Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) - Accelerated Poverty Profiling[1]

Overview

The CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (CBMS) is one of the recent innovations in line with the development of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS). CBMS APP entails the **organized, systematic and efficient combined use** of latest information and communication technology tools e.g. tablets, and the standard CBMS instruments for data collection (core household profile and village questionnaire), processing (STATSIM), poverty mapping and data management instruments. Data collected through CBMS APP[2] is transmitted to and stored in a data portal where registered users are given access depending on levels of authorization for use.

The CBMS APP was also developed to respond better to the growing demand from various users of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS), particularly local government units, to fast track the generation of data for use in the preparation of development plans and budgets, and use of data for various development program initiatives. While the need to produce timely information for use in policymaking and program implementation has been one of the key objectives for the development of CBMS in the early 1990s, resource capacity of target users to implement and sustain the system overtime was also major consideration in the design of the CBMS methodology and its corresponding instruments. Resource capacity considered include existing skills and knowledge of LGU personnel on use of computers hardware, softwares and data processing systems, communication or electricity facilities available, and budget to acquire hardware and softwares among others. As such, the initial proposed design of CBMS, developed and pilot tested in the Philippines combines the use of the traditional pen and paper in the household census operations, paper tally sheets for data encoding and paper spot maps (in areas without access to computers and GIS), and of automated tools e.g. excel for data processing.

With wider access to and more affordable ICT tools and infrastructures in developing countries, the CBMS APP is provided by the CBMS Network to its partners as an option to fast track the generation and access to data from the implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) methodology as a tool for various development processes. As of date, the CBMS APP is being adopted by selected LGUs adopting the CBMS in the Philippines[3] and is being deployed in CBMS sites in Argentina.

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[1] This document was prepared by the CBMS International Network Coordinating Team (June 2014). Further inquiries regarding CBMS may be e-mailed to the CBMS Network Office at celia.reyes@benilde.edu.ph or at cbms.network@gmail.com

[2] The implementation of the CBMS APP in various sentinel sites is facilitated through the conduct of structured training modules developed by the CBMS Network International Network Coordinating Team.

[3] See CBMS coverage in the Philippines at http://pep-net.org/index.php?id=793. Some of the LGUs are still adopting the CBMS paper-based track.

Further details about the CBMS work in developing countries can be obtained at http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/country-project-profiles/

Data Generated from CBMS

The CBMS generates data on household and individual socio-economic characteristics, demography, access to infrastructure and social programs, income sources, agriculture, migration and remittances, and disaster preparedness.

CBMS monitors a core set of indicators of multi-dimensional nature of poverty that includes the areas of income and employment, basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, housing, and peace and order. Data from CBMS can be disaggregated across geopolitical levels (e.g. village, city/municipality, and province) and population sub-groups (by age, sex, income-class, or urban/rural)

Uses of CBMS

CBMS is being used as a tool for local planning and budgeting, for poverty diagnosis and analysis, for program design and targeting, and for impact-analysis.

It has been used to enhance the preparation of village development profiles[4] by providing more detailed poverty data, for monitoring the status of achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs)[5], for examining the impacts of climate change[6], for monitoring the impacts of global financial crisis[7] and of food and fuel crisis[8], and for monitoring household coping responses in complex crises[9] among others.

More recent applications include its use for examining household vulnerability to food insecurity in the context of climate change[10], and in conduct of studies on youth employment and entrepreneurship and on social protection in the informal sector[11] .

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[4] See http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/poverty-maps/

[5] See http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/special-initiatives/localizing-the-mdgs/

[6] http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/special-initiatives/eepsea/

[7] http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/special-initiatives/new-cbms-initiative-monitoring-and-mitigating-the-impact-on-poverty-of-the-global-financial-and-economic-crisis/

[8] http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/special-initiatives/impact-of-rising-prices-of-food-and-oil/

[9] http://www.pep-net.org/events/events-pages/technical-workshop-on-monitoring-household-coping-strategies-during-complex-crises-and-recoveries/

[10] http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/special-initiatives/household-vulnerability-analysis-of-climate-change-impact-to-food-insecurity/

[11] http://www.pep-net.org/programs/cbms/special-initiatives/page-cbms/