



CBMS Network Updates

www.pep-net.org

Vol. IV No. 3, June 2007



CBMS methodology for MDG monitoring: the Vietnam experience*

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In 1997, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-sponsored Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) research Project on "Poverty Monitoring in Rural Areas of Vietnam" introduced a framework that could be used in Vietnam to look into data availability, needs of local communities regarding socio-economic data, and capability of communities in data production and use. The framework was later adopted with a community-based approach and piloted in selected communes in Vietnam. The results of the pilot implementation showed that the collection of basic information about socio-economic situations, in general, and poverty scenario, in particular, is very helpful to the work of local officers and non-governmental organizations. With the data being systematized at the village and commune levels, they

can be used immediately by local people in their long-term development planning and poverty monitoring strategies. Moreover, the experience showed that local people, including staffs of the local administration and social organizations, are capable of conducting and organizing surveys if there is an "appropriate technology" of survey implementation such as a community-

based poverty monitoring survey (CBPMS) approach.

In implementing the CBPMS in Vietnam, two types of survey, namely, the census and the sampled survey, were developed and tested. The sampled survey was conducted in 1997-1998 in 3

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* Excerpt from a paper presented during the Experts Group Meeting on Localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) hosted by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) held in Bangkok, Thailand on November 28, 2006.

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Research Results

provinces with 1000 households while the census was conducted in 1999 in 4 provinces with more than 10,000 households.

Different types of questionnaires were also prepared which brought forth various sets of indicators. The data gathered from the questionnaires were processed by both manual and computerized means.

The design of the survey tools took into account the knowledge levels of the local people as well as the availability of data processing equipment and software in the localities. This is one basic principle adopted by the framework using the community-based approach for monitoring. The local people were the ones who conducted the surveys themselves. This is in contrast to the national surveys previously held wherein the surveyors and data processing staff were skilled experts, well equipped to handle modern technology and had enough time to do in-depth analysis of the collected data.

The CBPMS approach also had the following other basic principles:

- (1) Local ownership by the people of the CBPMS.
- (2) With the local people, as mentioned earlier, conducting the surveys themselves in their capacity as surveyors, the “external people” or the government officers and researchers were responsible only for guiding and supervising the local residents.
- (3) The set of indicators reflects multi-dimensional poverty and should meet the immediate demands of local people regarding community and household data and information.
- (4) Qualitative and quantitative methods are used in tandem in data collection. To be more

specific, the structured interview questionnaire should be supplemented by group discussions and interviews of key informants in the communities.

- (5) To ensure for a smooth transfer later on in the expansion and possible institutionalization of the process, the tools like the questionnaire, software and output indicators should be simple and easy to conduct or implement. In short, the local people should easily be able to understand and use them.

Uses of the CBMS approach

Since 2000, the CBPMS methodology elaborated by the MIMAP-Vietnam research team has been used for poverty research, management and evaluation of poverty reduction projects as seen in the following cases:

CBPMS in a poverty reduction project

In 2001-2003, the CBMS methodology was used for baseline survey (in 2001) and repeated monitoring surveys (in 2002 and 2003) in the Poverty Reduction Project in two mountainous districts of Thanh-Hoa Province. In cooperation with Center for International Studies Cooperation (CECI)—the implementing agency of Canada—and the district administration, CBPMS was implemented in 34 communes (including 30 communes in the project areas and 4 communes outside the project areas). The survey sample was more than 1000 households. A baseline report and annual monitoring results were supplied to the project management unit and district administration and served as tools for poverty monitoring and evaluation of project activity impacts [Socio-Economic Development Centre, 2001].

CBPMS in the system of national poverty observatories

In 2002-2004, the CBPMS methodology

was implemented in a system of poverty observatories so as to serve the data requirements of the National Program for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Reduction, and Job Creation. Poverty monitoring surveys are to be conducted every end of the year for three consecutive years (2002-2004). In 2002, a system of poverty observatories was set up in 12 provinces and cities. There were 20 communes, 17 of which were rural communes while three were urban wards. There were more than 4,000 households and 20,000 individuals in the sample. Results of annual surveys were supplied to the Managing Office of the National Program for Hunger Eradication, Poverty Reduction, and Job Creation. [Vu Tuan Anh and Vu Van Toan, 2003].

Analyses of some aspects of poverty and calculation of a composite poverty indicator were also based on this CBPMS database. [Louis-Marie Asselin and Vu Tuan Anh, 2004; Vu Tuan Anh, 2005].

CBPMS in provincial system of poverty observatories

In 2004-2005, the Departments of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of two provinces—Ha-Tay and Yen-Bai—cooperated with the MIMAP research team to implement CBPMS in the provincial poverty observatory systems.

In Ha-Tay—a province located in the Red River Delta—30 communes in all 13 districts were considered as provincial poverty observatories. Two rounds of sample survey, which cover 3,700 households and 16,000 persons, were conducted in the area and the results have been used by local partners in the analysis of poverty rate and the different dimensions of poverty, the objectives of which were to evaluate poverty reduction measures and readjust poverty reduction policies.

In Yen-Bai—a northern mountainous

province—10 communes in all eight districts were selected as provincial poverty observatories. Two censuses were conducted on 9,000 households consisting of 40,000 persons. The data collections for both were completed in June 2004 and May 2005.

CBMS at the district level

In the current phase of the research project, CBPMS is to be implemented at the district level in four provinces, namely: (i) Yen-Bai, a northern mountainous province, (ii) Ninh-Binh, a province located in the Red River Delta, (iii) Quang-Nam, a province in the Central Coastal Region, and (iv) Lam-Dong, a province in the southern Central Highland. In each province, one district has been selected for the survey. This CBPMS will supply the basic database for management purposes of local development.

Using CBMS for MDG monitoring

Based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the country's own orientation, Vietnam has established its own 12 development goals (referred to as Vietnam's Development Goals or VDGs). The VDGs both fully reflect the MDGs and take into account typical development features in Vietnam. The VDGs are integrated in the national socio-economic development strategies and program and likewise translated into specific targets.

The MDGs set up by the United Nations were localized in the Vietnamese context in view of the following reasons:

- (i) Vietnam has reached, or has nearly reached, some of the MDGs. For example, poverty rate has been halved during the period between 1990 and 2000. As such, it is only reasonable for Vietnam to define a new localized version of the poverty goal.
- (ii) Though Vietnam performs well on some of the access goals—

for example, in basic education—there are urgent challenges associated with improving the quality of those services and putting them at par the international levels.

- (iii) Vietnam has its own planning cycle with a different starting period and end point from those of the MDGs. It is thus helpful to align the 25-year cycle of the MDGs with the five- and ten-year cycles of the Vietnamese planning horizons so measures and actions can be tailored to outcome targets for 2005 and 2010 which are, in turn, consistent with the goals for 2015.
- (iv) There are areas that are particularly challenging for Vietnam in its current stage of development but which are not covered by the MDGs. For example, although Vietnam has performed well in delivering basic social services, it has lagged behind in initiating necessary governance reforms that will be crucial to attaining some of the other outcome targets proposed in the national strategies.

Although the VDGs have been integrated in the local socio-economic development plans, the monitoring and evaluation of the VDGs is still carried out at the national and provincial levels and not at the local levels (district and commune) due to the lack of a good and effective database. In order to increase the people's knowledge on the MDGs and VDGs, these goals have to be introduced to the local people in the form of quantitative indicators and qualitative assessment. For this, collection of data from various localities is needed. And this is where the CBPMS will come in. Results of the CBPMS survey will provide the data needed to localize the MDGs and VDGs.

Modifying the CPBMS indicators to reflect the MDGs and VDGs

The CBPMS is first and foremost designed for the purpose of poverty monitoring and analysis. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon which is not only based on household income or expenditure but on different angles or criteria.

Because of this, in the experimental CBPMS system, which was initiated by the MIMAP-Vietnam research project, poverty was comprehensively reflected in a set of monitoring indicators that include both value indicators (income and some items of expenditure) and the basic household needs (e.g., food security, housing, transportation and access to other basic social services).

There are three main sets of indicators that are able to reflect poverty: the community situation (availability of basic infrastructure facilities and common services), household living standards, and the extent of implementation of poverty reduction policies and measures. Depending on the purpose of the survey, the structure of the indicators set and the concrete indicators can be modified. In order to reflect the MDGs and VDGs, Vietnam's poverty indicator set is currently being readjusted. Some indicators such as child mortality, maternal health, and number of people suffering from by HIV/AIDS have been added to the questionnaire.

At present, the CBPMS—with a simple questionnaire of 4 pages—is conducted in two districts in Yen-Bai and Lam-Dong provinces. The type of survey used is census. This experimental survey is to be summed up and its experiences will be used for the implementation of the CBPMS in some other localities in the coming years. *

CBMS in the 13th district: focus for development*

Cotonou, the economic capital of Benin and the concentration point of the country's activities is prey to several problems, in particular, to insalubrity, floods, and pollution.

In the face of these various problems which confront the population, the Mayor, from the start of his assumption of responsibilities, has set the following as his program's main objectives: (a) the improvement of the living conditions of Cotonou's population through the fight against insalubrity, floods and pollution, and (b) the development of the economic fabric of the city for the creation of sustainable employment.

In this regard, the objective of the CBMS-Benin Team to install, on an experimental basis in the 13th district, a mechanism of "Community Follow-Up System of Poverty (CFSP)" fits perfectly well with the Mayor's objectives.

It is from this perspective that the collection of information relating to the living conditions of the households was organized in the six areas of the 13th district. From these data, the town council of Cotonou defines the following priorities and subsequent actions, to wit:

1. The evacuation of rainwater and waste water. This poses the problem of sewage in the 13th district and so toward this end, the construction of basin XX in Agla and (AA) in Yèmícodji were considered.

2. The construction of public toilets. The town council proposes to build public toilets in the areas of Agla, Aïbatin, Houénoussou and Ahogbohòuè.
3. The construction of public health centers for the 13th district. The only public health center (that of Houénoussou) is unable to serve the entire population due to the distance that separates it from the other areas of the district.
4. The densification of the electricity and water supply network in order to give the population of the 13th district access to water and electricity.
5. Re-launch anti-mosquito operations in times of rain in order to protect the population against malaria, a very widespread disease.
6. Build water kiosks for people who cannot afford to subscribe to the National Water Company of Benin (SONEB).
7. Build a technical community college in Gbèdegbé. This stems from the fact that there are only two community colleges of general education in the 13th

district and they are very far from the area of Gbèdegbé which is in need of either a community college for general education or a technical community college.

The survey of the living conditions of the households of the 13th district made it possible to have micro indicators on the households. It has the advantage of being more precise and more concrete than the surveys at the national level; thus facilitating the definition of better strategies for the fight against poverty. This survey made it possible for the Town Council to give this district a real face. This beneficial initiative should be generalized to better define the development strategies that are directly beneficial to the households at the local level.

Based on the above, it can be said that the "Community Follow-up System of Poverty" is an effective tool for development. *



Madame Marie-Odile Attanasso, CBMS-Benin Team Leader, discusses the overview of the CBMS during the official launching of CBMS in the 13th district in Cotonou as participants listen attentively.



* The article is an excerpt from a report prepared by the CBMS-Benin Project Team.

Expanding the CBMS in the Department of Diébougou*

Because of the success of the pilot CBMS in the Department of Yako/Province of Passore in Burkina Faso, the CBMS-Burkina Faso Team decided to implement the system in another locality: the Department of Diébougou. The survey covered four villages (Bapla-Birifor, Danko-Tanzou, Naborgane, Navielgane) and sector 7 of Diébougou. The operation covered 1,316 households consisting of a total of 8,757 people. The results provided a general picture of each village/sector according to the following areas: demography, health and hygiene, education, food security, material conditions of life, means of production and community participation.

General conclusions

Based on the results, the following highlights may be gleaned:

- The population is young, reflecting the need to seriously invest in social capital, in particular, on health and education;
- The average size of the households is 7 people, with the proportion of dependence being rather high. This can constitute a handicap in the growth of individual income;
- The average number of meals taken per day is insufficient in terms of both quantity and quality for men (less than 2 meals), women (2.5) and children (less than 3). The growth of the children as well as their physical and mental development are thus consequently hampered;

Other key findings

The next few paragraphs also show some of the other key findings based on the survey results.

- Food insecurity exists in the villages.
- As regards health, the pilot survey reveals that 3/5 of the localities are deprived of health facilities located within 5 kilometers from the center of the locality.
- In terms of morbidity, it appears that on average, one person out of every five, in all of the villages, fell sick during the 30 days preceding the survey. The morbidity rate is approximately the same between men and women.
- Less than 50 percent of the population avail of preventive medical consultations and the infant-juvenile death rate is rather high in the semi-urban zone.
- In terms of hygiene, an average of 81 percent of the households in the 5 localities do not have toilet facilities. In view of this, the natural sources of water become contaminated with human waste, thereby making the populations of these localities highly prone and exposed to water-borne diseases due to their use of the waste-contaminated water sources.
- On education, the survey reveals that 82.7 percent of the population of the 5 localities have never attended an educational facility and do not have any level of schooling. The gross rate of schooling in the primary level of education, which is 62.8 percent

for all the 5 localities, seems high but could have been higher, considering the number of the existing educational facilities (5 schools and 2 centers of literacy) in the localities.

- When the head of a household is a woman, the gross rate of schooling among the children is higher for the girls than for the boys. On the whole, there is still little concern to eliminate illiteracy.
- With regards to agriculture, it can be said that it is still at a backward stage insofar as the “daba” is still largely used for farming and chemical or organic fertilizers are not widely adopted by the households.
- Few households have access to credit. Consequently, the level of productivity in these agricultural villages and sector are low. Expectedly, too, the level of income coming from agricultural activity can only be low. One can thus deduce that the population’s standard of living is low. A vicious circle of poverty thus takes place.
- In the villages, the women more than the men act as income providers except in Danko-Tanzou.
- In terms of community participation, the survey reveals the establishment of 2 association structures in the area although the adherence of the population to these associations still remains weak and women are less committed than men.

To conclude, the results of the CBMS in the Department of Diébougou provided valuable information on the different facets of poverty in the villages. These will help policymakers and program implementers in addressing the needs of the people. *

* The article is an excerpt from a report prepared by the CBMS-Burkina Faso Project Team.

The prospects of instituting district-level CBMS*

Given the relatively poor performance of the traditional poverty identification methods in Indonesia (Suryahadi & Sumarto 2001) and the fact that district governments in the country now have more independence in setting their budgets, it is important that a new poverty monitoring system be developed to ensure better targeting of poverty programs and more efficient government spending. The implementation of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in Indonesia aims to address this need.

Thus, in collaboration with the National Family Planning Agency (BKKBN), SMERU, the implementing institution of the pilot CBMS-Indonesia Project, pilot tested the CBMS in four villages in two districts in Java. The system was successful in identifying the poor in all the pilot villages.

There are still, however, some recommendations that have been identified for the system to be fully undertaken by district-level governments in Indonesia. These would mainly involve the transfer of the activities undertaken by the SMERU. The other activities such as data collection should still be undertaken by local residents.

The key players who could replace SMERU in the actual CBMS implementation are mainly government officials. The importance of collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), though, is also recognized. This implies that local NGOs could play a role such as in supervising data col-

lection and in assisting in data entry. A possible larger role for them, too, would be in the conduct of the validation activities and in the provision of recommendations to the district government.

Besides the change in actors undertaking the CBMS activities, it was found that the questionnaire would require some minor adjustments to ensure its relevance in measuring local poverty conditions. However, the core questions such as for health and education conditions may remain intact. The minor changes in the questionnaire may also require having different questionnaires for different areas based on the particular characteristics of an area where the CBMS is to be implemented.

Regarding the methodology, the SMERU believes that district government officials have the capacity to conduct the principal component analysis (PCA) and to analyze the results. In addition, most districts in Indonesia have the ability to acquire the required equip-

ment for the CBMS activities. Finally, the verification may need to be extended further to accommodate the opinions of the residents in terms of which service should be prioritized in their area. This would be beneficial for the local governments to plan their future agenda.

Next steps

Recently, SMERU prepared a proposal to implement the CBMS in Pekalongan City, Central Java in collaboration with PATTIRO (a Jakarta-based NGO). The City of Pekalongan is located strategically in the hearth of Java with a population of 265,000 people with more than 66,000 households. The Mayor of Pekalongan has welcomed the idea of using CBMS and even mentioned this during his national television appearance. The City of Pekalongan has likewise committed to invest resources in the CBMS initiative.

SMERU, PATTIRO, and the City of Pekalongan are in the final stages of negotiation to implement the CBMS. *



Networking with local people will be one of the key steps in institutionalizing CBMS in Indonesia.



* The article is an excerpt from a report prepared by the CBMS-Indonesia Project Team.

CBMS coverage expands*

After seeing the success and importance of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in Savannakhet and Saravan Provinces, the Committee for Planning and Investment (CPI) agreed to continue the implementation of the CBMS in Sepon and Toomlan Districts. Since the introduction of the CBMS, local officers have enhanced their capacity in data collection and data analysis. The results of the CBMS survey provide a valuable database for planning for policymakers in the province. Many local initiatives from provincial and district authorities also have been introduced and successfully implemented. The CBMS survey gives a good representation of village data monitoring system and serves as a baseline reference for the monitoring of the 24 villages where the CBMS was implemented, particularly on poverty monitoring.

Just recently, the Lao government has released the Sixth Five-Year Plan for 2006 to 2010. The Plan emphasizes monitoring and evaluation of socioeconomic development and poverty reduction. Because of this, it can be said that the implementation of CBMS had a significant contribution to the overall goal of monitoring in Lao PDR, especially at the provincial level.

The Village Book or CBMS is the only tool that is used for the lowest local administration level in Laos. However, the indicators that are used have to pass the requirement of local government and must be suitable with local capacity in terms of data collection and understanding how to translate the figures.

* The article was prepared by the CBMS-Lao Project Team.

Dissemination and training

In order to continue the annual data collection in the CBMS villages, the National Statistical Centre (NSC) in collaboration with the Savannakhet and Saravan Committee for CPI organized a consultation workshop in Toomlan and Sepon. The objective is to disseminate and deliver the findings of the survey in the 24 villages covered. The workshop, which was chaired by the Director General of CPI of the two provinces, was organized back to back with the training session for enumerators. The dissemination workshop was held half day while the remaining days were focused on the training.

The workshop and training in Sepon district in Savannakhet province were held on 23-27 February 2007 while in Toomlan district in Saravan province, they were held on 1-5 March 2007.

Twenty-three participants from Savannakhet province and 14 participants from Saravan province attended the training.

During the workshop, the provincial and district governors hailed the CBMS or the Village Book as important tools

for Lao's local government. They mentioned that capacity building at grassroots level should be a continuous and a long term process. They also said that to implement the CBMS, they need to have a support to the district and provincial statistics office.

In order to ensure the quality of data collection, NSC has to re-train the enumerators to refresh their minds on the methodology of data collection and validation. The enumerators for the new areas to be covered are also the same as those in previous survey. They will also be the permanent data collectors in the village.

The training was aimed at teaching the enumerators how to fill up data into the questionnaire and at reviewing the concepts and methodology of the survey. The NSC handled the training. Data collection was conducted after the training. Data corrections/checking are now ongoing.

By the end of 2007, the coverage of CBMS will be expanded. From 24, the number of villages to be covered will increase to 54. There is a possibility that the coverage in Sepon will be supported by UNICEF which has shown interest in using the Village Book for their project monitoring. *

Participants were all ears as they listen to the presentations of training facilitators.



CBMS training module on gender-responsive planning and budgeting unveiled

After conducting a couple of rounds of consultations with various stakeholders to exchange information and experience on the work of national government agencies in facilitating gender responsive budgets (GRBs) at the local level, the CBMS Network Coordinating Team finally unveiled its Training Module on Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting during a Technical Meeting held last May 22, 2007 at the Angelo King International Center. The module is one of the major outputs of the CBMS-GRB Project which aims to localize the development of gender statistics and promote gender responsive plans and budgets at the local level.

The meeting was attended by participants from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Anti-Poverty Commission

(NAPC), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). Representatives from Escalante City, one of the GRB pilot sites have likewise attended the meeting.

Dr. Aniceto Orbeta, Senior Research Fellow from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and CBMS Network's partner in developing the module, stressed that the overarching goal of the newly unveiled training module is to enrich the various processes involved in the planning and budgeting of LGUs (e.g., budget preparation, authorization review, execution

and accountability). He provided the following examples on how the CBMS Module on Planning and Budgeting can be further enhanced: expanding benchmarking beyond the barangay; enriching situation analysis and strategy formulation using analytical frameworks; and enriching situation analysis and strategy formulation using disaggregation by socioeconomic classes and groups.

Funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the CBMS-GRB Project aims to pilot a gender-responsive CBMS that will strengthen and mainstream gender-responsive budgeting activities of local governments. It is currently being implemented in two LGUs in the Province of Negros Occidental: EB Magalona and Escalante City. *

International conference highlights CBMS' role in facilitating transparency and good governance

Dr. Celia Reyes, PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, recently showcased how CBMS can increase civic engagement, transparency and accountability in local governance during the International Conference on Transparency and Governance held on May 10-11, 2007 at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore.

In her presentation, Dr. Reyes underscored how public statistics (includ-

ing CBMS-generated statistics) are increasingly going to shape the public agenda at the local level as more and more local government units establish their own monitoring systems to make their development planning processes even more responsive and effective. She said that this is especially evident in the Philippine context where the CBMS is being widely implemented.

Citing the following crucial features of CBMS—decentralized data processing

and analysis and validation of survey results at the community level—Dr. Reyes said that these do not only intensify the awareness of users on the analytical results of their data but also helps stimulate the dialogue between local government officials and their constituents. More importantly, CBMS statistics can increase the pressure on local leaders to ensure that public in-

CBMS-Vietnam seeks lessons from CBMS-Philippine experience*

In its desire to learn from the Philippine experience in implementing and applying the community-based monitoring system (CBMS), members of the CBMS-Vietnam, together with two researchers and three representatives from the pilot provinces in Vietnam, decided to visit the Philippines on March 12-17, 2007.

During the said visit, the secretariat of the CBMS International Network and members of the CBMS-Philippines briefed their Vietnamese colleagues on the CBMS features and implementation in the Philippines, particularly, on the advocacy and integration of CBMS in the planning and management work of local government units (LGUs). The CBMS-Vietnam Team also had valuable discussions with the National Anti-Poverty Council (NAPC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and CBMS partners in Pasay City, province of Palawan and the municipality of San Vicente. They also visited Barangay New Agutaya in San Vicente where they talked with members of the Mother Vendors Association, a women's partnership project established by local women to help each other in doing business in their community. The association has likewise set-up a child nutrition project, which is funded by United Nations Development Program (UNDP)-CBMS Development Grant Program.

The top concerns of the CBMS-Vietnam Team are on the policies and experi-

ence of the government in dealing with poverty reduction in the Philippines. In this regard, extensive discussions were held on harmonious relationship between the CBMS research team and the national government agencies such as NAPC, DILG, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the National Statistics Office of advocating and institutionalizing CBMS as a tool for planning and information support; and building capacities on planning and monitoring of local development.

The CBMS-Vietnam Team was also particularly interested in certain issues at the provincial and municipal levels such as the modification of the indicator set depending on the local conditions and needs, processing of data based on the available human capacity and technology, assurance of database accuracy and dissemination as well as financial advocacy for the CBMS implementation. These are the issues that the Vietnamese CBMS partners are facing in the localities of Vietnam in connection with the CBMS implementation.

In addition to the above, the lessons of building and strengthening devel-

opment partnership which the CBMS-Philippines Team has established with the UNDP and Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) to provide grants to various communities based on their development priorities as defined in the CBMS results would be valuable knowledge for the CBMS-Vietnam Team. Moreover, stories on advocacy and mobilization of the local governors and councilors to use their available funds for priority development projects are exciting and might be applicable.

Although there are many differences between the Vietnamese and Philippine conditions such as governmental structure, planning and monitoring systems for development and poverty reduction, availability of socio-economic information at the community, technical equipment and human resource, among others, the CBMS application in the Philippine can offer potential ideas to policymakers and researchers in Vietnam in the resolution of similar issues. As Dr. VuTuan Anh, the CBMS-Vietnam Team Leader, said "The discussions, analyses and comparison of critical issues as well as finding solutions for the localities in the Philippines were considered as a very intensive brainstorming process. The future results of CBMS application in Vietnam would have very valuable contribution from the Philippine experiences and lessons that the CBMS-Vietnam team obtained after the study visit". *



Delegates from Vietnam together with members of Mother Vendors Association in Barangay New Agutaya in San Vicente, Palawan pose for a group picture.

* This article was prepared by Tran Thu Hien, Researcher of CBMS-Vietnam Research Project.

...in Bangladesh* *New collaboration signed*

Jn view of the strong advocacy for the use of the LLPMS in Bangladesh, a new collaboration has been established with the Power and Participation Research Center (PPRC), a private organization that has shown keen interest in the process of the LLPMS, especially in the database prepared through the use of the CBMS-Natural Resource Database (NRDB)

software, a free software that can be used for poverty mapping. A tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed among the CBMS Network-Philippines, the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), and the PPRC to experiment on the feasibility of developing a database in some poverty-stricken districts of northern Bangladesh.

As a result of the efforts of this tripartite collaboration, more than 500 vul-

nerable villages have been identified in one district on the basis of proneness to floods, drought, river erosion and other natural calamities. Household surveys would also be conducted in each village to identify the socioeconomic conditions of the people. Eventually, a database will be developed covering the information of all households in a village. After a specific period of time, the indicators will be compared for monitoring purpose. The database will also be used for identifying the most vulnerable households and their needs. At the end, some programs will be developed on the basis of the findings of the surveys conducted. *

*This article is an excerpt from a report of the CBMS-Bangladesh Team.

Jhe implementation of the CBMS project in Tanzania, which started in June 2006 and was completed in March 2007, has successfully demonstrated that local people can generate their own data to facilitate good planning and decisionmaking. This has even encouraged neighboring villages of the CBMS sites in developing the CBMS in their respective areas.

There are still, however, some problems that were encountered that will serve as guide in improving the system for its expansion in other localities in Tanzania.

Timing of survey

The survey should be conducted during the non-farming period at around March up to May in the Nala village. This would be when most of the villagers are in their homes and would therefore facilitate faster data collection.

*This article is an excerpt from a report of the CBMS-Tanzania Team.

...in Tanzania* *Lessons learned in pilot implementation*

Use of the NRDB program

Since not everyone is familiar with the use of the Natural Resource Database (NRDB), a free poverty mapping software, the draft report on the results was prepared with the use of the Ms Excel. The NRDB program will be utilized by team members who have undertaken the necessary training.

Hiring of enumerators

It was easier to find and hire enumerators with a reasonable capacity in K/Ndege due to urban influence. The people in Nala village are dispersed and poorly connected by roads. So it cost more for the enumerators to travel to the villages and households. There were more errors in the completed questionnaires in Nala than in K/Ndege.

The use of primary and secondary school teachers was a good idea as they

were able to follow the exercise in the local community. However, they had to attend some important activities/sessions in their schools and therefore required more time to complete the work.

Income data

During interviews, all the enumerators reported difficulty in obtaining information about household income and expenditure, and domestic violence. Most of the interviewees could not recall how much they earned monthly and annually. This problem occurred in both pilot areas.

Lack of time

Delays were encountered due to the low local capacity in terms of analytical tools and mostly with the schedules of CBMS local personnel which are also being utilized by other council programs. *

Kenya and Zambia: new CBMS partners

Kenya and Zambia are the new country members of the CBMS Network with the approval of their proposals to implement CBMS in their respective countries.

Kenya

The study will be conducted in three sub-locations representing the three divisions of Bura, Galole and Garsen in Tana River District, one of the poorest districts in Kenya and prone to both drought and ethnic conflict.

The tools to be utilized for this project will help enhance the community's capacity to analyze its own issues. In addition, the LPMS will enhance the capacity of the government and other organizations working in the district to address poverty issues in a targeted

and comprehensive manner.

The study will be a collaborative undertaking among the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD), the government of Kenya and the communities. The Institute works closely with local and international development partners, such as the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), MAP International, and the World Bank.

Zambia

CBMS implementation in Zambia is aimed at fostering a paradigm shift where evidence-based decisions will be made with all the stakeholders where monitoring of the poverty reduction programs will be effected; where formation of sound policies with refer-

ence from the data obtained from the grassroots will be developed; where capacity building will be enhanced; and where participatory decisionmaking will generally be promoted.

The project will be implemented in two areas: Mungule (rural), which is an agriculture area in the northern part of Lusaka; and Makishi (urban), which forms part of a should-be economic zone in Lusaka Province and is strategically located along the railways.

The Zambia Research and Development Centre will implement the CBMS project with the involvement of the local council administrators in the local government. *

New proposals submitted to the CBMS Network*

The CBMS Network is in receipt of the following three new proposals that are currently being evaluated by the CBMS Steering Committee:

China

This proposal aims to expand on an existing long-term research project aimed at monitoring poverty and socio-economic progress in five rural sites spread across the Yunnan province. Specifically, it will implement a CBMS at the township level in two of the five sites. Such a deployment will fill an important knowledge gap to better inform policymakers and provide a standard model for data collection and analysis; in particular, one that has been tested internationally and can eventu-

ally be implemented throughout Yunnan Province in China.

The project will be implemented by Community Development Studies (CDS), an independent, non-governmental research organization which supports rural community development in southwest China.

Sierra Leone

The development of the proposed system seeks to address the impact of poverty related projects implemented by certain organizations from the public and private sectors, and civil society organizations (CSOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). The system will also link ongoing policy reforms with the livelihoods of residents

in the local communities so that corrections can be made on shortcomings of some projects, when needed.

Mr. Teddy Amara Morlai, the project proponent, has links with the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) Network, an organization which aims to improve the quality of the technology policymaking in Sub-Saharan Africa and to strengthen the region's institutional capacity for the management of technological development. The proponent also has links with Enhancing the Interface and Interaction between Civil Society (ENCISS), an organization that aims to increase the empowering capacity of civil society.

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vestment targets are effectively oriented towards sustainable human development goals, she said.

The International Conference on Transparency and Governance brought together top practitioners and analysts to provide new insights into whether, how, and when greater openness serves public interests, and how to bring

about beneficial forms of transparency. Hosted by the Centre on Asia and Globalization of the National University of Singapore, the event attempted to move beyond the often-sterile rhetoric of “democracy” and “freedom” versus “security” and “privacy” to address practical problem-solving. *

[New proposals...from page 11](#)

Sri Lanka

This proposal seeks to further develop and institutionalize the CBMS approach in Sri Lanka. Moreover, the project seeks to launch an advocacy campaign in Sri Lanka on the importance and relevance of CBMS in collecting and analyzing data on poverty at sub-national level.

Some of the tsunami-affected areas in Kalamatiya in the Hambantota district will be the sites of the implementation.

Three other locations, which will be selected in consultation with partner organizations, will also be covered. These locations will be drawn from the interior regions of Sri Lanka taking into account ethnic and socio-economic factors such as poverty incidence and social vulnerability

The project will be implemented by Social Policy and Analysis Centre (SPARC) of the University of Colombo. *

CBMS Network Updates is the quarterly newsletter of the CBMS Network of the PEP Project. This work was carried out by the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada.

The **Updates** may be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format for free from the Project's website. The site can be accessed through <http://www.pep-net.org>.

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