

PAGE

Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment

A PEP research and capacity building program
Supported by IDRC and UK Aid

2012-2016



Objectives

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The initiative

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** - with priority given to **low-income countries, fragile and conflict states (LFCs)**. 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.



About PEP

The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) is an international organization that links researchers globally to enhance capacity for development policy analysis in developing countries.

Find out more on our website:

www.pep-net.org



PEP research support program

To build and promote research capacities in developing 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 support program" in the conduct of high quality research projects.

One particular feature of this program 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**. At least 40% of the PAGE projects will be led by researchers 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 4). 16 of these projects are in LFCs.

Some 45-50 additional projects are expected to be supported through **the second and third PAGE calls for proposals**, launched in October of 2013 and 2014 respectively.

The PEP "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**, granted researchers 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 visit"** at the institution of their choice.

The progress of each project's research is carefully monitored through on-going interaction with global experts 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**.



Policy responsiveness & engagement

For the analysis of specific and country-relevant policy issues



PAGE policy group and priority 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 evidence base.

Priority issues identified for two first PAGE rounds 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 resource person team has completed an exhaustive review of scientific literature (lists of recommended readings), to help applicants design their project proposals.

From a variety of methodological approaches

Building on ten years of experience and a pool of world-renowned experts in the field, PEP offers unique expertise in the application of cutting-edge methodologies for economics and development research in the specific context of developing countries.

The **PEP toolbox** comprises a variety of analytical perspectives, tools and techniques, which researchers can choose to apply and be training in, in the context of their PEP research project.

PAGE teams policy outreach activities

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

Researchers are also provided with a series of complementary grants to organize or participate in related activities (national policy conferences, international conferences, publications, 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.



These tools and techniques are grouped into four broad PEP programs of research support:

- **Community-based welfare monitoring systems**
- **Macro-micro development policy modeling**
- **Impact evaluations, including randomized controlled trials (RCTs)**
- **Microeconomic analysis of poverty, gender and employment**

Projects supported under the first round of the PAGE program

Country	Project title
Macro-micro development policy modeling	
Burkina Faso	Assessing the Impact of China's Economic and Trade Expansion on Poverty in Burkina Faso
Burundi	Employment Intensity of Non-Agricultural Growth: the case of Burundi
Cambodia	Impacts of Macroeconomic Policies on Growth, Employment and Poverty: A CGE analysis for Cambodia
Central African Rep.	China's Growth; an Opportunity for the Economy of the Central African Republic?
Niger	Impact of Oil and Mining Sectors' Boom on Labour Market and Economic Development in Niger
Impact evaluations using randomized controlled trials (RCTs)	
Mongolia	The Impacts of Vocational Training Programs on the Duration of Youth Unemployment in Mongolia
Nigeria	Randomized Evaluation of an Unconditional Cash Transfer Scheme for the Elderly in Ekiti State, Nigeria
Uganda	Beyond Technical Skills Training: the Impact of Credit Counseling on Entrepreneurial Behavior of Ugandan Youth
Ghana	Enhancing Productive Firm Assets: A RCT on an Innovative Savings-Loan Product for Female Entrepreneurs in Ghana
Microeconomic analysis	
Chad	School Choice and Youth Entrepreneurship in Chad
Argentina	Social Protection to the Informal Sector: The Role of Minimum Wage and Income Transfer Policies
Cambodia	Labour Migration in Cambodia: Causes and Impact on Poverty, Inequality, and Productivity
Nigeria	Is There Discrimination against Women Entrepreneurs in Formal Credit Markets in Nigeria?
Occupied Palestinian Territory	Risk Tolerance, Gender, and Entrepreneurship: The case of the occupied Palestinian territory
Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Rep.	Youth Self-employment in Households Receiving Remittances in Macedonia
Congo, D.R.	Internal Mobility and Youth Entrepreneurship in Democratic Republic of Congo
Bangladesh	Access to Credit and Women Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Bangladesh
Community-based welfare monitoring systems	
Bangladesh	Institutionalizing Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS)
Bolivia	Toward a Community Based Monitoring System for Santa Cruz de la Sierra
Haiti	Developing a System of Communal Statistics in Two Municipalities of Haiti
Niger	Measuring the Impact of Economic Programs in Niger through a Mechanism of Poverty Monitoring at the Community Level
Pakistan	CBMS Development Initiative to Reap the Demographic Dividend in the Helm of 18 th Amendment in Pakistan
Tanzania	The Link between Youth Unemployment and Vulnerability in Tanzania: Case Study of Bukoba Urban District
Burkina Faso	Strengthening the use of a "community-based poverty monitoring system" to provide evidence base for policies related to social protection and child welfare in the communities of Diebouyou and Koper
Argentina	Expanding the Community-based Poverty Monitoring System in Argentina