



news bulletin september 2013

news and events **publications**

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Special edition : PEP-PAGE video series

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:

Follow us:



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

Low job creation and high unemployment are the most important problems of Macedonia, where the youth unemployment rate is as high as 55%. This project aims to apply advanced analytical techniques on existing nationally-representative datasets, in order to assess if remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth in households receiving remittances. [Read more and watch the clip...](#)



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, through 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...](#)

news and events

policy findings

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

[More about this project](#)

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

[Working paper](#)



Research team: [Nitesh Sahay](#) | [John Cockburn](#)

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 institutions in the provision of health care. This particular PEP 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 results show that 1) complete subsidization of health reduces overall disparity by favoring rural (vs urban) households and 2) withdrawal 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

[More about this project](#)

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

[Working paper](#)



Research team: [Lulit Mitik Beyene](#) | [Befekadu Behute](#) | [Ermas Engida](#) | [Zealelem Hailegiorgis Haile](#)

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 [PEP-standard type of 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](#)

CBMS research findings – Burkina Faso and more...



CBMS network updates –

Reporting on the outcomes of research using community-based monitoring systems (CBMS)

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 system introduced during the 10th PEP general meeting"
- "Starting to plan the roll-out 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

training and workshops

As the core component of PEP's mission has always been to build/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

Location

Manila, Philippines

Dates

October 21-25, 2013

PEP-CPEEL School : "[Modelling the impact of macroeconomic policies and shocks](#)"

Idaban, Nigeria

Oct 28-Nov 8, 2013

Deadline for registration is September 13, 2013

conferences



May 10, 2013 – Cape Town, South Africa

IDRC-PEP-IAFFE joint panel discussion to assess progress and challenges related to women's economic empowerment ([article featuring video interviews with panelists](#))

In the context of the [10th PEP general meeting](#) (Cape Town, May 3-10, 2013) Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) and PEP jointly hosted a panel discussion on "**Women's Economic Empowerment and Growth: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Implications.**"

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**" (GrOW), 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, what knowledge gaps remain, 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-IAFFE Joint Panel](#). Both the articles and videos review the main highlights of the panel presentations and discussions.



pep news

Recruitment of the new PEP Executive Director: Appointment of Dr. Bekele Shiferaw, 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-t 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 more...](#)

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 alim Alsoswasur, Former Minister of Human Rights in Yemen, will contribute to advising the next round of PAGE funding. [Read more...](#)

Follow PEP's daily newscast :



Related Events

PEP also publicizes news and events from the development research community that may be of interest for its members

Job openings, training or research funding opportunities, calls for contributions, international conferences, etc..

CLICK HERE to find all related recent news

This month, in particular, find out about current opportunities offered by the **AAEA, IDRC, GDN, CSAE**, and more...

publications

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.

Title	Journal and references (link)	Authors
Determinants of Inequality in Cameroon: A Regression-based Decomposition Analysis	Botswana Journal of Economics (BOJE), Vol. 11, No. 15, 2013 (link to BOJE)	Boniface Ngah Epo Francis Menjo Baye
Teenage School Attendance and Cash Transfers. An Impact Evaluation of PANES	Economía (LACEA Journal) Fall 2013, Volume 14, Number 1 (link)	Veronica Amarante, Mery Ferrando, Andrea Vigorito
Multidimensional Poverty and Child Well-being in Kenya	Journal of Developing Areas Vol. 47, No. 2, Fall 2013, pp. 109-137 (link)	Jane Kabubo-Mariara, Abdelkrim Araar, Jean-Yves Duclos
Global Extreme Poverty Rates for Children, Adults and the Elderly	Economics Letters Volume 120, Issue 3, September 2013, Pages 405-407 (link)	Yélé Batana, Maurizio Bussolo, John Cockburn
Fiscal Space and Public Spending on Children in Burkina Faso	CIRPÉE working paper 13-08, April 2013 (link)	John Cockburn, Hélène Maisonnave Véronique Robichaud, Luca Tiberti
Have the Key Priority Forestry Programs Really Impacted on China's Rural Household Income?	Journal of Forest Economics - <i>Forthcoming</i>	Can Liu, Hao Liu, Wenqing Zhu, Mingzhen Zhu, Shengnian He, Qingjiao Rong

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 Mullan, Hao Liu, Mingzhen Zhu, Qingjiao Rong and Wenqing Zhu (WP 2013-08)

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

By John Cockburn, Nitesh Sahay (WP 2013-07)

Find all PEP working papers [here](#) and all PEP policy briefs [here](#)

Special reports

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](#)



Find previous issues of the PEP-Talk here: [PEP newsletters](#)

To contact PEP secretariat, please email us at info@pep-net.org. If you wish to **unsubscribe** to this newsletter's mailing list, send us an email entitled "Unsubscribe – PEP-talk"

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