The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network promotes the monitoring and measurement of poverty in its multiple dimensions. It also analyzes the causes and consequences of poverty in order to provide an empirical basis for policymakers to design and implement appropriate policies to combat poverty. For a more thorough analysis, the PEP Network supports research on the impact of past and present policies and those considered for the future. PEP researchers expand the frontiers of knowledge by developing new concepts and innovative methodologies to analyze poverty.

In pursuing this vision, the PEP Network provides a sophisticated program of scientific and financial support that systematically removes obstacles to state-of-the-art research in developing countries. First, the PEP Network addresses the lack of funding for research in developing countries that often leads the best and brightest local researchers to move to developed countries or pursue careers outside research. Solving the funding issue, however, is not always enough to convince local experts to pursue their research activities in their country. Thus, it is in this regard that the PEP Network innovates by developing a comprehensive scientific support strategy that ensures access for local researchers to advanced training and ongoing advice from and interaction with peers in both the South and North regions. This is meant to remedy the lack of research infrastructure in their countries. The PEP Network also makes available the documentation and software necessary to come up with the best possible analysis.

Second, in the conduct of pertinent and rigorous research using cutting-edge techniques, the Network also exerts every effort to disseminate the results of said research to all those who are likely to make use of them: local decisionmakers, international institutions, NGOs, national and international researchers, and other stakeholders.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the PEP Network is a permanent tool that enables researchers from the South to better participate and independently define the poverty research agenda and establish their scientific credibility both nationally and internationally.
MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

It is our privilege to present the Annual Report of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network, which covers the period October 2008-September 2009. This report features in detail some of the important activities during the report period where the Network has been involved in and highlights other areas where we expect our role to expand and deepen.

We open this report with a note of congratulations to all the members of the PEP family for making huge strides in pursuing our shared vision of a world in which researchers living and working in developing countries have both the skills and reputation to participate centrally in and influence national and international policy and research debates on poverty issues. We are very pleased to note that in the comprehensive external evaluation of PEP’s activities which was completed in 2008, the evaluators concluded that:

“the PEP initiative has been worthwhile in that, in a short space of time, it has achieved many goals and accomplished much of what it originally set out to do. There have been some significant outcomes already from PEP research in the policy areas of global trade agreements and national impact analysis and important initiatives have been taken in poverty monitoring and evaluation. PEP research possesses the unique merit of engaging developing countries more fully in the key official policy decisions affecting their respective economies and the well-being of local citizens. In fulfilling most of its own perceived terms of reference, PEP has done well. It has also acquitted itself in an exemplary manner in accordance with IDRC basic criteria of excellence, proper supervision, effective quality control, strong local participation and the exercise of due diligence.”

We owe this measure of success, in large part, to the decentralization process that we have adopted which saw the creation of our regional offices in Asia (Manila), Africa (Dakar) and Latin America (Peru). These offices have been buzzing with activity these past several months, developing their own research, training and dissemination activities and supporting ongoing and new PEP-wide activities in their regions.
HIGHLIGHTS

MONITORING THE IMPACTS OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

In 2009, the PEP Network bore witness to the ravages of the global financial and economic crisis which started in the United States and other developed countries. Given the vulnerability of most developing countries, researchers from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA) programs began to work together to monitor and analyze the impacts of the crisis on these countries. More than a dozen countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are participating in this study.

PEP SCHOOLS: BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINING

In the area of basic and advanced training, this period saw the preparations for the second edition of the PEP school which will use online components together with a workshop in Dakar, Senegal. This school specifically deals with techniques for simulating the impacts that macroeconomic policies and shocks have on national economies and on poverty. Another important training initiative on strengthening capacities for poverty and social impact analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa was launched with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Building on past PEP training activities, this initiative will generate and test a comprehensive package of training programs for use in future PEP schools.
**PEP-OPHI INITIATIVE**

In collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), new projects have been approved on analyzing poverty in the multidimensional context of the capabilities approach. This initiative builds on the extensive work of OPHI on implementing Sen’s capabilities approach in developing countries and of the PEP network on multidimensional poverty analysis. A pilot test of the OPHI modules on the missing dimensions of poverty will also be carried out in the Philippines.

**NEW PEP WEBSITE**

As the PEP network’s scope and magnitude of activities continue to increase, a revamping of the PEP website has become necessary. The new website (www.pep-net.org) seeks to facilitate public access to information on PEP studies, publications and researchers. In addition to a more colorful presentation, the redesigned site now features tools to help search its contents by theme and country of interest. The new website is expected to help promote PEP researchers and their PEP-funded studies to policymakers, researchers and other individuals, and institutions interested in poverty issues.

**7TH PEP GENERAL MEETING**

After six years, the 7th PEP General Meeting returned to the Philippines, the birthplace of the research network. Over 200 participants attended the conference in Manila on December 6-12, 2008 where a total of 66 conference papers were presented. The meeting also featured three full days of advanced training on: Modeling the Poverty Impacts of Agricultural Shocks and Policies; Policy Impact Evaluation Techniques; and Implementing the Sen Capabilities Approach.

A policy forum on the theme of “Trade, Investment and Domestic Policy Coherence for Inclusive Growth”, with presentations by policymakers and international experts, was also held in collaboration with the UNESCAP’s Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT).

**APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY F. SHORROCKS AS PEP DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT**

Anthony F. Shorrocks, former Director of the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) of the United Nations University, has been appointed as Director of Strategic Development (DSD) for the PEP Research Network. Professor Shorrocks will lead PEP’s fundraising activities, help explore PEP’s options for legal incorporation and review the current draft of PEP’s long-term strategic development plan.
Facts & Figures

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

- 18 PEP-supported projects were completed, 17 are still ongoing and 20 new projects were approved during this period.
- Dissemination activities were geared up, notably in terms of national policy conferences, with a total of 13 completed this year. Other dissemination activities include the publication of 8 new working papers, 8 journal publications, 13 policy briefs and 20 presentations in international conferences.
- 47 out of the 100 MPIA-PMMA projects to date have been published as working papers. A further 10 are in the final editing stages, 8 more are in the process of evaluation or revision and 5 are in preparation.
- All CBMS projects also lead to the publication of at least one working paper. Nine such CBMS working papers were published during the period as part of the book, Scaling Up of Poverty Reduction Initiatives and Improving Local Governance through CBMS. Thus 100% of completed PEP projects are published as working papers.
- 18 PEP projects have been published in journals, a total that already exceeds our objective of 10% of all PEP projects.
- 11 PEP projects deal explicitly with gender issues and gender has been explicitly identified as one of the ten themes through which PEP’s activities can be explored. PEP researchers have also been focusing increasingly on child welfare issues with 14 projects explicitly addressing children.
- An astounding 45.7% of PEP researchers are female (and 22.5% are aged under 30). These female researchers are taking leading roles. Indeed, over a quarter of PEP projects are led by a female researcher.
Location Map of PEP-Supported Projects
October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

LATIN AMERICA
Brazil
Uruguay
Argentina
Colombia
Bolivia
Peru

AFRICA
Togo
Benin
Kenya
Mali
Chad
Uganda
Tanzania
Ethiopia
Burkina Faso
Nigeria
Sengal
Cameroon
Egypt
Zambia

ASIA
Pakistan
China
Philippines
Viet Nam
Sri Lanka
Indonesia
Lao PDR
PEP provides financial and scientific support to research teams from developing countries to pursue policy-relevant and methodologically rigorous studies on the causes of and remedies to poverty in their countries. The specific objectives of the research grants are to: (i) better understand the causes and consequences of poverty, (ii) propose pro-poor policies and program, (iii) improve the measurement and monitoring of poverty, (iv) strengthen local research capacity on poverty issues, and (v) develop new concepts and techniques for poverty analysis.

Grants are awarded under the following programs:

1. **MODELING AND POLICY IMPACT ANALYSIS (MPIA)**

   The MPIA network aims to develop high quality national and comparative research, capacity, and new concepts and methodologies in the modeling and assessment of the impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks on poverty and equity at the household and intra-household levels. In particular, this network aims to:

   • Engage a critical mass of researchers on common issues to develop network interaction and collaboration, and research of high international standards;
   
   • Encourage comparative analyses across countries and teams;
   
   • Develop new techniques and methods to deal with the interaction between macro policies/shocks and poverty impacts
   
   • Provide systematic and focused training and technical assistance;
   
   • Increase visibility of the network and of their researchers, and ensure better dissemination to national and international policy analysts; and
   
   • Interact and share knowledge with the other PEP networks and projects, and with related national and international initiatives.

**UPDATES**

For the 2008-2009 period, 5 projects of the MPIA program were completed, 6 are ongoing and 5 new projects were approved.
### COMPLETED PROJECTS

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<td>National Development For And From The Regions: A Philippine Regional CGE For Impact Analysis</td>
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<td>Impacts Of Public Spending In Education Sector On Growth And Poverty Reduction In Viet Nam: A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis</td>
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<td>Setting Up The Uniformed Social Security System Under Huge Rural Labour Migration In China: A Quantitative Analysis By SIC-GE Model</td>
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<td>Public Expenditure Policy In Bolivia, Growth And Welfare</td>
<td>Machicado, Carlos Gustavo</td>
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<td>Privatization And Poverty Reduction In Viet Nam - Optimal Choices And Its Potential Impacts</td>
<td>Pham, Ngoc Q.</td>
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SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Global study on “Analyzing the Impacts of the Current Economic and Financial Crisis and Appropriate Policy Responses”

PEP’s MPIA program has launched a multi-country research initiative on the impacts of the global economic and financial crisis on developing countries. The program is receiving financial support from AUSAID, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and PEP. The project will include three Asian countries (Philippines, Bangladesh and Pakistan), three Latin America countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia) and five African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa). All researchers are either participating in current or have participated in past MPIA projects. R. Flores, D. Laborde (from IFPRI) and B. Decaluwé are leading this project with support from Helene Maisonnave, Veronique Robichaud, Ismael Fofana and Martin Cicowiez. The results will be presented during PEP’s general meeting in June 2010 to be held in Dakar, Senegal.

MPIA training material

Andre Lemelin, Veronique Robichaud, Helene Maisonnave and Bernard Decaluwé are developing a series of “standard” models to help researchers implement a CGE approach in their respective countries. The first of this volume is already available PEP 1-1 (national static model: “1 country and 1 period”). The PEP 1-t (national dynamic model: “1 country and t periods”) and the PEP n-t (world dynamic model: “n countries and t periods”) will also be available very soon.

Support to PEP-Africa office

The MPIA program is participating in the setting up by PEP’s African office of the second edition of the PEP School. It is also providing support to a study being conducted by PEP’s African office on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Senegal.

Visitors and Seminars

The MPIA group at Laval has also hosted two researchers from developing countries, namely, Faizel Zidi from Tunisia and Sebastien Mathouraparsad from Guadeloupe, who stayed in Laval for several weeks during the summer.
Is Trade Liberalization Good for Women in Uruguay?

BY MARÍA INÉS TERRA, MARISA BUCHELI, CARMEN ESTRADE, MONTEVIDEO

Uruguayan data show significant gender differences in the labor market and in the distribution of household tasks. In the labor market, women earn lower wages, participate less and face a higher unemployment rate. At home, women spend more time than men doing domestic work and less in leisure.

A team of Uruguayan researchers examines the gender differentiated impacts of trade openness on employment, wages and time allocation, using a series of gender aware CGE models. Trade policy in a small country such as Uruguay can have a substantial impact on the relative demand for male and female workers and may therefore increase or reduce these gender differences. The team calibrated the model using a recent time-use survey in Uruguay.

Different tariff reform scenarios were simulated. Trade openness, defined as a unilateral tariff reduction on imports from all destinations, is found to improve the situation of women in terms of employment and wages. However, the precise impacts depend on the exact nature of the trade reform. If it results in an increase in net exports to Argentina, demand for female workers increases and gender wage gaps decline. However, if net exports to Brazil and the rest of the world increase, it is demand for unskilled male workers that increases.

Integration into MERCOSUR is also found to have a positive impact on female participation in the labor market (see table). Furthermore, while trade openness favors skilled women most, integration into MERCOSUR is more advantageous to unskilled women in terms of employment, but not in terms of wage rates.

Other more direct gender policies, such as a subsidy for female workers, would be more effective than trade policy, especially given extremely high female unemployment rates. The government should likewise avoid increasing protection in female-intensive sectors as a policy to promote female employment. A simulation that imposes reference prices on female-intensive textiles and garment imports is found to improve employment for unskilled women, but this comes at the expense of reduced employment in all other labor categories due to the efficiency losses of reduced trade.

Based on MPIA working paper 2008-16
2. POVERTY MONITORING, MEASUREMENT AND ANALYSIS (PMMA)

The PMMA network puts a lot of emphasis on the use of existing nationwide micro-based data. Teams generally adopt or develop common methodologies often involving micro-econometrics to ensure that training and technical support/partnership are provided efficiently at the network level. The PMMA network strives for good comparative international research but retains a focus on national results and impact. It remains substantively coordinated with the MPIA and CBMS networks. The themes of interest are broad and evolve with developments in the scientific literature. They are also flexibly adapted to the heterogeneous needs of policy-making in the diverse socio-economic environments that PEP covers.

Current PMMA research focuses on five main themes:
- Multidimensional poverty analysis
- Public spending and its impact on poverty and equity
- Growth and poverty dynamics
- Policy impact analysis
- Intra-household allocation of well-being

UPDATES

For the 2008-2009 period, 10 projects of the PMMA program were completed and 9 new projects were approved.
## COMPLETED PROJECTS

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**In collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI):**

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SPECIAL INITIATIVES

PEP-OPHI Initiative

In collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the PMMA program has issued a call for proposals on analyzing poverty in the multidimensional context of the capabilities approach. Seven teams have been invited to present their proposals at PEP’s 7th general meeting, and five of these have started to receive full financial and scientific support from both PEP and OPHI to carry out their research. Sabina Alkire (director of OPHI) and Jean-Yves Duclos (PMMA program leader) share the lead in this initiative, which builds on the extensive work of OPHI on implementing Sen’s capabilities approach in developing countries and of the PEP network on multidimensional poverty analysis.

Research under this initiative will deal with two main themes:

Missing dimensions

The objective of human development is to expand the freedoms that people value and have reason to value, enabling people to live more fulfilled lives and to flourish. Data on people’s freedoms are needed to guide and evaluate development actions although comparatively speaking, more data exist now than before. The PEP-OPHI research teams involved with this theme are undertaking empirical analysis of data on the five ‘missing’ dimensions of human development that often matter to poor people: employment, empowerment, physical safety, the ability to go about without shame, and psychological and subjective well-being.

Multidimensional approach to poverty

The move to a multidimensional approach to poverty creates an enormous but familiar problem: how can one compare the capability (or functioning) sets? Focal questions include: (i) how does one compare the same person’s well-being in capability space at two points in time or in different situations, (ii) how does one compare the capability sets (or functioning sets) of two different people, and (iii) how does one compare the capabilities of two different groups of people? The PEP-OPHI research teams that focus on this theme are critically examining identification techniques and weighing options for multidimensional poverty measures.

New Initiative for Strengthening Capacities for Poverty and Social Impact Analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa

The UNDP has agreed to support an initiative to strengthen capacities for poverty and social impact analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative is building on the PEP research network’s ongoing work, particularly by developing PEP schools. This follows from experiences in strengthening capacities for poverty analysis in Namibia in 2008 as carried out by the Namibian Central Bureau of Statistics, the UNDP and the Université Laval with support from the UNDP Thematic Trust Fund for Poverty Reduction.

The initiative is contributing to strengthened capacities for poverty and social impact analysis, enabling high quality ex-ante and ex-post assessments of the impacts that public policies, reforms and interventions have on the distribution of welfare. The initiative’s specific objectives are to:

- enhance the skills of researchers and officials to conduct poverty and social impact assessments using quantitative data and state-of-the-art methods;
- enhance the capacity of data producers to generate quality data and improve access to data;
• raise an interest among policymakers for better informed policymaking; and
• foster national, regional and international networking in poverty and social impact analysis and policy influence.

This will be achieved through a series of designated training programs offered in the classroom and online that are customized to individual country’s analytical needs. It is hoped that this capacity strengthening initiative could evolve into a more permanent resource for countries to draw upon, in the form of designated research and training facilities.

Software and Methodological Development

Researchers in developing countries often have to keep pace with the rapid spread of computationally intensive research as well as continuous innovations in research methodology. In response to this, the PMMA program has kept developing tools to facilitate the analysis of poverty. Apart from continuing to support the use and upgrade of the DAD (Distributive Analysis / Analyse Distributive) software, the PMMA has embarked in developing a package to assist Stata users (DASP: Distributive Analysis Stata Package) to analyze and understand the distribution of well-being with state-of-the-art measurement and statistical tools. DAD is a stand-alone software that does not require any other commercial software purchase. It is also very user-friendly. DASP, on the other hand, makes use of the power and flexibility of the (commercial) STATA software which has become a very popular tool to transform and process data in the last two decades. Both can be downloaded free of charge from the PEP website.

PMMA resource persons have also contributed actively to methodological developments in the area of poverty measurement and analysis. The tools that have been developed have all been made easily accessible to PEP researchers through DAD and DASP. The papers that have recently been completed include:


POLICY RESEARCH BRIEF

Estimating the Willingness to Pay for Community Health Care Insurance in Rural Nigeria

BY JOHN E. ATAGUBA, HYACINTH E. ICHOKU AND WILLIAM M. FONTA

The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies fairness in financial contribution as one of the goals of a good health system. This requires that people pay for the use of health services according to their means and that they make use of health services according to their needs. However, in Nigeria, payment for health care services is predominantly out-of-pocket and the poor and rural dwellers are not always able to afford them when they need them. Since these populations are precisely those with the highest prevalence of disease and illness, they need a way of paying for health care services.

The statistics show private financing of health care as still commonplace in Nigeria. Over 70% of health care payments come from private sources while about 30% is attributable to the government. As a result of this, in June 2005, the national health insurance scheme was launched such that medical costs would be distributed among different income groups.

While such health insurance can be very useful in increasing access to quality health services, it is not widespread in Nigeria, particularly for the poor. A team of Nigerian researchers explores the use of community health insurance, where households are required to pay for health services when they have the means to do so and not necessarily when they access them. This is to ensure that they can use these services when a member is sick. At the same time, it protects the poor and rural dwellers in Nigeria from financial strain when a member of their household is sick and needs care.

The researchers observe that households were very willing to participate in such a scheme, although they were not willing to pay enough to allow the insurance to fully cover the medical costs in the community. They are more willing to participate when they are told to pay with agricultural commodities rather than cash.

On the average, a rural household is willing to pay about 2,040 naira in cash per annum as a premium for the scheme. If paying in agricultural commodities, households are willing to pay about 4,042 naira worth of agricultural commodities per year.

The study found that female household heads, though willing to participate, are often constrained by the resources required to pay for the scheme. This is also the case for those with little education and accumulated wealth. Policy makers and others involved in the design of such insurance schemes must ensure that the poor and women are not obliged to pay insurance bills that exceed what they can afford.

Government efforts to increase health funding and provision of support to local schemes are also important to protect the poor. If such community insurance schemes are established in Nigeria, they should be integrated into the broader National Health Insurance scheme or microfinance schemes in order to ensure continuity, sustainability and viability.

Based on working paper PMMA 2008-10
3. **POLICY IMPACT EVALUATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE (PIERI)**

The Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI) funds a series of evaluation of programs that seek to foster human capital investment in rural areas. This initiative was launched as part of the PEP general call for proposals in November 2007.

After several rounds of competitive selection, nine teams were offered financial and scientific support to develop impact evaluation of various programs and interventions aimed at improving health, education and labor opportunities of the rural poor. Four of these projects involve the design and implementation of randomized experiments and surveys and the collection of original data.

These projects are stimulating for several reasons. First, they all deal with actual policies in place or under consideration, rather than with more abstract “pure” research issues. Second, these interventions target groups that are both extremely vulnerable – the poor, children or adolescents, unemployed, etc. – and also extremely important for the future development of their countries. The interventions themselves address urgent and important issues such as child deworming and health, school quality and participation, training and employment, etc. Third, these projects require researchers to interact intensively with their target groups (in designing and implementing interventions and in surveying the impacts), with government (often directly involved in the interventions and very much interested in the results of the analysis, which feed directly into future policy design) and with other actors (PIERI projects feature intensive interactions with organizations such as the Population Council, World Vision, the Centre for the Study of African Economies, UNICEF, etc.) throughout the entire research process, interaction that brings great richness to this initiative.

**UPDATES**

All nine projects under the first round of the PIERI program are still ongoing. There are two non-experimental evaluation projects, two seed projects and five experimental evaluation projects.
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<td>Veronica Amarante</td>
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<td>Assessing The Impact Of Ishraq Intervention, A Second-Chance Program For Out-Of-School Rural Adolescent Girls In Egypt</td>
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<td>An Impact Evaluation Of Rural Primary School Feeding and Deworming Programs In Sénégal</td>
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<td>Does Training Voucher Help Increase Income Of Redundant Workers Of Restructured State’s Owned Enterprises In Viet Nam?</td>
<td>Lan Anh Vu</td>
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4. COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS)

The CBMS is one of the tools developed in the early 1990s to provide policymakers and program implementers with a good information base for tracking the impacts of macroeconomic reforms and various policy shocks. It is an organized way of collecting information at the local level for use of local government units, national government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society and development partner agencies for planning, program implementation and monitoring. It attempts to build and strengthen the capacity of planners and program implementers at the national and local levels for an improved and more transparent system of resource allocation and governance. A major objective of the CBMS is to assist in poverty reduction. In so doing, there are other corollary benefits achieved like the building of capacities of local government units, increase in gender equity, and elicitation of early warning signs of crisis.

The CBMS program provides research grants to develop, pilot test, and institutionalize a community-based poverty monitoring system in developing countries. Current priority research themes are:

- New CBMS methodologies and instruments
- Poverty diagnosis through CBMS
- Program and project impact analysis
- Use of CBMS for program targeting
- Improvement of local governance through CBMS
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Localization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

UPDATES

For the report period, 3 projects of the CBMS program were completed, 2 are still ongoing and 6 new projects were approved.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

<table>
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<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community-Based Monitoring System For Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Development And Sanitation In Lusaka, Province Of Zambia</td>
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<td>A Local Poverty Monitoring System For Tana River District, Kenya</td>
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<td>Improvement And Implementation Of The CBPMS In Viet Nam</td>
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<td>TITLE</td>
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<td>The Implementation of CBMS In The City Of Pekalongan, Indonesia</td>
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<td>Developing And Enhancing Further The CBMS Methodologies And Applications To Adequately Respond To Emerging Challenges In Policy-Making And Program Formulation At The Global And Country Levels</td>
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<td>A Local Poverty Monitoring System in Tana River District, Kenya (Phase II) and Development</td>
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<td>Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System In Nigeria: A Community Participatory Approach</td>
<td>University of Nigeria Nsukka</td>
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<td>Replication And Institutionalization Of CBMS For Poverty Monitoring In Tanzania</td>
<td>Dodoma Municipal Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community-Based Monitoring System For Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Development, Sanitation In Rural Areas In Zambia (Monitoring And Mitigating The Impact Of The Global Financial and Economic Crisis)</td>
<td>Zambia Research and Development Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expansion Of CBMS Coverage And Monitoring The Impact Of The Global Financial And Economic Crisis On Poverty</td>
<td>Lao Department of Statistics, Lao PDR Ministry of Planning and Investment</td>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementing CBMS For Gender-Responsive Budgeting In Peru</td>
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Most of the proposals received in this round focused on the expansion and institutionalization phase in countries where a pilot CBMS has previously been implemented. The exemptions would be the case of Nigeria which is still pilot testing the CBMS methodology and the case of Peru which is also implementing CBMS for a gender-responsive budgeting process. This is in addition to the GFC component of the project.

The approved projects for this round include the following components: 1) Expansion and institutionalization of CBMS; and 2) A Study of the Impact of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis (GFC) on Poverty (Using the CBMS Approach). Under the GFC component of the CBMS project, the additional outcome and impact indicators will be monitored to determine the potential impact of the global crisis based on the identified key transmission channels of each country. Monitoring would be done primarily through the conduct of CBMS surveys in selected sentinel sites. This component should further demonstrate the usefulness of the CBMS data in monitoring the impact of economic shocks.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Monitoring and Mitigating the Impacts of Policy Shocks on Poverty

During the project period, the CBMS Network has undertaken research initiatives to monitor the effects of recent policy shocks on poverty through the use of the CBMS.

First, the Network has completed its study on the impacts of the food and fuel crisis on poverty which was undertaken by CBMS-Teams in the Philippines, Cambodia and Ghana. Results of the study were presented during a CBMS policymakers’ forum/session of the 7th PEP Network General Meeting in Manila held in December 2008.

Second, the Network launched its initiative on monitoring the impacts on poverty of the recent global financial crisis. In line with this, the PEP-CBMS Team based at the Angelo King Institute (AKI)-De La Salle University (DLSU) developed an initial framework, methodology and set of indicators for the conduct of the study. The latter became the initial reference for discussion during a technical workshop organized in February 2009. Said activity was participated in by CBMS country team leaders/focal persons, and selected representatives from development partner agencies. The workshop aimed to brainstorm and map out a general framework and methodology for the conduct of the GFC study in the context of CBMS. This would in turn serve as a guide for CBMS country teams in developing a full-blown research proposal for the study.

Proposals for the conduct of the GFC study were received thereafter from CBMS Teams in Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Ghana, Kenya, Benin, Burkina Faso, Tanzania and Zambia. The CBMS-GFC study is made part of the CBMS country project proposals for the expansion of CBMS work in their respective countries. A series of evaluation of the said project proposals have been conducted by the
PEP-CBMS Team. As of September 2009, activities for the GFC study by CBMS Teams are ongoing in Kenya, Lao PDR, Tanzania, and Zambia. The project proposal from Cambodia has recently been approved while the proposals from Ghana, Benin and Vietnam are currently being revised by their respective country teams. The proposal for the study in Burkina Faso has, on the other hand, been shelved due to budget constraints.

Meanwhile, the PEP-CBMS Team based at AKIDLSU has spearheaded the implementation of the GFC study in the Philippines. Data collection has been completed in 12 of the 13 CBMS sites in the country. Preliminary data processing and analysis have been conducted. A research paper has been drafted based on the initial findings and shall be presented in national fora scheduled in November and December 2009.

Research papers on the results of the study are expected to be completed by the Project Teams in time for the presentation of findings in the 8th PEP Network General Meeting in June 2010.

Gender-Responsive Local Planning and Budgeting

Following a series of discussions in 2008, the CBMS Network Office has sealed an official partnership with UNIFEM for the development and pilot test of the CBMS for gender-responsive local planning and budgeting in Peru. In line with this collaboration, PEP has conducted a series of mentoring activities which include on-line discussions with the CBMS-Peru Team (DESCO) on the design of the CBMS methodology, indicator system and data collection instruments and strategies for CBMS implementation. CBMS resource persons from the PEP Asia-CBMS Office also participated in a series of technical workshops held in Peru in June and September 2009 to discuss the proposed methodology and indicator system as well as strategies for implementation with the CBMS Peru Team and focal persons from UNIFEM.

This initiative is an offshoot of the earlier pilot CBMS-GRB project in the Philippines supported by IDRC.

Pilot Test of Indicators on Missing Dimensions of Poverty

The CBMS Network’s research collaboration with the OPHI, with support from AusAID, officially commenced in June 2009. The collaboration entails the development and pilot test of the relevant OPHI indicators on the missing dimensions of poverty in the context of the CBMS methodology. The outputs and outcome of this research initiative, to be conducted in selected sites in the Philippines, as well as new CBMS applications and lessons to be learned from this collaboration are deemed as useful references for the CBMS Network. During the project period, the CBMS Network Team has conducted a review of the existing OPHI modules for pilot test and had likewise coordinated and discussed with research partners from Oxford on the program of activities for the duration of the collaboration.
Localizing and Monitoring the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

PEP also continues to provide technical support for ongoing initiatives by national and local stakeholders in line with the use of the CBMS for localizing and monitoring the achievement of the MDGs. In this regard, the CBMS Network has achieved new milestones through its ongoing CBMS initiatives in the Philippines and Kenya.

In Kenya, the Ministry of Planning and Finance has sought the technical assistance of the CBMS Network through the CBMS-Kenya Research Team of the African Institute for Health and Development for the expansion of the CBMS implementation in the country. The collaboration, which is being supported by the Finnish Embassy and UNDP in Kenya, is part of the country’s national MDG initiative. In addition, concerned government agencies such as the Poverty and Eradication Commission and a number of non-government organizations which have participated in the First CBMS National Conference in Kenya held in June 2009 have likewise expressed support for the planned expansion of the implementation of the CBMS in the country.

Meanwhile, the CBMS Network also continues to achieve great strides in the Philippines in terms of establishing an organized local monitoring system, and of building capacities of local governments and communities in the implementation and use of CBMS for monitoring the achievement of the MDGs and related development agenda in the Philippines. In line with this, the UNDP, through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in the Philippines, has recently tapped the expertise of the CBMS Network Team to develop a training program and guidebook for LGUs for the preparation of a provincial millennium development goals report using the CBMS.

Since 2005, the adoption and use of the CBMS in the Philippines has become an integral component of the various initiatives of concerned national government agencies, supported by UNDP Philippines, in line with the country’s commitments in achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty. For the latter, the CBMS Network Office has shared its technical expertise for various CBMS-related initiatives spearheaded by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the NEDA, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Statistical Research Training Center (SRTC), the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), and the Social Watch Philippines (SWP), among others.
Impact of the Rising Prices of Rice and Fuel on Poverty in Ghana, Cambodia and the Philippines

The world experienced a dramatic increase in food and fuel prices during the first half of 2008, with international nominal prices of all major food commodities reaching their highest levels in nearly 50 years and prices in real terms peaking in nearly 30 years (FAO, 2008). Furthermore, the oil price index during the first quarter of 2008 increased by 66.5 percent. Price of fuel also reached its peak during the month of July 2008.

Since developing countries could potentially be affected by these price changes, a study was conducted in three CBMS countries, namely, Cambodia, Ghana and the Philippines, to determine the impact of the price increases on poverty. Existing national surveys were utilized to determine the impact at the national level while the CBMS methodology was adopted to collect the necessary information at the household and community levels.
Results of the study revealed that the impact of the rising prices of food and fuel would vary across different groups of households. In particular, the impact would vary depending on the households’ income group, geographical location and sector. The vulnerable groups in the society, including the urban poor and the subsistence farmers, could be affected more relative to the other groups. Although there are a few who could benefit from price increases, still, a large proportion of households were affected negatively. In the case of the Philippines, for instance, it was estimated that the simultaneous increase in the prices of rice and fuel in 2008 could force about 2.3 million people to fall below the poverty line, holding other factors constant.

The study also confirmed that households adopted coping strategies in response to price increases. In fact, many of them reported that they modified their consumption patterns, particularly in terms of food, health and education. For instance, some households reduced the amount of food consumed while others decided to modify their medical expenses such as foregoing medical treatment, shifting to self-medication, using herbal plants and shifting to generic drugs, some of which may be detrimental to their health. In Ghana, however, households took advantage of the government’s programs such as the National Health Insurance Scheme and thus, moved from private to public health care system.

There are also some households which resorted to the withdrawal of children from school to reduce expenses or to make children work to augment family income. In the case of Cambodia, it was documented that there was an increasing level of child labor as a result of rising cost of living. Another major coping strategy adopted by households is borrowing money from friends, relatives, neighbors or financial institutions. Some households also sold or pawned their productive assets which could further decrease their capability to cope with any future shocks or crises. These coping strategies may be damaging and counter-productive in the medium and long run and could thus lead to greater poverty.

The results of the three country studies also highlighted the importance of implementing safety net programs in order to protect the households, particularly the poor and the vulnerable groups. It was strongly recommended that the necessary interventions should be implemented using a good targeting system that would identify the eligible beneficiaries. The household-level data collected for all households using the CBMS methodology would be very useful in this case. Proper targeting would help ensure that the poor (or those who actually need the intervention) would benefit from the program. This would help reduce the leakage of program benefits to the non-poor.

This Policy Brief is based on the three country studies prepared by CBMS Network researchers from Cambodia, Ghana and the Philippines in December 2008.
WORKING PAPERS

Sapkota, Prakash Raj and John Cockburn - Nepal, Trade Liberalization and Poverty in Nepal: An Applied General Equilibrium Analysis

Sara Wong, Ricardo Arguello, Ketty Rivera – Ecuador, Fiscal Policies and Increased Trade Openness: Poverty Impacts in Ecuador


Abdul Razzaq Kemal, Rizwana Siddiqui – Pakistan, Tariff Reduction, Fiscal Adjustment and Poverty in Pakistan: A CGE-Based Analysis

Marisa Bucheli, Carmen Estrades, Rodrigo Ceni, María Inés Terra Ortiz – Uruguay, Trade Openness and Gender in Uruguay. A CGE Analysis


Kossi Agbeviade Djoke, Amélél D’Almeida, Ayawo Djadou, Ruffino Rachidatou – Togo, A Child Poverty Profile for Four WAEMU Countries: A Comparative Analysis Based on A Multidimensional Poverty Approach

Aboubacar Kaba, Mama Keita, Ousmane Bah, Mohamed Lamine Doumbouya, Sékou Falli Doumbouya, Koulako Camara - Guinea, Health and Education Services in Guinea: Redistributive Effects of Government Policy

Ranj Kumar Guha - Dimensions of Seasonal Poverty in Greater Rangpur: Learning from the Ground

Try Sothearith and So Sovannarith - Impact of Hiked Prices in Food and Basic Commodities on Poverty in Cambodia: Empirical Evidences from CBMS in Five Villages

Felix Asante, Cynthia Tagoe and Alfred Boakye - Effects of Rising Food and Oil Prices on Rural Households in Ghana: A Case Study of Selected Communities in Dangme West District Using the CBMS Approach

Mary Nyamongo et al. - Local Poverty Monitoring System for Tana River District in Kenya

Vilon Viphongxay - Child Poverty and Its Determinants: Case Study from Lao CBMS Villages

Celia Reyes, Alellie Sobreinvas, Joel Bancolita and Jeremy de Jesus - Analysis of the Impact of the Changes in the Rice and Fuel Prices on Poverty in the Philippines

Celia Reyes, Alellie Sobreinvas and Jeremy de Jesus - The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Poverty in the Philippines

Rangya Muro - Implementation of CBMS in Tanzania: The Salient Uses in Dodoma Municipality

Francis Mazanda - Initial Thoughts on CBMS for Improvement of Resource Allocation and Internal Revenue Collection

Vu Tuan Anh - Regional Poverty Disparity in Vietnam

Le Van Hoang - Implementation of Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System in Ha Tay Province

Bwalya Kelvin Joseph et al. - Design and Pilot Test of CBMS in Makishi and Mungule Areas (Lusaka Province of Zambia)

Lottie Musenga Sinyangwe, Chipakata Chulu and Richard Silumbe - Analysis and Results of CBMS Data from the Pilot Sites in Lusaka, Zambia

Richard Silumbe, Lottie Musenga Sinyangwe and Chipakata Chulu - Use of CBMS Zambia for Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Development and Sanitation in Lusaka, Zambia
EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS


DISSEMINATION

POLICY BRIEFS


Effects of Education on Earnings Inequality in Urban China: 1988-2003 by Xiaohua Li, Yaohui Zhao, Lili Lu - September 2009

Impact of the Rising Prices of Rice and Fuel on Poverty in Ghana, Cambodia and the Philippines by Felix Asante, Try Sothearith, Celia Reyes, et al. - September 2009

A Child Poverty Profile for Four WAEMU Countries: A Comparative Analysis Based on A Multidimensional Poverty Approach by Djoke Kossi Agbeviade, Amélie D'Almeida, Ayawo Djadou, Ruffino Rachidatou, Togo - August 2009


Fiscal Policies and Increased Trade Openness: Poverty Impacts in Ecuador by Sara Wong, Ricardo Arguello, Ketty Rivera - June 2009

Inequality, Polarization and Poverty in Nigeria by Isaac Oluwatayo, Oluwakemi Adewusi, Taiwo Timothy Awoyemi - June 2009

Trade Openness and Gender in Uruguay: a CGE Analysis by Marisa Bucheli, Carmen Estrades, Rodrigo Ceni, Maria Inês Terra Ortiz - March 2009


Acquired Benefits and Poor Targeting in Public Spending on Health and Education in Cameroon by Tatsinkou Christophe, Afor Josephine Fosah, Dia Bernadette Kamgnia, Simon Jules Leunkeu Wangun - November 2008

NATIONAL POLICY CONFERENCES

Best Practices in Vocational Training Policies: Lessons from Research, August 27, 2009 in Lima, Peru (organized by Miguel Jaramillo, Veronica Montalva and Jose Galdo)

CBMS Mindanao Forum in the Philippines supported by UNDP (August 2009)

1st CBMS National Conference in Kenya (June 2009) which was co-organized with the Ministry of Planning and Finance of Kenya, UNDP and the Finnish Embassy

Lucas Ronconi and Juan Sanguinetti, Poverty and Employability Effects of Workfare Programs in Argentina, Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 2009

Child Poverty and Economic Policy, May 28, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya (co-organized by Jane Mariara and John Olwande, in collaboration with the IDRC and the Young Lives Project)

Trade, Gender and Equity in Latin America: Generating Knowledge for Political Action, May 7, 2009 in Montevideo, Uruguay (organized by Maria Inés Terra, Marisa Bucheli, Rodrigo Ceni, and Carmen Estrades)


Policy Conference on the Impact of the Financial Crisis on Poverty co-organized with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (February 2009)

Impact evaluation of poverty reduction programs, February 16, 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam (organized by Nguyen Viet Cuong)


Improving School Performance through Educational Decentralization, November 14, 2008, Colombo, Sri Lanka (organized by Nisha Arunatilake)
BOOKS

The Many Faces of Poverty: Volume 1 by the PEP CBMS Network Coordinating Team

Developing and Piloting a Gender-Responsive Community-Based Planning and Budgeting Tool for Local Governance, edited by Celia Reyes, Juan Paulo Fajardo and Marshmath Baris, Jr.

Trade and Poverty in the Developing World, edited by John Cockburn and Paolo Giordano

Trade Liberalization and Poverty: A CGE Analysis of the 1990s Experience in Africa and Asia, edited by John Cockburn, Bernard Decaluwé and Véronique Robichaud


Reaching the MDGs: An International Perspective (2008), edited by John Cockburn and Martin Valdivia

TRAINING MATERIAL AND RECOMMENDED READINGS

Maria-Laura Alzua prepared web pages containing training material and recommended readings on impact evaluation for the PIERI program


NEWSLETTERS

PEP Talk, April and September 2009


PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the 5th CBMS Philippines National Conference, Manila, Philippines

Proceedings of the 2007 CBMS Network Meeting, Lima, Peru
GOVERNANCE

The PEP Research Network is governed by a management committee composed of all regional and program directors and the president of the PEP program committee. The PEP Co-directors are responsible for the daily management of PEP activities, in particular for ensuring that all PEP activities have been assigned and are being implemented on schedule. Program directors for each PEP program are responsible for the scientific leadership of their respective programs. Regional directors and regional offices are responsible for developing new activities in their respective regions and providing support to existing program activities in their region. Program committees for each PEP program jointly form the PEP Program committee and provide scientific advice to program directors in the development and implementation of the activities of their respective programs as well as provide recommendations to the program directors in the selection of proposals for funding and approval of final research reports.
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Tomas Africa
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Cooperation and Development
Grace Bediako
Ghana Statistical Service
Nanak Kakawani
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De La Salle University-Manila
PEP activities are being carried out by its four regional offices in Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America.

1. AFRICA

The PEP Africa Office administers the research grants of the MPIA, PMMA and OPHI programs. It also manages the logistics and funding for study visits, participation in international conferences, and the organization of PEP General Meetings.

Under the leadership of Abdoulaye Diagne, Director of Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES), the PEP Africa Office has undertaken extensive activities. Among these are the following:

2nd Session of the PEP School: Training on Poverty and Economic Analysis

The PEP school is an annual 6-month training program organized by the PEP network in partnership with Southern institutions. Training is offered on monitoring and measuring poverty and on modeling the impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks. Its main components are distance education, training workshops and technical support. Scientific expertise is provided by PEP resource persons. The primary goals are to:

- Enhance local capacity in monitoring, measuring and analyzing poverty;
- Improve understanding of the impacts that macroeconomic policy and shocks have on poverty;
- Contribute to effective design of national growth and poverty reduction strategies.
In collaboration with PEP’s MPIA program, PEP’s African office, based at the “Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale” (CRES) in Dakar (Senegal), has taken the lead in establishing this initiative in Africa in collaboration with other African institutions. In June 2009, PEP-Africa launched the second session of the PEP school, offered entirely in French, on the theme of “Modeling the micro impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks”. Following a distance learning component this Fall, a workshop will be held in early December 2009 in Dakar under the leadership of Professor André Martens (Université de Montréal). For further information, consult the PEP web site (www.pep-net.org, “Events”).

Impacts of the Global Economic Crisis on Children in West and Central Africa.

PEP-Africa successfully bid to lead this major UNICEF-commissioned study. PEP-Africa is working with local research teams in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Ghana to simulate the impacts that the crisis and potential policy responses may have on various aspects of child welfare, including income, caloric intake, school participation, child labor and access to medical services. The national teams are coached by an advisory group which includes several PEP researchers and resource persons - Ismaël Fofana, Sami Bibi, Massa Coulibaly, John Cockburn, Abdoulaye Diagne and Bernard Decaluwé as well as Luca Tiberti from UNICEF’s Innocenti Research Centre in Florence.

It is noteworthy that PEP-Africa was the only Southern-based institution among ten research centers invited to bid on this project, a sign that PEP is succeeding in promoting greater participation by local researchers in major studies concerning developing countries. The final report is due before the end of the year.

Millennium Development Goals

Members of PEP’s African office at CRES, with assistance from MPIA resource persons, are participating in an analysis of the achievement of the MDGs in Senegal. This is in response to an initiative by the UN-DESA office in New York to implement the MAquette for MDG Simulations (MAMS) model in several African countries.
2. ASIA

Through its PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office, PEP specifically aims to deepen its contribution toward evidence-based policymaking and better targeted poverty interventions in developing countries through the use of community-based monitoring indicator systems and methodologies. In particular, the Office does the following:

a) Design community-based poverty monitoring systems that are appropriate to developing countries

b) Extend research support to national and international planning bodies in developing countries on the use of CBMS methodologies for the design and implementation of more targeted interventions to achieve poverty reduction and other development agenda

c) Further enhance the capacity of Network researchers to influence poverty reduction initiatives within countries using the CBMS indicator system and methodologies that were earlier developed

d) Develop and improve the dataset for poverty analysis and policy-action research

e) Foster technical collaboration of CBMS researchers with MPIA-PMMA researchers through joint research and training workshops

f) Mobilize resources for the scaling up and institutionalization of CBMS

The PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office activities for the period include the following:

Capacity Building and Mentoring Activities

PEP continued to provide technical guidance to CBMS network researchers and national and local stakeholders for the implementation and use of the CBMS through the conduct of workshops and mentoring sessions. Among the activities conducted during the period are: (a) the CBMS methodology workshop for CBMS Network researchers for the GFC research initiative; (b) series of technical workshops/mentoring sessions on the design of indicator system and data collection instruments for the pilot CBMS initiative in Peru, (c) review of research methodologies and instruments of existing CBMS country project teams for the implementation of CBMS in the expansion sites, and (d) mentoring sessions/capacity-building workshops for national and local stakeholders through PEP-supported CBMS country projects.

A methodology workshop was organized for the CBMS Network researchers in February 17-19, 2009 in the Philippines to brainstorm, discuss, and map out the framework for the conduct of the Network study on the impact of the global financial crisis. Outputs of the said workshop include references/guidelines for the development of project proposals for the
conduct of the GFC study in sentinel sites through the CBMS that have been designed and implemented earlier. Among the invited resource persons for the event were Dr. Ponciano Intal, Jr., Dr. William Randall Spence, and Dr. Evan Due. During the workshop, the network members also had a video conference session with Noble Prize Awardee, Dr. Michael Spence, to discuss emerging issues relating to monitoring the impact of the crisis.

Meanwhile, PEP also provided technical support for the conduct of capacity-building activities for the CBMS-Peru Team in collaboration with UNIFEM for its pilot CBMS implementation. Among these activities are the CBMS mentoring session in February 2009 conducted in the Philippines, and the technical workshops held in Peru in June and September 2009. The series of workshops and mentoring activities tackled issues for the design of the CBMS methodology, indicator system and data collection instruments for implementation in selected pilot areas in Peru.

The PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office also continued to lend assistance to national and local stakeholders in their implementation and use of the CBMS methodology, instruments and modules through its CBMS Country Teams.

In the Philippines, the Network Team based at AKI-DLSU has conducted a series of workshops/mentoring sessions on the different CBMS modules for the pool of CBMS-LGU trainers/focal persons in partnership with the DILG, SRTC and NEDA Region IV-A. The CBMS Team has recently developed its revised module on the use of CBMS for generating MDG indicators at the sub-national levels. A series of workshops to further build the capacity of local partners on the use of CBMS for MDG reporting shall be conducted in the remaining project period. Meanwhile, PEP also continues to provide technical assistance to the NAPC in terms of updating and using the CBMS-Philippines national repository for monitoring the core local poverty indicators. It is worthwhile to note that since 2000, local government units in the Philippines have provided counterpart funds to cover the direct cost of implementation of the CBMS in their respective localities. To date, funding contribution for the adoption of the CBMS in the Philippines by partner LGUs amounts to an estimated total of P 110 Million. Funds are directly managed by LGUs to cover the costs of training of local enumerators and data processors, field survey enumeration/data collection, data processing and database building. The UNDP-Manila has likewise provided significant funding assistance since 2005 for the scaling up of CBMS implementation in the country, particularly for the conduct of various capacity-building activities through NAPC, SRTC, DILG, and NEDA in its efforts to localize the monitoring of MDGs and to reduce poverty in the country.
PEP has likewise supported capacity-building activities on the implementation of CBMS methodology and instruments at the local level in CBMS sites in Indonesia (through SMERU), Tanzania (through Dodoma Municipal Council), Nigeria (through the University of Nigeria), and Zambia (through the Zambia Research and Development Centre) through the CBMS project teams in those countries. Over the years, contributions have likewise been provided by local stakeholders/partners for CBMS implementation particularly in Indonesia, Tanzania, Vietnam and Cambodia.

**Governance and Resource Mobilization**

As part of its regular functions as a secretariat to the PEP Network, the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office also continued to work closely with co-directors and network administrators from PEP Regional Offices in North America (University of Laval) and in Senegal (CRES) concerning the implementation and evaluation of the general research work program and advocacy/dissemination activities for the PEP Network.

For the project period, the PEP-CBMS Network Office participated in various teleconferences with the PEP Management Committee pertaining to updates on the activities of the sub-networks, joint research collaborations particularly on the PEP-AusAID GFC research initiative, preparations for the forthcoming PEP General Meeting in Senegal, and the network constituency evaluation survey. In addition, series of discussions with AusAID, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) have also been conducted during the period in line with additional support for the Network’s research initiatives on the GFC and the GRB in Latin America.
3. LATIN AMERICA

The key mandate of the PEP Latin America Office is to promote PEP and develop new joint research and training initiatives in the region in close coordination with PEP’s management. The activities of the office are managed by the Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE).

Preventing Teenage Pregnancy in Latin America (funded by the Inter-American Development Bank [IADB])

GRADE, as the host of the PEP-LA office, has just signed an agreement with the Gender and Diversity Unit of the IADB to collaborate in the organization of a Call for Proposals and the management of two to four research grants for studies that focus on evaluating the impact of interventions aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy in Latin America. In particular, this initiative seeks to identify best practices to promote sexual and reproductive health among teenagers at high risk of facing early pregnancy, considering its long term implications for the welfare of the young mothers. The budget for this agreement allowed the LA Office to hire a part-time assistant, Rose Mary Lizarzaburu, to manage this initiative.

4. PEP NORTH AMERICA

The activities of the PEP North America Office are implemented by the Centre Interuniversitaire sur le Risque les Politiques Economiques et L’Emploi (CIRPEE) of Universite Laval. While PEP-CIRPEE has taken major steps to devolve PEP direction and network leadership to the African Office, it continues to spearhead key PEP project activities. These include the management of the internet and intranet components of the PEP website which integrates all the three sub-networks, publication of the PEP Talk, a biannual publication of the network, and initiation of a wide variety of dissemination activities. These are done on top of its major contributions in terms of resource expansion and diversification activities (which include a number of joint research initiatives). It also still plays a key role in identifying thematic priorities, evaluating proposals and reports, and coordinating the scientific support and research activities of the MPIA and PMMA sub-networks.
BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY

Over the years, PEP has built the capacity and reputation of researchers in developing countries to participate in and contribute to national and international debates on economic policies related to poverty. However, testimonials of researchers who have actually benefited from the wide range of support provided by the PEP Network are the best proofs to attest to this. Below are samples of what they say:

**Given the low tax to GDP ratio** in Pakistan (roughly 10 percent), the issue of taxation reforms is a national concern. (...) Some of the main consultative sessions were: a) meeting with the World Bank Islamabad office, b) Federal Bureau of Revenue consultants, and c) presentation on tax policy modeling to the Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development. Informal sessions also took place from time to time with tax lawyers/auditors having experience in dealing with the filing of indirect taxes. The team gave a presentation to the Planning Commission which was attended by technical members and economists from all four provinces. This brainstorming session listed for the first time the issues and difficulties that arise in the modeling of the Pakistan economy. It was a result of this presentation that it was decided that a permanent macro modeling unit should be established in the Planning Commission as well as at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. (...) We have again met officials at the Federal Bureau of Revenue in order to produce simulations that help the tax machinery to structure the overall taxation system in line with the recently signed agreement with the IMF.

Vaqar Ahmed - Pakistan
Since the implementation of PANES in March 2005, our research team has provided technical assistance to MIDES for the implementation of this cash transfer scheme. In August 2007, we were invited to participate in a committee that was created to discuss the main design and implementation issues with regard to the removal of PANES and its substitution by the new Asignaciones Familiares. This group met weekly until December 2007. The creation of this committee aimed at integrating the different actors involved in the renewal of the social protection system in Uruguay as it was conformed by MIDES, Banco de Previsión Social (BPS), representatives of the Ministries of Economy and Finance, and Work and Social Security and researchers of the Instituto de Economía, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas. Our activities basically consisted of providing information about other experiences undertaken in Latin America, estimating a proxy means index to determine the beneficiaries of the new Asignaciones Familiares regime and sharing some results from previous work and from the static impact evaluation included in our interim report. This work, together especially with MIDES, created a frequent interchange with policy actors that added a new perspective to our research work. In the future, we plan to discuss with them the results of the behavioral ex-ante impact evaluation in order to provide information to improve the policy design. As this is the first ex-ante evaluation of cash transfer scheme that has been formally carried out in Uruguay, we believe that we can provide important inputs for future social policy reforms.

Verónica Amarante – Uruguay

The results of the study were discussed with Policy Makers and stakeholders, including the tariff review committee and the Chambers of Commerce at a roundtable in Abuja in March 2007. It was generally agreed that arrangements have to be in place to see that farmers benefit from the Trade liberalization process as they are the most negatively affected by it.

Manson Nwafor – Nigeria

Out of the total estimated budget of US$158,950 for the implementation of CBMS in the City of Pekalongan, 69 percent or US$109,160 will be financed by the City government while the remaining funds will be covered by the research grant from the CBMS Network.

SMERU Research Institute, Indonesia
Eastern Samar is a province of unfathomable contradictions. Its natural bounty of lush virgin forests, world-class white beaches, good surfing sites and abundant mineral and marine resources are in stark contrast to its general state of poverty. It has awesome potential and a motivated people, yet something seems to always hold back its march to growth and prosperity.

Gov. Ben Evardone was fully aware of these contradictions when he assumed office in 2004 and took over a province so naturally endowed yet seemingly incapable of transcending the ghastly bounds of underdevelopment.

The first tough reality that struck the new governor in 2004 was Eastern Samar’s membership in the Club 20 provinces – the 20 poorest provinces in the Philippines. Around the general direction of moving Eastern Samar out of Club 20 – and painstakingly pushing it into a more competitive ranking – did the new governor anchor his plans and programs for this typhoon-battered province facing the Pacific Ocean.

“My resolve on Day One was to shift paradigms, jettison orthodoxy and refuse to accept the crippling givens,” says Gov. Evardone.

“When Eastern Samar broke free of the statistics that condemned provinces to Club 20 membership, it was a grand but largely incomplete victory”, Gov. Evardone said. Today, Eastern Samar’s poverty incidence remains high at 47.7 percent, or a total of 35,403 poor families, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board.

Trimming down the figure to acceptable levels is now the overarching agenda of Gov. Evardone. And to ensure a more accurate and systematic tracking of poor families, the province implemented in 2006 the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), very much reflective of the governor’s philosophy that poverty tracking should be based on science, not guesswork.

CBMS is a tool that the provincial government has been using for the proper targeting of the poor – who and where they are, what their needs are and how to best address them. These data are important in local planning and resource allocation.

The CBMS was developed under the Micro-Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP)-Philippines, a research program of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada, by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team based at the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University-Manila. The CBMS software and technical support were also provided to local government units for free.

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The CBMS enabled the provincial government to accomplish two things: maximize the use of the province’s meager resources to fund directed pro-poor programs, and rally scores of international funding institutions to invest in pro-poor social safety net programs.

The implementation of the CBMS in Eastern Samar started in 2005 with seven pilot municipalities getting funds support from the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the Kapit-Basig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Institute for Democratic Participation in Governance, an NGO promoting good governance. The CBMS pointed out where strategic investments should be made for maximum impact.

After realizing positive result from the CBMS-guided programs, 16 other municipalities took the cue from the initial implementers in the first quarter of 2006, making Eastern Samar the first province in Eastern Visayas to implement the CBMS program on a province-wide scale, according to Henry Afable, Provincial Planning and Development Officer.

But Afable admits that while the CBMS is a pathway of good intentions, its implementation was marred by a rough start. “The initial phase saw two propositions clashing, the status quo that sought investments for the usual waiting sheds and barangay halls, and the life-changing but less popular investments in human capital.”

In this context and with a meager annual budget sourced mainly from the internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), Afable reveals, Gov. Evardone made the tough decision in favor of the less popular pro-poor development agenda based on investments on human capital.

The shift in the mind set and the acceptance of the CBMS did not happen overnight, however. The province had to convince local chief executives to accept CBMS as a tool for development and break down their resistance. The governor says they accomplished this by conducting a series of seminars for mayors and barangay chairmen “to sell the idea of empowering the people on good governance.”

Rogelio Ida, barangay chairman and ABC Federation President of Gen. MacArthur town, who had attended a seminar on CBMS and Good Governance for LGUs, reveals that he now realizes “how our limited IRA funds should be spent, unlike before when budget allocation was based on gut-feel or our perceived problems in the barangay.”

The CBMS program, says Afable, has been given a bigger budget this year, amounting to P4 million. A big portion of this has been earmarked to support other CBMS-based projects in addition to the mandatory annual aid to barangays.

“Provincial aid to the 597 barangays will only be released on condition that the requested budget will be used to fund a CBMS-based initiative. This policy has been issued by the provincial governor and provincial board last December,” he adds.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial year ending September 30

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In addition to the funding support from IDRC, CIDA and AusAID for PEP core research and advocacy activities, the Network has received counterpart funding support from its local and international partners for the conduct of its research initiatives on Monitoring the Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis (AusAID), Missing Dimensions of Poverty (OPHI/AusAID), Localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (UNDP), and Gender-Responsive Budgeting (UNIFEM).

The Network has likewise received support from AusAID and UNDP Manila for the organization of the 7th PEP Network Meeting in Manila in December 2008, and the participation of scholars (from developing countries) and selected resource persons to the said meeting. Meanwhile, selected country projects (e.g. Philippines, Kenya, Tanzania, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia) supported by PEP have likewise received counterpart funding from local government units, NGOs and/or NGAs as well as development partner agencies particularly for the scaling up and institutionalization of CBMS initiatives in the said countries.
Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network

- High quality, policy-relevant research
- Long-term intensive capacity building
- Integration of micro and macro perspectives
- Scientific leadership and innovation
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The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a Crown corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing countries use science and technology to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems they face. IDRC’s support is directed toward creating a local research community whose work will build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is Canada’s lead agency for development assistance. It has a mandate to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world.

AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia’s overseas aid program. The objective of the aid program is to assist developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia’s national interest.

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