in Manila, Philippines, in June (pages 33-34), where researchers and experts from around the world were invited to discuss development research issues and findings related to growth and employment in developing countries. This year's conference also featured a special **Policy Forum** to discuss challenges and solutions to promote greater use of scientific evidence in policymaking.

The event was preceded by the **12th CBMS-Philippines National Conference**, also held in Manila in March, under the theme "Pursuing Meaningful Devolution Through CBMS". Over 650 delegates including policymakers, program implementers and development partner agencies attended the three-day policy conference to discuss how CBMS can be used to improve local governance.

Meanwhile, over the course of 2016, PEP research was presented at **25 national policy conferences** organized by PAGE research teams in 20 different countries, as well as **11 high-level regional and international conferences** around the world - see pages 36-39.

2016 PEP annual conference

Manila, Philippines

June 4-8

The 2016 PEP Annual Conference was held in Manila, Philippines, and saw another successful gathering of approximately 100 development researchers and practitioners, eminent scholars, representatives of donor/international organizations, and policy actors from more than 30 different countries.

Organized by the PEP-CBMS coordinating team, based in Manila, this year's meeting was organized as part of the PAGE Initiative (see pages 14 to 16), with support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID, or UK Aid) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

Review and evaluation of PAGE findings

The main objective of PEP general meetings is to give developing country researchers the opportunity to present and discuss their research work and findings with peers and experts from around the world.

In 2016, a total of 29 PAGE projects, from 21 different countries and exploring various policy issues related to growth and employment, were presented during four parallel sessions grouped according to the projects' analytical approaches (see TRGs on page 12).

As the core mission of PEP is to strengthen research capacity, these sessions also give researchers the opportunity to benefit from personal and customized consultation and mentoring by leading international experts. These include individual meetings with PEP resource persons who are experts in the selected methodologies.

Review dissemination strategies

As all attending researchers' projects were about to enter the publication phase, PEP also took advantage of this gathering to provide a new type of workshop to review best practices for policy-engaged research communication.

PEP communication advisors also met individually with each participant to discuss their respective project's dissemination strategy, according to their particular objectives, target audiences, available tools and platforms.

For all participants, PEP conferences present a unique opportunity for global networking, international peer-review and capacity building.

The experience also contributes to enhancing the researchers' capacity to communicate research results to policymakers and stakeholders at the national level.



From policy engagement to research uptake: Lessons for and from developing country researchers

Better utilization of evidence in policy and practice can help save lives, reduce poverty and improve development performance. While all countries face the challenge of promoting increased use of scientific evidence, the obstacles are significantly greater in developing countries - where social and political environments are more difficult, capacity is much more limited and resources are scarcer. This challenge inspired the theme of the international Policy Forum held during the 2016 Annual Conference in Manila, on June 8, attended by over 80 participants from 25 different countries across 6 continents.

Keynote address - How does research influence policy?

By Dr. Mustapha K. Nabli

Chair of the PEP Board of Directors, Dr. Mustapha K. Nabli (see right-side photo) provided the keynote address. An international consultant and researcher, Dr. Nabli is also the Director of the North Africa Bureau of Economic Studies. His professional background brings together research and high-level policy making with roles including Professor of Economics, Minister of Economic Development of Tunisia, Minister of Planning and Regional Development of Tunisia, Senior Adviser to the World Bank Chief Economist, and Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia. With this extensive and quite unique experience, Dr. Nabli shared his insights and advice on what researchers should do to maximize the likelihood of research uptake.

Policy forum - An interactive and international dialogue Facilitated by John Young, ODI

The keynote was followed by a discussion involving a panel of seven researchers, policymakers, and advisors from Asia, Africa and Latin America who were invited to share their personal views and experiences of the research-policy nexus, and to provide examples of successful collaborations. This discussion was moderated by John Young, Head of the Research and Policy in Development Programme at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Following the panel discussion, Mr. Young raised a series of important questions regarding the challenges to improving research uptake, and invited the room to gather in small (table) focus groups to debate and agree upon an answer for each of a series of questions, and then to share their answers with the audience. This resulted in a highly interactive and productive dialogue amongst the audience and the panel.

The **key lessons and recommendations drawn from both the keynote and policy forum discussions** were synthesized and published in the form of briefing notes as well as a short video and widely circulated by PEP in December 2016 so as to benefit all PEP researchers and followers. They remain available for consultation or download on the PEP website.



12th CBMS-Philippines national conference

Quezon City, Philippines

February 29-March 2

Pursuing meaningful devolution through CBMS

The 12th CBMS-Philippines National Conference brought together more than 670 delegates – including national and local policymakers and program implementers, officials and representatives of development partner agencies, national and international NGOs, the private sector, and academics – to discuss best practices and strategies in the implementation and uses of CBMS for various development concerns. Held at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel in Quezon City, Philippines from February 29 to March 2, 2016, the event featured presentations and discussions on the achievements and challenges of devolution and on the role of CBMS in empowering Local Government Units and communities in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the implementation of the Local Government Code in the Philippines.

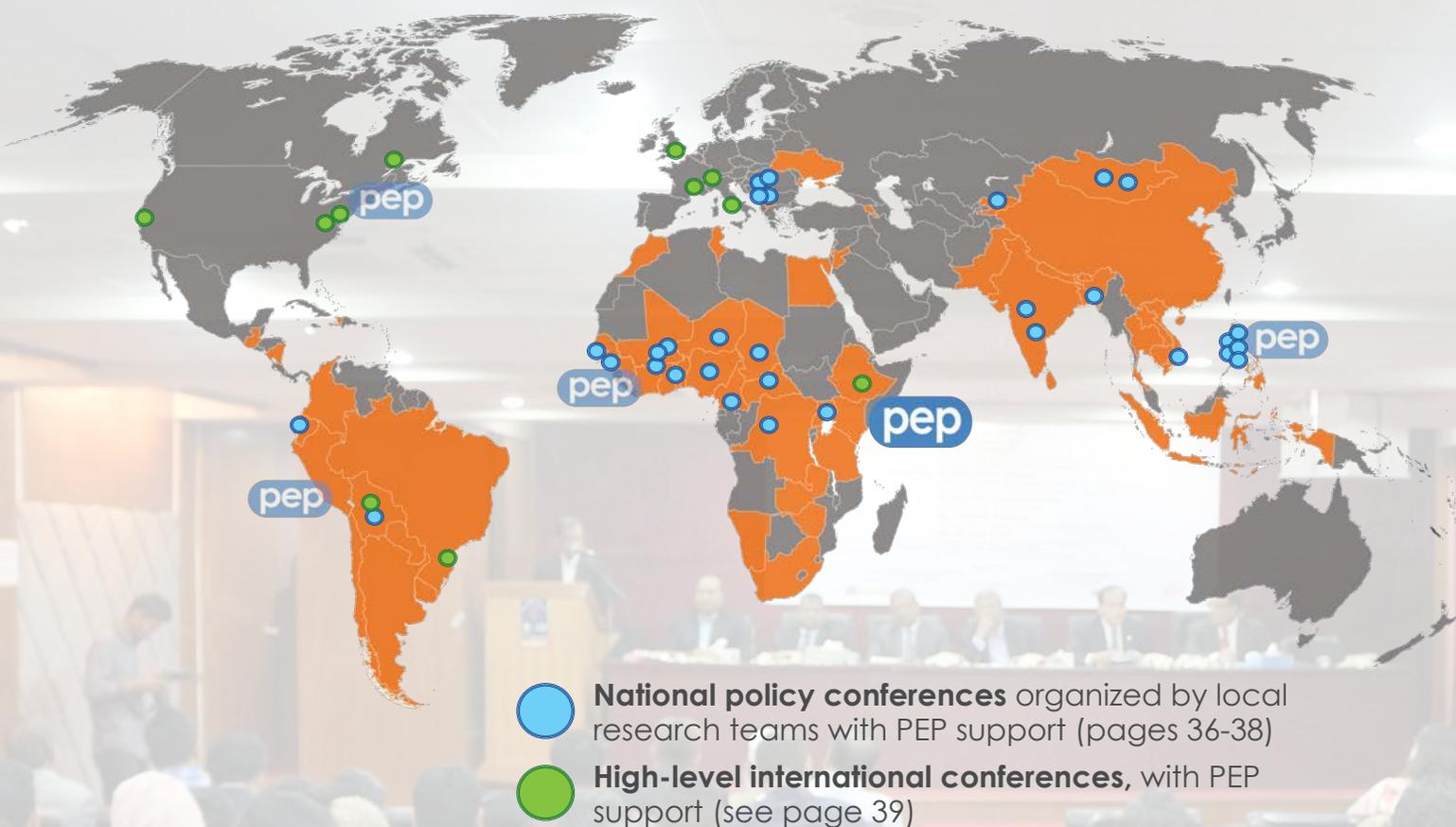
The three-day event also tackled emerging issues, best practices, and strategies for generating jobs through entrepreneurship development, particularly for the youth, and for providing social protection to the informal sector. Among the highlights of the conference was the presentation and discussion of the results and initial policy recommendations of the CBMS-PEP partner-led research studies using CBMS data on issues relating to the conference theme, which provided an opportunity for dialogues with key stakeholders at the national and local levels in the Philippines.

The event featured keynote presentations on three of the event's key themes. The speech by the Secretary for the Department of the Interior and Local Government discussed the use of CBMS for meaningful devolution. Meanwhile, the Undersecretary for the Department of Trade and Industry and the Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (GoNegosyo) explored entrepreneurship, employment and job generation. Finally, the Secretary for the Department of Labor and Employment discussed providing social protection for the informal sector and youth employment generation. The keynote presentations were followed by open discussions, leading into more focused work sessions.

The annual CBMS-Philippines National Conference is organized by the CBMS Network-PEP Asia Office, based at the De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila, in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP). This year's event was also supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Philippines, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the Angelo King Foundation Inc. (AKFI), and Microsoft Philippines.



In 2016, PEP research findings were presented in...



PEP national policy conferences

As part of the PEP Grant Plus program, research teams are entitled to apply for an additional grant to support the organization of a national policy conference where they present and discuss the key policy findings and recommendations from their PEP-supported research with relevant stakeholders, decision-makers and the general public.

In 2016, a record number of PEP conferences were held by local research teams supported under the PAGE initiative in many different countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The majority of these events were highly successful in attracting high-level government officials as well as key national stakeholders, and several benefited from extensive media coverage.

- 25 national policy conferences**
- 33** PEP-PAGE research projects
- 20** developing countries
- 50+** average attendance
- 64%** with government officials
- 36%** with high-level decision-makers
- 84%** reported in national media



AFRICA

Dakar, Senegal - February 18

Female entrepreneurship, access to credit and firms' performance in Senegal

Lomé, Togo - May 20

Willingness of the Togolese informal sector workers to pay for access to social protection

Goma, D.R. Congo - May 21

Internal mobility and youth entrepreneurship in the DRC

Yaoundé, Cameroon - June 16

Impact of policies to reduce poverty and informality

Niamey, Niger - August 12

Promoting off-farm self-employment for rural development in Niger

Dakar, Senegal - October 6

Why formalizing remittances and migration is important for the Senegalese labor market

Lagos, Nigeria - October 19

Impact of an unconditional cash transfer program for the elderly in Ekiti State

Bangui, Central African Rep. - November 8

The best use of Chinese investment in the CAR cotton industry for well-being and development

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso - November 17

Impact of mining operations and Chinese commercial expansion in Burkina Faso (3 PAGE projects)

N'Djamena, Chad - November 30

Impact of oil exploitation on inequality

Kampala, Uganda - December 15

Improving youth entrepreneurship through credit counseling in Uganda



ASIA

Manila, Philippines - April 29

Youth employment and social protection to the informal sector (5 AKI-led PAGE projects)

Hanoi, Vietnam - June 14

Impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector in Vietnam

Kolkata, India - August 19

How exports can help job creation in India

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan - September 15

Supporting the productive use of remittances for youth entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - October 21

The vulnerabilities of the mining sector and how to protect the Mongolian economy

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - October 27

How vocational training programs can alleviate youth unemployment in Mongolia

Guwahati, India - November 26

The positive effects of the national rural guaranteed work scheme in India

Dhaka, Bangladesh - December 7

How can microfinance loans support female entrepreneurship in Bangladesh?

EASTERN EUROPE

Skopje, Macedonia - February 24

Recipients of remittances under the social umbrella? Ideas and opportunities for Macedonia

Skopje, Macedonia - October 12

Addressing youth labor market scarring as an effect of unemployment

Belgrade, Serbia - December 2

Social security strategies to reduce child poverty in Serbia

Skopje, Macedonia - December 14

The effects of unemployment spells on youth employment in Macedonia

LATIN AMERICA

Guayaquil, Ecuador - November 18

How the Ecuadorian minimum wage policy can increase wages and reduce inequality

La Paz, Bolivia - December 2

Promoting social inclusion through microfinance in Bolivia

International conferences

Over the course of 2016, local researchers were also selected to present their PEP research work and findings at the following international conferences

San Francisco, United States - January 3-5

2016 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) - American Economic Association

Washington D.C., United States - March 14-18

Land and Poverty Conference 2016: Responsible Land Governance - World Bank

Oxford, United Kingdom - March 20-22

2016 Annual Meeting of the Centre for Study of African Economies (CSEA)

Geneva, Switzerland - March 23-24

2nd Global Research Symposium on Labour Market Transitions of Young Women and Men: "Innovative research from 30 'school-to-work transition survey' (SWTS) datasets"

Marseille, France - March 31

6th Euro-African Conference in Finance and Economics (CEAFE)

Ottawa, Canada - June 2-5

50th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economic Association (CEA)

La Paz, Bolivia - July 26

Employment and Foreign Trade Conference

Porto Alegre, Brazil - August 18

ARISE Conference on Family Farming and Child Labor

Rome, Italy - September 19-20

Rural Transformation, Agricultural and Food System Transition Conference - FAO

Washington DC, United States - September 13

12th Annual Meeting of the International Water Resource Economics Consortium - World Bank

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - September 23-26

5th International Conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE)



Publications

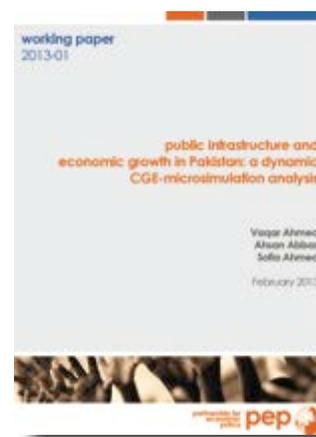
In order to reach out to various and wide audiences, research findings are published in a variety of formats – such as PEP working papers, PEP policy briefs and books. Moreover, PEP-supported studies are frequently published as articles in international peer-reviewed journals, testifying to the increasing acknowledgement of their scientific rigor and contribution by the international development research community.

PEP working papers

PEP published a total of 45 working papers in 2016 (listed below) - mostly from research projects supported under the PAGE initiative (2013-2016).

By the end of 2016, the 77 papers published as part of the PAGE initiative (including those published in 2014 and 2015) had been downloaded, directly from the PEP website, a total of 44,101 times - 19,968 of these downloads were made in 2016 alone.

PEP working papers are also listed with both SSRN (Social Sciences Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), which ensures wide circulation worldwide.



- 2016-01** [The impact of a rural microcredit scheme targeting women on household vulnerability and empowerment: evidence from South West Nigeria](#)
By Damilola Olajide, Divine Ikenwilo, Kehinde Omotosho, Ngozi Ibeji and Olufemi Obembe
- 2016-02** [Macroeconomic implications of female entrepreneurs facing financial frictions to access to credit: A DSGE model approach in Cameroon](#)
By Thierry Kame Babilla, Adele Micheline Ngo Bilong, Sandra Kendo and Martin Jaurès Ndzana Eloundou
- 2016-03** [A static CGE model of the Mongolian economy](#)
By Ragchaasuren Galindev, Munkh-Ireedui Bayarjargal, Nasantogtokh Nyamdorj, Telmen Tur, Tsolmon Baatarzorig and Tuvshintugs Batdelger
- 2016-04** [Impact of fiscal and employment policies on the informatl sector and poverty in Cameroon](#)
By Jules Médard Nana Djomo, Carine Flore N. Nzouckio, Claudiane Yanick Moukam and Serges Rodrigue Ngouana Koudjou
- 2016-05** [Remittances impact on youth labour supply: evidence from Kyrgyzstan](#)
By Kamalbek Karymshakov, Burulcha Sulaimanova, Kadyrbek Sultakeev and Raziiakhan Abdieva

- 2016-06 [Is microfinance truly useless for poverty reduction and women empowerment? A Bayesian spatial-propensity score matching evaluation in Bolivia](#)
By Rolando Gonzales, Joel Mendizabal and Patricia Aranda
- 2016-07 [Dutch disease, informality and employment intensity in Colombia](#)
By Ricardo Arguello, Dora Elena Jiménez Giraldo, Edwin Esteban Torres and Monica Gasca
- 2016-08 [Spillovers from off-farm self-employment opportunities in rural Niger](#)
By Senakpon Dedehouanou, Aichatou Ousseini, Abdoulaziz Laouali Harouna and Maimounata Jabir
- 2016-09 [Mining and petroleum development and public spending policies in Niger: A dynamic calculable general equilibrium analysis](#)
By Saadatou Sangare Alkassoum, Hamadou Daouda Youssoufou and Helene Maisonnave
- 2016-10 [Migration, remittances, labour market and human capital in Senegal](#)
By Ameth Saloum Ndiaye, Oumoul Khayri Niang, Sessinou Dedehounaou and Ya Cor Ndione
- 2016-11 [The effect of input-trade liberalization on nonfarm and farm labour participation in rural Vietnam](#)
By Hoang Xuan Trung and Luca Tiberti
- 2016-12 [Are Chinese investments an opportunity for the economy of the Central African Republic?](#)
By Roger YELE, Jean-Bertrand Kolondo Pengulet, Raïssa - Théodile Mbouzeliko and Caprice Olivia Wili-Koe
- 2016-13 [Access to microcredit and women's entrepreneurship: evidence from Bangladesh](#)
By M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Shabnaz Amin and Tazrina Farah
- 2016-14 [Economy-wide impacts of promising maize and wheat technologies on food security and welfare in Kenya](#)
By Amarendra Sahoo, Bekele Shiferaw and Sika Gbegbelegbe
- 2016-15 [Simulation of a voucher policy for improving the social condition of individual remittance receivers in Macedonia](#)
By Blagica Petreski, Jorge Davalos and Despina Tumanoska
- 2016-16 [A CGE analysis of the implications of technological change in Indian agriculture](#)
By Joydeep Ghosh, Amarendra Sahoo, Bekele Shiferaw and Sika Gbegbelegbe
- 2016-17 [Economy-wide impacts of technological change in food staples in Ethiopia: A macro-micro approach](#)
Lulit Mitik Beyene, Bekele Shiferaw, Amarendra Sahoo and Sika Gbegbelegbe
- 2016-18 [Unemployment spells and vertical skills mismatches: The case of Macedonia's youth](#)
By Viktorija Atanasovska, Tijana Angjelkovska and Jorge Davalos
- 2016-19 [Trade liberalization and employment effects in Indian manufacturing: An empirical assessment](#)
By Sunitha Raju, Bibek Ray Chaudhuri and Mridula Savitri Mishra

- 2016-20 [An experimental investigation of intra-household resource allocation in rural India](#)
By Anirudh Tagat, Hansika Kapoor and Savita Kulkarni
- 2016-21 [Randomized evaluation of the unconditional cash transfer scheme for the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria](#)
By Damilola Olajide, Maria Laura Alzua and Ana Dammert
- 2016-22 [Beyond technical skills: The impact of credit counseling on the entrepreneurial behaviour of Ugandan youth](#)
By Juliet Nassozi Ssekandi, Benjamin Kachero, Daniel Joloba, Samuel Galiwango, Zeridah Zigiti
- 2016-23 [Labor-market scars when youth unemployment is extremely high: Evidence from Macedonia](#)
By Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski and Marcelo Bérigolo
- 2016-24 [Preference for women but less preference for indigenous women: A lab-field experiment of loan discrimination in a developing economy](#)
By Gabriela Aguilera Lizarazu, Andrea Rojas Hosse, Patricia Aranda and Rolando Gonzales
- 2016-25 [Impacts of the Peruvian conditional cash transfer program on women's empowerment: A quantitative and qualitative approach](#)
By Lorena Alcazar, Maria Balarin and Karen Espinoza
- 2016-26 [The impact of trade reforms on employment and welfare in ECOWAS countries: The case of Senegal](#)
By Sokhna Diarra Mboup, Racky Baldé, Thierno Malick Diallo and Christian Arnault Emini
- 2016-27 [Evidence of the impact of children's domestic and market labor on learning from school census data in Brazil](#)
By Ana Lucia Kassouf, Luca Tiberti, Marcos Garcias and Ida Ono
- 2016-28 [Decline in gold prices, tax receipts and employment: Which adaptation strategy for Burkina Faso?](#)
By Delphine Carole Sisso, Boureima Sawadogo and Hama Maimouna Natama

Working papers from CBMS projects

Argentina

[CBMS-2016-01 Socioeconomic conditions in Tandil](#)

[CBMS-2016-06 Entrepreneur gender gap: Evidence from Argentina](#)

By Sebastian Auguste, Alejandro Ernesto Bricker, Daniel Hoyos Maldonado, Lorena Luquez, María del Carmen Romero, Mario Daniel Seffino, Mario Ravioli, Pierina Frontini and Santiago Linares

Bangladesh

CBMS-2016-11 Development of the CBMS methodology in Bangladesh

By Abdullah Al Mamun, Afrin Khan, Azma Mahmuda and Saifun Nahar

Bolivia

CBMS-2016-11 Design and implementation of Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) second experience in Vallegrande

CBMS-2016-18 Non-employment, unemployment and underemployment among the youth: A case study of Vallegrande, Bolivia

By Werner Hernani-Limarino, Paul Villaroel and Sherli Mamani

Burkina Faso

CBMS-2016-09 Le renforcement du SSCP et la protection sociale du secteur informel : cas des communes de Diébougou (province de la Bougouriba), Koper (province du loba) et To (province de la Sissili)

CBMS-2016-10 Efficacité des mécanismes de ciblage des bénéficiaires des programmes d'assistance sociale dans le secteur informel des communes de Diébougou et Koper

By Lassina Konaté, Michel Kone, Omer COMBARY, Ouedraogo Jeannette, Prosper Somda, Samandougou Rasmata

Ethiopia

CBMS-2016-03 CBMS design in Ethiopia

CBMS-2016-07 Challenges and prospects of entrepreneurship development and job creation for unemployed youth: Evidence from Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations

CBMS-2016-12 Poverty profiling in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations, Ethiopia

By Abel Tewolde Mehari, Christian Feleke, Hayat Fentaw, Kassahun Mamo Geleta and Senayit Seyoum Yilma

Haiti

CBMS-2016-16 Development of a system of communal statistics in two municipalities of Haiti

By Alrich Nicolas, Adélita Romain, Guerline Jean, Jerry Sleeveys Louis-Jeune, Pierre Jores Merat, Schmied St Fleur

Kenya

CBMS-2016-13 Development and implementation of CBMS in Murang'a County, Kenya

By Diana Kimani, Jane Mariara, Michael Murigi, Mumia Phyllis Machio and Patrick Chege Kariuki

Tanzania

CBMS-2016-14 Implementation of CBMS in Bukoba Municipality and Muleba District

By Domitilla Bashemera, Daniel Mpeti, Grace Benedict and Israel Katega

Togo

CBMS-2016-02 CBMS design in Togo

CBMS-2016-05 Togolese informal sector workers' willingness to pay for access to social protection: the case study of CNSS

CBMS-2016-08 Poverty profile of District of Tokoin-Wuiti, Cantons of Dalave and Gblainvie, Togo based on CBMS Database 2015

By Esso - Hanam Atake, Abdul-Fahd Fofana, Ahoéfa Améyo Amenoudji, André Melachio Tameko, Dandonougbo Yevesse, Efouboè Essiomley, Kouvidjin Dede, Malb Ama N'danida Yagninim, Owodon Afo-Loko and Totouom Armand

Uganda

CBMS-2016-17 Implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System to inform youth employment and entrepreneurship strategies in Katakwi District

By Johnson Kagugube

PEP policy briefs

The PEP policy brief series publishes short, non-technical summaries of the research conducted based on the peer-reviewed working papers, presenting the main conclusions and policy implications. The briefs are widely distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders.

In 2016, PEP published 25 policy briefs (listed below), the great majority of which were to summarize the key policy findings from PAGE projects, supported between 2013 and 2016.

By the end of the year, the 54 briefs published as part of the PAGE initiative (including those published in previous years) had been downloaded a total of 26,299 times from the PEP website - 14,537 of these downloads were made in 2016 alone.



PB 129 Simulation of a voucher policy for improving the social conditions of individual remittance receivers in Macedonia

By Blagica Petreski, Darko Tumanoski, Despina Petreska and Natasa Jagurinoska

PB 130 Impact of remittances on youth labor supply: evidence from Kyrgyzstan

By Burulcha Sulaimanova, Kadyrbek Sultakeev, Kamalbek Karymshakov and Raziakhan Abdieva

- PB 131** Are Chinese investments an opportunity for the economy of the CAR? (in French)
By Roger Yélé, Caprice Olivia Wili-Koe, Jean-Bertrand Kolondo Penguilet and Raïssa-Théodile Mbouzeliko
- PB 132** Migration, remittances, labour market and human development in Senegal
By Ameth Saloum Ndiaye, Ya Cor Ndione, Sessinou Dedehouanou and Oumoul Khayri Niang
- PB 133** The effect of input-trade liberalization on farm and non- farm labor participation in rural Vietnam
By Hoang Xuan Trung
- PB 134** Dutch Disease, informality and employment intensity in Colombia
By Ricardo Arguello, Dora Elena Jiménez Giraldo, Edwin Esteban Torres and Monica Gasca
- PB 135** The impact of a rural microcredit scheme on women's household vulnerability and empowerment: evidence from South West Nigeria
By Damilola Olajide, Olufemi Obembe, Kehinde Omotosho and Ngozi Ibeji
- PB 136** Is it true that microfinance is useless in the pursuit of poverty reduction and female empowerment? The case of Bolivia
By Rolando Gonzales, Joel Mendizabal and Patricia Aranda
- PB 137** Impact of fiscal and employment policies on the informal sector and poverty in Cameroon (in French)
By Jules Medard Nana Djomo, Carine Flore Nzeuyang Nzouckio, Serges Rodrigue Ngouana Koudjou and Claudiane Yanick Moukam
- PB 138** A static CGE model of the Mongolian economy
By Ragchaasuren Galindev, Tsolmon Baatarzorig, Telmen Tur, Tuvshintugs Batdelger, Nasantogtokh Nyamdorj and Munkh-Ireedui Bayarjargal
- PB 139** Women's entrepreneurship and access to microcredit: Evidence from Bangladesh
By M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Shabnaz Amin and Tazrina Farah
- PB 140** Skills mismatches and unemployment spells: The case of Macedonia's youth
By Viktorija Atanasovska, Branka Hadzi-Misheva and Tijana Angjelkovska
- PB 141** Trade liberalization and employment effects in Indian manufacturing
By Sunitha Raju, Bibek Ray Chaudhuri and Mridula Savitri Mishra
- PB 142** Non-farm employment, agricultural intensification and productivity change in Uganda
By Mulubrhan Amare and Bekele Shiferaw
- PB 143** Patterns of labor productivity and income diversification in the rural farm and non-farm sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa
By Abdoulaye Ibrahim Djido and Bekele Shiferaw
- PB 144** The impact of oil exploitation on wellbeing in Chad (in French)
By Gadam Djal-Gadam, Kane Gilles Quentin, Gbètoton Nadège Djossou, and Armand Mboutchouang Kountchou

PB 145 Gold exploitation and socioeconomic outcomes in Burkina Faso (in French)

By Agnès Zabsonré, Dommèbèiwin Juste Mètoiolè Somé, Irene Haffin and Maxime Agbo

PB 146 Intra-household bargaining in rural India

By Anirudh Tagat, Hansika Kapoor and Savita Kulkarn

PB 147 The impact of vocational training programs on youth unemployment in Mongolia

By Soyolmaa Batbekh, Altantsetseg Batchuluun, Bayarmaa Dalkhjav, Amartuvshin Sanjmyatav and Tsogt-Erdene Baldandorj

PB 148 Impact of minimum wage policies in Ecuador

By Sara Wong

PB 149 Labor market scarring for youth in Macedonia

By Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski and Marcelo Bérigolo

PB 150 Reducing child poverty in Serbia: cash transfers or work incentives?

By Marko Vladislavljevic, Jelena Zarkovic Rakic, Sasa Randjelovic, Gorana Krstic and Aleksandra Anic

PB 151 Impact of credit counseling on the entrepreneurial behavior of Ugandan youth

By Juliet Nassozi Ssekandi, Samuel Galiwango, Daniel Joloba, Benjamin Kachero and Zeridah Zigiti

PB 152 Gender and ethnicity-related loan discrimination: A lab-in-the-field experiment in Bolivia

By Gabriela Aguilera Lizarazu, Patricia Aranda, Rolando Gonzales and Andrea Rojas Hosse

PB 153 Macroeconomic impact of the MGNREGA guaranteed rural work scheme in India

By Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Charanjit Kaur and Deeksha Tayal

N.B. Several projects supported under the final round of PAGE published their findings through working papers and policy briefs in early 2017. These publications will be listed in the 2017 PEP Annual Report.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

...from PEP-supported researchers and projects

The success of PEP initiatives in terms of building and promoting research capabilities in the South is also demonstrated by the increasing number of PEP-supported researchers whose findings are being published in top development economics and policy journals – challenging the near monopoly of these journals by researchers working in Europe or North America.

Journal articles published (or accepted for publication) in 2016 and based on PEP-supported research include:

Emmanuel Nwosu and Anthony Orji

Access to Formal Credit and Enterprise Performance In Nigeria: A Gender Perspective

Argumenta Oeconomica, 2016, No 1 (36), pp.191-224

Vathana Roth and Luca Tiberti

[Economic Effects of Migration on the Left-Behind in Cambodia](#)

The Journal of Development Studies. Published online in August 2016

Yogo Urbain Thierry, Douzounet Mallaye and Abdelkrim Araar

[Education Language and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad](#)

The Journal of Development Studies. Published online in July 2016

Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Lazevski and Marcelo Bergolo

[Labor-Market Scars When Youth Unemployment Is Extremely High: Evidence from Macedonia](#)

Eastern European Economics, 2017, Volume 55 (2), p.168-196

...from PEP staff and resource persons

Below is a list of scientific articles published (or accepted for publication) in 2016 and based on the work and findings of PEP-affiliated international experts (or PEP resource persons)

Edgard Cooke, Sarah Hague, Luca Tiberti, John Cockburn and Abdel Rahman El-Lahga

[Estimating the Impact on Poverty of Ghana's Fuel Subsidy Reform and a Mitigating Response](#)

Journal of Development Effectiveness, 2016, Volume 8 (1), pp. 105-128

Jonas Kathage, Menale Kassie, Bekele Shiferaw, and Matin Qaim

[Big Constraints or Small Returns? Explaining Nonadoption of Hybrid Maize in Tanzania](#)

Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, 2016, Volume 38 (1), pp. 113-131

Jean-Yves Duclos and Luca Tiberti

[Multidimensional Poverty Indices: A Critical Assessment](#)

In Oxford Handbook of Well-Being and Public Policy Eds. M.D. Adler and M. Fleurbaey, Oxford University Press, May 2016, p.944

Hélène Maisonnave, Margaret Chitiga and Bernard Decaluwé

[Does the South African Affirmative Action Policy Reduce Poverty? A CGE Analysis.](#)

Poverty and Public Policy (2016), Volume 8, p.212–27

Margaret Chitiga, Ramos Mabugu and Hélène Maisonnave

[Analysing Job Creation Effects of Scaling Up Infrastructure Spending in South Africa.](#)

Development Southern Africa, 2016, Volume 33, p.186–202.

Luca Tiberti and Marco Tiberti

[Food Price Changes and Household Welfare: What Do We Learn From Two Different Approaches?](#)

Journal of Development Studies, Published online in December 2016

Paola Ballon and Jean-Yves Duclos

[A Comparative Analysis of Multidimensional Poverty in Sudan and South Sudan](#)
African Development Review, 2016, Volume 28 (S2), p.132-161

Anyck Dauphin, Bernard Fortin and Guy Lacroix

[Is Consumption Efficiency Within Households Falsifiable?](#)
Review of Economics of the Household. Published online in January 2017

Carl Gagné and Bruno Larue

[Quality Standards, Industry Structure and Welfare in a Global Economy](#)
American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 2016, Volume 98 (5), p.1432-1449

Special PEP issue in a scientific journal

In 2016, the International Journal of Microsimulation published a special issue with a series of six articles (listed below) authored exclusively by PEP researchers - including both resource persons and grantees, some of whom were supported under the PAGE I initiative.

CGE Microsimulation in Developing Countries

International Journal of Microsimulation, Volume 9(1), Spring 2016

John Cockburn, H el ene Maisonnave, V eronique Robichaud and Luca Tiberti

[Fiscal Space and Public Spending on Children in Burkina Faso](#)

Mart n Cicowiez, Javier Alejo, Luciano Di Gresia, Sergio Olivieri and Ana Pacheco

[Export Taxes, World Prices, and Poverty in Argentina: A Dynamic CGE-Microsimulation Analysis](#)

Lulit M. Beyene and Ermias Engida

[Public Investment in Irrigation and Training, Growth and Poverty Reduction in Ethiopia](#)

Samir Cury, Euclides Pedrozo and Allexandro Mori Coelho

[Cash Transfer Policies, Taxation and the Fall in Inequality in Brazil: An Integrated Microsimulation-CGE Analysis](#)

Sindu W. Kebede, Belay Fekadu and Dejene Aredo

[Impact of Trade Liberalization on Poverty in Ethiopia: A Computable General Equilibrium Microsimulation](#)

Cecilia Llamib, Silvia Laens and Marcelo Perera

[Assessing the Impacts of a Major Tax Reform: a CGE-microsimulation Analysis for Uruguay](#)

Partners & staff

Partner institutions

As a partnership, PEP is composed of several partner institutions, contributing to manage its activities worldwide and coordinated through the PEP Global Secretariat. The four institutions involved in the management of PEP grants and activities in 2016 are presented below:

AFRICA - CRES

Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale

Dakar, Senegal



North America – UL

Université Laval

Quebec, Canada



Latin America – GRADE

Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo

Lima, Peru



Asia - AKI

**Angelo King Institute (AKI)
for Business and Economic Studies**

Manila, Philippines



Global office

PEP Global Secretariat

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P.O. Box 30772-00100

Nairobi, Kenya +254 (20) 8632681

info@pep-net.org pep-nairobi@pep-net.org

PEP staff

Coordinating teams in 2016

PEP Global Office, Kenya

Jane Mariara	Executive director (from June 2016)
Bekele Shiferaw	Executive director (until June 2016)
Philip Ade	Senior financial officer
Songporne Tongruksawattana	Program officer (consultant)
Mulubrhan Amare	Postdoc fellow
Eunice Kariuki	Executive assistant
Rose Shiviya	Assistant finance and administration officer

CRES, Senegal

Abdoulaye Diagne	Director
Aissatou Diop	Senior administrator
Marie Celeste Diouf	Administrative assistant
Jean-Jacques Badji	Finance officer

DLSU-AKI, Philippines

Celia Reyes	Director, CBMS Network Office
Anne Bernadette Mandap	Research and administration officer
Jasminda Asiro Quilitis	Senior research associate
Steffie Joy Calubayan	Research associate
Eva Salve Bacud	Research assistant
Joshua Moreto	Research assistant
Rachelle Gladys Audar	Program assistant
Jezha Lee Nabiong	Program assistant
Vincent Brylle Binas	Programmer

Université Laval, Canada

John Cockburn	PAGE program coordinator
Marjorie Alain	Director of communication, monitoring and evaluation
Manuel Paradis	Monitoring and evaluation coordinator
Ariane Gagné-Frégeau	Communications officer (until June 2016)
Jennie Hurwood	Communications officer (from June 2016)
Clermont Gauthier	Finance officer

GRADE, Peru

Martin Valdivia	Research fellow
Celeste Paz	Administrative assistant

PEP scientific support teams

The success of PEP activities in terms of high-quality research and capacity building is due, in great part, to the engagement and support of world-renowned international experts in the field of development research.

The following tables list all experts who have contributed to PEP activities in 2016 according to the different research methods that they specialize in:

Macro-micro policy modeling and simulations

Hélène Maisonnave	Scientific Program Coordinator Professor, Université Le Havre	France
Bernard Decaluwé	Professor, Université Laval	Canada
Martin Cicowiez	Professor, Universidad Nacional de la Plata Researcher, CEDLAS	Argentina
Sandrine Mesple-Somps	Research Fellow, IRD/DIAL Lecturer, Université de Paris	France
Christian Arnault Emini	Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Professor, Université de Yaoundé	Cameroon
Lulit Mitik Beyene	Managing Director, IESD Research	Ethiopia
Olivier Beaumais	Professor, Université de Rouen	France
Erwin Corong	Research Fellow, GTAP, Purdue University	USA
Martin Henseler	Researcher, Von Thunen Institute Université Le Havre	Germany/ France

Experimental research

Maria Laura Alzua	TRG-Scientific Programme Coordinator Senior Researcher, CEDLAS-Conicet	Argentina
Ana Dammert	Assistant Professor, Carleton University	Canada
Jose Galdo	Assistant Professor, Carleton University	Canada
Maria Adelaida Lopera	PhD Candidate, Université Laval	Canada
Habiba Djabbari	Professor, Aix-Marseille University	France

Microeconomic analysis

Luca Tiberi	TRG-Scientific Programme Coordinator Professor, Université Laval	Canada
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* The CBMS resource persons are the same as the DLSU-AKI coordinating team – see page 50.

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