pep internal monitoring and evaluation report
February 2013

Report on the impact of pep support and research activities in developing countries

Research, capacity building, promotion of local expertise and policy influence
Summary of results and highlights from the 2012 survey of PEP research projects

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 the PEP management committee to assess the progress and impact of PEP activities in achieving their overall objectives.

Although the 2012 survey only 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** (with 37% of female project leaders), 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 the researchers to a more important position
- **42%** have been published in leading academic journals and other (non-PEP) scientific publications
- **67%** have been presented in international conferences, and **58%** in national policy conferences

Policy linkages, engagement and influence

Of the 52 surveyed projects,

- **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
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ABOUT PEP

PEP is a network of institutions, researchers and experts in economic policy analysis, working to build and promote the capacity of local researchers in developing countries. Since its creation in 2002, PEP has evolved into a truly global partnership, with partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin and North America now managing its activities worldwide.

To find out more about the history, expansion and evolution of PEP, you may consult this brief presentation document: “PEP: From Building to Promoting Research Capacities in Developing Countries”

Based on a “learning by doing” approach, PEP’s unique and manifold support program is designed to systematically remove obstacles to the conduct of state-of-the-art research in developing countries. The objective of PEP grants and support activities is to provide Southern-based researchers with the means and skills to produce cutting-edge, policy-oriented research that can both be published in leading academic journals and enter/inform the policy dialogue.

While contributing to build the researchers’ expertise, PEP also provides an infrastructure or platform to help them establish their national and international reputations, and to level the playing field with their Northern counterparts.

Hundreds of researchers in Africa, Asia and Latin America have already benefited from PEP support to produce reliable evidence, from a both locally-based and expert perspective, to inform national policy debates and initiatives related to poverty or development issues. As a result, their perspective has been increasingly acknowledged worldwide; not only by the international scientific community, but also as a new and necessary input for related policy decision-making by national and international institutions.

In sum, the objectives of PEP activities can be presented as fourfold:

**Capacity building**
Developing the skills and expertise of local researchers in developing countries

**Promotion of local expertise**
Helping Southern experts establish their national and international reputations

**Research**
Producing scientifically-sound evidence base around major development issues

**Policy influence**
Bridging the gap between research and policy for better-informed decision-making
PEP MONITORING & EVALUATION STRATEGY
Assessing the achievement of PEP objectives

In 2008, several performance indicators were proposed by the PEP management committee, as part of a new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan, to assess the progress of PEP in each of the above-mentioned areas of activities.

The M&E Plan had two clearly defined objectives:

1) To provide PEP management with reliable and updated information on the achievement of the identified objectives as well as the multi-level impact of its activities – in order to assist in general programming decisions.

2) To provide donor organizations with an effective handle on how PEP has:
   - contributed to strengthen/promote the use of existing research capabilities in developing countries
   - brought about sustainable improvement in national and local-level policies, or changes in socioeconomic well-being

In September 2010, a new system was created and implemented to collect, directly from the research teams, specific information related to each of the performance indicators identified in the M&E Plan. The technical report that research teams were required to submit at different stages of research project execution was re-modeled into an automated computerized form, from which data can now be targeted and automatically compiled into a pre-set database. This database now constitutes the source of PEP’s Monitoring and Evaluation reports.

As the system was fairly recently implemented, however, only a fraction of the 172 projects supported by PEP since 2002 have been surveyed – most having been closed prior to 2010. To date, a total of 52 project teams have thus been monitored, over two years, using indicators that were designed to measure the achievement of PEP objectives. At the time of this report (January 2013), all 52 research teams had published their final research reports, but at least a quarter (25%) of them were still working on the dissemination of their findings at the national level.

Even if based on a 30% sample\(^1\), results from this survey\(^2\) – as detailed below – clearly demonstrate how PEP support and activities have effectively contributed to the promotion of Southern expertise, both at the national and international levels. Beyond the general statistics presented in section II below, several of the actual “PEP impact stories” are described in Annex A and Annex B.

See also Annex C for a detailed description of the M&E survey process, as well as to better apprehend PEP’s various components’ initiatives and related outcomes.

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\(^1\) 52 out of 172 PEP-funded research projects

\(^2\) The PEP internal M&E report is updated periodically. Results from the previous surveys are published on the PEP website. Find them all here: [http://www.pep-net.org/about/evaluation/](http://www.pep-net.org/about/evaluation/)
The current structure of the global entity that PEP has become is the result of ten years of building, experimenting, adjusting and expanding. Yet, for so young an institution, it has quite an impressive record of achievements.

Some noteworthy achievements include:

**Substantial contributions to the international development research community**

- Through close collaboration between international experts and supported researchers, PEP has developed several **new techniques, methodologies and concepts** to analyze poverty in its multiple dimensions, as well as to assess the impact of policies on welfare. Many of these tools are now highly valued by development practitioners and analysts worldwide^3^.

- **Extensive training material and lists of recommended readings** have been produced for a wide variety of tools and methodologies to assist in the capacity building of PEP researchers. Moreover, free and unlimited access to such material, via the PEP website^4^, allows researchers around the world to easily acquire the necessary tools for the production of state-of-the-art research, no matter their location and resources.

**A network of global scope and reach**

- To date, a total of **513 researchers** (43% women) based in **49 developing countries** have benefited from the PEP “support package” - financial, technical and scientific (including training, study visits, distance support, detailed comments on proposals and reports, general meetings, etc.) - enabling them to conduct rigorous and high-quality analysis of economic policies and development issues in their home countries.

- In order to provide more direct assistance to researchers and help manage such an extensive network, PEP has established **offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America**. Today, the administration of PEP projects has been completely devolved to its Southern partner institutions.

**Supporting the exposure of Southern-based experts**

- The success of the Network’s initiatives, in terms of building and promoting research capabilities in the South, is also demonstrated by the **increasing number of PEP researchers whose findings are being published in top development economics journals**^5^, challenging the near monopoly of these journals by researchers working in Europe or North America.

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^3^ For example: Distributional Analysis STATA Package (DASP), Distributional Analysis/Analyse Distributive (DAD) Software, PEP Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Standard Models, etc. Find out more about the research methods and techniques fostered through PEP research here: [http://www.pep-net.org/programs/](http://www.pep-net.org/programs/)


^5^ Find the related statistics on pages 7-8. Those that were published with direct assistance/support from PEP are listed here: [http://www.pep-net.org/publications/external-publications/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/external-publications/)
Other dissemination initiatives assisted and subsidized by PEP to date include:

- 271 research working papers and 101 policy briefs published on the findings of PEP-supported researchers.
- 87 international conference presentations by PEP researchers to share the policy and research implications of their work.
- 70 national policy conferences organized by PEP researchers to personally communicate their findings to key stakeholders and policymakers in their respective countries.

Assessing gender-related implications of development policies in the South

- PEP has supported 29 research projects (18% of all its projects) that focus specifically on assessing gender policy and poverty issues.
  - Among these, from 2004 to 2008, PEP benefited from additional funding that allowed it to run a Gender Challenge Fund, which funded 10 of the 29 projects reported above, covering issues such as the gender impacts of tax reform, female unemployment and micro-entrepreneurship training for women.
  - PEP’s MPIA program has been a pioneer in developing tools to analyze the gender impacts of macro policies.
  - More recently, PEP’s CBMS program launched a major gender-responsive budgeting project in Peru (funded by UNIFEM) and the Philippines that aims to develop and pilot test an enhanced community-based monitoring system that takes into account gender issues, facilitates gender responsive budgeting at the local level, and incorporates a planning and budgeting module.
  - Funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) allowed PEP’s Latin American office to launch an initiative on preventing teenage pregnancy.

Outside of these particular initiatives, the fact that 43% of all PEP-supported researchers (see table on page 5), 75% of program coordinators and at least half of PEP staff are female, has helped ensure that PEP research activities in general take account of gender issues and disparities.

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6 Findings from PEP projects are often also disseminated through independent initiatives of PEP research teams themselves without the assistance of PEP or PEP subsidies; these initiatives are not accounted for here, but some are captured in the statistics reported in section IV. Information regarding dissemination activities for CBMS projects is reported in Annex B. And more information regarding the general support that PEP provides in terms of research communications can be found here: http://www.pep-net.org/publications/research-communications/

7 Find all PEP working papers here: http://www.pep-net.org/publications/working-papers/. CBMS projects often yield more than one (sometimes up to 6) working papers, which explains why the number of published working papers exceeds that of PEP-supported projects.

8 Find all PEP policy briefs here: http://www.pep-net.org/no_cache/publications/policy-briefs/

9 See “gender issues” at: http://www.pep-net.org/programs/mpia/training-material/
Examples of such research activities include:

- gender-disaggregated multidimensional (and missing dimensions) poverty analysis,
- differentiated impacts of the global crisis on boys and girls
- gender-disaggregated public spending incidence analysis.

**General information of the achievements of PEP to date**

**Total number of research projects completed with PEP support** 172

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of research grants awarded per program or sub-network :</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIERI</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMMA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of PEP regional offices established** 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of total grants disbursed and managed by PEP regional offices:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEP Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEP Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEP Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEP North America</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Number of PEP general meetings** 9

**Number of PEP schools** 16

**Number of special training workshops per research program**

- MPIA | 6 |
- PIERI | 3 |
- PMMA | 8 |

**Percentage of resource persons and reviewers who reside in Southern countries** 54%

**Percentage of PEP-funded researchers aged under 30** 30%

**Percentage of PEP-funded researchers who are women** 43%

2. For CBMS training workshops, see Annex D for CBMS Monitoring and Evaluation Report.
Achieving high standards of research quality and scientific rigor

Following the selection of a project for PEP support, a PEP-affiliated “resource person” is systematically assigned as a “mentor” to the research team in order to provide ongoing and direct assistance throughout project execution. These mentors assist grantees in overcoming obstacles of both scientific and technical nature, and in the preparation of their research reports. All grantees are also provided a first-rate research environment with access to bibliographic databases, online journals, software, datasets, etc.

Moreover, funding is provided for one of the team members to complete a 3-4 week study visit at an institution of their choice to explore and discuss specific research issues with international experts. Finally, all project reports and overall progress are individually monitored, revised and commented upon by PEP resource persons and other international experts who specialize in the policy areas and methodologies used in the study.

Thus, in terms of research and scientific outputs, PEP-supported project outcomes are guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality.

PEP research projects contribute crucial evidence and specific recommendations on which decision-makers can rely to design and implement appropriate pro-poor policies. The evidence proceeds from different analytical approaches, in the use and application of which tools and techniques PEP-supported researchers are thoroughly trained. Summaries of PEP policy findings and recommendations are regularly posted on the PEP website.

PEP research has resulted in numerous publications that are now widely circulated for the benefit of the international development research community. In addition, PEP working papers are listed with SSRN (Social Science Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), the two leading dissemination tools for economic research.

Access statistics from the RePEc service

RePEc provides statistics on the number of abstract views and downloads for PEP working papers (see table on the right).

As of December 2012, via the RePEc website alone, the 106 listed PEP working papers had been downloaded a total of 13,914 times, and their abstracts had been viewed 47,491 times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
<th>Abstract Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>847</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>1051</td>
<td>3261</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>2064</td>
<td>6374</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>2325</td>
<td>8831</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>6744</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>7240</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>2284</td>
<td>7699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1676</td>
<td>6166</td>
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10 In fact, through the research it supports, PEP fosters crucial methodological developments for the advancement of research in development economics - distributive analysis, impact evaluations, macro-micro policy simulations, etc. Find out more about PEP research programs here: http://www.pep-net.org/programs/ or in Annex A
11 See: http://www.pep-net.org/home/pep-research-findings/
12 Papers based on CBMS findings are circulated through other services (see Annex D). RePEc statistics on PEP working paper series are made available via the following links:
Beyond the popularity of their papers on the web, the quality of PEP-supported researchers’ work has been acknowledged through their several academic awards (see examples on the right) and publications in peer-reviewed journals (see page 8).

**2012 STATISTICS**

The following sections present the updated results for detailed sets of performance indicators monitored throughout 2012 to assess the general achievement of PEP objectives in terms of capacity building, promotion of local expertise and policy influence.

As mentioned above, the survey was performed on a sample of 52 PEP-funded projects, involving a total of 198 researchers based in developing countries.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average age of supported researchers (at the time of project selection by PEP)</th>
<th>33</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of supported female researchers</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of female project team leaders</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of researchers who have learned and/or taken up in research practice:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New research methodologies</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New analytical concepts</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New software tools</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New scientific literature</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with research difficulties/obstacles overcome through PEP assistance</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects findings that resulted in an external publication</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting local experts in developing countries**

Through its sophisticated program of financial, scientific and technical support, PEP is able to build capacity among hundreds of Southern economists in the conduct of rigorous and high-quality research and policy analyses, despite an often severe lack of resources available in their home countries.

With an average researcher age of 33 years and 47% female participation (in this particular sample of 198 researchers, surveyed through 52 of PEP’s most recent projects), PEP is creating a growing and gender-equal pool of Southern-based researchers to nourish and influence current and future debates on poverty, development and economic policy issues.
Providing training, support and resources

To succeed in this initiative, PEP provides in-depth training, support and resources in a variety of the most recent and internationally acknowledged...

- **Research methodologies**: such as distributional analysis, statistical monitoring, data envelopment, social accounting matrices, randomized control trials, survey design, computable general equilibrium models, non-experimental impact evaluations, etc.
- **Analytical concepts**: which also vary and often relate to the chosen methodology, e.g. inequality of opportunities, educational mobility, propensity-score matching, dimensional scores, regression-discontinuity, tax progressivity, horizontal equity, etc.
- **Software tools**: Such as DAD, DASP, STATA, GAMS, etc.
- **Scientific literature**: bibliographic databases, online journal access, training material and recommended reading lists for a variety of concepts and techniques with links to electronic versions where available.

All the above-mentioned resources are **made available for free and unlimited access via the PEP website**, ensuring a first-rate research environment for Southern researchers.

**An independent Southern agenda**

PEP’s open and competitive grant mechanism allows Southern researchers to independently define the research agenda. With PEP support, grantees can investigate policy issues that they consider essential to better combat poverty based on their in-depth knowledge of local customs, conditions, policies and constraints. Furthermore, PEP research teams are composed of individuals who may be drawn from several institutions in order to provide the most comprehensive perspectives and expertise to address their specific research issue.

**Acknowledgment by the international research community**

According to the most recent survey conducted on less than a 1/3 sample of PEP-funded projects to date, **42% of PEP research findings have been published as an article in peer-reviewed journals** or as a chapter in an externally-published book. To date, PEP has provided direct assistance and subsidies to 29 of these publications13. This testifies to the increasing acknowledgement of their expertise by the international development research community.

See Annex B for more respondents’ testimony of how PEP support and training has contributed to both strengthen and promote their research capacities and expertise.

PROMOTION OF LOCAL EXPERTISE

% of projects that resulted in:

- researcher(s) experiencing career-promoting event(s) 88%
- researcher(s) getting hired or promoted 54%
- the undertaking of parallel research studies 67%
- further funding for researcher(s) or their institution(s) 29%

% of project findings:

- presented at a national stakeholder/policy conference 58%
- reported in the press (radio, newspapers, television, etc) 35%
- presented at an international conference 67%

A long-term career-promoting experience

During or following participation in a PEP-supported project, 88% of surveyed research teams reported that at least one of their team members had experienced a “career-promoting” event – such as postings, awards, academic graduations, etc. – due (at least in part) to their involvement in PEP research, while 55% claim that it has led to the hiring or promotion of at least one member to a new post.

67% of research teams have also reported that at least one of their team members had been solicited to pursue further analysis on related issues by government agencies (Ministries of Finance, Education, Health, Labor, etc.) or organizations such as the ADB, ECOWAS, GIZ, the IADB, IDRC, IFPRI, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, etc. Finally, 29% of the surveyed teams indicated having received further funding, either individually or for their respective institutions, to pursue their work in the context of the PEP project.

Providing national and international exposure

To ensure effective dissemination of the evidence produced from the research it supports, PEP provides both financial and logistical support for researchers to organize national policy conferences, and communicate directly their policy-related findings and recommendations to stakeholders.

The last survey shows that 58% of the projects were presented to a policy-related audience gathered at the national level, with other projects planning such events in the near future. According to survey answers however, it seems that only a third (33%) of these events were subsidized by PEP, which implies that researchers have taken such initiatives on their own.

“Thanks to the PEP project and the knowledge acquired, the publication of my research findings in refereed journals of 3 different papers, I was promoted to associate professor. Also, my participation in international conferences – with PEP support – allowed me to move in an international organization as senior economist.”  
Nadia Belhaj Hassine, Tunisia
Plus, as national policy conferences tend to be **widely publicized in national mass media** (radio, television, press), PEP research findings are often reported to the general public (35% in the case of the last survey), whose awareness can incite political leaders’ response.

Another sign of the acknowledgment of their authority as field specialists is the number of PEP researchers (67% of those surveyed) **invited to present their work in international conferences** intended for either policy or academic audiences, and held in all regions of the world. Again, PEP provides special grants and support to allow researchers to participate in these international events, and the survey shows that 42% of these participations were subsidized by PEP.

**POLICY INFLUENCE**

| % of projects designed in consultation with policy makers & stakeholders | 86% |
| % of projects that resulted in researchers contracted as policy consultants | 44% |
| % of project findings taken up to assist in policy formulation/ program design | 35% |
| % of projects that resulted in new program/policy design/implementation | 15% |
| % of projects that resulted in change or abrogation of actual policy/program | 8% |
| % of projects that resulted in general changes in socioeconomic wellbeing | 12% |

**Working in collaboration with stakeholders**

As part of PEP’s strategy to ensure that 1) its research projects are responsive to emerging development policy issues and 2) their findings will be assimilated in policy formulation, **ongoing consultation with relevant stakeholders and government agencies has become a fixed component of PEP projects.**

As a result, **88% of surveyed research teams had been working in close collaboration with policy makers and stakeholders** throughout their PEP project cycle. Moreover, 90% of these stakeholders were identified as direct research users, through whom the consultation activities may have led to impacts on policymaking.
PEP researchers recruited to advise policy

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

A significant number of research teams have reported that at least one member had been contracted (44%) to take on advisory work in policy consultancy mechanisms as a result of the reputational effect of their involvement with PEP.

Contracting institutions and organizations cited in researchers’ reports include:

- **Local or national government agencies**, such as the Free State Provincial Government of South Africa, the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria, the Ministry of Education in China, the Ministry of Finance in Pakistan, the Ministry of Minority Affairs in India, the National Bureau of Statistics in Cameroon, Shanghai Municipal Government and the State Forestry Administration in China, the Water Research Commission in South Africa, etc.

- **Regional or international organizations**, such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), AFRISTAT, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN+3 Research Group, the ECOWAS Commission, the Economic Research Fund (ERF), GIZ, IDRC, IMF, the Latin American Center for Rural Development, USAID, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, the World Bank, etc.

Contributing to poverty reduction through policy influence

As impacts on policy formulation or reform and, even more so, on socioeconomic well-being of targeted populations, tend to occur only in the medium to long term, it is particularly difficult to track the achievements of PEP initiatives on this level.

Nonetheless, and even though most of the projects included in our 2012 survey were fairly recent ones, it appears that direct influence of PEP findings on policy formulation has already occurred in 35% of cases. 15% had resulted in the implementation of new policies/programs and 8% in the change or abrogation of existing policies/programs.

Annex A presents of few of these “PEP impact stories” where PEP-supported projects have resulted in direct policy influence.
Considering the number of past research projects and disseminated findings unaccounted for in this survey, however, it is reasonable to think that this percentage does not reflect the overall potential influence of PEP initiatives in terms of poverty alleviation and improvement of socioeconomic wellbeing in developing countries, especially given the much greater percentage of PEP researchers being offered opportunities to pursue their work in spheres where they can exert direct impact on policymaking and poverty alleviation.

Moreover, in several cases, PEP researchers have reported that their findings had been used by national and/or international NGOs, as well as by national offices of international development partners, to support their own advocacy work to influence or induce pro-poor government policy and interventions.

Some examples of PEP-supported projects that are reported to have influenced the design, implementation and/or reform of policies/programs, among those surveyed, include:

- **ARGENTINA** - Ley Federal de Educacion (conditional cash transfer program for education): to be reformed/replaced by new (re-designed) program “Asignaciones Universales pro Hijo”
- **CAMEROON** - Plan national de développement sanitaire (National Plan for Sanitary Development): the take-up of PEP research findings led to the implementation of several measures to improve the quality of health services
- **CAMEROON** - 2013 ECAM IV (national household consumption survey): New monitoring indicators to be added, based on PEP researcher’s advisory, to better reflect gender-related and multidimensional aspects of poverty
- **CHINA** - Tuition Relief Program for Rural Senior High Schools Students: to be extended for an additional 5 years at county level, and potentially scaled-up to provincial and national level
- **CHINA** - 12th Five-year National Forestry Development Plan: Currently in preparation using evidence and recommendations submitted by PEP researchers
- **INDIA** - Social security benefits for workers from the informal sector: to be provided following PEP researchers’ report on informal sector’s conditions and capital mobility in India
- **NIGERIA** - National Poverty Eradication Program: PEP research findings regarding the willingness of rural population to pay for health insurance have been influential in designing schemes that will benefit the rural and other vulnerable groups of population in Nigeria
- **TCHAD** - Stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté (National Anti-Poverty Strategy): new survey strategies implemented to monitor the impact of health and education spending
- **UGANDA** - Community-based monitoring interventions: Considered by the Ministry of Education to assist in improving primary schools’ management and performance, based on PEP findings and recommendations
- **URUGUAY** - Plan de Atención Nacional a la Emergencia Social (PANES): research results were acknowledged for the design of new interventions to foster school attendance and reduce poverty in new cash transfer component “Asignaciones Familiares”

Annex A presents more detailed accounts of how these and other surveyed projects have led to actual influence on policy at the national level. Find them also on the PEP website.
ARGENTINA (2009-2012)
Leonardo Gasparini, Carlos German Bet, Maria Laura Alzua, Francisco Haimovich Paz
Assessing the impact of Argentina’s Ley Federal de Educación on educational and labor outcomes
See PEP policy brief 88

PEP researchers stir up education policy debates in Argentina

In 2009, a team of Argentinian researchers were granted the support of PEP 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.

BRAZIL (2009-2011)
Rafael Perez Ribas, Fabio Soares, Clarissa Gondim Teixeira, Elydia Silva and Guilherme Hirata
Estimating Participation and Spill-over Effects in Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programs
See PEP policy brief 89 and PEP policy brief 90

PEP researchers advise on CCT program implementation in Paraguay

Much of the debate concerning conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs focus on the issues of targeting and conditionalities. Despite the number of initiatives led, mostly in Latin America, to assess the impact of CCT programs, there is little evidence as to the actual effect of the cash allocations per se, or the value added by the conditionality. Based on the case study of a conditional cash transfer program implemented in Paraguay (Tekoporã), at pilot phase, a team of PEP Brazilian researchers sought to assess how non-monetary components of CCT programs may affect the consumption patterns and behaviors of beneficiary households.

They found, on the one hand, that the pilot phase of the program has been successful in improving children’s attendance in both schools and health centers, as it aimed, but that the main driver of such improvement was the change in households’ preferences, induced by the program rather than the additional income per se. Plus, the results also show that if the “message” (or signal) associated with the program’s requirements (or conditions) has led to a change in families’ behaviors, that change was not caused or influenced by the awareness of the program’s conditionalities or enforcement methods (e.g. family support visits by social workers). Given the costs of implementation of such programs’ “non-cash” components, the researchers strongly recommended that further examination of the relative contribution of each of the program’s components be conducted, so as to clearly assess what is essential to secure the desired outcomes, prior to scaling up.

ANNEX A
PEP IMPACT STORIES
Over the past few years, the team has frequently been contacted by and/or met with officials in Paraguay, e.g. from Census Bureau, the Ministries of Finance and Social Assistance, as well as from the Department in charge of implementing the Tekoporã program, seeking information about the project’s results and policy advisory with regard to the (re) design and potential expansion of the program. The researchers, however, lament the high turnover rate of appointed program managers, which has made it quite difficult to provide and see through such advisory work, i.e. as they had to resume the process with each newly appointed team. They eventually decided to focus their communications on more permanent Ministerial components and officials, through whom the influence may not be as direct but more likely to produce long-term effect.

**CAMEROON (2006-2008)**
Dia Bernadette Kamgnia, Afor Josephine Fosah, Simon Jules Leunkeu Wangun and Tatsinkou Christophe
Acquired Benefits and Poor Targeting in Public Spending on Health and Education in Cameroon
See PEP policy brief 50

**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 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)**
Paul Ningaye, Virginie Takoutio Feudjio, Alexis Tiomela Yemedjeu
Dimensional and Regional Distribution of Multi-Poverty in Cameroon – See PEP policy brief 81

**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, Dr Paul Ningaye, 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.
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 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, 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.

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’ 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 all of the poorest rural areas in the country.
**CHINA (2010-2012)**

Can Liu, Hao Liu, Wenqing Zhu, Qingjiao Rong

Assessing the impact of China’s priority forest programs on rural households’ income and income mobility

See PEP policy brief 109

**PEP research 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. 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 Officers 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)**

Asmaa Elbadawy, Nadia Zibani and Rania Roushdy

Assessing the Impact of Ishraq Intervention, a Second-Chance Program for Out-of-School Rural Adolescent Girls in Egypt

**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 (room for improvement), 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 and the Ministry of Education (including at local-, governorate- and national levels, from both successive regimes). These consultations and meetings have contributed to significantly improve of the program, as well as to ensure broad dissemination 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 manual providing detailed information on the program’s implementation.
PEP researchers’ findings in India prompt initiatives in favor of social security for informal workers

In this particular project, a team of PEP-supported researchers in India observed the impact of wage fluctuations in the informal sector on poverty incidence across various states in India. They found that informal wage growth – which is facilitated by freer movement of capital – can be instrumental in lifting a significant share of the population out of poverty.

The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) – a national body commissioned by the Indian government to address the issues faced by enterprises in relation to the informal employment sector – demonstrated keen interest in the project outcomes. In 2010, the project leader’s personal initiatives to inform the NCEUS of their findings, between 2006 and 2008, had contributed to “subsequent steps towards the implementation of policies related to social security benefits for workers in the informal sector, as well as to consultations with banks concerning lending credit facilities.”

Unfortunately, since the researchers’ last report to PEP, the NCEUS has been dissolved and it is unclear how their policy initiatives and recommendations have been carried over or taken up by the government...

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 depends 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 primacy education policies in Kenya has only but benefited to 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.
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.

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 researchers that are partnering with MFIs in Mexico and in India, who are 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)
Abdoulaye Diagne, Mouhamadou Moustapha Lo, Fatoumata L. Diallo, Ibrahima Oumarou Sadou
Assessing the impact of a school canteen program in primary schools in rural Senegal

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)
Madina Guloba, Lawrence Bategeka, Ibrahim Kasiye
Improving school quality in East Africa: management and motivation in Ugandan primary schools
See PEP policy brief 98

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 grassroots 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.

URUGUAY (2007-2012, 2 consecutive projects)
Veronica Amarante, Andrea Vigorito, Arim Rodrigo
Family Allowances and Child School Attendance. An ex-ante Evaluation of Alternative Schemes in Uruguay – See PEP policy brief 60
School Attendance, Child Labor and Cash Transfers: An Impact Evaluation of PANES - PEP policy brief 85

A team of PEP-supported researchers in Uruguay assists government in re-designing 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 (called “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.
ANNEX B
Testimony of PEP Contribution to Research Capacity Building

1. Excerpts

The following is a series of excerpts from PEP research teams’ technical reports that testify to the researcher’s acknowledgment of the opportunities provided by PEP and its particular support program.

From the team of PEP project PMMA-11314

*Analysis of the missing dimensions of poverty data in Nigeria*

“The PEP network has afforded us 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 beyond the completion of the projects.

The overall research support provided through the PEP network is greatly acknowledged. One of the very useful aspects of our projects was the support received during our leader’s study visit to the University of Oxford. This provided invaluable support in understanding the methodology, data collection tool as well as analyses techniques. The willingness of busy academics to devote such time to provide research support was immensely useful to the project. PEP’s support in the area of assistance with software (e.g. DASP) is also appreciated as this was invaluable in the data analysis stage.

We are grateful that PEP support includes not only scientific input, but also revision, comments, editing, etc., all of which has helped to improve upon the work and is also helpful in giving it overall direction. Provided on an ongoing basis, it further enhances chances to publish papers in reputable scientific journals. PEP’s open hands and willingness to provide support when any member shouts is equally acknowledged. Through answers to their frequent e-mail queries, researchers are able to find headway and progress on a continual basis”.

From the team of PEP project PIERI-11239

*School Attendance, Child Labor and Cash Transfers: An Impact Evaluation of PANES - Uruguay*

“We consider that PEP network is unique in terms of the opportunities and support it provides to researchers. The course on impact evaluation that __one of our team members__ attended in the context of her study visit in Barcelona was extremely useful in her personal development as a researcher and for the research team in order to improve our research”.

From the team of PEP project MPIA-11351

*Setting Up a Uniformed Social Security System under Huge Rural Labor Migration in China*

“We are very grateful to participate in the PEP network, to find out about CGE modeling work and policy simulations from all over the world, and share our experiences with others to get valuable comments and suggestions so that improve our research capacities”. 
From the team of PEP project PIERI-11242

**Estimating Participation and Spill-over Effects in Conditional Cash Transfer Programs - Brazil**

“Our team has greatly benefited from the study visit, supported in the context of our PEP project, and also from the interaction with and tutoring from international specialists, particularly during the PEP conferences. These meetings are extremely useful, both for the academic feedback from the tutors and specialists, and for the opportunity to get to know other researchers from developing countries and to build new networks and partnerships.

We also have profited from PEP’s support to present the papers at international conferences. Such support was of great value for my team, specially the younger members who had the opportunity to participate both as presenters and discussants in these conferences.

Such opportunities would not be accessible to us if it was not for PEP support. In addition, PEP’s focus on having the project’s outcomes influence policy has put pressure on the team to be in constant interaction with policy makers, which I think was extremely useful”

From the team of PEP project PIERI-11243

**Assessing the Impact of Argentina’s Ley Federal de Educación on Educational and Labor Outcomes**

“Our general appreciation of the PEP network is excellent. We would like to highlight the permanent monitoring of the projects by the network, and the multiple opportunities of interactions with members at different levels of the network. At our institution (CEDLAS) we interact with a large number of organizations and governments; the experience with PEP has been excellent both in absolute terms and compared to any other research institutions”

From the team of PEP project MPIA-10676

**Stratégie sectorielle, pauvreté et vulnérabilité: cas du Togo** (Sectoral strategy, poverty and vulnerabilities : the case of Togo)

“The scientific support provided by the PEP Network is both rich and complete. It allows bringing literature review up to date and discover the most updated and relevant methodologies. Study visits are invaluable as they allow researchers to refine their research practices”

From the team of PEP project PMMA-10228

**Labor supply responses to income shocks under credit constraints: Evidence from Bukidnon, Philippines.**

“During the course of the project, we had received distance support (through draft comments), a study visit, training sessions during the Dakar meeting and during the study visit (on DAD). We received additional financial support in the form of travel grants, as well as a publication grant. We find these types of support to be extremely useful, leading directly to very concrete changes in the way we conduct research.”
Our participation in PEP general meetings were very useful, not only in terms of making presentation and receiving feedback from resource persons and participants, but also in terms of touching base with fellow researchers from different developing countries. Attending such events is undoubtedly a very enriching experience, especially for our youngest team members.

From PEP project team PMMA-10521


"The package offered by the network is way above any other networks that we are aware of. In particular, we think it is excellent to have:

- Access to literature and database
- Access to software
- The high technical support offered.
- Opportunities for additional grants (e.g. Junior researcher grants and conference participation
- The excellent and very efficient management of all on financial, technical and other logistical issues

The team leader participated in the study visit. She was overwhelmed by the support she got from PEP at Laval. Having been involved in study visits under other networks, she can only applaud the magnitude of support from PEP."

From PEP project team PIERI-11204

Effect of Sexuality and Procreation Education on Health and Poverty Reduction of Girls in Rural China - The Case of Gansu Province, China

"It is a very good experience to work with the PEP Network. I had a good training, easy access to international journals, and professional advancement after I have worked with PEP. I learned a lot during my research period; the scientific support, and the way it is channelled, is one of the features that make PEP a unique network"

From PEP project team PMMA-10208

À qui profitent les dépenses sociales au Tchad? Une analyse d'incidence à partir des données d'enquête (Who Benefits From Social Expenditures in Chad? An Incidence Analysis Using Survey Data)

« Les encadreurs des jeunes chercheurs du PEP font un travail remarquable. Le PEP constitue d'ailleurs un excellent cadre de discussion ; en tant que réseau, il offre l'opportunité aux chercheurs des pays en développement de se rejoindre sur les thèmes liés à la pauvreté qui, souvent, sont relativement similaires dans la région (Afrique sub-Saharienne). Le Réseau PEP forme une véritable famille qui transcende les différences linguistiques, nationales, continentales, religieuses, intellectuelles, culturelles. C'est à juste titre que l'équipe encourage la multiplication des conférences PEP, creuset par excellence des échanges multiformes ». 
The work of PEP resource persons is remarkable. As a Network, PEP is an excellent framework for discussions, providing researchers in developing countries to “exchange” on poverty-related themes, which are often similar in the region (sub-Saharan Africa). The PEP Network is truly like a family that transcends linguistic, national, continental, religious, intellectual and cultural differences (barriers).

2. Reported events

The following is a list of examples of career-promoting events that were reported to have occurred as a result, at least in part, of researchers’ involvement in a PEP project and the capacity they had built through the project.

Argentina
- Leonardo Gasparini was recruited as Scientific Committee member of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ) in 2009

Brazil
- Elydia Sylvia was recruited by the National Bank for Social and Economic Development in 2010.
- After successfully defending his thesis, based on his PEP project, Pedro Oliveira was hired as Assistant Professor at the Federal University of Grande Dourados to teach quantitative methods, which he acquired, in great part, during his PEP project.

Bangladesh
- S.M. Abdullah was appointed Lecturer for the Department of Economics at the University of Dhaka

Cameroon
- Following conclusion of their PEP project in 2008, Dia Bernadette Kamgnia (project leader) was appointed as PhD programs’ coordinator at University of Yaoundé II. She subsequently went on to become the coordinator of training programs (Master’s & PhD) of the New PTCI (Programme de Troisième Cycle Inter Universitaire en Economie) of the CIEREA, and then Division Manager of Development & Policy Dialog Division (ADI 2) of the African Development Bank. Leunkeu Wangun was recruited as Research Officer for the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Urban Management, and Tatsinkou Christophe has been appointed as head of Coordination Unit at the National Bureau of Statistics.
- Paul Ningaye received an honorable mention by his jury after successfully defending his PhD thesis at the University of Yaoundé II in 2012. He was also called upon by the National Bureau of Statistics to assist in the integration of new indicators to monitor/measure multi-poverty in Cameroon, based on his PEP-supported research work.
Chad

- In 2008, Tabo Symphorien was recruited as an Economist for the IMF Office in Chad, then in 2009 as an Economic Study Consultant by AFRISTAT in Mali, and also by the African Development Bank, as a Chad-based Consultant, five years in a row. In 2012, he was recruited to assist in designing Chad’s 2013-2015 National Strategic Development Plan.
- In 2010, Olivier Béguy was recruited as an Economist for the World Bank Office in Chad.

China

- Wei Qu was awarded with the Social Science Research Excellence Award of Gansu Province two years in a row, in 2010 and 2012.

Colombia

- Ricardo Arguello was appointed Associate Professor at the Universidad del Rosario, and recruited as an advisor in agricultural statistics for the National Institute of Statistics.

Ecuador

- Sara Wong was asked, in 2008, by the Director of RIMISP (the Latin American Center for Rural Development) to become a member of a regional initiative on Rural Poverty, to undertake studies and give policy recommendations to reduce rural poverty in Ecuador.

Egypt

- Nadia Belhaj Hassine became a Senior Economist for the Economic Research Forum (ERF) in Cairo. She was later recruited as Senior Program Specialist of the IDRC Regional Office in Middle-East.
- Asmaa Elbadawy was awarded with the Global Development Network’s (GDN) Medal for Research in Development, at the 11th GDN Annual Conference in 2010.

Ethiopia

- In 2007, thanks to his ongoing research work with PEP, Sindu Workneh Kebede was admitted in a special Doctoral program of DIW Berlin, sponsored by the Humboldt University of Berlin.

India

- Following conclusion of their PEP project in 2007, Sugata Marjit (project team leader) became director of the Center for Studies in Social Sciences, in Calcutta, while his research partner, Saibal Kar, was promoted to Associate Professor.

Kenya

- In 2011, Jane Kabubo-Mariara was appointed as the Director of the School of Economics at the University of Nairobi, while her research partners, Margaret N. Karienyeh and Francis K. Mwangi, were appointed Associate Lecturers, the first at Kenyatta University (Kenya), and the other at Kigali Institute of Management, in Rwanda.
Mali

- In 2010, Kassim Dabitao was recruited to edit the annual reviews of the National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, while his research partner, Aoua Saran Dembele was promoted to Chief Research Officer of an observatory for the National Agency for Labour.

Nigeria

- William M. Fonta was appointed Senior Lecturer in Economics at University of Nigeria
- Reuben Adeolu Alabi was appointed Associate Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics of Ambrose Alli University.

Pakistan

- After publication of their PEP paper, the team leader, Vaqar Ahmed was invited to make several in-country presentations, including to the Ministry of Finance, Sustainable Development Conference and Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development. He was also appointed Chief of Macroeconomics (and now Advisor) for the Planning Commission. Ahsan Abbas was asked to present the results at Gujranwala Institute of Future Technologies, and to contribute to key publications on tax- and trade-related analysis in Pakistan. Saira Ahmed earned her PhD from the IMT Institute of Advanced Studies, after defending her thesis based on their PEP results in Luca, Italy.

Philippines

- In 2010, Hazel Jean Malapit was recruited by the World Bank as a Gender Economist, for the Gender and Development Unit, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network.
- In 2010, Jasmin P. Suministrado was recruited by the International Labour Office (ILO), as Knowledge Officer for the Microinsurance Innovation Facility, Employment Sector.

Uruguay

- Veronica Amarante and Andrea Vigorito were awarded with the 2009 Best Practice Award from PEGNet (GIZ) - for effective cooperation between research and policy, in the context of their PEP-supported project. In 2011, Amarante was appointed as Director of the “Instituto de Economía” and later, in 2012, recruited by the Social Studies Division of ECLAC, in Chile.
1. Categorizing PEP research projects

PEP’s support mechanism is structured into four programs, based on different research methodologies for poverty and economic policy analysis:

- Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS*)
- Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA)
- Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI)
- Poverty Monitoring, Measuring and Analysis (PMMA)

*Follow the links above for detailed description of each program.

Even if tightly-linked, the programs differ in the nature of research techniques, structure and expected outputs. Research projects that fall under the CBMS sub-network, in particular, present especially distinguishing characteristics. Thus, in order to gather more accurate information on the achievement of PEP’s specific objectives, it was decided that an additional set of indicators would be used to monitor and assess the progress of the CBMS sub-network more specifically.

Monitoring and Evaluation Reports, therefore, come in two parts. The main document discloses either general information on PEP’s global achievements to date and detailed results from the monitoring of projects supported by MPIA, PIERI and PMMA research programs. While, a detailed account of CBMS specific achievements is presented as a distinct report in Annex D.

2. A New Monitoring System

As the Monitoring and Evaluation System for MPIA, PIERI and PMMA projects was only recently implemented (end of 2010), reporting on progress of the complete list of performance indicators is only partial. Most MPIA and PMMA research projects completed before 2010 had submitted the final update of their technical reports before the new system was created. Therefore, the statistical results presented in the main document can only account for a limited number of projects.

To date, 52 teams have submitted their first or latest technical report update in the new computerized format, allowing us to compile data on M&E indicators selected for MPIA, PIERI and PMMA projects.

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1 The monitoring of CBMS indicators do not use the same computerized form used by MPIA, PIERI and PMMA project teams to submit their technical report.

2 Prior to the actual system, technical reports were submitted in Word format and their content did not cover all the information gathered in the new system. It is also important to note that some of these indicators have always been quite difficult to track; especially those intended to assess the overall policy influence and socioeconomic impact of PEP supported initiatives, given both the subtle nature and long-term implications of such repercussions.
I. **Background**

Through its CBMS Network Program, PEP specifically aims to deepen its contribution towards evidence-based policymaking and better targeted poverty interventions in developing countries through the use of community-based monitoring indicator systems and methodologies. The CBMS is geared to be used to provide the necessary up to date and disaggregated data on the different dimensions of poverty while facilitating participation of various stakeholders in the decision making process.

In particular, the CBMS Network aims to:

- a) Design community-based poverty monitoring systems that are appropriate to developing countries
- b) Extend research support to national and international planning bodies in developing countries on the use of CBMS methodologies for the design and implementation of more targeted interventions to achieve poverty reduction and other development agenda
- c) Further enhance the capacity of Network researchers to influence poverty reduction initiatives within countries using the CBMS indicator system and methodologies that were earlier developed
- d) Develop and improve the dataset for poverty analysis and policy-action research
- e) Foster technical collaboration of CBMS researchers with MPIA-PMMA researchers through joint research and training workshops
- f) Mobilize resources for scaling up and institutionalization of CBMS

II. **Research outputs and outcomes**

Since 2002, the PEP CBMS Research Program - entirely administered by the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office in Manila (Philippines), has fostered the implementation and use of community-based monitoring systems in 17 developing countries, to help:

- produce poverty diagnosis,
- improve local governance,
- localize the millennium development goals (MDGs), and
- monitor the impacts of various shocks (policies, crises) on poverty at the local level.

Aside from the adoption of the CBMS methodology and instruments by national and local government units as part of development strategy and processes, data from CBMS has also
been utilized for the conduct of poverty analysis and policy impact studies, not only by CBMS network researchers but also other (non-PEP) researchers around the world.

The CBMS databases, which are a product of technical collaboration between CBMS researchers and local stakeholders, have provided a rich source of socio-economic information for university students, faculty and research groups for conduct of undergraduate theses, and project studies.

PEP was able to achieve all this, through the following activities:

- Research grants and scientific support for the development and pilot test of CBMS methodologies, instruments for data collection and processing, training modules, and its applications in 16 developing countries
- Training and Mentoring of CBMS researchers and stakeholders
- Dissemination and publication of CBMS research and findings
- Networking and partnerships (including special collaborative projects with international institutions).

## A. Research

PEP has supported the implementation of 31 CBMS projects\(^1\) since 2002. This number substantially exceeds the 23 projects that were initially planned in the global PEP project and budget, at no additional cost to PEP donors. Indeed, most of the additional projects were made possible through local funding contributions (allocated and managed directly by local stakeholders) to the implementation of CBMS in the project sites, as well as with parallel funding support provided by UNICEF (Burkina Faso), UNDP (Philippines) and UNIFEM (Peru).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research grants awarded</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working papers prepared</td>
<td>132(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned papers produced</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot CBMS projects implemented</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBMS expansion projects supported</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Note that PEP overall statistics account for 4 additional CBMS project papers (for a total of 35 CBMS projects): one is a commissioned paper, two were papers produced on CBMS-related work for PEP 2005 and 2006 PEP meetings, and one was separately financed by IDRC as a special output from a collaboration project on gender-responsive budgeting. The present report only accounts for projects implemented by country teams or partner institutions to either development, pilot test and/or institutionalize Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS).

\(^2\) The 119 working papers cited in this table includes all CBMS-related working papers prepared under the CBMS projects and also those papers prepared and presented (by stakeholders; which are not necessarily part of the initial expected outputs of country teams but have been produced in the collaboration with the said stakeholders) in CBMS conferences.
These PEP-supported projects covered CBMS research work in 17 developing countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2002 to 2012, PEP was able to develop and pilot-test CBMS in selected sites in 15 developing countries. In each country, these projects have contributed to build the knowledge base and institutional practices for the design, implementation and application of community-based monitoring systems for poverty and policy impact analysis. They have also led to the establishment of partnerships with (between) local research and academic institutions, as well as with (and) key stakeholders, particularly national and local policymakers within these countries, i.e. intended users of research outputs.

In addition, PEP has also supported the expansion of CBMS work in 3 countries (Philippines, Vietnam and Burkina Faso) where CBMS had been successfully piloted under the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) Program of IDRC (precursor to PEP, in the 1990’s). These initiatives had been used for the preparation of necessary training modules and useful reference materials for those CBMS country teams that are still in their pilot phase.

Through these CBMS projects, PEP has specifically achieved the following research outputs:

- Pilot-test of CBMS methodology, poverty indicator systems, data collection and processing instruments
- Establishment of local-level poverty databases
- Research and policy recommendations based on empirical evidence regarding important development issues (achieving the MDGs, identification of needs and resource allocation, improvement of local governance, better program design and targeting)
- Impact analysis of recent food and fuel price shocks and of the global financial crises have been conducted at the onset of crises
- Design and pilot test of CBMS modules for climate change vulnerability mapping

These research outputs have fostered multi-dimensional poverty analysis and evidence-based policy analysis. The instruments and tools developed through the CBMS program have contributed to bridge the data/information gap for more comprehensive poverty diagnosis, analysis and policy recommendations in beneficiary countries.
Meanwhile, access of researchers to improved and richer databases generated by CBMS has also facilitated the development of better management techniques for handling and processing large datasets in the conduct of research and policy studies.

### B. Capacity building of researchers and stakeholders

Through its CBMS research initiative, PEP was able to develop tools and training modules that enabled researchers in developing countries to respond to identified gaps in policymaking and program implementation. In particular, the CBMS tools and modules, developed and pilot-tested by the CBMS Network, have contributed to build and improve capacities of local stakeholders in generating local poverty statistics, empowering communities in the use of data for various development processes. Given the difference in capacities of researchers and stakeholders, it was found that technical support and guidance for CBMS work need to be provided at varying levels over time.

Of the seventeen (17) CBMS country teams that have been supported via the PEP program since 2002, ten (10) are led (project leader) by established researchers with advanced degrees (PhD) in their fields, and holding senior or high-level position in their respective institutions. One (1) CBMS project of PEP was led by a municipal town planner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% and number of CBMS project teams including female researchers</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects with researchers who participated in PEP training/technical workshops</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects that resulted in the undertaking of parallel research studies</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects that conducted CBMS training workshops for local stakeholders</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects which established national and local trainers on CBMS modules</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the Network, the senior CBMS country researchers, particularly those who have been involved with earlier CBMS initiatives under the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) Program of IDRC, were able to provide mentoring support to country teams who were at their initial phase of design and pilot test of their CBMS.

On the other hand, PEP financial support enabled the more advanced CBMS country teams to further develop the applications of CBMS for emerging policy issues and global development challenges, such as those relating to achieving the MDGs and impact analysis of food and fuel price shocks and the financial crisis.
C. Dissemination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects designed and implemented in consultation/collaboration with policymakers and stakeholders</td>
<td>97% 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects with findings published as working papers</td>
<td>87% 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects with findings published and disseminated as policy briefs</td>
<td>23% 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects with findings/related outputs published and disseminated as journal articles</td>
<td>19% 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects with findings presented at a national stakeholders/policy conference</td>
<td>55% 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% and number of projects with findings presented in international conference/s</td>
<td>81% 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of national/local stakeholders conferences/dissemination fora organized</td>
<td>- 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects whose findings were reported in the press (newspaper, radio etc.)</td>
<td>10% 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of newsletters published</td>
<td>- 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of books published</td>
<td>- 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conferences

National and local dissemination workshops and conferences are integral component for CBMS projects. These events are organized to serve as venues for getting feedback on the research outputs and recommendations of the projects, to facilitate discussions of key policy issues that need to be considered in the conduct and improvement of CBMS work, and to establish linkages with more partners for scaling up and institutionalization of CBMS for its intended uses.

These conferences have, thus far, paved the way for greater awareness and understanding on the uses of CBMS among various stakeholders within countries where the system has been pilot-tested through PEP-supported research initiatives. It has resulted in useful recommendations from intended users on how to further improve the CBMS process and
instruments, validation of project findings, as well as elaboration of strategies and mechanisms for better integration and institutionalization of CBMS to development processes.

**Publications**

**Academic Journals**

Thus far, six of the PEP-supported CBMS country projects (i.e. ≈ 20%) have had their respective policy studies published as an academic journal article. Meanwhile, with the development of the CBMS database, other non-PEP researchers were able to utilize the CBMS data for the conduct of research studies which have also been published in such journals.

List of journal publications based on CBMS findings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author/s</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal Publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PEP-CBMS Research Papers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felix A. Asante, Cynthia A. Tagoe, Alfred A. Boakye</td>
<td>Effects of Rising Food and Oil Prices on Rural Households in Ghana: A Case Study of Selected Communities in the Dangme West District Using the CBMS Approach</td>
<td>DLSU Business &amp; Economics Review, Vol 20, No 1 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nguyen Xuan Mai &amp; Vu Tuan Anh</td>
<td>Reduction of urban poverty</td>
<td>Vietnam's Socio-Economic Development No. 51, September 2007. Hanoi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vu Tuan Anh</td>
<td>Impacts of off-farm business growth on rural sustainable development</td>
<td>Vietnam's Socio-Economic Development No. 48, December 2006.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other related research studies using CBMS data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CBMS Online

Meanwhile, aside from disseminating activities through the PEP website, the use of social media, such as Facebook, has been useful for the CBMS Network Team for interacting with local stakeholders and CBMS users in the Philippines. The creation of the CBMS-Philippines Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/CBMSPhilippines), for instance, has enabled the network to disseminate information about forthcoming national conferences and also allowed active interaction among CBMS users. As of March 2013, the CBMS Facebook Page had over 6400 followers. Related Facebook pages, created specifically by CBMS local partners for their respective regions (e.g., https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbms.rx/) also became a very useful and accessible channel to provide mentoring among CBMS local trainers in the country.

III. Policy Influence of CBMS projects and research

Even at developmental (or pilot) stage, actual contributions of CBMS towards evidence-based policymaking and achieving development goals are supported by testimony of several policymakers and development partner organizations who have participated in various PEP-CBMS international and national conferences3.

The CBMS, which started as an output of a small research project in the Philippines with support from IDRC-Canada, now proves to be a vital and sustainable tool for policymaking and implementation of poverty reduction initiatives at the local level. In particular, CBMS has been adopted and used by national governments worldwide as an important tool for monitoring the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs)4, or to target beneficiaries of development programs5, both at the local and national levels.

In all countries where it has been implemented, CBMS has empowered communities to proactively engage in local development processes, promoted greater transparency in resource allocation and facilitated improvements in local governance. With accurate and up-to-date information from CBMS, local governments have been able to maximize both use and impact of their meager resources. The information has also helped them attract many other donors to fund critical programs.

In the Philippines, CBMS is now widely used to base poverty diagnosis, localize the achievement of the MDGs, as well as to assist in local planning and budgeting. Using data from CBMS and with support from the CBMS network team, the country was able to produce its sub-national MDG reports to track progress at the local level, under the leadership of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and in collaboration with local government units in 10 provinces. Continued efforts of various stakeholders in the country - led by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and NEDA - has encouraged more LGUs in the country to adopt and use CBMS. Since 2003, a number of national and local policy issuances have supported the use of CBMS – the most recent being the DILG issuance 2012-142, which enjoined all local chief executives to utilize CBMS as a tool for planning and project development. The policy issuance also recommended for the synchronization of the adoption of CBMS with the local planning and budgeting calendar. Finally, the CBMS Research Program has been recognized, in December 2011, by the Commission on Higher Education as one of the top 3 finalists/qualifier for the Best Higher Education Institutions Research Program for 2010 in the National Capital Region.

CBMS has also been adopted by the Pekalongan City Government in Indonesia. Following the completion of the 2nd phase of the CBMS country project in Indonesia in 2011, the local CBMS team based at SMERU-Research Institute has extended technical support to the National Secretariat of PEKKA (Women Household Empowerment) in the adoption of CBMS in selected expansion areas in 18 provinces in the country. The initiative was funded by the Australian Government. PEKKA is a program in Indonesia that generally aims to strengthen capacities of women-headed households, to contribute to the development of their society.

CBMS has also been adopted by the Ministry of State for Planning (MOP), National Development and Vision 2030 in Kenya, as a tool for tracking the achievement of MDGs. By the completion of the 2nd Phase of the PEP-supported CBMS project in Kenya, a CBMS handbook was jointly published by the local CBMS team, based at the African Institute for Health and Development, for the use of a pool of national CBMS trainers, organized by the MOP for the replication of CBMS in selected MDG project sites of the MOP.

Meanwhile, the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) in Cambodia has developed CBMS to improve its commune-based poverty reports. Following the discussions among national and local stakeholders during the 9th PEP general meeting, held in Cambodia in December 2011, and noting the potential uses of CBMS, a proposal was initiated by UNDP-Cambodia for the integration of household data collection processes (including CBMS) in the country.

The Department of Statistics under the Ministry of Planning in Lao PDR, is also using CBMS data to enhance the preparation of its village books.

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7 In particular, it aims to improve female household-heads’ welfare, organize and facilitate their access to various resources, facilitate their active participation to every phase of development, raise awareness on their rights as human beings and as equal citizens, as well as to empower these women to have control over their lives, not only as decision makers within their own families, but within their society as well.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of projects with parallel contributions from international/national/local stakeholders for adoption/expansion of CBMS</td>
<td>%  29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects whose outputs have been used by national/local governing bodies for policymaking/program implementation/poverty monitoring and related initiatives</td>
<td>%  29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects with national/local stakeholders who have presented the actual uses of CBMS in national/international fora</td>
<td>%  45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In South Africa, local stakeholders in pilot sites are having initial discussions with the CBMS local team, based at the University of Venda, for possible roll-out of CBMS in the municipalities of Mutale and Tzaneen, in Limpopo Province.

The importance of CBMS is now acknowledged by the international development community as well. In 2006, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Committee on Poverty Reduction had noted its key role in achieving the MDGs at the local level. It further noted, with satisfaction, the contribution of CBMS in providing disaggregated data on Millennium Development Goal indicators to policymakers in the Philippines. It even urged other developing countries to also initiate and implement such innovative systems to be able to monitor the Millennium Development Goals at the local level, which would help in localizing the Goals. In 2008, the UN ESCAP has included the “Localizing the MDGs through CBMS” initiative of the CBMS Network in the list of specific initiatives to be implemented under the regional Millennium Development Goals (MDG) road map.

In the first quarter of 2010, CBMS has been recognized by IDRC, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, as one its top 12 development projects with lasting impacts. In the said recognition, the CBMS initiative has been noted by IDRC as one of its projects that best demonstrate the importance of research for effective and sustainable development. Also, in May 2010, the CBMS Network won the participants’ choice for the Capacity-Development Achiever Award during the Annual UNDP’s “Capacity Learning Week” held in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, another manifestation of policy influence of CBMS is the growing parallel funding commitments of development partner agencies and local stakeholders within countries where CBMS has been established. To date, combined parallel contributions for CBMS initiatives of development partner agencies is marked at US$ 978,358 while combined local contributions

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9 “CBMS included in list of deliverables under the regional MDG road map”. CBMS Network Project Updates, Vol. 5 No.4 September 2008.
amounts to **US$ 6.3 million.** Parallel contributions refer to funding commitments of donor agencies such as AusAID, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, and EEPSEA for expansion of CBMS research and dissemination activities. The estimates do not include the technical collaboration between the CBMS Network Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - for the use of CBMS data to monitor the impacts of climate change on food insecurity at the local level -which will be initiated in 2013.

Local contributions, on the other hand, refer to the monetary resource allocation of local government units in the CBMS project sites for the implementation of CBMS. The latter excludes contributions in terms of additional human resources (counterpart CBMS focal persons and members of technical working groups and local trainers) provided by stakeholders. The allocation of these resources for CBMS implementation is supported by national and local policy issuances, resolutions, and memorandum of agreements for technical collaboration with the PEP-CBMS Network.