2015 annual report
a review of pep activities, progress and outputs
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In memory of...

Fernando Alberto Groisman
University of Buenos Aires
National Research Council
Buenos Aires, Argentina
1967-2016

Divine Ikenwilo
Initiative for Public Policy Analysis
Lagos, Nigeria
1973-2015

We wish to express our deepest sympathies to the family, friends and colleagues of PEP researchers Fernando Groisman and Divine Ikenwilo, who passed away this year.
We are proud to say that 2015 has been a successful year for PEP. Developments clearly show that PEP has now established both its position and reputation as a global and go-to organization for high quality development policy research and related capacity building in developing countries. Its unique model of proactive, open, and global partnership makes it possible to mobilize the highest-level expertise from around the world to contribute to fulfilling our mission.

Under PAGE, its main research and capacity building initiative currently, PEP has contributed to strengthening the capacity of nearly 300 local researchers (53% of whom are women), through the support of 65 projects in 34 different countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Many of these projects were completed in 2015, resulting in new and reliable evidence from high quality research that informs current policy debates and decisions around key development issues. Young researchers who are selected to benefit from the PEP manifold support program (which includes technical training, mentoring, publications, international study visits, and peer review) are equipped with cutting-edge skills to analyze local problems, generate high-quality evidence and contextualized policy solutions, and even publish their work in international peer-reviewed journals. With a renewed vision and strategy for 2015-2020, PEP will continue to support local efforts to produce this evidence and link it to policy action.

Due to the guidance and resources PEP provides for researchers to implement effective policy engagement and communication strategies, several of these projects have led to the creation of new research-policy linkages in beneficiary countries. Therefore, in addition to levelling the playing field for Southern-based experts at the international level and building a growing and gender-equal pool of experts based in developing countries, PEP’s contribution will also endure through institutional and governance capacity building.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I thank PEP’s management, its staff, all the partners and the donors for their commitment to enhancing the vision and global contribution of PEP. My sincere appreciation and encouragement go to the many researchers from the Global South, who are at the core of PEP’s success and impact, for their commitment and determination. As a Board, we are proud to be part of PEP’s transformation and continued success, and to be able to support, in a modest way, your endeavors.

Mustapha K. Nabli
Chair, PEP Board of Directors
2015 has seen a remarkable year for PEP with substantial progress both in terms of internal institutional development as an international non-profit organization, and the implementation of targeted programs and activities at the global level. A number of projects and special initiatives were implemented to support capacity development and the production of high-quality research evidence to inform policies.

In the context of its global initiative for Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE), co-funded by UK DfID and IDRC, PEP has continued to build capacities and provided support to 65 path-breaking research projects. These projects were selected through three rounds of competitive grants and were led by local research teams in 34 developing countries – about half of which are in low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states. The most recent 22 grants were awarded following the 2015 Annual Conference held in May in Nairobi, Kenya. These projects span selected priority areas with primary interests in policies for inclusive growth and employment through labor markets, public expenditure, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and social protection in the formal and informal sectors. Many of the projects also address social inequalities and access to services, including 26% that focuses primarily on gender issues. PAGE-supported projects have contributed to building, strengthening and promoting the expertise of more than 300 researchers – of whom more than 50% are women. The ongoing projects continue to produce several high quality publications using diverse analytical tools including community-based monitoring systems, experimental and non-experimental techniques, and economy-wide modeling approaches.

The selected researchers benefit from PEP’s unique capacity building approach that combines learning-by-doing, practical training, continuous mentorship, peer review, publications and generous grants to implement demand-driven projects. The teams also receive support to help communicate their findings to the scientific and policy communities, and to ensure that reliable evidence will inform policy debates and dialogue on key development issues.

PEP has also been engaged in other special initiatives including the structural transformation of African agriculture and rural spaces (STAARS) in collaboration with Cornell University, the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). As part of STAARS and with initial financial support from IDRC, PEP has supported a cohort of African researchers early in their careers as they undertake high-quality research and present their competitively selected work at the first STAARS conference held in Addis Ababa. This project builds on other ongoing initiatives looking at foresights for food security and inclusive growth, which are also being implemented in selected countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and India). Additionally, a productive employment in segmented markets (PRESM) project, supported by the Netherlands Science for Global Development programs, is undertaking innovative research in the fresh produce sectors in Kenya and Peru in collaboration with several partners: VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institution for International Development (AIID), the University of Nairobi and Fresh Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK), and GRADE.
In 2015, PEP hosted its 12th Annual Conference in Nairobi, where several research teams supported under the three rounds of the PAGE initiative were invited to receive training and present their research outcomes or new proposals. The winners of the 2015 PEP Best Practice Awards (second edition) – selected out of the second round of PAGE grantees – were recognized during this event. PEP also organized, in collaboration with regional and international organizations – including the AfDB, ACBF, World Bank, and Rockefeller Foundation – a special high-level Policy Forum on the theme of “Unlocking Africa’s growth for productive employment and poverty reduction”. The event featured policy dialogue panels involving policy makers and international experts and practitioners, and resulted in the synthesis and dissemination of a set of targeted recommendations to help define a more focused and effective research-policy-action agenda.

In collaboration with the AfDB, AERC, Cornell University and World Bank, PEP co-hosted the first Policy Consultation Workshop in Nairobi, which brought together several thought leaders and policy makers to deliberate on policy challenges and priority research needs in supporting inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation in Africa. The results were also widely shared to inform policy choices in Africa.

During 2015, PEP launched another major global initiative to succeed the current PAGE program. PEP is poised to launch this major initiative during the 2016 Annual Conference that will be held in Manila, the Philippines. The new global initiative will deepen and expand ongoing research and capacity building efforts and will help produce game-changing and high-quality evidence to inform policy processes. PEP expanded collaboration with other donors, including Irish Aid and ACBF, in certain strategic areas. During the year, PEP developed its new vision document and laid the foundations for a new strategic 2020 plan.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of staff, local researchers, resource persons and all partners, these achievements will continue to generate important results for policy-relevant knowledge, training and support for developing country researchers in the years to come. We thank the donors and our development partners for their continued support and look forward to a productive partnership during 2016.

Bekele Shiferaw, PhD.
PEP Executive Director
The PEP Board of Directors is composed of distinguished researchers, representatives of various stakeholders and independent global experts, who are responsible for providing managerial oversight and guidance while monitoring the overall performance of the organization.
The PEP Program Committee is responsible for strategic decisions related to the management of PEP, and the coordination of efforts amongst the partner institutions in the implementation of the annual program of activities, particularly in terms of thematic and regional coverage. The members of this Committee include the four leaders of the PEP “Thematic Research Groups” (TRGs – see page 12), PEP Executive Director and Director of Communications (ex-officio member).

**Bekele Shiferaw**  
PEP Executive Director  
Kenya

**Bernard Decaluwé**  
PEP-TRG Leader  
Macro-micro policy modelling  
Université Laval  
Canada

**Maria Laura Alzua**  
PEP-TRG Leader  
Experimental research  
CEDLAS-Conicet  
Argentina

**Celia M. Reyes**  
PEP-TRG Leader  
Community-based monitoring system  
Angelo King Institute (AKI) of De La Salle University  
Philippines

**Luca Tiberti**  
PEP-TRG Leader  
Microeconomic analysis  
Université Laval  
Canada

**Marjorie Alain**  
Ex officio member  
PEP Director of Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation  
Université Laval  
Canada
About pep
**Vision**

A global network that brings together researchers and research institutions from around the world, to build capacity and undertake research that provides contextualized solutions to key economic and social policy challenges in developing countries.

**Mission**

PEP’s mission is to build research capacity in the South, and to put this capacity to work where it is most needed, to generate relevant evidence base for development policy.

The Partnership for Economic Policy is a non-profit international organization that links researchers globally to enhance capacity for development policy analysis in developing countries. PEP research contributes to informing national and international debates related to economic policy, poverty, gender, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

PEP focuses on supporting and promoting locally-based analytical perspectives and researchers to ensure greater participation of local expertise in defining contextualized policy solutions to socioeconomic development challenges. The PEP “Grant Plus” mechanism enables developing country researchers to overcome the usual impediments in conducting state-of-the-art and reliable policy research that supports evidence-based policymaking in their home countries.

Moreover, with the continual support and interaction of world-leading experts and institutions – globally-linked through this venture – PEP has also become a veritable hub of expertise.

PEP had initially emerged from a special research program, implemented in 1990 by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, to examine the micro impacts of macroeconomics and adjustment policies (MIMAP).

In 2002, the two main institutions involved in this joint initiative, Université Laval in Canada and the Angelo King Institute in the Philippines, took the lead in transforming PEP into an international network of developing country researchers and institutions and, subsequently, into a global research organization.
knowledge and innovation in the field of economic and development policy analysis in developing countries. Indeed, some of the most valuable tools in the field of development research today have emerged directly from PEP research (see page 12), and the extensive experience of PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons in the analysis of poverty, gender and economic development in the specific context of developing countries.

Over the past few years, PEP has thus come to be regarded throughout the world as an important source of expertise, in terms both of its distinctive approach to research capacity building and the innovative research methodologies it utilizes.

As a reputed supra-national research institution, PEP also provides the necessary infrastructure for Southern experts to participate in (and bid for) major international initiatives; which, in turn, contributes to establishing their national and international reputations and level the playing field with their Northern counterparts. By catalyzing their in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP research favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.

Finally, since 2014, PEP is incorporated as a non-profit international organization, registered in the USA and recognized as an IRC Sec. 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, with public charity status under Sec. 509(a)(1) of the US Internal Revenue Service. As such, PEP is now qualified to receive tax-deductible funds, bequests, gifts and transfers for its non-profit research and capacity building activities. PEP has also granted residence by the Government of Kenya, based on a comprehensive host-country agreement, to establish a new global office in Nairobi.
Global scope and linkages

Since 2002, PEP has evolved into a global partnership, with regional partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America, collaborating to manage its activities worldwide.

To this day, PEP has contributed to building the scientific expertise of nearly 780 developing country researchers, through the support of 242 research projects in 56 developing and emerging economies – mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also in Eastern Europe and the Middle-East.

By the end of 2015, more than 11,450 people worldwide had registered on the PEP website – i.e. to participate in and follow PEP news and activities.

In 2015, the PEP website was visited by approximately 26,000 users – 60% of whom were first-time users. The majority of visitors were from Asia (31%), Africa (29%) and the Americas (26%), with Europe representing 13% of users. Together, these users viewed over 134,000 pages (20% more than in 2014).

The number of PEP followers on Facebook also tripled in 2015, reaching a total of 1,772 “likes” by the end of December.

The geographic scope of PEP activities, combined with a “networking” type of organizational structure, provide a unique opportunity for locally-based, and usually isolated, Southern researchers to share and learn from experience with international peers.

Especially in the context of the periodic PEP international conferences and training activities, these exchanges allow for the comparison of research results, conclusions and/or methodological applications among countries and regions, as well as for increased South-South knowledge transfers through greater interaction of both individuals and institutions.
From building to promoting local expertise in developing countries

Over recent years, in addition to its unique core capacity building program, PEP has become one of the world’s go-to organizations for the mobilization of local experts in key national and international research initiatives.

These special, often large-scale projects – usually focused on emerging development policy issues – are conducted either through joint research initiatives, in collaboration with specific donors, or as commissioned studies deputed by national or international institutions. Indeed, PEP initiatives around the world are also usually implemented in collaboration with other academic or governmental institutions – contributing to build a network of truly global scope.

In all cases, these initiatives are the result of institutions calling on PEP’s unique expertise and extensive experience in managing international projects of high-quality research, producing reliable evidence for policy advocacy, providing scientific support and/or building related local capacity.

Started with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP is now a multi-donor funded international organization that receives support from a growing list of institutions.

Since its establishment, PEP has received support from*:

- Australian Agency for International Development AusAID
- Canadian International Development Agency CIDA
- Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom UK Aid
- Inter-American Development Bank IADB
- International Development Research Centre IDRC
- International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI
- International Labour Organization ILO
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research NWO
- United Nations Children Fund UNICEF
- United Nations Development Programme UNDP
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women UN Women
- World Bank Group WBG

* Several PEP initiatives have also been deputed directly by national governments in developing countries, especially in Africa – including the governments of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Uganda.
Research and capacity building

Among the several peerless features of PEP is the breadth of analytical perspectives, tools and techniques in which PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons specialize – and that granted researchers can choose to apply and be trained in via PEP support.

In several cases, the development of these tools and techniques – acknowledged worldwide as some of the most valuable tools in the field of development policy research – has been stimulated by their application in research projects supported by PEP, as well as through innovations introduced by PEP’s teams of international experts – see programs’ descriptions below.

PEP currently has four global thematic research groups (TRGs), known as the “PEP toolboxes”, that contribute to building the capacity of developing country researchers, while producing locally relevant knowledge and evidence base through different methodological approaches.

**PEP thematic research groups (TRGs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community-based welfare monitoring systems</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing and implementing local poverty monitoring systems to track a variety of welfare indicators at the household level, collecting data that will provide detailed measurement of poverty in a multidimensional sense. Often implemented in collaboration with local government units, community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) provide low-cost and reliable information in the absence of comprehensive national statistical databases for assessing the extent of multidimensional poverty and identifying the poor. As of December 2015, CBMS has been adopted by a total of 22 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Macro-micro development policy modeling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building and using economy-wide models as “laboratories” to simulate macro policies/shocks and their impacts on welfare at the household level. This program combines sophisticated techniques of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling and household survey-based microsimulation. Research supported in this program has also led to the development, by PEP-affiliated experts, of a series of reference CGE models which have since been used (downloaded) by over 1,695 researchers and policy analysts in 123 countries around the world. These models are now referred to as the some of the most advanced and relevant tools in the field of economic modeling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experimental research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using experimental research to provide rigorous assessments of the impacts of policy interventions on a variety of outcomes – including both expected benefits and unintended effects. Impact evaluations through an experimental approach include the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and field experiments, and thus the collection of primary data.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Microeconomic analysis of poverty, equity and development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designing and applying concepts, techniques and tools to measure and analyze development issues at the microeconomic level in a multidimensional setting, primarily using household survey data. This program combines microeconomic analytical tools to evaluate the impact of policies and shocks on individual and household wellbeing, as well as to monitor, measure and analyze poverty and inequality in a multidimensional setting. Research activities conducted through this program have stimulated the development, by PEP-affiliated experts, of innovative software tools for poverty and distributive analysis, DAD and DASP (for Stata); as of December 2015, these tools had been downloaded, respectively, by 7,036 and 7,017 users in 209 countries of the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PEP “Grant Plus” mechanism

Helping local analysts meet the highest international standards

Once selected for support under the PEP program, and in addition to research funding, selected research teams are provided with training (PEP schools), resources (e.g. software tools, online journals, international databases, etc.) and mentoring (PEP resource person assigned to each project as mentor). Each team may also apply to receive financial support for a 3-4 week international “study visit” and other activities that will contribute to the researchers’ professional development – e.g. publication in high level journals, conference presentations, etc.

The progress of each project’s research work is carefully monitored through ongoing interaction with PEP resource persons (experts in the relevant methods and policy issues) and periodic progress reports. Interim and final research reports are requested and each receives detailed comments and suggestions – often resulting in several revisions.

Thanks to this ongoing support and review mechanism, as well as to the continued support of world-renowned experts in development economics, the evidence produced in the context of PEP-supported research is guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality – with the unique trait of systematically providing a locally-based analytical perspective.

Research themes and issues

Through these various approaches, PEP research can explore a broad range of policy issues related to development and poverty reduction, while producing comprehensive and disaggregated analyses to address specific knowledge gaps and needs to inform policy.

The thematic coverage of PEP policy research has indeed widened over time, spanning several development policy challenges in support of broader social and economic development around the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) in the developing regions.

- Analysis of poverty and inequality
- Gender & women’s empowerment
- Inclusive growth
- Education
- Agriculture, food and nutrition
- Health
- Social protection
- Child well-being
- Governance
- Labor markets
- Youth employment
- Macro policy modeling and targeting
- Impact of government programs
- Impact of crises
- Globalization, markets and trade
- Financial inclusion
- Fiscal policy
- Environment and sustainable development

Over the past few years, PEP-supported research has focused mainly on a specific set of policy issues identified as priority themes under the current research and capacity building initiative for “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE) in developing countries. Both the initiative and the list of priority issues are presented in detail on pages 17 to 32.
In order to ensure policy responsiveness of PEP research, all PEP projects are designed in consultation with policymakers, stakeholders and advisors, who help identify the most salient needs and gaps in terms of data and evidence base.

PEP also devotes extensive resources to assist its researchers in creating strong policy linkages and implementing effective influence strategies, especially at the national level. Each supported project team is expected to demonstrate that relevant policymakers and stakeholders are being informed and consulted with on a regular basis, all throughout the project cycle.

Moreover, as part of the PEP “Grant Plus” support program, the research teams are provided with a series of complementary grants to organize or participate in activities related to the dissemination of their findings and ensuing policy recommendations.

These activities include the organization of national policy conferences, contacting national mass media, participating in relevant international conferences, as well as translating and publishing findings into various formats (working papers, policy briefs, journal articles, blog posts, etc.).

In addition to ensuring dissemination of their findings to inform policy, these activities contribute to increasing the researchers’ exposure, and thus building their reputation as experts, both at the national and international levels. As a result, nearly half of PEP projects are reported to have a significant impact in beneficiary countries, either through the uptake of research findings in policymaking or greater participation of local expertise in policy processes – find out more on the impact of PEP projects on page 30 to 32.

Finally, PEP endeavours to link research evidence with policy action through its annual conferences, which feature a special Policy Forum that brings together researchers and key policymakers to discuss the research evidence, lessons and implications for policy.
PEP’s sophisticated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and tools enable PEP staff to closely monitor the progress and achievements of supported project teams. This includes capacity building, consultation and dissemination activities, promotion of local expertise, as well as policy engagement and research uptake.

The system is based on a series of online questionnaires that each funded research team is required to fill out and update periodically, reporting on different aspects of their PEP project. The information collected through these reports enables supervising bodies to quickly assess whether all recommended initiatives have been undertaken, the initial strategies are being implemented and whether the team is on track to achieve their objectives.

Furthermore, the system sends PEP periodic updates on the specific activities and events related to the policy linkages and engagement created during these projects. These updates provide PEP with qualitative information and testimony regarding the impact and ramifications at the national level, in their respective countries, of every supported project. Some particularly notable “impact stories” as reported by PAGE project teams in 2015 are presented on pages 34 to 40.

The integration of the technical M&E report forms within PEP’s intranet system means that the data and statistics can be systematically compiled and made available at all times. In June 2015, these statistics were published in the 3rd issue of the PEP internal Monitoring and Evaluation Report. The results provide strong evidence that PEP is achieving its objectives and clearly demonstrate the impact of PEP initiatives. For example:

- 74% of the surveyed researchers have experienced important career-promoting events due to their involvement in a PEP project, with 23% experiencing events leading to their increased involvement in policy processes;
- 93% of all surveyed projects were designed and conducted in direct consultation with national policy makers and other stakeholders;
- 42% of the 64 projects which had completed the research cycle at the time of the survey (May 2015) resulted in findings and recommendations that were used to assist in policy formulation or program design at the national level.

Both the qualitative and statistical data are used to inform PEP donors of the progress and achievements of the activities they support. Statistics gathered from the reports of the PAGE project teams are presented on pages 30 to 32.
PAGE

policy analysis on growth and employment
In 2012, with support from the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), PEP launched a new initiative to support a series of locally-led projects of “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE) in developing countries. This initiative draws on PEP’s unique expertise and experience in building and promoting local capacities for economic and policy research, as well as in coordinating international research initiatives.

In addition to capacity building, the PAGE initiative aims to fill current evidence gaps on growth and employment, through the application of cutting-edge methodologies for analysis of local policy issues in selected countries.

The objective is to generate reliable evidence to assist in promoting inclusive growth through improved policies related to labour markets, social protection and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Since 2012, a total of 65 projects, involving more than 300 researchers, in 34 different countries have been supported through the three funding rounds of PAGE (see grey box on page 18).

To build and promote local capacities in target countries

In line with PEP’s core mission, the PAGE initiative includes an important “capacity building” component, and thus the selection of a number of teams of individual researchers, based in developing countries, to benefit from the unique and manifold PEP “Grant Plus” support program (see page 13) in the conduct of high quality research projects.

As described on page 13, this includes the allocation of various resources, intensive training workshops (including PEP Schools) in relevant research methods, ongoing mentoring and technical support, participation in an international study visit, as well as a unique international peer-review experience, from the inception to conclusion of the project.

One particular feature of the PAGE program is that, although proposals are welcome from all developing countries, priority is given to researchers from and based in low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states (LFCs). As a result, 45% of the projects supported under PAGE are led in LFCs.

45% of PAGE projects are in low-income countries, fragile and conflict states
For the analysis of specific and country-relevant policy issues

In order to ensure the policy relevance and responsiveness of the PAGE projects, PEP has called upon a group of five policy specialists and stakeholders from different regions of the world (the PAGE policy group) to identify a list of priority issues, under the broad theme of inclusive growth and employment, that are especially relevant to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of the evidence base.

Priority issues identified for each of the three PAGE calls for proposals include:

- Providing social protection to the informal sector
- Safety net complementarities
- Youth employment and entrepreneurship
- Employment intensity of non-agricultural growth
- Entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender
- Discrimination in credit access for female entrepreneurs
- China’s growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries
- Improving the targeting of public expenditures and social assistance
- Design of minimum wage policies and impact on youth and female workers
- The inclusiveness of growth: the role of labor markets
- Natural resources and employment
- Micro and small enterprises for economic empowerment and poverty reduction

Selection and support of PAGE projects

PAGE research teams are selected on a highly competitive basis, through a series of open calls for proposals that were launched annually – in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Out of the 420 project proposals submitted (under these three calls) by applicant research teams in developing countries, over 36% (152) were from LFCs.

A total of 65 research project teams in 34 developing countries have been selected and supported by PEP under the three rounds of PAGE funding - 29 (45%) of these projects are in LFCs.

Together, these projects have contributed to building, strengthening and promoting the expertise of 301 developing country researchers, including 159 (53%) women and 126 (42%) in LFCs – 118 of these researchers have benefited from at least one intensive training workshop and 66 from an international study visit. All of them have also benefited from the review of their work by international experts and peers.

Key findings from some of the projects supported under the first PAGE rounds are presented on pages 24 to 29 and a few example of the impact of PEP support through these projects on pages 30 to 40.
For evidence-based policymaking

Amongst the main criteria for selection of those project proposals to be supported under the PAGE program, applicant research teams must clearly demonstrate that the research issues and questions:

• are responsive to specific needs in terms of evidence base to inform policymaking in the concerned country

• have been identified following consultations with relevant national policymakers and stakeholders.

The latter criterion ensures that all project teams selected for support have already established contact with the most strategic potential research users and decision-makers, who are thus informed of the project and its objectives at the earliest stage (to maximize chances of future collaboration and uptake).

The research teams must also provide a detailed “policy influence plan”, including further consultations to be undertaken with targeted policy stakeholders all throughout the project lifecycle, as well as relevant dissemination activities (publications, conferences, media, etc.). These activities and related progress must be reported periodically, and are closely monitored by PEP staff through the M&E system described on page 15.

As a result, all research teams supported under the PAGE initiative have been actively engaged in the implementation of effective policy outreach and influence strategies, involving the most relevant and strategic users of their policy findings.

In fact, some of these projects have been rewarded for outstanding efforts in that regard, through the 2014 and 2015 editions of the PEP Best Practice Awards. Theirs and other successful policy outreach and impact stories are presented on pages 34 to 40.
Projects supported under the PAGE initiative

The 65 projects supported under the three rounds of PAGE funding are listed below, they are grouped according to their methodological approaches (see page 12).

While some of the first-round projects were completed by the end of 2014, most of these research teams have benefited from the unique and manifold PEP support program – including ongoing mentoring and technical assistance from PEP staff – in 2015.

**Round 1 projects - selected in 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Number of researchers (female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Macro-micro development policy modeling</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Assessing the impact of China’s economic and trade expansion on poverty in Burkina Faso</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Impacts of macroeconomic policies on growth, employment and poverty: a CGE analysis for Cambodia</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Impact of oil and mining sectors’ boom on labour market and economic development in Niger</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact evaluations using randomized controlled trials (RCTs)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>The impacts of vocational training programs on the duration of youth unemployment in Mongolia</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Randomized evaluation of an unconditional cash transfer scheme for the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria</td>
<td>6 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Beyond technical skills training: the impact of credit counseling on entrepreneurial behavior of Ugandan youth</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Enhancing productive firm assets: an RCT on an innovative savings-loan product for female entrepreneurs in Ghana</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Microeconomic analysis</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>School choice and youth entrepreneurship in Chad</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Social protection to the informal sector: the role of minimum wage and income transfer policies</td>
<td>7 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Labour migration in Cambodia: causes and impact on poverty, inequality, and productivity</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Is there discrimination against women entrepreneurs in formal credit markets in Nigeria?</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>Risk tolerance, gender, and entrepreneurship: the case of the Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Community-based monitoring systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Number of researchers (female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Institutionalizing local level poverty monitoring system</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Toward a community based monitoring system for Santa Cruz de la Sierra</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Developing a system of communal statistics in two municipalities of Haiti</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Measuring the impact of economic programs in Niger through a mechanism of poverty monitoring at the community level</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>CBMS development initiative to reap the demographic dividend in the helm of 18th amendment in Pakistan</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>The link between youth unemployment and vulnerability in Tanzania: case study of Bukoba urban district</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Strengthening the use of a community-based poverty monitoring system (CBMS) to provide evidence base for policies related to social protection and child welfare in the communities of Diebougou and Koper</td>
<td>6 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Expanding the community-based poverty monitoring system in Argentina</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Round 2 projects - selected in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Number of researchers (female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macro-micro development policy modeling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Socioeconomic analysis of informal employment in Cameroon</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Trade liberalisation and employment effects in Indian manufacturing: an empirical assessment</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Macroeconomic implications of female entrepreneurs facing financial frictions to access credit</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Dutch disease, informality, and employment intensity in Colombia</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>A static CGE model of the Mongolian economy</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Development of extractive industries and public spending policies in Niger: a dynamic CGE approach</td>
<td>2 (1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Microeconomic analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Number of researchers (female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Land tenure policy and women’s off-farm employment in rural China</td>
<td>3 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project title</td>
<td>Number of researchers (female)</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Spillovers from self-employment opportunities in rural Niger</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Employment intensity of non-farm growth: the case of Vietnam</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Migration, remittances, labor market and human capital in Senegal</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Mismatch unemployment: the case of Macedonia – with special reference to young adults</td>
<td>3 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Migration and remittances in Kyrgyzstan: impact on poverty, household expenditure and youth and women employment</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>A propensity-score matching evaluation of the social impacts of micro-financing on municipalities and households in Bolivia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Voucher system for social protection of the socially vulnerable remittance-receivers in Macedonia</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Female entrepreneurship, access to credit, and firms’ productivity in Senegal</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>The impact of a rural microcredit and financial inclusion schemes targeting women, on household vulnerability and economic empowerment: evidence from South West Nigeria</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community-based monitoring systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Number of researchers (female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Challenges and prospects of entrepreneurship and job creation for youth employment in two federal-administered cities of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa).</td>
<td>7 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Willingness of the Togolese informal sector workers to pay for access to social protection</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship as a mechanism to address youth unemployment and poverty in Kenya: case study of Murang’a county</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>An examination of multidimensional poverty, youth unemployment and entrepreneurship in Limpopo Province</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Round 3 projects - selected in 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Number of researchers (female)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Expansion of the mining sector and economic development in Burkina Faso: a dynamic CGE analysis</td>
<td>4 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Impact of education public spending on human capital, poverty and inequality: a recursive dynamic CGE approach for Cambodia</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Minimum wages, growth and income distribution in Kenya: analysis in a CGE framework</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>The major bottlenecks of micro and small scale enterprises’ growth and alternative strategies in Ethiopia: econometric and CGE analysis</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Research Topic</td>
<td>Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Macroeconomic impact of mgnrega in india: an analysis in CGE modeling framework</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Impacts of agricultural incentive policies on socioeconomic and environmental variables in Guatemala</td>
<td>7 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Assessing the impact of trade reforms on growth, employment and welfare in ECOWAS countries: the case of Senegal</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>The impact of wage policy on poverty, informality and growth</td>
<td>9 (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field experiments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>The relationship between intra-household bargaining and program participation in rural india</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Barriers limiting access to financial services for micro and small entrepreneurs in bolivia: a randomized field experiment on institutional ethnic discriminatory practices</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Microeconomic analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Minimum wage policies: employment and distributional and impacts in ecuador</td>
<td>4 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Reduction of child poverty in serbia: balancing between improved cash transfers and policies that promote parental employment</td>
<td>6 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Measuring the effects of minimum wage in bolivia’s dual economy</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Wage “scarring” when youth unemployment is extremely high: evidence from macedonia</td>
<td>6 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Revisiting the unfinished agenda: multiple-source borrowings, farm production and the use of fertilizer in rural cambodia</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>How does the exploitation of natural resources affect income disparities across population groups?</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>The impact of child and youth labor on his/her performance in school</td>
<td>4 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Oil exploitation and inequality in chad</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>The effect of non-wage policies on labour market outcomes in ghana: a gender perspective</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community-based monitoring systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Social protection, youth employment and entrepreneurship: cbms in bolivia (“i-community”)</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Enhancing the implementation of the community information system to inform youth employment strategies in uganda</td>
<td>8 (4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy findings from PAGE projects in 2015

Below is a series of brief accounts summarizing the key findings from a sample of research projects supported under the second round of PAGE funding, and which were concluded in 2015. The full list of papers published by PEP in 2015 is presented on pages 60 to 63.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Research topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Macroeconomic implications of female entrepreneurs facing financial frictions to access credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>The effect of input-trade liberalization on farm and non-farm labour participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cameroon**

While women’s participation in entrepreneurial activities in Cameroon remains very low, it appears that one of the key constraints faced by female entrepreneurs is related to their access to financial services, due in particular to collateral constraints. The analysis shows that when the sector of female-owned firms, which are relatively more labor-intensive, is granted loans to the same extent as the “male sector”, which is more capital-intensive, it performs significantly better in terms of value-added in GDP.

**Research team and authors**

Thierry Kame Babilla, Sandra Kendo, Martin Jaurès Ndzana Eloundou and Adele Micheline Ngo Bilong

**PEP mentor**

Kevin Moran

**PEP publications**

Working paper 2016-02 | Policy brief 125

**Vietnam**

As Vietnam joins the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement, this study investigates the impact of trade liberalization policy on the farm-nonfarm balance of labour in rural Vietnam. The researchers find evidence that the increased use of imported chemical fertilizers – due to trade liberalization – has a direct impact on labour reallocation, including increased participation in agriculture and reduced participation in nonfarm activities. Based on these findings, the team outlines several recommendations for policy to improve productivity and to remain competitive in the international markets.

**Research team and authors**

Hoang Xuan Trung, Huong Thanh Ho, Linh Dong Thi Thuy, Nga Van Le and Nguyen Duc Hung

**PEP mentors**

Dileni Gunewardena and Luca Tiberti

**PEP publications**

Working paper 2016-11 | Policy brief 133
The objective of this project is to analyze the impact of remittances from international migration on the occupational choice and working hours of left-behind youth in Kyrgyzstan. Through their analysis, the researchers find evidence that in order to replace the labor of the migrant member, young people who face difficulties in finding jobs are more inclined to contribute to the household through chores or agricultural work. They also demonstrate that although remittances do not promote unemployment nor generate dependency amongst left-behind households, they are primarily used to finance current consumption expenditures rather than entrepreneurial activities.

Kamalbek Karymshakov, Burulcha Sulaimanova, Kadyrbek Sultakeev and Raziiakhan Abdieva

Working paper 2016-05 | Policy brief 130

This study aims to assess the economic impact of Chinese investments in various sectors of the cotton industry in the Central African Republic. The findings show that such investments lead to an increase in the sector’s production, which reduces sale prices but without a matching increase in demand. The simulations show that the Chinese investment strategy must be oriented towards the textile industry in order to create a downstream market for the cotton sector’s outputs and maximize the positive effects on the national economy in terms of both GDP and welfare.

Roger Yele, Jean-Bertrand Kolondo Penguilet, Raïssa-Théodile Mbouzeliko and Caprice Olivia Wili-Koe

Working paper 2016-12 | Policy brief 131
### Colombia • Dutch disease, informality and employment intensity in Colombia

Between 2000 and 2014, the Colombian economy was under the influence of an oil/mining production and export boom that triggered the potential for Dutch Disease effects. This study aims to assess the effects of this boom on the sectorial composition of the economy and, considering the importance of the informal sector, specifically on the evolution of employment intensity and dynamics. The researcher team finds that the resource shift and spending effects from the boom are sizeable, leading to a relative drop in exports in non-boom sectors and to reduced output for most sectors of the economy, while employment in the formal sector and for skilled workers is favored.

**Research team and authors**
Ricardo Arguello, Dora Elena Jiménez Giraldo, Edwin Esteban Torres and Monica Gasca

**PEP mentor**
Martin Cicowiez

**PEP publications**
Working paper 2016-07 | Policy brief 134

### Democratic Republic of Congo • Internal mobility and youth entrepreneurship

Despite the destruction of transport infrastructure during the long war period, the DRC is characterized by high internal mobility (more than 20%), particularly amongst the youth (aged 15 to 30). Attracted by opportunities in some regions of the country, these migrants are likely to move towards entrepreneurial activities in their new locations. Using data from the National 1-2-3 Survey (over 10,000 individuals), this paper profiles young internal migrants and highlights the determinants for the decision to migrate. It identifies preferred geographical destination of migrants, and establishes the link between the characteristics of young migrants and their commitment to entrepreneurial activity.

**Research team and authors**
Kikandi Kiuma, Allegra Kabamba Mbuyi, Christian Kamala Kaghoma and Joelle Mukenyi

**PEP mentor**
Abdelkrim Araar

**PEP publications**
Working paper 2015-07 | Policy brief 126
The project aims to provide practical and scientifically generated data to municipalities in Argentina for their effective planning, monitoring and evaluation, through the implementation of the CBMS, of development projects focusing on issues of youth employment and entrepreneurship development.

Following the implementation of the CBMS in the city of Olavarria, the CBMS was successful in providing an essential data set that will help determine the needs of the districts in Olavarria. Pursuing a higher education is a popular option among the youth, as such the percentage of employed youth is lower than the percentage of students.

Most of the districts in this study lose young members of their population to migration when the individuals finish secondary education. For bigger cities, youth migration is compensated by the movement of the youth to main cities to work in industries such as mining and manufacturing. It is notable that those who choose to stay in their home towns are low-income earners.

Most youth entrepreneurs stay in their home towns and start a business, which should be seen as an opportunity for growth. Programs that promote and develop entrepreneurship should therefore be implemented. At the time the CBMS survey was administered, there were no government policies that focused on the issue of youth employment and entrepreneurship, and no training for youth (skills training, etc.) to prepare them for the jobs available in their areas. Further efforts should thus be made by the government to offer greater opportunities to young individuals who are seeking employment.

Meanwhile, exposure to entrepreneurship is also lacking. The city government should consider helping those who are interested in starting a business, as many of these individuals choose to stay in their home towns. Furthermore, if local businesses do well, they can generate employment opportunities for other individuals. The government can support interested individuals with training and financial aid. The ideal opportunity to train young individuals to become successful entrepreneurs is during secondary school. The government should consider the rich data from the CBMS that indicates the needs of these districts to inform policy and programs.

**Research team**
Project led by the Instituto de Economia (IE) of the Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (UNICEN)
Team leader: Sebastian Auguste

**Mentors**
CBMS Coordinating Team with Randy Spence, Sudarno Sumarto and Nancy Spence

**Publications**
Working papers CBMS-2015-01 and CBMS-2015-02
The study aims to profile risk exposure and poverty vulnerability in Concepción, a small community in Bolivia. The researchers analyzed the risk management strategies in the community, the relationship between different types of risks and the relationship with poverty vulnerability. Vulnerability is defined as the probability that a currently non-poor household falls into poverty or that an already poor household remains poor. The framework for the analysis is based on the social risk management approach (Morduch, 2001), later adopted by the World Bank (Holzman et al., 2003), and the data from the Community Based Monitoring System, implemented by the team.

An interesting application of the CBMS data is to create poverty and vulnerability maps. The study shows the estimates of poverty and vulnerability for each zone of Concepción. The non-poor and non-vulnerable segment of the population lives mainly in the northern area of Concepción. However, the most vulnerable people, those who are already poor and have a high probability of remaining poor, are distributed throughout the entire community.

The distribution of risk suffered in the community shows that 8.6% of the households were affected by a serious illness, 7.6% of the households dealt with decreases in income purchasing power, and 5.7% suffered accidents or became physically handicapped. The lower frequency risks in the community are divorce, crime, and domestic violence. To analyze the contribution of such risks to poverty vulnerability, the study used a parametric estimation, finding that births explain 1.1% of total vulnerability to poverty. The other significant variables are: increases in food and energy prices (0.7%), death, domestic violence, and decreased purchasing power (0.6%).

Although almost every country now collects national representative data on income, consumption, labor markets, etc., analysis for a small domain such as a town or rural community is rare. The CBMS offers an innovative way of collecting data at a local (community) level on topics important to policy design such as poverty vulnerability and risk management profiles. In the case of Concepción, the CBMS makes it possible to design specific policies based on the needs of each member of the community. The system increases the empowerment of community members as they are also more informed as to the needs of specific areas of the community.

**Research team**
Project led by the Fundacion ARU
Team leaders: Werner Hernani-Limarino and Wilson Jimenez

**Mentors**
CBMS Coordinating Team with Randy Spence, Sudarno Sumarto and Nancy Spence

**Publications**
This study aims to improve the effectiveness of social safety net programs for social protection of the informal sector and poverty reduction amongst the Burkina Faso population.

To provide the informal sector with strong social protection, the study assumes that the potential beneficiaries of the program (including women, children and members of the informal sector) are willing to contribute financially. The study conducted a quantitative analysis of micro-level data gathered from the conduct of CBMS in three communes of Burkina Faso: Diébougou, Koper, and To.

The study reveals that the social insurance system in the communes of Diébougou, Koper, and To in Burkina Faso only extends to formal sector workers. However, social protection can be extended to informal sector workers in these areas if many are willing to pay to access it. The CBMS data shows that 10.2% of the combined population of the three communes are informal sector workers. The data confirms that more women are engaged in the informal economy, showing that 15.5% of women in the three communes are informal sector workers compared to 4.4% of men. Within the three communes, Diébougou has the biggest proportion of informal sector workers at 17.8% followed by Koper at 15.5%. Meanwhile, in the commune of To, only 1.9% are informal sector workers.

Data from the CBMS census also shows the proportion of workers in the informal economy who receive social assistance either from the government or charitable organizations. It reveals that in Diébougou, only 7% of informal sector workers receive social assistance. In the commune of To, almost half of the informal sector worker-population receives social assistance. It is only in Koper that more than half of the population of informal sector workers receive assistance (77.6%).

The CBMS survey revealed that to cope with economic shocks, the local government of these three communes provides social assistance to the people who are considered vulnerable to poverty. Social assistance includes food and non-food needs, housing, credit or finance, health care, and education. Children and individuals under 18 years of age also receive assistance. This reflects the effort of the government to provide social protection to children. There is still, however, a need to strengthen these efforts to specifically cover the children identified as particularly vulnerable.

Research team
Project led by the Centre d’Etudes, de Documentation, de Recherche Economiques et Sociales (CEDRES)
Team leader: Lassina Konate

Mentors
CBMS Coordinating Team with Randy Spence, Sudarno Sumarto and Nancy Spence
Impact of PAGE in developing countries

For a project team to be selected for PEP support, and to receive all subsequent grant payments, it must provide evidence that meaningful efforts have been made to consult and engage with policy makers and stakeholders at the local or national levels. However, assessing the impact of development research – not to mention related capacity building – is one of the field’s most challenging tasks, especially in terms of quantitatively measured outcomes.

Over the past few years, PEP has devoted extensive resources to develop and implement an effective “Monitoring and Evaluation” (M&E) system, described on page 15, to track the progress and achievement of its core objectives (based on a series of pre-determined performance indicators) in terms of research, capacity building, promotion of local expertise, dissemination of findings and research uptake. Reports from research teams supported under the first two rounds of PAGE suggest that by the end of 2015 the projects had already yielded impressive results in all of these areas.

For example, in terms of career advancement for the beneficiaries, 78% have reported experiencing important career-promoting events as a consequence of their involvement in the PEP project, and 17% have experienced career events leading to direct involvement in policy making and advisory processes.

Indeed, the teams’ testimonies suggest that their policy outreach activities have contributed to providing unprecedented exposure to the researchers and their research findings at the national/policy level, building their reputations as the go-to experts amongst relevant stakeholders and institutions. Furthermore, several have been hired or contracted directly by the Ministries and other government agencies with which they had initially established contact to discuss their PEP project.

Finally, according to the teams’ reports, 56% of the Round 1 projects and 31% of Round 2 projects (only recently completed) have already resulted in findings being taken up to inform and assist in policy debates or decisions.

The tables on pages 30-32 present these and other statistics regarding the impact of the PAGE initiative on the beneficiary researchers and countries, followed by a few examples of successful policy outreach and impact stories.

Both the statistics and narratives that follow were collected through the technical report forms submitted by 32* of the 44 research teams supported under the first and/or second round of the PAGE programme – involving a total of 135 researchers.

*As their projects differ substantially in kind, those teams supported in the implementation/use of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) are not required to submit online technical reports.
CAPACITY BUILDING

Average age of supported researchers (at the time of project selection) 35
% of supported female researchers 56%
% of female project team leaders 36%
% of researchers who have learned and/or taken up in research practice:

- New research methodologies1 98%
- New analytical concepts 97%
- New software tools2 92%
- New scientific literature 96%

% of project teams who experienced technical difficulties and obstacles that were overcome with PEP assistance 61%

1. Related to methods of impact evaluations (including randomized controlled trials), Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modelling and macro-micro policy simulations, as well as various techniques of microeconomic (distributive) analysis.
2. Mainly STATA, GAMS, SPSS, CSPro and Optimal design.

PROMOTION OF LOCAL EXPERTISE

% of researchers who have experienced:

- a “career-promotional event” due to their involvement in this PEP-PAGE project1 78%
  
  | Round 1 (72 researchers) | 81% |
  | Round 2 (63 researchers) | 74% |

- a “career-promoting event” leading to increased policy influence 17%
  
  | Round 1 (72 researchers) | 22% |
  | Round 2 (63 researchers) | 11% |

1. Any event that has contributed to or resulted from the acknowledgegment, promotion or exposure of their new expertise. E.g. recruitment or promotion to a higher position (in either academic or policy institutions), winning a scientific award, earning an important research grant, presentation of their work/findings in a national or international event, or in a stakeholder meeting, etc.

% of projects that resulted in:

- Research team members getting hired or promoted, due to their PEP experience
  
  | Round 1 projects (16) | 69% |
  | Round 2 projects (16) | 50% |

- The undertaking of parallel/related research studies, commissioned by other institutions
  
  | Round 1 projects (16) | 57% |
  | Round 2 projects (16) | 44% |

- Further funding for the researchers or their institutions
  
  | Round 1 projects (16) | 50% |
  | Round 2 projects (16) | 31% |
DISSEMINATION

% of projects or research findings presented during (at least one) policy conference or stakeholder meeting at the national level

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round 2 projects (16)</td>
<td>75%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

% of project findings presented at (at least one) international conference

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round 2 projects (16)</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of projects that benefited from media coverage (reported in radio, newspapers, television, etc) at the national level

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 2 projects (16)</td>
<td>31%</td>
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% of project findings published externally (i.e. as journal articles, book chapters or other types of non-PEP scientific publications)

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<tr>
<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>19%</td>
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1. It is important to note that 4 of the 16 projects supported under Round 1 involve data collection (experimental projects, with a 2-3 year research cycle) and had not yet produced their final results by the end of 2015.

POLICY INFLUENCE

% of projects that resulted in:

Findings taken up to assist in policy formulation or program design

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<tr>
<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<td>Round 2 projects (16)</td>
<td>31%</td>
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New program/policy design or implementation

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<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td>Round 2 projects (16)</td>
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Change or abrogation of actual program or policy

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<td>Round 1 projects (16)</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 2 projects (16)</td>
<td>6%</td>
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PAGE impact stories and Best Practice Awards
Along with the creation of the PAGE program, PEP launched a new “Best Practice Award scheme” to reward (on an annual basis) the research teams who most actively engage in implementing an effective policy outreach strategy in the context of their PEP-granted projects, i.e. linking their PEP research findings to policy action. In 2015, criteria related to the quality of the team’s research work were also included in the qualification process.

The evaluation of the teams’ related activities and performance is achieved through the analysis of information submitted (and updated periodically) by the grantees through the PEP M&E system (see page 15).

The winners of the 2015 edition of the PEP Best Practice Awards, presented during the Annual Conference in Nairobi (see pages 49 to 51), were selected out of the 20 research teams supported under the second round of PAGE funding.

The following section presents the stories of the three award-winning teams and other projects in which the initiatives of the researchers for policy outreach have resulted in significant benefits in terms of promotion of local expertise and better-informed policymaking at the national level.

**KYRGYZSTAN**

**First prize winner of the 2015 PEP Best Practice Awards**

The objective of this project is to analyze the impact of remittances from international migration on the occupational choice and working hours of left-behind youth in Kyrgyzstan. The researchers’ analysis of existing data from 2011 provides evidence that in order to replace the labor of the migrant member, young people who face difficulties in finding jobs are more inclined to contribute to the household through daily chores or agricultural work. The analysis also shows that although remittances do not promote unemployment nor generate dependency amongst left-behind households, they are primarily used to finance current consumption expenditures rather than business or entrepreneurial activities.

While designing their research project proposal, the team elaborated a clear policy outreach strategy focused on three different groups: government institutions, NGOs and international donor organizations. For each group, they identified the most relevant institutions and contacts to target for consultation. These included high-officials and key advisors of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Youth, the Ministry of Finance, ICCO, GIZ, the Foundation for Progressive Initiatives and the National Institute for Strategic Studies.

The team held several meetings with these stakeholders, including one with the Minister of Labor. The Minister personally expressed great interest in the project and noted how scarce, yet necessary, such locally-led empirical analyses are to assist government institutions in the development of effective migration and youth policy in Kyrgyzstan.
As a result of these consultations, the team members were invited by:

- The Eurasian Foundation of Central Asia to present their project and preliminary findings during the “Youth Participation in Local Community Development” conference (February 2015) with the objective of producing recommendations on the development of cooperation between government agencies and youth organizations.

- The Ministry of Labour, Youth and Migration to participate in the 18th Grand Public Council (BOS, March 2015), where the team had the opportunity to discuss migration issues with representatives of several ministries and civil society organizations working closely on migration and remittance-related policies in Kyrgyzstan.

- The President of the “Foundation for Progressive Initiatives”, to participate in a meeting between government and academia (May 2015) to assist in the preparation of the National Strategic Plan.

- ICCO, founders of the civil platform “Central Asia in Movement” (a platform for the Central Asian civil organizations focused specifically on migration issues), to present their findings during the Semi-Annual meeting (July 2015). ICCO representatives and partners expressed their commitment to disseminate the findings among their networks of NGOs.

Furthermore, as a result of these consultations, the team’s findings were used by the National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS) to inform their efficiency assessment of the national migration policy. Moreover, two of the team members were invited to participate as permanent expert advisors in joint consultation meetings and roundtables on migration issues and policy involving government institutions, international donor organizations, and NGOs.

Finally, the team leader was recruited by the European Commission to join a team of experts mandated to develop a program budgeting approach for the Kyrgyz Ministry of Social Development, while another team member was recruited as a Policy Analyst by the NISS.

Members of the research team include:
Kamalbek Karymshakov, Burulcha Sulaimanova, Raziiakhan Abdieva, and Kadyrbek Sultakeev
The objectives of this project are to assess the effects of financial frictions faced by female entrepreneurs when accessing credit on macroeconomic performance in Cameroon, and to identify the policies most likely to eliminate those frictions. Through their analysis, the researchers find that when female-owned firms are granted loans to the same extent as their male counterparts, they perform better in terms of value-added in GDP (other key findings are summarized on page 24).

Early in the research cycle, the team had the opportunity to consult with the Chief Economist of the World Bank Mission in Cameroon. Soon after, they were asked to meet with a delegation of World Bank officials from Washington (and other high-level Cameroonian officials) to present and discuss their project, and show how their expected findings may inform structural transformation in Cameroon. Their presentation raised keen interest and the team was asked to provide periodic updates on the progress of their research and findings.

A second meeting was organized in March 2015 with the same representatives, during which the team was asked to provide input using their PEP findings and resulting recommendations to directly assist in the preparation of the World Bank's Memorandum of the Cameroon Economy. This Memorandum was then submitted officially by the World Bank to the Higher Cameroonian Authority.

On July 8, 2015, the team organized a PEP national policy conference to communicate their findings to the institutions and stakeholders who had not attended the previous meetings. These included representatives from the Ministries of Economy, of Higher Education, and of Employment and Social Welfare. National experts from academia, the private sector and civil society also participated in the discussion, which provided the team with very useful insights and comments. The news of the event and findings also benefited from significant media coverage during a number of Radio France International broadcasts. Find out more about this conference on page 54.

Soon after, the researchers were the only local experts invited to participate in a special high-level advisory meeting, co-organized by the World Bank Mission in Central Africa and Cameroon Authorities, to discuss the adoption of policies and measures to promote development in Cameroon and achieve the country’s emergence by 2035. In addition to the World Bank, this meeting included representatives from several Ministries (Finance, Economy, Public Service, Social Affairs, Environment, Higher Education), the CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa States), the private sector (GICAM), the National Institute of Statistic, and civil society.
In addition to policy advisory meetings, the team was also invited to present the project and related outcomes during high-level conferences such as the African Economic Conference (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) organized by the Economic Commission of Africa, and the African Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) International Learning Event (Cape Town, South Africa) sponsored by the World Bank Group where the team participated along with officials from the Ministry of Economy.

The team leader was selected as Laureate of the 2014 International Workshop of the Social Sciences Research in Africa, organized by the CODESRIA in Yaoundé. He was also the only Southern expert (and sole African) invited to present at the 11th DYNARE Conference, in Brussels in September 2015.

Members of the research team include:
Thierry Kame Babilla, Sandra Kendo, Adele Ngo Bilong and Martin Ndzana Eloundou

ARGENTINA

Expanding the Community-based Poverty Monitoring System in Argentina

Third prize winner of the 2015 PEP Best Practice Awards

Led by Sebastian Auguste, the CBMS team in Argentina is working to expand the Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System, initially implemented in 2011, to several towns in the Olavarria municipality in the province of Buenos Aires. Following the successful pilot operation of the CBMS, the team received financial support to cover additional households from Loma Negro, the leading cement manufacturer in the country. In return, Loma Negro will use the results from the census to inform the allocation of their “local development fund”, to support policies and programs which are extended to the communities surrounding their factories.

From 2013 to 2014, a total of seven consultation meetings were conducted by the team with the Municipality of Olavarria. These meetings included CBMS methodology orientation for the local authorities, the presentation of draft questionnaires to be used, the addition of questions requested by the local authorities and the plan of census activities. The involvement and participation of the local government throughout the entire process was vital to increase empowerment. Local government focal persons were involved from the start of the project. They provided assistance in training the enumerators and in monitoring the census, and later in the validation and dissemination of the results. On January 16, 2015, the CBMS Census results were disseminated to the members of the local government and to the board members of Loma Negro.
The CBMS data in Olavarria is being used in three different ways. Firstly, it was used to determine the quantitative indicators that would establish their quantitative goals for 2015-2020; the indicators generated have already been linked to goals, budgets and programs. Secondly, the CBMS results show that different localities have different needs and that fulfilling these needs requires different programs. For instance, data on education-related indicators helped the team identify drop-outs, repeaters and those who are not attending school. This allows the municipality to propose a program of social assistance to these households. Finally, the CBMS data regarding current programs being implemented in the locality indicated the residents who were ineligible for certain programs and those who were eligible but unable to access the programs. For example, the CBMS data showed that many households using the public health system (which is free of charge) are also paying for a private health insurance, but they are not using the latter.

A rigorous analysis of data from the DotM 2008 Remittance Survey shows that remittances serve as an informal source of social protection in Macedonia, especially amongst the most vulnerable population groups. Through their PEP-supported project, a team of local researchers designed a new policy instrument, the Remittance Voucher policy, for which they conducted an ex-ante impact analysis that demonstrated its potential benefits as a mechanism to channel this income into productive use. The positive effects on the recipients’ welfare were found to be even more significant amongst the most vulnerable groups (i.e. female, rural and young remittance receivers).

From the earliest stages of the project, the team consulted with a variety of policy actors including high-level officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, and the National Bank of Macedonia. All showed great interest and expressed their intention to participate in and contribute to various stages of the project cycle.

These consultations included a special advisory meeting with the Head of the Macroeconomic Policy Department at the Ministry of Finance, in September 2014, to discuss how the research findings might feed policymaking. In February 2015, the team leader met individually with a Senior Advisor of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to present the preliminary research findings and further discuss the concept of the Remittance’s Voucher policy. The Senior Advisor confirmed the Ministry’s consideration of the proposed instrument during the drafting of the next National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and associated action plans.
The Advisor also accepted the team’s invitation to participate in their national policy conference, held in Skopje on February 22, 2016. During this conference, several other stakeholders – from the Ministry of Health, the Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia, the UNDP, etc. – confirmed their interest in the findings, and especially in the proposed policy instrument. The researchers were asked to participate in a meeting with the Macedonian EU Delegation, international experts and representatives from the council of employers, which allowed for further and useful discussion of the research findings and subsequent recommendations.

Soon after, the team leader was personally invited by the Minister of Labor and Social Policy to discuss more specifically the recommendations regarding the implementation of the Remittance Voucher policy.

Beyond policy outcomes, this team has also greatly benefited from their PEP experience, especially through the PEP annual conferences and international study visits, in terms of international networking and collaboration with peers from other regions of the world. The team leader has developed new project proposals (submitted to GDN in July 2014) in collaboration with other PAGE grantees in Nigeria and Bolivia. Two MoUs were concluded with PAGE-researcher institutions in Argentina (CITRADIS) and Bolivia (BAYES Research Group), thanks to the networking effects of the PEP experience.

Members of the research team include: Blagica Petreski, Darko Tumanoski, Despina Petreska and Natasa Jagurinoska

**NIGERIA**

PEP research informs new policy for poverty alleviation through microcredit

This study examines the impact of a microcredit scheme, specifically designed to reach women in rural areas of Nigeria, on the household vulnerability and the empowerment of the female beneficiaries. The project was conducted in collaboration with the implementing institution, the Amoye Microfinance Bank (AMB) - which is one of the institutions mandated to manage a special fund created by the Government and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for lending to small and medium enterprises. 60% of the fund is earmarked for female empowerment through rural microcredit.
The researchers analyzed data collected through a survey of nearly 3,000 applicants. Their findings help inform policy debate on the promises of microfinance, specifically relating to the multidimensional nature of the impact on family members of beneficiaries, and the relevance of institutional factors for the design of microcredit schemes.

While developing the research project proposal, the team consulted with key policy actors and stakeholder – from the above-mentioned banking institutions (AMB, CBN), as well as the State Ministry of Labour and the National Planning Commission, who advised them on their specific needs in terms of evidence base, to inform current policy in regards to financial inclusion and female empowerment. The project raised such interest that a senior official of the Amoye Microfinance Bank was appointed to work directly with the team on the project.

In December 2015, the team organized their PEP national policy conference in Ikere. This conference brought together the same policy actors as well as other potential research users to discuss the research findings and possible implementation of the subsequent recommendations. The event led to fruitful discussions during which the Ekiti Government representatives announced the decision to design a new program for poverty alleviation through microcredit, on which the team will consult. The team leader was also appointed member of the committee in charge of implementing the initiative. Find out more about this conference on page 54.

The program, to be implemented through the Ikere Development Fund (IDF), will target poverty alleviation through microcredit for micro-entrepreneurs in the local (Ikere) government area with less emphasis on making a profit. The initiative consists of distributing 3,050,000 Naira amongst 65 poor women-traders in Ikere Ekiti, which the women are not required to repay.

The beneficiaries are to use the funds to improve their business with the aim of reducing poverty in their households. An assessment will follow to determine eligibility of beneficiaries for increased funds through a funded cooperative.

Furthermore, following the national policy conference, the Deputy Governor of Women & Social Development Affairs of the National Planning Commission expressed great interest in the research results and stated that these findings will surely inform the design of the national government’s program for female empowerment.

Members of the research team include:
Damilola Olajide, Kehinde Omotosho, Ngozi Ibeji and Olufemi Obembe
Other initiatives
Building on fourteen years of experience and a unique network of development experts around the world, PEP has, in recent years, been increasingly called upon – by a number of international organizations, donor institutions and/or national government agencies – to produce policy-relevant high quality evidence, coordinate research and/or capacity building initiatives around the world.

Below are described those initiatives that PEP has been called on to participate in or lead, in 2015.

**Assessing the impact of segmented markets of fresh produce on productive employment in Kenya**
*Funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)*

In June 2014, PEP was awarded a special research grant by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) – WOTRO Science for Global Development, through a competitive call for research proposals on “Productive Employment” under the “Research for Inclusive Development in Sub-Saharan Africa” (RIDSSA) programme.

As the lead institution of a consortium, formed especially for this project, PEP has been working in close collaboration with several partner institutions to conduct an analysis of the impact of structural transformations within the dynamic fresh produce sector on productive employment in Kenya, with a particular focus on the avocado production sector, including a comparative analysis from Peru to draw relevant lessons and good practices.

In addition to PEP, the institutions involved in this consortium include two in the Netherlands: VU University Amsterdam (VU), and the Amsterdam Institute for International Development (AIID); two in Kenya (local stakeholders): the University of Nairobi (UoN), and the Fresh-Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK); and finally PEP’s Latin American partner institution: Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE), based in Peru.

**Foresight for food security in selected countries in Asia and Africa**
*Funded by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)*

This project involves analysis of alternative futures for food security in selected countries in Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia) and Asia (India and Pakistan). Through the application of economy-wide dynamic CGE modeling techniques, based on the existing family of PEP reference CGE models, the study will assess the potential future of, and alternative policy options to enhance, food security in these four countries, with a focus on major food staples.
A team of international and national collaborators based in the four target countries, and coordinated by the PEP secretariat in Nairobi, have been working together to develop the models and simulation scenarios using social accounting matrices (SAMs) and CGE models of their respective national economies that had previously been developed during previous PEP-supported initiatives. The research teams have been evaluating the potential impact of technological transformation and institutional reforms on food security, inclusive growth and welfare in the target countries.

**Assessing the impact of water infrastructure development in Kenya**
*Funded by the World Bank Group*

PEP was awarded this special research grant by the World Bank Group to assess the multi-level economic effects of water infrastructure (irrigation and non-agricultural) development in the coastal region of Kenya. Coordinated through the PEP global office in Nairobi, a team of PEP researchers are using a combination of CGE modeling framework and microsimulation techniques to link the economy-wide impact to the distributional and poverty effects of planned infrastructure projects.

This initiative is also coordinated with the CGE modeling work as part of the Food Security Foresight Project described above; the national survey data from Kenya is being used for the micro-simulations and to evaluate the micro level distributional outcomes from macro level impacts of multi-purpose water investments in the coastal region of Kenya.

**Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad**
*Funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of the Republic of Chad*

Following the participation of Chadian economists in a PEP school held in Dakar in 2010, the Ministry of Finance and Budget of the Republic of Chad requested the assistance of PEP in further strengthening its institutional capacity in the use of CGE modeling and simulation techniques.

In 2013, a team of PEP resource persons – with extensive expertise in economic modelling – were officially engaged to train and assist a group of selected local economists (from the Ministry) in building a CGE model of the Chadian national economy (reflecting its specific structures and policy frameworks), while
strengthening their capacity in the use of related techniques – from the collection of basic statistical data to the analysis of final policy options. Assistance and training were provided by the PEP team of CGE experts following a “learning by doing approach”, i.e. mentoring trainees in developing a series of increasingly sophisticated models, through field visits (including six intensive training workshops) and ongoing distance support.

Funding for this initiative was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of the Republic of Chad. The initial phase was successfully completed in December 2014. However, considering the quality and relevance of its outcomes, the Chadian and UNDP authorities requested for an extension (second phase) over 2015 to support further development and application of the tools and methods for policy analysis. This new phase also included training activities for researchers from the University of N’Djamena, in order to expand the pool of local experts able to provide advise and expertise to the government.

Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS)
Funded by Canada’s International Development Research Center (IDRC)

PEP was invited by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Cornell University and the World Bank to participate in a major African initiative for high quality research and capacity building on Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS). The STAARS project aims to pursue in-depth, rigorous, policy-oriented research on the causal determinants of productivity and income growth, asset accumulation, rural employment and risk management in African agriculture and rural spaces.

In recognition of its contribution to promoting high quality research and capacity building across the developing regions, PEP was invited, along with African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), to lead capacity development efforts in Africa. The consortium has identified Cornell University as the main technical lead and global center of excellence in developing this continental initiative. In recognition of the value of participating in this important continental initiative, IDRC extended initial funding to PEP for two years, thereby enabling PEP to join the consortium of research institutions and contribute experience from other similar capacity building initiatives.

During the initial phase of the initiative, STAARS aims to hold a consultation workshop and engage African policymakers and researchers on key issues in African agricultural transformation, as well as to organize a first conference with selected papers on the microeconomics of agricultural development in Africa. PEP also aims to support capacity development for STAARS fellows in selected areas including rural employment, dynamics of rural labor markets, youth employment, rural income and labor productivity gaps, and strategies for leveraging agriculture and the linked rural no-farm economies for inclusive growth and poverty reduction in Africa. Additionally, PEP will participate in the consortium for the development of a large fundable project and initiative for STAARS in Africa.
CBMS special initiatives in 2015

Development of the CBMS portal and roll out of CBMS-APP

In 2015 the CBMS Portal, developed and maintained by the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Team, became fully operational as CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) expanded and was implemented across various sites.

The CBMS Portal serves as an online repository for data generated from the CBMS census in the places that CBMS APP is implemented. It maintains and monitors the complete household and individual level data from the CBMS core household census as well as the additional information gathered from the rider survey in selected sites. These sites feature in the PAGE-CBMS study on youth employment and entrepreneurship, IFAD-CBMS study on Impact Evaluation of the Rural Microenterprise Promotion Programme (RuMEPP), and in the UNICEF-CBMS study on the Impact of the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program in Yolanda-Affected Communities.

The CBMS Portal currently contains more than 2.7 million household data transfers as well as information on 13,337 registered users and 14,147 devices from various CBMS sites. Data from CBMS APP facilitated the local government units’ data processing in preparation for their local development plans, disaster preparedness plans and identification of programs for bottom-up budgeting, etc.

Moreover, the CBMS Portal also facilitated the data collection requirements of on-going PAGE-CBMS-YEE-SPIS studies in Argentina, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Togo. Preparations are underway to deploy CBMS APP and use the CBMS Portal in CBMS sites in Kenya, Niger, Haiti, Tanzania, South Africa and Uganda.

CBMS APP, developed and launched by the network in 2013 and deployed for LGUs use in 2014, is an organized, systematic and efficient process using the latest information and communication technology, such as tablets, as well as the standard CBMS instruments for data collection (CBMS Scan), processing (CBMS StatSim), poverty mapping (QGIS) and data management tools. Data is transmitted, managed and accessed through the CBMS Portal.

The CBMS Handbook, containing details on the CBMS methodology and guidelines for the implementation of CBMS APP, was published in 2015. The document supports the adoption of the CBMS by various LGUs and acts as a reference for the CBMS country project partners.

Monitoring the impact of the UNICEF unconditional cash transfer program in communities affected by Yolanda (Typhoon Haiyan)

The project is a collaboration between the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Philippine Statistical Association and the CBMS Network Team to examine the impact of the UNICEF emergency (unconditional) cash transfer program in a number of the sites that were heavily affected by the typhoon Haiyan.
The study made use of 3 rounds of primary data collected in the study sites using CBMS APP tools complemented with qualitative data gathered through validation workshops and focus group discussions. Data processing and analysis were completed in 2015. Preliminary results have been presented to and discussed with UNICEF and key stakeholders during the preparation period for final research paper and policy brief publication, both of which will be disseminated in 2016.

**CBMS-IFAD ex-post impact evaluation of the rural microenterprise promotion programme (RuMEPP)**

This initiative is a collaboration between the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office Team and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in partnership with a pool of experts from the Philippines. It aims to examine the impact of the Rural Microenterprise Promotion Programme (RuMEPP) including its effects on poverty reduction, empowerment and economic resilience. It also aims to strengthen local capacity and enhance the quality of methods and tools used to measure impact in the local areas.

The RuMEPP program, supported by IFAD and implemented in the Philippines by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), directly supports the entrepreneurial poor through micro-financing and business development service provision. This is in line with the IFAD initiative to support and strengthen the capacity of institutions that deliver a range of services in support of the rural poor.

The study made use of mixed quantitative and qualitative analysis methods. Primary data for the quantitative analysis was collected using CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) tools, in particular the CBMS Scan and the Portal for the household survey in the study sites. Qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions and key informant surveys.

In 2015, the project accomplished the following research outputs: (1) the design of the evaluation framework and implementation plan, (2) identification of indicators for impact-evaluation, (3) development of data collection instruments, (4) local training using the primary data collection tools developed, (5) primary data collection and validation, (6) data processing and analysis, (7) preparation of technical documentation and research paper on the study, and (8) consultation workshops with key stakeholders to present and discuss the results and initial policy recommendations.

**Household vulnerability to food insecurity resulting from climate change in the Philippines: impact assessment, profiling and mapping**

This technical collaboration between the CBMS Network Team of De La Salle University and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations through its global program initiative on Assessments of Climate Change Impacts and Mapping of Vulnerability to Food Insecurity under Climate Change To Strengthen Household Food Security with Livelihoods Adaptation Approaches (AMICAF) generally aims to analyze the impact of climate change on food security in the Philippines.

The CBMS study entailed micro-level analysis using existing primary data collected through the CBMS census in selected sites throughout the Philippines. This was complemented by macro-level analysis using data from existing national surveys including the Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES).
Results and recommendations of the CBMS study have been presented and discussed in a series of multi-stakeholder workshops and meetings organized by FAO partners. Key government agencies, including the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Food, Nutrition and Research Institute (FNRI), and the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Administration Services Administration (PAGASA), participated in these workshops.

The study was also presented during the 11th CBMS Philippines National Conference which was attended by approximately 700 delegates including officials and representatives of national government agencies, local government units, development partner agencies and academia.

Innovations on the use of modern technology and applications

As part of its ongoing development of the uses of the CBMS, the CBMS Network Team has continued to explore and test available ICT tools to demonstrate and maximize the use of CBMS data. Among the existing systems that have been tested is WebSAFE, intended as a tool for disaster risk reduction management (DRRM). Data from the CBMS can complement DRRM tools such as WebSAFE by providing the necessary disaggregated socioeconomic data for vulnerability mapping and risk assessment.

Key national government agencies, such as the Climate Change Commission, and other development stakeholders such as the Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit of the UN World Food Programme, invited CBMS Network Team resource personnel to participate in various technical working group meetings, workshops and forums, to present and share on the uses of the CBMS for initiatives relating to DRRM and climate change adaptation strategies.

CBMS-DLSP collaboration on the use of CBMS for service learning and community mission programs

As part of its policy outreach initiatives, the CBMS Network Team partnered with De La Salle Philippine, providing technical support as DLSP adopts the CBMS as a tool for its service learning initiative and community mission programs in various sites across the country.

A series of capacity building workshops and mentoring sessions on the use of CBMS APP were conducted in 2015 by the CBMS Network Team for DLSP trainers and resource persons as well as for selected DLS partner schools including De La Salle-Manila, College of St. Benilde, University of St. La Salle Bacolod, La Salle University-Ozamiz, De La Salle-Dasmariñas, De La Salle-Lipa, and La Salle-Zobel.
Conferences and training
2015 PEP annual conference

Nairobi, Kenya

Inclusive growth and employment for poverty reduction

April 30 - May 7

The 2015 PEP Annual Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from April 29 to May 7, and featured several activities and policy-relevant discussions on key priority issues around the theme of “inclusive growth and employment for poverty reduction”. The event was hosted and organized by the new PEP global office in Nairobi, and in collaboration with local institutions in Kenya and the Africa region.

As it occurred in the context of the current PEP research and capacity building program initiative for “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE, see page 17-19), the event was supported by the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) – co-funders of the PAGE programme.

The annual event, and more specifically the May 7 high-level Policy Forum, also benefited from the generous support and participation of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Development Bank (AfDB), The Rockefeller Foundation and the World Bank Group. Find out more about the policy forum on page 50-51.

Once again, PEP succeeded in gathering quite a large and international attendance – of developing country researchers, international experts and development practitioners, policy advisors, etc. from 43 different countries – to discuss various research and policy issues related to the PAGE themes.

The event featured three main sets of activities: intensive training workshops, the 12th edition of the PEP general meetings (i.e. presentation and review of research findings and new proposals), the PEP 2015 Awards’ ceremony, and a special high-level policy forum – all described below.

PEP schools

Advanced training in PEP research methods and tools

April 29 - May 2

As PEP annual meetings involve the participation of dozens of developing country researchers – selected to benefit from its research support program (in this case, through the PAGE initiative) – PEP takes advantage of such gatherings to provide series of (parallel) intensive training workshops in cutting-edge methods, techniques and tools of development research and policy analysis.
During the 2015 conference specifically, training was provided in techniques related to CGE modeling and macro-micro policy simulations, micro-econometric analysis and impact evaluations, as well as advanced techniques related to community-based monitoring systems. PEP staff also provided a special workshop to help new PEP research grantees prepare their research communication and policy outreach strategy.

**PEP general meeting**

**Presentation of new proposals and research findings for PAGE projects**

May 4 - 6

The 12th edition of the PEP general meetings was held on May 4-6, with the following objectives:

1. **To complete evaluation and selection of project proposals** contending for support in the current PEP research grant competition, or call for proposals – in this case for the third PAGE funding round, launched in the fall of 2014.

2. **To present and discuss the research results** from projects that were supported under the previous (first and second) rounds of PAGE funding.

The 2015 PEP general meeting featured a series of three parallel sessions in which representatives from 33 research teams (grouped according to different research methodological approaches), from 21 developing countries, were invited to present and discuss their respective research proposals or results with an audience of peers and international experts. These technical workshops allow early career researchers to better refine their research proposals or their initial research findings based on constructive feedback and technical support from established experts and resource persons identified in each of the PEP research themes.

**High level policy forum**

**“Unlocking Africa’s growth for productive employment and poverty reduction”**

May 7

Another key feature of the 2015 PEP annual conference was a high-level Policy Forum on the theme of “Unlocking Africa’s growth for productive employment and poverty reduction”. This special event was organized in collaboration with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Development Bank (AfDB), The Rockefeller Foundation and the World Bank Group.

The event brought together researchers and policy makers from Africa and other regions to dialogue on the research evidence and ways to facilitate informed policies to make growth more responsive to job-creation, employment and poverty reduction.
H.E. Amb. Dr. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of the Republic of Kenya officially opened the event.

Opening remarks were followed by a keynote presentation by Dr Francisco H. G. Ferreira, World Bank’s Chief Economist for the Africa Region and a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA, Bonn).

Two subsequent discussion panels brought together a variety of academic and policy stakeholders who are engaged in various initiatives for poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Facilitated by Eric Chinje, CEO of the African Media Initiative, these discussions presented a unique occasion to reflect and draw some important lessons as experience, evidence, policy and practice were shared.

The first panel was entitled “What we know: reviewing evidence”, and involved the following experts:

- John Anyanwu, African Bank of Development (AfDB)
- Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton University
- Emmanuel Nnadozie, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
- Pramila Krishnan, Cambridge University
- John Omiti, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)
- Maria Laura Alzua, PEP, Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS)

The second panel was entitled “Using research evidence to inform a more effective policy action agenda”, and involved the following experts, practitioners and policymakers:

- Fred Mandir J Omach, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Republic of Uganda
- Peter Oganga Magiti, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Republic of Kenya
- Charles Wangadya, African Union Commission, Ethiopia
- Mamadou Biteye, Africa Regional Office, Rockefeller Foundation
- Lydia Ndirangu, Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Central Bank of Kenya

Each session – both panels and the keynote presentations – was followed by comments and questions from the audience.

The main objective of this event was to dialogue on the research evidence and collectively produce a set of specific conclusions and recommendations, which will be relevant for promoting evidence-based policy action agenda. These recommendations were later published on the PEP website and widely disseminated by PEP and its partners, to both maximize and globalize the impact of the outcomes.
A crowd of more than 750 participants, mainly government officials and local chief executives (LCEs) who are implementing the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in different areas of the Philippines, gathered at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria in Mandaluyong City, Philippines, on February 2-4 2015, for the 11th CBMS National Conference. The event's theme, “Transforming Communities through More Responsive National and Local Budgets”, focused on the growing relevance of CBMS in local government planning and budgeting. Also in attendance were heads and representatives of selected national government agencies, and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The annual CBMS-Philippines National Conference is organized by the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Coordinating Team, based at De La Salle University (DLSU), in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and is supported by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP).

The event featured two keynote presentations: the first by Secretary Florencio Abad of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the second by Undersecretary Austere Panadero of the DILG. The following panel discussions on bottom-up planning and budgeting also involved key policy actors, including Governor Alfonso Umali, Jr. of Oriental Mindoro province, who is National President the ULAP.

Sharing best practices and lessons learned in the use of CBMS

The three-day policy forum also featured presentations by LCEs and heads of planning departments of local government units (LGUs), who discussed and shared experiences on the role and uses of CBMS data for local governance, program design and targeting, grassroots participatory (bottom–up) planning and budgeting, disaster-hazard mapping, and impact monitoring.

The Province of Palawan presented the time-series data generated since the adoption of CBMS in 1999. Palawan was the first to adopt CBMS as a province-wide survey tool for local development planning; it has since conducted six rounds of the CBMS household-level censuses, the last of which using the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) module for tablets.
Many other LGUs presented and shared how they use CBMS-generated data to tackle a variety of issues, including Panabo City, Davao del Norte; the municipality of Kibalawan, Davao del Sur; Santiago City, Isabela; San Mateo, Isabela; Allacapan, Cagayan; Buenavista, Marinduque; Roxas, Palawan; Carmona, Cavite; Antipolo City, Rizal; Mulanay, Quezon; and Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Finally, the Coordinating Team of the CBMS International Network, based at De La Salle University (DLSU) in Manila, presented the ongoing PEP-PAGE research work on youth employment and entrepreneurship, and social protection in the informal sector. They also presented their latest findings on the use of CBMS data for impact monitoring, including the impact of climate change on food security and nutrition, and the impact of an unconditional cash transfer program in communities affected by typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

Launching of the “Many Faces of Poverty, Volume 6”

The event also saw the launch of the 6th Volume of the CBMS publication series entitled “Many Faces of Poverty”. These books are compendiums of data on various dimensions of poverty collected from CBMS censuses in selected sites in the Philippines.

This latest volume features data collected in the provinces of Apayao, Benguet, Camiguin, Guimaras, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Surigao del Norte. Governors Elias Bulut of Apayao and Jurdin Jesus Romualdo of Camiguin led the LGU officials of the featured provinces.

Dissemination of PEP findings worldwide

All PEP-supported research teams are provided with resources and support to communicate their findings effectively, through a variety of platforms and to the widest possible audience, both nationally and internationally.

PEP national policy conferences

To facilitate effective dissemination and policy influence at the national level, PEP provides financial and logistical support for researchers to organize local policy conferences, through which they can directly communicate and discuss their PEP-supported research findings to an audience of policy makers, advisors and other stakeholders, in their home countries.

Some of the national policy conferences organized by PEP research teams in 2015 include:

Abuja, Nigeria – March 11

A team of PEP researchers in Nigeria, supported under the first round of PAGE, organized a national policy conference in Abuja to communicate and discuss their PEP findings regarding the access women entrepreneurs have to formal credit markets, as well as the impact of credit access on the general performance of SMEs in Nigeria.
The conference was strategically organized and hosted in collaboration with the Center for Study of Economies of Africa (CSEA), which often advises the Nigerian Ministries of Finance and Trade, and other institutions such as the Bank of Industry, the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, etc.

Among the key stakeholders who participated in the discussion were representatives from the Economic Management Team (direct advisor to the Federal Executive Council), the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (dialogue facilitator between private sector and government), the Central Bank of Nigeria, and Noil Polls (a survey firm reporting to the Federal Government). All were highly interested in the outcomes of the PEP-supported research project, and committed to incorporate and disseminate the evidence through their respective advisory work related to credit and entrepreneurship issues.

The team's work benefited from significant media coverage, and thus public exposure, thanks to the presence of and reporting by the top national newspaper in Nigeria, The Guardian.

Yaounde, Cameroon – July 8

A team of PEP-supported researchers in Cameroon organized a PEP national policy conference to communicate and discuss the findings of their study supported under the second round of PAGE. These findings suggest that female entrepreneurs in Cameroon face particular constraints when trying to access credit, but, when granted credit to the same level as their male counterparts, female-owned firms perform better in terms of value-added in GDP. Find out more about this project’s outcomes on pages 24 and 36-37.

Amongst the conference participants were representatives from the Ministries of Economy, Higher Education, and Employment and Social Welfare. National experts from academia, the private sector and civil society also participated in the discussions, which provided the team with very useful insights and comments. The news of the event and findings also benefited from significant media coverage during a number of Radio France International broadcasts.

As a result of these discussions, the researchers were invited (as the only local experts) to participate in various high-level advisory meetings, organized by the World Bank Mission in Central Africa and Cameroon, to discuss policy issues and options to promote development in Cameroon and achieve the country’s emergence by 2035.

Ikere, Ekiti State, Nigeria – December 18

PEP researchers in Ikere, Nigeria organized a policy conference to share their findings on how to alleviate poverty through micro finance. Organized in collaboration with the Amoye Microfinance Bank, it is thanks to this collaboration that the event brought together such a large number of key policy actors, including high-level officials from various ministries. This kind of collaboration between independent researchers and industry players is a first of its kind in the Ekiti State (and is rare in Nigeria) and as such it has improved the likelihood for effective and broad dissemination of the research findings.
The team’s presentation was followed by a discussion with the participants, who included the Deputy Secretary-General of the National Association of Microfinance Banks in Nigeria, several high-level officials of the AMB, members of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the National Planning Commission and the Ekiti State Government, national media and representatives of the micro finance banks’ customers, as well as experts from academia. The discussions generated keen interest as well as highly relevant feedback and comments from the audience.

During the discussion, the participants (especially the banks’ customer representatives) expressed how the findings would help shape their views on microcredit. All acknowledged the outstanding work of the PEP-supported researchers. Furthermore, during the event, representatives of the Ekiti State government announced their intention to design and implement a new policy initiative for poverty alleviation through microcredit.

Prior to the conference, a national TV program (DayBreak Nigeria, on EKTV) invited and interviewed two of the PEP research team members. Then, throughout the conference, the event and related discussions were reported through various media and news broadcasts including the Nigerian Tribune. Overall, the event was highly successful. The Deputy State Governor later called the research team to congratulate them on the program and asked to be sent a copy of the PEP research report.

N’Djamena, Chad – December 22

Organized in collaboration with the Center for Development Studies and Training (Centre d’Études et de Formation pour le Développement, CEFOD), the main objective of this conference was to present and discuss the findings and related policy implications from this project investigating the effects of language choice for education (French, Arabic or bilingual) on self-employment, youth entrepreneurship and performance of firms in Chad.

The conference was structured around three sessions, during which the PEP researchers presented the research results. These results were then discussed with high-level policy makers and practitioners from the Ministry of Civil Service and Labour; the Ministry Of Commerce, Economics, Tourism and Promotion of Crafts; the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training; the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; and the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Culture, as well as specialists from universities and other academic institutions.

As the team had already held several consultation meetings with many of these institutions and stakeholders throughout the process of implementing the project, this particular event and related discussions strengthened the pre-established collaboration relationships between the research team and the policy actors, and allowed substantive discussion on the initial research findings.

During the open discussion that followed the team’s presentation, the participants raised several relevant questions, giving the researchers an opportunity to provide further clarifications on their work. This enriched the dialogue around the issue amongst policy actors, the researchers, civil society and the media.

As a result of these discussions, further meetings were planned to be held in 2016 with experts from the Ministries to discuss the implications of the PEP team’s research findings for policy making related to education language choice and youth entrepreneurship in Chad. The event also benefited from significant media coverage, with journalists attending and reporting from national (public) television and radio, as well as from the private channel Electron TV and Radio FM Liberté, who broadcast excellent and informative reports on the research findings and the policy implications.
PEP presentations at international conferences

In acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers are invited to present their work in international academic and policy conferences around the world. In some cases, these researchers may be awarded a special PEP grant (made available on a competitive basis) to support their travel and participation.

Through these activities, as well as via PEP annual meetings and networking experience, researchers benefit from increased international exposure and credibility as development policy experts.

PEP-supported researchers made presentations in the following selected international conferences in 2015:

- **San Francisco, USA**: 2016 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), organized by the American Economic Association - January 3-5
- **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**: Seminar on Access to Microcredit and Women Entrepreneurship, organized by the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies - March 13
- **Oxford, UK**: CSAE Annual Conference on Economic Development in Africa, organized by the Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) - March 22-23
- **Boston, USA**: World Demographic and Ageing Forum (WDA), organized by the Harvard University School of Public Health - April 13-14
- **Toronto, Canada**: Annual Meeting of the Canadian Economic Association (CEA), including a special PEP-sponsored session - May 30
- **Melbourne, Australia**: 18th Annual GTAP Conference, organized in collaboration with Victoria University - June 17
• **Paris, France**: 3rd DIAL Conference on “Barriers to Development”, organized by the University of Paris-Dauphine and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD) - July 3-4

• **Luxembourg**: 6th Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Equality (ECINEQ), organized in collaboration with Université du Luxembourg - July 13-15

• **Berlin, Germany**: 24th Annual Conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE), at the Berlin School of Economics and Law - on July 16

• **Luxembourg**: 5th World Congress of the International Microsimulation Association (IMA), hosted by the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-economic Research - September 2-4

• **Kazan, Russia**: International Conference on Eurasian Economies, organized in collaboration with the Kazan Federal University - on September 9-11

• **Brussels, Belgium**: 11th DYNARE Conference, organized the National Bank of Belgium together with Banque de France, DSGE-net and the Dynare project at CEPREMAP - September 28-29

• **Hermosillo, Mexico**: VI Simposio Internacional de Administración, hosted by the Universidad de Sonora Posgrado en Administración - October 6-8

• **Berlin, Germany**: 2015 Conference of the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet), organized in collaboration with Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) - October 8-9

• **Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia**: 2015 Meeting of the Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), organized by the Society of Bolivian Economists (SEBOL), the Institute for Advanced Development Studies (INESAD) and the Private University of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (UPSA), and including a special PEP-sponsored session - October 15-17

• **Buenos Aires, Argentina**: Annual Meeting of the Asociacion Argentina de Economia Politica (AAEP) - November 11-13

• **Accra, Ghana**: 4th African Economic Congress, organized by the African Union - November 16

• **Katmandu, Nepal**: Evaluation Conclave 2015, organized by the Community of Evaluators of South Asia (CoE-SA) - November 23-27

• **Dakar, Senegal**: 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale (CRES) - November 26

• **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**: Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS), organized by the STAARS consortium, led by Cornell University, and where PEP supported the participation of three early-career researchers - December 4-5

• **Lima, Peru**: Expert Meeting on “Microfinance, Development and Debt”, organized by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) - December 16
PEP schools

As an organization that focuses mainly on strengthening research capacities in the South, PEP has naturally developed a unique expertise in providing training workshops that can be adapted to a variety of needs and contexts.

The “PEP Schools” are a series of programs that provide intensive, advanced and flexible training in the understanding and promotion of social and economic development. PEP School participants learn how to apply the most recent concepts, techniques and tools in development economics to help design effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies in their respective countries.

Courses are conducted by PEP-affiliated world leading experts in each of the methodologies fostered in PEP research – see the PEP thematic research groups (TRGs) on page 12 – and usually tailored for country-specific applications, in order to maximize engagement and benefits for local recipients.

In 2015, PEP provided a series of intensive training workshops for over 20 researchers to be supported under the 3rd round of PAGE funding, during the Annual Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya. These included training in CGE modelling, macro-micro policy simulations, microeconomic analysis, impact evaluations, field experiments, etc.

Study visits

An important feature of the PEP “Grant Plus” support mechanism (see page 15) is the possibility for each PEP research team to receive funding for one member to participate in a three-four week international study visit, with a view to helping the team complete their draft final research report under close supervision. These visits are typically organized at the institution of their assigned PEP mentor, for more direct and informed assistance.

In 2015, as part of the second round of the PAGE initiative (see list of project teams supported under PAGE Round 2 on pages 21-22), a total of 25 PEP researchers completed study visits at different institutions in Australia, Canada, France, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

Of these 25 researchers, 13 were women and 11 from low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states.
Publications
In order to reach out to different and wide audiences, research findings are published in a variety of formats – such as PEP working papers, PEP policy briefs and books. Moreover, PEP-supported studies are frequently published as articles in international peer-reviewed journals, testifying to the increasing acknowledgement of their scientific rigor and contribution by the international development research community.

### PEP working papers

PEP published 13 working papers in 2015 (listed below). By the end of the year, these papers had been downloaded directly from the PEP website a total of 3,460 times. Furthermore, the 340 papers published by PEP since 2005 were downloaded 61,608 times in 2015.

PEP working papers are also listed with both SSRN (Social Sciences Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), which ensures wide circulation worldwide. According to access statistics provided by RePEc, the 153 PEP working papers listed on this website alone have resulted in 64,286 abstract views and 18,334 downloads to date (4,581 views and 1,205 downloads in 2015 alone).

#### 2015-01
*Is there discrimination against women entrepreneurs in formal credit markets in Nigeria?*
By Nwosu Emmanuel, Anthony Orji, Chioma Nwangwu and Vivian Nnetu

#### 2015-02
*Education language choice and youth entrepreneurship in Chad*
By Mallaye Douzoune, Benjamin Fomba Kamga, Eurydice Tormal Gosngar, Koulké Blandine Nan-Guer and Urbain Thierry Yogo

#### 2015-03
*Assessing the impact of China’s economic and trade expansion on growth and employment in Burkina Faso: a CGE analysis (in French)*
By Boureima Sawadogo, Bama Fidèle, Nana Tegawende Juliette, Natama Hama Maimouna, Tapsoba Emma and Zerbo Kassoum

#### 2015-04
*Assessing the impact of the oil and mining sector’s boom on the labour market and economic development in Niger (in French)*
By Sangare Alkassoum Saadatou, Boukari Mamane, Hamadou Daouda Youssoufou and Falalou Fatimata Ousseini

#### 2015-05
*Social protection to the informal sector: The role of minimum wage and income transfer policies*
By Fernando Groisman, Albano Blas Vergara, Analía Calero, Julia Liniado, Maríà Eugeníà Sconfienza, María Soledad Cubas and Santiago Boffi

#### 2015-06
*Estimating the economic effects of remittances on the left-behind in Cambodia*
By Vutha Hing, Phann Dalis, Roth T.M.S Vathana and Sreymom Sum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-07</td>
<td>Internal mobility and youth entrepreneurship in Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>Kikandi Kiuma, Allegra Kabamba Mbuyi, Christian Kamala Kaghoma and Joelle Mukenyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-08</td>
<td>Impacts of Cambodia’s tariff elimination on household welfare and labor market: a CGE approach</td>
<td>Dyna Heng, Kagna Em, Senf Senghor and Sothy Ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09</td>
<td>CGE model closures in a skeleton world model</td>
<td>André Lemelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-11</td>
<td>Risk tolerance, gender, and entrepreneurship: the case of the occupied Palestinian territory</td>
<td>Yousef Daoud, Ruba Shanti, Sana Kamal and Shaker Sarsour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-12</td>
<td>Macro-Micro-Models</td>
<td>John Cockburn, Luc Savard and Luca Tiberti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-14</td>
<td>Female entrepreneurship, access to credit, and firms' performance in Senegal</td>
<td>Abdoulaye Seck, Fatoumata Lamarana Diallo, Founty Alassane Fall, Karamoko Camara and Ndeye Khadidiatou Mouhamed Diop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-15</td>
<td>Engel’s equivalence scales: theory and practice</td>
<td>Luca Tiberti, Abdelkrim Araar and Jean Claude Nsabimana</td>
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**CBMS working papers**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-01</td>
<td>Socioeconomic conditions in the small towns of Olavarría</td>
<td>Sebastian Auguste, Maria del Carmen Romero, Alejandro Ernesto Bricker, Mario Daniel Seffino, Daniel Hoyos Maldonado, Santiago Linares, Lorena Luquez and Pierina Frontini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-02</td>
<td>Youth employment and entrepreneurship in Argentina</td>
<td>Sebastian Auguste, Alejandro Ernesto Bricker, Daniel Hoyos Maldonado, Lorena Luquez, Maria del Carmen Romero, Mario Daniel Seffino, Pierina Frontini and Santiago Linares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-03</td>
<td>Design and implementation of monitoring system based on community (CBMS) - pilot experience in Concepción, Bolivia</td>
<td>Wilson Jimenez and Alvaro Chirino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-04</td>
<td>Una evaluacion de pobreza multidimensional usando datos del SMBC: caso de estudio de Comunidad-i</td>
<td>Werner Hernani-Limarino and Alvaro Chirino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-05</td>
<td>Una evaluacion de riesgo y vulnerabilidad a la pobreza Usando Datos del SMBC: caso de estudio de Comunidad-i</td>
<td>Werner Hernani-Limarino and Carola Ruth Tito Velarde</td>
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PEP policy briefs

The PEP policy brief series publishes short, non-technical summaries of the research conducted based on the peer-reviewed working papers, presenting the main conclusions and policy implications. The briefs are widely distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders.

In 2015, PEP published 14 policy briefs (listed below). By the end of the year, these briefs had been downloaded directly from the PEP website a total of 4,542 times. Furthermore, the 137 briefs published by PEP since 2007 were downloaded 15,551 times in 2015.

Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia
By Marjan Petreski, Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski, Maja Ristovska and Edi Smokvarski

Is there discrimination against female entrepreneurs in formal credit markets in Nigeria?
By Emmanuel Nwosu, Anthony Orji, Chioma Nwagwu and Vivian Nnetu

Choice of education language and entrepreneurship in Chad
By Mallaye Douzounet, Koulké Blandine Nan-Guer, Benjamin Fomba Kamga, Urbain Thierry Yogo and Eurydice Tormal Gosngar

Risk tolerance, gender and entrepreneurship : the Palestinian case
By Yousef Daoud, Shaker Sarsour, Ruba Shanti and Sana Kamal

Estimating the effects of migration and remittances on the left-behind in Cambodia
By Roth T.M.S Vathana, Vutha Hing, Phann Dalis and Sreymom Sum

Social protection to the informal sector in Argentina : the role of minimum wage and income transfer policies
By Fernando Alberto Groisman

Impact of the oil and mining sectors’ boom on labour market and economic development in Niger
By Saadatou Sangare Alkassoum, Hamadou Daouda Youssoufou, Mamane Boukari and Fatimata Ousseini Falalou (in French)

Assessing the impact of China’s economic and trade expansion on growth and employment in Burkina Faso
By Boureima Sawadogo, Bama Fidèle, Nana Tegawende Juliette, Natama Hama Maimouna, Emma Tabsoba and Zerbo Kassoum (in French)

Assessing the impacts of trade liberalization on growth, employment and poverty in Cambodia
By Dyna Heng, Kagna Em, Senh Senghor, Sokrachany Ngim, Sothy Ear and Theary Chan

Development of oil and mining industries and public spending policies in Niger (in French)
By Saadatou Sangare Alkassoum and Hamadou Daouda Youssoufou
N.B. Most projects supported under the second round of PAGE funding have published their findings through working papers and policy briefs in early 2016. These publications will be listed in the 2016 PEP Annual Report.

PEP books

On occasion, PEP also publishes the outcomes of special initiatives in a book or edited volume format. These collective works are usually put together under the supervision of (and edited by) PEP resource persons, and made available for download, free of charge, via the PEP website.

The Many Faces of Poverty: Volume 6

Produced by:
The PEP-CBMS Network Office

The Many Faces of Poverty is a series of publications presenting statistical tables and poverty maps of different areas/cities in the Philippines, generated through the CBMS methodology and as a result of collaboration between the CBMS team and local government units.
PEP newsletters

News from PEP activities and projects are also disseminated periodically via two quarterly newsletters:

- **PEP-Talk** – an e-bulletin covering all of PEP international news
- **CBMS Network Updates** – covering all news related to CBMS activities

Peer-reviewed journal articles

...from PEP-supported researchers and projects

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

Some journal articles published in 2015 and based on PEP-supported research include:

Marjan Petreski and Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski
*Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in the Republic of Macedonia*

Daniel Valderrama Gonzalez and Sandra Acero Walteros
*Sectoral and poverty impacts of agricultural policy adjustments in Colombia*
*Agricultural Economics, Volume 46, Issue 2, pp. 259-280*

...from PEP staff and resource persons

Below is a list of scientific articles published in 2015, from the work and findings of PEP-affiliated international experts (or PEP resource persons)

Bekele Shiferaw, Tewodros Kebede, Menale Kassie and Monica Fisher
*Market imperfections, access to information and technology adoption in Uganda: challenges of overcoming multiple constraints*
*Agricultural Economics, Volume 46, Issue 4, pp.475-488*

Di Zeng, Jeffrey Alwang, George W. Norton, Bekele Shiferaw, Moti Jaleta and Chilot Yirga
*Ex-post impacts of improved maize varieties on poverty in rural Ethiopia*
*Agricultural Economics, Volume 46, Issue 4, pp. 515-526*
Bekele Shiferaw, N. Jayne Mason
Africa’s rising demand for wheat: trends, drivers, and policy implications

Kindie Tesfaye, Sika Gbegbelegbe, Jill E Cairns, Bekele Shiferaw, Boddupalli M Prasanna, Kai Sonder, Ken Boote, Dan Makumbi and Richard Robertson
Climate change in sub-Saharan Africa: potential impacts on production and food security

Luca Tiberti and Marco Tiberti
Rural policies, price change and poverty in Tanzania: an agricultural household model-based assessment

Martin Valdivia
Business training plus for female entrepreneurship? Short and medium term evidence from a field experiment in Peru
Journal of Development Economics, Volume 113, pp. 33-51

Martin Valdivia and Gianmarco León
Inequality in school resources and academic achievement: evidence from Peru

Other publications

A series of papers was also produced by PEP resource persons Bernard Decaluwé, Hélène Maisonnave, Lulit Mitik Beyene, André Martens and Véronique Robichaud, in the context of the PEP special initiative in Chad (described on page 43-44).

The series includes a total of 11 versions of the CGE model built for the economy of Chad, complemented by documentation on the related tools, codes and datasets, for the users’ benefits, as well as detailed mission reports. The most recent item of this series was published in 2015.
Partners and staff
As a partnership, PEP is composed of four partner institutions, contributing to manage its activities worldwide, through a regional coordinating (PEP) office established within each institution. These four institutions are presented below:

**AFRICA**

Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale

Dakar, Senegal

**North America – UL**

Université Laval

Quebec, Canada

**Latin America – GRADE**

Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo

Lima, Peru

**Asia - AKI**

Angelo King Institute (AKI) for Business and Economic Studies

Manila, Philippines
PEP staff

Coordinating teams

PEP Global Office – Nairobi, Kenya
Bekele Shiferaw, PEP executive director
Philip Ade, Senior financial officer
Songporne Tongruksawattana, Program officer (consultant)
Mulubrhan Amare, Postdoc fellow (PRESM)
Amarandra Sahoo, Visiting research fellow (CGE modelling)
Rose Shivaya, Executive assistant

PEP Africa Office – CRES, Senegal
Abdoulaye Diagne, Director
Aissatou Diop, Senior administrator
Awa Diop, Administrative assistant
Marie Celeste Diouf, Administrative assistant
Jean-Jacques Badji, Finance officer

PEP Asia/CBMS Office – AKI, Philippines
Celia Reyes, CBMS network leader
Anne Bernardette Mandap, Research and administration officer
Jasminda Asirot Quilitis, Senior research associate
Joel Bancolita, Research associate
Marsmath Baris Jr., Research associate
Novee Lor Leyso, Research analyst
Steffie Joy Calubayan, Research analyst
Jezha Lee Nabiong, Project finance assistant

PEP North America Office – Université Laval, Canada
John Cockburn, PAGE program coordinator
Marjorie Alain, Director of communications
Manuel Paradis, Monitoring and evaluation coordinator
Ariane Gagné-Frégeau, Communications officer (August – December)
Sonia Moreau, Communications officer (January – June)
Clermont Gauthier, Finance officer

PEP Latin America Office – GRADE, Peru
Martin Valdivia, Research fellow
Celeste Paz, Administrative assistant
The success of PEP activities in terms of high-quality research and capacity building is due, in great part, to the engagement and support of world-renowned international experts in the field of development research. Those experts who have contributed to PEP activities in 2013 are listed below, according to the different research methods that they specialize in:

**Scientific support coordinators and resource persons**

The success of PEP activities in terms of high-quality research and capacity building is due, in great part, to the engagement and support of world-renowned international experts in the field of development research. Those experts who have contributed to PEP activities in 2013 are listed below, according to the different research methods that they specialize in:

### Macro-micro policy modeling and simulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hélène Maisonnave</td>
<td>Scientific Support Coordinator, Professor</td>
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<td>Bernard Decaluwé</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Université Laval</td>
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<td>Martin Cicowiez</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CEDLAS</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Christian Emini</td>
<td>Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Professor, Université de Yaoundé</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lulit Mitik Beyene</td>
<td>Managing Director, IESD Research</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olivier Beaumais</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Université de Rouen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erwin Corong</td>
<td>Research Fellow, GTAP, Purdue University</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Henseler</td>
<td>Researcher, Von Thunen Institute</td>
<td>Germany/France</td>
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# Impact evaluations and experimental research

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Affiliation</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Laura Alzua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana Dammert</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Carleton University</td>
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<td>Martin Valdivia</td>
<td>Senior Researcher, GRADE</td>
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<td>Jose Galdo</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Professor, Aix-Marseille University</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

# Community-based monitoring systems*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The CBMS resource persons are the same as the PEP-Asia/CBMS Office coordinating team – see page 68.
Microeconomic analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Benoit Dostie</td>
<td>Professor, HEC</td>
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<td>Abdelkrim Araar</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Professor, Universidad de La República</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean-Yves Duclos</td>
<td>Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Government of Canada</td>
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PEP partner institutions

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