A review of pep activities, progress and outputs

2013 annual report
2013 pep annual report

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Message from the executive director

Turning a new page for global change and impact

The Partnership for Economic Policy has been enjoying a growing reputation as a global think-tank generating rigorous evidence and strengthening capacity for locally-led development and economic policy research in the developing countries. Since its emergence in 2002, PEP has been serving as a global network linking researchers worldwide and contributed to building capacity for policy research in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It has dedicated its effort towards the development of contextualized policy solutions to key development challenges through locally-led research which nurtures and supports the growth of local experts in their self-reliance and capacity in the developing regions. With a large pool of academic economists, researchers and practitioners and policymakers in its global network, PEP has established a valuable platform for exchanging and debating ideas that shape current and future policies. The unique global expertise with dedicated researchers interested in development policy challenges facing the global south has become a repository of knowhow and a source of credible and high quality research to inform policy choices at local, national and regional levels. PEP has also contributed valuable tools and methods, including the family of PEP standard and dynamic CGE models and econometric tools for poverty analysis, highly valued by development practitioners and analysts worldwide. These products stand out amongst the most widely acknowledged of PEP contributions for the advancement of research in development economics and policy analysis.

The year 2013 has indeed been hugely transformational and productive. During 2013, PEP has consolidated its major initiative on Policy Analysis of Growth and Employment (PAGE) and launched a competitive grants program which led to the final selection and funding of 25 innovative projects now being implemented in 22 countries. This represented the first batch of over 70 competitive grants to be supported in three rounds under this initiative. A core team of researchers
from these countries, linked to established development economists in advanced policy research institutions, is being supported through training in innovative methods, access to policy analysis tools and resources, study visits, mentorship and peer review mechanisms. These projects are expected to generate rigorous evidence and insights that will inform policy choices on local development challenges. The results from these locally-led policy research projects, covering a range of high priority issues and thematic areas, will be presented and discussed at the upcoming PEP annual conference in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. In order to better link knowledge with action, PEP will continue to endeavour to make its research responsive, highly relevant and available to the policy community through its longstanding tradition of participation, policy engagement and dialogue. The results of the ongoing research will thus be presented to policymakers and stakeholders and discussed in national policy workshops and published in peer reviewed journals.

The year 2013 has also marked a successful and natural transition for PEP from just a global network to a global think tank linking researchers and institutions worldwide. PEP has taken important steps towards institutionalizing and strengthening the network by establishing a global organization with a new board of directors. PEP has now evolved into a global partnership, with four regional partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America, collaborating to manage its activities worldwide. After carefully considering multiple options, the board of directors has also decided to establish the global head office for PEP in Nairobi, Kenya. These important steps have opened new opportunities for better positioning of PEP to make a major contribution to evolving global development priorities in the post-2015 period.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of local researchers, resource persons and all partners, PEP has achieved new heights during this past year and will continue to generate policy-relevant knowledge, training and support for developing country researchers to produce reliable evidence that will inform and shape policy debates. We thank the donors and our development partners for their continued support and look forward to working with you all during the coming years.

Bekele Shiferaw, PhD.
PEP Executive Director
Message from the chair of the board of directors

2013 has been a very productive and transformative year for PEP. The work undertaken across the three regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America provides strong testimony to the mission and vision of PEP as a global think tank that continues to link researchers and institutions to generate locally relevant policy solutions to solve local development challenges. The PEP teams successfully implemented several projects and made major contributions in building local capacity and informing development policy processes across developing countries. Many modest efforts initiated through competitive grants and collaborative research that links researchers from the low income counties with advanced research institutions have started showing tangible results.

The more enduring and sustainable contribution of PEP will continue to come from enhanced capacity and institution building in the developing regions where it operates.

PEP has made major contributions at different levels during the past decade since its emergence in 2002. Throughout this period, PEP has managed to understand: how partnerships work; how networks can be created and maintained; how policy research questions can be framed, building on a strong foundation of local perspectives; how formal and informal training and mentorship can be tailored to support young researchers; how policy engagement and dialogue can link evidence with action; and more importantly how development policy can benefit from providing greater voice to developing country researchers in articulating the problems and proposing locally relevant and innovative solutions. By the end of this first decade, besides celebrating the great achievements, there was a lot of looking back, evaluation and reflection on the progress made, an activity that has naturally led to better plans for the future.

PEP has decided to institutionalize and create a formally recognized organization. This is a natural development and transformation of the network and demonstrates the maturity and success of the partnerships which have deepened over the years. The board fully recognizes the important task at hand in transforming PEP into a fully functional think tank based on the networking and partnership model and is fully committed to supporting the process to ensure that the new organization will thrive and achieve its full potential. With the new structures put in place over this past couple of years, and the recruitment of a new and dynamic ED, PEP is well positioned to make significant contributions towards supporting the post-2015 development agenda.

Some people continue to question the relevance of policy research itself as policymakers often tend to overlook important recommendations. However, there are also many instances where governments have adopted misguided policies based on wrong advice or information which were not developed on the basis of careful analysis of the local context and political economy issues. As part of enhancing effectiveness of development programs, many countries are now asking for evidence-based approaches to decision-making. As countries demand new evidence, the best chance of success and effectiveness of policy research will therefore ultimately depend on the quality of the solutions proposed in addressing complex local development challenges. The local orientation and leadership of national researchers

Message from the chair of the board of directors

Word from the PEP team to thank its most valued pillar, Dr. John Cockburn

The PEP team wishes to take this opportunity to express its deepest gratitude to its beloved and highly regarded director of eleven years (2002-2013), John Cockburn, whose remarkable and tireless dedication has been both the fuel and the engine of PEP’s development into the global organization it is now.

As a development researcher, mentor and true leader, John’s work through PEP has revolutionized the concept and methods of research capacity building. It has made and preserved PEP’s core mission to help local researchers in developing countries meet the highest international standards, and contribute new perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.

We are delighted to be able to continue to count on his continuing support as a special advisor in the future.

PEP is indeed very serious about its mission, and the launching of the new research initiative on Policies Analysis of Growth and Employment (PAGE) has given it new opportunities to make a major contribution on how growth can contribute to inclusive development and job creation, especially for youth, women and the poor. We are excited about the results from the 25 projects supported during the first round in 2013 and other new research projects that will shed new insights on this complex issue. This will bring fresh and solid perspective to the policy debate.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I thank PEP, its management, its staff, all the partners and the donors for their commitment to promoting local capacity for policy analysis in support of better evidence and policies for inclusive growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development. But my deepest appreciation and encouragement go to the large number of contributing researchers, especially the younger ones, whose hard work, commitment and determination are at the core of PEP’s success and its bright future prospects. As a Board, we are proud to be part of PEP and its projects and to be able to support, in a modest way, your endeavors.

Mustapha K. Nabli
Chair, PEP Board of Directors
In 2013, PEP has been legally incorporated as non-profit international organization and has undergone significant structural changes to establish itself as a credible global think tank and organization, specializing in development policy research and capacity building.

As a legally incorporated entity, PEP is now well positioned to more systematically and efficiently act as a global think tank, for not only building but also for catalysing the expertise of these local researchers, to bring new perspectives and solutions for development challenges worldwide, based on rigorous empirical evidence.

This will contribute to ensuring long-term impact of this initiative, and thus of the financial support provided by DFID, IDRC and other donors.

PEP had initially emerged from a special research program implemented in 1990, by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada to examine the micro impacts of macroeconomics and adjustment polices (MIMAP).

In 2002, the two main institutions involved in this joint initiative, Université Laval in Canada and the Angelo King Institute of Philippines, took the lead in transforming PEP into an international network of developing country researchers and institutions and, subsequently, into a global research organization.

In 2013, PEP has been legally incorporated as non-profit international organization and has undergone significant structural changes to establish itself as a credible global think tank and organization, specializing in development policy research and capacity building.

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Along with and in the context of the incorporation process, a new Executive Director, Dr. Bekele Shiferaw was recruited, through a highly competitive selection process, and took office on October 1st, 2013. Dr. Shiferaw comes from the CGIAR system, where he has served in various capacities for over 12 years, including the position of Principal Development Economist and Director of the Socio-Economics Program since 2009 at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), based in Kenya.

Dr. Shiferaw is a Development and Resource Economist with research interests in economic modeling, analysis of poverty, food and nutritional security, markets and trade, impact assessment, and policies for environment and sustainable development. He received a Ph.D. degree in 1998 from the Department of Economics and Resource Management at the Agricultural University of Norway, and has won numerous awards and grants from major donors and published over 50 papers in professional journals, books and others.

A new PEP office was also established in Nairobi, Kenya, through a partnership agreement with a local (hosting) institution, ICIPE, where the new PEP Director operates from.

Based on a rigorous review of alternative locations and the decision of the new Board of Directors, PEP has initiated the process of establishing a global head office in Nairobi, Kenya.
Following institutionalization, the new pep.org is managed by an international board of directors composed of distinguished researchers – representing various stakeholders and independent global experts in economic policy and policy analysis – who provide oversight and guidance for the organization.

**Board of directors**

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*Ex officio member*  
PEP Executive Director  
Kenya
pep overview
The Partnership for Economic Policy is a non-profit international organization that links researchers globally to enhance capacity for development policy analysis in developing countries. PEP research contributes to informing national and international debates related to economic policy, poverty, gender, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

PEP focuses on supporting and promoting locally-based analytical perspectives and researchers to ensure greater participation of local expertise in defining contextualized policy solutions to socioeconomic development challenges. The ‘PEP Grant Plus’ mechanism enables developing country researchers to overcome the usual impediments in conducting state-of-the art and reliable policy research that supports evidence-based policymaking in their home countries.

However, with the continual support and interaction of world-leading experts and institutions – globally-linked through this venture – PEP has also become a veritable hub of expertise, knowledge and innovation in the field of economic and development policy analysis in developing countries.

As a reputed supra-national research institution, PEP also provides the necessary infrastructure for Southern experts to participate in (and bid for) major international initiatives; which, in turn, contributes to establishing their national and international reputations and level the playing field with their Northern counterparts. By catalyzing their in-depth knowledge of local contexts, PEP research favours new and more relevant perspectives on major development challenges worldwide.

Mission & vision

The vision of PEP is to contribute to inclusive growth and economic empowerment for a sustainable society and a world without poverty.

Its mission is to inform strategic decisions and enhance the capacity of local researchers to contribute evidence-based and contextualized policy solutions on key development policy challenges in developing countries.
Since 2002, PEP has evolved into a global partnership, with regional partner institutions based in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America, collaborating to manage its activities worldwide.

To this day, PEP has contributed to building the scientific expertise of over 600 developing country researchers, through the support of 195 projects in 54 developing and emerging economies – mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also in Eastern Europe and the Middle-East.

In 2013, over 9500 researchers and policy advocates had registered on the PEP website – i.e. to participate in and follow PEP news and activities – worldwide.

The geographic scope of PEP activities, combined with a "networking" type of organizational structure, provide a unique opportunity for locally-based, and usually isolated, Southern researchers to share and learn from experience with international peers.

These exchanges allow for the comparison of research results, conclusions and/or methodological applications among countries and regions, as well as for increased South-South knowledge transfers through greater interaction of both individuals and institutions.

In recent years, PEP has also expanded in terms of institutional networking and sources of funding, with a growing list of international donors – see the list on page 10 – and collaborators. Indeed, PEP initiatives around the world are usually implemented in collaboration with other academic and/or governmental institutions.
In recent years, PEP has become increasingly active in going beyond its core capacity building activities to promote and facilitate the mobilization of local experts in key national and international research initiatives.

These special, often large-scale projects – usually focused on emerging development policy issues – are conducted either through joint research initiatives, in collaboration with specific donors, and/or as commissioned studies deputed by national or international institutions.

In all cases, they are the result of institutions calling on PEP’s unique expertise and extensive experience in managing international projects of high-quality research, producing reliable evidence for policy advocacy, providing scientific support and/or building related local capacity.

Started with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, PEP is now a multi-donor funded international organization that receives support from a growing list of institutions. The list of these supporters includes:

- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom (UK Aid)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Several PEP initiatives have also been commissioned directly by national governments in developing countries, especially in Africa – including the governments of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Uganda.

In 2013, PEP has also created new linkages with several other international organizations - such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the MasterCard Foundation, the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the IDB Group, the World Bank, etc. Opportunities for new collaborative projects are currently being explored with these institutions for 2014.
Among the several peerless features of PEP is the **breadth of analytical perspectives, tools and techniques** in which PEP-affiliated experts and resource persons specialize – and that granted researchers can choose to apply and be trained via PEP support.

Several of these tools – which are acknowledged worldwide as some of the most valuable tools in the field of applied development research – have emerged directly from PEP research. They are based on extensive experience in the analysis of poverty, gender and economic development in the specific context of developing countries.

PEP currently has four global research programs that contribute to capacity building of developing country researchers, while producing locally relevant knowledge and an evidence base through different methodological approaches.

## Research programs

### Community-based welfare monitoring systems

Developing and implementing local poverty monitoring systems to track a variety of welfare indicators at the household level, collecting data that will provide detailed measurement of poverty in a multidimensional sense. Often implemented in collaboration with local government units, community-based monitoring systems (CBMS) provide low-cost and reliable information in the absence of comprehensive national statistical databases for assessing the extent of multidimensional poverty and identifying the poor.

### Macro-micro development policy modeling

Building and using economy-wide models as “laboratories” to simulate macro policies/shocks and their impacts on welfare at the household level. This program combines sophisticated techniques of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling and household survey-based microsimulation.

### Impact evaluations and RCTs

Using experimental or non-experimental approaches to provide rigorous assessments of the impacts – including both expected benefits and unintended effects – of programs and policies on a variety of outcomes. Impact evaluations can be done either *ex-ante* to assess the potential impacts, or *ex-post* to estimate the actual social gains after the program. Experimental approaches include the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

### Microeconomic analysis of poverty, equity and development

Designing and applying concepts, techniques and tools to measure and analyze development issues at the microeconomic level in a multidimensional setting, primarily using household survey data. Through this program, researchers are enabled to use complex monitoring and measurement techniques to build comprehensive “profiles” of the state of welfare or development amongst target populations, which are then used to inform policy decisions.
“Grant Plus” mechanism

helping local analysts meet the highest international standards

Once selected for support under the PEP program, and in addition to research funding, selected research teams are provided with training (PEP schools), resources (e.g. software tools, online journals, international databases, etc.) and mentoring (PEP resource person assigned to each project as mentor). They may also receive financial support for a 3-4 week international study travel at the institution of their choice.

The progress of each project’s research work is carefully monitored through ongoing interaction with PEP resource persons (experts in the relevant methods and policy issues) and periodic progress reports. Interim and final research reports are requested and each receives detailed comments and suggestions – often resulting in several revisions.

Thanks to this ongoing support and review mechanism, as well as to the continued support of world-renowned experts in development economics, the evidence produced in the context of PEP-supported research is guaranteed to meet the highest international standards of scientific rigor and quality – with the unique trait of systematically providing a locally-based analytical perspective.

Research themes and issues

Through these various approaches, PEP research can explore a broad range of policy issues related to development and poverty reduction, while producing comprehensive and disaggregated analyses to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of the evidence base.

The thematic coverage of PEP policy research has indeed widened over time, spanning several development policy challenges in support of broader social and economic development around the MDGs in the developing regions.

• Analysis of poverty and inequality
• Social protection
• Impact of government programs

• Gender & women’s empowerment
• Child well-being
• Impact of crises

• Inclusive growth
• Governance
• Globalization, markets and trade

• Education
• Labor markets
• Financial inclusion

• Food and nutrition
• Youth employment
• Fiscal policy

• Health
• Macro policy modeling and targeting
• Environment and sustainable development
In order to ensure policy responsiveness of PEP research, all PEP projects are designed in consultation with policymakers, stakeholders and/or advisors, who help identify the most salient needs and gaps in terms of the evidence base.

PEP also devotes extensive resources to assist its researchers in creating strong policy linkages and implementing effective influence strategies, especially at the national level. Each supported project team is expected to demonstrate that relevant policymakers and stakeholders are being informed and consulted with on a regular basis, all throughout the project cycle.

Moreover, as part of the PEP “Grant Plus” support program (see page 12), the research teams are provided with a series of complementary grants to organize or participate in activities related to the dissemination of their findings and ensuing policy recommendations. These activities include the organization of national policy conferences, contacting national mass media, presentations in relevant international conferences and various publications (working papers, policy briefs, journal articles, etc.).

In addition to ensuring dissemination of their research findings to inform policy, these activities contribute to increasing the researchers’ exposure, and thus building their reputation as experts in the field, at the national and international levels.
special initiatives and collaborations
In 2012, PEP started the PAGE initiative with support from the UK Department for International Development (UK Aid) and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The program was designed to support a series of locally-led projects of policy analysis for inclusive growth and employment in developing countries. This initiative draws on PEP’s global network and unique expertise/experience in building and promoting local capacities for economic and policy research.

In addition to capacity building, the PAGE initiative aims to fill current evidence gaps on growth and employment, through the application of cutting-edge methodologies for analysis of local policy issues in selected countries. The objective is to generate reliable evidence to assist in promoting inclusive growth through improved policies related to labour markets, social protection and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

To build and promote local capacities in target countries

In line with PEP’s core mission, the PAGE initiative includes an important “capacity building” component, and thus the selection of a number of teams of individual researchers, based in developing countries, to benefit from the unique and manifold PEP “Grant Plus” support program (see page 12) in the conduction of high quality research projects.

As described on page 12, this includes the allocation of various resources, the assignment of a PEP mentor, ongoing technical support, participation in an international study visit, as well as in an intensive training workshop (PEP School, see page 43) in relevant research methods and techniques.

Low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states

One particular feature of PAGE is that, although proposals are welcome from all developing countries, priority is given to researchers from and based in low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states (LFCs).

At least 40% of the PAGE projects will be led by research teams from these countries.
PAGE calls for proposals

PAGE research teams are being selected through a series of open and competitive calls for proposals, launched annually.

The first PAGE call for proposals was launched in September 2012, generating 169 submissions from 52 countries. A rigorous evaluation process resulted in the selection of 25 projects to be supported under the first round of PAGE funding (see list of projects on page 22). 16 of these projects are in LFCs.

The second PAGE call for proposals was launched in October 2013, and resulted in the submission of 144 project proposals, from 48 different countries. The evaluation process is currently ongoing and grantees will be selected in June 2014.

The third call for proposals will be launched in September 2014. Together, the second and third calls should lead to the support of some 45-50 additional research projects.

For the analysis of specific and country-relevant policy issues

In order to ensure the policy relevance and responsiveness of the PAGE projects, PEP has called upon a group of five policy specialists and stakeholders from different regions of the world (the PAGE policy group) to identify a list of priority issues that are especially relevant to address specific knowledge gaps and policy needs in terms of the evidence base.

Priority issues identified for the first two PAGE calls for proposals include:

- Providing social protection to the informal sector
- Safety net complementarities
- Youth employment and entrepreneurship
- Employment intensity of non-agricultural growth
- Entrepreneurial risk tolerance by gender
- Discrimination in credit access for female entrepreneurs
- China’s growth: opportunities and challenges for developing countries

For each of those priority issues, the PEP scientific program committee and resource persons have completed an exhaustive review of scientific literature (and provides lists of recommended readings), to help applicants design their project proposals.
Policy responsiveness and outreach

Amongst the main criteria for selection of those project proposals to be supported under the PAGE initiative, applicant research teams must clearly demonstrate that the research issues/questions:

- are responsive to specific needs in terms of evidence base to inform policymaking in the concerned country,
- have been identified following consultation with relevant national policy makers and stakeholders

The latter criterion ensures that all supported project teams have already established contact with the most strategic potential users of research and decision-makers, who are thus informed of the project and its objectives at the earliest stage (to maximize chances of collaboration and uptake). Similar consultations must also be scheduled, undertaken and reported periodically, as PEP staff monitors these activities closely, all throughout the project cycle.

As a result, all research teams selected in 2013, i.e. out of the first PAGE call for proposals, have been actively engaged in the implementation of effective policy outreach and influence strategies, involving the most relevant and strategic research users. Examples are provided from page 18 to 21.

In 2013, a total of 25 research projects were selected for support under the first round of the PAGE initiative, i.e., following the initial call for proposals launched in September 2012 – 16 of which are in low-income countries, fragile and/or conflict states (LFCs). These projects involve a total of 125 developing country researchers, 48% of whom are women and 62% based in LFCs.

The list of the 25 current PAGE projects is presented on page 22.
In Uganda, the issue of youth unemployment has become a priority in the national development agenda. Indeed, despite a number of interventions related to skills development, business and vocational training, implemented in recent years, it seems that the youth is still failing to access the available entrepreneurial opportunities.

In 2011/12, the ruling party in Uganda implemented a revised version of the Youth Venture Capital Fund (of UGX 25 billion). Made available through participating banks, this program aims to support growth of viable and sustainable SMEs (small and medium enterprises) owned by young (18-35 years) entrepreneurs. Despite relatively low conditionality (no requirement of collateral or education attainment) and thus high potential of accessibility, it appears that certain categories of youth, including those with adequate business skills training, remain hesitant to access this fund and exhibit low morale for business start-up and expansion.

This particular PEP-PAGE project seeks to examine the effect of risk tolerance on entrepreneurial choices of trained youth, with emphasis on their demand for business-expansion credit. More specifically, the research entails an experimental evaluation – involving a randomized controlled trial (RCT) – of the impact of “business and credit counselling” on a sample population (600) of eligible beneficiaries of the Youth Fund.

Since the very design of this evaluation project by the research team, the following institutions have been involved and/or consulted with to ensure responsiveness to specific policy needs in terms of the evidence base, and coordination with current practices:

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Enterprise Uganda
- Centenary Bank
- UNICEF-Uganda
- Uganda Investment Authority

Specific collaborative arrangements have been made, in particular, with UNICEF-Uganda, the Centenary Bank and Enterprise Uganda, to provide expertise and participate in the recruitment and counselling of participants. These institutions will, in turn, benefit from assimilation of techniques of experimental impact evaluations. Ultimately, it is expected that the research results will not only be used as a case study, but also contribute directly to informing policies of the Government’s Youth Unemployment Strategy.
CAMBODIA • Assessing the impacts of trade policies on inclusive growth, employment and poverty

Despite the fact that tariffs are an important source of revenues for the government, Cambodia has been moving towards increased trade liberalization since the 1990’s. Trade liberalization and economic integration into the region and the world is one of the top policy priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia. As stated in its National Strategic Plan (2009-2013), the ultimate goals of these policies are to create jobs, enhance economic growth, and reduce poverty.

This strategy has been elaborated in a number of Government policy frameworks and yet, there has been no evidence from in-depth analysis to support such policies, i.e. to measure the potential costs and benefits, especially in terms of growth and employment, of increased trade liberalization. Despite positive claims from the policy side, there is ongoing debate as to whether or not Cambodia may be ready for full trade liberalization; this, especially given its low-skills labour force and limited infrastructure.

The objective of this study is to quantify the impacts of Cambodia’s trade liberalization and related changes in fiscal policy – e.g. an increase in VAT and income tax, to offset tariff revenue loss – on growth, employment and poverty in the country. Through macro-micro policy simulations, the researchers seek to identify the policy options that would help maximize the benefits and minimize the costs, while preparing the country for full trade liberalization.

This research proposal was designed in consultation with researchers and advisors from the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), think tanks and other institutions at the national level (see listed below), whose inputs were used to shape the design of the project and, especially, to identify the specific evidence gaps to be filled.

Institutions/organizations involved in the consultation and dissemination activities of this project, at the national level, include:

- Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC)
- Ministry of Planning
- UNICEF-Cambodia; UNDP; NGO Forum in Cambodia
- Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs’ Association
- Cambodian Economic Association

The SNEC in particular, which is the top economic think tank for the Royal Government of Cambodia, is a highly strategic audience as it is the main and most influential institution in economic policymaking in Cambodia, with direct access to the Prime Minister. In the context of these consultations, moreover, UNICEF-Cambodia has expressed interest in contracting the research team to conduct child welfare analysis using the CGE model and related capacities built with PEP support through this project.
Low job creation and high unemployment are salient issues in Macedonia, where the youth unemployment rate of 55% remains persistently high. Amid global economic crisis, tightened credit conditions, lack of venture capital financing and a malfunctioning labour market, youth also tend to restrain their entrepreneurial aspirations and rarely risk new ventures.

Meanwhile, Macedonia receives remittances from outward migration to the tune of approximately 20% of GDP annually. The use of such income, however, remains largely unknown.

The “Action Plan for Employment of Youth 2015” recently adopted by the Government of Macedonia envisages inter alia promotion of entrepreneurship and related skills among young (15-29) workers, but does not refer to interconnections between remittances, youth labour supply and entrepreneurship. The idea of channelling remittances into productive use for steering employment had, in fact, been put forward by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy at the time, but the lack of evidence base prevented the formulation of such policy.

This particular research project was thus designed in order to address this specific gap/need, by examining if and how remittances may be used to support the entrepreneurial activities of unemployed youth in recipient households. The underlying question is whether remittances deal solely with short-term poverty relief – without providing the poor with the tools to exit poverty by their own means – or if they may potentially have a positive effect on entrepreneurship.

To produce a reliable assessment of the probability that a young person will enter self-employment if his/her household receive remittances, advanced techniques of microeconomic analysis are applied on nationally representative datasets.

The ultimate objective of this project is to provide clear policy recommendations in the fiscal, social, and labour market spheres, to help channel the large amount of remittances received in Macedonia into job creation or productive ventures for youth.

The various institutional affiliations and “contacts” of the research team members have allowed them to consult directly with the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, the Minister of Foreign Investment and the Governor of the National Bank of Macedonia, whose inputs have greatly contributed to the design of this project. A few meetings and round tables were organized to inform and discuss with representatives from these ministries/institutions, as well as from the Ministry of Finance. Ongoing interaction with these institutions will ensure broad and effective dissemination of its outcomes and ensuing recommendations in terms of policy options.

Finally, the research team members have also, and already, been invited to present their project and preliminary findings through various platforms, including both national and international conferences, newspaper reports and national TV shows.
Bolivia • Implementing a community-based monitoring system in Santa Cruz de la Sierra

Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, with relative prevalence of informal employment. Poverty extends to 45% of its population and the per capita income is 1,192 dollars. Informal workers, who are not usually covered by benefits from labour legislation, represent about 70% of the “employed” population. The government has put poverty reduction among the top priorities and local authorities have become key allies in the achievement of this goal.

Unfortunately, as in most developing countries, the lack of accurate information about socio-economic conditions of the poor, particularly at the local level, hinders development planning and programs, thus constraining the effort to monitor change.

Santa Cruz is the largest “departamento” of Bolivia, in terms of both GDP and population. Through a local institution (Fundacion ARU), the Santa Cruz government is currently using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in order to develop an information system that aims to enable decision-makers to: 1) diagnose and monitor changes in the extent of poverty at the local level, 2) to formulate appropriate plans and programs to address such problems, and 3) to guide their allocation of resources and targeting of prospective beneficiaries of social policies to be implemented in the future. The main research questions examined through this project revolve around the improvement of the design of social protection programs through: 1) the use of local information and participation, 2) the identification of risks among populations in the context of high informality, and 3) the design of effective social programs to reduce poverty and risks.

CBMS in Bolivia focuses on multidimensional indicators related to access to education, short term social security (health), long term social security (pensions), adequate housing, basic services and nutrition. It also seeks to identify different mechanisms of social protection, risks, and circumstances that characterize households, especially those associated with informal employment, both urban and rural. These include: 1) sources and characteristics of risk; 2) social risk management strategies, including prevention strategies, mitigation and coping strategies; and 3) social risk management arrangements, including informal arrangements, market-based arrangements and public arrangements. These indicators will be used to build a comprehensive framework on risk management and improve social protection strategies for the informal sector. For instance, the analyses can be extended to indigenous groups in the community.

CBMS data collection is achieved through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), and via the use of tablets. In this way, efficiency in data capture is enhanced while maintaining data quality by “embedded statistical validation”, instead of post-interview validation. Furthermore, the use of global positioning systems (GPS) is expected to streamline digitization of household location. The resulting database will be hosted on a server and allow for consultations on a website developed for this purpose. The CBMS research team also plans to adopt the CBMS Statistics Simulator (STATSIM), to be used by local governments to generate local-level statistics.
**Projects supported under the first round of the PAGE initiative**

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Community-based welfare monitoring systems

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Selection of the PAGE projects

These 25 projects were selected following presentations of finalist proposals from the first PAGE competition, during the 2013 PEP general meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (May 3-10); see more on this event on page 37. The list of grantees was announced and research work began in June 2013. By the end of the year, most teams had already produced and even published their interim research reports.

The second PAGE call for proposals was launched in October 2013, and generated yet another encouraging response of 144 research teams, submitting new project proposals from 48 different countries. After several rounds of rigorous evaluation, the finalists will be invited to present their project during the 2014 PEP annual conference and general meetings, to be held in Bolivia.
Other initiatives and collaborations

Building on ten years of experience and a unique network of development experts around the world, PEP has, in recent years, been increasingly called upon – by a number of international organizations, donor institutions and/or national government agencies – to coordinate research and/or capacity building initiatives around the world.

In addition to PAGE, PEP was also leading other initiatives in 2013, including:

Long-term partnership agreement to support UNICEF’s work on social policy and social protection reform in the MENA region

In 2012, PEP was selected, amongst several international bidders, to sign a long-term partnership agreement with the Regional Office of UNICEF-MENA (Middle East and North Africa), through which it committed to provide a variety of relevant services in support of UNICEF’s work on social policy and social protection reform in the region.

This agreement allows UNICEF to utilize PEP’s multi-faceted expertise and services, as well as to tap into PEP’s pool of international leading experts, to help fulfill its mandate of addressing the paucity of knowledge, local expertise and research engagement around child welfare issues in MENA countries. This shall, in turn, help UNICEF to promote evidence-based policymaking in favour of child well-being.

The agreed partnership encompasses different types of activities, to help achieve different UNICEF objectives in terms of research, capacity building and networking in the region:

- Analysis of policy alternatives to enhance equity for children in the context of the reform of fuel subsidies. Three different country studies are currently ongoing:
  - Policy alternatives to enhance equity for children in the context of the reform of energy/electricity subsidies – in Egypt and Jordan
  - Assessing the impact of subsidy reforms on living conditions of vulnerable and middle class populations (and children) in Morocco, and policy responses to mitigate the negative effects

- Organization of a regional training course on “Multidimensional Child Poverty and Inequality Measurement”
  - The course was held in Cairo, Egypt, from March 9 to 15, 2013. Participants were selected by UNICEF Offices in MENA countries, as strategic representatives of decision-makers and government partners who can help influence and implement policies in favour of child welfare in the region. They were provided with hands-on training to work on conceptual and methodological issues related to child poverty and inequity, as well as to enhance their analytical skills, emphasizing how a focus on children can strengthen existing monetary and multidimensional approaches to poverty measurement.
Following the participation of Chadian economists in a PEP school held in Dakar in 2010, the Ministry of Finance and Budget of the Republic of Chad requested the assistance of PEP in further strengthening its institutional capacity in the use of CGE modeling and simulation techniques.

A team of PEP resource persons, and world-leading experts in the field of economic modelling, were thus engaged to train and assist several of the Ministry’s economists in building a CGE model for the economy of Chad – from the collection of basic statistical data to the analysis of final simulations results – while strengthening their capacity in the use of related techniques.

The assistance was provided, by the PEP team, through both field visits and ongoing distance support to the local economists involved. An intensive training workshop was also held during one of the PEP field visits in N’Djamena, from October 21 to November 1, 2013, at the country office of the Bank of Central African States.

Funding for this initiative was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and an extension is currently envisaged to not only provide further advanced training within the government of Chad, but also to implement a similar initiative in other African countries.

**CBMS special initiatives in 2013**

**Development of Mobile Data Capture System**

The CBMS Network, in collaboration with the College of Computer Studies of the De La Salle University–Manila, developed the CBMS APP (Accelerated Poverty Profiling) in 2013. Built to fast track the generation of CBMS results to serve as timely inputs in local development planning and budgeting, the CBMS APP 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 CBMS APP 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 new system is expected to enhance data collection procedures and data quality.
Collaboration with the FAO on food security in the context of climate change in the Philippines

Another research initiative was carried out in 2013 by the CBMS network team, in support of an FAO program for the “Assessment of Climate Change Impacts, and Mapping of Vulnerability to Food Insecurity under Climate Change to Strengthen Household Food Security with Livelihoods Adaptation Approaches” (AMICAF). Initiated in 2012, the objective of this collaboration was to analyze the impacts of climate change on food security in the Philippines. In 2013, the CBMS team estimated some models of food insecurity among households, which were presented in a series of FAO workshops in Manila. The project is expected to be completed by June, 2014.

Collaboration with the ADB to assess the impact of remittances on entrepreneurship

This is a technical collaboration between the PEP-CBMS network, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which generally aims to examine how overseas remittances contribute to local development, using household-level data from selected CBMS sites and national surveys, in the Philippines.

In particular, the project examines the nature and extent of impacts of overseas remittances to improvements in development conditions at the local level, as well as to provide empirical evidence, at the micro level, on the relationship between overseas remittances and entrepreneurship development. Moreover, it examines how entrepreneurship development among communities, brought about by overseas remittances, can affect human development outcomes. The CBMS team prepared a report on their findings, which was submitted to the ADB at the end of 2013.

Subnational MDG Reports

Funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a new technical collaboration was established by the PEP Asia/CBMS network to build capacity of local government authorities of seven provinces and three cities in the Philippines, in the systematic measurement, monitoring and reporting on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The initiative was implemented in pursuit of the three following objectives: (i) to track the status on the attainment of the MDGs in the identified provinces and cities; (ii) to assist these provinces and cities in preparing their MDG Reports; and (iii) to increase local awareness on how these reports can bridge local and national development strategies. The “subnational MDG Reports” (see page 48) also feature each local government’s best practices in achieving these goals.
Past initiatives

While several new initiatives are expected to be launched in 2014, the following table presents a list of previous collaborations that were implemented, with a number of international partners, up to 2012.

**AusAID**
Simulating the distributive impacts of different growth strategies in China, Pakistan and the Philippines

**AusAID – CIDA – IDRC – IFPRI**
Analyzing the impacts of the global financial crisis on poverty and appropriate policy responses in developing countries

**EEPSEA**
CBMS support in generating vulnerability index and maps at the village level to assist local government units in preparing appropriate plans and programs to address evolving pressures on the environment particularly that of climate change.

**IFPRI**
African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modeling Consortium

**ILO**
Using CBMS to monitor and analyze child labor conditions in the Philippines

**UNICEF**
Assessing the impacts of the global financial crisis and appropriate policy responses for children in West and Central Africa
Assessing the impact of a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) program in rural Mali
Simulations of fiscal space and public spending on children in Burkina Faso
Child situational analyses in Uganda and Burkina Faso

**UNDP**
Strengthening capacities for poverty and social impact analysis in sub-Saharan Africa
CBMS Development Grant Program in the Philippines
Using CBMS for localizing the MDGs
CBMS: Monitoring household coping strategies during complex crises and recovery (also with UNICEF)
policy findings
Several papers were published in 2013, documenting the results of research projects that were supported through multiple initiatives, and under the different PEP research programs. All of these peer-reviewed publications are made available on the PEP website and listed in section VIII of this report (see pages 46 to 50). This section highlights the policy implications of these studies, presenting only a selected sample of papers from different regions/programs.

Assessing the impact of government programs on a variety of development outcomes: education, labor, poverty, health, etc.

China • The Impact of a senior high school tuition relief program on poor junior high school students in rural China

While considerable progress has been made in terms of universal education in China over the past 20 years, a significant gap remains between rural and urban areas in rates of admission of students to senior high school, in several parts of the country. In 2010, a team of Chinese researchers were granted PEP support to conduct a quasi-experimental evaluation in order to assess the impact of a tuition relief program – proposed for implementation by the local government of Ningshan Country in Shaanxi province – on the performance of poor, rural students at the junior high school level.

Hence, the researchers assessed the potential effectiveness of the proposed program in encouraging students with initially more limited prospects, to exert stronger efforts while preparing for senior high school. The results were quite positive and the researchers have actively recommended the uptake of this strategy as a complementary measure to strengthen human capital development in poor rural areas of China.

Publications
Working paper 2013-03 * Policy brief 110
Authors
Xinxin Chen, Chunlei Lang, Lijuan Guo, Pingping Gu, and Shaoqing Zheng

China • Assessing the impact of the “Land of Love: Water Cellar for Mothers” program in Western China

In Western China – particularly in the poverty- and drought-stricken countryside of the region – women have been left as the main workforce, while male labourers have flocked to cities as a result of China’s social transformation. A project called “Land of Love: Water Cellar for Mothers” was implemented in order to address the comparatively serious water scarcity in these areas. In this study, a group of local researchers wanted to assess the impacts of this water storage (cellar) project on the welfare of the affected populations.

Two waves of household surveys were conducted – one prior to installation of a water storage facility, and a second wave after installation – to assess not only the effects on household welfare, but also the transmission channels. The results show that these effects include not only an increase in household incomes, but also significant increases in women’s labour supply.

Publications
Working paper 2013-16
Authors
Liguo Lin, Di Zhao, Lan Yao, Quansheng Yu, and Xin Yu
In this project, a team of researchers in Senegal set out to assess the impact of an experimental school feeding (canteen) program on the performance of pupils in rural primary schools. Some 120 schools were selected in rural areas where the program had not yet been implemented. Half of these schools were assigned to receive the program (treatment group) and the other half, not (control group).

This randomized controlled trial enabled the researchers to observe the actual effect of their feeding program on the students’ scores, on the schools’ rates of (grade) repetition and dropouts, as well as on other external, potentially unintended effects. The evidence produced by the team showed significant positive impact of the program on several aspects of schools’ and students’ performance, not to mention on the students’ nutrition.

**Publications**

**Working paper 2013-14**

**Authors**

Abdoulaye Diagne, Mouhamadou Moustapha Lo, Fatoumata L. Diallo, Ibrahim O. Sadou, Amen T. Dovoedo and Marème N. Faye

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**Simulating the distributive impacts of macro shocks and policies**

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

Agricultural activities have been and remain key for sustained growth and pro-poor development in Ethiopia. However, Ethiopia has underutilized its irrigation capacities as well as its abundant human resources. This particular study aimed at measuring the impact of public investment in small-scale irrigation and training for farmers on growth and agriculture-led development, on food security, and on poverty in Ethiopia - in line with the current five-year development strategy of the government.

A team of local researchers used a dynamic CGE model (part of the family of PEP standard CGE models) to capture the likely impacts of public irrigation investment. The simulation results show that the Ethiopian government strategy regarding agriculture sector development has great potential for reducing poverty and food insecurity, and that investing in training and irrigation could make a major contribution towards achieving the MDGs.

**Publications**

**Working paper 2013-02**

**Authors**

Lulit Mitik Beyene, Befekadu Behute, Ermias Engida and Zelealem H. Haile

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30
India • Modeling health in a CGE framework: a case study of India

It is estimated that, despite considerable investment in this priority sector, public health infrastructure in India – which includes over 150,000 facilities – can serve no more than 20% of the Indian population. There have been numerous attempts to understand and analyze the underlying causes for the failure of past health policies – most of which focused on the role of public and private institutions in the provision of health care. This particular research, however, aimed to identify the role that households play in determining their health status, as well as the macroeconomic and economy-wide effects that such decisions can generate.

The researchers simulate three scenarios where health is either fully financed by the government, one where urban households pay for half of their health expenditures, or an extreme scenario where health care costs are entirely borne by households. They simulate these situations in a context of complete liberalization, i.e. 100-percent tariff reductions in every sector. The poverty results highlight three important features of the impact of liberalization. First, full subsidization of health services reduces poverty in both rural and urban areas. Second, partial withdrawal of government subsidies in urban areas increases poverty. Third, full withdrawal of subsidies will increase poverty in both areas with stronger effects in urban areas but also leading to lower rural wages that increase rural poverty.

Among major conclusions, the work finds that complete subsidization of health reduces overall disparity by favoring rural households over urban. Withdrawal of the health subsidy leads to domestic reallocation of poverty, pushing down the wage rates in agricultural sector, the mainstay of rural households.

Publications
Working paper 2013-07

Authors
Nitesh Sahay, John Cockburn and Mitu Pathak

Lao, PDR • Resource boom, growth and poverty in Laos: evidence of Dutch Disease effects

In recent years, activities related to the exploitation of natural resources in Laos have boomed, especially in the mining sector, accompanied by large inflows of foreign capital. In this particular project, a team of local researchers sought to quantify the potential impact of the Laos resource boom on poverty in the country, while looking for evidence of Dutch disease effects in the national economy.

Dutch disease effects include (a) a decrease in the price competitiveness, and thus the exports, of manufactured and other tradable goods, and (b) an increase in imports of food and other basic commodities, which together can contribute to jobs being moved to lower-cost countries.

The end result is that non-resource industries are hurt by the increase in wealth generated by the resource-based industries. Using CGE modeling and simulation techniques, the researchers found that the rapid expansion of the mining sector is also linked to a decline in output, value added and consumption of agricultural production and government services, reflecting the general movement of production factors usually associated with Dutch disease effects. Based on their findings, the researchers propose a set of specific policy responses and strategies to avoid worsening of the Dutch disease effects.

Publications
Working paper 2013-05
Policy brief 104

Authors
Phouphet Kyophilavong, Chanthachonh Senesouphap and Somnack Yawdhacksa
In this study, a team of local researchers in Pakistan used a combination of CGE modeling and microsimulation techniques to simulate the impacts of a 4% increase of the “public infrastructure investment (PII) to GDP” ratio – in line with the intent document in the Planning Commission’s Framework for Economic Growth – on several aspects of the national economy. The simulations were conducted using two different scenarios of financing mechanisms: first assuming an increase in public spending financed through international borrowing, and second assuming public spending financed through taxation (production tax revenues).

The analysis shows that, in the long run, regardless of the selected financing mechanism (tax or international loan) increased investments in public infrastructure could lead to macroeconomic gains and improvements in poverty levels.

**Publications**
- Working paper 2013-01
- Policy brief 114

**Authors**
- Vaqar Ahmed, Ahsan Abbas, Saira Ahmed and Muhammed Zeshan

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**A multidimensional analysis of the sources, nature and consequences of poverty and inequality**

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**China • Wage and income inequalities among Chinese rural-urban migrants from 2002 to 2007**

Since 1988, rural-to-urban migration has become an important social and economic phenomenon in China. Along with the rapid economic growth and urbanization, a significant proportion of the country’s rural population has joined this internal movement or exodus, seeking for better life prospects in China’s booming cities. Despite its importance, however, this particular segment of the population (rural-urban migrants) is almost invisible in most Chinese official statistics. With support from PEP, a team of Chinese researchers set out to identify and study the levels and changes in wage earnings and inequality among Chinese rural-urban migrants, from 2002 to 2007.

The team managed to build a unique dataset that allowed them to document and analyze the changes in wage inequality among both migrants and urban residents. From the analysis of this dataset, the researchers find that, over this five-year period, wage inequality among migrants decreased significantly, whereas it increased among urban natives. They also find that migrants initially identified as having higher wages experienced slower wage growth than low- and middle-wage migrants.

**Publications**
- Working paper 2013-04
- Policy brief 107

**Authors**
- Zhong Zhao, Juan Liao, Ke Zhang and Zhaopeng Qu
Initially implemented at the end of the 1990s, the development of CBMS at sites in Burkina Faso has resulted in the production of reliable and comprehensive poverty data, while fostering the participation and empowerment of village communities in the process. The local CBMS research team has recently conducted a study using data collected through these sites (covering nearly 144,000 people), and which revealed high prevalence in infant and child mortality within these areas/populations.

Children living in the communes of Yako, Diébougou and Koper, in particular, were found to be living in precarious conditions, with high concern for their health and sanitation status. Households in these three communes also experience food insecurity, with most suffering from severe hunger. Moreover, the study shows that, during periods of shocks or crises, children are being drawn out of school to curb the effects of these crises.

Considering the relevance, accessibility and usefulness of the data provided by CBMS, the local administration officials have acknowledged the relevance of CBMS as an operational tool for local poverty monitoring and targeting their development priority needs. In many cases, this data was used to assist in development planning, as well as in support of advocacy efforts with government ministries and donors for budget allocation.

Meanwhile, the CBMS Burkina Faso Team continues to provide technical assistance to local communities in strengthening implementation and use of CBMS in Burkina Faso. In 2013, the team was awarded another research grant from the PEP CBMS network, for the implementation of a new project in which the CBMS methodology will be used to examine the provision of social protection for the informal sector.
Poverty and Social Impact Analysis - PSIA

In 2010, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) agreed to support a PEP-led capacity building initiative for "strengthening local capacities for Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) in developing countries".

The general aim of the PEP-UNDP PSIA initiative was to enable local experts to produce high-quality ex-ante and ex-post assessments of the impacts of public policies, reforms and interventions on the distribution of welfare. This was achieved through a series of training programs and customized technical support to a team of researchers in ten (10) countries to conduct individual country analyses, half of which were completed and published in 2013 – as listed below.

Armenia • A poverty and social impact analysis of EU-Armenia trade liberalization

This PSIA research team set out to assess socioeconomic and poverty impact of increased trade liberalization between Armenia and the EU, within the framework of Eastern Partnership initiative. To assess the complete and comprehensive impact of trade liberalization with the EU on Armenia’s economy, the team applied an updated CGE model of the Armenian economy. Results show that a simple free trade agreement or tariff liberalization will not result in significant socioeconomic benefits for Armenia. The trade liberalization with the EU may lead to a comparatively small 0.5% reduction in poverty. These results are based on the hypothesis that EU standards and technical regulations will not be compulsory in all sectors of production and foreign trade of Armenia. Analysis of an alternative scenario of a 10% rise in prices indicated a rapid increase in poverty (7.1%). This suggested that steps to implement deeper non-trade regulations in compliance with the EU standards may come with certain risks of price rises, and should therefore be managed carefully. The study concludes that while regional economic integration of Armenia with the EU is of great importance to long-term development of the country, it will only be economically justifiable and generate a positive social impact if the process that leads to such integration is based on development and harmonization of the capacities of domestic producers and enterprises. Therefore, the policy priority should move away from trade liberalization and towards industrial development.

Publications PEP working paper 2013-15
Authors Mushegh Tumasyan, Karine Harutyunyan, Yelena Manukyan and Armen Grigorian

Ukraine • A poverty and social impact analysis of increased natural gas prices and selected social guarantees in Ukraine

Ukraine has been generously subsidizing the prices of gas and other energy sources used by urban and rural households. However, reduced energy prices leads to excessive use of gas and an inefficient level of investment into energy savings. In addition, Ukraine’s dependence on imported gas contributes to trade imbalances and growing pressure on the devaluation of the national currency, and thus the issue of raising gas prices remains critical for the country. In 2010, the Government of Ukraine announced an ambitious reform agenda, including a hike in gas prices as a means to restore economic growth.

Such policy, however, was bound to have unprecedented impact on the welfare of the population. To evaluate the impact of the increase in gas prices on the welfare of households, a team of local researchers employed a CGE model of Ukraine with a microsimulation approach where information about households’ expenditure and income patterns from national household surveys is integrated into the CGE model. Based on the analyses, the researchers draw two major conclusions. First, increases in gas prices result in welfare losses in all household categories, with a more profound impact on urban households. Second, the current social welfare programs are not very efficient in targeting the poorest households. The researchers thus conclude that a reform of the social welfare system is required to ensure a safety net for poor households in times of gas price hikes, and provide further suggestions to policy.

Publications PEP working paper 2013-12
Authors Oleksandra Betliy, Veronika Movchan and Mykola Pugachov
**Benin • Microfinance, poverty and the empowerment of women**

This study sought to assess the impact of microcredit on the empowerment of female-headed households in Benin, using statistical (propensity score matching) techniques. The results show that access to microcredit can have a positive and significant impact on women’s empowerment, especially amongst the poorest groups. In particular, the findings suggest that, in addition to higher income, improved access to microcredit contribute to such empowerment through significant and direct impact on the improvement of women’s “social responsibilities and living conditions”, as well as their “cultural rights and participation”. However, the effects on the improvement of their “political engagement and rights” are limited. The researchers thus recommend that policies seeking to contribute to women’s empowerment should promote access to financial and capital assets, but with complementary measures in favour of greater female participation in both political and economic governance institutions.

**Publications**  
PEP working paper 2013-13

**Authors**  
Dieudonné Bleossi Dahoun, Olivier Manlan, Cosme Vodonou, Saint-Martin Mongan, Damien Mededji and Janvier P. Alofa

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**Uganda • Universal Primary Education in Uganda: equity of opportunities and human capital investment**

This project sought to assess the effectiveness of Uganda’s Universal Primary Education (UPE) program since it was first introduced in 1997, by examining factors driving primary school attendance, grade delay and dropout trends, for children between the ages of 6 and 12, from 1992/3 to 2009/10. The team used panel survey data with descriptive and econometric analysis to analyze the impact of UPE. A mixed-effects logistic regression model with both fixed and random effects was used to estimate variations in the probability of primary school attendance within each district. The findings reveal that primary school attendance has been progressive over time and, in recent years, pro-poor, in the sense that the poorest households have increasingly become its major beneficiaries. However, both demand- and supply-side factors affecting the provision and use of primary education still stand in the way of achieving optimal and equitable participation from UPE. The analysis also suggests that interventions targeting the poor, as well as the poorer parts of the country, could yield considerable additional benefits in terms of greater pro-poor outcomes and inclusiveness of the UPE policy.

**Publications**  
PEP working paper 2013-17

**Authors**  
Jean-Yves Duclos, Angela Kiconco, Sebastian Levine, Joseph Enyimu, Alex Warren Rodriguez and Albert Musisi
conferences and training
During the 10th edition of its general meetings – held in Cape Town (South Africa) from May 2 to 10, 2013 – PEP succeeded once again in gathering quite a large attendance – of 130 developing country researchers, international development experts and practitioners, donor institutions, etc. from 37 countries around the world – to discuss issues, challenges and opportunities related to development research, policy analysis and advisory work.

The event's main features included intensive training workshops, presentation of new project proposals and high-level conference panels.

**Selection of the first PAGE projects**

The main purpose of the PEP general meeting per se was to complete the final evaluation and selection of those projects to be supported under the first round the PAGE program (see pages 22-23).

Representatives from 28 contending research teams (a total of 49 researchers) from 22 developing countries presented and discussed their research proposals (issues and methods) with an audience of peers and PEP-affiliated international experts during a series of parallel sessions held on May 8-9. These group presentations were followed by individual meetings between PEP resource persons and contending researchers, for the latter to receive more direct and personalized guidance.

**Advanced training in PEP research methods and tools**

Preceding these sessions of presentations and research review, PEP took advantage of such a gathering of developing country researchers to provide a series of (parallel) intensive training workshops – from May 2 to 6 – in the different research methods, techniques and tools to be applied in the context of their (respective) proposed studies.

Specifically, training was provided in techniques related to three of the PEP core methodologies (or research programs – see page 11):

- impact evaluations – using randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
- macro-micro policy modelling – using computable general equilibrium (CGE) models, and
- microeconomic analysis – including the application of various microeconometric measures
High-level discussion panels around policy issues related to PEP research

The final and not least feature of the PEP general meeting was a series of panels (held on May 9-10), through which several international experts discussed a variety of policy issues, needs and implications related to the themes and analytical perspectives promoted through PEP research, particularly in the context of the PAGE program.

Methods of policy assessment; contributions, challenges and complementarities

The purpose of the first panel, organized in collaboration with the International Development Research Center (IDRC), was to bring together different perspectives on how three of PEP’s core research programs, or methodologies (i.e. CBMS, macro-micro policy simulations and impact evaluation) have been used concretely to inform and influence policy and what policymakers and program implementations have gained from each of these different types of research.

Three researchers who have been actively using one of the methodologies AND involved in the process of informing subsequent policymaking, shared their perspectives and reflected on the main strengths and weaknesses of their respective approaches for policy research.

PAGE priority themes

In the context of the PAGE program, PEP has innovated by convening a group of international experts – all closely involved in the policy elaboration process in national governments and international development banks – to define a series of specific policy research issues to be examined by the PAGE-supported research projects.

The objective of this second plenary session was to allow these experts to argue the importance of these issues for economic and social development throughout out the developing world, and discuss how research can contribute to amassing an empirical evidence base for elaborating effective policy recommendations.

Women’s economic empowerment and growth; opportunities, challenges and policy implications

Organized jointly with the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE), this panel discussion was among the series of consultative events leading up to IDRC’s launch of a new research program, entitled “Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women” (GROW). It brought together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to look at why women’s economic empowerment has become a global agenda item, what researchers have learned, what knowledge gaps remain, and how to translate research into policy.

The five panelists invited to reflect on these questions are international experts engaged with the broad questions about women’s empowerment, from differing perspectives.
Over 500 participants, 70% of whom came from local government units (LGUs) all over the Philippines, attended the 9th CBMS National Conference held on January 22-24, 2013 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. Held under the theme “Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability: Focus on a Brighter Future,” the various conference sessions tackled key issues related to:

- Poverty and the Environment
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation
- Meeting the Millennium Development Goals
- Improving Local Level Statistics, and
- Fostering Local Entrepreneurship and Development.

The session on “Poverty and the Environment” is the one that elicited the most interest among participants. The session drew on the experience of several communities that host mining and hydropower-generating industries, and how they are utilizing their share of the national wealth to curb poverty incidence in their areas.

Discussions highlighted the main issues and implications of the issuance of the Executive Order 79 (from the Aquino Administration) that aims to boost government’s revenues from the mining sector, while increasing environmental safeguards. Such issues include 1) delays in the releases of the LGU share from the national wealth, which have dire consequences on local planning and budgeting processes; 2) addressing the growing dependency on extractive industry revenues by diversifying the productive enterprises, and 3) enhancing LGU and household coping mechanisms.

Among those highlights of the conference, were:

- the launch of “The Many Faces of Poverty–Volume 4,” featuring statistical tables and poverty maps, generated through the CBMS methodology. These tables and maps are used to identify and locate the poor in several cities of the Philippines, while providing a comprehensive picture of the different faces of poverty.

- the presentation of the 2nd CBMS Special LGU Awards for best CBMS Enumerator Uniform, best CBMS Household Sticker, best CBMS Photo and Documentation, and best CBMS Advocacy Video.
Several high-level keynote speakers emphasized the critical importance and contributions of CBMS in achieving inclusive growth and expanding employment opportunities for the poor.

- **Arsenio M. Balisacan**, Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), stated that data generated from CBMS have contributed to the design of several official development, investment and poverty reduction plans – including the Social Contract of the President and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP). Secretary Balisacan added that CBMS has capacitated government authorities to closely monitor the progress in achieving the country’s MDGs.

- **Jose Eliseo Rocamora**, Secretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, highlighted the gains made through CBMS in providing indispensable local-level information for program implementation and policymaking.

- **Brother Ricardo P. Laguda FSC**, President of De La Salle University-Manila, expressed pride in the broad range of partnerships that the PEP CBMS Network Office has forged with local governments, national government agencies, private organizations, policymaking groups, development planners, and stakeholders. “It is through partnerships with government and the other sectors of society that academic institutions are able to achieve a marriage between theory and practice,” he said.

The conference was organized by the PEP Asia-CBMS Network Office of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University-Manila, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Anti-Poverty Commission, NEDA, and the League of Provinces of the Philippines. It was also organized with the support of the International Development Research Centre, the Department for International Development, the Angelo King Foundation, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
Dissemination of pep research findings worldwide

All PEP-supported research teams are provided with guidance and support to communicate their findings effectively, through a variety of platforms and to the widest possible audience, both nationally and internationally.

National policy conferences

To facilitate effective dissemination and policy influence at the national level, PEP provides financial and logistical support for researchers to organize policy conferences in strategic location within their home countries, through which they can directly communicate their PEP research findings to an audience of policy makers, advisors and other stakeholders.

Moreover, as these events are often widely publicized in national mass media (radio, television, press), the researcher’s findings and recommendations are thus transmitted to the general public as well, enhancing chances to exert influence over policy decisions.

Example of dissemination and impact of PEP research at national level

Cameroon, March 2013

Local PEP researchers inform national leaders of the links between productivity of the informal sector and poverty reduction

On March 6, 2013, a group of local researchers in Cameroon presented the results from a PEP-supported research project, during a national policy seminar held in the capital of Yaoundé, and entitled “Productivity of the informal, non-agricultural sector and poverty reduction in Cameroon”.

A total of 70 participants attended the event, which was widely covered by national media – including radio and television reports/interviews. Apart from scholars and academics from various research institutes and universities in the country, the audience included policy makers and stakeholders from several national government agencies – including the Ministries of Economy and Planning, of Labor and Social Protection, of Employment and Vocational Training, of Public Markets – as well as representatives from regional/international institutions – the Bank of Central African States, ILO – and the private sector.

Following the event, one of the PEP research team members (Pierre Joubert Nguetse) received acknowledgements and congratulations from high-level officials of the Ministry of Economy and Planning, where he worked, and was appointed Chief of the National Development Strategy Unit – i.e. to lead the design of this strategy. Sometime during the course of the PEP project, the team leader (Justin Bem) had also been recruited by the Bank of Central African States.

Moreover, based on previous consultations with the team, the Ministry of Finance and Budget has implemented a “guarantee fund”, similar to that suggested in their study’s recommendations, but for the small and medium enterprises rather than for the informal sector as recommended.
Presentations at international conferences

In acknowledgment of their expertise, many PEP researchers are invited, often with PEP funding, to present their work in international academic and policy conferences around the world. Through these activities, as well as via PEP general meetings and networking experience, researchers benefit from increased international exposure and credibility as development policy experts.

In 2013, for example, special sessions were reserved for a series of presentations from PEP researchers during:

- two major national academic conferences in Canada – the 47th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economic Association, held in Montreal (May 30 - June 2) and the 53rd Annual Congress of the Société canadienne de science économique, held in Quebec City (May 15-17). In both cases, PEP hosted special sessions on development economics.
- the 14th Annual Conference of the Global Development Network (GDN), held at the Asian Development Bank headquarters (June 19-21) in Manila, Philippines, on the theme of “Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth”
- the 16th Annual GTAP Conference on Global Economic Analysis, held in Shanghai, China (June 12-14), on the theme of “New Challenges for Global Trade in a Rapidly Changing World.

In both the GDN and GTAP conferences, the PEP sessions were entitled “Investing in Public Infrastructure: An Effective Inclusive Growth Strategy?”, and featured presentations of three country studies supported through a special PEP program funded by AusAID in 2011-12.
As an organization that focuses mainly on strengthening research capacities in the South, PEP has naturally developed a unique expertise in providing training workshops that can be adapted to a variety of needs and contexts.

The “PEP Schools” are a series of programs that provide intensive, advanced and flexible training in the understanding and promotion of social and economic development. PEP School participants learn how to apply the most recent concepts, techniques and tools in development economics to help design effective national growth and poverty reduction strategies in their respective countries.

Courses are conducted by PEP-affiliated world leading experts in each of the methodologies fostered in PEP research – see the PEP toolbox on page 7 – and usually tailored for country-specific applications, in order to maximize engagement and benefits for local recipients.

PEP School are provided in all regions of the world, often at the request of and in collaboration with local host institutions, or in the context of specific PEP initiatives.
March 9-15 - Cairo, Egypt
  Multidimensional child poverty and inequality measurement
  Regional training course in the context of a PEP-UNICEF long-term partnership agreement (see page 24), organized in collaboration with UNICEF-MENA

May 2-6 – Cape Town, South Africa
  Experimental impact evaluation using randomized controlled trials
  Macro-micro policy simulations using computable general equilibrium (CGE) models
  Macroeconomic measurement and analysis
  Series of parallel training workshops provided in the context of the 10th PEP general meeting, for researchers to be supported under the first round of the PAGE program

June 3-21 – Quebec, Canada
  Development policy modeling (June 3-7)
  Understanding the macro-micro linkages of policy and development (June 10-14)
  Dynamic impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks (June 17-21)
  Series of consecutive training courses provided in the context of an Intensive Graduate Schools in Development Economics, organized in collaboration with Université Laval

June 25-27 – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
  Evaluation of public policies
  Special course held in the context of PEP support to IFPRI’s African Growth Development Policy (AGRODEP) Modelling Consortium, for selected participants

September 23-27 – Quezon City, Philippines
  Training for trainers on updated CBMS modules
  The PEP Asia/CBMS coordinating team held an intensive training workshop on the updated CBMS training modules, for accredited CBMS trainers from the Bureau of Local Government Development and regional offices of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) of the Philippines.

October 21-25 – Makata City, Philippines
  Community-based monitoring systems (CBMS)
  Intensive training workshop, provided by the PEP Asia-CBMS coordinating team, for researchers supported under the first round of the PAGE program

October 21-November 1 – N’Djamena, Chad
  Advanced training in CGE modeling and policy simulation techniques
  Intensive training workshop provided in the context of an agreement for PEP to help strengthen institutional capacity within the government of Chad (see page 25)

October 28- November 8 – Ibadan, Nigeria
  Modeling the impacts of macroeconomic policies and shocks
  Including two consecutive courses, of basic and advanced training, and organized in collaboration with the Center for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL, University of Ibadan)

November 9-11 – Dakar, Senegal
  Advanced training in CGE modeling and macro-micro policy simulation techniques
  Intensive training workshop provided to researchers supported under the first round of the PAGE program.
publications
In order to reach out to different and wide audiences, PEP research findings are published (by PEP) in a variety of formats - such as working papers, policy briefs and books. Moreover, PEP-supported studies are frequently published as articles in international peer-reviewed journals, testifying to the increasing acknowledgement of their scientific rigor and contribution by the international development research community.

Working papers

PEP working papers are published on the PEP website and listed with both SSRN (Social Sciences Research Network) and RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), which ensures wide circulation worldwide.

According to access statistics provided by RePEc, the 135 PEP working papers listed on this website alone have resulted in 54,398 abstract views and 15,666 downloads to date (5,852 views and 1,421 downloads in 2013 alone).

In 2013, PEP published the following working papers:

2013-01 Public Infrastructure and Economic Growth in Pakistan: A Dynamic CGE-microsimulation Analysis
By Vaqar Ahmed, Ahsan Abbas and Saira Ahmed

2013-02 Public Investment in Irrigation and Training for an Agriculture-led Development: A CGE Approach for Ethiopia
By Lulit Mitik Beyene and Ermias Engida

2013-03 The Impact of a Senior High School Tuition Relief Program on Poor Junior High School Students in Rural China
By Xinxin Chen, Yaojinaq Shi, Hongmei Yi, Linxiu Zhang, Di Mo, James Chu, Prashant Loyalka and Scott Rozelle

By Zhong Zhao and Zhaopeng Qu

2013-05 Resource Boom, Growth and Poverty in Laos; What Can We Learn From Other Countries and Policy Simulations?
By Phouphef Kyophilavong, Chanthachonh Senesouphap and Somnack Yawdhacksa

2013-06 Productivity of the Non-farm Informal Sector and Poverty Reduction in Cameroon (published in French)
By Justin Bem, Jacksone Essoh, Pierre Joubert Nguets Tegoum and Tatiana Morel Samo Tcheeko

2013-07 Modeling Health in a CGE Framework: A Case Study of India
By John Cockburn and Nitesh Sahay

2013-08 Have the Key Priority Forestry Programs Really Impacted on China's Rural Household Income?
By Can Liu, Katrina Mullan, Qingjiao Rong and Wenqing Zhu

2013-10 Analyzing the impact of rising prices and related policy responses on poverty in Togo (published in French)
By Aristide Kielem, Akoé Ega Agybodji, Idrißa Diagne, Kname Bouare and Kokou Amouzouvi

2013-11 Monetary and Non-monetary (Multidimensional) Poverty in Burundi (published in French)
By Jean Claude Nsabimana, Aurélien Beko, Christian Kwizera and Nicolas Ndayishimiye

2013-12 Poverty and Social Impact Analysis of Increased Natural Gas Prices and Selected Social Guarantees in Ukraine
By Oleksandra Betliy, Veronika Movchan and Mykola Pugachov

2013-13 Microfinance, Poverty and the Empowerment of Women in Benin (published in French)
By Dieudonné Bleossi M. Dahoun, Olivier Manlan, Cosme Zinsou Vodounou, Saint-Martin Mongan, Damien Mededji and Janvier P. Alofa
Analyzing the impact of remittances on poverty in Nigeria
By Nnaemeka Chukwuone, Amaechina, C Ebele, Sunday Emeka Enebeli-Uzor, Evelyn Iyoko and Benjamin Okpukpara

The growth and distributive impacts of public infrastructure investments in the Philippines
By Angelo Taningco, Erwin Corong, Lawrence Dacuycuy and Rachel Reyes

Global economic crisis and the Philippine economy
By Erwin Corong and Angelo Taningco

Public infrastructure and economic growth in Pakistan
By Vaqar Ahmed, Ahsan Abbas and Sofia Ahmed

Policy briefs

The PEP policy brief is a one/two page, non-technical summary of a project’s main conclusions and policy recommendations distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders.

In 2013, PEP published the following policy briefs:

Analyzing the impact of remittances on poverty in Nigeria
By Nnaemeka Chukwuone, Amaechina, C Ebele, Sunday Emeka Enebeli-Uzor, Evelyn Iyoko and Benjamin Okpukpara

The growth and distributive impacts of public infrastructure investments in the Philippines
By Angelo Taningco, Erwin Corong, Lawrence Dacuycuy and Rachel Reyes

Global economic crisis and the Philippine economy
By Erwin Corong and Angelo Taningco

Public infrastructure and economic growth in Pakistan
By Vaqar Ahmed, Ahsan Abbas and Sofia Ahmed

"While conducting a retrospective study on optimization of returns from Universal Primary Education in Uganda, PEP was really instrumental in getting us to use our data optimally. And we were impressed by the amount of what we could do with the data that existed!"

Juliet Nassozi Ssekandi, UGANDA

"We decided to apply to PEP because of the possibility to obtain capacity building from the network. We have seen that PEP is an interesting “sphere” where we can learn a lot and gain from the experience of other groups of research, as well as to get the opportunity to participate in major international initiatives. The training sessions that we have the chance to attend to, during the PEP general meeting, is also highly pertinent and useful for the conduct of our project."

Fernando Alberto Groisman, ARGENTINA
On occasion, PEP also publishes the outcomes of special research initiatives as a book; often containing several country studies, with chapters contributed by different authors (PEP researchers). These important publications are usually put together under the supervision of (and edited by) PEP resource persons, and made available for download, free of charge, via the PEP website.

The following books and edited volumes were published in 2013:

**Infrastructure and Economic Growth in Asia**
Edited by: John Cockburn, Yazid Dissou, Jean-Yves Duclos and Luca Tiberti

**Monitoring and Mitigating the Impact on Poverty of the Global Financial & Economic Crisis**
Edited by: Celia M. Reyes, Allelie B. Sobrevinas and Marsmath A. Baris Jr.

**The Many Faces of Poverty: Volume 4**
Produced by: The PEP-CBMS network office

**Status Report on the Millennium Development Goals Using CBMS Data**
Produced by: The PEP-CBMS network office
Peer-reviewed journal articles

The success of PEP initiatives in terms of building and promoting research capabilities in the South is also demonstrated by the increasing number of PEP researchers whose findings are being published in top development economics journals – challenging the near monopoly of these journals by researchers working in advanced institutions. When needed, PEP also provides support/assistance to the process – either in the form of subsidies, review and/or co-authorship.

Below are a few examples of journal articles published in 2013, based on PEP-supported research projects and findings:

Epo Boniface Ngah and Francis MENJO BAYE
Determinants of Inequality in Cameroon: A Regression-based Decomposition Analysis

Epo Boniface Ngah, Angèle Nadine MANGA TEME and Francis MENJO BAYE
Investigating Disparities in Access and Returns to Endowments between Male and Female Headed Households in Cameroon

Veronica Amarante, Mery Ferrando and Andrea Vigorito
School Attendance, Child Labor and Cash Transfers. An Impact Evaluation of Panes
Economia (LACEA Journal), Fall 2013, vol. 14(1)

Below is a sample of scientific articles published in 2013, from the work and findings of PEP-affiliated international experts (or PEP resource persons).

Jane Kabubo-Mariara, Abdelkrim Araar and Jean-Yves Duclos
Multidimensional Poverty and Child Well-being in Kenya
Journal of Developing Areas, Fall 2013, vol. 47(2) pp. 109-137

Jean-Yves Duclos

N.-J. Clavet, Jean-Yves Duclos and Guy Lacroix
Fighting Poverty: Assessing the Effect of Guaranteed Minimum Income Proposals in Quebec
Analyse de politiques/Canadian Public Policy, December 2013, vol. 39(4), pp. 491-516

Helene Maisonnave, R. Mabugu and V. Robichaud
Fiscal Imbalances in South Africa: An Intertemporal Analysis

Luca Tiberti, A.G. Notten & C. O. Brien
Are Cash Transfers a Realistic Policy Tool for Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa? Evidence from Congo-Brazzaville and Côte d’Ivoire

Luca Tiberti, G.A. Cornia & S. Rosignoli
Did the 2008-9 Food and Financial Crises Affect Child Mortality? The Case of Sub-Saharan Africa
"The kind of study we are going to do is something that has not been done in Uganda – this kind of methodology (experimental impact evaluation using randomized controlled trials) has never been utilized in policy interventions in Uganda. So this will be a great opportunity to not only be the first to use this methodology (and gain the related expertise), but also to be able to influence policy and have impact on economic development in our country."

Zeridah Zigiti, UGANDA

"The method of randomized experiments is new for academics and policymakers in Mongolia. The few impact evaluations of programs implemented in Mongolia were conducted by international experts, but local knowledge and capacity in this method is low. So with the training it provides, PEP offers us a good opportunity to fill the knowledge gap in our country."

Soyolmaa Batbeh, MONGOLIA

"Usually, international organizations who are willing to fund local researchers in Africa only consider those with high expertise, who are already professors with lots of publications, but PEP has a unique approach, which is the capacity building of new experts and thus contribute to the expansion of local expertise. It is very important, the first of its kind, and it is a model which other international organizations should borrow from. The training and capacity building that PEP provides, especially with the junior researchers, is a long term and significant investment in local capacity."

Damilola Olajide, NIGERIA
pep staff and partner institutions
As a partnership, PEP is composed of four partner institutions, contributing to manage its activities worldwide, through a regional coordinating (PEP) office established within each institution. These four institutions are presented below.

**AFRICA - CRES**

Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale

Dakar, Senegal

**North America – UL**

Université Laval

Quebec, Canada

**Latin America – GRADE**

Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo

Lima, Peru

**Asia - AKI**

Angelo King Institute (AKI) for Business and Economic Studies

Manila, Philippines
Under the supervision of the Board of Directors (see page 6), PEP is managed by an international committee composed of representatives from the main components of the organization. The PEP Management Committee coordinates the efforts amongst these components and the PEP partner institutions to ensure synergies and efficient/harmonious conduct of the annual program of activities – particularly in terms of coverage, both thematic and regional.

**Executive director, Chair**
Bekele Shiferaw, PEP Global
Office Nairobi, Kenya

**Université Laval - partner representative**
Bernard Decaluwé
PEP North America Office
Québec, Canada

**AKI - partner representative**
Celia Reyes
PEP Asia Office
Manila, Philippines

**CRES - partner representative**
Abdoulaye Diagne
PEP Africa Office
Dakar, Senegal

**GRADE - partner representative**
Martin Valdivia
PEP Latin America Office
Lima, Peru

**Chair of the scientific program committee**
Randy Spence
Toronto, Canada

**Director of communications – Ex officio member**
Marjorie Alain
Québec, Canada

**PEP Global Office**
Bekele Shiferaw, PEP Executive Director
Rose Shaviya, Administrative assistant

**PEP Latin America Office - GRADE**
Martin Valdivia, Research Fellow
Celeste Paz, Administrative assistant

**PEP Africa Office - CRES**
Abdoulaye Diagne, Director
Aissatou Diop, Senior administrator
Awa Diop, Administrator
Marie Celeste Diouf, Administrative assistant
Jean-Jacques Badji, Finance officer

**PEP North America Office - Université Laval**
Bernard Decaluwé, Professor
John Cockburn, former PEP Executive Director (currently PAGE program manager)
Mercedes Turcotte, Administrative assistant
Gaétane L. Marcoux, Administrative assistant
Marjorie Alain, Director of communications
Clermont Gauthier, Finance officer

**PEP Asia/CBMS Office – AKI**
Celia Reyes, CBMS Network Leader
Anne Bernadette Mandap, Research and administration officer
Jasminda Asirot Quilitis, Senior Research associate
Joel Bancolita, Research associate
Marsmath Baris Jr, Research associate
Novee Lor Leyso, Research analyst
Steffie Joy Calubayan, Research analyst
Jezha Lee Nabiong, Project finance assistant
The success of the PEP program/activities in terms of high-quality research and capacity building is due, in great part, to the engagement and support of world-renowned international experts in the field of development research. Those experts who have contributed to PEP activities in 2013 are listed below in relation to the four research program areas and their specialization:

### MPIA program – Experts in macro-micro policy modeling and simulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hélène Maisonnave</td>
<td>MPIA Scientific Support Program Coordinator, PEP</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lulit Mitik Beyene</td>
<td>Managing Director, IESD Research</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Cicowiez</td>
<td>Professor, Universidad Nacional de la Plata, CEDLAS</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erwin Corong</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Center for Policy Studies, Monash University</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Decaluwé</td>
<td>Professor, Université Laval</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Emini</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer, Université de Yaoundé II</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ismaël Fofana</td>
<td>Senior Researcher, IFPRI</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>André Lemelin</td>
<td>Professor, INRS</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>André Martens</td>
<td>Professor, Université de Montréal</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandrine Mesple-Somps</td>
<td>Research Fellow, IRD/DIAL, Lecturer, Université de Paris</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Véronique Robichaud</td>
<td>Lecturer, HEC Montreal</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PIERI program – Experts in techniques of impact evaluations, including through the experimental approach of randomized controlled trials (RCTs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Laura Alzua</td>
<td>PIERI Scientific Support Program Coordinator, PEP, Researcher, CONICET, Senior Researcher, CEDLAS</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Dammert</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Carleton University</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habiba Djebbari</td>
<td>Research Fellow, CIRPÉE and IZA</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Galdo</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Carleton University</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hoddinott</td>
<td>Deputy Division Director and Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Université Laval</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Ryan</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabio Veras Soares</td>
<td>Researcher, ICP-UNDP</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Valdivia</td>
<td>Senior Researcher, GRADE</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sosina Bezu</td>
<td>Researcher, Norwegian University of Life Sciences</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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</table>
**PMMA program** – Experts in microeconomic analysis of poverty, gender, equality and employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Position</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Researcher, Norwegian University of Life Sciences</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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**CBMS program** – Experts in community-based monitoring systems*

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

* The CBMS resource persons, or scientific staff, are the same as the PEP-Asia Office coordinating team.
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