Eight CBMS proposals selected for funding under PAGE research initiative

Proposals from eight research institutions were selected for funding by the CBMS Network, under the first round of the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network’s initiative titled “Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment” (PAGE). The proposals, which were selected after careful review and evaluation, came from Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Niger, Pakistan, and Tanzania.

Apart from designing and pilot-testing community-based systems for monitoring poverty in its multidimensional sense, all eight institutions are expected to undertake studies on two out of the six priority issues under PAGE: youth employment and entrepreneurship and providing social protection to the informal sector. The other four issues are employment intensity of nonagricultural growth, China’s growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries, entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender, and discrimination in credit access for women in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (or UK Aid) and the International Development Research Centre of Canada, PAGE seeks to address knowledge gaps and policy needs in these research areas using the following methodological approaches: macro–micro policy simulations, impact evaluations, microeconomic measurement and analysis, and community-based monitoring systems.

Fifteen other proposals were also selected during this round under the three other subnetworks of PEP, namely, Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis, Poverty Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis, and Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative.

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Research proposals funded under the youth employment and entrepreneurship theme will attempt to identify the challenges and opportunities of a ballooning youth population. In particular, studies are expected to focus on what policy options (including promotion of entrepreneurship) are available for governments so that the unemployed youth can have access to decent and productive employment.
News Updates

CBMS Research Proposals Funded Under the First Round of PAGE

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**Argentina**
The research team from UNICEN headed by Dr. Sebastián Auguste noted that the youth unemployment rate in Argentina (20%) is four times larger than the adult unemployment rate. They also observed that youth unemployment is concentrated among young women and the less educated who, in turn, come from low-income households. This creates a vicious cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Against this backdrop, the research team will set out to test some of their hypotheses that include the following:
(1) Lack of knowledge of and exposure to entrepreneurship hamper the development of youth entrepreneurship.
(2) The more exposed the youth are to entrepreneurship, the greater the probability that they will venture into entrepreneurial activities.
(3) More women are likely to be involved in entrepreneurship since available jobs in the study sites are mostly for men.

**Bangladesh**
Meanwhile, the research team from the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development headed by Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun observed that although entrepreneurship is one of the key drivers of development, the number of entrepreneurs in rural areas is not encouraging because of the low rate of return in entrepreneurial activities and other problems. They argue that to foster entrepreneurial spirit among the rural unemployed youth, the existing entrepreneurial activity needs to be more incentive oriented. One way might be to motivate the youth to think of nonconventional ventures that have market demand. Creating facilities to transform their innovative ideas into reality also deserves special attention.

Their specific hypotheses include the following:
(1) Environmental opportunities in rural areas and individual characteristics or traits that are open to or welcome challenges lead to begin the entrepreneurial process.
(2) Young people are open to the prospect of establishing new ventures if the technology and other support are available.
(3) Rewarding return on existing entrepreneurial activities encourages others to be entrepreneurs.

**Pakistan**
The youth comprise more than 46 percent of the entire population in Pakistan. This large pool of available labor remains largely untapped and youth entrepreneurship could be a good alternative to address youth unemployment. However, literature on youth entrepreneurship is scarce in the country. The CBMS project is thus expected to produce grassroots-level data on youth...
employment and entrepreneurship that would provide a base for further research and policy discussion on the topic.

The research team, headed by Mr. Nadeem Akhtar of the Research Analytics International (Private) Limited, listed the following key topics that could add to effective policy making so that Pakistan can reap the benefits of its demographic transition: (i) inequalities in the labor force market for youth bulge in terms of labor force participation, occupation and sector of employment selection, wage inequalities, working hours, and regional differences; (ii) core obstacles to youth entrepreneurship (i.e., lack of access to credit, poverty, need for further education and training); (iii) self-employment practices of youth bulge and issues of six dimensions of decent work; (iv) effect of formal and informal youth labor force participation on household poverty dynamics; (v) skills mismatch, level of satisfaction, and turnover behavior of employed youth; and (vi) development of a youth competitiveness index.

They plan to test a number of hypothesis including:
(1) Reducing the gender gap in entrepreneurship would reduce gender disparities on the income side.
(2) Household poverty levels are lower and microeconomic indicators are better among households with youth engaged in self-employment and entrepreneurship activities.

**Tanzania**
Efforts have been exerted to address youth employment in Tanzania, but unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percent from 3.6 percent in 1990/1 to 5.1 percent in 2000/1. In 1990/91 male unemployment rate was 2.9 percent and that for females was 4.2 percent compared to 4.4 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively, in 2000/1. To this time, studies on youth employment and vulnerability have been limited.

The study, headed by Dr. Domitilla Bashemera, will therefore identify the available employment opportunities in the study sites, investigate the link between youth employment and vulnerability, and analyze measures to address youth employment and vulnerability.

The hypotheses that will be tested by the proposed CBMS project study include:
(1) A positive relationship exists between employment levels of youth and educational attainment, between levels of education and active engagement in economic activity by the youth, and between levels of youth unemployment rate and attainment of entrepreneurship skills training.
(2) A relationship exists between youth employment in the informal sector and levels of educational attainment, between levels of income obtained from employment and attained entrepreneurship skills by the youth, and between income obtained from self-employment and access to financial services.

**Providing Social Protection to the Informal Sector**
Meanwhile, proposals under the providing social protection to the informal sector theme are expected to focus on the possible impact of social protection on the informal labor market. This is a growing area of research interest in view of the strong growth of the informal sector in recent years.

**Bolivia**
Informal employment constitutes about 70 percent of the employed population in Bolivia. Workers in this sector are not usually covered by benefits, are exposed to fluctuations in economic activity and the business cycle, and practically lack any protection against social risks.

The Bolivian government had introduced a number of social protection interventions aimed at enhancing human capacities and transfers of income. However, these suffered from poor social infrastructure and lack of monitoring and assessment, among others. Nevertheless, the government assigned an increasing share of public expenditure on social protection, mainly through cash transfers.

The research team from Fundacion ARU headed by Mr. Wilson Jimenez will thus attempt to analyze the individual and social risks recurring more among informal workers, with emphasis on the characteristics and circumstances of workers who face different social or occupational risks, the vulnerability of workers, and institutions that contribute to address those risks. The analysis of risks through a profile of workers and social protection mechanisms would contribute to formulation of social protection interventions associated with informal employment.

**Burkina Faso**
Several social protection initiatives have been implemented in Burkina Faso to help the underprivileged members of society have an increased access to basic social services and jobs and to minimize the impact of external shocks. These programs are based on the strategies that are innovative and largely include money transfers, in-kind donations, provision of subsidies and tax exemptions, and labor-intensive jobs.

However, a number of deficiencies in these programs are evident in terms of scope of persons covered and benefits provided. For instance, only 10 percent of the population has a formal system of social protection...
and benefits provided by social security. In addition, health benefits are for only a minority of workers and do not take into account all sectors of the economy, such as those in the informal sector that includes pastoral and hydro-agro-forestry workers. Moreover, social protection strategies are directly inspired by the Western systems and are not in sync with the country’s context where the bulk of the economy is driven by farmers (70% of the workforce) and workers of the informal sector (90% of nonagricultural population).

Thus, one objective of the CBMS project, headed by Dr. Lassina Konate of CEDRES, is to produce relevant and reliable data that will allow local and regional government authorities to take appropriate measures for a better targeting of beneficiaries of social programs within the framework of social protection, particularly pregnant women and children.

**Haiti**

The implementation of several cash transfer programs for the poor segments of the population in Haiti raises the issue of targeting eligible beneficiaries. The question of sustainability of these programs also arises, given the fact that these are financed by external loans that the country must repay in the future. This represents a burden for future generations, which requires that these programs succeed in reducing poverty and social exclusion.

Haiti’s experience in recent years has shown that the risks and recurrent shocks have prevented the poor from breaking the cycle of chronic poverty. Policies to fight against poverty must therefore adopt an integrated approach that takes into account not only social security–related risks (inability to work, disability, old age) but also those related to natural disasters or other shocks whose impact on the well-being of the poor proves disastrous.

The CBMS project headed by Dr. Alrich Nicolas of the CHERIES intends to contribute to a broader diagnosis of poverty and vulnerability by integrating the analysis of the risks and effects of shocks on informal social protection systems and strategies developed by the people to mitigate these risks and to respond to these shocks. In doing so, the research addresses the issue of the viability and performance of informal social protection systems in a context marked by slow growth and the weakening of formal mechanisms of social protection.

**Niger**

The International Labour Organization has identified two principal ways of extending social protection to the informal sector: (i) expanding the coverage of statutory social protection schemes, where possible, by removing legal obstacles and making the necessary reforms; and (ii) establishing or strengthening innovative schemes that are self-funded and group based for informal sector workers.

According to the research team in ONAPAD headed by Mr. Assad Hassane, the second strategy seems to be the best in the case of Niger. Their team plans to test their hypothesis that providing social protection to the informal sector in their project sites (Kanembakaché, Dan Kobi, and Zaroumey) would significantly reduce the multidimensional poverty in these localities. The establishment of a social protection device, principally self-supported, would be improved by an appropriate CBMS.
The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Asia–Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Office of the De La Salle University (DLSU)–Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, Manila will hold a training workshop on CBMS methodology for analyzing social protection in the informal sector and youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Participants from eight CBMS research teams from Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Niger, Pakistan, and Tanzania are expected to attend said training on October 21–25, 2013 at the Somerset Olympia in Makati City, Philippines.

The workshop aims to provide technical support to the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE)–CBMS country project teams of PEP in finalizing the design of their analytical framework for the conduct of CBMS research studies on social protection in the informal sector, and on youth employment and entrepreneurship.

It also aims to assist the teams in finalizing the design of their data collection methodology, indicator systems, and data collection instruments. Dr. William Randall of the Economic and Social Development Affiliates Ltd. will be among the resource persons.

The first two days of training will focus on the CBMS Mobile Data Collection designed to collect household-level data for CBMS- implementing countries, and the CBMS Poverty Mapping and Database Management.

The third and fourth days will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions to cover the following: (1) Framework for Analyzing Social Protection in the Informal Sector that aims to discuss emerging and recent development issues in the design, implementation, and impact monitoring of social protection systems in the context of promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development; (2) Framework for Examining Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship that aims to discuss emerging development challenges relating to unemployment, particularly among the youth, in the context of pursuing inclusive growth and sustainable development initiatives; (3) designing a system that will map out, discuss, and finalize the respective indicator systems to be used in the conduct of PAGE-CBMS studies on social protection in the informal sector, and on youth employment and entrepreneurship; and (4) data collection issues, especially guidelines in the design of data collection instruments with reference to indicator systems, as well as research ethics/Issues in CBMS data collection and/or field census operations.

The workshop is made possible with the support of the International Development Research Centre–Canada and the United Kingdom Department for International Development through the PAGE research initiative of the PEP Network.
CBMS Philippines conducts TOT on updated training modules

A total of 36 CBMS-accredited trainors from the Bureau of Local Government Development as well as from the regional offices of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) attended the Training of Trainors (TOT) on the updated CBMS training modules. The activity was held on September 23–27, 2013 at the DILG–National Police Commission Center in Quezon City.

One major component of the training was the CBMS Mobile Data Capture (MDC) developed by the CBMS Network in collaboration with the College of Computer Studies of the De La Salle University–Manila.

Built to fast-track the generation of CBMS results to serve as timely inputs in local development planning and budgeting, the MDC uses both web technology and mobile devices to collect household and community data. The collected data are then transmitted to the CBMS web portal that serves both as the data repository and as a hub for managing user accounts and workgroups.

The MDC works on tablets and smartphones with the Android Operating System 4.1. By integrating household and global positioning system (GPS) data capture and data entry, the MDC is expected to enhance data collection procedure and data quality. For instance, in the paper-based CBMS data collection, enumerators always need to be mindful of the skipping patterns in the questionnaire and have to do some calculations (e.g., household income) by themselves. Spot maps of households and facilities are done separately and would be merged with the household data at the later stages of the CBMS process. These
processes are relatively tedious and prone to error compared with the MDC, whose system displays only relevant questions, automatically does calculations, and captures GPS readings and household data all at the same time.

Aside from a hands-on experience in access controls and procedures in the CBMS Portal, installation of CBMS Scan, creating and editing forms and submitting data, the participants were also introduced to the enhancements in the CBMS data processing system, particularly the Statistics Simulator (StatSim) and Quantum GIS.

Toward the end of the five-day workshop, sessions on CBMS-based barangay development planning and budgeting as well as an overview on how the CBMS results can be linked with the DILG’s training module on preparing the comprehensive development plan were also held.

The TOT was organized by PEP Asia and CBMS Network Office and the DILG. Previous trainings on earlier versions of the CBMS modules were conducted in February 2011 and 2012.

### A Comparison of the Paper- and Mobile-Based CBMS Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Factor</th>
<th>Paper-Based Data Collection</th>
<th>Mobile-Based Data Collection</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>Slower</td>
<td>Faster</td>
<td>Integrated steps of data collection/encoding/digitized spot mapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Greater recurring costs (printing of forms)</td>
<td>Reduced recurring costs</td>
<td>Investment on mobile devices can be cheaper in the long run compared to paper questionnaires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data quality</td>
<td>May have missing and inconsistent values</td>
<td>Embedded validation/invisible skip patterns</td>
<td>Embedded validation reduces the burden on field editors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>More</td>
<td>Integration of GPS reading during the household census fast-tracks the process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation updates</td>
<td>More tedious</td>
<td>Easier</td>
<td>Validation of acceptable/relevant data collected is easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel data</td>
<td>More tedious</td>
<td>Easier</td>
<td>Retrieval of earlier census records can easily be done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>More tedious; lesser control</td>
<td>Greater security checks; better control mechanism in place</td>
<td>Confidentiality is easier to enforce since only authorized personnel for each device can access, view, and transmit the data</td>
</tr>
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### Flow Chart: Paper- and Mobile-Based CBMS Data Collection
Workshop on mapping impacts of climate change on food security held

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Analysis and Mapping of Impacts under Climate Change for Adaptation and Food Security (FAO-AMICAF) conducted its second training workshop on Vulnerability to Food Insecurity Analysis at the Household Level Resulting from Climate Change on August 13–15, 2013 at the Orchid Garden Suites, Manila, Philippines. The workshop was part of the Step 2 of the Assessments of Climate Change Impacts and Mapping of Vulnerability to Food Insecurity under Climate Change to Strengthen Household Food Security with Livelihoods Adaptation Approaches projects.

The workshop was facilitated by Economist Panagiotis Karfakis of the FAO Agricultural Development Economics and attended by representatives from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

On the first day, Mr. Karfakis presented an assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of climate change at the household level and their policy implications based on the evidence from country studies. Meanwhile, the CBMS team presented initial modelling specifications and preliminary regression results while the FNRI presented their dataset. Trainings on basic household survey data management and statistics with STATA—as well as vulnerability analysis such as multivariate analysis for cross sections, household expected welfare and variance estimation from a cross section, projections of vulnerability in the future and policy simulation scenarios—were conducted during the second day. On the third day, the CBMS team presented its revised model specifications and regression results.

The AMICAF project, started in October 2011, is being implemented by the FAO in the Philippines, in cooperation with the Philippine Department of Agriculture, and in Peru, with the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. It is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.}

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