Partnership for Economic Policy
Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Report on the outcomes of PEP support activities in developing countries, from November 2011 review of PEP research projects
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TABLE OF CONTENT

I. Introduction of the PEP Network initiatives ................................................................. p.1
   Capacity building, Research, Consultation and dissemination, Policy influence

II. An Outline of PEP’s General Outcomes ...................................................................... p.2
   Substantial contributions to the international development research community
   A Network of global scope and reach
   Promoting a Southern-based expertise on development issues
   Assessing gender-related implications of development policies in the South

III. Monitoring and Evaluating the Achievement of the Network’s Objectives ............... p.5

IV. Evidence from the Monitoring and Evaluation of PEP Research Projects ............... p.6
   Scientific outputs ............................................................................................................. p.6
   Capacity building .......................................................................................................... p.7
   Dissemination ................................................................................................................ p.9
   Policy influence ............................................................................................................ p.12
   Summary of results from the 2010-2011 survey of PEP research projects .......... p.13

ANNEX A
Categorizing and Understanding the Results of the M&E Survey

ANNEX B
PEP-CBMS Network Monitoring and Evaluation Report

ANNEX C
Testimony of Impact of PEP Initiatives on Research Capacity Building

ANNEX D
Some Examples of Testimony of PEP Research Impact on Policy

ANNEX E
External Publications from PEP Research Projects
I. INTRODUCTION

PEP is an international network of researchers in developing countries who have the expertise, resources and reputation to contribute to national and international debates on economic policies related to poverty issues.

Our ultimate goal is to contribute to the improvement of socioeconomic well-being in developing countries by supporting and promoting greater participation of local expertise in the analysis of poverty-related policy issues. In pursuit of this goal, PEP has developed a sophisticated program of technical, financial and scientific support to systematically remove the numerous obstacles that regularly prevent local researchers from conducting rigorous policy analysis and influencing national, regional and international policy debates.

In sum, when undertaking initiatives to contribute to poverty reduction in their home countries, PEP researchers can rely on the Network’s support every step of the way.

Capacity Building
Strengthening local research capacity on poverty and development issues

PEP provides developing country researchers and practitioners with training and direct support from international experts in the use of the most recent and rigorous tools and techniques in poverty and policy analysis. Through the PEP Network, Southern researchers are able to access an extensive pool of resources, peers and expertise, beyond that available within their home countries.

Research
Better understanding the causes and consequences of poverty

PEP research contributes to improve the monitoring and measurement of poverty in developing countries through the development of tailored concepts and methodologies that better capture the nature, extent and depth of poverty, as well as to assess the specific impacts of programs and policies at the local and national levels. Moreover, as PEP researchers define the research agenda themselves - in consultation with national stakeholders – we ensure that poverty analysis and policy recommendations are more responsive to emerging development issues; such as trade and globalization, education, labor and employment, gender, health, child welfare, fiscal policies, inequality, etc..
Consultation & Dissemination
Bridging the gap between research and policy

Ongoing consultation with intended research users, including policymakers and development partners at local, national and international levels, is a central component of PEP-supported projects from the initial research design, through all stages of execution and culminating with several important final dissemination activities – publications, national policy conferences, etc. PEP thus contributes to enhanced collaboration among development researchers, experts, institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders in their efforts to alleviate poverty and promote development.

Policy influence
Proposing pro-poor policies and programs

Through systematic consultation and dissemination activities, PEP research findings are directly communicated to intended research users – including policymakers, program implementers, development partners and other stakeholders – maximizing their potential influence on decisions and initiatives related to the improvement of socioeconomic wellbeing in Southern countries.

II. AN OUTLINE OF PEP’S GENERAL OUTCOMES

The current structure of the international network 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. Many of these tools are now highly valued by development practitioners and analysts worldwide\(^1\).

- 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, see training material and recommended readings - 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.

\(^1\) For example: Distributional Analysis STATA Package (DASP), Distributional Analaysis/Analyse Distributive (DAD) Software, PEP Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Standard Models, etc.
A Network of global scope and reach:

- To date, a total of 507 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 research on poverty and economic policies 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. Over the past few years, the Southern offices have taken over most of the Network’s management.

Promoting a Southern-based expertise on development issues:

- 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 (see Annex E), challenging the near monopoly of these journals by researchers working in Europe or North America.

- Other dissemination initiatives assisted and subsidized by the PEP Network include:
  - 225 research working papers and 77 policy briefs published on the findings of PEP-supported researchers
  - 79 international conference presentations by PEP researchers to share the policy and research implications of their work
  - 61 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.
  - More recently, PEP’s CBMS program launched a major gender-responsive budgeting project in Peru (with funding from 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 allowed PEP’s Latin American office to launch an initiative on preventing teenage pregnancy.

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2 Findings from PEP projects are often also disseminated through independent initiatives of PEP research teams themselves without the Network’s assistance or subsidies; these initiatives are not accounted for here, but some are captured in the statistics reported in section V. Information regarding dissemination activities for CBMS projects is reported in Annex B.

3 Find all PEP publications here: [http://www.pep-net.org/publications/research-communications/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/research-communications/). CBMS projects often yield more than one (sometimes up to 6) research working papers.
Outside of these particular initiatives, the fact that 43% of PEP researchers and at least half of PEP staff, co-directors, and program directors are female, has helped ensure that PEP research activities in general take account of gender issues and disparities. Some examples include gender-disaggregated multidimensional (and missing dimensions) poverty analysis, differentiated impacts of the global crisis on boys and girls and gender-disaggregated public spending incidence analysis.

Here is some additional information on the general achievements of the PEP Network to date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of PEP grants awarded to developing country researchers (or teams)</th>
<th>172</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of supported research projects completed</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of supported research projects still ongoing</td>
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<table>
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<th>Number of research grants awarded per program or sub-network:</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>CBMS</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPIA</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIERI</td>
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<td>PMMA</td>
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<table>
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<td>Number of total grants disbursed and managed by PEP regional offices:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEP Africa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEP Asia</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEP Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEP North America</td>
<td>86</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of PEP General Meetings</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Number of PEP Schools</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of special training workshops per research program:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPIA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIERI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMMA</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of resource persons and reviewers who reside in Southern countries</th>
<th>54%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of PEP-funded researchers aged under 30</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of PEP-funded researchers who are women</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. For CBMS training workshops, see Annex B for CBMS Monitoring and Evaluation Report.
III. MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PEP NETWORK’S OBJECTIVES

In 2008, several performance indicators were proposed by the management committee as part of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan to assess the progress of the PEP Network in each of these four areas of activities: capacity building, research, dissemination and policy influence.

The M&E Plan had two clearly defined objectives:

1) To provide PEP management with reliable and updated information on the achievement of the Network’s objectives and 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 the South
   - brought about sustainable improvement in national and local-level policies or in the well-being of targeted beneficiaries.

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 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 preset database. This database now constitutes the source of PEP’s Monitoring and Evaluation reports.

As the system was fairly recently implemented, only forty-five (45) projects have been surveyed on the related performance indicators to date (November 2011). Among the surveyed research teams, only twenty-nine (29) of them had already published the final report from their research projects, which may thus be considered “completed”. The other sixteen (16) projects are still “ongoing”, i.e. have not yet published their research findings. Even if based on a 26% sample⁴, results from this survey – detailed in section IV below – clearly demonstrate the actual impact of PEP support and networking initiatives on the promotion of Southern expertise.

This report is updated periodically as new information becomes available; results from the previous survey (PEP Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Report of May 2011) are published on the PEP website⁵.

See Annex A for more detailed explanations of the survey process and a breakdown of results for a better understanding of PEP components’ initiatives and related outcomes.

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⁴ 45 out of 172 PEP-funded research projects
⁵ See http://www.pep-net.org/about/evaluation/
IV. EVIDENCE FROM THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PEP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Scientific outputs

“Providing reliable evidence to assist in actual pro-poor interventions”

Following approval and provision of a research grant for the conduct of a new study project, one of PEP-affiliated resource persons 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.

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 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 always contribute crucial evidence and specific recommendations on which decision-makers can rely to design and implement appropriate policies to combat poverty and/or maximize pro-poor benefits of their interventions.

The evidence proceeds from different analytical approaches, in the use and application of which tools and techniques PEP-supported researchers are thoroughly trained. In fact, through the research it supports, PEP fosters crucial methodological developments for the advancement of research in development economics - distributive analysis, impact evaluations, modeling and microsimulations, etc. PEP research has resulted in numerous publications that are now widely circulated for the benefit of the international development research community (see p.9-10).

Summaries of PEP researchers’ findings and recommendations are regularly posted – and linked to the related publications – on the PEP website. These briefs provide a rapid overview of the themes and countries involved, and illustrate how PEP research is an important resource for policymakers and other stakeholders who seek to contribute to poverty alleviation in developing countries.

The following sections present the results for detailed sets of performance indicators monitored to assess general achievement of PEP objectives in terms of capacity building, dissemination and policy influence. These results clearly demonstrate the contribution of PEP support activities, not only in terms of producing reliable scientific evidence on poverty and economic policy issues, but also to promote greater participation of Southern local expertise in related national and international debates.

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6 See the description of PEP research programs here: [http://www.pep-net.org/programs/](http://www.pep-net.org/programs/) or in Annex A

7 See: [http://www.pep-net.org/home/pep-research-findings/](http://www.pep-net.org/home/pep-research-findings/)
As mentioned above, the survey was performed on a sample of 45 PEP-funded projects (29 completed, 16 ongoing), involving a total of 176 developing country researchers.

**Capacity building**

“Strengthening and promoting Southern expertise”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAPACITY BUILDING</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average age of supported researchers</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of supported female researchers</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of researchers who have learned and/or taken up in research practice:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New methodologies</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New concepts</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New software tools</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New literature</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of research difficulties/obstacles overcome with PEP assistance</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in the undertaking of parallel research studies</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of researchers who have experienced career-promoting events</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects findings that resulted in an external publication</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting local experts in developing countries:**

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

With an average researcher age of 36 years and 50% female participation, 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.

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

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

Milu Muyanga, Kenya

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

Nisha Arunatilake, Sri Lanka

See also “What researchers have to say about PEP” on the PEP website (via ABOUT – Evaluation).
**Providing resources:** To succeed in this initiative, PEP provides in-depth training in a variety of the most recent and internationally acknowledged...

- **Research methodologies:** such as distributional analysis, statistical monitoring, data envelopment, social accounting matrices, survey design, computable general equilibrium models, 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:** recommended reading lists for a variety of concepts and techniques with links to electronic versions where available.

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

*Maria Ines Terra, Uruguay*

All the above-mentioned resources are made available for free and unlimited access via the PEP Website, substantially increasing the resources that Southern researchers can count on in current and future initiatives.

**An independent Southern agenda:** As PEP provides individual grants to small research teams regardless of institutional affiliation, it allows Southern researchers to independently define the research agenda. With PEP support, grantees can investigate issues that they consider essential to better combat poverty through national public policies/programs, based on their in-depth knowledge of local customs, conditions, policies and constraints.

**A long-term career-promoting experience:** Following participation in a PEP-supported project, 76% of research teams have at least one member who is solicited to pursue further analysis on the related issues by government agencies (Ministries of Finance, Education, Health, Labor, etc.) or organizations such as the ADB, the ECOWAS Commission, GIZ, the IDAB, IDRC, IFPRI, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, etc. Moreover, 56% of the surveyed researchers (with completed projects) had experienced career-promoting events – such as promotions, postings, awards, academic graduations, etc. – due (at least in part) to their involvement in PEP research.

> “**Thanks to the PEP project and the knowledge acquired, the publication of my research findings in refereed journals of three different papers helped me upgrade 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*

**International acknowledgment:** Finally, the percentage (48%) of PEP research findings being published as an article in international peer-reviewed scientific journals or as a chapter in an externally-published book – resulting in over 150 citations according to Google Scholar – testifies to the increasing acknowledgement of their expertise by the international development research community. A list of external publications based on PEP-supported research can be found in Annex E.
Dissemination
“Communicating research findings to decision-makers”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISSEMINATION</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of projects designed in consultation with policy makers &amp; stakeholders</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of project findings published and disseminated as PEP publications¹</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of project findings presented at a national stakeholder/policy conference</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects findings presented at an international conference</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of project findings reported in the press (radio, newspapers, television, etc)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Such as working papers and policy briefs. As these publications follow that of the final research reports, several of the surveyed research teams – even those whose project may be considered “completed” – were still working on these documents at the time of the survey.

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

As a result, 86% of surveyed research teams had been working in close collaboration with policy makers and stakeholders. Moreover, 90% of these stakeholders were identified as direct research users, through which the consultation activities may potential effective have led impact on policymaking.

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

Report from PEP team PIERI-11242

PEP publications: Once a PEP research project is completed, final results and findings are edited and published in two distinct formats: working paper and policy brief⁹. The latter is a one-page, non-technical summary of the main conclusions and policy recommendations that is systematically distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders.

PEP working papers are listed with both SSRN (Social Science Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), which ensure wide circulation. The latter provides the following statistics on the number of abstract views and downloads for PEP working papers.

⁹ Find links to all PEP publications (including policy briefs and working papers), as well as reports on some of PEP national policy conferences through here: [http://www.pep-net.org/publications/research-communications/](http://www.pep-net.org/publications/research-communications/)
Access statistics from the service of RePEc:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
<th>Abstract Views</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>214</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>2311</td>
<td>7240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1876</td>
<td>6369</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of November 2011, via the RePEc website alone, the 101 listed MPIA and PMMA working papers had been downloaded a total of 11,830 times and their abstracts had been viewed 39,995 times.\(^\text{10}\)

**Conferences:** Furthermore, assistance from the PEP Network to ensure effective dissemination includes both financial and logistical support for researchers to organize national policy conferences, through which they can directly communicate their findings to all stakeholders.

The survey shows that 41% of the (recently) completed research projects were presented to a policy-related audience gathered at the national level. According to survey answers, less than half (46%) of these events had been subsidized by the PEP Network, which implies that PEP researchers have also undertaken such initiatives on their own.

Another sign of the acknowledgment of their authority as field specialists is the number of PEP researchers (66% of those surveyed) being 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. The survey shows that 49% of these participations were subsidized by PEP.

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\(^\text{10}\) Papers based on CBMS findings are circulated through other services (see Annex B) and as PIERI projects were fairly recently implemented, their working papers have not yet been published. RePEc statistics on PEP MPIA and PMMA paper series are made available via the following links: [http://logec.repec.org/scripts/seriesstat.pl?item=repec:lvl:mpiacr](http://logec.repec.org/scripts/seriesstat.pl?item=repec:lvl:mpiacr) and [http://logec.repec.org/scripts/seriesstat.pl?item=repec:lvl:pmmacr](http://logec.repec.org/scripts/seriesstat.pl?item=repec:lvl:pmmacr)
"The most fruitful of our dissemination activities was certainly the national conference we organized to present our findings to an audience of national and local government leaders. The event was the occasion to inform these public servants, especially the local government executives, of the potential impact of trade liberalization measures on poverty, and how promotion of trade agreements could help alleviate poverty. The key for successful communication was to present our simulation results in a very simple, non-technical manner.”

Report from PEP team MPIA-10470 (Philippines)

**Sensitizing the general public:** 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, whose knowledge can incite political leaders’ response (34% in the case of the last survey). PEP researchers have also reported that their findings had been used by national NGOs to support their advocacy work to influence or induce pro-poor government policy and interventions.

See Annex D for examples of how PEP researchers’ activities in terms of consultation and dissemination have resulted in policy influence.

**Policy influence**

“For long-term impact on socioeconomic well-being in developing countries”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY INFLUENCE – MPIA, PIERI, PMMA</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in further funding for researchers</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in researchers contracted as policy consultants</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in researchers getting hired or promoted</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of project findings taken up to assist in policy formulation/ program design</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in new program/policy design/implementation</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in change or abrogation of actual policy/program</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of projects that resulted in general changes in socioeconomic wellbeing</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recruitment of PEP researchers as policy consultants:**

Through consultation and dissemination initiatives, as well as via the Network’s connections, PEP 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 either received further funding (24%), been promoted/hired (55%) and/or contracted (54%) 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:

- 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 Société de Formation et de Gestion (SOFEG) in Cameroon, the Water Research Commission in South Africa, etc. and
- Regional or international organizations, such as the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), AFRISTAT, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN+3 Research Group, the Economic Research Fund (ERF), GIZ Cameroon, IDRC, Latin American Center for Rural Development, USAID, UNESCAP (ARTNet), UNICEF (Cameroon, India, Uganda), UNIFEM, the World Bank, etc.

**PEP’s contribution 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 the projects included in our 2010-2011 surveys were fairly recent ones, it appears that direct influence of PEP findings on policy formulation had already occurred in 25% of cases.

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 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 policy making and poverty alleviation.

PEP-supported research from surveyed projects has been reported to have influenced the design, implementation and/or reform of several programs and policies, such as in the following cases:

- **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

- **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”

- **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.

- **ARGENTINA** - *Ley Federal de Educación* (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.
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.

Annex D compiles some excerpts from technical reports of surveyed projects that relate the actual occurrence and/or process of PEP research findings’ influence on policy formulation.

**Summary of results from the last 2011 survey of PEP research projects**

Following the implementation of the new Monitoring and Evaluation system, PEP research teams are now systematically surveyed on all the above-listed indicators through the submission of technical reports, regularly updated throughout project execution.

Although the 2010-2011 exercise only included a limited sample of 45 projects, results from this preliminary survey provide strong evidence of the achievement of the PEP Network’s objectives.

Among these results, some are especially noteworthy as they clearly demonstrate the effective impacts of these initiatives.

- 56% of surveyed PEP researchers have experienced important career-promoting events, and 55% of PEP teams have at least one member who has been contracted or hired as consultants for policy or research by government agencies and international organizations, as a result of involvement in PEP projects.
- 76% of PEP projects lead to the solicitation of research team members to pursue further analysis of related issues for government agencies or international organizations.
- 86% of PEP projects are designed in consultation with policy makers or stakeholders.
- 48% of PEP research findings resulted in peer-reviewed (non-PEP) scientific publications.
- 66% of PEP research findings are presented in international conferences, and 41% in national policy conferences.
- Finally, despite the fact that surveyed projects were relatively recent ones, research findings have, in 25% cases, already been taken up to assist in policy formulation or program design – see Annex D for excerpts and testimony of impact.

The extent that the PEP Research Network has reached today, both in terms of activity and geographic scope, combined with a rich experience of successful achievements, puts it in a unique position to promote, significantly and internationally, a Southern-based expertise on development policy issues.
ANNEX A

Categorizing and Understanding the Results of the M&E Survey

I. Categorizing PEP research projects

The PEP Research Network is composed of four constituent sub-networks, based on different research methodologies of 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)

See section III of this Annex (A) for detailed description of each program.

Even if tightly-linked, the programs differ in nature of research issues and 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 the Network’s global achievements to date or detailed results from the monitoring of projects supported by MPIA, PIERI and PMMA research programs. A distinct assessment of CBMS specific achievements is presented in a second report (see Annex B).

II. A New Monitoring System

As the Monitoring and Evaluation System - for MPIA, PIERI and PMMA projects - was only recently implemented (end of 2010), report on progress of the complete list of performance indicators is only partial. Most funded teams of former MPIA and PMMA research projects (“former” implying that they were fully completed before 2010) had submitted the final update of their technical reports long before the new form was created. Therefore, the results in section IV of the main document (p.6-12) can only account for a limited number of projects, i.e. those still expected to produce final outputs.

To date, forty-five (45) project 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 resort to 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, which varied considerably, rarely accounted for all requested information. 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.
Moreover, for a better assessment of progress and achievements, another distinction had to be made between ongoing projects and those considered “completed”\(^3\).

As the former were more recently initiated, several outputs (often including research findings) have yet to be produced. When focused on those (completed) projects that were initiated at least 2 years ago (before November 2009), results better convey the potential outcomes and long-term impact of PEP’s support and activities.

For the purpose of such distinction, the tables in section IV display three different series of results:

- **Column 1**: All - show results from all 45 technical reports submitted in the new form
- **Column 2**: Ongoing - results from 16 projects initiated less than 2 years ago (since November 2009)
- **Column 3**: Completed – from 29 projects initiated more than 2 years ago (before November 2009)

Overall, the last (3\(^{rd}\)) column or series of results would be the most accurate in reporting on the Network’s outcomes - as it renders complete information on a sample of PEP projects that have produced most of their outputs. It is important to note, however, that policy influence and socioeconomic impact may occur over a much longer period.

### III. Description of PEP Research Programs

**Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS)**

CBMS aims to design and pilot community-based systems for monitoring poverty in its multidimensional sense.

CBMS provides:

- Local-level census of poverty indicators
- Detailed measurement of many dimensions of poverty
- Identification of households that are poor in each dimension

Systematic source of data:

- for local & national governments, NGOs, international institutions, etc.
- to guide use of local budgets and target programs and beneficiaries
- to lobby for new resources
- to monitor impacts of crises and policies

CBMS data helps:

- promote evidence-based policymaking
- program design, targeting & implementation
- empower local communities to participate in the process

So far, PEP Network has helped implement CBMS in over 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The CBMS Program Office – based in Manila, the Philippines – was created in 2002 to facilitate development and utilization of CBMS for policymaking and governance

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\(^3\) A project that is still “ongoing” means that it has not yet yielded final research results. A project that may be considered as “completed” has at least produced a final report on research findings. However, dissemination activities - including working papers, policy briefs and national policy conferences - may still be in preparation for these projects as well.
Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA)

MPIA uses economy-wide models as a « laboratory » to simulate macro policies/shocks and their impacts on poverty, i.e at the micro level. Such analyses resort to a combination of macro-micro modeling and simulation techniques.

Steps:
- Construct macro model
- Simulate business as usual: no shock/policy (counterfactual)
- Simulate shock and/or policy and compare
- Construct micro model to link effects to various dimensions of poverty and welfare
- Compare micro impacts of various scenarios

MPIA research helps
- Forecast the impact of shocks and policies on poverty and equity
- Provides an evidence base for better-informed policy formulation and program design

Extensive resources have been devoted by international experts amidst the PEP Network to develop a new series of standard Computable General Equilibrium models that are easily adaptable and applicable for simulation analysis in developing countries.

These tools, which are now widely acknowledged by practitioners around the world, are made available for free and unlimited access via the PEP website, along with extensive training material to be used independently by developing country researchers.

Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI)

The PIERI initiative provides support to teams of southern-based researchers in the use of experimental and/or non-experimental approaches to produce scientifically-sound evaluations of the impact of social policies/programs on targeted populations in their home countries.

These impact evaluations provide crucial empirical evidence that can be used to:
- inform decision-makers, donors and taxpayers on the realization of expected benefits
- help improve and assist in program design and implementation
- foster accountability of implementation processes
- generate political support for continuation or expansion of programs, both within and beyond national boundaries (public good value)

In both cases of experimental and non-experimental approaches, a good institutional knowledge of the program is required – eligibility rules & target population, objectives of the interventions, potential unintended effects and affected outcomes, calendar and timing.
Steps:

Experimental approach:
- **Identify eligible population** and randomly assign them to treatment & control groups BEFORE the intervention
- **Collect baseline data** on characteristics and relevant behaviour of households and/or individuals in both groups
- **Conduct intervention** for the treatment group ONLY
- **Follow-up**: collect the (same) data again for both groups
- **Contrast changes** in outcomes between treatment and control groups.

Non-experimental approach:
- Usually helpful if the intervention has already started
- Problem of the counterfactual: What would have happened to the population without the intervention?
- Solution: Compare with situation of a similar population that has not experienced the intervention
  - Individuals just outside of the eligibility cut-off: Regression discontinuity
  - Individuals with similar observed characteristics: Propensity score matching
- If baseline (prior to the intervention) data is available, **comparison of changes** in outcomes between beneficiaries and counterfactual populations.

**Poverty Monitoring, Measuring and Analysis (PMMA)**

Providing developing country researchers with support to develop and apply tools that allow them to monitor, measure and analyse a wide range of poverty issues, through a multidimensional approach.

Given that poverty is multidimensional - health, income, education, sanitation, housing, security, etc. – policymakers are faced with important challenges:
- How should national priorities for public and government spending be defined?
- Which dimensions are most important and should be prioritized?
- Which populations (region, age group, sex, education, etc.) should be targeted?

PMMA studies contribute to:
- Provide a fuller characterization of the nature, distribution, causes and consequences of poverty
- Inform and debate poverty issues with policy makers and other stakeholders

In order to strengthen local capacities for poverty analysis, the PMMA program:
- Provide funding, training, mentoring, documentation and software tools to developing country researchers
- Encourages and supports comparative analyses

Specific research themes evolve with the policy and research issues identified by developing country researchers and stakeholders.
Results from the last 2011 assessment on the progress of activities and performance indicators for the 36 PEP projects conducted under the CBMS research program will be made available in January 2012.

CBMS: Community-based monitoring systems (see Annex A)
ANNEX C

Testimony of the Impact of PEP Initiatives on Research Capacity Building

PMMA-11314 - Analysis of the missing dimensions of poverty data in Nigeria

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) research group is wonderful and we are really delighted to be members working within the group. The PEP network has afforded me and other research members of the team invaluable exposure and experience that is of immense contribution for our academic and research development in the future. The impact of our PEP exposure extends beyond the completion of the projects.

The overall research support provided through the PEP network including through the OPHI is greatly acknowledged. One of the very useful aspects of one of our projects was the support received through the research study visit to the University of Oxford. This provided invaluable support in understanding the methodology, data collection tool as well as analyses techniques. Prior to the visit, little was known on the ‘missing dimensions of poverty data’. The willingness of busy academics to devote 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.

Staff members at the OPHI, through the PEP Network, have been very helpful in providing support. This ranges from questionnaire design to report writing. Support provided includes scientific input, revision, comments, editing, etc. This has helped to improve upon the work and is also helpful in giving overall direction to the work. If this support is provided on an ongoing basis, it will further enhance publishing the papers in reputable scientific journals. PEP’s open hands and willingness to provide support when any member shouts is equally acknowledged. Through answers to little e-mail queries, researchers are able to find headway and make progress on the project.

As a suggestion, PEP should continue in the direction of support they provide and also continue to make available to researchers opportunities that are related to their areas of work.

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”

MPIA-11351 - Setting Up the Uniformed Social Security System under Huge Rural Labor Migration in China: A Quantitative Analysis by SIC-GE model

We are very glad to participate in the PEP network to learn 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 capacity building.
PIERI-11242 : Estimating Participation and Spill-over Effects in Conditional Cash Transfer Programs - Brazil

“Our team has benefited from study visits (summer school in Barcelona for _one of the team members_) 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.

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

PIERI-11243 - Assessing the Impact of Argentina’s Ley Federal de Educación on Educational and Labor Outcomes - Argentina

“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 especially compared to almost all other institutions”

MPIA-10676 (Togo): Stratégie sectorielle, Pauvreté et Vulnérabilité: cas du 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.

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 had conducted our research.

During our first participation in the PEP meeting in Dakar, we find that these are very useful not only in terms of making the presentation and receiving feedback from the resource persons and participants, but also in terms of touching base with fellow researchers from different developing countries. Attending the meetings is undoubtedly a very enriching experience especially for our young researchers.


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.

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”

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 ressource 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).

MPIA-12304 - Simulating the Distributive Impacts of Growth Strategies in Pakistan

PEP network has greatly contributed to our capacity building. Members of this team have now been associated with PEP since 2007. Since then, Vaqar (Ahmed) was promoted from a Junior Economist in Planning Commission to Chief of Macroeconomics (and now Advisor). Ahsan (Abbas) contributed key publications on the tax and trade related analysis in Pakistan and was commended by Gujranwala Institute of Future Technology and University of Lahore. Saira (Ahmed) earned her PhD from the IMT Institute of Advanced Studies in Luca – all due in great part to their involvement in PEP-supported research. Beyond the excellence of scientific training, the timely financial and technical support by the PEP network is greatly appreciated.
ANNEX D

Some Examples of Testimony of PEP Research Impact on Policy

PIERI-11239 – School Attendance, Adult Labor Supply and Household Income: An Impact Evaluation of PANES (Uruguay)

This project is an impact evaluation of an anti-poverty program, the Plan Nacional de Atencion a la Emergencia Social (PANES), implemented in Uruguay from 2005 to 2007. The Plan included a conditional cash transfer program that was to be reformed and substituted by a new transfer program, “Asignaciones Familiares”. In 2007, the PEP research team members were invited to participate in a committee that was created to discuss the main design and implementation issues in regard to the removal of PANES and its substitution by the new Asignaciones Familiares. Thus, this research project was conducted in direct consultation with decision-makers involved in the reforming process, including former and current ministers and deputy ministers of the Ministry of Social Development. Results from the PEP impact evaluation of PANES were acknowledged by the Ministry of Social Development and taken up for the design of new interventions that aim to foster school attendance and reduce poverty.

MPIA-10234 - Urban Informal Sector and Poverty: Effects of Trade Reform and Capital Mobility in India

This study was conducted in order to analyze the effects of trade reform on capital mobility between the formal and the informal sector in India. The results offer detailed empirical evidence on the movements of real wage in the informal sector, and how it affects poverty at the state level in the country. The study shows that wage growth in the informal sector, which is facilitated by freer movement of capital, can be instrumental in lifting a significant number of people out of the endemic income poverty in India. Excerpt from the project team’s report:

“\textit{It seems that the discussion of our report and findings with the Committee on Unorganised Sector in India by Sugata Marjit (project leader) has led to several subsequent steps towards consideration of social security benefits for workers in the informal sector and consultation with banks for lending credit facilities. As a vast democratic country, policy propositions in India are subjected to several layers of discussions before any steps are taken up. We are happy that through our delegations in some of the important forums in India, the basic concerns about informal sector activities and its relation to poverty and welfare has been duly documented. Policies including provision of social security for informal workers are currently in process of implementation.}”

PIERI-11243 - Assessing the Impact of “Argentina’s Ley Federal de Educación” on Educational and Labor Outcomes (Argentina)

There is a heated debate on the Ley Federal de Educación in Argentina, in which the research team members are fully engaged. The outcomes of this impact evaluation were extensively discussed with policy makers, researchers and civil society representatives throughout project execution. As a result, the findings regarding the impacts of the LFE on the labor market have been assimilated and are now regularly referred to in current discussions/debates over
educational reform and a new conditional cash transfer program (Asignaciones Universales por Hijo) in Argentina. Thus, considering and despite the fact that the project was only recently concluded, such impact is impressive; it may however extend as further dissemination activities are underway. So it is still too early to assess the overall long term impact of the research project.

PMMA-10745 - Acquired Benefits and Poor Targeting in Public Spending on Health and Education in Cameroon

The project was conducted in 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 should contribute to 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 resources will be devoted to improve hygiene within the hospitals, quality of personnel, equipments and infrastructure.

PMMA-11313 - Marginal Benefit Incidence Analysis of Public Spending in Nigeria

This project was conducted in consultation with the general direction of the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Poverty Eradication Project (NAPEP), in the Office of the Presidency. The following excerpt from the research team’s technical report clearly assess of the potential effect of their findings on the national strategy for poverty alleviation.

“Our interactions with policy makers in Nigeria suggest that many of them do not consider the distributional impacts of their policies and programmes. Our consultations with the Director of the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), in particular, have contributed to inform them of the idea of distributional benefit analysis and help them make use of recommendations that are generated from this study. NAPEP is in high level collaboration with ministries of finance, health, education, population commission, World Bank and Millennium Development Goals office in Abuja, Nigeria. Recently, a partnership was established between NAPEP and the Fadama Development Project II (World Bank Assisted Project to reduce poverty and to ensure food security) to tackle poverty through partnership initiatives in Nigeria. A member of our research team, Miss. AIGUOMUDU, Ebehimere Edith, works with Fadama Development Project as a facilitator. She is going to anchor the actual research link with NAPEP, through which the study results will be made available and form part of the operational guidelines.”
ANNEX E
External Publications

These are articles published by PEP researchers (in refereed journals), for which the Network provided the assistance of resource persons, often as co-authors, and a $2000 CAD subsidy. According to the recent M&E survey answers, however, it seems that PEP researchers have published a much greater number of such articles - based on their PEP research project - but without requesting the Network's support. For more publications based on CBMS findings, see Annex B (p.7).

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