The State of Poverty in Uganda: Evidence from Akoboi and Katakwi Subcounties, Katakwi District

Editor’s Notes

The research article featured below is based from the research paper entitled “Community Response to Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A profile on relevant indicators” prepared by Johnson Kagugube, Dr. Margaret Banga, John Nsubuga, and Louise Nampewo of the Development Research Training (DRT) team in Uganda.

Background Information

The Government of Uganda has always been committed in terms of pursuing the sustainable development agenda and has been able to do so through efforts towards post war reconstruction, poverty eradication, and social economic transformation. There have been improvements in the country’s life expectancy rate, under-five mortality rate, literacy levels, income poverty, and access to electricity, among others.

Uganda’s current medium term plan, the second National Development Plan (NDP II), reflects the integration of the SDGs at the national level. Although there has been great progress towards achieving the SDGs, the country still faces high income inequality, high dependency ratio, and high...
dependence on agriculture, among others.

The lack of disaggregated data, however, is one of Uganda's biggest obstacles when it comes to localizing the SDGs. Not only is it fundamental to the monitoring process, but also to policy and decision making process.

CBMS study in Uganda facilitates monitoring of SDGs at the local level

By implementing a community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in Katakwi Town Council and Kapujani Subcounty in 2016, the local research team pilot tested the use of the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP). The system enables districts to collect and generate local level data on the different dimensions of poverty. While it generates a core set of indicators, the system has flexibility to accommodate community-specific indicators relevant to a particular country as well as other indicators that can aid more in depth analysis of emerging thematic concerns such as the SDGs, among others. CBMS also provides the necessary local level data for generating the MPI, which was used to measure poverty in this study.

Following the success of Uganda's CBMS implementation in 2016, a CBMS census was again conducted in the country. The 2018 CBMS census covers a total of 5,201 households in the selected subcounties in Katakwi District, namely, Akoboi and Katakwi.

The study aims to generate key information on households' livelihoods and their access to affordable financial products and services. Both of which will be helpful in informing the planning process at the national and local level.
### SDG Profile of Selected Subcounties in Katakwi District, Uganda (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL 1 - NO POVERTY</th>
<th>1.2.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line ($1.9/day)</th>
<th>1.2.1 Proportion of population below the national poverty line ($7.9/month)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>95 in 100</strong></td>
<td>or <strong>94.5%</strong> of the people in Akoboi are poor according to the international poverty line</td>
<td><strong>54 in 100</strong> or <strong>54.4%</strong> of the people in Akoboi are poor according to the national poverty line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>94 in 100</strong></td>
<td>or <strong>93.9%</strong> of the people in Katakwi are poor according to the international poverty line</td>
<td><strong>57 in 100</strong> or <strong>56.5%</strong> of the people in Katakwi are poor according to the national poverty line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 US Dollar = 3,700 Ugandan Shillings (UGX)*
*7.9 US Dollars = 29,505 Ugandan Shillings (UGX)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems</th>
<th>1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>18 in 100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 in 100</strong> or <strong>99.9%</strong> of the people in Akoboi have access to basic services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or <strong>17.6%</strong> of the people in Akoboi are covered by social protection floors/systems</td>
<td>or <strong>100 in 100</strong> or <strong>99.8%</strong> of the people in Katakwi have access to basic services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17 in 100</strong></td>
<td>or <strong>16.6%</strong> of the people in Katakwi are covered by social protection floors/systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of basic data: CBMS Census in Akoboi and Katakwi Subcounties, Uganda (2018)
**SDG Profile of Selected Subcounties in Katakwi District, Uganda (2018) (Cont.)**

**GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION**

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people at the end of primary and secondary school

- **32 in 100** or **32.4%** of the youth are at the end of primary school
- **18 in 100** or **17.7%** of the youth are at the end of secondary school

(Gross Enrollment Rate) (Gross Enrollment Rate)

- **89 in 100** or **88.5%** of the youth are at the end of primary school
- **11 in 100** or **11.3%** of the youth are at the end of secondary school

(Net Enrollment Rate) (Net Enrollment Rate)

**GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY**

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone

- **48 in 100** or **47.8%** of the people in Akoboi own a mobile telephone
- **50 in 100** or **50.3%** of the people in Katakwi own a mobile telephone

- **55 in 100** or **54.9%** of the male headed households have at least one member who owns a mobile telephone
- **38 in 100** or **38.2%** of the female headed households have at least one member who owns a mobile telephone

**GOAL 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

- **100 in 100** or **99.7%** of the households in Akoboi have access to safe water
- **100 in 100** or **99.8%** of the households in Katakwi have access to safe water

6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

- **5 in 100** or **4.9%** of the households in Akoboi have access to sanitary toilet facilities
- **1 in 100** or **1.4%** of the households in Katakwi have access to sanitary toilet facilities

Source of basic data: CBMS Census in Akoboi and Katakwi Subcounties, Uganda (2018)
**Summary and Conclusions**

Poverty related to income, education, employment, and sanitation are the main challenges in Akoboi and Katakwi.

Around 95 in every 100 people in Akoboi and 94 in every 100 people in Katakwi are income poor according to the international poverty line, while 54 in every 100 people in Akoboi and 57 in every 100 people in Katakwi are income poor according to the national poverty line.

In terms of access to basic services, although only 0.3% and 0.2% of the population in Akoboi and Katakwi, respectively, have no access to safe drinking water, 95.1% of the population in Akoboi and 98.6% of the population in Katakwi have no access to safe sanitation.

In terms of access to education, only 17.7% of the youth, regardless of age, are at the end of secondary school. Meanwhile, only 11.3% of the youth who belong to the appropriate age group are at the end of secondary school.

Results also show that unemployment is more prevalent in Katakwi at 63.5% compared to Akoboi at 60.7%. Unemployment among males is higher at 62.5% compared to females at 61.9%.

**Policy Implications and Recommendations**

Based on the analysis of the data from the CBMS census in the study sites in Uganda, the research team proposes the following policy recommendations to improve the well-being of the community in relation to the SDGs.

Reducing poverty requires the collective efforts of institutions and community members. In the case of Katakwi District, disparities in terms of access to education, income generating activities, and information need to be addressed.

In pursuit of the SDG agenda, through the continued use of CBMS, there should be more efforts to regularly measure, monitor, and analyze the SDGs both at the national and at the local level. The census should also be expanded to cover more subcounties and districts.

Other recommendations include the need to put in place strategies that can help reduce travel time in the study area, to improve hygiene education in the rural communities, and to provide access to financial services to unemployed people.

Sharing of these results is particularly important in the planning process and prioritization of funding in the lower local governments. In this regard, future policies, projects, and programs should be able to address concerns or problems identified in the results of the study.
News Updates

CBMS-Burundi Project Team Conducts Training Workshop on CBMS Data Collection in Bujumbura City, Burundi

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) project team in Burundi led by Jeanine Nkunzimana is one of the research teams supported under the second phase of the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE II) program by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).

The team is working on a project entitled “Programme de cash transfert et activités économiques non agricoles dans le secteur informel: Approche de suivi communautaire de la pauvreté au Burundi”. The CBMS research paper aims to evaluate the impact of cash transfer programs on the economic participation of women in the informal sector and on the intergenerational cycle of poverty in Burundi.

In preparation for the CBMS data collection and in partnership with the University Research Center for Economic and Social Development (CURDES), the CBMS-Burundi project team organized a training workshop on July 18-21, 2018 at the CURDES Conference Room in the University of Burundi, Bujumbura City, Burundi. Lydia Bukuru, Jeanine Nkunzimana, and Jean Claude Nsabimana facilitated the training while Lionel Rama provided technical assistance online. A total of 43 enumerators and 2 field coordinators attended the workshop.

The four-day workshop started off with a presentation on the objectives of the Burundi CBMS project and sample CBMS research work. The event also covered presentations and discussions on the design and methodology of CBMS and an introduction to the CBMS APP and the data collection instruments. The last part of the training focused on going over the Household Profile Questionnaire (HPQ), the rider questionnaire, and the Community Profile Questionnaire (CPQ). After the team demonstrated the use of the data collection tablets, the participants were given hands-on exercises and were given time to test the tablets and questionnaires and provide feedback.

Following the data collection training workshop, a two-day refresher training workshop was also organized by the CBMS-Burundi team prior to its data collection. Only 28 enumerators and two field coordinators were selected for the final data collection which started on October 12, 2018.

Enumerators participate in the testing of the tablets for the CBMS data collection

Enumerators undergo data collection exercises during the CBMS training workshop in Bujumbura City, Burundi
The annual CBMS conference gathers partners and stakeholders from national and local government units, non-government organizations, academe and development partner agencies to discuss latest developments, findings, and best practices on the uses of CBMS for local planning and budgeting, program implementation and impact monitoring in the context of various thematic concerns including poverty reduction/eradication, gender and development, migration and development, disaster-risk reduction management and climate change adaptation, and meeting global goals (MDGs and now the SDGs among others).

Since 2000, CBMS has been adopted by local government units in the Philippines as a tool for local planning and budgeting, poverty diagnosis, program targeting and implementation, and monitoring.

The CBMS has also provided the necessary organized platform to build capacities of LGUs to produce relevant disaggregated data and establish local level databases to localize the millennium development goals (MDGs), and facilitate the implementation of other initiatives including bottom up planning and budgeting and preparation, hazard and vulnerability mapping, and preparation and implementation of disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation plans among others.

This year’s conference with the general theme, Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Community-Based Monitoring System, aims to feature and discuss the uses of the CBMS for identifying priority needs, and implementing program interventions in line with meeting the SDGs. This year’s 3-day policy conference will feature presentations and sharing of strategies and good practices from local government units and other partners in the Philippines as well as from selected sites in Africa and Latin America where CBMS work is currently being implemented.

All local government units (LGUs), implementing the Community-Based Monitoring System Accelerated Poverty Profiling (CBMS APP) in the Philippines, are invited to submit proposals for papers to be presented during the conference. Proposed papers should be able to showcase the uses of CBMS and discuss good practices and strategies for addressing identified local needs, based on CBMS data, on at least 1 (or a combination) of the following areas in the context of meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) agenda: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Climate Action, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Public-Private Partnership.

The conference is being organized by the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Office based at the De La Salle University–Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies in Manila, Philippines.

Further updates about the conference may be obtained from https://www.pep-net.org/15th-cbms-philippines-national-conference
Use of CBMS for Monitoring Child Poverty Presented in New York Workshop

The use of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) for addressing data gaps in monitoring child poverty and exclusion in the context of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) was presented during an international workshop held at The New School in New York, USA last October 11-12, 2018. The workshop entitled “Including Children and Adolescents in Progress for the SDGs” was organized by the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP), Equity for Children The New School, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), SOS Children’s Village International and ChildFund Alliance.

The CBMS presentation is part of an ongoing research study by the CBMS Network Team on development of a measure of multidimensional poverty among children using CBMS data. The research paper authored by Dr. Celia Reyes and Ms. Anne Bernadette Mandap, was among the research papers selected by an international panel of experts organized by CROP from an open call for papers that examines how knowledge, information, data collection, measurement and monitoring can support strategies and innovations to prevent and effectively address the main drivers of poverty, exclusion and violence against children and adolescents. During the workshop, Dr. Reyes also served as discussant for a research study in Macedonia on child poverty and child income support.

Full details of the 2 day event may be obtained from https://www.crop.org/Workshops-Events/CROP-Events-2018/Including-Children-and-Adolescents-in-Progress-for-the-SDGs.aspx

Call for Papers/Presentation and Entries to the 8th CBMS Network Special Awards

The deadline for the submission of paper proposals and special awards entries is on January 31, 2019. Guidelines for submission of entries and other details can be seen in the links below:

Call for Papers/Presentation Guidelines | http://bit.ly/CallForPapers2019