

CBMS Network Updates

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CBMS as basis for alternative approach to identifying Philhealth beneficiaries*

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One of the Philippine government's programs to help the poor is the Philhealth for Indigent Program. It aims to provide health insurance privileges to the marginal-ized sector of Philippine society. The beneficiaries of the program are identified through a survey called Community-Based Information System-Minimum Basic Needs (CBIS-MBN) which uses the Family Data Survey Form (FDSF) and is conducted by the local Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) offices.

The current manner of identifying eligible beneficiaries to the Philhealth Indigent Program is through a two-stage screening process where poor barangays are first identified and then poor families in these poor barangays are selected. The poor barangays are identified by the Municipal/City Social Worker. Then primary data collection is undertaken among all families in these "poor barangays". Families whose reported incomes fall below a certain threshold are then classified as eligible.

Based on this procedure, it is very likely that a significant exclusion and consequently, undercoverage takes place. In this scheme, poor families in "non-poor" barangays are excluded from the program.

Given this, there is therefore a need to develop alternative means testing options for identifying beneficiaries of the Philhealth Indigent Program. The data will come from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) that is being implemented by local government units (LGUs).

Proposed approach to identifying Philhealth beneficiaries

Executive Order 276 (January 2004) directs the Philhealth to assist in the identification of indigent families and to target the enrollment of the total 5 million indigent families nationwide. It also directs the issuance of Philhealth identification cards to duly qualified beneficiaries.

Targeting efficiency

There are two basic questions that are

facing the implementation of a targeted program. First, to what extent can the poor be reached (is there a problem of undercoverage)? Second, are any benefits leaking to non-poor or non-eligible persons or households (is there a leakage problem)?

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* Excerpt from a research paper presented during the CBMS Network Conference held on November 15-17, 2006 in Pasay City, Philippines.

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Research Results

The results of the *Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS)* for 2002 show that 31.2 percent of the families have at least one member who had a health insurance plan. In particular, 27.5 percent of the families have access to Philhealth. They also show that only 6.5 percent of the lowest 40 percent of the families have access to Philhealth while 41.4 percent of the highest 60 percent of the families have access to Philhealth.

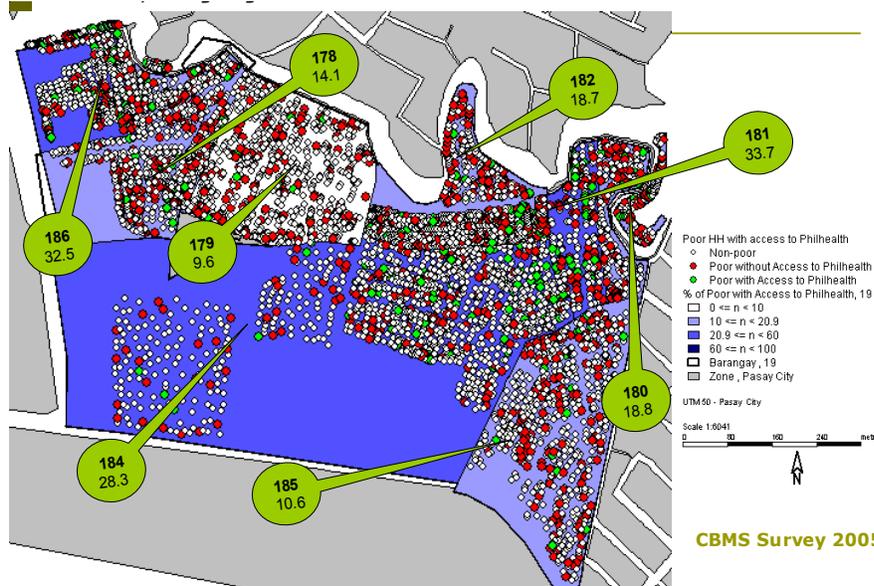
Access to Philhealth is also shown to be higher in the urban areas at 38.2 percent than in the rural areas where only 16.8 percent of the families have access to Philhealth. In terms of differential access across income groups in the urban areas, 9.0 percent of the lowest 40 percent of the families have access while 45.3 percent of the highest 60 percent have access. In the rural areas, 5.7 percent of the lowest 40 percent of the families have access to Philhealth while 33.7 percent of the highest 60 percent have access.

Using the data from *APIS 2002*, it is estimated that 31.8 percent of the families are income poor or have incomes below the poverty threshold. Only 7.1 percent of them have access to Philhealth. On the other hand, 37 percent of the non-poor have access to Philhealth.

In the case of Pasay City, in particular, 79.1 percent of households with income below the poverty threshold were not covered by the Philhealth Program in 2005 (Figure 1).

Philhealth coverage is also very low for subsistence poor households. Data show that only 21.3 percent of the households whose incomes are not adequate to meet basic food needs are covered by Philhealth. Moreover, the proportion of subsistence poor households who have access to Philhealth varies

Figure 1. Proportion of Income-Poor Households With Access to Philhealth, Barangay 179, Zone 19, Pasay City, 2005



widely from a low of 4.8 percent to a high of 35 percent. Barangay 179, which has the lowest coverage of the subsistence poor in the Philhealth—at 4.8 percent—is one of the poorest barangays in Pasay City.

Proposed use of CBMS

In view of the above, the following approaches are being proposed, to wit:

- Use CBMS as the source of the data that will be used to identify the indigents; and
- Adopt a scheme that combines the different indicators in the CBMS to identify the poor.

Why use CBMS? The use of CBMS is being proposed for the following reasons:

- CBMS is now being implemented in over 6000 barangays in 22 provinces;
- More provinces are set to implement the CBMS within the next 12 months;
- It is envisioned that there will be a nationwide implementation by 2010;

- LGUs bear the cost of implementing the CBMS, making the system more sustainable than nationally or donor-driven initiatives; and
- It is being endorsed by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Identifying Philhealth beneficiaries

A combination of self-targeting and proxy means tests are recommended to be used in selecting beneficiaries for the Philhealth for Indigent Program.

First, it is highly recommended that beneficiaries of the Philhealth Indigent Program must apply for inclusion in the program. This becomes a form of self-assessment of eligibility for the program. This is consistent with the objective of minimizing leakages. It is assumed that those who are non-poor will compare the opportunity costs of lining up to get the benefits versus the

benefits from the program. To ensure that the problem of undercoverage does not occur as a result of this proposed scheme, a dissemination strategy should be adopted that would inform the poor that such a program exists.

And second, for the means test, the following principles are being recommended:

- a. Use indicators that can be verified by local program implementers;
- b. Apply a method that is simple enough for LGUs and Philhealth provincial staff to implement; and
- c. Adopt a monitoring system that will generate the data on a regular and frequent-enough basis to allow an updating of eligibility status.

At the same time, there should be mechanisms that would allow the withdrawal of program support in the event that the beneficiary is found to have provided false information. He/she will also be excluded from future Philhealth indigent programs.

Means testing options

Three means testing options are considered where households are proposed to be classified on the basis of the following:

- i. income;
- ii. ownership of assets and socio-economic characteristics; and
- iii. electricity consumption.

A household is classified as poor or non-poor based on these three abovementioned criteria. If the household is classified as non-eligible based on any of the categories, then that household cannot qualify for the Philhealth for Indigent Program. If there is no income tax return or pay

slips, the basis of the classification will just be the second and third criteria. This is likely to be the scenario especially for low-income households who are often employed in the informal sector and may not therefore have pay slips, and who are exempt from paying taxes and not required to file income tax returns. Meanwhile, if there is no electricity in the area, household cost for the use of generators may be considered as the proxy for electricity bill.

Updating can be done every three years in line with the conduct of the CBMS survey.

Income

Per capita income is computed based on total income reported in the CBMS survey divided by the household size. This is then compared with the per capita threshold for the city or municipality where the household resides. In cases where the official poverty thresholds are not available, the most recent official poverty thresholds released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) are updated using the consumer price index for the province, disaggregated by urban/rural areas.

The reported income can be verified from the income tax return or from pay slips. This is then compared with the per capita poverty threshold. In the absence of income tax return or pay slips—which is a likely situation for the poor—then this classification will not be used. Instead, the other two criteria—socio-economic index and electricity consumption—will be used.

Ownership of assets and socio-economic characteristics

It has been established in many previ-

ous studies that income is highly correlated with ownership of assets, access to basic amenities, and housing structure and tenure. For this study, the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) data for 2000¹ are used as the basis for establishing correlations between income and ownership of assets. The basis for inclusion is the frequency distribution by decile. Thus, assets or characteristics that can distinguish between the rich and the poor are included.

Basic data show that all the assets reveal a monotonic relationship with income, i.e., the proportion of households who own a particular asset increases as one goes up the income ladder. Refrigerator, in particular, exhibits big changes in proportions as income increases. Said findings suggest the usefulness of these indicators in identifying the income-poor households.

Access to basic amenities is also positively correlated with income. For instance, the proportion of households who have access to sanitary toilet facilities, electricity and safe water supply increases as one goes up the income ladder. While there is only a small proportion of households who live in makeshift housing or are informal settlers, there is still the same positive monotonic relationship between “income and not living in makeshift housing”, and between “income and not being informal settlers”. In addition, the proportion of households whose heads are not engaged in agriculture likewise increases as one goes up the income ladder.

Given these results, the following variables are considered in determining the poverty status of the household:

¹ The FIES Public Use File (PUF) 2000 is the most recent available dataset. The available PUF for the FIES 2003 does not contain the urban/rural variable that is necessary for this analysis.

Research Results

1. Television
2. VCD/VHS/DVD
3. Computer
4. Refrigerator
5. Washing Machine
6. Microwave oven
7. Telephone
8. Airconditioner
9. Car/Jeep/Motor Vehicle
10. Sanitary toilet facilities
11. Electricity
12. Safe water supply
13. Makeshift housing
14. Informal settlers
15. Household head not engaged in agriculture.

Weighting system

The objective of having a weighting system is to combine the different variables into a composite index that can be used as the basis for classifying households into poor or non-poor. One option is to assume equal weights for all of these assets and characteristics but this is a bit arbitrary.

Another option is to assign weights to the different variables. Weights for the various assets can be obtained from the logistic regression using FIES data. A logit regression is used to determine which of the consumer durables, access to basic amenities and housing characteristics are significant in determining poverty status based on income.

The results lend support to the hypothesis that owning electrical appliances as well as having access to basic amenities such as piped water, water-sealed toilets and electricity are positively correlated with being non-poor. Additionally, those who live in makeshift housing or are informal settlers tend to be poor. If the family is engaged in agriculture, on the other hand, that family tends to be poor.

All the coefficients have the correct sign and are, with the exception of

computer, all are statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

To get an indication of the performance of the model, one can see how well it does in terms of classifying the families. Various cut-offs are tried in classifying whether a family is poor or non-poor. If a family has a probability of being non-poor greater than or equal to the specified cut-off, then that family is classified as non-poor.

Sensitivity is a measure of the probability of the family being classified as non-poor given that the family is actually non-poor while specificity is a measure of the probability of the family being classified as poor given that the family is actually poor. Results of the test run show that there is a trade-off between the two, although not exactly of the same amount. The higher the probability cut-off is, the lower is the sensitivity and the higher is the specificity of the model.

Of the total 33,155 households, the model correctly classifies 25,646 households, an accuracy of 77.35 percent. It correctly classifies as non-poor those who are actually non-poor, 86.72 percent of the time as indicated by the sensitivity index and as poor those who are actually poor, 55.28 percent of the time as shown by the specificity index.

With a cut-off of 0.7, the specificity increases to 83.7 percent. This, however, is achieved at a lower sensitivity of 69.21 percent. This leads to a lower predictive accuracy of 73.5 percent. Using a cut-off of 0.8 further increases the specificity to 91.3 percent but this also reduces the sensitivity to 59.4 percent. The overall predictive accuracy is 69.0 percent.

Based on the results of the simulations corresponding to the different cut-offs, using the higher cut-off will result to

a higher leakage rate but lower exclusion rate. It is recommended that a cut-off of 0.8 be used since at this cut-off, the poor are correctly classified as poor more than 90 percent of the time. This implies that the exclusion will be less than 10 percent. The leakage can then be reduced by the other criteria that will be used such as income and electricity consumption.

The regression coefficients derived from the logit model serve as the weights for these variables and can then be applied to the dataset from the LGU to come up with the composite index for economic status.

Electricity consumption

Electricity consumption has been used as a good indicator of the economic status of the household. The idea is that a poor household will have very few electrical appliances and light bulbs. Thus, electricity consumption will be closely correlated with poverty status.

The key is to find that threshold of electricity consumption that can serve as the cut-off between the poor and the non-poor. Assuming that poor households would have the barest of appliances and lighting fixtures, one can derive the appropriate cut-off. For instance, if one assumes that the household uses three light bulbs at an average of 8 hours each day and a radio cassette for 6 hours each day, the electricity bill for the month would be around P100. The electricity usage of specific appliances are obtained using the Meralco Appliance Calculator from the website of Meralco, <http://e-services.Meralco.com.ph>.

If one further assumes that in addition to the light bulbs and the radio cassette, the household uses a television set and electric fan, one arrives at an electricity bill of around P200 per month.

In the case of Pasay City, the number of households that consume electricity of P100 or less per month is 3,953, representing 8.51 percent of the total number of households. About 8.9 percent consume electricity of more than P100 and less than P200 per month. This means that 17.38 percent of the households spend P200 or less on electricity. More than half of the households spend more than P500 per month on electricity.

Application to Pasay City

Ranking of households using the three criteria

The rankings of households using the three criteria are examined in the case of Pasay City to see if there is a correlation among the rankings. Statistical tests indicate significant positive correlation among the ranks of the households based on the three criteria. This lends support to using electricity as a second-stage screening variable.

Estimate of eligible beneficiaries for the Philhealth Indigent Program

Using the CBMS data from Pasay City, the proportion of households that can be considered poor based on each of the abovementioned criteria is shown in the following. If income is used as the criterion for choosing the beneficiaries for the Philhealth indigent program, then there will be a target population of 13.2 percent of the total number of households (Table 1). If the socio-economic index is used as the basis for identifying eligible beneficiaries, then the target population is 19.6 percent. On the other hand, if electricity consumption is used as basis, wherein a household that consumes P100 or less of electricity per month is considered poor, then the target population is 8.5 percent. If the P200 electricity consumption is used as the cut-off, then the eligible population is 17.4 percent.

Table 1. Estimate of eligible households

Criterion	Freq.	Percent
per capita income	6,148	13.24
socioeconomic index	9,108	19.62
electricity consumption (P100 or less)	3,953	8.51
electricity consumption (P200 or less)	8,071	17.38
electricity consumption (P300 or less)	11,863	25.55
electricity consumption (P400 or less)	14,161	30.50
electricity consumption (P500 or less)	19,542	42.09
socioecon index and electricity of P100 or less	2,126	4.58
socioecon index and electricity of P200 or less	4,032	8.68
socioecon index and electricity of P300 or less	5,442	11.72
socioecon index and electricity of P400 or less	6,128	13.20
socioecon index and electricity of P500 or less	7,393	15.92

Source of Data: 2002 CBMS Survey

Since the use of the socio-economic index may lead to leakage, a second-stage screening is recommended. The electricity consumption of those who are determined poor based on the socio-economic index is examined. The data indicate that if the cut-off of P500 electricity bill is used, the eligible population is 15.9 percent of all households. If the cut-off is reduced to P200, then the corresponding proportion dramatically drops to 8.7 percent. And if the proportion is reduced to P100, then the proportion of eligible households goes down to 4.6 percent.

In summary, the two-stage screening method can be used to prioritize the eligible beneficiaries of the Philhealth Indigent Program. It is recommended that the socio-economic index using a probability cut-off of 0.8 be used at the first stage. Then the electricity consumption is used as the second filter with a cut-off of P100 monthly electricity bill recommended to be used to identify the poor and those who are eligible for the Philhealth Indigent Program.

Concluding Remarks

The present method of identifying the eligible beneficiaries of the Philhealth Indigent Program, using reported income, can be improved by adopting the methodology being proposed here.

Three criteria are used as the basis for identifying eligible beneficiaries, namely: income, socio-economic index and electricity consumption. Since many poor people may not have verifiable income records, it is recommended that a two-stage screening using the other two criteria, be adopted where households are first classified using socio-economic variables that are predictors of income-based poverty status and then a second-stage screening based on electricity consumption is applied.

Since the CBMS provides individual and household level data which are crucial in identifying beneficiaries of the Philhealth program, its data can be utilized in the proposed methodology. *

UN ESCAP hosts Experts Group Meeting on localizing the MDGs using CBMS

an Experts Group Meeting on localizing the millennium development goals (MDGs) using the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) was hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in Bangkok on November 28, 2006. Leading the group of experts who shared their experiences and knowledge during the said activity were Hon. Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan, former chairperson of the UN ESCAP Poverty Committee and currently the Administrator of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA), and the Honorable Governor Joel Reyes of the Province of Palawan. Also present were Dr. Celia Reyes and Ms. Anne Bernadette Mandap of the PEP-CBMS Network, SMERU Executive Director and CBMS-Indonesia Team Leader Dr. Sudarno Sumarto, SEDEC Vice-Director and CBMS-Vietnam Team Leader Vu Tuan Anh, NSC-Lao PDR Deputy Director and CBMS Program Manager Phonesaly Souksavath, and Pasay City Cooperative Officer Mr. Rolando Londonio from the Philippines.

The meeting aimed to provide valuable inputs and recommendations to the ESCAP Poverty Committee Meeting scheduled on November 29-December 1, 2006. Findings presented during the experts group meeting have an important bearing on the monitoring of the MDGs as well as on the development of the informal sector. In terms of the informal sector, the experts noted that the very limited availability of official information on the sector made it difficult to assess the impact of various policy interventions on their activities.



From left to right: PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, Dr. Celia M. Reyes; SPDA Chief of Staff, Atty. Datu Reza Sinsuat; United Nations (UN) Undersecretary-General and Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, Mr Kim Hak-Su; Palawan Governor, Joel Reyes; Southern Philippines Development Authority Administrator, Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan; Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP of Iran, Mr. Esmael Tekeyh Sadat; and Pasay City Cooperative Officer, Mr. Rolando Londonio pose for group picture.

In view of this, the CBMS is considered as a major tool to collect data at the local level to complement official statistics through the conduct of household census. Because it covers all the households in the community, the CBMS is also able to capture the activities of the informal sector. At the same time, the CBMS also encourages community participation in the collection and validation of data, including those related to MDG indicators. The collected data help local governments to effectively implement targeted strategies that would achieve the MDGs while promoting ownership for the community and local governments.

Meanwhile, the Poverty Committee also noted that the CBMS could play a key role in achieving the MDGs at the local level. It noted with satisfaction the contribution of CBMS in providing dis-

aggregated data on MDG indicators to policymakers in the Philippines. The Committee likewise noted with concern that data gaps and inconsistencies hampered both national and regional assessments of the progress toward the MDGs. Moreover, the lack of sub-national data made it difficult to assess disparities among sub-groups. The Committee agreed that the CBMS could complement the official data collection activities of national statistical offices and improve the availability of MDG and other indicators at the local level. It also agreed that localizing the MDGs through CBMS would help integrate the goals into the national development strategies. As such, the Committee urged other developing countries to initiate and implement similar innovative systems that would help localize the MDGs. *

CBMS Network Conference tackles new challenges

The CBMS-Philippines Team hosted the First CBMS Network Conference on November 15-17, 2006 at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City. With the theme "Improving Governance and Scaling Up Poverty Reduction through CBMS," the conference was a combination of the Fourth CBMS-Philippines National Conference and the First Annual CBMS International Network Meeting.

At least 250 participants composed of about 20 foreign CBMS researchers and stakeholders, 150 local planners and policymakers from various local government units, and 80 representatives from the national government agencies, non-government organizations, academic and research institutions, and development partner organizations attended the meeting. Hosted by the Angelo King Institute (AKI), the 3-day

conference provided an avenue for interactive discussions and sharing of experiences among CBMS practitioners, policy analysts, policymakers, local planners and other development partners from Asia and Africa on recent applications of the CBMS, strategies for implementation and related issues on the scaling up and institutionalization of the CBMS.

The keynote speakers were Ms. Margarita Songco, Deputy Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines, and Dr. Nanak Kakwani, former Director and Chief Economist of the International Poverty Center of the United Nations Development Programme based in Brazil.



NEDA Deputy Director General, Hon. Margarita Songco, and Dr. Nanak Kakwani were the keynote speakers during the conference

Among the highlights of the conference was a panel discussion of CBMS stakeholders from various sectors at the national and local levels on the institutionalization of the CBMS.

For more information about the conference and for copies of the papers and presentations, please visit the CBMS section of the PEP website at www.pep-net.org. *

As part of its continuing capability-building program to hone and upgrade the skills of its members on the various aspects of the CBMS work, the CBMS Network Coordinating Team conducted two training courses for its Network country member-representatives.

The first training, which was held on November 13-14, 2006, focuses on poverty mapping using the computerized data processing softwares developed by the CBMS Team. Ms. Jasmin Quilitis,

Trainings for Network members

Database Management Specialist of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team, served as trainer, with Mr. Richard Alexander, developer of the Natural Resource Database (NDRB), the base software of the poverty mapping component of the CBMS Team, invited to provide technical assistance.

The second training, meanwhile, which was held on November 18, 2006 focuses on panel data generation and analysis. Held in collaboration with the World Bank Institute, the training aims to ad-

CBMS activities in full swing

The start of the second phase of the CBMS activities are in full swing with the conduct of the following activities.

Meeting with relevant institutions and local authorities

The Advisory Team Member and Provincial and District Planning partners gathered together during the period between July and August 2006 to discuss what methodology and instruments would be effective for the implementation of the CBPMS 2006 phase II project. The meeting also discussed the establishment of partnerships at the provincial, district and commune levels in the selected districts and communes to complete the project; to introduce the full project to the new selected district in Kampong Thum province; to introduce census procedures and working team formulation; and to discuss the process of enumerator recruitment.

The Provincial Planning Departments in the selected three provinces expressed deep interest to adopt the CBPMS into their regular structures and programs. Moreover, planning directors mentioned that CBPMS data would be very useful to the local authorities, the Royal Government of Cambodia itself, NGOs and other users. Office spaces and computer units were thus agreed to be provided for data processing work for the project at the provincial level.

Three sets of questionnaires for commune, village and household levels were developed and revised on the basis of the last CBPMS pilot. According to the recommendations raised during the CBPMS preparatory meeting, additional individual information were also added and adopted in the questionnaire for phase II.

Consultations with the advisory team on the updating of the questionnaires were likewise made to ensure the quality of data. Pre-testing of questionnaires was also done in the selected new communes. Overall, there were four instruments used for data collection, namely: Form A (household listing), Form B (household questionnaire with 6 pages), Form C (village questionnaire with 2 pages) and Form D (commune questionnaire with 2 pages). A village map to locate households was also used. Controlling forms for supervisors and enumerators as well as posted stickers to identify key buildings and households were likewise used.

Selection of enumerators, village chiefs and commune councilors

A total of 260 enumerators (mostly school teachers), 181 village chiefs and 57 commune councilors were recruited to participate in the project. The selection was based on the curriculum vitae submitted by the candidates.

Former enumerators in the pilot CBPMS, who are considered as already experi-

enced and skilled for the job, were given priority in the selection.

As in the pilot phase, village chiefs will assist the enumerators with geographical guidance and mapping as well as in making appointments with the households. The commune councilors, meanwhile, will serve as supervisors and field editors in the manual data processing and analysis.

Training activities

As of this date, the 4-day training on data collection had already been conducted for 307 out of 498 recruited enumerators.

For the 13 communes in the Stung district, the training was divided into four groups; with three communes in each group with a total of 85 participants. So far, two groups with six communes and 173 participants were already trained in Kampong Thum. The remaining two groups scheduled for training in November 2006.

Questionnaires were pre-tested after each session of the training and took a full day. Pre-test interview questionnaires were collected to check for errors. Errors were then corrected and

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An enumerator interviews a household member during the pre-test of questionnaires in Stung District, Kampong Thum Province.

CBMS Team gears up for bigger challenges

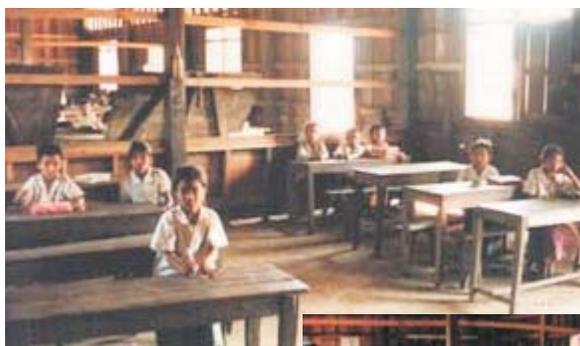
After successfully implementing the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in a total of 24 villages in the provinces of Savannakhet and Saravan, the CBMS Team of Lao PDR is now gearing up for bigger challenges in 2007 as it attempts to widen its coverage area to 54 villages.

The team earlier decided to postpone to next year the training program for supervisors and enumerators originally scheduled last November upon the recommendation of the Provincial and District Officers of Sepon and Toomlan. Their recommendation was based on the following reasons:

1. Time lag between training and data collection should not be long. Data collection should commence immediately after training in order to ensure the quality of data capture.
2. Based on the above and considering that the National Statistics Centre (NSC) would like to integrate the CBMS into the official statistical system whose data report period is in February of each year, then it is advisable to move the training program to a date closer to February.

Aside from conducting said training program, the team expects to conduct the following activities during the first quarter of 2007: identification of the new sites/villages, finalization and printing of the household and village questionnaires, and the actual conduct of the survey operations.

Meanwhile, after conducting the consultation workshop in August, the CBMS team is also currently finalizing the report of 24 villages in Sepon and



Source of pictures:
<http://www.ourweb.info/01/photos/laos>



The CBMS in Lao aims to provide practical scientifically-generated data to local authorities for their effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of priority development projects such as provision of classrooms, which are critically lacking.

Toomlan. These reports will be printed and disseminated consistent with its strategy to scale up CBMS implementation in other villages and districts in the country.

In October, a meeting with the Vientiane Capital Statistics Division was held to share the experiences in implementing the Village Book and data collection since they had a wide coverage of the process of poverty assessment using the Village Book in 2006.

In November, the CBMS team also organized a trip to the Province of Savannakhet to solicit comments from local functionaries, including the provincial governor, on how to enhance the CBMS in order for it to suit their data requirements.

The CBMS in Lao PDR, which is being implemented by the National Statistics Center, aims to strengthen the local ca-

capacity for data capture and analysis. It complements the existing data collection process being conducted at the village level which serves as inputs to the Village Book.

Similar to the CBMS, the objective of the Village Book is to build the capacity of the local government units to collect village-level statistics. It is envisioned to improve the targeting of poverty alleviation programs, resource allocation within the framework of the decentralization program, public investment planning and, most importantly, to promote local ownership of the project planning process. The CBMS complements the system by providing a more reliable and scientific method not only in collecting but also in processing and building a village-level database. *

New set of awardees for the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program

The CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program, an initiative of the PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team in partnership with the UNDP-Philippines, has awarded a total of P2.155 million to the second batch of grantees composed of 12 local government units (LGUs) from all over the country to finance barangay-based poverty reduction programs identified through the survey results of the CBMS.

The recipients were given their certificates of award by Mr. Kyo Naka, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Philippines, Ms. Corazon Urquico, Portfolio Manager of the Empowerment of the Poor Unit of the UNDP-Philippines, and Dr. Celia Reyes, Leader of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team during the awarding ceremonies held on the occasion of the CBMS Network Conference on November 17, 2006 at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City.

The following are the awardees/recipients: LGU-Cabucgayan, Biliran; Provincial Government of Camarines Norte; LGU-San Julian, Eastern Samar; LGU-Mercedes, Eastern Samar; LGU Can-Avid, Eastern Samar; PPDO, Provincial Government of Marinduque; PVO-Provincial Government of Marinduque; LGU-Agutaya, Palawan; LGU-San Vicente, Palawan; LGU-Cuyo, Palawan; LGU-Magsaysay, Palawan; and LGU-Dumaran, Palawan.

Meanwhile, five out of the ten first batch of grantees composed of peoples' organizations and LGUs from the provinces of Biliran, Eastern Samar, Palawan and Camarines Norte presented the results of their projects during the same event.

In her response to the presentations, Ms. Elbe Daguplo, Program Officer of the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF),

said that the LGU efforts should not end after achieving the objectives of their respective projects. She encouraged the grantees to look into product promotion and linkage, monitoring of the absorptive capacity and quality and design of the products, and striking of a balance between supply and demand, among others, to sustain the gains of their projects.

On the other hand, Ms. Urquico observed that the trend in poverty reduction in Asia shows a picture of growing inequity inspite of economic growth in recent years. She underscored the urgent need to redistribute the benefits of this growth to the poor and recognized the importance of small projects such as the ones being financed under the CBMS Development Grant Program in accelerating poverty reduction and reducing development disparities across communities all over the country. *



In behalf of their respective local government units, representatives from UNDP Development Grant awardees accept the check from Mr. Kyo Naka (far left), UNDP Resident Coordinator; Ms. Corazon Urquico, Portfolio Manager of the Empowerment of the Poor, UNDP; and Dr. Celia M. Reyes, PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader.

CBMS makes waves at the local level

More and more local government units all over the country are sealing partnerships with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team, committing resources from their own development funds for the implementation and utilization of the Community-Based Monitoring System in their respective localities.

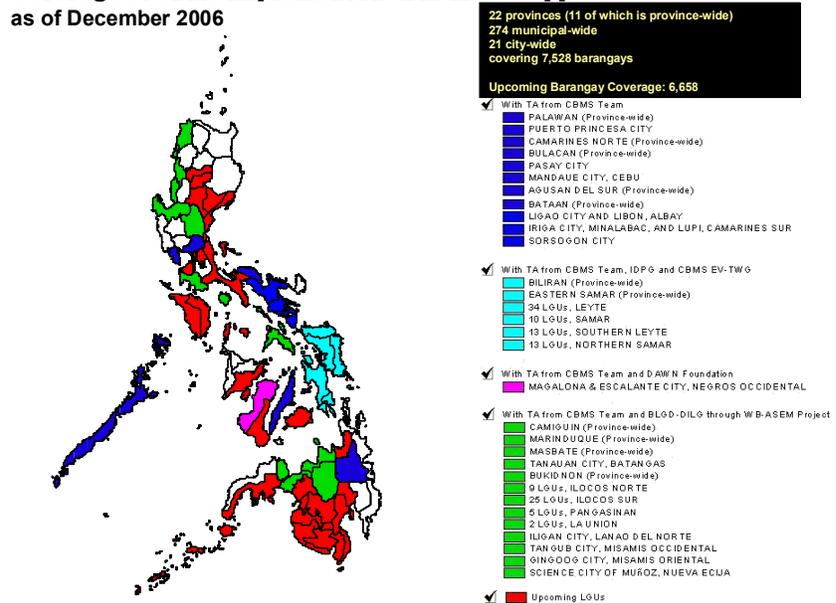
This was announced by the Team this month, adding further that CBMS is currently being implemented in 11 out of the country's 17 regions. To date, a total of 7,528 barangays located in 274 municipalities and 21 cities in the country have joined the CBMS bandwagon and are at varying stages in implementing the system. Meanwhile, aggressive dissemination activities have recently been spearheaded by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to scale up CBMS implementation in the south, notably in ARMM, Central, Southern and Western Mindanao.

Ground-swelling of support

Several months before the Social Development Committee issued a resolution last July adopting the CBMS as the prescribed monitoring tool for the generation of the Core Local Poverty Indicator Database, the MIMAROPA Regional Development Council composed of the five governors of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan beat its counterparts all over the country to the draw by issuing a resolution adopting the CBMS as a tool in developing its regional social and economic database.

Meanwhile, DILG Region VIII continues to draw praises for its successful cam-

Coverage of CBMS Implementation in the Philippines as of December 2006



paign to implement CBMS in all of the 6 provinces in Eastern Visayas. Early this year, the Regional Development Council of Eastern Visayas issued a resolution endorsing the conduct of poverty mapping in all barangays of the region using the CBMS.

The Davao Region's Regional Kalahi Convergence Group likewise issued a resolution supporting the use of CBMS in monitoring the region's poverty situation.

National repository of CBMS data

The Team also announced that it has already transferred the National Repository to the NAPC. The National Repository of CBMS Data is a database containing individual and household level information generated from the CBMS surveys of various local government units (LGUs). This database can readily be used by NAPC and other national

government agencies for the listing of LGUs where assistance is needed most and should be prioritized. It will also allow for evidence-based targeting of eligible beneficiary households or individuals of certain programs of national government agencies, thereby helping to facilitate the government's objective to have a faster and sustained reduction in poverty. The CBMS Team will continue to work with NAPC in updating the database as the number of LGUs implementing CBMS increases.

As part of its endeavor to disseminate CBMS survey findings to a wider audience, the Team has also uploaded CBMS data (CBMS core indicators at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels only) from its various LGU partners into the website of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (www.pids.gov.ph). *

News Updates

Trainings...from page 7

dress a series of questions relating to the analysis of changes in poverty over time and to provide the participants with a variety of techniques developed to answer such questions. Invited as trainor was Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, Training Division Chief of the Statistical Research and Training Center.

Participants in these two training courses included the representatives from CBMS country members such as Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao, Tanzania, Vietnam and the Philippines. Ms. Aissatou Diop of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) office in Senegal also attended the sessions. *

CBMS activities...from page 8

the enumerators were advised to take note of those mistakes to avoid repetition. During the pre-testing, trainers made a follow-up visit to each of the interviewed households for verification.

Field work was launched immediately after the conclusion of the field enumerators' training. Local enumerators, in cooperation with village chiefs and commune councilors, started to do mapping before the listing of households. Once the household listing was completed, the conduct of interviews began.

Depending on the size of the village, all interviews took about 30 days to complete for a village. On the average, it took between 40 and 90 minutes for an enumerator to complete a survey for each household. The enumerators worked under close control and supervision of commune council members, provincial and district partners who must report to the supervisory team.

The village and commune questionnaires (Forms C and D) were also completed by the village chief and head of the commune under the supervision of commune councilors and provincial and district partners. *

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

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