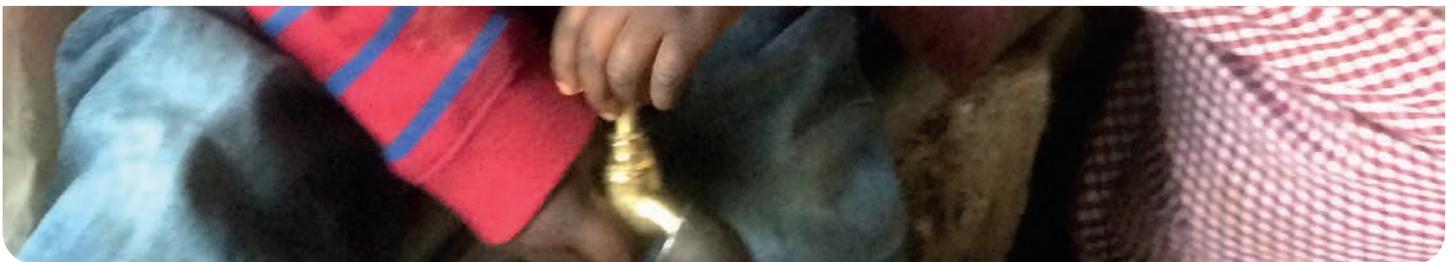


pep internal monitoring and evaluation August 2015



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



pep partnership for
economic
policy

Summary of results and highlights

from the survey of PEP-supported research teams

Following the implementation of the new PEP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System in 2011, most research teams benefiting from PEP support have been surveyed periodically, using a list of performance indicators identified in the PEP M&E Strategy, published in 2008, to assess the progress and impact of PEP activities in achieving their overall objectives.

This updated report (May 2015) presents the results of surveys held between 2011 and 2015, amongst different cohorts of PEP-supported research teams. The total sample represented in this survey include 83 research project teams, involving 334 developing country researchers. The results provide strong evidence of the achievement of PEP objectives, and clearly demonstrate the effective impact of PEP initiatives.

Building and promoting local research capacities in developing countries:

Of the 334 surveyed researchers:

- 56% are female, with 32% female project leaders;
- 34 years old is the average age at the time of project selection;
- 74% have experienced important career-promoting events due to their involvement in a PEP project, with 23% leading to increased involvement in policymaking.

Of the 64 projects which had completed the research cycle at the time of the 2015 survey:

- 55% have resulted in the hiring or promoting of the researchers to a more important position, and 68% in the researchers being commissioned or contracted, by other institutions, to undertake parallel research related to their PEP project;
- 34% have been published in academic journals or other (non-PEP) scientific publications;
- 59% have been presented in international conferences, and 57% in national policy conferences.

Policy linkages, engagement and influence:

Of the 64 projects which had completed the research cycle at the time of the 2015 survey:

- 93% were designed and conducted in direct consultation with national policy makers and other stakeholders.

Finally, despite the fact that the final PEP M&E survey/update in which granted research teams are required to take part are conducted no more than 6 months following the publication of their findings, 52% of them had already resulted in findings and recommendations taken up to assist in policy formulation or program design at the national level.

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pep internal monitoring and evaluation report

Measuring the outcomes and impact of pep activities

About pep

The Partnership for Economic Policy is a non-profit international organization linking researchers around the world to enhance capacity for policy analysis in developing countries. PEP researches inform national and international debates related to economic policy, labor market, social protection poverty, gender, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Enhancing research capacity in developing countries

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.

To this day, PEP has contributed to the scientific expertise of over **850** developing country researchers, through the support of over **262 projects in 58 developing and emerging economies** in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also in Eastern Europe and the Middle-East. By the end of July 2015, over **11,200 people had registered on the PEP website** to participate in and follow PEP news and activities worldwide.



Contributing to the advancement of development research worldwide

Moreover, with the continual support of world-leading experts and institutions – globally-linked through this venture – PEP has also become a veritable hub of expertise, knowledge and innovation in the field of economic and development policy analysis in developing countries. Some of the most valuable tools in development research today have emerged directly from PEP research ([see page 7](#)). The extensive experience of PEP-affiliated experts, funded researchers and resource people in the analysis of poverty, gender and economic development in the specific context of developing countries has contributed to developments goals worldwide and to alleviate poverty.

An organization with global scope, linkages and impact

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.

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

These exchanges allow for the comparison of research results, conclusions and methodological applications among countries and regions, as well as for increased South-South knowledge transfers through greater interaction of both individuals and institutions.

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 major international initiatives which, in turn, contribute to establishing their national and international reputations, and level the playing field with their Northern counterparts. Using researchers' in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP research favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.

Vision

A global network that brings together researchers and 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.

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

Capacity building

Developing the skills and expertise of local researchers in developing countries

Promotion of local expertise

Helping Southern experts establish their national and international reputations

Research

Producing scientifically-sound evidence base on major development issues

Policy influence

Bridging the gap between research and policy for better-informed decision-making

pep Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy

An effective system to assess the achievement of PEP objectives

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

The M&E Strategy had two clearly defined objectives:

1. To provide PEP management with reliable and updated information on the achievement of the identified objectives, as well as the multi-level impact of its activities in order to assist in general programming decisions.
2. To provide donor organizations with an effective handle on how PEP has:
 - contributed to strengthen and promote the use of existing research capabilities in developing countries.
 - brought about sustainable improvement in national and local-level policies, or changes in socioeconomic well-being.



In 2011, a new system was created and implemented to collect, directly from the research teams, specific information related to each of the performance indicators identified in the M&E plan. Initial surveys were conducted in 2011 and 2012, amongst a sample (52, or 30%) of those 172 projects supported by PEP between 2002 and 2011.

In 2012, the PEP M&E system was improved. The technical report that research teams were required to submit and update at different stages of research project execution, now as a condition for the release of grant payments, was re-modeled into a series of online forms (via the PEP intranet), from which data can now be targeted and automatically compiled into a database, which now constitutes the source of PEP's M&E reports.

The implementation of the new system coincided with the launching of a new PEP initiative to support 65 projects of "Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment" - **PAGE** - in 58 developing countries, including 40% in low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states. Research teams supported under the PAGE initiative were the first cohort to fully integrate the new system, as well as to receive PEP guidance in the implementation of effective research communications and policy outreach strategies from the onset of the project design.

At the time of this present report (August 2015), information on progress and achievements of PEP objectives and performance indicators are available for 31 of the 65 projects supported under the first three rounds of PAGE funding (i.e. selected in 2013, 2014 and 2015).

Results from both the initial (2011-2012) surveys, and from the ongoing monitoring of PAGE projects are presented on [page 11 to 17](#).

While these statistics clearly demonstrate how PEP support and activities have real impact in terms of capacity building, promotion of local expertise and evidence-based policymaking in developing countries, [Annex A](#) presents a series of brief accounts describing how this impact has actually materialized in a number of cases.

See also [Annex C](#) for a detailed description of the M&E survey process. PEP's various components', initiatives and related outcomes are also detailed in [Annex C](#).

An outline of pep's general achievements

Established in 2002, with funding from [Canada's International Development Research Center \(IDRC\)](#), as a collaborative project between two policy research centers, PEP has quickly grown into a global network of researchers and institutions, and was finally incorporated as an international non-profit organization in 2013. For a relatively young institution, PEP has quite an impressive record of achievements, which certainly contributes to explain its rapid expansion. Some noteworthy achievements include:

Substantial contributions to the international development research community

- Through close collaboration between international experts and supported researchers, PEP has developed several [new techniques, methodologies and concepts](#) to analyze poverty in its multiple dimensions, as well as to assess the impact of macro policies and other shocks on welfare and development. Many of these contributions are now highly valued and referred to as some of the most advanced and relevant tools for development research by practitioners and analysts worldwide.
 - The family of PEP standard "Computable General Equilibrium" (CGE) models¹ has, as of July 2015, been downloaded and used by over 1400 researchers and policy analysts in over 110 different countries.
 - The innovative software tools for Distributive Analysis (DAD) and Distributive Analysis for Stata Package (DASP) have been downloaded by over 10 000 users in 197 countries².
 - Multiple [PEP schools](#) have taken place worldwide.
- **Extensive training material and lists of recommended readings** have been produced for a wide variety of tools and methodologies, to assist in the capacity building of PEP researchers. Moreover, free and unlimited access to such material, via the [PEP website](#)³, allows researchers around the world to easily acquire the necessary tools for the production of state-of-the-art research, no matter their location and resources.

1 Find out more about the CGE models here: <https://www.PEP-net.org/PEP-standard-cge-models>

2 Find out more about the DAD and DASP software tools here: <http://dasp.ecn.ulaval.ca/>, <https://www.PEP-net.org/dad-dasp>

3 See training material (<http://www.PEP-net.org/resources/training-material/>) and recommended readings: <http://www.PEP-net.org/resources/recommended-readings/>

An organization of global scope and reach

- To date, a total of nearly **850 researchers (56% female) based in 58 developing countries** have benefited from **the PEP “Grant Plus” research support program** – a unique and sophisticated mechanism that enables Southern-based researchers to overcome the usual impediments to the conduct of rigorous and high-quality scientific analysis in their home countries⁴.
- In order to provide more direct assistance to researchers and help manage its activities world-wide, PEP has established **five regional offices** in Africa (Senegal and Kenya), Asia (Philippines), Latin America (Peru) and North America (Canada).

Contributing to promote the work and expertise of Southern-based researchers

In addition to building research capacities, PEP also contributes to the professional development and exposure of researchers, to build their reputation as development experts, both at the national and international levels. For example, PEP provides researchers with funding and assistance to:

1. Publish their work:

- As of July 2015, PEP has published a total of **288 research working papers** (25 in more than one language) and **115 policy briefs** (11 in more than one language), which are posted on the **PEP website** and circulated widely through its global network (newsletter, social media, etc.).
 - PEP working papers are also listed with both SSRN and RePEc, which also ensure wide circulation worldwide. According to access statistics provided by RePEc, the 148 PEP working papers listed on this website alone have resulted in 59 265 abstract views and 17 113 downloads (as of March 2015).
 - The success of PEP's capacity building initiatives is also demonstrated by the increasing number of PEP researchers whose findings are being published in top development economics journals, challenging the near monopoly of researchers working in Europe or North America.
- As of July 2015, **37 peer-reviewed journal articles** had been published (in EconLit-listed papers) with the direct assistance of PEP. But results from the M&E surveys suggest that **34% of all PEP-supported studies are published in scientific journals or book chapters**⁵.

2. Disseminate findings:

- As part of its manifold research support program, PEP also provides financial and logistical support for researchers to:
 - Organize national policy conferences, through which they can directly communicate and discuss their PEP research findings to an audience of policy actors, advisors and other stakeholders, in their home countries. A total of **66 national policy conferences** have been organized with direct assistance and funding from PEP to date, but M&E survey results suggest that over 57% of PEP studies have been presented during such events in beneficiary countries.

⁴ Find out more about the PEP research support program: <http://www.PEP-net.org/activities>

⁵ Find the related statistics on [page 13](#). Those that were published with direct assistance/support from PEP are listed here: <http://www.PEP-net.org/publications/external-publications/>

- Present their work and findings during relevant and high-level international (academic or policy) conferences.
- While **71 international conference presentations** have been funded by PEP so far, M&E results show that 59% of PEP-supported projects are presented in at least one international conference, with or without PEP support ([see page 14](#)).
- Finally, findings from PEP projects are usually also disseminated through independent initiatives of research teams, without the assistance of PEP or PEP subsidies - including mass media reports, blogs, academic seminars, various external publications, etc.

Assessing gender-related implications of development policies in the South

- PEP has supported **40 research projects** (19% of all its projects) that focus specifically on assessing gender-related policy and poverty issues.
 - Among these, from 2004 to 2008, PEP benefited from additional funding that allowed it to run a “**Gender Challenge Fund**”, which funded 10 of these projects, covering issues such as the gender impacts of tax reform, female unemployment and micro-entrepreneurship training for women.
 - Through its **CBMS** program, PEP also launched a **major gender-responsive budgeting project** (funded by UNIFEM), in Peru and the Philippines, that aimed to develop and pilot-test an enhanced community-based monitoring system that takes into account gender issues, facilitates gender responsive budgeting at the local level, and incorporates a planning and budgeting module.
 - Funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (**IADB**) allowed PEP's Latin American office to launch an initiative on **preventing teenage pregnancy**.
- Outside of these particular initiatives, the fact that **56% of all PEP-supported researchers and 32% of project leaders are female** (see table below) - as well as 75% of **PEP program coordinators** and more than half of **PEP staff** - has helped ensure that PEP research activities in general take account of gender issues and disparities.

general information (2002-2015)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of research projects completed with pep support | 262 |
| Number of research grants awarded per research program/methodology | |
| CMBS: community-based monitoring systems | 75 |
| MPIA: macro-micro modeling and policy simulations | 71 |
| PIERI: impact evaluation (experimental - RCTs) | 22 |
| PMMA: microeconomic analysis | 94 |

general information (2002-2015)

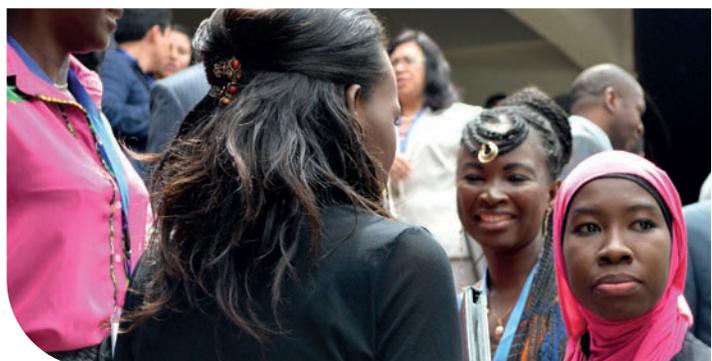
| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of pep regional offices established | 5 |
| Number of total grants disbursed and managed by pep regional offices | |
| pep Africa | 160 |
| pep Asia | 44 |
| pep Latin America | 17 |
| pep North America | 13 |
| Number of general meetings | 12 |
| Number of pep schools | 40 |
| Number of special training workshops per research programs | |
| MPIA: | 21 |
| PIERI: | 3 |
| PMMA: | 12 |
| CBMS: | 4 |
| Percentage of resource persons and reviewers who reside in Southern countries | 46% |
| Percentage of pep supported researchers who are women | 56% |
| Percentage of pep supported research team leaders who are women | 30% |



Results from the M&E surveys of pep projects

The following sections present the results from the monitoring of detailed sets of performance indicators, pre-identified as part of PEP's monitoring and evaluation strategy to assess progress in the achievement of PEP's objectives in terms of research capacity building, promotion of local expertise, and policy influence.

Initial surveys were conducted in 2011 and 2012, amongst **a sample of 52 projects supported** by PEP between 2002 and 2012, **involving 198 developing country researchers**. At the time, all of the surveyed research teams had published their final research reports, but at least a quarter (25%) of them were still working on the dissemination of their findings at the national level.



A **second set of results** has been produced from the (ongoing) monitoring of projects supported under the current PEP-PAGE initiative. As of July 2015, this second survey has been conducted amongst **31 projects⁶** supported under the first three rounds of PAGE funding (i.e. selected in 2013, 2014 and 2015), **involving a total of 136 researchers**. There are currently 65 projects supported under the PAGE initiative, but 14 of them are CBMS projects, whose teams are not required to fill out the online technical report. Also, the projects under the third round of PAGE funding have not started yet to report about their project. The (16) teams supported under Round 1 (selected in 2013) have mostly completed their research work, and some (4) have already undertaken the main dissemination activities. The (15) teams supported under Round 2 (selected in 2014) are still preparing their final research results and outputs, and thus have not yet officially entered the dissemination phase.

The average results thus represent a **total sample of 83 research projects and 334 researchers**.

capacity building

| | 2011-2012 | PAGE |
|---|-----------|------|
| Average age of supported researchers (at the time of project selection by pep) | 33 | 35 |
| Supported researchers who are female | 47% | 55% |
| Supported project team leaders who are female | 37% | 26% |
| Researchers who have learned and taken up in research practice | | |
| New research methodologies | 82% | 98% |
| New analytical concepts | 69% | 96% |
| New software tools | 71% | 90% |
| New scientific literatures | 77% | 92% |
| Project teams who experienced technical difficulties and obstacles that were overcome with pep assistance | 89% | 87% |

⁶ There are currently 65 projects supported under the PAGE initiative, but 14 of them are CBMS projects, whose teams are not required to fill out the online technical report.

Supporting local experts in developing countries

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

With an **average researcher age of 34 years and 56% female participation**, PEP is creating a growing and gender-equal pool of Southern-based researchers to inform and influence current and future debates on poverty, development and economic policy issues.

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

Milu Muyanga, Kenya

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

Nisha Arunatilake, Sri Lanka



Providing training, support and resources

To succeed in this initiative, PEP provides in-depth training, support and resources through the four following dimensions:

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

All the above-mentioned resources, as well as related training materials, are made available for free via the [PEP website](#), ensuring an optimal research environment for Southern researchers.

An independent and locally defined research agenda

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

promotion of local expertise

| % of researchers who have experienced | |
|---|-----|
| career-promoting event(s) due to their involvement in a pep project | 74% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 88% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 75% |
| From PAGE round 2 project teams (selected in 2014) | 60% |
| career-promoting event(s) leading to increased involvement in policymaking | 23% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 44% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 18% |
| From PAGE round 2 project teams (selected in 2014) | 7% |
| % of projects that resulted in | |
| research team members getting hired or promoted, due to their pep experience | 55% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 54% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 56% |
| the undertaking of parallel research studies, commissioned by others institutions | 68% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 67% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 69% |
| further funding for the researchers or their institutions | 34% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 29% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 38% |
| publication of (at least one) journal article or book chapter | 34% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 42% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 25% |

*PEP define a career-promoting event as any event that has resulted from the acknowledgement, promotion or exposure of their new expertise.

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

Maria Ines Terra, Uruguay

Thanks to the PEP project and the knowledge acquired, the publication of my research findings in refereed journals of 3 different papers, I was promoted to associate professor. Also, my participation in international conferences – with PEP support – allowed me to move in an international organization as senior economist.

Nadia Belhaj Hassine, Tunisia

The knowledge, experience and confidence gained through the PEP project, in the analysis of macroeconomic issues and sectoral interactions, have helped me be the first Cambodian economist to (ever) be selected, out of 1500 PhD applicants from around the world, to participate in the IMF Economist Program.

Dyna Heng, Cambodia

Acknowledged by the international research community

According to M&E surveys, about 34% of PEP studies are published as peer-reviewed journal articles, or as chapters in externally-published books. To date, PEP has provided direct assistance and subsidies to 37 of these publications⁷.

A long-term career-promoting experience

During or following participation in a PEP-supported project, **74% of surveyed researchers reported to have experienced a “career-promoting” event** – such as postings, awards, promotions, academic graduations, etc. Moreover, nearly a third (**23%**) of the events listed resulted in increased access and involvement in policy decision-making processes.

On average, due to the knowledge and experience gained through PEP research and support, **55% of PEP projects resulted in at least one research team member getting hired or promoted to a new job or position**, or receiving a professional distinction due to their PEP experience. **68% of the research teams have been solicited or commissioned to pursue further analysis (or parallel studies) on related issues** by government agencies or other (non-PEP) organizations. Meanwhile, **34% of the surveyed research teams indicated having received further funding, individually or through their respective institutions, as a result of the experience and skills gained through PEP.**



⁷ Find them all here: <http://www.PEP-net.org/publications/external-publications/>.

consultation and dissemination

| % of projects that were | |
|--|------|
| designed and conducted in consultation with policy actors | 93% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 86% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 100% |
| presented at a national policy conference | 57% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 58% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 56% |
| reported in the press (radio, newspaper, television, etc.) | 40% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 35% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 44% |
| presented at an international conference | 59% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 67% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 50% |

Working in collaboration with policy actors and other stakeholders



As part of PEP's strategy to ensure that

- 1) its research projects are responsive to emerging development policy issues;
- 2) their findings will be assimilated in policy formulation.

Ongoing consultation with relevant stakeholders and government agencies has become a fixed component of PEP projects.

As a result, 93% of surveyed research teams had been working in close collaboration with policy makers and stakeholders throughout their PEP project cycle, and from the onset of the research design – to collect input regarding actual policy needs and priorities in terms of evidence base. Moreover, 90% of these stakeholders were identified as direct research users, through whom the consultation activities may potentially lead to impacts on policymaking.

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

Fabio Veras Soares, Brazil

Facilitating national and international exposure

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

The last survey shows that, on average, **57% of the PEP-supported projects are presented to a policy-related audience at the national level**, with several other projects from PAGE Round 1 and 2 planning such events in the near future. According to survey answers however, only a third (27%) of these events were subsidized by PEP, which implies that a majority of research teams have taken such initiatives on their own.

The most fruitful of our dissemination activities was certainly the national conference we organized to present our findings to an audience of national and local government leaders. It was the occasion to inform the officials, especially the local government executives, of the potential impact of trade liberalization measures on poverty, and how promotion of trade agreements could help alleviate poverty.

Angelo Taningco, Philippines

These national policy conferences tend to be widely publicized on national radio, television and press and, as PEP-supported research teams are also strongly encouraged to inform media of their work and related outcomes, PEP research findings are often reported to the general public (40%), whose awareness can incite political leaders' response.

Another sign of the acknowledgment of their authority as field specialists is the number of PEP research teams (59% of the surveyed projects) invited to present their PEP research work and findings during high-level international conferences intended for either policy or academic audiences, and held in all regions of the world. Again, PEP provides special grants and support to allow researchers to participate in these international events; however, the surveys show that PEP support was requested for only 37% of the reported events.

policy impact

% of projects that resulted in

| | |
|---|------------|
| findings taken up to assist in policy formulation and program design | 42% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 35% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 50% |
| new program or policy design or implementation | 17% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 15% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 19% |
| change or abrogation of actual policy or program | 11% |
| From the initial surveys (2011-2012) | 8% |
| From PAGE round 1 project teams (selected in 2013) | 13% |

Informing policy debates and initiatives with reliable evidence from a local perspective

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

Nonetheless, and even though most of the projects included in the surveys were not completed (some not even yet published), it appears that direct influence of PEP findings on policy formulation had nonetheless already occurred in 42% of the cases, on average. 17% had resulted in the implementation of new policies/programs and 11% in the change or abrogation of existing policies/programs.

Considering the number of past research projects and disseminated findings unaccounted for in these surveys, however, it is reasonable to think that this percentage does not reflect the overall influence of PEP initiatives in terms of poverty alleviation and improvement of socioeconomic wellbeing in developing countries, especially considering the number of PEP researchers being offered opportunities to pursue their work in spheres where they can exert direct impact on policymaking and poverty alleviation.



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

Annex A presents more detailed accounts of how these and other surveyed projects have led to actual influence on policy at the national level. **Annex B** presents further testimony of how PEP support and training have contributed to both strengthen and promote research capacities and expertise in the south.



ANNEX A

PEP IMPACT STORIES

The testimonials reported in this annex were collected in part from the technical reports submitted by PEP-supported research teams – through the PEP M&E system – since 202.

ARGENTINA (2009-2012)

Leonardo Gasparini, Carlos German Bet, Maria Laura Alzua, Francisco Haimovich Paz

Assessing the impact of Argentina's Ley Federal de Educación on educational and labor outcomes

PEP researchers stir up education policy debates in Argentina

In 2009, a team of Argentineans researchers were granted support from PEP and received training in advanced techniques for impact evaluation research, as they aimed to produce an empirical assessment of the effectiveness of a major national education reform implemented in the 1990's, "Ley Federal de Educación (LFE)".

They concluded that this particular policy, which basically entailed the addition of two years of compulsory education, had had virtually no effect on schooling and labor outcomes in the country. In other words, those poor young adults educated under the LFE (i.e. after 1994) derived no benefits in terms of greater integration into the labor market or higher wages when employed.

Their findings were presented and discussed in various seminars and conferences in Buenos Aires and La Plata, and were largely disseminated through mass media in the country. As a result, the evidence produced by this PEP-supported policy impact evaluation has been assimilated, cited and used by several policy makers and civil society representatives involved in ongoing debates around new reform of national education policies in Argentina.

CAMEROON (2006-2008)

Dia Bernadette Kamgnia, Afor Josephine Fosah, Simon Jules Leunkeu Wangun and Tatsinkou Christophe

Acquired benefits and poor targeting in public spending on health and education in Cameroon

PEP research leads to improvement of health services to the poor in Cameroon

As important reforms of the public sector were underway to help Cameroon achieve the Millenium development goals in 2006, a team of local researchers was selected to receive PEP training and support conduct of a rigorous analysis on how the country's poor actually benefited from public spending in education and health services. The project was conducted in direct consultation with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Management, the Committee in charge of monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for Growth and Employment and the National Bureau of Statistics.

Specific results on the distributional impacts of public spending in health services and education, as well as the overall access to and quality of health services provided, were taken up by the Ministry of Public Health in the elaboration of the National Plan for Sanitary Development. The research findings were used, in particular, to help improve the delivery of quality health services, especially those provided at the district-level medical centers and hospitals, as well as services provided in rural areas, where it was

specifically recommended that increased resources should be devoted to the improvement of hospital hygiene, quality of personnel, equipment and infrastructure.

CAMEROON (2006-2008)

Paul Ningaye, Virginie Takoutio Feudjio and Alexis Tiomela Yemedjeu

Dimensional and regional distribution of multi-poverty in Cameroon

Cameroon national statistics adopt new multidimensional approach to poverty analysis

The purpose of this particular study, led by a team of local researchers, was to provide a fuller characterization of poverty in Cameroon, through the use of the “Dimensional Scores” methodology to measure precisely the level and spatial distribution of deprivation in each welfare dimension – i.e. health, education, income, infrastructure, etc. This type of analysis contributes to identify the specific needs of various population groups and thus contributes to target vulnerable and poor households at different levels.

After attending a conference organized by the team in the country’s capital (Yaoundé) to share their work and findings with the public, officials from the National Bureau of Statistics contacted the team leader, Dr Paul Ningaye. His collaboration and advice was requested for the integration of new indicators to monitor and measure poverty in the 2013 ECAM IV (national household consumption) surveys, to ensure that national statistics better reflect gender-related and multi-dimensional aspects of welfare in the future.

CHAD (2004-2006)

Tabo Symphorien Ndong, Anatole Toinar Mogota, Nakar Djindil Syntiche

How does public spending in Chad benefit the various population groups?

How PEP support leads a local researcher to advise national development strategies in Chad

In 2004, PEP provided support to researchers in Chad to conduct an incidence analysis on existing national household survey data to investigate the impact of public spending in health and education. The study evaluated the welfare benefits to the population, as well as the distribution of such benefits among different groups and regions. The project aimed to provide evidence to inform government’s decisions, while defining priorities in the context of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy initiated in 2003. Based on the researchers’ recommendations, the government decided to organize follow-up surveys to trace health and education spending to their intended targets, in order to measure the share of the budget that reached the target population.

Thanks to the quality of the ensuing paper, as well as the advanced skills gained through this PEP-supported project, the team leader was first recruited by the International Monetary Fund Office in Chad, in 2008, and then as a long-term consultant in economic studies by AFRISTAT, in Mali, in 2009. He was also called upon by the African Development Bank, as the official consultant and correspondent for Chad, to contribute to the African Economic Outlook five years in a row. Subsequently, in 2012, the researcher was recruited by the UNDP, as a consultant, to assist the Government of Chad in designing the 2012-2015 National Strategic Development Plan. The research findings and new skills in multidimensional poverty analysis thus contributed to better identifying and targeting the specific needs and interventions for welfare improvement in the country.

CHINA (2010-2012)

Xinxin Chen, Chunlei Lang, Lijuan Guo, Pingping Gu and Shaoqing Zhang

The impact of tuition relief program in senior high school on poor students in rural China

PEP research findings inform policy debate regarding investment in education in rural China

Despite considerable improvements in schooling of rural youth populations over the past decade, the Chinese government is still looking at ways to address the sizable remaining gap between the enrollment rates in rural and urban areas, especially at senior high school level. In 2010, a team of Chinese researchers began assessing the early impacts of a tuition relief program for senior high school students, implemented in the relatively poor rural county of Ningshan, in Shaanxi Province. When compared with those of other counties, the results show that the program contributed to significant improvement in both the enrollment and performance of rural pupils in senior high school.

Based on these findings, the Education Bureau of Ningshan County decided to maintain and extend the program for an additional five years, and has disseminated the researchers' results and recommendations further up to the provincial level where they are being considered for wider adoption. While China's Ministry of Education is looking to increase investment in rural education, and debates are ongoing on how to proceed, it is hoped that these results will find their way even further up to national educational policy level, and possibly lead to expanding the piloting of tuition relief programs for all of the poorest rural areas in the country.

CHINA (2010-2012)

Can Liu, Hao Liu, Wenqing Zhu, Qingjiao Rong

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

PEP research findings support and inform Chinese environmental strategy

At the end of the 1990s, while facing severe threats in terms of resource management and ecological sustainability, the Chinese government implemented a new environmental strategy including six "Priority Forest Programs" (PFPs), which combined objectives of environmental restoration and reduction of rural poverty.

In 2010, PEP granted support to a team of local researchers to lead a research project in which they would use data collected from over 3000 households in 6 different provinces in order to assess the actual impact of these programs on rural household income and income mobility.

This evaluation project was carried out in direct consultation with the PFP management officers from the State Forestry Administration, as well as officials from the Ministry of Finance and Department of Agriculture. As a result, the researchers' findings and recommendations were taken up by the State Forestry Administration in preparation of the next (12th) Five-Year National Forestry Development Plan.

EGYPT (2008-2012)

Asmaa Elbadawy, Nadia Zibani and Rania Roushdy

Assessing the impact of Ishraq intervention, a second-chance program for out-of-school rural adolescent girls in Egypt

PEP research helps to improve the welfare and livelihoods of rural adolescent girls in Egypt

This experimental impact evaluation project aimed to assess whether the Ishraq program, implemented in Egypt between 2009 and 2012, has been successful in improving the welfare and prospects of rural adolescent girls, by helping them to make better-informed life decisions in regards to education, marriage and livelihood opportunities. As a result of their evaluation, the researchers found evidence that the program has had particularly large impacts on the following outcomes: literacy skills (including financial), participation in and attitudes towards sports for girls, aspirations in regards to education and work, gender role attitudes, general and reproductive health knowledge, extent of peer networks and participation in decision-making processes. However, they also found that the program fell relatively short in informing beneficiaries on issues related to nutrition, female genital mutilation, infant care and attitudes related to harassment and violence. Nonetheless, the researchers strongly recommend the scaling-up of the Ishraq program, at the national level, to help Egyptian girls acquire the literacy and life skills needed to become empowered citizens.

In addition to working in close collaboration with the institution in charge of implementing the Ishraq program, the researchers also provided advice and consultations to a number of concerned NGOs in the country (CARITAS, Teaming for Development, the Egyptian Food Bank – all program collaborators), and had frequent meetings with several officials from the National Council for Youth (NCY) and the Ministry of Education (including at local and national levels, for both successive regimes). These consultations and meetings have contributed to significantly improve the program, as well as to ensure broad dissemination of the project's results amidst all concerned institutions and government bodies. The PEP research team was even requested to provide a series of "Training of Trainers" workshops and mentoring for selected cadres within the NCY, and to prepare a "guidance manual" providing detailed information on best practices for scaling up the program.

GHANA (2013-2014)

Edgard F.A. Cooke, Sarah Hague, John Cockburn, Abdel-Rahmen El Lahga and Luca Tiberti

Estimating the impact on poverty of Ghana's fuel subsidy reform and a mitigating response

Ghana taking steps to reduce poverty in response to a PEP report on fuel subsidies

In early 2013, the Ghanaian Government introduced the removal of fuel subsidies. Prices of petrol, kerosene, diesel and LPG saw rises of between 15% and 50%, until prices reached their market level in mid-September 2013. Following the subsidy removal and before the 2013 budget was finalised, PEP was commissioned by UNICEF to assess the impact of the reform on the poor and to ensure a mitigating response in the form of a social safety net. Initiated on the request of the Government, this project was the first study to examine the effects of Ghana's fuel subsidies.

The analysis confirmed that, so far, government aid has disproportionately benefited the country's wealthiest group - with 80% of fuel subsidies going to them, while Ghana's poor receive only 3% of the revenues generated. The findings also showed that removing fuel subsidies would increase poverty by 1.5% (an

additional 395 000 people pushed into poverty). On the other hand, in terms of policy responses, the researchers demonstrated how doubling the national cash transfer program (LEAP) to 150 000 households in 2014 would reverse the national increase in poverty and reduce inequality. Partly in response to these findings, the Ghanaian Government committed to doubling LEAP to 150 000 households, and plans to eventually triple their commitment. Since this announcement, the Government has indeed worked toward increasing the number of households covered to reach the extreme poor. In 2012, the programme had an annual budget of 8m GHS. Following the preliminary analysis, the publication of PEP's findings and extensive advocacy, the Government increased the 2015 budget for LEAP to 38m GHS. The programme covered 73,000 households in 2012 and is due to reach 200 000 by the beginning of next year. The recent poverty estimates from the latest round of Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) indicates a reduction in poverty of more than 7%. UNICEF also liaised with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and set up meetings between the Ministry of Social Protection and the IMF. The IMF used the PEP/UNICEF findings to inform their new programme and included a trigger on social protection. Therefore, the Ghanaian Government and the IMF have agreed to LEAP being scaled up to reach all extreme poor households and beyond to cover 550,000 by 2017.

INDIA (2005-2006)

Sugata Marjit, Archita Banik and Saibal Kar

Urban informal sector and poverty - effects of trade reform and capital mobility in India?

Research findings in India prompt initiatives in favor of social security for informal sector workers

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

The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) – a national body commissioned by the Indian government to address the issues faced by enterprises in relation to the informal employment sector – demonstrated keen interest in the research findings. In 2010, the researchers were involved in an initiative to inform program design by NCEUS based on their findings from 2006 and 2008. This has further contributed in taking subsequent steps towards the implementation of policies related to social security benefits for workers in the informal sector, and initiated consultations with banks concerning lending and credit facilities to informal sector workers.

KENYA (2008-2012)

Germano Mwabu, Alice Muthoni Ng'ang'a, Mumia Phyllis Machio and Racheal Nakhumicha Musitia

Scaling education interventions in Kenya: the importance of institutions

PEP research findings help prevent undesirable education policy

One of the solutions proposed by the government to address issues of low school performance in Kenya in 2008 implied the scaling up of a "contract teacher intervention". This program, which involved funding of community-hired contract teachers and community-based performance monitoring systems (organized by school management committees), was previously introduced by an NGO in some parts of the country, where it had shown to have improved test scores for primary school students. However, con-

cerns were raised regarding the idea of generalizing results from one small experiment and extrapolating findings to the national level and whether an NGO-piloted program would be successful if implemented through governmental agencies. Hence, PEP-supported local researchers carried out a rigorous impact evaluation – conducting randomized controlled trials on 192 schools in 8 different provinces - to assess the potential of such an intervention if scaled up throughout Kenya.

The research revealed that, beyond careful and rigorous design, the effectiveness of an intervention in reaching target groups largely depend on the nature of the institutional context and constraints. Indeed, the government-led interventions yielded completely different results from the NGO-led ones; when scaled-up nationally, the salient features of teachers' contracts were compromised, and the effectiveness of the program was undermined. The researchers concluded that extrapolating results from a locally-based NGO program to national government policy was not a valid option. The findings also suggest that, overall, free primary education policies in Kenya have mostly benefited the non-poor.

Throughout the project execution, researchers worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC). The results have been shared directly with senior officials in both agencies, as well as with the Permanent Secretary and the “Vision 2030” Strategic Planning Group, which reports to the President. This has contributed to generating evidence that provides input to the policymaking process, through advice and recommendations provided to the MOE in regards to the design of effective inclusive education policies.

PERU (2005-2008)

Martin Valdivia, Verónica Frisancho, Dean Karlan

Teaching entrepreneurship: impact of business training for microfinance clients and institutions

PEP findings help improve services of microfinance institutions in Peru and beyond

As microfinance institutions (MFIs) worldwide are pursuing innovations to improve the effectiveness of micro-lending in helping micro-entrepreneurs escape poverty, a team of researchers in Peru were granted PEP support in 2005 to assess the impact of a “business training” program. This program was implemented by FINCA-Peru (MFI) to improve entrepreneurial skills and business practices of poor female clients. Based on the encouraging results of the PEP-supported study, FINCA confidently expanded the training program to other groups and it has since become a regular feature of the services they offer to a wide range of clients.

But the impact of these findings extended way beyond that sole institution. As the research findings were presented at several academic and policy forums within Peru and other countries, it was later reported that many other Peruvian MFIs and national NGOs (such as PRISMA, ADRA and Manuela Ramos in collaboration with FFH) had started to add a business training component into their programs. A few years later, MIBANCO, a large regulated microfinance bank associated to Acción International, and Banco de Crédito, the largest commercial bank in the country, were also offering business trainings to their clients in Peru.

At the international level, the researchers were approached by analysts and MFIs in Mexico and India, planning to combine and mainstream business skills training into their regular microfinance services. The Peru team advised on the design of an (experimental) impact evaluation of an integrated business skills training component similar to the one used to assess the FINCA program's impact.

SENEGAL (2009-2012)

Abdoulaye Diagne, Mouhamadou Moustapha Lo, Fatoumata L. Diallo, Ibrahima Oumarou Sadou

Assessing the impact of a school feeding program in primary schools in rural Senegal

PEP research helps to expand a primary school feeding program in Senegal

In this PEP project, researchers in Senegal set out to assess the impact of an experimental school feeding program on the performance of pupils in rural primary schools. Over 120 schools were selected in rural areas where the program had not yet been implemented. Half of these schools were randomly assigned to receive the program (treatment group) and the other half were to serve as the control group. This experiment enabled the researchers to observe the actual effect of the feeding program on the students' scores, schools' rates of grade repetition and dropouts, and other dimensions. The evidence produced by the team showed significant positive impact of the program on several aspects of schools' and students' performance, not to mention on students' nutrition.

After they presented these findings to an audience of key national policy makers and stakeholders - especially from the Ministry of Education - as well as to some of the country's development partners, the government decided to not only pursue but even scale-up the program, doubling the number of participating schools over the next three years.

Moreover, the government decided to take further advantage of the researchers' new skills in the use of scientific methods and techniques for impact evaluation, and have them assist the Department of Agriculture in improving policies implemented in the context of the new "REVA" (agriculture revitalization) plan. This led to the linking of both initiatives, from the realization that in addition to improving school performance and child nutrition, the school feeding programs may also boost local agricultural production, as they create new markets for local farmers to sell their produce.

UGANDA (2009-2012)

Madina Guloba, Lawrence Bategeka, Ibrahim Kasiye

Community involvement improves performance in Ugandan primary schools

Assisting the government in findings ways to improve management of primary schools in Uganda

Despite relative success in improving access to schooling in Uganda since the mid-90s, learning and educational outcomes at the national level remain poor and the government continues to face challenges, especially in terms of "quality" of education services, particularly because of the high rates of teacher absenteeism. In this PEP-supported randomized control trial, a team of local researchers set out to assess the effectiveness of different types of "community-based monitoring interventions", in order to inform policymakers of possible ways to improve the management of primary schools in the country. The results show that the introduction of a monitoring system based on a "participatory approach" (self-design of monitoring tools) seems to have significant positive effects on educational outcomes, leading to higher effort levels from both the providers and the clients of the schools.

The study was conducted in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), the National Planning Authority, as well as the Board of National Assessment for Progress in Education (NAPE), all first-hand users of the research findings. Consultations at the Ministerial level were mainly done with the MoES to ensure local policy relevance and uptake of policy recommendations. It also created an entry point and partnership for researchers with the Ministry, which provided inputs for the design of the survey

and intervention instruments used throughout the project implementation period.

Further consultations were held with two NGOs: the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and World Vision, which had activities at the district and community levels. This collaboration was intended to facilitate the training of participants and monitoring of field activities, at the grass roots level. It was later reported that both institutions were using these findings, as well as the analytical tools designed for the purpose of this project, in their own interventions and monitoring and evaluation activities. Moreover, the effectiveness of the community based monitoring system stimulated other similar initiatives, which were later undertaken by the communities to tackle identified and related issues.

Finally, made aware of the PEP researchers' study, the World Bank provided them with funding to pursue their work and further examine, based on their initial PEP findings, the drivers of weak governance in Ugandan primary schools.

URUGUAY (2007-2012, 2 consecutive projects)

Veronica Amarante, Andrea Vigorito, Arim Rodrigo

Family allowances and child school attendance. An ex-ante evaluation of alternative schemes & School attendance, child labor and cash transfers: An impact evaluation of PANES

PEP research in Uruguay assists the government in re-designing a cash transfer program to promote education and human capital development

In 2007, the Uruguayan government was looking at the possibility of renewing a recently expired program that aimed to foster human capital accumulation (and alleviate poverty) through conditional cash transfers to poor households in the country. Simultaneously, a team of local researchers was awarded two successive PEP research grants: one to assess the actual impact or success of the previous program (entitled PANES) on the intended outcomes (such as school attendance, child labor and income poverty), and the other to evaluate the impact of a prospective program (entitled "Asignaciones Familiares") by providing an ex-ante analysis of various potential new schemes of social protection conditional on school attendance.

Made aware of their research findings, officials from the Ministry of Social Development (in charge of designing and implementing the new program) called on the PEP team to become members of a special advisory committee that was mandated to assist in the related program design and targeting process. The initial results indicated that, for several identified reasons, the first cash transfer program failed to achieve its core objectives in terms of enhancing access to education and human capital accumulation.

On the other hand, they were able to assess the best policy options, in terms of program design and targeting, to ensure the success of the new program. Based on these findings and recommendations, the Uruguayan policymakers avoided repeating past mistakes and the new program was designed according to identified best practices and the most promising options in terms of impacts on school attendance and welfare outcomes related to poverty alleviation and equity.

CAMBODIA (2013-2015)

Dyna Heng, Kagna Em, Senh Senghor, Sokrachany Ngim, Sothy Ear, Theary Chan

Impacts of Cambodia's tariff elimination on household welfare and labor market

PEP research focuses on trade liberalization and economic integration to gather findings to influence policy making in the Cambodian government

Trade liberalization is a topic of current importance in Asia. Aiming at job creation, economic growth and alleviation of poverty, the Cambodian Government needs in-depth research findings that can provide evidence of the opportunities and the threats of this opening of the Asian market on its economy. In light of this important knowledge requirement, a team of local researchers sought PEP's support to produce a rigorous assessment of the impacts of Cambodia's trade liberalization and related changes in fiscal policy on growth, employment and poverty in the country.

Using a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model of the Cambodian economy, the research team provided the government with data and analysis at the macro and micro levels. The results show that tariff elimination leads to an expansion in production and an increase in export/import volumes. Government policy for indirect tax-led revenue compensation results in the change of structural production, favoring the manufacturing industry, versus the agricultural and services sectors. Overall, the gains in terms of welfare at the household level are positive but small, except for populations living in remote areas for whom the effect is negative. Policy measures to address the negative effects of tariff removal were therefore suggested.

Through the process of their research, the team developed the first Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) of Cambodia. Moreover, the tools developed are now major assets for research development and policy analysis in the country. Similarly, the expertise built by the research team in the application of such advanced methods is a major leap for the national scientific community. As testimony of this acquired knowledge, the research team led a UNICEF sponsored training in CGE modeling and related techniques for economists at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC). A **PEP national policy** conference and many consultations were held to discuss their findings, providing crucial information that will serve to inform strategic policy decisions and initiatives in Cambodia, especially in the context of the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Furthermore, the Minister of Commerce has committed to take the research findings into account, especially with regards to potential negative impacts of trade policies on the agriculture sector and the need for related policy responses. At a personal level, the project team leader, Dyna Heng was appointed president of the Cambodian Economic Association in January 2014. Other team members have also been offered important positions at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as well as in major banks and think tanks.

MACEDONIA (2013-2014)

Nikica Mojsoska-Blazevski, Edi Smokvarski, Maja Ristovska, Marjan Petreski

Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia

PEP research aims to explore if remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth in recipient households in Macedonia

Low job creation and high unemployment are among most important current policy issues in Macedonia. Amid the global economic crisis, tightened credit conditions, lack of venture capital financing and the malfunctioning labour market, youth restrain their entrepreneurial aspirations and rarely risk new venture.

In 2008, a Macedonian research team conducted a survey to produce reliable assessments regarding the probability of a young person to enter self-employment if his/her household receive remittances. These PEP's findings show that youth living in households receiving remittances have a considerably larger probability of establishing their own business, ranging between 28% and 33%, compared to their non-youth non-receiving counterparts.

The various institutional affiliations and contacts of the research team members have allowed them to consult directly with the Minister of Labour and Social Policy and the Governor of the National Bank of Macedonia. Throughout the course of their PEP project, the team organized a **PEP national policy** conference and several other presentations/consultation meetings with national-level policymakers from various government agencies, who all committed to support and contribute to the dissemination of the research findings. The researchers also engaged national and regional mass media to raise awareness of the issue amongst both decision-makers and the general public. As a result of these efforts, the researchers' recommendations will be taken-up in the formulation of various strategic policy documents, including the "Strategy for Employment 2015-2020" of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP). Moreover, because of the expertise gained from the project, two researchers were hired by the International Labour Office (ILO) to conduct an impact evaluation of selected social programs on the recommendation of the MLSP.

ARGENTINA (2013-2015)

Fernando Alberto Groisman, Albano Blas Vergara, Analía Calero, Julia Liniado, María Eugenia Sconfienza, Maria Soledad Cubas, Santiago Boffi

Social protection to the informal sector: The role of minimum wage and income transfer policies

Producing a reliable evidence base to inform ongoing national policy debates

In recent years, use of minimum wage policies has intensified in Latin America. Argentina is a paradigmatic case, because the minimum wage level was modified repeatedly and increased tenfold (in nominal terms) between 2002 and 2014 - while the country's purchasing power has almost tripled. Meanwhile, an important cash transfer program - the Universal Child Allowance (AUH) - was implemented in 2009 and currently benefits about 40% of Argentina's children. These issues have been surrounded by a persistent controversy in Argentina.

In 2013-2014, a team of local researchers in Argentina was provided with financial and technical support by PEP to conduct a rigorous analysis of the effects that such regulations (minimum wage and income

transfers) have had on the labor market in the country, with particular emphasis on the informal sector. The findings suggest that increasing the minimum wage does not reduce employment, nor increase informality and that conditional cash transfers do not reduce the economic participation of beneficiaries.

This research led to many presentations. Indeed, the team was invited to present and discuss their PEP research work and findings to other academics from various universities and research institutions at home and abroad in high-level conferences in Bogota (Colombia), Kassel (Germany) and Geneva (Switzerland). A **PEP national policy** conference was also held in 2014. Several cooperation initiatives have resulted from these discussions. Moreover, several members of the research team were offered tenure or new positions at the University of Buenos Aires, and permanent positions at various research institutes - including the National Research Council (CONICET). The experience also allowed junior members to obtain scholarships and further research contracts.

The consultation meetings have also raised keen interest, amidst many institutions, in the methods and new expertise developed by the research team. Moreover, two national observatories were created: the “Minimum Wage Observatory” and the “Social Protection Observatory”. Through these Observatories, the PEP researchers are now mandated to produce monthly reports providing information on the evolution, characteristics and scope of the minimum wage and social protection policies. These reports were sent to several institutions (including government agencies, such as the Ministry of Labour, Working Committees of the Senate and international agencies, such as the International Labour Office (ILO), chambers of commerce and trade unions) in order to provide inputs for decision-making.

More of these “PEP impact stories” are available on the PEP website: <http://www.PEP-net.org>

NORTH AMERICA

Université Laval
Québec, Canada

ASIA

AKI
Manila, Philippines

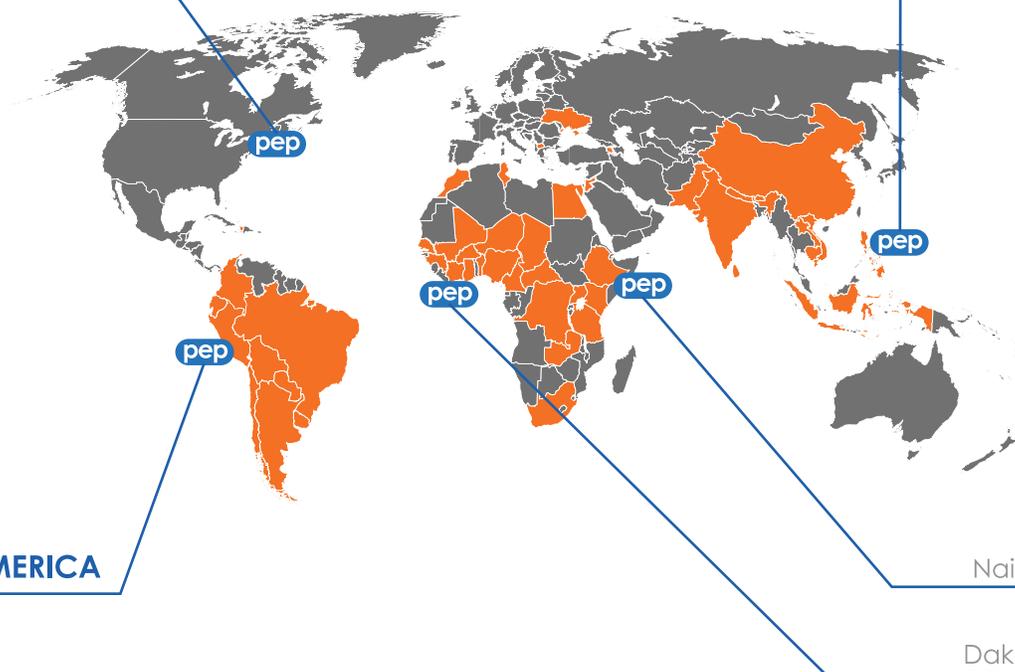
LATIN AMERICA

GRADE
Lima, Peru

AFRICA

ICIPE
Nairobi, Kenya

CRES
Dakar, Senegal



ANNEX B

Testimony of PEP contributions to research capacity building

Excerpts

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

From the team of PEP project PMMA-11314

Analysis of the missing dimensions of poverty data in Nigeria

"The PEP network has afforded us invaluable exposure and experience that is of immense contribution for our academic and research development in the future. The impact of our PEP exposure extends beyond the completion of the projects.

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

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

From the team of PEP project PIERI-11239

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

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

From the team of PEP project MPIA-11351

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

"We are very grateful to participate in the PEP network, to find out about CGE modeling work and policy simulations from all over the world, and share our experiences with others to get valuable comments and

suggestions so that improve our research capacities.”

From the team of PEP project [PIERI-1 1242](#)

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

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

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

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

From the team of PEP project [PIERI-1 1243](#)

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

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

From the team of PEP project [MPIA-10676](#)

Sectorial strategy, poverty and vulnerability: Togo’s case

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

From the team of PEP project [PMMA-10228](#)

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

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

From PEP project team PMMA-10521

Child Survival, Poverty and Policy Options from DHS Surveys in Kenya: 1993-2003

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

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

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

From PEP project team PIERI-11204

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

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

From PEP project team PMMA-10208

Who Benefits From Social Expenditures in Chad? An Incidence Analysis Using Survey Data

The work of PEP resource persons is remarkable. As a Network, PEP is an excellent framework for discussions, providing researchers in developing countries an opportunity to “exchange” on poverty-related themes, which are often similar in the region (sub-Saharan Africa). The PEP Network is truly like a family that transcends linguistic, national, continental, religious, intellectual and cultural differences (barriers).

Reported events

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

Argentina

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

Brazil

Elydia Sylvia was recruited by the National Bank for Social and Economic Development in 2010.

After successfully defending his thesis, based on his PEP project, Pedro Oliveira was hired as Assistant Professor at the Federal University of Grande Dourados to teach quantitative methods, which he acquired, in great part, during his PEP project.

Bangladesh

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

Cameroon

Following conclusion of their PEP project in 2008, Dia Bernadette Kamgnia (project leader) was appointed as PhD programs' coordinator at University of Yaoundé II, Leunkeu Wangun was recruited as Research Officer for the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Urban Management, and Tatsinkou Christophe has been appointed as head of Coordination Unit at the National Bureau of Statistics.

Paul Ningaye received an honorable mention by his jury after successfully defending his PhD thesis at the University of Yaoundé II in 2012. He was also called upon by the National Bureau of Statistics to assist in the integration of new indicators to monitor/measure multi-poverty in Cameroon, based on his PEP-supported research work.

Chad

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

In 2010, Olivier Bégué was recruited as an Economist for the World Bank Office in Chad.

China

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

Colombia

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

Ecuador

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

Egypt

Nadia Belhaj Hassine became a Senior Economist for the Economic Research Forum (ERF) in Cairo. She was later recruited as Senior Program Specialist of the IDRC Regional Office in Middle-East. He is now working at the World Bank.

Asmaa Elbadawy was awarded with the Global Development Network's (GDN) Medal for Research in Development, at the 11th GDN Annual Conference in 2010.

Ethiopia

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

India

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

Kenya

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

Mali

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

Nigeria

William M. Fonta was appointed Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Nigeria.

Reuben Adeolu Alabi was appointed Associate Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics of Ambrose Alli University.

Pakistan

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

Philippines

In 2010, Hazel Jean Malapit was recruited by the World Bank as a Gender Economist, for the Gender and Development Unit, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network.

In 2010, Jasmin P. Sumintrado was recruited by the International Labour Office (ILO), as Knowledge Officer for the Microinsurance Innovation Facility, Employment Sector.

Uruguay

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

ANNEX C

Understanding the pep M&E System and survey results

Categorizing pep research projects

PEP supports research under four core programs distinguished by the different methods and analytical techniques that researchers choose to apply and be trained in via their PEP project:

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

Find out more about each of these programs here: <http://www.PEP-net.org/programs>

Even if tightly-linked, the programs differ in the nature of research issues and techniques, structure and expected outputs. Projects that fall under the CBMS program, in particular, present especially distinguishing characteristics. Thus, in order to gather more accurate information on the achievement of PEP's specific objectives, it was decided that an additional set of indicators would be used to monitor and assess the progress of the CBMS sub-network more specifically⁸.

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

PEP's M&E system – history and limitations

As the current (computerized) Monitoring and Evaluation System - for MPIA, PIERI and PMMA projects - was first implemented in 2010-11⁹, nearly ten years after the creation of PEP, more than half (128) of the 212 project teams supported by PEP cannot be accounted for in the PEP M&E reports. Added to the fact that CBMS project teams are not included in the M&E statistics, M&E results will always be partial as they reflect outcomes achieved by a "sample" of projects supported over the latter period of PEP activities. Nonetheless, both the size of the sample and period will increase in time, along with the representativeness of the results.

⁸ The monitoring of CBMS indicators does not resort to the same computerized form used by MPIA, PIERI and PMMA project teams to submit their technical report.

⁹ Prior to the actual system, technical reports were submitted in Word format and their content, which varied considerably, rarely reported on all requested information.

Another limitation of the PEP M&E System is that PEP can only require teams to update their technical reports as long as they are still engaged in PEP activities. Once a project is completed and all grant payments have been released, PEP has no more leverage or incentives to require that researchers follow up and provide information regarding the long-term effects/impact of their PEP project. Indeed, as such impact tends to occur over a much longer period than the researchers remain engaged with PEP following the dissemination activities, then the M&E results regarding the long-term impact of PEP projects can therefore never reflect the full reality. Not to mention the difficulty to track the impact of development research in terms of policy influence and/or socioeconomic changes, given the subtle nature of such impact and event correlations.

ANNEX D

CBMS Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Follow this [link](http://www.pep-net.org/sites/pep-net.org/files/2015_-_ANNEX_D_CBMS.pdf) (http://www.pep-net.org/sites/pep-net.org/files/2015_-_ANNEX_D_CBMS.pdf) to find the report prepared by the PEP-CBMS coordinating office.