



LPMs pinpoints main drivers of poverty in Tana River District

While there may be a lot of poverty reduction initiatives being implemented in the Tana River district in Kenya, more residents however feel that these are not making significant dent in uplifting conditions. Distribution mechanisms for government funds clearly must be enhanced and the Local Poverty Monitoring System (LPMs) implemented by the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD) from 2007-2008 could provide a basis for resource allocation to ensure that these programs are viable in the longterm. Moreover, the implementation of the pilot census provided evidence that local communities have the capacity to implement an LPMs.

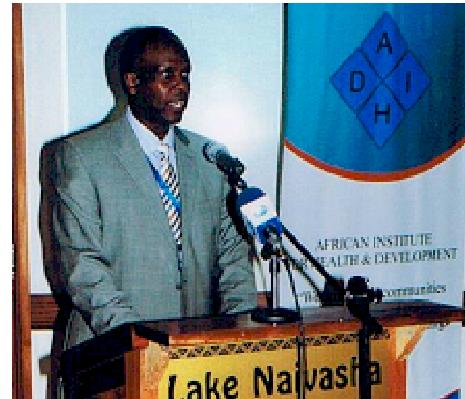
These are just some of the findings and conclusions arrived at by the CBMS Team in Kenya following its CBMS implementation over a two-year period.

What follows is a condensed and edited version of the final technical report submitted to the CBMS Network by the AIHD.

Although the government of Kenya conducts regular welfare monitoring surveys, the macro-level analysis camouflages wide regional variations. Even at the provincial level, there are differences in poverty that are based on district, location and sub-location level specific conditions. These differences can be explained in terms of the general multidimensional nature of poverty. In Tana River district, factors such as drought, changes in climatic conditions, changing livelihoods and ethnic conflicts have contributed to high poverty levels. Ethnic conflict in the district can be traced back to pre-independence days, and continues to contribute to low socio-economic development. It is against this background that the current study sought to pilot a local poverty monitoring system (LPMs) in selected sub-locations in Tana River district.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this study was to establish an LPMS for Tana River district. The LPMS was piloted in three sub-locations namely: Laini, Tarasaa and Walesorrhea. Specifically the study aimed at i) determining the local specific causes of poverty in Tana River district; ii) establishing the relationship between drought and ethnic conflict on poverty in the district; iii) determining the effects of poverty on the ability of households to access social services such as health, education, safe drinking water and wealth creation opportunities; iv) establishing a process through which communities characterize and identify the poorest among them for support; v) assessing the poverty reduction initiatives already in place and their long-term viability; and vi) assessing the capacity of the communities to implement an LPMS.



Dr. Edward Sambili, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of State for Planning National Development and Vision 2030 (MSPND&V2030), says that CBMS is an empowerment tool that can be used by the government, the civil society organizations, and the communities involved in poverty reduction initiatives. (See related story on page 7)

METHODOLOGY

The three sub-locations selected for the study represented the three livelihood zones in the district: marginal mixed farming, mixed farming and pastoral livelihood. The study was conducted in two phases: i) a qualitative study that was implemented in February 2008, and ii) a pilot census that was conducted in June-July 2008. The qualitative component utilized three seasonal calendars with one in each sub-location, and 18 focus group discussions (FGDs) with six in each sub-location. The FGDs were held with groups of young men and women (15-24 years old), adult men and women (25-49 years old) and elderly men and women over 50 years old. A total of 45 key informant interviews (KII) were conducted with key opinion leaders (15 in each sub-location). The quantitative component utilized interviewer-based questionnaires with 2748 household representatives in the three pilot sub-locations. Seventeen enumerators were trained and collected census data under the supervision of three supervisors. The census data were analyzed using the Statistical

Inside

Kenya holds 1st National Conference on CBMS	7
CBMS Network commences implementation of GFC Impact initiative	8
DESCO gears up for CBMS-GRB	9
NAPC, UNDP, DLSU-M host Mindanao Forum on CBMS	10
Anthony F. Shorrocks joins PEP as Director for Strategic Development	11
IDRC launches book on CBMS' contribution to local planning and policymaking	11
6th CBMS National Conference to be held in Manila	12

Research Results

Package for Social Science (SPSS) while the qualitative data were manually analyzed based on the study themes.

RESULTS

Population Profile

Based on the results of the pilot survey conducted in Walesorrhea, Laini and Tarasaa sub-locations, the three sub-locations have a population of 16,363 distributed among 2784 households with an average of 6.5 persons per household. However, the total number of households enumerated was 2766 because 18 households did not give consent for the interviews and have consequently not been included in the analysis.

Tarasaa sub-location has the largest population contributing to 39.2 percent of the total population of the pilot sub-locations, followed by Laini sub-location (31.6%) and Walesorrhea sub-location (29.2%). Of the total population, 49.2 percent are female while 50.8 percent are male.

The three pilot sub-locations have a young population structure. Over half (60%) of the population are between the ages of 0 and 19 years old. Except Walesorrhea sub-location, the other two sub-locations - Laini and Tarasaa - had fewer men than women. Table 1 shows the proportions.

Table 1. Percentage distribution of population in the three sub-locations by sex

Sub-location	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Laini	2441 47.20%	2732 52.80%	5173 32%
Walesorrhea	2567 53.80%	2208 46.20%	4775 29%
Tarasaa	3304 48.40%	3097 51.60%	6401 39%
Total	8312 50.80%	8037 49.20%	16349 100.00%

Marital Status

Over three quarters (78.5%) of the household heads in the population said they were married, 10.7 percent were widows/widowers, 4.4 percent divorced, 3.9 percent single, 2.1 percent separated while those who were cohabiting were less than 1 percent. Unfortunately, it was not possible to link the background information data of the household with the variable gender to establish the proportion of female-headed households.

Table 2. Educational level of population by sex

	No education	Pre-primary	Not finished primary	Finished primary	Finished secondary	Not finished secondary	Finished college	Finished university	Total
Male	3102 48.30%	571 53.60%	2827 49.50%	726 57.20%	401 62.10%	458 53.30%	198 63.50%	16 59.30%	8299 50.90%
Female	3323 51.70%	494 46.40%	2888 50.50%	544 42.80%	245 37.90%	401 46.70%	114 36.50%	11 40.70%	8020 49.10%
Total	6425 100.00%	1065 100.00%	5715 100.00%	1270 100.00%	646 100.00%	859 100.00%	312 100.00%	27 100.00%	16319 100.00%

Ethnic Group of Household Head

There were 19 ethnic groups recorded in the pilot sites. As expected, slightly over half (54.1%) of the household heads were Pokomo, 21.5 percent Orma, and 5.9 percent Wardei. The Giriama ethnic group constituted 8.5 percent of the households enumerated while the rest of each of the ethnic groups constituted less than 5 percent.

Education

Findings from the pilot census confirm those of the qualitative study that indicated the population in the pilot sites had attained minimal levels of education. Those who were attending school at the time of the survey were 5885 or 36 percent. Across the highest educational level attained, *no education* recorded the highest proportion (39.4%), followed closely by *not finished primary school* (34.9%). This implies that the majority (74.3%) of the population had not completed primary school. Low levels of education were prevalent among women compared to their male counterparts. Table 2 provides a summary on educational attainment in the three sub-locations.

In terms of the sub-locations, Walesorrhea has the highest proportion of people with no education while Tarasaa has the highest proportion of people with a tertiary level of education.

Findings from the qualitative study indicated that not only were the schools inadequate but the facilities were also poor and the teachers were few, casting doubts on the quality of education in the district, as noted by a religious leader:

We have schools but they are not of good standard, most of them are underdeveloped. We do not have a single secondary school in this location. Most primary schools have buildings which are dilapidated; some roofs have been blown off and students learn under trees. The schools are also understaffed and the

children learn in shifts with some coming in the morning and others in the afternoon (Key Informant, Laini sub-location).

Proportion of young people not attending school

Out of 4,124 girls and boys aged 6-12 years old, 756 or 18.3 percent were not attending elementary school. On the other hand, out of 1,706 boy and girls aged 13-16 years old, 409 or 24 percent were not attending secondary school. This is despite the government's introduction of free primary education in 2003.

Children in Walesorrhea, Tana River District



Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write simple messages. Therefore, a person is considered literate if he or she can read and write a simple message in any language or dialect. A person capable of reading only his own name or numbers or can read but not write and vice versa, is not considered literate. Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of the household heads were literate. Literacy levels among young people aged 15-24 years old were fairly good. Out of the 3,142 young men and women aged 15-24 years old, 29.9 percent were illiterate, which implies that for every 10 young people between the ages of 15-24, three were illiterate.

Occupation by head of household

In all the households, 43.3 percent of the household heads were unemployed. Of those

who were employed, 34.9 percent were self-employed, 14.7 were casual workers while 7.1 percent were salaried employees. Key informants lamented the limited number of financial institutions in the district, which they noted has hampered access to small loans for the self-employed to expand their enterprises which would consequently provide them with better returns and ultimately improve their welfare status.

Working population

Out of the 16,280 respondents to this question, only 3,155 individuals were working at the time of the census, which is only 19.4 percent of the population. Households were further asked if they had any employed member in the household; only 13 percent of the households had at least one employed member (Table 3).

Table 3. Proportion of employed members in the households

	Frequency	Proportion
Yes	354	13
No	2391	87
Total	2748	100

Across gender, more males than females responded to this question and reported to have been working at the time of the survey. Table 4 provides the illustration.

Table 4. Working population by sex

	Working		Total
	Yes	No	
Male	1731 54.90%	6536 49.80%	8267 50.80%
Female	1421 45.10%	6578 50.20%	7999 49.20%
Total	3152 100.00%	13114 100.00%	16266 100.00%

Youth 15-24 not engaged in income generating activities

Young people between the ages of 15-24 years were asked if they were working at the time of the census. A majority (83.4%) of them were shown as not generating any form of income. This is because 1226 out of the 3151 or about 40 percent young people in this age-group were attending school.

Due to the limited income-generating opportunities in the pilot sites, some youths were reported to have migrated to urban centers in search of employment opportunities. A religious leader observed the following:



Youths move to towns to seek for jobs in order to assist their families. They burn charcoal, run small shops, among many other income-generating activities. Unfortunately, some start abusing (to engage in abusive use of) alcohol and drugs while others die from attacks by wildlife while burning charcoal in the forests (Key informant, Walesorhea sub-location).

Some key informants also lamented the involvement of young people in prostitution to earn income. They noted that this was very disturbing, especially in view of the fact that in the past when rains were more regular, prostitution was non-existent.

Dependency ratio

Dependency ratio is used to measure the proportion of children (aged 0-14 years old) and old people (aged 65 years old and over) vis-a-vis the total working population. It is a summary indicator of the burden falling on the working age population. The pilot sites recorded a high dependency ratio of 2.5 percent; this means that for every 10 people in the active working category, there is a corresponding number of 25 dependents.

Health status

Out of the 2,744 households that responded to the question on whether a member had been sick two weeks prior to the census, 72.4 percent reported in the affirmative. Across the sub-locations, 39.6 percent of those who were sick were from Tarasaa, 30.7 percent from Laini and 29.7 percent from Walesorhea. Household heads were asked if any member of their household had suffered from malaria two weeks prior to the census and about two thirds affirmed this (65.9%), Tarasaa reported the highest incidence of malaria at 38.4 percent, followed by Walesorhea (33.4%) and Laini (28.2%). The proportions of household members who suffered from diarrhea are as follows: the highest proportions were recorded in Tarasaa (52.8%), followed by Walesorhea (32.3%),

and the least proportion was recorded in Laini (14.9%).

Health-seeking behavior

Majority (90.3%) of the respondents reported the use of out-of-

pocket funds to access formal health facilities. However, results from the qualitative study indicated that those considered poor were not able to afford the small fee charged at the formal health facilities. The fee ranges between 240 and 360 Kenya Shillings. Mothers who had children under five years of age were asked if they got routine prenatal care at least four times during their pregnancy. Almost 70 percent (68.4%) said yes while 31.6 percent said no. On the question of post-natal care for mothers with children aged 40 days after birth and below five years, 67.3 percent said they had received care while 32.7 percent said they had not. Majority (73.9%) of women with children under five years of age said that the last child delivery was assisted by a traditional birth attendant (TBA) while 18.1 percent said they delivered with the help of a hospital midwife. Although only 7.9 percent deliveries were doctor-assisted, it should be noted that some respondents refer to hospital midwives and nurses as doctors.

Findings from the qualitative study indicated that health facilities were not accessible to residents in most sub-locations in the district. It was also reported that these health facilities are understaffed and lacked the necessary medicine and equipment for provision of quality care. Table 5 shows the type and distribution of health facilities visited.

Table 5. Frequency distribution of health facilities visited by type; N =2748

Health facility	Yes	No	Total
Hospital	85.7% (n=2355)	14.3% (n=392)	100% (n=2747)
Public health centre	85.8% (n=2355)	14.2% (n=389)	100% (n=2744)
Private clinic	50.5% (n=1387)	49.50% (n=1357)	100% (n=2744)
Nurse/mid-wife	52.2% (n=1432)	47.8% (n=1312)	100% (n=2744)
Over-the-counter	81.4% (n=2234)	18.60% (n=510)	100% (n=2744)
Alternative healer	64.6% (n=1773)	35.40% (n=970)	100% (n=2743)

Research Results

Child deaths

Of the 2,686 households that responded to this question, 489 households or 18.2 percent reported experience of child deaths under five years of age, 36 months before the census period. Among the sub-locations, Tarasaa had the highest under-five child mortality with a proportion of 60.7 percent. On the other hand, Laini had the lowest proportion of under-five mortality at 12.3 percent.



Children in a classroom, Kenya.

Table 6. Frequency distribution of disabilities by type; N=261

Type of disability	Frequency	Proportion
Total blindness	19	7.3
Partial blindness	52	19.9
Totally deaf	21	8
Partially deaf	27	10.3
Crippled	77	29.5
Mental disability	45	17.2
Dumb	13	5
Other	7	2.7
Total	261	100

following were reported: Illness (57.3%), inborn (31.9%), accident (24.5%) and others (2.3%). Of those who had disabilities, 55.5 percent had received no assistance, 24.5 percent got assistance from a traditional healer, 15.5 percent from health facilities while less than 5 percent had received assistance in the form of counseling, therapy and hospital equipment. Most of the assistance was provided by the government (52.2%).

Tenure Status

Although evidence from the qualitative data collection exercise indicated that land was communally owned and residents felt that they did not own it, results from the census indicate that a majority of the households owned the houses where they lived in (89.6%). No single household was recorded as squatting. However, 86 or 3.2 percent of the households said they had borrowed space or had temporary ownership of the house they lived in. It is, therefore, not clear whether they were squatting or their houses were destroyed.

Type of materials used to build houses

Majority of the respondents lived in makeshift housing. Almost all the houses had mud floors (90.5%). Similarly, 60.4 percent of the walls were plastered with mud. The proportions of roofing material used were as follows: grass (51.1%), iron sheets (23.6%), and *makuti* - coconut leaves (20.6%). The 4.7 percent in the other category consisted of grass and other materials.

Main sources of lighting

Households used various types of lighting with the main sources being: tin lamp (73.5%), kerosene lamp/hurricane (21.3%) and electricity (1.7%). The other category (less than 5%) included: firewood, torches and candles. It is important to note that the tin lamps and the kerosene lamps are similar in that they both use kerosene for lighting. The difference, however, is that the tin lamp is entirely made of tin with a wick that is exposed to wind while kerosene lamps, on the other hand, are made of tin but have the wick shielded with a glass cover. It is also bigger in size and brighter compared to the tin lamp.

Main sources of fuel for cooking

Although households used different sources of cooking fuel, the predominant sources of cooking material were: firewood (92.2%) and charcoal (6.6%). Kerosene, gas and electricity accounted for only 1.2 percent.

Access to safe water

Households got their water from different sources. The most common sources of water for drinking in the three sub-locations were as follows: Laini - protected well (83.6%), Walesorhea - un-protected well (90.3%) and Tarasaa - tap water (87.8%). The most common source of domestic water was the same for all the three sub-locations. Women from Walesorhea walked longest in search of water. The highest proportion (92%) of women who said that they walked for at least 7-9 km to fetch water came from Walesorhea sub-location. The women who walked for 10 kilometers and over were from Walesorhea (44.4%) and Tarasaa (33.3%), respectively. What is markedly different is the fact that tap water was more available in Tarasaa mainly through the support of development partners.

Access to sanitary facilities

The proportion of households with personal bathrooms/wash areas was 45.5 percent and those with personal toilets was 27.8 percent. About half (50.5%) of the households used the bush. Of the three sub-locations, Walesorhea recorded the highest proportion of households without access to sanitary toilet facilities (97.7%) and bathroom facilities (69.1%).

Vulnerability to natural disasters

Tana River district is prone to disaster and crises such as drought and floods. Evidence from the qualitative study indicates that in



A woman gathering water. Kenya.

In the recent past, climatic changes have led to prolonged droughts in Tana River district. There are two seasons of drought that occur after the short and long rains. Nonetheless, drought is experienced at varied durations in the three study sub-locations. Floods occur after the long rains although they are sometimes caused by the release of water from hydro-electric power stations located up-stream along the River Tana. This sub-section discusses the type of disasters experienced in the three pilot sites and their implication on poverty. The study investigated the following indicators: proportions of households that experienced natural calamities and losses incurred and proportion of households that experienced food shortages.

During the pilot census, households were asked if they had been severely affected by natural or man-made calamities. Out of the 2747 households that responded to this question, 2328 (84.7%) said they had been severely affected. Table 7 shows the

frequency distribution of natural calamities by type and the loss incurred among the three sub-locations.

It is evident from the table that drought is the most prevalent calamity in Tana River district in all the three sub-locations which results in the loss of crops or farm produce and subsequently leads to food insecurity. Floods are considered a blessing in disguise since they are used to water farms in preparation for planting considering that the district is dry almost all year round.

Across the sub-locations, however, a difference was noted in the most common type of calamity experienced and the losses incurred. In Laini which is a marginal mixed farming livelihood zone, most (64.8%) households reported to have experienced drought, consequently a majority (90.6%) of the households lost farm produce. Similarly, 93 percent of the households in Tarasaa (mixed farming livelihood zone) experienced drought. As a result, 75.9 percent of the households lost farm produce. On the other hand, Walesorrhea which is a pastoral livelihood zone reported a high (89.1%) incidence of ethnic conflict. Subsequently, 89.7 percent of the households recorded loss of livestock.

Proportion of households that experienced food shortage in the last three months

A small 35.7 percent of the households enumerated had at least three balanced meals in the one month prior to the census. Across the sub-locations, Laini recorded the highest proportion at 50.9 percent, followed by Tarasaa (43.3%) and Walesorrhea (5.8%).

A majority (70.9%) of the households experienced food shortage in the three months prior to the census. Among the sub-locations, Tarasaa was the most affected with 49.5 percent of the households experiencing hunger. In the face of food shortages, residents have adopted various coping mechanisms as narrated by a key opinion leader in Laini sub-location:

We eat food which we would not eat in normal circumstances, we also eat wild fruits. We also get relief food in very small rations which do not help much (Key informant, Laini sub-location).

This scenario illustrates that people are innovative and will always find ways of coping in difficult circumstances. It also indicates the need to help these communities by way of targeting the very needy for support.

Households were also asked how many days their households experienced hunger. The months with high incidences of hunger are: April where 47.1 percent of the households said they experienced hunger, May (47.7%) and June (50.1%). From the foregoing, it is, therefore, easy to know that these are the months when people need assistance in terms of relief food in Tana River district.

Household Assets

Over half (54.3%) of the households interviewed owned a radio while 36.5 percent owned a bicycle. Regarding farming tools, the most popular were the jembe or traditional hoe (97.3%) and the panga/machete (96.8%), explaining their engagement in small-scale farming as opposed to large-scale farming. In addition, this could also perhaps explain the respondents' inability to access better farm implements. The difference between the number of cattle owned and the number of sheep and goats owned is minimal.

It should be noted that communication channels have been widened by the availability of mobile telephones that far outnumber the people's access to fixed lines.

Agricultural land is the backbone of rural livelihood in Kenya. However, most of the households in the pilot sub-locations owned land of only between one to three hectares in size which is insufficient in supporting a household of approximately seven people given the context of prolonged droughts in the district. This is especially vital in Tarasaa and Laini where people largely depend on agricultural land for subsistence.

Table 8 is indicative of the fact that most of the respondents in the pilot sub-locations own farm land. Nonetheless, more respondents in Laini and Walesorrhea owned between one and three hectares of farm land. It is odd that Walesorrhea (a pastoral livelihood zone) had 80 percent of

Table 7. Proportion of households that experienced natural calamities by sub-location; N=2748

Calamity type	Sub-location		
	Laini	Walesorrhea	Tarasaa
Drought	504 64.80%	405 59.60%	811 93%
Ethnic conflict	5 0.60%	605 89.1%	61 7%
Floods	443 56.90%	2 0.30%	63 7.20%
Human-wildlife conflict	162 20.80%	8 1.20%	166 19%
Others	9 1.20%	0 0%	21 2.40%
Losses incurred			
Livestock	130 16.70%	609 89.70%	248 28.40%
Crop/farm produce	705 90.60%	8 1.20%	662 75.90%
Loved ones	11 1.40%	261 38.40%	59 6.80%
Shelter	49 6.30%	350 51.50%	128 14.70%
Others	1 0.10%	3 0.40%	9 1%

Research Results

Table 8. Proportion of households with farm land and size of farm land

	Sub-location		
	Laini	Walesorhea	Tarasaa
Ownership status of farm land			
Own	70	60	73
Communal	28.3	40	4.6
Hired	0.4	-	6.6
Other	1.3	-	16
Area of farm land			
Less than one hectare	33.7	-	30.5
1-3 hectares	62.4	80	41.1
3.1-5 hectares	3.6	-	20
More than 5 hectares	0.3	20	8.5

the households having one to three hectares of farm land.

Conflict

The Orma, Wardei and Pokomo have lived harmoniously for many years. In the past, they intermingled freely in work, trade and marriage among themselves. Although they still engage in the activities mentioned, the relationship they had before is no longer the same. The study participants noted the high levels of mistrust among the different ethnic groups. The indicators measured under this theme were: proportion of households with a member who experienced conflict in the last 12 months prior to the census, type of conflict experienced, and causes of the conflict.

Results from the pilot census indicate that 394 households or 14.5 percent of the households had at least one member being a victim of conflict in the past year. Among the sub-locations piloted, Walesorhea had the highest (92.4%) proportion of households affected by violence 12 months prior to the census. Majority (93.6%) of the households who had a household member becoming a victim of conflict cited ethnic conflict as the type of conflict experienced by the member. The causes of the conflict cited were as follows: politics (69.7%), tribalism (23.5%), pasture (6.3%) and leadership (0.5%). These findings are supported by those from the qualitative study. Indeed, a key informant in Walesorhea stated that:

During conflict situations, the main target is livestock. Other communities kill livestock and also steal the rest. Eventually, they set the houses on fire and the owners are left without anything. A case in point is this one person; they took all his livestock and

burnt his house. Currently, he is a beggar. He had over fifty cattle and hundreds of goats and sheep (Key informant, Walesorhea sub-location).

It emerged from the study that during conflict situations, the main target is the source of livelihood.

Livestock is killed, crops destroyed and shelter razed to the ground. This evidently pushes the affected from one level of poverty to another.

Gender equity

Women respondents in the households were asked if they had access and control of land and other resources. The results showed that only 32.1 percent of the women had access and control of land and other resources. Few women (35.4%) said they would ask their husband or partner to use a condom if they suspected that he was unfaithful. With regards to who decides on the family size, only 6.2 percent of the women said they decide on this and 46.1 of the women said they decide together with their husbands. It should be noted that all the ethnic groups in Tana River district are patrilocal practicing exchange of bride-wealth upon marriage.

Regarding domestic violence, various forms were assessed in this study: physical, emotional, and psychological. Out of the 2503 household women members who responded to the question of whether they had been beaten by their husband/partner in the last 12 months, 42.8 percent responded in the affirmative. Fewer women (24.8%) said their husbands or partners had said or done something to embarrass them in front of others in the last 12 months; similarly, 17.6 percent of the women who responded to the question of whether they were coerced into having sexual intercourse with their husbands or partners in the last 12 months said yes.

Income

Tana River district still remains one of the worst hit districts in terms of poverty prevalence. More than three quarters (79%) of the households interviewed in this study

earn an income of one dollar a day or less. This is a worrying trend considering that previous studies have indicated that over 70 percent of the population in the district live below the absolute poverty line (GoK, 2002). This poverty gap, however, cannot be bridged by the residents as only a very small proportion (0.5%) can afford to live on more than six dollars a day. A key informant in Laini had this to say about poverty in his area:

Majority of the people in Laini sub-location are uneducated, therefore, getting white collar jobs is difficult. This means that they get meager income from lowly paying jobs, thus, increasing the level of poverty (key informant, Laini sub-location).

It is noteworthy that only 13 percent of the households reported at least one member of the households' engagement in a salaried job. This is indicative of the limited opportunities locally and constraints that result from the limited investment opportunities and low literacy levels.

Government programs

Efforts have been made by the government to close the deprivation gap by initiating several funds aimed at empowering the economically less fortunate. However, there is no respite in Tana River district as the benefits derived from these funds remain negligible. The Youth Development Fund (YDF) has not made much impact (2.1%) since its inception in 2006. The same is true of the Bursary (6.1%) and Constituency Development Funds (4.1%). Since the district is predominantly an agricultural zone, at 4.2 percent, agricultural extension services are still low while the livestock restocking program has only benefited a measly two households (0.1%).

Women being the major burden bearers in times of crises have not been adequately reached by the Women Enterprise Fund with only 1.7 percent reporting assistance from the kitty which was established in December 2006. The wards' representatives seem not to have sensitized the communities as only five households (0.2%) reported to have benefited from the Local Authority Trust Fund (LATF). The lack of access to the Higher Education Loan is even more damning as only 0.7 percent of the households in the pilot sites had

benefited from this fund. These results, in a way, are reflective of the effects of marginalization of an entire community.

Findings from the qualitative study indicate the weaknesses in the distribution mechanisms of funds from government programs, including corruption, nepotism and political patronage.

It is evident from the foregoing observation that much needs to be done in terms of fair distribution of and access to these funds. The LPMS will be handy in filling this gap through the use of poverty maps that will locate the specific households that need the funds. It will also be useful for the residents to be sensitized on these initiatives to facilitate local ownership.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This study aimed at establishing an LPMS for Tana River district. The main drivers of poverty identified in the district are: low educational levels, lack of employment opportunities, poor infrastructure, natural disasters and inaccessibility of financial institutions. This had a negative impact on the ability of households to access social services such as health, education, safe drinking water and wealth creation opportunities. Although the district is associated with conflict as a whole, there are parts of the district which are more prone to conflict than others. Among the sub-locations piloted, Walesorrhea is in need of interventions that would address ethnic conflict and ameliorate its impact in order to foster a conducive investment environment.

Although the government's efforts to introduce poverty reduction programs are recognized not only in Tana River district but in the country as a whole, over three quarters of the population in Tana River nonetheless still live on a dollar-or-less-a-day basis. It would thus be important for the government to consider the disbursement of more targeted funds to the district to encourage development investments. The LPMS is a tool that could provide a basis for resource allocation in response to the study participants' lament of the weaknesses in the distribution mechanisms of government funds. If institutionalized, an LPMS would ensure that funds are channeled to the right people and projects.

The communities in the district have a way of characterizing the poorest among them for support. Use of this local system of wealth ranking together with the LPMS would ensure that the needy are targeted for support, thereby, minimizing the effects of poverty and addressing misallocation of resources. The successful implementation of the pilot census in Laini, Walesorrhea and Tarasaa sub-locations provides evidence that the communities have the capacity to implement an LPMS. The cooperation and support secured from government representatives also means that it is possible to have the LPMS institutionalized and replicated in other parts of the country.

Recommendations

The local specific causes of poverty having been established in Tana River district, it is important for the government to establish a system of monitoring these causes through mechanisms such as an LPMS to ensure that poverty is closely monitored. A linkage was established between ethnic conflict and drought, and poverty in the district. Considering the fact that droughts are inevitable, it is important for the government security systems to anticipate and curb such violent outcomes, especially in Walesorrhea, to foster a favorable environment for development. Distribution mechanisms for government funds were faulted for the lack of impact of various poverty reduction programs in the district. As such, adoption of the LPMS would provide a basis for resource allocation and reallocation to ensure that the initiatives are viable in the long term. And given that the communities have the capacity to implement an LPMS, it is recommended that the local authority should enlist the support of the community resource persons (enumerators) to carry out a census every two years to monitor poverty trends. *



The Government of Kenya is trying to revive the Bura and Hola irrigation schemes.

Kenya holds 1st National Conference on CBMS

The African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD) successfully organized the first National Conference on the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) on June 28 to July 1, 2009 at the Simba Lodge Naivasha, Nairobi, Kenya.

Some 50 participants representing bilateral institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), national government agencies and local authorities attended the conference. Government officials from other CBMS country partners also participated in the event.

The conference aimed to introduce the CBMS approach to key stakeholders and discuss its relevance in different development sectors. Specifically, the event aimed to: (1) share information on the CBMS concept and its relevance at the national level; (2) disseminate the results of the Local Planning and Monitoring System (LPMS) pilot study in Tana River District; (3) explore the relevance and linkage of the CBMS approach in early warning, food security and vulnerability assessments; and (4) explore the use of the CBMS at the municipal council level.

Dr. Mary Nyamongo, CBMS-Kenya Team Leader and Executive Director of the AIHD, and Mr. G.M. Mailu of the Ministry of State for Planning and National Development and Vision 2030 (MSPND&V2030) opened the event by introducing the CBMS to the participants and encouraging them to support the initiative inasmuch as it is something that promotes capacity building at all levels.

Dr. Edward Sambili, Permanent Secretary of MSPND&V2030, added that the CBMS is an empowerment tool that can be used by the government, the CSOs, and the communities involved in poverty reduction initiatives. He expressed hope for a fruitful collaboration in the future.

Meanwhile, Ms. Anne Bernadette Mandap of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team- Philippines

→ continuation page 8

CBMS Network commences implementation of GFC impact initiative

CBMS Network has started the implementation of its initiative which aims to monitor and mitigate the impact of the global financial and economic crisis (GFC) on poverty in developing countries in Asia, Africa, South America and Oceania. The project also aims to provide inputs to policymakers in prioritizing mitigating measures to address the impact of the crisis. Selected communities in each of the participating countries will serve as poverty observatories or sentinels of the impact of the crisis.

To date, five (5) participating countries have officially started the implementation of the CBMS activities with GFC component. These include Tanzania, Zambia, Nigeria, Lao PDR and the Philippines. Although some of them are in the advanced stage of implementation of the GFC component, others are still finalizing their data collection instruments. In the case of the Philippines, rider questionnaires have already been developed and administered in the selected sentinel sites. Furthermore, data collection is almost complete while data processing is ongoing.

In addition to the above-mentioned countries, additional countries may participate in the GFC impact study. These include Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Cambodia, Indonesia and

Vietnam. Some aspects of their proposals, particularly those referring to the GFC component, are still undergoing further enhancements.

The ongoing CBMS project in Peru would also try to include the GFC component in its pilot test. CBMS Team-

Bangladesh has also expressed interest in implementing the project but they are yet to submit a proposal. Another country from Oceania may also be included as one of the participating countries.

The GFC impact study would be one of the components of the CBMS project in these countries which would further demonstrate the usefulness of CBMS in monitoring the impact of economic shocks. Monitoring would be done primarily through the conduct of CBMS surveys in selected sites. Household-

and community-level data would be collected to capture the different dimensions of poverty. In addition to the CBMS core indicators, specific indicators would be monitored to capture the potential impact of the global crisis. These indicators were identified based on the relevant key transmission channels for each of the participating countries.

A technical workshop was held in February 2009 in the Philippines which provided a venue for discussing how the impact of the crisis

→ continuation page 9



Enumerators collecting data on the impact of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis in Agusan del Sur (above) and Camarines Norte (right) in the Philippines.

Kenya holds 1st National Conference..from page 7

introduced the global CBMS Network which consists of implementing countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam), Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia) and South America (Peru).

This was followed by the sharing of experiences by some of the implementing countries. Rangya Kyulo Muro, the CBMS-Tanzania Team Leader, said that the CBMS data provide the basis for the preparation of their Development Plans. Dodoma Mayor Francis Mazanda also added that the CBMS results provide a big picture of the real situation on the ground.

For Kenya, Dr. Mary Nyamongo affirmed earlier

presentations on the CBMS' many potential uses. It can be used for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), local planning and development, regular monitoring of welfare conditions of households and individuals, and policy formulation by the national government.

Mayor Krisel Lagman-Listro of Tabaco City, Albay, Philippines, meanwhile, discussed how the CBMS can also complement efforts in monitoring the local progress on the MDGs.

Mary Mwale of the Arid Lands Resource Management Project II, on the other hand, discussed how the CBMS can be used for drought early warning systems to prevent the negative effects that drought may cause.

Supporting all the previous observations, Leonard Obidha, Secretary of the Poverty Eradication Commission (PEC), added that the CBMS can also be of great help to the PEC and thereupon expressed the need to promote the CBMS for development.

The conference ended with a note that stakeholders' support is needed in order to implement the CBMS. In addition, it was mentioned that CBMS should be complemented with existing monitoring systems.

The event was co-organized by the MSPND&V2030 in collaboration with the Finnish Embassy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network.*

DESCO gears up for CBMS-GRB

The Center for Studies and Development Promotion (DESCO) played host to the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)-Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Technical Workshop held on September 7-8 in Lima, Peru.

The workshop was attended by implementing teams from the pilot site, CBMS-GRB implementing countries, representatives from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the CBMS Network. The workshop was held in preparation for the pilot testing of a gender-responsive community-based monitoring system in the municipality of El Salvador, Peru.

Prior to this month's workshop, a technical meeting was held last June 22-25 in Lima, Peru which aimed to sharpen the design of the methodology to be implemented and to build capacity for the team that will lead the pilot test. Said gathering highlighted the need to develop and implement a system of collection that will reflect the situation in the local community. It also stressed the importance of the involvement of the local actors as well as the retention of confidentiality of the information. It was also noted that the system will have to be incorporated in the process of community participation and local budgeting.

Meanwhile, in the recently held September workshop, CBMS-GRB implementing countries, particularly the Philippines and the UNIFEM-Andina Region, introduced their methodologies and shared their experiences. Some adjustments in the

CBMS Philippines' methodology were made to suit the conditions in Villa El Salvador. The indicators complementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were also retained.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Specialist Walter Mendoza also attended to provide comments and insights on the indicators to be used for the pilot test. It was decided that a new component (collection and systemization of the perception of the community) will be adopted before the final design of the questionnaire. It was also recommended that the information obtained from the field be processed in time for the fiscal year 2010 to be used for the design of pertinent projects.

Below: Dr. Celia Reyes (first from left), Marcela Alvear of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (second from left), Laura Soria of the Center for Studies and Development Promotion (DESCO) (third from left), United Nations Population Fund Specialist Walter Mendoza (fifth from left) and Karen Suarez from the UNIFEM (third from right) with the staff from DESCO. Right: Villa El Salvador Mayor Jaime Zea Usca

After the workshop, members of the CBMS-Philippines Team and DESCO conducted a field visit in Villa El Salvador and had a meeting with Mayor Jaime Zea Usca. The meeting highlighted the role of community participation in the whole process—from data collection to validation—and how it can promote and enhance ownership of the CBMS-GRB initiative.

The CBMS-GRB project aims to promote an evidence-based, participatory and gender-responsive approach to local development planning and budgeting and to monitor the achievements of the MDGs. It started in March 2009 through the financial grant assistance provided by the UNIFEM and is expected to be completed by February 2011. *



Photo from <http://muniels.gob.pe>



CBMS Network commences..from page 8

would be monitored using the CBMS methodology. The CBMS Project Team Leaders and other experts participated in the workshop which produced, among others, the following outputs: 1) list of indicators that would need to be monitored to track the impacts; 2) list of questions that need to be added in the survey questionnaire to capture the required information; and 3) determination of the

timing and frequency of data collection in order to provide timely data to policymakers.

Preliminary results are expected to come out before the end of the year and will be disseminated through the PEP-CBMS Network's website and newsletter. In addition, the results will be presented to concerned policymakers and other stakeholders in a policy conference.

The project is being funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the PEP-CBMS Network. Meanwhile, the participation of one country from Oceania will be made possible through the support of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). *

NAPC, UNDP, DLSU-M host Mindanao Forum on CBMS

S

ome 120 participants attended the Mindanao Forum on community-based monitoring system (CBMS) held on August 19, 2009 at the Apo View Hotel, Davao City, Philippines.

Organized by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP- Philippines) and the CBMS Network Coordinating Team of De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU-M), the forum served as a venue to present the key findings of the CBMS initiatives undertaken in a number of provinces in Mindanao and how local government units (LGUs) have addressed them.

In his keynote address, Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban, Lead Convenor of the NAPC, said that the CBMS expands the powers of local authorities by allowing them control over what has been, in general, the responsibility of the national agencies. "It allows them the technology and know-how to gather and process information about social conditions in their jurisdictions on a real-time basis — thereby facilitating prompt and correct local action", Panganiban added.

The forum was divided into three sessions. The first session, chaired by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)- Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) Assistant Director Anna Liza Bonagua, showcased CBMS results from three CBMS implementing provinces in Mindanao. The second session, as chaired by NAPC Macro Policy Unit Director Agnes Catherine T. Miranda, featured the experiences of several municipalities from Mindanao which have implemented the CBMS, focusing on the socioeconomic concerns and initiatives carried out in these localities. And the third session, chaired by DLSU Angelo King Institute for Economics and Business Studies (AKIEBS) Executive Director Dr. Winfred M. Villamil, discussed



(From left to right) Dr. Celia Reyes, Dr. Winfred Villamil and Secretary Domingo Panganiban present a Certificate of Accreditation to a CBMS trainer from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

the current capacity building strategies of partner government agencies. The session also tackled the ways forward for CBMS capacity building in the Philippines. Dr. Celia Reyes, Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, discussed the status of the CBMS implementation in Mindanao.

The forum also served as an avenue for national, international and non-government organizations to synergize efforts in providing assistance to LGUs that have particular development concerns. DILG Region 11 Director Quirino M. Libunao and Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) Director Gervacio G. Selda Jr., in particular, offered training programs to the

LGUs. At the same time, members of the technical staff of the NAPC were also accredited as CBMS Trainers during the forum.

The forum was held in connection with the project on "Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Poverty Alleviation Efforts (SIMCPAE), Phases I and II" funded by the UNDP and carried out by the NAPC and the CBMS. Under Phase I of the SIMCPAE, the CBMS was implemented in Agusan del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur provinces. The initial effort in 2006 was expanded to include Sarangani and Zamboanga del Norte provinces under the "Attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Reducing Human Poverty Programme" undertaking. *

Anthony F. Shorrocks joins PEP as Director for Strategic Development



Photo from <http://www.wider.unu.edu>

 Anthony F. Shorrocks, former Director of the World Institute for

Development Economics Research (WIDER) of the United Nations University, has joined the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network as Director for Strategic Development (DSD).

Professor Shorrocks will lead in the implementation of PEP's fund-raising strategy; assist in the exploration of PEP's options for legal incorporation; and review PEP's draft long-term strategic development plan.

Prof. Shorrocks has previously held positions at the London School of Economics and the

University of Essex. He has published widely on topics related to income and wealth distribution, inequality and poverty.

Prof. Shorrocks holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics from the University of Sussex and an M.A. in Economics from Brown University. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the London School of Economics in 1973, and his thesis was awarded the Bowley Prize in 1975. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario; Southern Methodist University in Dallas; the European University Institute in Florence, and the New Economic School in Moscow. *

IDRC launches book on CBMS' contribution to local planning and policymaking

 The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) will launch its newest addition to its In_Focus Collection during the Human Development and Capability Association Annual Conference in Lima, Peru on September 10-12, 2009.

Entitled "In_focus: Fighting Poverty with Facts: Community-Based Monitoring System", the book is also available in French and Spanish. It now forms a part of the In_Focus Collection which presents research summaries that draw out important lessons, observations, and recommendations to enlighten decision-makers and policy advisors.

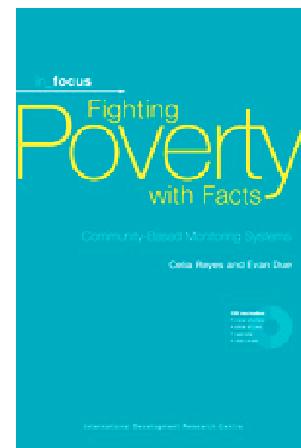
Written by Celia Reyes and Evan Due, the book emphasizes that good public policy choices for empowering the poor and fighting poverty are best made when local authorities and communities work together and are guided by sound data and evidence-based analysis.

Drawing from community-based monitoring system (CBMS) experiences in Africa and

Asia, the authors present recommendations for policymakers, donor agencies, and researchers as well as guidelines for developing and implementing poverty monitoring systems in other regions of the world.

In his foreword, Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban, Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission of the Philippines, cited the exuberance with which local government units have embraced CBMS. This "can only be a glowing testament to how it has effectively responded to a long-felt need for a system that can provide a reliable and credible information base at the local level for policymaking, program design, and impact monitoring", Panganiban added.

Celia Reyes designed the CBMS in the Philippines as part of the IDRC-sponsored project on the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) in the early 1990s. This project later led to the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) project which includes CBMS as one of the components. Dr. Reyes is a Senior



Research Fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and leader of the CBMS sub-network of the global PEP research network. Meanwhile, Evan Due is Senior Program Specialist responsible for economics and trade programs at IDRC's Singapore office.

For more analysis, discussion and case material, visit the companion website, www.idrc.ca/in_focus_poverty. *

6th CBMS National Conference to be held in Manila

The CBMS National Conference serves as a venue where development stakeholders converge and synergize their efforts to monitor and alleviate poverty.



Development practitioners from all over the Philippines are set to converge once again on December 8-10, 2009 at the Diamond Hotel in Manila for the 6th Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) National Conference.

Bringing together researchers, non-government organizations, local government units and national government agencies, the conference is poised to become an avenue where various stakeholders from all over the Philippines could discuss recent developments in CBMS implementation as well as share learnings and key findings from their localities.

Among the highlights of this year's national conference will be the presentation of the results of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) Survey conducted early this year in different sentinel sites in the country as well as presentations from provinces which have recently completed their CBMS.

Register on or before November 15, 2009 to avail of our early bird discount of Php400 from our conference fee of Php4,000. For more updates on the conference, visit the 6th CBMS National Conference section of the PEP website: www.pep-net.org. *

CBMS NETWORK UPDATES

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The **Updates** may be downloaded free from the Project's website:
<http://www.pep-net.org>.

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