Fostering More Informed Policies on Social Protection for the Informal Sector, And on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Development through the CBMS Methodology

Editor’s Note
The updates featured below are taken from the studies of the CBMS country project teams on youth employment and entrepreneurship and on providing social protection in the informal sector which are presented at the 13th Annual PEP Conference in Manila, Philippines. The research papers and full report are available at the PEP website through the link https://www.pep-net.org/cbms-working-papers

Background
In 2012, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Team of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies initiated a research initiative, in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) under its Policy on Growth and Employment Project, to examine emerging issues on employment, particularly in terms of providing social protection for the informal sector, and to better understand the nature and extent of youth unemployment and the potentials of entrepreneurship development for generating jobs. In particular, the research initiative took a closer look on these issues at the micro level and in the context of related agenda on poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries. The use of different econometric and statistical techniques for analysis under the PAGE-CBMS program was aided with the generation of necessary disaggregated data through the implementation of the CBMS in the study sites.

1 A global research project with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Canada and the United Kingdom Department for International Development
The Need for Data

At the forefront of policy debates of governments and key stakeholders on various structural and stabilization reforms in the context of inclusive and sustainable growth and development is the recognition of the limited (if not absence) availability of necessary timely and disaggregated data that can help in formulating more appropriate and targeted programs, efficient and equitable allocation of resources, and impact monitoring over time.

The challenges faced by many developing nations relating to demographic transition and unemployment, poverty reduction, globalization and economic integration, changing political environment and fiscal space, social unrest, and frequency and magnitude of man-made and natural disasters pose a growing need for good data and sustainable mechanisms to generate and use them for policy and program design, focused targeting and impact monitoring. In Bolivia, the lack of accurate information about socio-economic conditions of the poor, particularly at the local level, hinders development planning and programs and constrains the effort to monitor change. On the other hand, in Bangladesh, while poverty is being monitored at the national level through a household income and expenditure survey, there is an absence of a systematic tool to monitor poverty in specific areas, particularly at the local (union) level.

In Burkina Faso, while there are several social protection programs for the poor and vulnerable put in place by the government, most of them lack a specific strategy to identify and target eligible households and/or individuals, resulting in erroneous inclusions and exclusions of individuals. Meanwhile, in Togo, while a legislation has been adopted by the Togolese National Assembly to provide social protection particularly to those who are self-employed and working in the informal economy, students of vocational schools, apprentices, and trainees, this was not applied by the National Social Security Fund or Caisse Nationale de Securite Sociale (CNSS) because of the lack of data about the informal sector. In the case of Haiti, the disastrous consequences of the earthquake in 2010 at both central and local levels have pushed the state to gather relevant information to determine the evolution of mass poverty and expansion of the informal sector. In this context, there was need to strengthen and extend the development and management of the information system on poverty and social exclusion to understand the local manifestations of poverty and to provide analytical instruments, data collection and management of relevant statistical data.

In Kenya, though the government has implemented policies targeted at addressing the youth unemployment challenge, the basis for these policies are national household surveys which collect information on household characteristics and welfare but are limited in terms of youth-related data. Further, they are costly and infrequent, hence cannot provide highly disaggregated data to meet the need for specific regions.

The need for timely and up-to-date data becomes more evident especially in terms of coming up with a comprehensive analysis of the actual (or likely) impacts of...
various types of shocks on specific groups of population. In particular, data that are disaggregated at the local level become very important in identifying the nature and magnitude of risks associated with these shocks, and in formulating better plans to prevent any adverse impacts on development outcomes, particularly of the vulnerable groups in the society.

About the CBMS methodology

The CBMS is an organized manner of data collection, processing and use of information for various development processes. It generates a core set of indicators that takes into account the multidimensional nature of poverty but is flexible to accommodate community-specific data requirements. It entails the active participation of key stakeholders at each geopolitical level and it establishes local level databanks.

The development of the CBMS complements efforts in bridging information gaps for more evidence-based policymaking, more responsive program design, more focused targeting of resources, and impact monitoring. Conceptualized and initially designed in 1993 under the Micro Impacts of Macro Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) Program supported by the IDRC in the Philippines, the CBMS is a tool intended to provide necessary disaggregated data on the vulnerable groups in society for more efficient and effective policymaking and program implementation. The CBMS methodology takes into account local context, existing capacities and resources in its framework for implementation of data collection, processing, database management, and dissemination strategy.

In 2006, the CBMS was assessed in the Philippines as a viable and cost-effective system that can be used in generating core local poverty indicators and ensuring uniformity and standardization of databases on core local poverty indicators by local government units (LGUs). Since the first province-wide institutionalization of CBMS by an LGU using the MIMAP framework in 1999, the CBMS has served to become the first, if not the only, organized, multi-purpose, and widely adopted system that is LGU-driven in the Philippines.

The design and pilot test of the CBMS methodology was also initiated by partner research institutions under the IDRC MIMAP Program in the mid-1990s in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Vietnam. From 2002 to 2016, the establishment of a CBMS research and capacity building support program under the PEP resulted in the expansion of CBMS initiatives to cover Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Benin, and Pakistan in Asia; Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia in Africa; Argentina and Bolivia in South America; and Haiti in Central America.

Foremost among the contributions of the CBMS to the knowledge base for research and policy is the establishment of mechanisms to generate the necessary disaggregated socio-economic and geo-spatial data at the local level for multidimensional poverty analysis, localizing the millennium development goals, vulnerability mapping, and monitoring impacts of shocks, i.e., the global financial crisis. Another important milestone brought about by the development of CBMS is the empowerment of communities, particularly in the Philippines where it has been widely used by many local government units since 1999, to establish their own databases that can be more regularly updated and that can readily serve as inputs for decision-makers and donors in identifying development needs, setting targets, formulating appropriate programs and monitoring impacts over time.

Another important breakthrough of the CBMS work is the development and implementation of the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP). The development of the CBMS APP, under the CBMS-PEP-PAGE Project, became the platform for the automated generation of household and individual level data for a deeper analysis of research questions relating to the nature of unemployment among the youth in different socioeconomic conditions.

Some Highlights on the Uses of CBMS for Examining Youth Unemployment, Entrepreneurship Development and Social Protection

A deeper understanding of underlying reasons for the problem of unemployment, particularly among the youth, and factors for entrepreneurial development to address labor market gaps have been facilitated with the establishment of baseline data at the household and individual levels in selected sites in Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Argentina, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. In Argentina, for instance, CBMS data were used to examine the hindrances on entrepreneurship development among the youth in the context of unemployment concerns, and to show that the factors that make people interested in becoming...
an entrepreneur are not the same as the factors that really make an individual an entrepreneur. In Kenya, the implementation of CBMS generated the data to analyze the determinants of youth unemployment and entrepreneurship and showed evidences of situations across age group, gender, and other socio-economic characteristics.

In Togo, CBMS produced the disaggregated data requirements to analyze the willingness to pay for social protection of the Togolese informal sector workers. In Bolivia, data generated through the CBMS facilitated the conduct of an ex-ante analysis of the distribution sources, types of prevention, mitigation and coping strategies, and especially the likelihood of future vulnerability to poverty. In Burkina Faso, the CBMS data were used to examine efficiency in targeting program beneficiaries of social assistance programs for the informal sector at the commune level.

Other Uses of CBMS

On top of producing disaggregated data requirements to address specific research questions on youth unemployment, entrepreneurship development and providing social protection to the informal sector, the PAGE-supported CBMS country projects facilitated further replication of implementation of CBMS in more sites in Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and South Africa following the successful pilot test earlier and the response to the common demand for local level data that can fill in information gaps for more informed policy decisions. In Burkina Faso, for instance, several elements called for the strengthening of the CBMS in the communes of Diébougou, Koper and To. The extent of poverty in Burkina Faso calls for a system that allows monitoring evaluation of the evolution of poverty not only by the political and government authorities but also by the local and village communities. The implementation of CBMS was deemed important to ensure monitoring evaluation of the impact of the social protection actions put in place to reduce poverty, especially those that target women and children.

In South Africa, the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) has expressed support to the CBMS Project Team of the University of Venda for the expansion of the implementation of CBMS in more municipalities following the pilot implementation of CBMS in Mutale and Greater Tzaneen local municipalities.

In Argentina, Loma Negra, the largest cement manufacturing in the country, has provided additional counterpart support for the expansion of CBMS implementation in the Municipality of Olavarria as part of its contribution to local development. The involvement was deemed important by the CBMS Research Team of the UNICEN in promoting public private participation in implementing CBMS.

In the Philippines, where the CBMS APP was pilot tested in 2013 before deployment for the generation of data in the conduct of PAGE-CBMS thematic research studies by selected country teams, the CBMS APP is now being widely used by several local government units as a tool to generate necessary data for various thematic concerns, including local planning and budgeting, localizing/monitoring the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and disaster preparedness planning and management, among others. The adoption by LGUs of the CBMS APP tools and training modules in the country for various thematic concerns is supported by policy issuances at the national and local levels. Partners from the national and local governments in the Philippines have highlighted the usefulness of CBMS in vulnerability mapping and local level planning and program implementation, among others.

A pool of trainers, composed of at least 100 designated trainers and focal persons from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at the national and regional levels, has been trained by the CBMS Network Team of the DLSU on the CBMS APP modules. The DILG is the government agency that leads the provision of capacity building support to local government units in mainstreaming national development initiatives at the local level. The DILG has been taking the lead in the conduct of CBMS APP training workshops for LGUs at the provincial, municipal/city and barangay levels.

Testimonials of Policymakers About CBMS

“CBMS further strengthened the capacity of local government units in addressing the needs of the community, CBMS supported the increasing demand for regular, up-to-date and disaggregated information essential for development planning, policymaking, program and project targeting.”

– Secretary Senen Sarmiento
Department of the Interior and Local Government
Excerpt from Published Message, 12th CBMS Philippines National Conference, February 29-March 2, 2016

“CBMS is a proof that we, Local Government Units (LGUs), are evolving to be more efficient and effective in our work in the forefront of service delivery to the Filipino people. Our use of CBMS is making our programs more grounded and targeted, and we become more appreciative of using scientifically and systematically gathered data to respond to real and felt needs of communities.”

– Honorable Governor Alfonso V. Umali, Jr.
Governor of Province of Oriental Mindoro, and National President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
Excerpt from Published Message, 12th CBMS Philippines National Conference, February 29-March 2, 2016

7 The CBMS Burkina Faso team, in addition to the PAGE support, received additional funding from the UNICEF to expand the CBMS work to more sites
The CBMS Network is collaborating with the United Nations (UN) Women to launch the rider questionnaire on Women Migrant Workers (WMW). The new rider questionnaire focuses on current and return migrant workers, particularly on their profile, some training they attended, and the remittances they sent.

The objective of the partnership is to generate data on women migrant workers at the community level that will help in the formulation of specific programs for their welfare. These programs aim to: protect and promote the rights of women migrant workers and their families; enhance the economic, political and/or social reintegration of returning migrant women; and enhance the capacities of local stakeholders in implementing and coordinating gender, migration, and development initiatives, among others.

The development of the questionnaire was guided by the indicators in the Women’s Empowerment, Development and Gender Equality Plan (EDGE) 2013-2016 and some Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets relevant to migration. The SDG targets include SDG 5 which pertains to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, and SDG 8 which relates to promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Together with the representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Governments (DILG) and the UN Women, the CBMS team pre-tested the questionnaire on October 10, 2016 in two barangays (villages) in Parañaque. Using the available CBMS data, the CBMS team identified the households of current and/or return women migrant workers in two barangays in Parañaque. The interview was administered to the households of these women migrant workers. The rider questionnaire consisted of 39 questions, 17 of which are questions for the current
The 13th CBMS Philippines National Conference is scheduled on March 1-3, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Quezon City, Philippines with the theme: Enhancing Resilience of Communities Amidst Emerging Development Challenges. The 3-day policy conference provides a venue for revisiting lessons learned and sharing of good practices and strategies of local government units for better accountability and transparency in the use of resources; and for looking into more focused design and targeting of programs as well as more efficient service delivery. At the same time, it provides a platform for the discussion of the risks and impacts of depleting resources, demographic transition, economic fluctuations, political uncertainties, armed conflict, and more frequent occurrences and growing scale of natural disasters on short term and long term development goals and outcomes which continue to be on top of the policy debates and agenda of governments across the world.

This year’s CBMS National Conference features presentations and discussions on recent developments and issues, particularly in line with meeting the sustainable development goals (SDG), disaster risk preparedness and management, and improving evidence-based policy making and impact monitoring through the implementation and use of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS). Since its conception in 1993 and adoption by several local government units (LGUs) in the country starting in 2000, the CBMS has complemented various development initiatives by generating the necessary disaggregated data for multidimensional poverty analysis, preparation of local development plans and budgets, program design and focused targeting, and impact monitoring such as the effects of the global financial crisis, MDG localization, and typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), among others, while empowering communities to participate in the development process.

The distinguished speakers who will be part of this year’s conference are Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno, and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Austere Panadero.

The conference will also tackle latest developments in the use of the CBMS methodology, particularly of the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP), for generating baseline and panel data requirements for localizing the SDGs, for local planning and budgeting, for vulnerability risk mapping, and for impact monitoring.

The 3-day event is being organized by the CBMS Network Office of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI).

For more details about the 13th CBMS National Conference, please check the link below. https://www.pep-net.org/13th-cbms-philippines-national-conference
On November 14-18, 2016, PEP-CBMS conducted a technical workshop to assist the three CBMS country projects to refine their outputs under the “PEP-Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE) program supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.

Said workshop under the PAGE program was designed to build the capacities of the research teams of the CBMS projects. Six researchers from three CBMS project teams from partner institutions in Haiti, Tanzania, and Uganda participated in the week-long workshop, which also included mentoring sessions for the teams by designated resource persons from the PEP-CBMS Network Office led by Dr. Celia Reyes.

The members of the CBMS country teams presented their studies which focus on youth employment and entrepreneurship, and social protection in the informal sector. The workshop also included a session on writing policy briefs wherein each of the country teams shared its draft policy brief afterwards.

CBMS Network Reviews PAGE II Proposals

IN CONNECTION with the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II initiative, the PEP-CBMS Network is launching its call for proposals for projects in developing countries. Project teams from several countries submitted their proposals using the CBMS Methodology that focuses on the PAGE broad theme of inclusive growth and employment, particularly on youth employment, gender and women’s economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, productive employment in rural farm and non-farm sectors, and sectoral composition and patterns of economic growth.

The PEP-CBMS Network will choose from the proposals of teams from Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Cote D’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe in Africa; Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, and Pakistan in Asia; Macedonia and Ukraine in Europe; and Bolivia and Nicaragua in South America. The Network assesses the proposals based on the rationale for the implementation of a community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in the team’s chosen site. The proposal should emphasize the relevance of the CBMS to the team’s country in terms of analyzing its poverty situation. In addition, the project teams will also develop a rider questionnaire that will focus on the abovementioned PAGE themes.

Other important aspects of the project proposals include the composition of the team which needs to be gender-balanced where at least 50 percent are female researchers; the steering committee set-up that links the project to national and local government agencies to guide the team in the implementation of the project; the timetable of activities; and the proposed budget.

Once accepted, the project teams are expected to develop and pilot test/expand a CBMS implementation in the selected site/s; prepare inputs for the local development plans with local officials based on CBMS data and other relevant data; and prepare the following papers, namely, a CBMS Design, a research paper based on their chosen PAGE theme, a poverty profile with corresponding maps, and a policy brief.
women migrant workers while the remainder are for the returnees/return women migrant workers.

Several households were involved in the pre-test relating to current women migrant workers. These were households with at least one female member who is currently working abroad. On the other hand, questions for the return women migrant workers were administered to 2 households which have at least one female member who had returned from her former employment abroad in the last five years.

During the training of CBMS trainers of the DLG held on November 22-23, 2016, the final version of the rider questionnaire on women migrant workers was introduced. Marilen Soliman of UN Women provided the background and rationale of the initiative of developing the WMW questionnaire. Meanwhile, Jenifer Galorpot of DILG-BLGD emphasized the role of the DILG and its trainers in training and mentoring the LGUs interested in adopting the WMW rider questionnaire together with the CBMS core questionnaire. Time was also allotted for the detailed discussion of the concepts of each question in the instrument as well as hands-on exercises in using the tablet-based data collection system for the WMW rider questionnaire.

Interested LGUs may coordinate with their provincial and regional CBMS focal persons to know how to adopt the WMW rider questionnaire in their CBMS implementation.