



**POVERTY &
ECONOMIC POLICY**
RESEARCH NETWORK

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

December 2008

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A. Introduction & Background

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network brings together and provides scientific and financial support to teams of developing country researchers working to reduce poverty. Launched jointly by the Angelo King Institute in the Philippines and Universite Laval in Canada in 2002, the PEP Network traces its origins to a program funded in the early 90's by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada) which examined the micro impacts of macroeconomic and adjustment policies. It receives funding from IDRC, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The PEP Network's vision is to become an international network of researchers in developing countries who have the expertise, resources and reputation to participate in and contribute to national and international debates on economic policies related to poverty. Its programs and activities are guided by the following objectives:

- Better understand the causes and consequences of poverty
- Propose pro-poor policies and programs
- Improve the measurement and monitoring of poverty
- Strengthen local research capacity on poverty issues
- Develop new concepts and techniques for poverty analysis

In general, PEP envisions the following outputs and outcomes:

- Improved monitoring and measurement of poverty in developing countries through the development of new, as well as tailored and sharpened concepts and methodologies that better capture the nature, extent, and depth of poverty at the local and national levels;
- Enhanced capacity of developing country researchers and practitioners in the modeling, measurement, analysis and monitoring of poverty;
- Better poverty analysis and policy recommendations which are more responsive to emerging issues of development;
- Wider dissemination and greater policy influence of PEP supported initiatives; and
- Enhanced collaboration among development researchers, experts, policymakers and other stakeholders in achieving poverty reduction and related development agenda at the national and international level through its joint research initiatives.

The PEP network is composed of three tightly linked constituent networks.

- **Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)** designs and pilots community based monitoring and local development systems of poverty in its multidimensional sense.
- **Modeling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA)** uses economy-wide models and analysis as a "laboratory" to identify and analyze the links between specific policies and shocks and their impacts on poverty.
- **Poverty Monitoring, Measurement and Analysis (PMMA)** develops and applies analytical tools to monitor, measure and analyze a wide range of poverty issues.

The PEP Research Network, through its CBMS sub-network, expects the following outcomes:

- Enhanced capacity of development researchers in poverty analysis using local poverty statistics generated through CBMS
- Wider dissemination and greater policy-influence of CBMS findings and recommendations at the national and international level
- Established linkages of CBMS network with other international networks working on related research themes
- Better targeting of social programs through the development and use of indicators that are specific to countries and/or communities and that are more appropriate for identifying the poor
- Uptake of the CBMS indicator system and methodologies by local/national governments in selected sites where CBMS has been pilot-tested.
- Empowerment of the communities as manifested in citizen participation in decisions that affect their well-being.
- Enhanced capacity of national and local planners and development partners for a more evidence-based and participatory approach in policymaking, program implementation and impact-monitoring
- Established CBMS database for poverty researchers and analysts and development partners
- Mobilized resources to support for continued scaling up of the implementation and use of CBMS in countries where the system has been developed and pilot-tested

Meanwhile, PEP through its MPIA-PMMA sub-networks expects to achieve the following:

- Greater involvement of MPIA and PMMA researchers in important policy debates on evolving macro and micro level issues at the national, regional and international levels. The stock of knowledge and the pool of PEP researchers and alumnae in any given country have increased markedly in the course of PEP's seven years. This opens up a number of compelling possibilities to increase interaction with policy makers and other stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels
- Devolution and regionalization: The MPIA and PMMA networks have already devolved a large share of their administrative and scientific task and activities, but a dramatic expansion in the responsibilities of PEP regional offices has also been implemented, notably the disbursement of all MPIA and PMMA grants (roughly half of the entire MPIA-PMMA budget) through PEP's African office and the establishment of regional offices responsible for the conception, fundraising and execution of new JRIs, as well as regional policy interaction

- Research: The poverty debate and research agendas have evolved rapidly in the course of PEP's first two phases. The MPIA and PMMA networks are continuously re-evaluating their thematic priorities, which are publicized regularly with the MPIA and PMMA call for proposals. Major new thematic priorities are the growth-poverty nexus and policy impact analysis.
- Capacity-building: Establishment of regular PEP training workshops, largely organized and conducted by Southern researchers and institutions

The current priority research themes of these programs are summarized in the table below:

	CBMS	MPIA	PMMA
Research Themes	New CBMS methodologies and instruments Identifying the Poor through CBMS Program and project impact analysis CBMS for local governance CBMS for gender responsive budgeting CBMS for localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	Growth and poverty Public spending and poverty Macroeconomy and gender Sectoral (<i>particularly agricultural</i>) policies and shocks	Multidimensional poverty Public spending and poverty Poverty dynamics Capabilities and human development Policy impact analysis Gender and intra-household allocation

The PEP Network fosters capacity-building and high quality research in developing countries through a financial and scientific support strategy involving the following activities:

- *Provision of research grants*
PEP awards up to 25 grants of CAN 50,000\$ every 18 months on a competitive basis to teams of researchers originating from and residing in a developing country. Funding includes a core grant plus funding to cover the costs of participating in PEP meetings, study visits and other activities (training workshops, conferences, etc.)
- *Intensive ongoing scientific support*
Experts from developing and developed countries provide intensive scientific support to PEP researchers from the initial proposal phase to the preparation of the final report and related publications.
- *Training workshops*
PEP has recently launched a series of regular training programs on topics such as micro-level poverty measurement and analysis and modeling the poverty impacts of macro policies and shocks. These training programs are open to all.
- *Annual meeting to present proposals and final reports*
A general meeting is organized every 18 months to provide a venue for the presentation, discussion and evaluation of PEP proposals and reports and to allow PEP researchers to work with invited resource persons. These meetings also feature advanced training workshops and international policy conferences.

- Study visits
PEP-funded researchers may apply for additional funding to finance 3-4 week study visits with resource persons at the institution of their choice.
- Dissemination
Researchers are encouraged to interact with policymakers, other researchers and civil society. To this end, PEP provided financial and technical support throughout the research process to help its researchers to publish their research as working papers and journal articles, and to organize and participate in national and international conferences and policy fora. All approved PEP proposals and reports are available to the public through the PEP website.
- Documentation
Recent and relevant documentation is made available to researchers through online access to literature search tools, electronic journals, recommended readings lists and downloadable papers and direct mailings.

B. Rationale for M&E Plan

A confluence of events has steered the PEP Management to adopt a formal monitoring and evaluation system. These are discussed briefly below:

1. The PEP Network is relatively young and its management initially had to define its strategies and put in place a governance structure during the early years. As a result, its management had to draw on a range of specially prepared and commissioned reports to assess its performance. However, while these reports provide a deep and more qualitative understanding of the impact of the PEP network, there is a need to have some mechanism or tool to monitor key issues and provide information in those areas over time. This will help the Network's Steering Committee in evaluating and monitoring progress as well as in determining future programming.
2. The PEP Network is increasingly looking at expanding its resource base and is making a concerted effort to obtain more funds to finance its core programs. To effectively do this, it has to demonstrate in a convincing fashion the influence of its outputs on policies and its impact on target populations. Data from a formal M&E system will be invaluable in buttressing this claim.

C. Objectives and Scope of M&E

The objectives of the M&E System of the PEP Network are as follows:

1. To provide the PEP management with reliable and updated information concerning the fulfillment of its goals and the results of its actions, to assist in programming decisions.
2. To provide donor organizations with an effective handle on how PEP has brought about sustainable improvement in national and local-level policies or in the well-being of targeted beneficiaries.

D. Institutional Roles, Relationship and Information Flows

M&E activities are the responsibility of PEP's management committee, which is composed of its director-general, deputy director-general, program directors and regional directors. This committee will:

- i) define, establish and maintain an information system,
- ii) define performance and frequency of data collection,

- iii) design formats and other instruments to compile information,
- iv) process and consolidate the information, and
- v) draft reports for the Steering Committee and donors.

E. Performance Indicators

Given the multiple objectives of the network, it is but natural that there are many indicators needed to be able to monitor and assess these different objectives. Nevertheless, a few indicators can be identified that can be considered as key performance indicators in the four major areas of PEP.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Indicator</u>
Capacity Building	Number of researchers in developing countries trained
	Number of tools adopted by researchers
Research	Number of research papers produced
Dissemination	Number of presentations in non-PEP conferences and workshops
	Number of policy briefs
	Number of briefings/interactions with policymakers
Policy Influence	Research taken up by policymakers

While these key indicators capture the core mandates of PEP, the broad scope of PEP and its programs calls for slightly different set of indicators for each program. Table 1 presents the proposed list of output and impact indicators, information sources, the data collection method and frequency. The indicator system also reflects the varying levels of impact of PEP.

	Info Sources	Data Collection Method	Frequency
CAPACITY BUILDING: All Programs			
A. Output			
1. Number of papers, new techniques, methodological packages, tools adopted	Progress reports / Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
B. First Level Impacts			
2. Number of tools taken up by PEP researchers for their work	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
3. Number of hits on website for various papers and tools developed by fundamental researchers	Website / Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
4. Number of training courses provided for researchers; percentage of trainers that reside in Southern countries	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted	Annual

		by researchers	
5. Number of promotions, postings, awards or other important career events for PEP researchers since the beginning of their project	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
RESEARCH			
MPIA, PMMA and PIERI			
A. Output			
6. Number of research projects completed	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
7. Percentage of research projects completed on time	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
8. Number and percentage of working papers produced by researchers; hits on website	Administrative Records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
9. Percentage of resource persons and reviewers that reside in Southern countries	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
10. Percentage of researchers that are women	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
11. Percentage of researchers aged under 30 and 40.	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
12. Number of regional offices established	Administrative records	Review of administrative records	Annual
13. Number of grants disbursed by regional offices	Administrative records	Review of administrative records	Annual
B. Dissemination and First Level Impacts			
		Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	
14. Number and percentage of projects that resulted in a journal publication	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
15. Number of projects that resulted in a chapter in a book	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
16. Number and percentage of projects with results presented and disseminated in a policy brief targeting non-academic stakeholders; hits on website	Progress reports / Administrative Records / Website	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
17. Number and percentage of projects with results presented at national stakeholder workshop or conference	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
18. Number of projects with results presented at an international conference	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
19. Number of projects where results were reported in press (newspapers, magazines, television, radio)	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
20. Further funding for researchers or their institute that can be attributed to their involvement in a PEP research project	Progress reports; survey to be administered to	Review of progress and final reports submitted	Annual

	researchers	by researchers	
C. Second Level Impacts			
21. Research taken up by policymakers and other stakeholders (e.g. NGOs) to assist in policy formulation or design of programs	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
22. Researchers contracted to undertake work by policymakers, international institutions, and other stakeholders directly as a result of reputational effects of work undertaken in PEP research projects	PEP researchers	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
23. Researchers hired to work in policy and/or project design or implementation that can be at least partly attributed to specific work undertaken in PEP research projects	PEP researchers	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
D. Third Level Impacts			
24. Policy and/or project design or implementation can be at least partly attributed to work undertaken in PEP research projects	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
25. Policies or projects had to be stopped or significantly changed that can be at least partly attributed to work undertaken in PEP research projects	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
E. Fourth Level Impacts			
26. General changes in socio-economic well-being that can be at least partly traced to the results of research undertaken in PEP research projects	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
27. Specific changes in socio-economic well-being that can be at least partly attributed to the results of research undertaken in PEP research projects	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
CBMS			
A. Output			
28. Number of countries where researchers have undertaken a major CBMS program	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
29. Number of villages and households covered by CBMS	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
30. Number of indicators used in CBMS	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
31. Methodologies developed or adapted by CBMS researchers	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
32. CBMS database being used by poverty researchers, analysts and development partners	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
B. Dissemination and First Level Impacts			
33. Number of training programs and attendees in CBMS methodologies	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
34. Number of working papers completed by CBMS researchers	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual

35. Number of newsletters targeting policymakers and other stakeholders	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
36. Number of times CBMS activities reported in media	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers; internet research	Annual
37. Number of times data generated by CBMS activities are used by other researchers	Administrative records	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
C. Second Level Impacts			
38. Countries where governments have taken at least partial ownership of CBMS activities	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
39. Countries where data generated by CBMS are fed into the policymaking process	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
40. Countries where international agencies use data and research results generated by CBMS activities	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
41. Number of policy issuances adopting/supporting CBMS	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
42. Amount of funds provided by partners for the implementation of CBMS	Progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
43. Number of technical collaborations between CBMS Network researchers, NGOs, private organizations and other stakeholders on scaling up CBMS-related initiatives	MOAs/administrative records/progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
44. Number of poverty interventions at the local level funded by national and local governments, NGOs, CSOs and ODAs based on CBMS results	MOAs/administrative records/progress reports	Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	Annual
D. Third Level Impacts			
45. Policy and/or project design or implementation can be at least partly attributed to work undertaken and data collected in CBMS activities and research	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
46. Policies or projects had to be stopped or significantly changed that can be at least partly attributed to work undertaken and data collected in CBMS activities and research	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
47. Number of income non-poor households who have been excluded from list of beneficiaries of poverty reduction programs	Administrative records of local government units/progress reports of researchers	Review of administrative records as well as progress and final reports submitted by researchers	End of 3 rd year
48. Number of poor households who have been included in list of beneficiaries of poverty reduction programs	Administrative records of local government units/progress reports of researchers	Review of administrative records as well as progress and final reports submitted by researchers	End of 3 rd year
49. Number of interventions proposed by community residents during community validation exercises which have been translated into actual Programs, Projects and	Administrative records of local government units (e.g., Annual	Review of administrative records as well as progress and final	End of 3 rd year

Activities (PPAs)	Investment Plans, Annual Budgets); progress reports of researchers	reports submitted by researchers	
E. Fourth Level Impacts		Review of progress and final reports submitted by researchers	
50. General changes in socio-economic well-being that can be at least partly traced to the results of CBMS activities	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year
51. Specific changes in socio-economic well-being that can be at least partly attributed to the results of CBMS activities	Reports of researchers; to be corroborated by policymakers and other stakeholders	Email survey	End of 3 rd year