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A New Approach to Evaluating and Designing Targeted Social Protection*

Nanak Kakwani[1]

Editor's Note

The CBMS Team in the Philippines is promoting the use of the proxy means test (PMT) model as one of the approaches for identifying the poor. The CBMS Statistics Simulator (StatSim) which was developed by the team can in fact identify PMT-poor households. Local government units, as a result, will be able to identify poor households who need assistance the most.

In this paper, Dr. Nanak Kakwani presents an alternative PMT model which he designed based on data from the Philippines' Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) 2006. The proxy variables that he used in his model can readily be obtained from the standard CBMS survey.

Introduction

The main objective of targeted government intervention is to reduce the deprivation suffered by the poor. Their deprivation might come in various forms. For instance, they may suffer from poor health or chronic unemployment or have a low level of education. Projects or programs may therefore be designed to give the poor greater access to various government services. However, the main constraint in designing targeted programs is the inability to identify the genuine poor. If we have the income or expenditures of individual families, then we can easily assess their poverty situation by comparing their income (or expenditure) against a predetermined poverty line. Such detailed information and administrative ability to use it is not present in most developing countries (Haddad and Kanbur 1991). In the absence of such information, targeting methods have been devised so that the poorest and most vulnerable members of the society receive the maximum benefits.

A group of women attends a Pantawid Pamilya (2Ps) meeting. The 2Ps is a conditional cash transfer program of the Philippine Government designed to help poor families.

Source: CBMS Philippines

The number of targeted programs has increased many folds in developing countries. Coady, Grosh, and Hoddinott (2004) have listed 85 of such programs in 36 countries. Each of these programs has a different way of identifying the beneficiaries. It is therefore important to know how different each has performed. To be able to do that, we need to know first what policy objectives these programs have been designed to achieve. Most social assistance programs have the sole objective of reducing poverty subject to relevant resources. It is then obvious that

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[1]Member of the CBMS Steering Committee

*An excerpt of the paper submitted by Dr. Nanak Kakwani to the 8th PEP General Meeting held in Dakar, Senegal on June 12-18, 2010. A full version of this paper may be viewed at http://www.pep-net.or/fileadmin/medias/pdf/files_events/8th-PEPmeeting2010-Dakar/CBMS/Nanak_Kakwani.pdf.

targeting should be closely related to the objective of poverty reduction.

Many targeting measures have been discussed in the literature. In a recent paper, Ravallion (2009) has provided a synthesis of almost all the measures proposed so far. His paper's main message is that all the targeting measures are quite uninformative when it comes to poverty impact.

In this paper, we will thus demonstrate that most of the targeting measures are closely linked with poverty reduction. This linkage is established via the poverty gap ratio, which measures the amount by which households (or individuals) are poor, as well as the number of households that are poor.

Targeting efficiency involves the selection of beneficiaries in the program. Since targeted programs are not based on the actual incomes or expenditures of households when selecting beneficiaries, there is the danger of committing two types of error. Type I error occurs when someone who deserves the benefits is denied them, while Type II error occurs when benefits are paid to someone who does not deserve them. Often, these two types of errors do not move in the same direction: that is, attempts to reduce Type II error can lead to increased Type I error committed. How can we overcome this then?

To tackle the problem, we derive a new targeting indicator, which is a function of four factors: percent of poor targeted by the program, percent of beneficiaries in the program, Type I, and Type II errors. The indicator is derived using the Cramer's *phi* statistics, which measures the association between poverty status of households or individuals and the selected beneficiary households or individuals. The higher the value of this indicator, the better the targeting power.

This indicator has been shown to be closely linked with poverty reduction.

A program is said to be mismatched if the number of poor is not equal to the number of beneficiaries. Most targeted programs that suffer from severe mismatch have reduced targeting power. Thus, even if we have perfect information about the poor, the program's performance remains poor if it suffers from mismatch. In most cases, the issue of mismatch is ignored. In this paper, we therefore develop an indicator that detects how the extent of the mismatch reduces the targeting efficiency.

The issue of mismatch can easily be—and should be—addressed right at the design stage of any program.

A proxy means test, which is now widely used in developing countries, enables one to single out beneficiaries based on easily identifiable variables that accurately predict a household to be in poverty. A nationally representative household survey makes it possible to conduct such a proxy means test. In this paper, we illustrate how the new targeting indicator developed here can be used to design a targeted program. This illustration is based on the Philippines' Family Income and Expenditure Survey 2006.

The first step in designing a proxy means testing is to identify variables that are well correlated with the poverty status of households. These variables must be easy to measure and, at the same time, able to predict with reasonable accuracy the poverty status of households. To accomplish this objective, we have developed a formula that calculates a correlation coefficient between any proxy variable with the poverty status of households. This correlation coefficient helps identify the proxy variables.

Designing a Social Protection Program

In most low-income countries, income is hard to measure. Moreover, many households consume from their own production. This situation makes it difficult to use income as a measure for identifying poor households. Thus, like what was mentioned earlier, the use of a proxy means test would help in identifying beneficiaries based on variables that could easily and accurately predict a household that is poor.

Proxy Variables

The first step in designing a proxy means testing is to identify a set of variables that are well correlated with households' poverty status. These variables generally include household characteristics such as household composition; dwelling characteristics: type of roof, toilet, electricity connection, water supply, sanitation, etc; households' labor force characteristics; land owned and operated; ownership of durables and so on. The variables selected must be easy to measure but at the same time can predict the poverty status of households with reasonable accuracy. To accomplish this objective, we should look at how a particular variable is correlated with poverty. Suppose, for instance, that we believe female-led households have more severe poverty than male-led households, then we can choose the female-led households as one of the proxy variables in designing the program. This variable will be a good selection if a large proportion of female-headed households are poor.

Suppose B_j is the proportion of beneficiary households based on the *j*th proxy variable in the population, *H* is the proportion of poor households in the population, and B_j^p is the proportion of beneficiary households among the poor, then the correlation coefficient between the *i*th proxy variable and the poverty status of households is given by

$$\rho_j = \frac{\left(B_j^p - B_j\right)}{B_j}\sqrt{\frac{HB_j}{\left(1-H\right)\left(1-B\right)}} \quad (1)$$

Using the Philippines' Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) 2006 and official poverty line, we calculated that the Philippines had 24.23 percent poor households. The percentage of female-led

households was 18.67 in the whole country. However, among the poor households, this percentage was 10.66. This means that poverty is less severe among the female-led households than among male-headed households. Using (1), the correlation between female-headed households and the poverty status of households is calculated to be equal to –0.12. From this result, we can conclude that a female-headed household is not a good proxy variable.

The variables relating to the ownership of assets generally have high correlation coefficient. For instance, possession of TV has a correlation coefficient of -0.44, which implies that poor households generally do not own television.

Proxy variables are generally determined on an ad-hoc basis. The correlation coefficient given in (1) can be used to develop a set of proxy variables in a more objective way. If the proxy variable is not a binary (dummy) variable, then the formula for the correlation coefficient in (1) will not be valid. Suppose the proxy variable Z_j is a continuous variable with mean μ_J and variance σ_j^2 then the correlation coefficient between Z_j and the poverty status of households will be given by

$$\rho_j = \left(u_j^p - u_j\right)\sqrt{\frac{H}{(1-H)(1-B)\sigma_j^2}} \qquad (2)$$

where u_j^p is the mean of Z_j among the poor households.

The household size is often used as a proxy variable because poor households have a generally larger household size than the non-poor households. In the case of the Philippines, the average household size of the population is 4.82, whereas poor households have an average household size equal to 5.88. The correlation coefficient from (2) is computed to be equal to 0.28, which is quite high and significant. Thus, household size can be regarded as a good proxy variable.

The complete list of proxy variables, along with their correlation with poverty, is presented in Table 1. The correlations of the selected variables are all statistically significant.

The Model Used

Having determined the proxy variables, the next step is to combine them into a composite index that can be used as the basis for identifying the beneficiary households. We should combine them in such a way that they provide the highest probability of a household being identified as poor; the larger the probability, the better the targeting would be.

A household is defined as poor if its per capita income is less than the per capita poverty line. Suppose y_t^* is a variable that determines the poverty status of the *i*th household and can be determined by a set *k* proxy variables X_t by means of the following model:

$$y_t^* = X_t \beta + \in_i \qquad (3)$$

where β is the vector of *k* coefficients and $\in_i$ is the stochastic error term, which has o mean and constant variance. Although y_t^* is not observable, we can still relate it to the observed poverty status of *i*th households Z_t defined as

$$Z_t = 1 \text{ if } y_t^* > 0$$
$$= 0 \text{ if } y_t^* << 0 \qquad (4)$$

It can be easily seen that

$$E(Z_t) = \pi_i = P(zt=1) = P(y_t^* > 0)$$

π_i is the probability that the *i*th household is poor. Our objective is to estimate π_i based on *k* proxy variables. We use the Logit model:

$$\pi_i = \frac{e^{X_i\beta}\left(B_j^p - B_j\right)}{1 + e^{X_i\beta}} \qquad (5)$$

This model can be estimated using the maximum likelihood method. Table 1 presents the estimates of the *k* coefficients in β. The table also gives the *t* values, which indicates whether a given proxy variable is statistically significant or not. If the *t* value is greater than 1.96, we can say that the proxy variable is statistically significant at the 5 percent level of significance. Note that the coefficients corresponding to almost all proxy variables are statistically significant. This means that the proxy variables chosen have a significant impact in the determination of the poverty status of households. Substituting the estimates of β from Table 1 in (5), we obtain the estimate of each household's probability of being poor.

Decision Rule

Having estimated each household's probability of being poor, we can now design a decision rule to determine which household should or should not be included in the program. We can have a decision rule that the *i*th household is a beneficiary for the program if its estimated probability of being poor, is greater than π which is an exogenously-determined cutoff point. Suppose *B* is the percentage of beneficiary households that are selected by this decision rule. Obviously, *B* will depend on the value of π; the larger the value of π_i, the smaller B will be.Using the households survey data from the Philippines, we obtain the proportion of beneficiaries among households in the whole population as well as among the poor for different values of π. The results are presented in Table 2.

Based on the official poverty line, 24.23 percent of households in the Philippines are poor. This program has been designed to target all these households. It is noted that if π =0.8931, the beneficiary households in the population are only 5 percent, which means there will be a high degree of mismatch. The percentage of beneficiaries among the poor and non-poor households is equal to 19.2 and 0.46, respectively. The targeting indicator is

Table 1. Correlation Coefficients of Proxy Variables

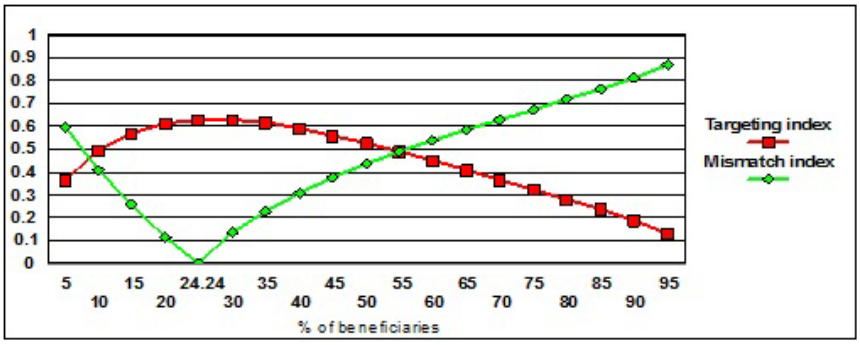
	Percentage of beneficiary in population	Percentage of beneficiary among poor	Correlation coefficient	Estimates of Logit Model	
				Coefficient	t_value
Ownership of assets					
Television	69.6	33.5	-0.44	-0.534	-11.3
DVD/VCR	45	12.8	-0.37	-0.438	-9.1
Refrigerator	39.5	5.5	-0.39	-0.839	-14.4
Washing machine	29.6	2.6	-0.33	-1.105	-14.1
Air Conditioner	7.1	0.2	-0.15	-0.752	-3.5
Car	6.9	0.3	-0.15	-0.965	-4.1
Telephone	52.7	15.6	-0.42	-0.940	-21.9
Computer	6.6	0.1	-0.15	-1.377	-3.8
Microwave	6	0.1	-0.14	-1.384	-3.3
Electricity	82.1	54.5	-0.41	-0.320	-6.6
Sanitary toilet facilities					
No toilet	9	21.9	0.26	0.613	11.2
Others	1.5	3	0.07	0.305	2.6
Open pit	4.9	11.3	0.17	0.246	3.8
Closed pit	8.9	15.2	0.13	0.235	4.5
Water Sealed	75.8	48.7	-0.36		
Household size					
Household size 1	3.9	0.7	-0.09	-	-
Household size 2	8.6	3.4	-0.11	1.043	7.3
Household size 3	14	6.7	-0.12	1.395	9.9
Household size 4	19.2	13.4	-0.08	1.898	13.8
Household size 5	18.9	19.1	0	2.374	17.2
household size 6	14.3	19.3	0.08	2.888	20.3
Household size more than 6	21.1	37.4	0.23	3.437	24.4
Age of household head					
less than 30	7.1	7	0	-	-
30-39	22.6	28.6	0.08	0.079	1.1
40-49	27	30.2	0.04	0.193	2.7
50-59	21.6	17.6	-0.05	0.218	2.8
60+	21.7	16.5	-0.07	0.479	6
Education of household head					
Less than elementary	24.7	44.4	0.26	1.669	10.7
Elementary	18.9	25.5	0.1	1.434	9.1
High school incomplete	12.4	13.1	0.01	1.276	8.1
High school complete	21.8	13	-0.12	1.057	6.7
College incomplete	11.8	3.5	-0.14	0.949	5.7
Complete college	10.5	0.5	-0.18	-	-
Household headed by female	18.7	10.7	-0.12	-0.032	0.6
Head not engaged in agriculture	75.8	44.5	-0.41	-0.690	-17.7
Urban households	49.6	20.2	-0.33	-0.778	-19.2
Dependency ratio	41.2	66.8	0.29	2.263	14
Percentage of poor households	24.2				
Pseudo R^2				0.466	

Table 2. Targeting indicator for different proportions of beneficiaries

Cut off point for probability	Proportion of beneficiaries among poor	Proportion of beneficiaries among non-poor	Targeting Index	Mismatch Index	Targeting Efficiency	
0.8931	5	19.20	0.46	0.37	0.59	0.91
0.788	10	36.35	1.58	0.50	0.41	0.84
0.6682	15	51.01	3.48	0.57	0.26	0.77
0.5376	20	63.30	6.15	0.61	0.12	0.69
0.4293	24.23	71.94	8.98	0.63	0.00	0.63
0.3139	30	81.00	13.69	0.63	0.14	0.73
0.2282	35	87.03	18.36	0.62	0.23	0.80
0.1641	40	91.23	23.61	0.59	0.31	0.85
0.1191	45	94.29	29.24	0.56	0.37	0.90
0.084	50	96.56	35.11	0.53	0.43	0.93
0.0571	55	98.10	41.22	0.49	0.49	0.96
0.0384	60	99.00	47.53	0.45	0.54	0.97
0.0254	65	99.51	53.97	0.41	0.59	0.99
0.0162	70	99.72	60.50	0.37	0.63	0.99
0.0102	75	99.86	67.05	0.32	0.67	0.99
0.0057	80	99.95	73.62	0.28	0.72	1.00
0.003	85	99.98	80.21	0.24	0.76	1.00
0.0013	90	100.00	86.81	0.19	0.81	1.00
0.0003	95	100.00	93.40	0.13	0.87	1.00

Source/s: Author's calculations based on the Philippines' Household Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) 2006.

Figure 1. Targeting and mismatch indices



0.37 and the mismatch index stands at 0.59.

Our objective is to maximize the targeting indicator. Figure 1 is an inverted U-shaped curve that shows the targeting indicator for different values of beneficiaries. The targeting indicator achieves the maximum value of 0.63 when the percentage of beneficiaries is equal to the percentage of poor households in the population. At this point, the mismatch index is equal to 0 and obviously, targeting efficiency will then be equal to the targeting index, which is 0.63. This is the maximum degree of targeting we can achieve with the proxy variables selected in the design of this program. The percentage of beneficiaries for this program is 24.23, which is exactly equal to the percentage of target households. The percentage of beneficiaries among the poor is almost 72 percent, which means that 28 percent of the poor are left out of the program. Meanwhile, the percentage of beneficiaries among the non-poor households is about 9 percent.

Implementation

It should be noted that well-known social assistance programs in other countries, such as the Bolsa Escola in Brazil, Di Bao in China and Progresa in Mexico have very complex procedures for targeting the poor. Each program has two or three stages for beneficiary selection. Their administrative costs of selecting beneficiaries can be very high because of their complex eligibility criteria. The proxy means test developed here is relatively very simple and at the same time has better targeting efficiency. We have used about 20 odd proxy variables, which are well defined, and information required on them can easily be collected. One can then design a two-page form that seeks information from households that want to be included in the program. On the basis of information provided in the form, the decision rule developed here will indicate whether the household should be included in the program or not. Beneficiary households may be required to fill this form every year so that the decision can be made as to whether the household should continue or cease to be in the program. So that this approach will not introduce potential exclusion error by failing to assess those who do not apply for assistance, the program should be widely advertised within communities as well as nationwide. The aim here is to get households that are in real need of

assistance to be aware of as well as avail of the programs.

The proxy means test developed here targeted the poorest 24.23 percent households because these are the households that are regarded as officially poor in the Philippines. To avoid a mismatch, the percentage of beneficiary households should also be 24.23 percent, and this entails large resources that many governments in developing countries may not be able to afford. The proxy means test developed could provide flexibility to the government with respect to the percentage of households that should be targeted. For instance, government resources might only allow targeting the bottom 10 percent of the poorest households. If so, the decision rule could then be designed to identify only the poorest 10 percent of the households. This methodology will allow such flexibility.

Once the beneficiaries have been selected, then the levels of payments should be determined so that we achieve a maximum reduction in poverty within a given budget. This can be achieved if payments are linked to meeting the minimum basic needs of households, which are determined by the poverty line. The rules governing the payments can be devised using the national household survey.

Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS)

The CBMS is a community-based poverty monitoring system that began in the Philippines under the leadership of Dr. Celia Reyes of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies in the early 1990s and is now implemented in 14 countries in Asia and Africa. It is increasingly becoming an important tool to fighting poverty with facts. It is an organized way of collecting ongoing or recurring information by communities. Its core indicators are designed to capture multiple dimensions of poverty. The information collected is used by local governments, national governments, nongovernmental organizations and civil society for planning, budgeting, implementing local development programs as well as monitoring and evaluating their performance.

Dr. Nanak Kakwani

Using the proxy variables, one can design a short questionnaire, which accurately provides the values of proxy variables from households. Communities may conduct this survey on a regular basis and identify poor households using the decision rule as designed here. This procedure, which is carried out by communities, will provide poverty maps that are comparable across the country. Communities can, however, do some fine-tuning if there are obvious odd cases. The bottomline is that one can have a community-based monitoring as well as targeting system that has greater consistency across the country.

Some Concluding Remarks

This paper has developed a new targeting indicator, which is a function of four factors:

- The percentage of poor targeted by the program.
- The percentage of beneficiaries in the program.
- Type I error: percentage of poor not included in the program.
- Type II error: percentage of non-poor included in the program.

The main objective of targeted programs is to reduce poverty. Most national programs target households that have been identified as poor on the basis of certain poverty line. So that no poor is left out of the program, the percentage of beneficiary households must be at least equal to the percentage of poor households. However, the inclusion of every beneficiary in the program involves cost to the government. Generally, the poorer a country, the greater the cost of the program. Because many governments cannot afford these costs, most social programs cover only a very small proportion of beneficiaries relative to the target population. This creates a mismatch, which reduces the targeting efficiency of programs. In this paper, we developed a mismatch index that shows the extent a mismatch reduces the targeting efficiency.

The two types of errors do not move in the same direction: Attempts to reduce Type II error lead to increased Type I errors and vice-versa. There is always a tradeoff between the two errors. The targeting indicator derived here addresses the issue of this tradeoff by combining the two types of errors in a composite index. The indicator is derived using the Cramer's phi statistics, which measures the association between poverty status of households or individuals and selection of beneficiary households or individuals. Here, the higher the value of this indicator, the better the targeting power. This indicator has been shown to be closely

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Haiti explores possibility of pilot-testing CBMS

Left: Dr. Frederick Burone, Director of the Latin American and Carribean Regional Office of IDRC

Right: Hernando Clavijo, Representative of the UNFPA in Haiti

Source: IDRC and La Tribuna websites

A workshop titled "Perspectives on Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Haiti" was held in Port-au-Prince on July 14, 2011 to share knowledge and practical experiences on community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) and to discuss the feasibility of developing a pilot project in Haiti.

The workshop was organized by the National Observatory on Poverty and Social Exclusion (ONPES), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Dr. Federico Burone, Director of the Latin American and Carribean Regional Office of IDRC, and Hernando Clavijo, Representative of UNFPA in Haiti spearheaded this initiative.

Gabriel Bidegain, UNFPA Consultant, gave a presentation on the poverty trends in Haiti during the workshop. Meanwhile, Celia Reyes, the CBMS Network Leader and CBMS Philippines Project Director, presented the CBMS methodology, the uses of CBMS data, and how it is being implemented in the Philippines. Momar Sylla, Adviser to the Director of the Department of Forecast and Statistics (DPS) and the CBMS Senegal Project Director, discussed how CBMS has been implemented in Senegal and how it has helped the Mayor of Tivouane identify the needs of his constituents.

Haiti was devastated by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010. Three million people were estimated to have been affected by the earthquake of which more than 200,000 people had died. This was made worse by the cholera outbreak in October.

A New Approach to Evaluating...from page 6

linked with poverty reduction. Our empirical illustration based on the Philippine data shows that the proposed targeting can be useful to designing a well-targeted program.

In many African countries, 50 to 60 percent of the population live in poverty, and the governments cannot afford to target all the poor. The proxy means test developed here could provide flexibility to the governments with respect to the percentage of households that should be targeted. For instance, government resources might only allow targeting the bottom 10 percent of the poorest households. If so, the decision rule could then be designed to identify only the poorest 10 percent of the households.

Using the proxy variables, one can design a short questionnaire aimed to accurately determine the values of proxy variables from households. Communities may conduct this survey on a regular basis and identify poor households using the decision rule as designed here. This procedure, while carried out by communities, will provide poverty maps that are consistent across the country.

CBMS-Benin seeks expansion of coverage areas with the help of ANCB

Photo shows Dr. Marie-Odile Attanasso CBMS-Benin Team Leader (facing the camera), with members Ms. Idohou Florentine, Mr. Claude Dawson and Mr. Ambroise Agbota with experts from the ANCB - Mr. Lihoussou Segla and Mr. Sossou Arnos

Source: CBMS-Benin

The CBMS Team in Benin headed by Dr. Marie Odile Attanasso held a meeting with officials of the National Association of Municipalities in Benin (ANCB) on April 1, 2011 to explore opportunities for further scaling up of the implementation of CBMS in the country.

Among.the possible activities that were discussed in detail on how the scaling up can be done include the organization of a national advocacy workshop on the CBMS, mobilization of funding for this purpose from development partner agencies, and a study visit to a country that has successfully adopted the CBMS methodology.

During the meeting, Dr. Attanasso noted that the CBMS was pilot tested in the 13th District of Cotonou in 2005 and that their CBMS work was later expanded to include the District of Adogbé in the commune of Cové and Mèdédjonou in the municipality of Adjarra. She said that as a result, local policymakers in these areas were able to define their own strategies to alleviate poverty through their communal development plans and to mobilize resources to support these plans.

Dr. Attanaso also reassured the ANCB officials that the collected information are based on the same method of data collection employed by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE). She further pointed out that the collected information at the household- and community-levels using the CBMS approach complement those generated from INSAE surveys which provide estimates at higher geopolitical levels.

Methodology workshop...from page 11

The project aims to develop and pilot test the methodology and indicators for mapping climate change vulnerability at the local level using CBMS data. Some of the expected outputs of the project include a policy paper and policy brief containing data analysis, vulnerability maps assessment, and recommendations. The results of the vulnerability mapping of the three participating countries will also be presented during the 9th PEP Network Meeting to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia in December 2011.

Established in May 1993, the EEPSEA supports training and research in environmental and resource economics. Its goal is to strengthen local capacity for the economic analysis of environmental problems so that researchers can provide sound advice to policymakers. The program uses a networking approach to provide not only financial support but also meetings, resource persons, access to literature, publication outlets, and opportunities for comparative research across its nine member countries. These are Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, China and Papua New Guinea.

CBMS presented in regional policy dialogue

Dr. Celia Reyes, PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, and Mr. Try Sothearith of the CBMS Team in Cambodia were two of the featured speakers during the session on "Measuring and Monitoring Poverty and Inequality: The ASEAN Experience" during the Policy Dialogue on Inequality and the Obstacles to Human Development in the Southeast Asian Region held on July 28, 2011 at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore.

Dr. Reyes presented the CBMS methodology as an excellent tool in measuring and monitoring the different dimensions of poverty. The CBMS allows the monitoring of simultaneous deprivations which is not possible in many national surveys being undertaken in many countries. Meanwhile, Mr. Sothearith presented the CBMS experience in Cambodia and highlighted the strong correspondence between CBMS and MDG indicators, thereby facilitating the monitoring of the MDGs at the local level.

Ambassador Kesavapany, Director of the ISEAS, Dr. Rosalia Sciortino, Director of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Regional Office in Southeast and East Asia, and Mr. Kamal Malhotra, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam set the tone for the policy dialogue that aimed to promote human development approaches to inform policy development in the South East Asia region.

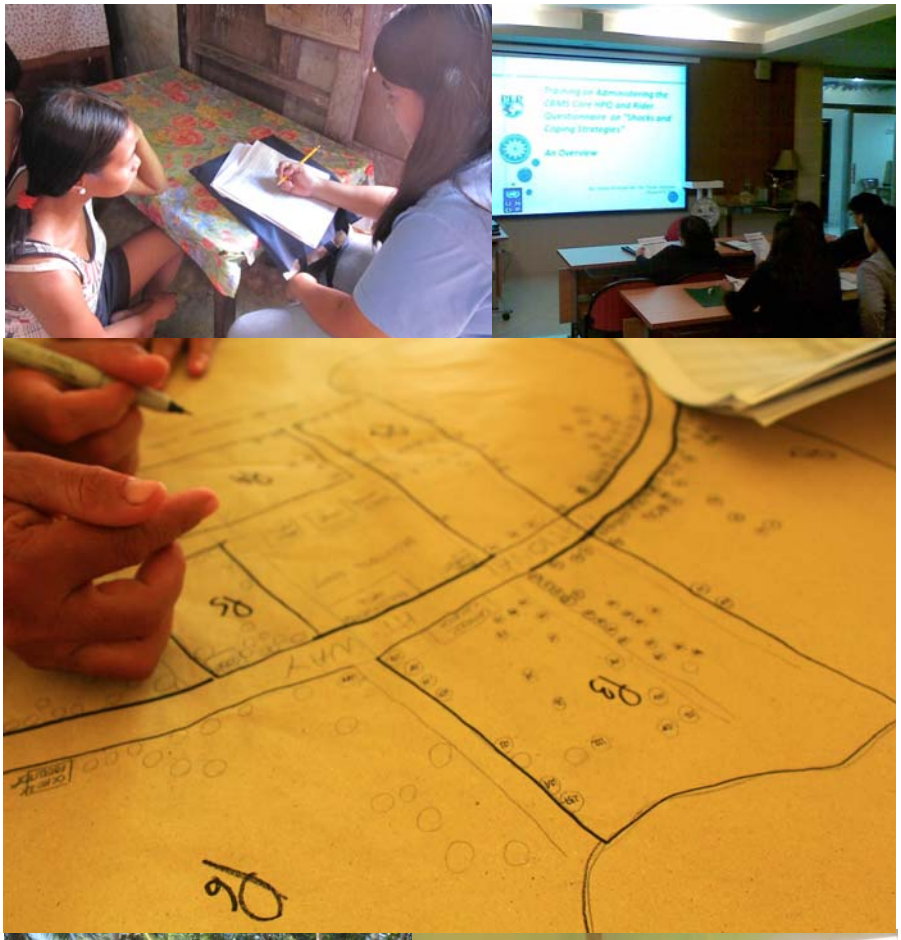
The policy dialogue aimed to provide a strategic opportunity and a common platform for policymakers to discuss the three new inequality measures introduced in the UNDP Human Development Report (HDR) 2010 as well as share lessons learned and experiences on regional human development over the last 40 years. It featured four sessions which tackled development trends and progress in human development, measuring and monitoring poverty and inequality, measuring and addressing inequality, and measuring human development and multi-dimensional poverty.

The dialogue was organized by the IDRC, ISEAS and the UNDP.

Above: The participants of the Policy Dialogue held on July 28, 2011 at the ISEAS in Singapore

Below: Dr. Celia Reyes presents the CBMS methodology to various stakeholders from different countries in Southeast Asia.

Data collection on household coping strategies begins in the Philippines



Above (from left to right): An enumerator surveys a household head in Poblacion III, Sto. Tomas, Batangas; the survey instrument on Coping Strategies is discussed to the enumerators in Batangas; Middle: Enumerators prepare the spotmap before data collection in Brgy. San Miguel, Llorente, Eastern Samar; Below (from left to right): A nipa hut in Barangay El Rio, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur; data collection training for enumerators in Agusan del Sur

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) initiative on "Monitoring Household Coping Strategies during Complex Crises" began data collection in four sites in the Philippines last July 2011. Data collection in Barangay 192 in Pasay City kicked off on July 25, followed by Barangay San Miguel in Llorente, Eastern Samar and Barangay El Rio in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur on August 1, and Poblacion III in Sto. Tomas, Batangas on August 8.

The main objective of this initiative is to help fill a critical information gap on the coping behavior of households during complex crises. In particular, it aims to identify the frequency (magnitude) and depth of shocks, study the differences in coping strategies among boys and girls, women and men, examine the sequence of coping strategies adopted by households, and investigate how households with or without access to government programs cope with crises and what other support systems could be provided during crises.

A rapid monitoring module such as what the CBMS can provide is thus needed to provide enough evidence/basis for policymakers to act upon. For instance, policymakers would need information for them to be able to identify what types of social protection policies need to be put in place during such times and for how long.

Earlier, a technical workshop on the framework and design of the monitoring system was conducted. The workshop, which was held on March 22-23, 2011, was attended by Shivani Nayyar and Ms. Corazon Urquico of UNDP, Dr. Ronald Mendoza of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Dr. Celia Reyes of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP)-CBMS Network and Dr. Mary Ayumunzu-Nyamongo of CBMS-Kenya, among others.

Methodology workshop on climate change vulnerability mapping held

Above (from left to right): Dr. Arief Yusuf, CEDS Director; Mr. Megananda Suryana of CEDS; Dr. Herminia Francisco, EEPSEA Director; Dr. Vu Tuan Anh, CBMS-Viet Nam Team Leader; and Mr. Akhmadi, CBMS-Indonesia Team Leader

Below: Participants listen as Dr. Arief Yusuf begins the hands-on training exercise for vulnerability mapping.

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network, in collaboration with the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), held a methodology workshop on climate change vulnerability mapping at the local level on August 22-24, 2011 at the College of St. Benilde Hotel, Manila, Philippines.

The CBMS research teams from Indonesia led by Mr. Akhmadi, the Philippines, and Viet Nam led by Dr. Vu Tuan Anh as well as representatives from the local government units of Olongapo, Zambales and Carmona, Cavite participated in the workshop. Mr. Sevillo David of the Philippine Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Ms. Perla delos Reyes of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), and Mr. Nestor Nimes of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) also participated in the methodology workshop.

Held in line with the "Support for Local Governments for Environmental Management in Southeast Asia Project" funded by the EEPSEA, the workshop focused on the development of the framework, methodology and indicators for climate change vulnerability mapping at the village level. Dr. Herminia Francisco, EEPSEA Director, Dr. Arief Yusuf and Mr. Megananda Suryana from the Center for Economics and Development Studies (CEDS) of the University of Pajadjaran, Indonesia served as resource persons during the workshop.

➡ continuation on page 8

9th PEP General Meeting to be held in Cambodia

Participants of the 8th PEP General Meeting which was held on June 12-18, 2010 in Dakar, Senegal

At least 150 delegates composed of researchers, national and local policymakers, program implementers, and representatives of development partner agencies are set to converge at the Angkor Era Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia on December 5-9, 2011 for the 9th General Meeting of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network.

This year's conference will feature recent developments and findings on global initiatives on social protection, child poverty, inclusive growth and sustainable development, household coping strategies during periods of crises, vulnerability mapping and risks assessment, and achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs).

The conference is being organized by the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Asia-Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Office of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU-M) in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics-Ministry of Planning, Cambodia and with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

For more information about the conference, please visit: www.pep-net.org.

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

For inquiries , please write or call:
PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Office
Angelo King Institute for
Economic and Business Studies
De La Salle University - Manila
10th Flr. Angelo King International Center
Estrada cor. Arellano Sts., Malate,
Manila 1004, Philippines
Tel No: (632) 523-8888 loc. 274
DL/Telefax No: (632) 526-2067
E-mail: cbms@dls-csb.edu.ph
cbms.network@gmail.com

Editorial Staff

Celia M. Reyes
Editor-in-Chief

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Alellie B. Sobreviñas
Researchers/Writers

CBMS NETWORK UPDATES
PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team
Angelo King International Center for Economic & Business Studies
De La Salle University - Manila
10th Flr. Angelo King International Center
Estrada cor. Arellano Sts., Malate, Manila 1004, Philippines

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