

pep annual report 2011-2012

a review of pep **activities**, **progress** and **outputs**

2011-2012 pep annual report

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partnership for
economic
policy

pep



word from the pep executive director

Think globally, act locally

As recent global crises have shown, economies around the world are interconnected in their challenges... but also in their solutions. As underlined by Rohinton Medhora (former vice-president of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and now president of Centre for International Governance Innovation, CIGI) in opening PEP's 2011 general meeting in Cambodia, "what matters is the ability to detect good ideas wherever they might reside and truly adapt, rather than transplant, them to wherever the problems are." Indeed, "think globally, act locally" could be the motto of PEP. Local researchers' in-depth knowledge of context, combined with the tools and expertise of a global network, constitute PEP's recipe to contribute new and effective insights the national and international policy challenges.

Our most recent internal monitoring and evaluation report underscores the contributions PEP researchers – nearly half (47%) female – have been making: 86% of projects conducted in direct consultation with national policy makers and other stakeholders, 44% subsequently hired/contracted by government or international organizations as a policy consultant, 42% leading to external peer-reviewed publications, two-thirds presented in international conferences, and the list goes on.

This year was marked by the launch of a new four-year research program of Policy Analysis for Growth and Employment (PAGE) with \$11 million in funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom (or UK Aid) and Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC). 75 policy studies, including a minimum of 40% in low-income and fragile/conflict countries, will receive scientific and financial support through three rounds of open and global competitions. With access to leading experts from around the world, these teams will adapt to their local contexts a research agenda defined by an international policy group composed of representatives of national governments (India, Kenya and the Philippines) and international organizations (Inter-American Development Bank and African Development Bank).

PEP's growing reputation as the go-to institution for locally-led analysis of emerging policy issues is also illustrated by the signature of a major collaboration agreement with UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa office. Through this collaboration PEP researchers will provide training, policy analysis and networking services to help UNICEF seize the opportunities of the Arab Spring to improve the well-being of children in the region.

By enabling and promoting the voice of researchers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere, PEP is not only making major contributions to national and international policy debates, but changing the very way these debates are defined and conducted.

We hope you enjoy reading this annual report and look forward to your continuing support and participation!

John Cockburn
PEP Executive Director

about pep

“Providing a stronger voice to Southern-based experts to favour new and more relevant perspective on major development challenges worldwide”

The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) is a global network of institutions, researchers and experts in economic policy analysis, devoted to ensuring greater participation of local expertise in the analysis of policy issues related to poverty, and economic and social development in developing countries.

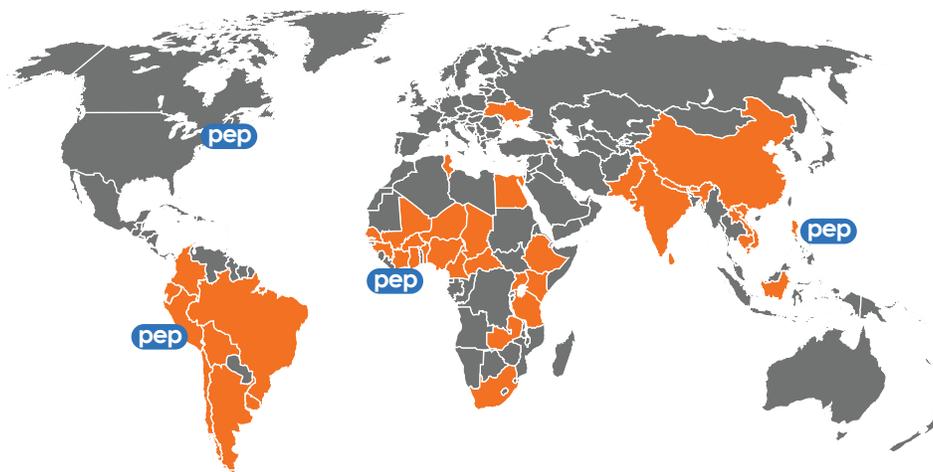
Since 2002, PEP support has contributed to building the scientific expertise of more than 500 researchers based in nearly 50 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The expansion of its activities has resulted both in and from the involvement and collaboration of four partner institutions, based in different regions of the world:

- **Asia**, Manila, Philippines : Angelo King Institute (AKI) of De La Salle University
- **Africa**, Dakar, Senegal : Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale (CRES)
- **Latin America**, Lima, Peru : Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE)
- **North America**, Quebec, Canada : CIRPÉE of Université Laval

Launched with initial funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP has now evolved into a multi-donor funded organization, with a lot of collaborators. Its main partners now include:

- **Australian Agency for International Development** - AusAID
- **Canadian International Development Agency** - CIDA
- **Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom** – UK Aid
- **Inter-American Development Bank** - IADB
- **International Development Research Centre** - IDRC
- **International Food Policy Research Institute** - IFPRI
- **International Labor Organization** - ILO
- **United Nations Development Program** - UNDP
- **United Nations Children Fund** - UNICEF
- **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women** - UN Women



introduction

These multiple collaborations have also contributed to the development of several niches of expertise for PEP research, now covering a variety of thematic foci (children, gender, education, labor, crisis, growth, etc.) as described in section II of this report.

The reputation of PEP research is one of **scientific rigor and quality**, with outputs that measure up to the highest international standards, applying cutting-edge methodologies, as well as the most updated analytical concepts, tools and techniques. The “**PEP toolbox**” for policy analysis is described on page 7 of this report.

Beyond their **geographic and thematic coverage**, the scope of PEP activities has also extended, over the years, in terms of different areas of intervention. PEP support goes beyond the **development and strengthening of local expertise** in developing countries, to ensure the **mobilization** of such expertise, as well as its **influence on policy**, both at the national and international levels. The different areas of PEP activities are described in the following pages (4-11).

The pep think tank

With ten years of experience and such an extensive scope of activities and expertise, PEP is now acknowledged worldwide as a “one of a kind” organization, whose work contributes to enhancing the voice of local expertise in the analysis and debate on key economic policy issues facing developing countries.

The increasing demand from international institutions for PEP to lead initiatives involving local expertise also testifies to the global need for a reputed supra-national research institution to provide the necessary infrastructure for Southern experts to participate in (and bid for) major international research initiatives, to establish their national and international reputations and to level the playing field with their Northern counterparts.

In 2013, in addition to pursuing its core support and research activities through a new multi-country initiative for “**Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment**” (PAGE, funded by DFID and IDRC, as described in Section II, page 19), PEP is moving forward to assume its naturally evolved role as a “capacity mobilizer”, through the incorporation of the **PEP global think tank**. PEP will thus be established as a permanent resource for national governments, regional, multilateral and/or international organizations and development partners to tap into when looking for high-quality scientific evidence produced from a locally-based and expert perspective.

As a global think tank in which developing country researchers play a pre-eminent role, PEP has become a major tool to mobilize existing capacity and provide a stronger voice to Southern experts, whose in-depth knowledge of local contexts favour new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.



Capacity building

Building local research capacities in developing countries

With the continued support of world-renowned experts in development economics, PEP has become a unique source of expertise in building local capacities for economic and policy analysis in developing countries.

Indeed, PEP relies on a unique and efficient mechanism of manifold support, that it has developed over the years, to help Southern-based researchers overcome the usual impediments to the conduct of state-of-the-art research within their home countries, despite an often severe lack of resources.

pep “Grant Plus” mechanism

The core activity of PEP is its open and competitive call for proposals, which has funded most PEP-supported projects to date – 147 of 172 projects, selected out of more than 2300 submitted proposals.

The most recent call for proposals was launched in September 2012, in the context of the new PAGE initiative (see page 19), in response to which a total of 161 research proposals were submitted, from 52 developing countries – 22 of which are low-income countries (LICs), fragile and/or conflict states (LFCs). The selection process of this call is still ongoing and it is expected that up to 28 of these projects will be granted PEP support in 2013.

During the year 2011-2012, PEP provided support for a dozen research teams to conclude their PEP projects, selected in previous funding rounds, as well as to publish and disseminate the ensuing policy findings and recommendations.

pep support provides researchers with:

... resources

In addition to funding, PEP provides a variety of resources to ensure that researchers carry out their analysis in the best possible research environment: recommended readings, updated training material, software tools, online journals and international databases, etc.

... mentoring

Following approval and provision of a PEP research grant, one PEP-affiliated resource person is assigned as a “mentor” to the research team, in order to provide ongoing and direct assistance throughout project execution. Mentored “learning by doing” is key to PEP’s capacity building strategy.

... training

PEP-supported researchers receive in-depth training in methodologies, concepts and techniques relevant to their particular project. Training may be provided in the context of PEP general meetings or directly through interaction with PEP resource persons. PEP also provides training material for self-teaching, which is made available for public access on the PEP website.

... study visits

PEP-funded researchers may apply for additional funding to finance a 3-to-4-week international study visit with resource persons at the institution of their choice. These visits provide longer periods of direct communication and assistance to solve particularly complex issues, as well as first-rate access to computer and documentary facilities.

Research and policy analysis

Helping local analysts meet the highest international standards

The evidence produced in the context of PEP-supported analyses is guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality.

In order to select the most promising research projects to be granted PEP support, all submitted proposals undergo careful review and evaluation by PEP scientific expert committees to assess each project's feasibility, contributions and relevance, both in terms of scientific and policy concerns.

Once selected, the progress of each project is carefully monitored through ongoing interaction with PEP resource persons and periodic progress reports. Interim and final research reports are requested and each receives detailed comments and suggestions – often resulting in several revisions.

Finally, PEP research projects always contribute specific recommendations on which decision-makers can rely to design and implement appropriate policies to combat poverty and/or maximize pro-poor benefits of their interventions. See Section III to find out how PEP research has contributed to inform and influence policymaking in developing countries.

Section II of this report describes the main outcomes from some of the research projects supported and concluded during 2011-2012. These projects' policy findings concern a variety of development issues and themes, from education to fiscal policies.

pep resource persons

PEP resource persons are international experts who specialize in the various themes and approaches fostered in PEP research (see page 7). By devoting their time to training and mentoring PEP-supported researchers, these experts contribute to strengthening research capacities in developing countries, and thus building local expertise in the analysis of important development policy issues.

Their contributions, however, go beyond knowledge transfer. Indeed, their work and experience in the specific context of developing countries have yielded important methodological developments for the field, as described on page 7. These innovative tools and techniques are now used and highly valued by development analysts and practitioners worldwide.

“PEP keeps high standards and pushes us beyond what we thought we were capable of achieving.”

Nisha Arunatilake, Sri Lanka

“Before I joined the PEP network, if you “googled” my name probably you could get zero results. Today, the story is different; the PEP network has made me just what I am in the poverty research world. I am proud of that.”

Milu Muyanga, Kenya

“PEP has provided us with a series of analytical tools that are quite difficult to obtain for research teams working in developing countries, including international bibliographic databases and program licenses”

Maria Ines Terra, Uruguay

“The overall research support provided through the PEP network, including through our study visit to the University of Oxford, provided invaluable support in assimilating the methodology, the use of software and data collection tools, analytical techniques, etc. The willingness of busy academics such as PEP resource persons to devote time to provide support and answers to each of our queries was immensely useful; it enabled our team to overcome obstacles and make continuous progress in the completion of our project.”

John E. Ataguba, Nigeria

pep toolbox

Among the several peerless features of PEP is the breadth of analytical perspectives, tools and techniques in which PEP resource persons specialize, and that supported researchers can choose to apply and be trained in via PEP support. Here are the four main categories of methodologies applied in the context of PEP research :

Macro-micro policy simulations

Combining computable general equilibrium (CGE) models and sophisticated household survey-based microsimulation techniques, to link the impact of macro shocks/policies to poverty and other dimensions of household welfare.

Over the past few years, PEP's renowned international modelling experts have devoted time and energy to offer the international modelling community a series of new reference CGE models that allow more country-specific and extensive applications, including dynamics, global modelling and international financial assets.

These models now stand out among the most widely acknowledged of PEP contributions to the advancement of research in development economics. All PEP CGE models are made available for public access on the PEP website.

Community-based monitoring systems (CBMS)

Developing and implementing local poverty monitoring systems to track a variety of welfare indicators at the household level, collecting data that will provide detailed measurement of poverty in a multidimensional sense.

Often implemented in collaboration with local government units, community-based monitoring systems, help to address existing data gaps in national statistical databases for assessing the extent of multidimensional poverty and identifying the poor.

The resulting "poverty maps" or profiles help in guiding use of local budgets and targeting beneficiaries of pro-poor intervention programs, while empowering local communities to participate in the process. The censuses are also used to monitor the poverty impacts of such programs, or that of economic shocks and crises, at the household level.

Micro measurement and analysis

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

In this case as well, PEP research has yielded major contributions to the field with the development of two world-renowned software tools, Distributive Analysis/ Analyse Distributive (DAD) and Distributive Analysis for Stata Package (DASP). Development researchers, analysts and practitioners worldwide have been using these tools to provide a fuller characterization of the nature, distribution, causes and consequences of poverty, building profiles used to inform debates and assist in policymaking - whether to make decisions in terms of public spending or to address a wide range of specific welfare issues - inequality, gender, health, labor, child poverty, infrastructure, etc..

Impact evaluations

Providing rigorous assessments of the impacts - both expected benefits and unintended effects - of programs and policies, using experimental and non-experimental approaches.

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs), for instance, enable researchers to directly construct a valid "counter-factual" of what program participants would have experienced had they not participated. This counterfactual is then compared to outcomes actually experienced by participants in the program or policy in question.

These assessments provide sound empirical evidence to inform program managers, donors, policy-makers and civil society on program effectiveness, budget use and ways to improve the design of future programs. Such evidence may also be used to generate political support for continuation or expansion of programs or policies, both within and beyond national boundaries.

Bridging research to policy

Promoting local expertise and evidence-based policymaking

PEP devotes extensive resources to assist its researchers in creating strong policy linkages and implementing effective influence strategies.

Listening to research users and communicating findings in order to inform and influence policy are some of the greatest challenges in development research.

When undertaking initiatives to contribute to poverty reduction in their home countries, PEP researchers can now rely on PEP support every step of the way; from the development of their research proposal, to the communication of their findings and policy recommendations to national stakeholders.

Activities

The areas of activities in which researchers can benefit from PEP's experience and support include:



- **Defining policy issues**
- **Identifying and consulting with relevant policy audiences**
- **Building networks**
- **Organizing national policy conferences**
- **Presenting in international conferences**
- **Interacting with mass media**
- **Preparing policy briefs and publishing in refereed journals**

PEP does not only strongly encourage these initiatives, but also provides researchers with continual guidance and supervision, as well both technical and financial support. See Section IV (pages 34-41) to find out more about those initiatives undertaken and supported in 2011-2012.

In addition to ensuring wider and more effective dissemination of their research findings to inform policy, the same activities contribute to increasing the researchers' exposure, and thus building their reputation as experts in the field, both with national decision-makers and the international research and donor communities. Section III (pages 25-33) of this report presents a series of brief accounts of how some PEP researchers' findings and recommendations have contributed to inform and influence policy in developing countries.

"The most fruitful of our dissemination activities was certainly the national conference we organized to present our findings to an audience of national and local government leaders. The event was the occasion to inform the concerned public servants, especially the local government executives, of the potential impact of trade liberalization measures on poverty, and how promotion of trade agreements could help alleviate poverty."

Angelo Taningco, Philippines

"The PEP network has afforded me and other members of the team invaluable exposure and experience that is of immense contribution for our academic and research development in the future. The impact of our PEP exposure extends way beyond the completion of our PEP project."

John E. Ataguba, Nigeria

“The PEP network was of great value for my team, specially the younger members who had the opportunity to benefit from their participation in conferences, both as presenters and discussants, as well as from training in top universities. Such opportunity would not be possible if it was not for PEP support.

In addition, PEP's focus on having a policy impact has put pressure on the team to be in constant contact with policy makers which I think was extremely useful in making our research count.”

Fabio Veras Soares, Brazil

pep schools

As an organization that focuses mainly on strengthening research capacities in the South, PEP has naturally developed a unique expertise in providing training workshops that can be adapted to a variety of needs and contexts.

The “PEP Schools” are a series of programs that provide intensive, advanced and flexible training in the understanding and promotion of social and economic development.

PEP School participants learn how to apply the most recent concepts, techniques and tools in development economics to help design effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies in their respective countries.

Courses are conducted by PEP-affiliated world leading experts in each of the methodologies fostered in PEP research – see the PEP toolbox on page 7 – and usually tailored for country-specific applications, in order to maximize engagement and benefits for local recipients.

PEP School are provided in all regions of the world, often at the request of and in collaboration with local host institutions, or in the context of specific PEP initiatives.



2011-2012 pep schools

Manila, Philippines - **CBMS Module III: Training of Trainers**

February 14-17, 2012 - In collaboration with the Angelo King International Center

Colombo, Sri Lanka - **Poverty Measurement and Analysis**

February 20-24, 2012 - In collaboration with the Center for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)

Entebbe, Uganda - **GAMS-based Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling**

May 14-25, 2012 - AGRODEP-PEP School (see page 21), in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Quebec, Canada - **PEP-Laval Intensive Graduate School in Development Economics**

June 10-23, 2012 - In collaboration with Université Laval

Ibadan, Nigeria – **Modelling the Impact of Macroeconomic Policies and Shocks**

July 9-20, 2012 - In collaboration with the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL)

Pretoria, South Africa - **Advanced Training in CGE Modeling and GAMS**

November 5-9, 2012 - In collaboration with the Human Science Research Council (HSRC)

December 3-5, 2012 - AGRODEP-PEP School, in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Highlights

from the pep 2012 internal “monitoring and evaluation” report

Following the implementation of the new PEP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy in 2010, all research teams benefiting from PEP support from 2010 to 2012 have been surveyed periodically, using a list of performance indicators established by PEP to assess the progress and impact of PEP activities in achieving their overall objectives – i.e. in terms of capacity building, promotion of local expertise and policy/welfare impact.

Although the 2012 survey included a limited sample of 52 projects (198 researchers), its results provide strong evidence of the achievement of PEP objectives. Some, in particular, clearly demonstrate the effective impact of PEP initiatives in terms of...

building and promoting local research capacities in developing countries



Of the 198 surveyed researchers:

- **47% are female**, and
- **33 years old** is the average age, at the time of project selection

Of the 52 surveyed projects,

- **88%** have resulted in researchers experiencing important **career-promoting events**, and **54%** in the **hiring or promoting** of researchers to a more important position
- **42%** have been **published in leading academic journals** and other (external) scientific publications
- **67%** have been **presented in international conferences**, and **58%** in **national policy conferences**

policy linkages, engagement and influence

- **86%** were conducted in **direct consultation with national policy and other stakeholders**,
- **44%** have resulted in at least one member being **contracted or hired as a policy consultant** by national government agencies and/or international organizations
- **35%** have (already) resulted in findings and recommendations **taken up to assist in policy formulation or program design**, despite the fact that most surveyed projects were very recently concluded.

research

PEP is a global organization that specializes in the analysis of policy issues related to poverty, economic and social development in developing countries, with the unique trait of systematically providing a locally-based analytical perspective.

Moreover, the geographic scope of PEP activities, combined with a “networking” type of organizational structure, provide a unique opportunity for local-based, and usually isolated, Southern researchers to share and learn from experience with international peers in the North and South.

These exchanges also allow for the comparison of research results, conclusions and/or methodological applications among countries and regions, as well as for increased South-South knowledge transfers through greater interaction between individuals and institutions.

To date, PEP has supported a total of 507 researchers and 172 research projects in 49 different countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The supported analyses have explored a variety of development issues, out of which a certain number of thematic foci have arisen:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Globalization and Trade | Children |
| Poverty and Inequality | Gender |
| Education and Training | Labor Markets |
| Program Targeting | Health |
| Impact of Government Programs | Impact of Crises |
| Localizing and Meeting the MDGs | Inclusive Growth |
| Improving Local Governance | Fiscal Policy |
| Social Protection | Environment |



In 2011-2012, PEP published a series of reports based on findings from research projects it supported under various themes. This section provides short summaries of some of these projects' outcomes, grouped under four main types of analysis and methodological approaches.

pep 2011-2012 policy findings : assessing the impact of government programs on a variety of development outcomes: education, labor, poverty, health, etc.

Brazil - Impact assessment of an non-contributory pension program in Brazil: *Benefício de Prestação Continuada*

A team of Brazilian researchers were granted PEP support to lead a project that aimed to assess the effect of a national pension program on the elders' labor force participation – i.e. posing that the program's allocations may allow beneficiaries to retire from the labor market, which would not be possible otherwise. The researchers found not only, as expected, a lower participation rate of the beneficiary elders in the labor market, but also some spillover effects associated with the benefit, as co-residents would also be prone to leave the labor market. The effect is found to be heterogeneous, affecting both adults (especially over 30) and younger children (reducing child labor), and differentiated between rural and urban areas.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-12 ~ Policy brief 103**

Research team : **Ana Lucia Kassouf and Pedro Oliveira**

China - Assessing the impact of China's Priority Forest Programs (PFPs) on rural households' income mobility and income mobility

At the end of the 1990's, the Chinese government implemented a new environmental strategy including six "Priority Forest Programs" (PFPs) which combined objectives of environmental restoration and reducing rural poverty. Ten years later, a team of PEP-supported researchers set out to produce empirical evidence regarding the actual impact of these programs on rural households' income and income mobility. For this purpose, they collected and analyzed data from a random sample of 3375 households from 6 different provinces. The results show that the programs have mostly induced higher income mobility for affected rural households – which, in the long run, has also contributed to reduce inequality.

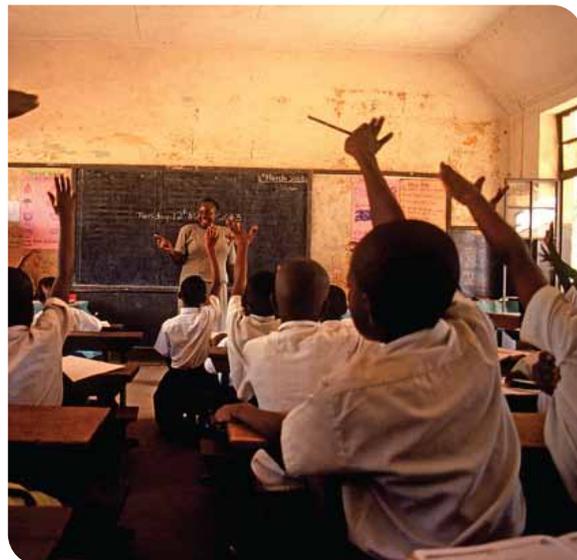


Research publications : **Working paper 2012-10 ~ Policy brief 109**

Research team : **Can Liu, Hao Liu, Wenqing Zhu and Qingjiao Rong**

Uganda - Management and motivation in Ugandan primary schools: assessing the impact of community-based interventions

Amongst various challenges facing the Ugandan government in order to achieve Universal Primary Education in the country, is the necessity to improve the quality of education services, which has been proven to suffer, in great part, from the “weakness of accountability mechanisms between school administrators, teachers and the communities”. In order to assist decision-makers in solving these issues, a team of PEP researchers set out to use randomized controlled trials (RCTs), on a sample of 120 rural public primary schools, to test and assess the effectiveness of two types of community-based monitoring interventions, in improving general educational outcomes. The results were conclusive and positive: interventions favouring community involvement are effective in improving the overall performance of primary schools.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-14 ~ Policy brief 98**

Research team : **Frederick Mugisha, Madina Guloba, Ibrahim Kasirye and Lawrence Bategeka**

pep 2011-2012 policy findings : Analyzing the sources, nature and consequences of poverty and inequality from a multidimensional approach

Brazil & Chile - Are there ethnic inequality traps in education? Empirical evidence for Brazil and Chile

This particular PEP-supported project aimed to examine suggestive evidence of an ethnic inequality trap in educational attainment in Brazil and Chile. The study's results indicate that while average education and upward mobility have risen in both countries, ethnic disparities remain significant. However, while the researchers have, in fact, found evidence of an educational inequality trap for Afro-Brazilians, their results are less conclusive in regards to the situation of indigenous individuals in Chile. Nonetheless, their findings clearly suggest the need for specific education policy/program interventions targeting ethnic groups, to address and prevent disparities throughout the educational distribution.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-05 ~ Policy brief 93**

Research team : **Guillermo Cruces, Adriana Conconi, Andres Ham and Marcelo Bérgholo**

Nigeria - Analyzing the impact of remittances on poverty in Nigeria

In this study, a team of Nigerian PEP researchers analyzes the impact of remittances on poverty in their home country, using data from the 2004 Nigerian National Living Standard Survey (NNLSS). The team finds that both internal and international remittances reduce the incidence, depth and severity of poverty. According to their results, the receipt of internal remittances reduces the poverty headcount among recipient household by 11.14% and poverty gap by 9.7% while the receipt of international remittances almost completely eliminates poverty. The researchers conclude that making it easier for households to send and receive remittances can directly reduce poverty among recipient households. Further poverty reduction could be achieved if more hassle-free processes resulted in more households receiving remittances.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-09 ~ Policy brief 111**

Research team : **Nnaemeka Chukwuone, C Ebele Amaechina, Benjamin Okpukpara, Evelyn Iyoko and Sunday Emeka Enebeli-Uzor**

Sri Lanka - Assessing the impact of 2011 tax reforms on tax revenues and income distribution

A team of PEP researchers in Sri Lanka conduct the first empirical assessment of the country's income tax systems in terms of efficiency and equity. Using data from the 2006/2007 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) they examine how specific tax reforms implemented in 2011 would affect both tax revenues and redistribution of income (as compared with the 2007 tax system). The 2011 reforms basically aimed to increase tax revenues by expanding the tax base - particularly by removing tax exemptions for public sector employees - while keeping the tax rates "competitive" (i.e. reducing tax rates, which also aimed to improve compliance of tax payers). The results show that, not only does the 2011 tax reform result in a decline in tax revenues for the government, but the new system is even less progressive than the previous one (2007).



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-13 ~ Policy brief 101**

Research team : **Nisha Arunatilake, Anushka Wijesinha, Priyanka Jayawardena and Nethmini Perera**

pep 2011-2012 policy findings : Simulating the distributive impacts of macro shocks and policies

China - Setting up a uniform social security system under huge labour migration

Migrant workers have made substantial contributions to China's urban economic development in recent years, but have not been provided with access to a corresponding social security system. In particular, the issue of the transfer and continuation of their pension insurance between jurisdictions has not been resolved, resulting in a low participation rate of migrant workers in the current pension insurance scheme. In 2009, two new policies were proposed to safeguard their social security. In this PEP study, a team of Chinese researchers use CGE modeling and simulation techniques to demonstrate that the said policies have had, at best, limited effects and to propose a set of complementary measures to be implemented in order to achieve their objectives.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-08 ~ Policy brief 105**

Research team : **Yaxiong Zhang, Jifeng Li and Kun Zhao**

Colombia - Poverty impacts of agricultural policy adjustments in an opening economy

In 2007, the government of Colombia implemented a policy package, based on direct support measures for the agricultural sector, known as "Agriculture Secure Income" (AIS, in Spanish), which aims both to protect farmers' income and enhance sectoral competitiveness. In 2010, a team of PEP researchers set out to assess the short run effects of AIS on agricultural production, resource use, wage levels and poverty. Their findings led them to conclude that the AIS policy has very limited potential to achieve the objectives and purposes for which it was implemented.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-06 ~ Policy brief 97**

Research team : **Ricardo Arguello, Daniel Valderrama Gonzalez and Sandra Acero Walteros**

Vietnam - Analyzing the effects of privatization on growth, labour and poverty

In 2009, a team of local researchers in Vietnam was granted PEP support to analyze the effect of privatization on economic growth and poverty reduction in the country. Using modeling and simulation techniques, and through the analysis of multi-sectoral activity, they were able to measure the impacts of ownership restructuring on future growth trends, job creation, labor markets, etc.. The findings and conclusions are manifold. First, they found evidence of a trade-off between further privatization and job-creation, which means that privatization does not contribute to job creation in the long term. They also find that the current "skill" situation of Vietnam's labour force will lead to the creation of a 'bottleneck' for the country's economic growth in the near future. Finally, they propose a specific pattern for the reform of state-owned enterprises to achieve better economic outcomes.



Research publications : **Working paper 2012-02 ~ Policy brief 100**

Research team : **Ngoc Q. Pham, Anh Thu Tran, Anh Tuan Dau, Dang Trung Le, Hong Lien Le and Mai Phuong Thi Nguyen**

pep 2011-2012 policy findings : Monitoring household welfare and poverty trends at the local level using Community-based Monitoring Systems (CBMS)

Argentina - CBMS-based poverty profiles of Urundel and Tandil

In 2011, the CBMS methodology was pilot-tested in two sites with distinct characteristics in Argentina – Urundel, a rural town in one of the country's poorest provinces, and a poor neighborhood located in Tandil, a middle-income urban area. The results provide comprehensive poverty profiles as well as strategic direction as to what poverty interventions should be undertaken and how different these could be across locations. For instance, programs and policies that should be implemented in Urundel should be those that can hasten development, entrepreneurship and productivity, whereas in Tandil, providing infrastructure gains more importance. Furthermore, the CBMS-based poverty maps generated from the pilot-test can be used by municipal authorities in these areas to determine whether their plans and programs are making any dent in poverty.

Research publications : **CMBS-Working paper 2012-02**

Research team : **Sebastian Auguste, Ezequiel García Lembergman, Maria del Carmen Romero, Natalia Paola Lopez**

**** All publications are listed in Section V**

New pep multi-country initiative

PAGE : policy analysis on growth and employment
to build and promote research capacities in
developing countries...

In 2012, PEP was granted funding by the **Department for International Development** (DFID) of the United Kingdom (or UK Aid) and the **International Development Research Centre** (IDRC) of Canada, to implement a new program entitled “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE).

In accordance with PEP's core mission, this initiative includes an important “**capacity building**” **component**, and thus the competitive selection of a number of teams of individual researchers, based in developing countries, to benefit from the unique and manifold “PEP support program” in the conduct of high quality research projects.

For this particular initiative, priority is given to researchers from and based **in low-income countries (LICs), fragile and/or conflict states**. At least 40% of projects supported by PEP through the PAGE program will be led by teams of researchers from these countries.

PAGE research teams are selected through a series of open and competitive **calls for proposals**, launched annually. Over 160 proposals - from 52 developing countries (22 LICs, fragile and conflict states) - were submitted in response to the first call for proposals, launched in September 2012.

...for the analysis of specific & country-relevant policy issues

Under the **broad theme of inclusive growth and employment**, a different list of priority issues are identified as especially relevant to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of evidence base, for each of the annual PAGE calls for proposals.

Below is the **list of priority issues** for projects selected through the first (2012) round:

- **Providing social protection to the informal sector**
- **Youth employment and entrepreneurship**
- **Employment intensity of non-agricultural growth**
- **China's growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries**
- **Entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender**
- **Discrimination in credit access for women at the SME level**

...from a variety of methodological approaches

This first (2012) round of the PAGE initiative will fund up to 28 projects, including:

- **5 projects using randomized controlled trials (RCTs)**
- **9 projects using community-based monitoring systems (CBMS)**
- **14 projects using techniques of microeconomic measurement/analysis, or macro-micro policy simulations**

And at least 10 of these projects will be in LICs, fragile and/or conflict states. Refer to the PEP toolbox in Section I (page 7) for a description of the above-mentioned methodologies.



“As a global think tank involving primarily, but not exclusively, developing country researchers, pep has become a major tool to mobilize existing capacity and provide a stronger voice to Southern experts. By catalysing their in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.”

John Cockburn
PEP Executive Director

Other PEP special initiatives and collaborations

As mentioned in Section I (pages 2-3), over the past few years, an increasing number of international donor institutions and development partners have been calling on the expertise of PEP to lead or collaborate in several initiatives of thematic research and/or capacity building.

Below are brief descriptions of collaborative projects that were initiated, carried out or concluded during 2011-2012.

In collaboration with African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium

Facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the AGRODEP Modeling Consortium is an initiative aimed at positioning African experts to take a leadership role in the study of strategic development issues and the broader agricultural growth and policy debate facing African countries. To do so, it facilitates the use, by local analysts, of economic modeling tools, promotes access to data sources, provides training and research grants, and supports collaboration between African and international researchers.

Given their expertise and innovative work in the application of “computable general equilibrium” (CGE) modeling techniques in developing countries, a group of PEP lead researchers were asked to assist IFPRI in providing scientific and technical assistance to AGRODEP researchers in Africa. In particular, they were asked to provide guidance, training (courses and material) and distance support in the use of PEP standard CGE models, a series of modeling tools developed by the same PEP experts and now acknowledged worldwide as some of the field’s most valued tools of analysis.



While several other similar initiatives are expected to be initiated in 2013, the following table presents a list of previous collaborations that were implemented, with a number of international partners, up to 2011.

AusAID

Simulating the distributive impacts of different growth strategies in China, Pakistan and the Philippines.

EEPSEA

CBMS support in generating vulnerability index and maps at the village level to assist local government units in preparing appropriate plans and programs to address evolving pressures on the environment, particularly that of climate change.

ILO

Using CBMS to monitor and analyze child labor conditions in the Philippines.

AusAID – CIDA – IDRC – IFPRI

Analyzing the impacts of the global financial crisis on poverty and appropriate policy responses in developing countries.

UNICEF

Assessing the impacts of the global financial crisis and appropriate policy responses for children in West and Central Africa.

Assessing the impact of a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) program in rural Mali

UNDP

Strengthening capacities for poverty and social impact analysis in sub-Saharan Africa.

CBMS Development Grant Program in the Philippines.

Using CBMS for localizing the MDGs.

CBMS: Monitoring Household Coping Strategies during Complex Crises and Recovery (also in collaboration with UNICEF)



In collaboration with UNICEF

Long-term partnership to support UNICEF's work on social policy and social protection reform in the MENA region :

PEP has been selected, amongst several international bidders, to sign a long-term partnership agreement with the Regional Office of UNICEF MENA (Middle East and North Africa), through which PEP engages to provide a variety of relevant services in support of UNICEF's work on social policy and social protection reform in the region.

This agreement will allow UNICEF to utilize PEP's multi-faceted expertise and services, as well as to tap into PEP's pool of international leading experts, to help fulfill its mandate of addressing the paucity of knowledge, local expertise and research engagement around child welfare issues in MENA countries, as well as to promote evidence-based policymaking in favour of child well-being.

The agreed partnership encompasses three different types of activities, to help achieve different UNICEF objectives in terms of research, capacity building and networking in the region.

Simulations of fiscal space and public spending on children in Burkina Faso.

A UNICEF-commissioned study :

In 2012, PEP published a special report on the outcomes and conclusions of a study, led by an international team of PEP researchers, commissioned by UNICEF to produce evidence in support of pro-child policy advocacy work in Burkina Faso.

The initiative aimed to develop and apply a combination of modeling and macro-micro simulation techniques, in order to assess the best policy options in terms of public spending (and related fiscal space, or financing mechanisms) on children for the Burkinabé economy.

The researchers simulated different scenarios based on the pre-identification, in consultation with a local Burkinabé policy committee, of various possible policy interventions (public spending on children), linked with different viable financing mechanisms.

The report concludes that, for the specific context of Burkina Faso, the best or most effective combination, in favour of both child welfare and the national economy in the long run, is an increase in current spending in education, financed by a reduction in subsidies, higher collection rate of indirect taxes and by extending the public deficit reduction over ten years rather than five.

A similar study is now under way in Uganda, in collaboration with the UNICEF national office there.

Child situational analysis in Uganda and Burkina Faso (UNICEF)

UNICEF is also taking advantage of PEP's unique expertise in multi-dimensional poverty approaches in the analysis of the patterns, determinants, incidence and drivers of inequities. In the context of its global effort to study child poverty and disparities in developing countries, UNICEF has commissioned teams of local and international PEP researchers to conduct country-level "child situational analyses" in Uganda and Burkina Faso, following specific demand from the countries' governmental agencies to produce reliable evidence bases to assist in related policymaking.

This initiative has led to the development of a methodology that can be used to update a country's "child situational analysis" on a regular basis, as new nationally representative data become available. The conclusions and policy recommendations ensued from these particular analyses will be published in 2013.

pep impact stories



A series of brief accounts describing how PEP researchers' findings and recommendations have contributed to inform and influence policy in developing countries.

The testimony reported in this section was collected through surveys of PEP-supported project teams conducted in 2011-2012.

ARGENTINA (2009-2012)

Assessing the impact of Argentina's *Ley Federal de Educación* on educational and labor outcomes by Leonardo Gasparini, Carlos German Bet, Maria Laura Alzua, Francisco Haimovich Paz

PEP researchers stir up education policy debates in Argentina

In 2009, a team of Argentinian researchers were granted PEP support to train in the application of the most advanced techniques of impact evaluation research, as they aimed to produce an empirical assessment of the effectiveness of a major national education reform implemented in the 1990's, "*Ley Federal de Educación (LFE)*". Their findings led them to conclude that this particular policy, which basically entailed the addition of two years of compulsory education, had had virtually no effect on schooling and labor outcomes in the country. In other words, those poor young adults educated under the LFE (i.e. after 1994) derive no benefits in terms of greater integration into the labor market or higher wages today.

Their findings were presented and discussed in various relevant seminars and conference events in Buenos Aires and La Plata, as well as largely disseminated through mass media in the country. As a result, the evidence produced by this PEP-supported impact evaluation has been assimilated, cited and used by several policy makers and civil society representatives involved in ongoing debates around new reform of national education policies in Argentina.



CAMEROON (2006-2008)

Acquired benefits and poor targeting in public spending on health and education in Cameroon by Dia Bernadette Kamgnia, Afor Josephine Fosah, Simon Jules Leunkeu Wangun, Tatsinkou Christophe

PEP research leads to the improvement of health services to the poor in Cameroon

As important reforms of the public sector were underway to help Cameroon achieve the MDGs in 2006, a team of local researchers was selected to receive PEP training and support in the conduct of rigorous analysis to find out how the country's poor actually benefit from public spending in education and health services. The project was conducted in direct consultation with members of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Management, the Committee in charge of

impact stories

monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for Growth and Employment and the National Bureau of Statistics

Specific results on the acquired benefits of the poor related to the quality of health services were taken up by the Ministry of Public Health in the elaboration of the National Plan for Sanitary Development. The research findings were used, in particular, to help improve the quality of health services, especially those provided in district-level medical centers and hospitals, as well as services provided in rural areas, where it was specifically recommended that increased resources should be devoted to the improvement of hospital hygiene, quality of personnel, equipment and infrastructure.

CAMEROON (2006-2008)

Dimensional and regional distribution of multi-poverty in Cameroon by Paul Ningaye, Virginie Takoutio Feudjio, Alexis Tiomela Yemedjeu

Cameroon national statistics adopt new multidimensional approach to poverty based on PEP research

The purpose of this particular study, led by a team of local researchers, was to provide a fuller characterization of poverty in Cameroon, through the use of the “Dimensional Scores” methodology to measure precisely the level and spatial distribution of deprivation in each welfare dimension – i.e.



health, education, income, infrastructure, etc. This type of analysis contributes, in particular, to identifying the specific needs of various population groups and thus assist in the fight against poverty at the national level.

After attending a conference organized by the team in the country’s capital, Yaoundé, to share their work and findings with the public, officials from the National Bureau of Statistics contacted the team leader to request his collaboration and advice in the integration of new indicators to monitor/measure poverty in the 2013 ECAM IV (national household consumption surveys) to ensure that national statistics better reflect gender-related and multidimensional aspects of welfare in the future.

CHAD (2004-2006)

How does the population benefit from public spending in Chad by Tabo Symphorien Ndong, Anatole Toinar Mogota and Nakar Djindil Syntiche

How PEP support leads a local researcher to advise national development strategies in Chad

In 2004, PEP provided support to researchers in Chad to conduct an incidence analysis on existing national household survey data, to find out how public spending in health and education did and would actually benefit the population, as well as the distribution of such benefits among different groups and regions. This project aimed to provide evidence to inform the government’s decisions, while defining priorities in the context of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy implemented in 2003. Based on the researchers’ recommendations, the government decided to organize follow-up surveys to trace health and education spending to their destination in order to measure the share of the budget that reached the target population.

Thanks to the quality of the ensuing paper, as well as the methodological expertise he had gained through this PEP-supported project, the team leader was first recruited by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Office in Chad, in 2008, and then as a long-term consultant in economic studies by AFRISTAT, in Mali, in 2009.

He was also called upon by the African Development Bank (AfDB), as the official consultant and correspondent for Chad, to contribute to the African Economic Outlook five years in a row. And finally, in 2012, the same researcher was recruited by the UNDP, as a consultant, to assist the Chadian government in designing the 2012-2015 National Strategic Development Plan. His expertise in terms of multidimensional poverty analysis will thus contribute to better identify and target specific needs in terms of welfare improvement for the country's population.



CHINA (2010-2012)

The impact of tuition relief program in senior high school on poor students in rural China by Xinxin Chen, Chunlei Lang, Lijuan Guo, Pingping Gu, Shaoqing Zhang

PEP research findings inform policy debate regarding investment in education in rural China

Despite considerable improvements in schooling of rural youth populations over the past decade, the Chinese government is still looking to address the sizable remaining gap between the enrollment rates of rural and urban students, especially at senior high school level. In 2010, a team of Chinese researchers began assessing the early impacts of a tuition relief program for senior high school students, implemented in the relatively poor rural county of Ningshan, in Shaanxi Province. When compared with those of other counties, the results show that the program contributes to significant improvement in both the enrollment and performance of rural students in senior high school.

Based on these findings, the Education Bureau of Ningshan County decided to maintain and extend the program for an additional five years, and has disseminated the researchers' results and recommendations further up to the provincial level where they are currently being examined. While China's Ministry of Education is looking to increase investment in rural education, and debates are ongoing on how to proceed, it is hoped that these results will find their way even further up to national educational officials, and possibly lead to expanding trials of tuition relief programs for the poorest rural areas in the country.

CHINA (2010-2012)

Assessing the impact of China's priority forest programs on rural households' income and income mobility by Can Liu, Hao Liu, Wenqing Zhu, Qingjiao Rong

PEP findings used to inform Chinese environmental strategy

At the end of the 1990s, while facing severe threats in terms of resource management and ecological sustainability, the Chinese government implemented a new environmental strategy including six "Priority Forest Programs" (PFPs), which combined objectives of environmental restoration and reduction of rural poverty.

impact stories

In 2010, PEP granted support to a team of local researchers to lead a research project in which they would use data collected from over 3000 households in 6 different provinces in order to assess the actual impact of these programs on rural household income and income mobility.

This evaluation project was carried out in direct consultation with the PFP Management Officers from the State Forestry Administration, as well as Officials from the Ministry of Finance and Department of Agriculture. As a result, the researchers' findings and recommendations were taken up by the State Forestry Administration in preparation of the next (12th) Five-Year National Forestry Development Plan.

EGYPT (2008-2012)

Assessing the Impact of Ishraq Intervention, a Second-Chance Program for Out-of-School Rural Adolescent Girls in Egypt by Asmaa Elbadawy, Nadia Zibani and Rania Roushdy

Program implementers call on PEP researchers' assistance to improve Ishraq's design and implementation

This experimental impact evaluation project aimed to assess whether the Ishraq program, implemented in Egypt between 2009 and 2012, has been successful in improving the welfare and prospects of rural adolescent girls, by helping them to make better-informed life decisions in regards to education, marriage and livelihood opportunities.



As a result of their evaluation, the researchers found evidence that the program has had particularly large impacts on the following outcomes: literacy skills (including financial), participation in and attitudes towards sports for girls, aspirations in regards to education and work, gender role attitudes, general and reproductive health knowledge, the extent of peer networks and participation in decision-making processes. However, they also found that the program fell relatively short in informing beneficiaries on issues related to nutrition, female genital mutilation, reproductive health behaviors, infant care and attitudes related to harassment and violence. Nonetheless,

the researchers strongly recommend the scaling-up of the Ishraq program, at the national level, to help Egyptian girls acquire the literacy and life skills needed to become empowered citizens.

In addition to working in close collaboration with and from the institution in charge of implementing the Ishraq program, the researchers also consulted with a number of concerned NGOs in the country (CARITAS, Teaming for Development, the Egyptian Food Bank – all program collaborators), and had frequent meetings with several officials from the National Council for Youth (NCY) and the Ministry of Education (including at local-, governorate- and national levels, from both successive regimes). These consultations and meetings have contributed to both significantly improve the program, as well as to ensure broad dissemination of the project's results amidst all concerned institutions and government bodies. The PEP research team was even requested to provide a series of "Training of Trainers" workshops and mentoring for selected cadres within the NCY, as well as to prepare a "guidance manual" providing detailed information on the program's implementation.

KENYA (2008-2012)

Improving School Quality in East Africa: Randomized Evaluation of Policies to Create Local Accountability under Free Primary Education in Kenya by Germano Mwabu, Alice Muthoni Ng'ang'a, Mumia Phyllis Machio and Racheal Nakhumicha Musitia

PEP research findings help prevent awry government strategy

One of the solutions proposed by the government to address issues of low school performance in Kenya in 2008 implied the scaling up of a “contract teacher intervention”, previously introduced by an NGO in Western areas of the country, where it had shown to have improved test scores for primary school students. However, concerns were raised regarding the idea of generalizing results from one experimental program to assess the effect at the national level, as well as to whether an NGO-piloted program would be successful if implemented by governmental agencies. PEP-supported local researchers thus set out to realize a highly rigorous impact evaluation - conducting randomized controlled trials on 192 schools in 8 different provinces - to assess the potential success (or effectiveness) of such an intervention’s scaling up throughout Kenya.

In the end, the evidence produced by the team revealed that, no matter how carefully and rigorously an intervention is designed, the end results and effectiveness in reaching targets largely depend on the nature of program implementer and the institutional context/constraints – as the government-led interventions yielded completely different results from the NGO-led ones. The researchers also demonstrated that extrapolating results from a locally-based NGO program to national government policy is not a valid option, and that, overall, free primary education policies in Kenya have only benefited the not-so-needy in society.

Throughout project execution, the researchers have worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC). The results have been shared directly with senior officials in both agencies, as well as with the Permanent Secretary and the “Vision 2030” Strategic Planning Group, that reports to the President. The latter, in particular, is likely to ensure that the results are used as inputs in the policymaking process, as they give recommendations to the MOE in regards to policy orientations in the education sector.



PERU (2005-2008)

Teaching Entrepreneurship: Impact of Business Training for Microfinance Clients and Institutions by Martín Valdivia, Verónica Frisancho and Dean Karlan

PEP findings help improve services of microfinance institutions in Peru and beyond

In 2005, as microfinance institutions (MFIs) worldwide are pursuing innovations to improve the effectiveness of micro-lending in helping microentrepreneurs to escape poverty, a team of researchers in Peru were granted PEP support to assess the impact of a “business training” program implemented by one MFI (FINCA-Peru) to improve their poor (female) clients’ entrepreneurial skills and business practices. Based on the encouraging results of the PEP-supported study, FINCA confidently expanded the training program to other groups and it has since become a regular feature of the services they offer to their clients.

impact stories

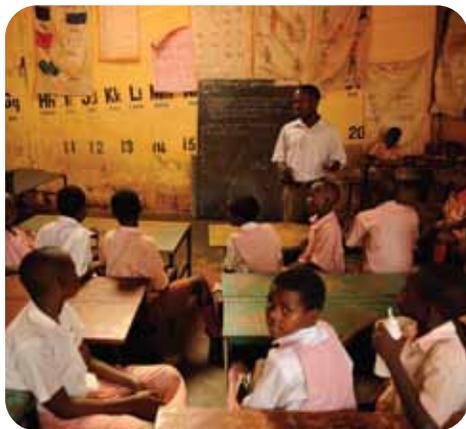
But the implications have extended way beyond that sole institution. As the researchers' findings were presented at several academic and policy meetings within Peru and around the world, it was later reported that many other Peruvian MFIs and national NGOs (such as PRISMA, ADRA and Manuela Ramos in collaboration with FFH) had started to insert a business training component into their services as well.

A few years later, MIBANCO – a large regulated microfinance bank associated to Acción International – and *Banco de Crédito* – the largest commercial bank in the country – were also offering business training to their clients in Peru.

At the international level, the authors were contacted by other researchers partnering with MFIs in Mexico and in India, who were also trying to combine business training with their regular microfinance services, to advise on the integration of an (experimental) impact evaluation component similar to the method used by PEP researchers to assess the FINCA program's impact.

SENEGAL (2009-2012)

Assessing the impact of a school canteen program in primary schools in rural Senegal by Abdoulaye Diagne, Mouhamadou Moustapha Lo, Fatoumata L. Diallo and Ibrahima Oumarou Sadou



In Senegal, a primary school feeding program is expanded based on a PEP impact assessment

In this PEP project, a team of researchers in Senegal set out to assess the impact of an experimental school canteen program on the performance of pupils in rural primary schools. 120 schools were selected in rural areas where the program had not yet been implemented. Half of these schools were assigned to receive the program (treatment group) and the other half, not (control group). This randomized controlled trial enabled the researchers to observe the actual effect of their feeding program on the students' scores, on the schools' rates of (grade) repetition and drop outs, as well as on other external,

potentially unintended effects. The evidence produced by the team showed significant positive impact of the program on several aspects of schools' and students' performance, not to mention on the students' nutrition.

After they presented these findings to an audience of key national policy makers and stakeholders - especially from the Ministry of Education - as well as from some of the country's development partners, the government decided to not only pursue but even scale-up the program, and double the number of school canteens to be implemented over the next three years. Moreover, the government decided to take further advantage of the researchers' new skills in the use of scientific methods and techniques for impact evaluation, to have them assist the Department of Agriculture in improving policies implemented in the context of the new "REVA" (agriculture revitalization) plan. In the end, both initiatives have been linked, as the results from the initial PEP project have led the authorities to consider that, in addition to improving school performance and child nutrition, the school canteen program may also be used to boost local agricultural production. With canteen products purchased directly from local farmers, the welfare of the latter shall also be improved.

UGANDA (2009-2012)

Improving school quality in East Africa: management and motivation in Ugandan primary schools by Madina Guloba, Lawrence Bategeka, Ibrahim Kasirye

Assisting government in findings ways to improve management of primary schools in Uganda

Despite relative success in improving school access in Uganda since the mid-90s, learning outcomes at the national level remain poor and the government still faces important challenges, especially in terms of “quality” of education services, which, in Uganda, particularly suffer from high rates of teacher absenteeism. In this PEP-supported randomized control trial, a team of local researchers set out to assess the effectiveness of different types of “community-based monitoring interventions”, in order to inform policymakers of possible ways to improve the management of primary schools in the country.

The study was conducted in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports, the National Planning Authority, as well as the Board of National Assessment for Progress in Education (NAPE), all first-hand users of its expected outcomes. Consultations at the Ministerial level were mainly done with the Ministry of Education and Sports to ensure their adhesion to the



ensuing results and policy recommendations. It also created an entry point for the researchers into the Ministry, whose officials provided inputs for the design of the survey and intervention instruments used throughout the project implementation period.

More consultations were held with two “international organizations: the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and World Vision. As both are based at district and community levels, their collaboration was expected to facilitate the training of participants and monitoring of field activities, as well as to help the project’s findings and recommendations, once issued, to reach and impact at the grass roots level. It was later reported that both institutions are now using these findings, as well as the analytical tools designed for the purpose of this project, in their own interventions and monitoring/evaluation activities. Moreover, as a result of the implementation - through the PEP project - of community-based systems to monitor the selected schools’ management and performance, it was reported that a great deal of initiatives have later been undertaken, by the communities, to tackle identified and related issues.

Finally, made aware of the PEP researchers’ study, the World Bank provided them with funding to pursue their work and further examine, based on their initial PEP findings, the drivers of weak governance in Ugandan primary schools.

“Through consultation activities held in the context of our PEP project, we were able to influence policy by drawing attention to certain issues within the policy arena and encouraging debate amongst key stakeholder.”

Azra Abdul Cader, Sri Lanka

URUGUAY (2007-2012)

Family Allowances and Child School Attendance. An ex-ante Evaluation of Alternative Schemes School Attendance, Child Labor and Cash Transfers: An Impact Evaluation of PANES

by Veronica Amarante, Andrea Vigorito, Arim Rodrigo

A team of PEP-supported researchers in Uruguay assists government in re-designing a cash transfer program to help foster human capital accumulation

In 2007, the Uruguayan government was looking at the possibility of renewing a recently expired program that aimed to foster human capital accumulation (and alleviate poverty) through cash transfers, granted on a conditional basis, to poor households in the country. Simultaneously, a team of local researchers was awarded two successive PEP research grants: one to assess the actual impact or success of the previous program (entitled PANES) on the intended outcomes (such as school attendance, child labor and income poverty), and the other to forecast those of the prospective program ("Asignaciones Familiares") by providing an ex-ante analysis of various potential new schemes of allowance and conditionality.

Made aware of their research work, officials from the Ministry of Social Development (in charge of designing and implementing the new program) called on the PEP team to become members of a



special advisory committee that was mandated to assist in the related decision-making process. On the one hand, results from their PEP-supported research work had led the team to conclude that, for several identified reasons, the first cash transfer program had basically failed to achieve its core objectives in terms of human capital accumulation.

On the other hand, they were able to assess the best policy options, in terms of program design and targeting, to ensure the success of the new program. Based on these findings and recommendations, the Uruguayan policymakers avoided repeating past mistakes and the new program was designed according to the scheme identified by the researchers as the most promising in terms of impact on school attendance, labor, poverty and inequality.

"Consultations at the Ministerial level were mainly done for the main stakeholders and decision-makers to own the results generated from the project. These contacts created an entry point for the project researchers into the Ministry. In addition, the officials we consulted with provided input on the survey and intervention instruments to be used throughout the project implementation period.

Our collaboration with two well-known, international development NGOs facilitated our reaching out at grass-roots level, as these organizations had already built interactions with the community members and district officials on site - thus contributing to harness linkages between our project team and its intended audience. In addition, as both organizations are based at district and community levels, they have helped in facilitating trainings, as well as monitoring and evaluation of project activities. "

Madina Guloba, Uganda

**policy engagement,
linkages and
influence**

policy engagement, linkages and influence

In helping to build and promote locally-based expertise in developing countries, the ultimate goal of PEP is to ensure that this unique local perspective exerts greater influence over national and international policy debates.

Working in close collaboration with policy stakeholders

PEP requires researchers to engage with policy makers and other intended research users throughout the project cycle, from proposal design to the dissemination of results and beyond. This helps ensure that research projects are responsive to policy needs and that their findings inform and influence policy decisions. These links in turn facilitate the dissemination of their findings once the project is complete.

“The consultation process undertaken at the beginning of our project was important to inform the program managers of the impact evaluation underway and its initial results. As an external consulting group, we were able to continue to share knowledge on the program’s achievements and shortcomings, as well as to inform decisions regardless of changes in management due to political transitions...”

Fabio Soares, Brazil

Dissemination of pep research findings

PEP research teams are provided with guidance and support to communicate their findings effectively, and to the widest possible audience, both nationally and internationally.

Publications

The PEP policy brief is a one-page, non-technical summary of a project’s main conclusions and policy recommendations distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders.

PEP working papers are published on the PEP web site and listed with both SSRN (Social Science Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), which ensures wide circulation worldwide.

A list of all papers and briefs published by PEP in 2011-2012 is provided in Section V (pages 43-47).

2012 M&E survey results :

88% of PEP projects are designed and conducted in **direct consultation with national policy makers/stakeholders**



policy engagement, linkages and influence

According to access statistics provided by RePEc, the 106 PEP working papers listed on this site alone have resulted in 47,491 abstract views and 13,914 downloads to date (6,166 views and 1,676 downloads in 2012 alone).

Also, the large number of PEP-supported studies published as an article in a peer-reviewed journal, or as a chapter in an externally-published book, testifies to the increasing acknowledgement of their scientific rigor and contribution by the international development research community.

Conferences

To facilitate effective dissemination and policy influence, PEP provides financial and logistical support for researchers to organize **national policy conferences**, through which they can directly communicate their findings to policymakers and other stakeholders.

As national policy conferences are often widely publicized in national mass media (radio, television, press), PEP research findings are thus also transmitted to the general public, enhancing its policy influence.

A few examples of national policy conferences organized by PEP researchers in 2011-2012 are presented below (pages 37-41).

Moreover, in acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers are invited – often with PEP funding – to present their work in **international academic and policy conferences** throughout the world.

Promotion of local expertise

Finally, through consultation and dissemination initiatives undertaken in the context of PEP projects, as well as via PEP general meetings and networking experience, researchers benefit from **increased international exposure and credibility as development policy experts**.

As a result of the reputational effect of their involvement with PEP, researchers have been offered **opportunities to pursue their work in spheres where they can exert direct impact** on policymaking and poverty alleviation.

In the great majority of cases, their involvement in a PEP project has turned out to be a major stepping stone in their research career. Several examples are presented in Section III (pages 25-33).

2012 M&E survey results :

42% of PEP projects findings resulted in an **external publication** (journal article or chapter in a book)

58% of PEP projects were presented during a **national policy conference**

35% of PEP projects' findings were reported in **national mass media**

67% of PEP projects were presented during an **international conference**

88% of PEP projects have resulted in researchers **experiencing career-promoting event(s)**

54% of PEP projects have resulted in researchers **getting hired or promoted**

67% of PEP projects have resulted in researchers **being solicited to pursue further analysis**

44% of PEP projects have resulted in researchers **contracted as policy consultants**

pep national policy conferences

Here are some of the national policy conferences organized in 2011-2012 by PEP-supported research teams to present their projects' findings and policy recommendations to relevant policy makers and stakeholders in their home country.

Africa

Kampala, Uganda – December 2, 2011

A team of local researchers in Uganda organized a national policy conference to present the main findings and recommendations from a PEP-supported impact evaluation project. The project led to the identification of cost-effective solutions to improve the quality of education services and performance in rural primary schools through the implementation of community-based monitoring interventions.

Organized in collaboration with the Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE, Oxford) and the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC, Kampala), the conference was attended by several policymakers – mainly from the Ministry of Education (including the Commissioner for Education Planning), the National Examinations Board and the Ministry of Financial Planning and Economic Development – district officials, as well as representatives from international development partner institutions (such as the World Bank, World Vision, the Netherlands' Development Organization, Irish Aid, UNICEF, DFID, the African Development Bank). As the event benefited from wide media coverage, the findings were communicated to the general public as well. Find out more about how they were taken up into policy decisions and practices within various institutions through the project's "impact story", in Section III (page 32).



Dakar, Senegal – July 10, 2012

On July 10, 2012, the results of another PEP-supported impact evaluation project were presented at a PEP policy conference organized in Dakar, Senegal. The audience was composed of high-level officials and key decision-makers, mainly from the Ministry of Education (co-organizer of the event), but also from several international institutions/NGOs and development partners - such as Child Fund, Counterpart International, USAID, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Food Program and the World Health Organization, etc.

The team presented evidence regarding the positive impacts of a school canteen (feeding) program on the performance and welfare of pupils in rural primary schools. Based on the researchers' recommendations, which were also widely publicized through media coverage of the event, the government decided to extend and scale-up the program. Another objective of the conference was to raise awareness, among national authorities, of the need to create an official entity responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact/effectiveness of government programs in education.

policy engagement, linkages and influence

Yaoundé, Cameroon – November 15, 2012

Several national government, media and international development partner representatives in Cameroon were convened by a group of PEP local researchers to attend a conference held at the Regional African Center for Labour Administration, in the capital Yaounde.

The event was organized to inform both the general public and policy stakeholders, at the national level, of the research findings/conclusions and ensuing policy recommendations from three different PEP-supported studies conducted in Cameroon in recent years. Entitled "How to improve measurement and understanding of poverty in Cameroon", the event allowed the researchers to share their acquired knowledge in the use/application of cutting-edge methodologies, techniques and tools for the analysis of multidimensional poverty, inequities and related issues in the specific context of their home country.

The event benefited from wide media coverage, as well as attendance by relevant policy-related decision-makers and advisors from national government agencies and international institutions. The researchers' presentations were followed by a discussion with participants including the head of the Prime Minister's Service Division, as well as key officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy and Planning. Following the event, some of the PEP researchers were invited to collaborate with several of the attending institutions.

Asia

Colombo, Sri Lanka – November 23, 2012

A team of local PEP researchers in Sri Lanka convened an audience of more than 40 officials, directors and policy advisors from different government agencies – the Finance Commission, Inland Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance and Planning, etc. – as well as representatives from regional and international development partner organizations – the Asian Development Bank, AusAID, Transparency International, the World Bank, etc. – to discuss evidence and policy recommendations from their PEP-supported study on issues of tax collection and revenues in the country.

The researchers' presentations were followed by a question period, which triggered a general discussion around several issues raised by the research findings. After the main session, the participants were invited to gather into smaller groups for a "brainstorming session" during which they debated solutions to a series of three specific policy issues raised in the presentations.

In the end, all participants agreed that the event's tremendous success stemmed from bringing together various stakeholders in a face-to-face meeting, creating an arena for debate, clarifications and mutual information. The presentations following the brainstorming sessions repeatedly stressed the importance of dialogue and sharing of experience between individual government organizations, as well as further research to constitute an evidence base for policy decisions, to ensure the implementation of an effective tax system for the country.



Vientiane, Lao PDR – December 14, 2012

A PEP national policy conference was held in the capital of Laos, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the National Economic Research Institute, to inform key policy makers and stakeholders of evidence produced by a team of local researchers regarding some potentially adverse effects of the resource boom and expansion of the mining sector for the national economy. In particular, the researchers warned of the emergence and likely worsening of Dutch Disease effects on the rest of the economy unless addressed by immediate government policy action.

The audience gathered an impressive number of government officials from a variety of other Ministries and Departments – including the Ministries of Finance, of Industry and Commerce, of Export and Import, of Energy and Mines, as well as the Departments of National Treasury, of Fiscal Policy, of International Cooperation and of Foreign Policy – in addition to representatives from the World Bank, the National Bank of Laos and a number of academics from the University of Laos.

The event's program allowed time for participants to share their views and questions, several of whom stressed the importance of such findings for policy and donors. The comments and interventions also demonstrated that the issues raised had caught the attention of the participating policymakers. Some recommended that further analysis be conducted to pursue the PEP researchers' work and formulate a comprehensive policy strategy to cope with the negative impacts of the mining sector's expansion.



Manila, Philippines – December 14, 2012

A group of PEP researchers combined efforts with PEP's Asian partner institution – the Angelo King Institute (AKI) of De La Salle University – to convene several national policy makers and stakeholders to a special seminar in Manila.

The objective of this PEP-funded seminar was to share and discuss the findings from research conducted in the context of two special research project initiatives (funded by AusAID); one which analyzed the poverty impacts of the global financial crisis and appropriate policy responses, and the other which simulated the distributive impacts of alternative infrastructure investment policies; both in the Philippines.

The results were discussed by officials from the National Economic Development Authority and the Center for Monetary and Financial Policy of the Philippines' Central Bank. In addition to these two high-level discussants, several other government officials and representatives from the Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management and the National Statistical Coordination Board, attended the seminar. Both presentations were followed by a "Question & Answers" period to discuss several issues with the researchers and acknowledge the importance of their work and findings.

Latin America

Brasilia, Brazil – December 2012

A PEP researcher in Brazil was invited by UNDP's International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) to present and discuss, with relevant policy stakeholders, the outcomes of her PEP team's impact evaluation of a national pension program, Benefício de Prestação Continuada (BPC), during a special seminar held at the IPC-IG Office in Brasilia.

The event brought together researchers and government program managers to discuss the policy recommendations in terms of government actions aimed at vulnerable groups, especially the elderly.

As one of very few rigorous studies conducted to assess the program's actual welfare impact, the results were acknowledged by the audience as of extreme importance and relevance, especially considering the size of this particular program budget and coverage (number of beneficiaries). The evidence presented revealed both the potential and limits of this type of benefit in supporting families living in extreme poverty.



La Plata, Argentina - December 14, 2012

A group of researchers from the Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS) of Universidad Nacional de La Plata, in Argentina, organized a national conference to present a series of recently published research papers, including some from PEP-supported projects, around issues of "poverty, inequality and ethnicity, and related recent experience in Latin America".

The event was organized in collaboration with the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil, the largest government economic research institution (think tank) in Latin America.

The PEP researchers' presentation reported evidence on ethnic inequality traps in education. The audience, which actively participated and discussed the findings and policy implications, was composed of academics, government representatives and members of the public.



8th CBMS Philippines national conference

A total of 592 stakeholders - policymakers, program implementers, and development stakeholders – gathered in Manila, Philippines, for the 8th CBMS-Philippines National Conference. Participants shared ideas and experience in terms of best practices, recent developments, as well as the tackling of emerging issues in line with the implementation and use of community-based monitoring systems in the country.

Under the theme “Enhancing Local Governance and Providing a Better Quality of Life for Filipinos through CBMS,” the conference featured keynote presentations and sessions tackling urgent issues among development practitioners in the country today, including:

- **Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Mapping and Assessment,**
- **Climate Change Adaptation,**
- **Impact Monitoring and Evaluation of Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programs,**
- **Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),**
- **Evidence-Based Planning and Budgeting,**
- **Improving Governance,**
- **Using Information and Communication Technology Innovations for Implementing CBMS,**
- **Women's Empowerment**
- **Promotion of Children's Rights**

On the first day of the conference, in her keynote address, Assistant Director General Marcelina E. Bacani of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) stressed the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in local planning and decision-making processes. “Efforts toward this end, she said, will benefit greatly from CBMS, not only as a source of baseline information, but also as basis for coming up with appropriate development interventions that will help reduce losses from natural disasters and climate change”.

Implemented in the Philippines since the 1990's, the CBMS is considered as one of the country's most widely-used and effective tools to acquire a richer body of local-level information on the welfare of the poor. It has enabled poor communities to assert their needs to local and national policymakers and program implementers as well as to influence budgetary allocations. As such, it has become a direct instrument for empowerment and actual poverty reduction.

The conference was organized by the PEP-CBMS Network coordinating team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).



“We are confident that evidence-based policy making and planning is possible through CBMS. We have seen how CBMS has been used for poverty diagnosis and as bases for action planning and investment. More specifically, data generated from CBMS have helped formulate evidenced-based Barangay Development Plans, Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Annual Investment Plans and other sectoral plans. CBMS has also provided critical data in the formulation of Local Poverty Reduction Action Plans (LPRAPs). Finally, we have seen that CBMS has capacitated government to closely monitor the progress of our attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Social Contract of the President, and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP)”

Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan
National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines

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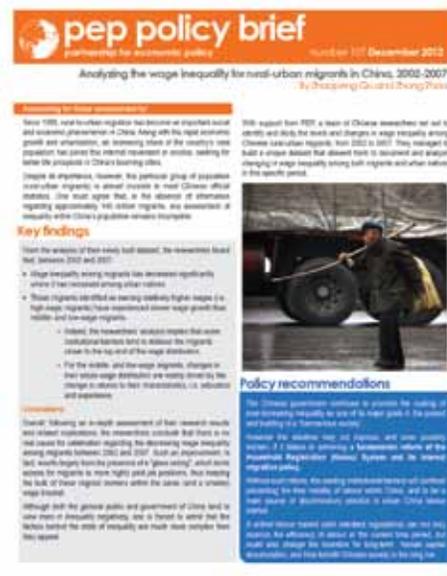
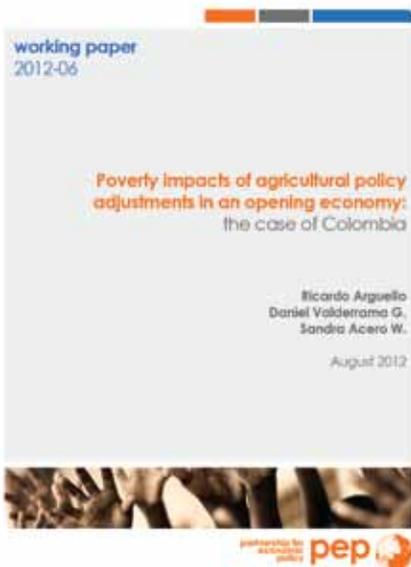
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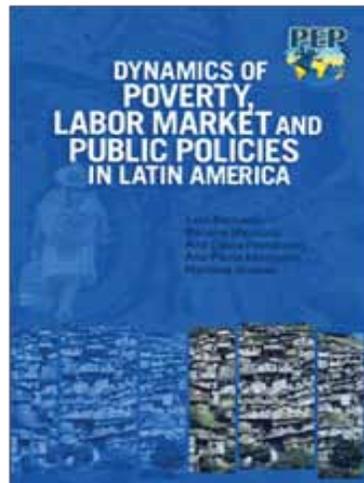
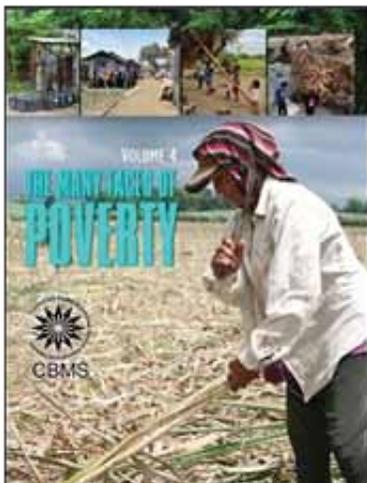
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