Assessing the impact of a cash transfer program for the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria

In June 2013, 23 new project teams were selected for support under the first funding round of the PAGE initiative. PEP has recently started to publish a series of videos in which these projects are described by some of the selected team members. Below are the first of these:

Assessing the impact of a cash transfer program for the elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria

As the first program of this kind to be implemented in sub-Saharan Africa, a team of local researchers sought the support of PEP to help them seize the opportunity to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation of the program. The researchers will use “randomized controlled trials” to assess whether/how these transfers affect the living conditions of the beneficiaries - with a focus on nutrition- and health-related outcomes. Read more and watch the clip...

Youth self-employment in households receiving remittances in Macedonia

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

The objective of this study is to analyze the characteristics of minimum wage and income transfer policies implemented in Argentina, from 2001 to 2012. The researchers aim to produce evidence regarding the incentives and disincentives that these policies might have generated in the labour market, and to assess their effects on employment, wages and distribution, with special emphasis on the informal sector. Read more and watch the clip...

Assessing the impact of oil/mining sectors’ boom on the labor market and economic development in Niger

The objective of this study is to analyze the impact of public spending derived from oil and mining sector’s revenues on economic development in Niger, with a focus on the labor market trends. To do so, the researchers intend to use a CGE model of the Niger economy, to conduct a series of macro policy simulations to derive the impacts of prospective increases in public expenditures financed by these new revenues. Read more and watch the clip...

Every month, PEP publishes the findings and outcomes of projects that were selected and supported through previous calls for proposals. These projects address a wide range of policy and welfare issues in various countries. A few examples are provided below, but more can be found here: Recent policy findings from PEP researchers in developing countries

India

Modeling health in a CGE framework: A case study of India

It is estimated that, despite considerable investment in this priority sector, the public health infrastructure in India can serve no more than 20% of the population. Previous attempts to understand and analyze the causes underlying the failures of the health policies have mostly focused on the role of public and private market distortions, providing of health care and availability of particular health research project. However, aimed to identify the role that households play in determining their health status, as well as the macroeconomic effects this decision can generate. In terms of methodology, the researcher used a CGE modeling framework to simulate the effects of complete tariff liberalization in the presence / partial withdrawal / complete absence of health subsidy. The result shows that 1) complete subsidization of health reduces overall disparity by favoring rural, 2) withdraw of health subsidy leads to domestic re-allocation of poverty pushing down the wage rates in agricultural sector (i.e. for rural households). Find out more via this PEP working paper.

Ethiopia

Public investment in irrigation and training for an agriculture-led development: a CGE approach for Ethiopia

Agricultural activities have been and remain key for sustained growth and pro-poor development in Ethiopia. However, the sector is known to under-utilize its irrigation capacities as well as its abundant human resources. This particular PEP project aimed at measuring the impact of public investment in small-scale irrigation and training for farmers, on outcomes such as growth, agriculture-led development, food security and poverty in Ethiopia (i.e. in line with the current five year development strategy of the Ethiopian government). A team of local researchers used a dynamic CGE model to capture the outcomes of public investment shocks. The simulation results show that the Ethiopian government policy strategy regarding agriculture sector development has a great potential for reducing poverty and food insecurity, and that investing in training and irrigation contributes to the effort towards achieving the MDGs.

Find out more via this PEP working paper.

Research team: Lutfi Wilt Beyeene | Bolelado Behuulu | Ermass Engida | Zelealem Hailegiorgis Haile

More about this project

CBMS research findings – Burkina Faso and more...

The most recent edition (June 2013) of the CBMS newsletter features the following articles:

- “CBMS research findings reveal alarming child poverty in Burkina Faso project sites”
- “Enhancement in the CBMS introduced during the 10th PEP general meeting”
- “Starting to plan the rollout of CBMS in South Africa – The PEP Asia CBMS team conducts field visits in Tzaneen and Mutale municipalities”

To read the articles in full, download the CBMS newsletter

research initiatives and collaborations

These are the current PEP research, capacity building and special collaboration initiatives. Click on the links to find out more...

*Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) – co-funded by DFID (of the United Kingdom) and the IDRC (of Canada).*

*Long-term partnership to support UNICEF’s work on social policy and social protection reform in the MENA region – with UNICEF-MENA (Middle-East and North Africa)*

*Strengthening local capacity in the construction and simulation of a CGE model for the economy of Chad – funded by the UNDP, in collaboration with the Government of Chad*
As the core component of PEP’s mission has always been to build and strengthen local research capacities in the South, the organization of intensive training workshops has been part of its regular set of activities since its creation in 2002.

“PEP Schools” offer personalized training, provided by world-leading experts, in a variety of cutting-edge research methodologies, tools and concepts of development economics, to help local researchers in developing countries contribute to the design of effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies.

**Forthcoming events**

Training workshop on community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) for PEP-PAGE researchers

Manila, Philippines  
October 21-25, 2013

PEP-CPEEL School: “Modelling the impact of macroeconomic policies and shocks”

Deadline for registration is September 13, 2013

**Conferences**

May 10, 2013 – Cape Town, South Africa

IDRC-PEP-IJAEFF joint panel discussion to assess progress and challenges related to women’s economic empowerment (article featuring video interviews with panelists)

The panel was among the series of consultative events leading up to IDRC’s launch of a new research program, entitled “Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women” (GOW), co-sponsored by the UK’s Department for International Development (DfID) and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. It brought together researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to look at why women’s economic empowerment has become a global agenda item, what researchers have learned about knowledge gaps, and how to translate research into policy.

The five panelists invited to reflect on these questions are international experts engaged with the broad questions about women’s empowerment from differing perspectives. PEP took this opportunity to record video interviews with three of these experts. These short videos are posted, along with a brief article, in this section of the PEP website (IDRC-PEP-IJAEFF Joint Panel). Both the articles and videos review the main highlights of the panel presentations and discussions.

**Related Events**

PEP also publicizes news and events from the development research community that may be of interest to its members: job openings, training or research funding opportunities, calls for contributions, international conferences, etc.

**Forthcoming**

Recruitment of the new PEP Executive Director: Appointment of Dr. Beate Schleen, to succeed John Cockburn as PEP Executive Director, effective in October 2013. Read more.

Now online: updated version (2.1) of the PEP 1-1 and PEP 1-1 CGE models

The series of PEP standard CGE models are made available for download, free of charge, via the PEP website. Read more...

Accreditation of new government-based CBMS trainers in the Philippines. Where the use of CBMs is increasingly institutionalized. Read here.

Recruitment of a new PEP administrator: Mercedes Turcotte will be based at the PEP office of Laval University (Quebec, Canada). Read more...

Recruitment of a new PEP policy group member: Ms. Amat al Alam Alow oversea, Former Member of Human Rights in Yemen, will contribute to advising the next round of PAGE funding. Read more.

**External publications**

These are the most recent publications of PEP-supported researchers in peer-reviewed journals.

The list includes also those articles that were accepted for publication in such journals over the past two months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal and references (link)</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Space and Public Spending on Children in Burkina Faso</td>
<td>CRPPE working paper 13-08, April 2013 [link]</td>
<td>John Cockburn, Hélène Mialoulou, Véronique Robichaud, Luca Tiberi</td>
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Find more of PEP researchers’ external publications [here](#).

The following sections list all new papers and other reports published by PEP since the last issue of the PEP talk in July 2013

**Working papers**

The Selection of Functionings and Capabilities: A Survey of Empirical Studies

By Paola Ballon (WP 2013-09)

Have the Key Priority Forestry Programs Really Impacted on China’s Rural Household Income

By Can Liu, Katrina Mullion, Hao Liu, Mingwen Zhu, Qingjiao Rong and Mengwen Zhu (WP 2013-08)

Modelling Health in a CGE Framework: A Case Study of India

By John Cockburn, Nitish Sonaw (WP 2013-07)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#) and all PEP policy briefs [here](#).
Final activity report submitted by PEP to AusAID - funding agreement No 53091, reporting on the outcomes of 11 research projects granted in 2010.

Find more of PEP activity reports, including other reports to donors [here](#).