COMMUNITY-BASED MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY PROFILES IN GREATER TZANEEN AND MUTALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE SOUTH AFRICA

A REVIEW OF POVERTY MEASURING METHODOLOGY IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Community-based monitoring [CBMS] South Africa team has taken care to ensure that the information provided in this report and the accompanying data are correct. However, this report and the methodology followed represent 'work-in-progress' and the information presented herein may change in subsequent reports. The information presented here, as well as any errors or omissions are the sole responsibility of the authors and should not be attributed to Poverty Economic and Policy Network (PEP) or to others who have any connection to this report.
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# Acronyms
Abstract

Poverty monitoring surveys in South Africa is significantly institutionalized both in design and coverage at the national level; however, the non-existence of any institutional mechanism to generate Multidimensional poverty data at Wards levels remains a significant constraint in designing effective poverty agenda. The available national and sometimes provincial data are not sufficient to meet the needs at local municipalities. The purpose of the study was therefore to investigate and profile the status of multidimensional poverty pockets in Mutale and Tzaneen Local municipalities in Limpopo province of South Africa by using Community based monitoring (CBMS) tool. The study was divided into three phases namely; literature review, design and methodology and poverty profiling. This paper highlights the findings based on literature review. The study started with a review of Methodology used by South Africa Government in in measuring and monitoring poverty. Secondary data was collected from various literature, research journals, periodicals, government official reports and statistics South Africa. The researchers concludes that there is need for a poverty measuring tool that is able to capture multidimensional poverty conditions for adequate information at local government levels to ensure effective planning, programs prioritization and implementation. The researcher further concludes that tool should act as supplementary to statistics South Africa and other tools that have been used to conduct poverty survey in the country.

Key words: measuring, methodology, poverty, review, South Africa
1. Introduction

In societies around the world, there exists a long history of measuring the plight of the poor dating back over a century (Statistics South Africa 2007). Poverty is an important, universal human problem. This is evident from its position on the world development agenda for instance, the Millennium Development Goals 2015. To ensure credible, effective action in addressing poverty and inequality, information on poverty situation is required on a regular basis. Information of this type is key to policy development and setting poverty reduction strategies (Statistics South Africa, 2008). Poverty can be construed in a narrow or broad sense. In the narrowest sense it means lack of income. In a broader sense poverty can be seen as multidimensional, encompassing other issues such as housing, health, education, access to services and other avenues of accessing resources (Richmond, 2007).

Empirical literature shows that tremendous strides have been made in poverty reduction, however, approximately one in four people in developing countries continue to live below the World Bank’s international poverty line (Reyes and Due 2009). In South Africa, for example years of active discriminatory policymaking and neglect have resulted in high levels of inequality, characterized by extreme wealth on one hand and desperate poverty on the other (SPII, 2006). The lack of appropriate local information about the poor in majority of developing world including South Africa hinders development planning and programs, and constrains efforts to monitor change (Reyes and Dues 2009). The eradication of poverty, therefore, is one of the top priorities for the government of South Africa (Oosthuizen, 2011).

It is worth noting that in South Africa poverty monitoring surveys at national level is significantly institutionalized both in design and coverage, in-fact Statistics Council is an advisory body to Statistics South Africa and the Minister of Finance is an adviser to the government on issues around poverty monitoring in the country (Statistics South Africa, 2008). Never the less, the non-existence of any institutional mechanism to generate multi-dimensional poverty data at the local government level remains a significant constraint in designing an effective poverty reduction agenda. Data collected at intervals of five years is used for a period of time sometimes giving outdated information that cannot be used for effective intervention implementation. For example the data collected by statistics South Africa in 1996 and 2001 census was extensively used in evaluating the impact of diverse policies and programmes in the reduction of poverty (Statistics SouthAfrica, 2008).
Evidence-based decision making is increasingly becoming a paramount best practice which many countries including South Africa embrace. It is in this regard that the South Africa government committed itself to ensuring that Census 2011 was successfully carried out as part of the United Nations 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses Programme (United Nations, 2006). Although the census conducted in 2011 was an improvement from the previous ones, the data was sampled and aggregated at provincial levels. For example the sample of 600 EAs was selected and allocated to the provinces based on expected standard (Statistics South Africa 2011).

Furthermore, the South Africa Integrated Development planning (IDP 2007/2008) indicate that performance management at district and local municipality levels must be seen as an instrument whereby the municipal strategy, business plans, IDP projects, budgeting and employee accountability is aligned and integrated. Moreover Local Government in South Africa is challenged through the South Africa legislation to implement a performance management system that improve and enhance quality, effectiveness and provide efficient service delivery. Consultations at these levels showed that this has not been the case, the district and local municipalities still struggle with insufficient and timely data production. Community based Monitoring system (CBMS) sought to address and provide timely data diagnosing the cause and extent of multi-dimensional poverty at the local government level, in order to assess policy implication, facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies and intervention strategies at Ward, village and household levels.

2. Evolution of poverty measuring and monitoring methodology in South Africa

Poverty and inequality in South Africa result from a complex history of apartheid system of segregation during the 19thC, where race influenced studies of poverty as official statistical categories were combined with racial attitudes in the collection and presentation of data (Magasela, 2005). Investigation into the levels of poverty in South Africa begun with the first Carnegie Commission of Inquiry during the Great Depression in the year 1928 (Magasela, 2005). A Second Carnegie Commission of Inquiry was commissioned in the early 1980’s due to various concerns about the growing levels of poverty (SPII 2007). In 1993 African National congress commissioned the World Bank to conduct a statistics on living standards, to determine a definitive assessment of the extent of poverty in South Africa (Magasela, 2005). This work
resulted into a tradition of documentation, research and analysis into income levels and causes of poverty by researchers such as (Hirschowitz 2000, Woolard and Leibbrandt, 2001; 2006, Statistics South Africa, 2005)

After 1994, a number of seminal reports on poverty were commissioned by various bodies, as part of a national commitment to eradicating poverty such as Key Indicators of Poverty in South Africa (1995), the Participative Poverty Assessment South Africa report. (1998) and the Poverty and Inequality Report (1998). Over the past years, political interest sharpened the focus on poverty measurement and data sources regarding the extent to which poverty had increased or decreased in South Africa since 1994 (Bhorat and Kanbur, 2005). Moreover this interest subsequently led to numerous studies on the extent to which income poverty levels had changed overall during the first years of democracy (Agüero et al., 2006; Bhorat and Kanbur, 2005; Leibbrandt et al., 2004; Leite et al., 2006). Several policies and frameworks geared towards poverty reduction were adopted by South African government (Department of education 2001, DTI 2006, Knight, 2001 and UN, 2006). Furthermore several studies were conducted on the extent to which various strategies had reduced with specific focus to poverty lines. (Agüero et al, 2005; Barrientos, 2005; Case and Deaton, 1998). In addition various structures and mechanisms were put in place to monitor development and poverty status in the country.

It is worth noting that South Africa has a commitment to various national and international bodies to measure and monitor poverty to which it has to comply. Some of these commitments include; being a signatory to the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration which emerged from the United Nations World Summit on Social Development (UN 2010). In terms of this Declaration, signatories undertook to develop a country specific measure of poverty by 1996. South Africa also has obligations in terms of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to halve poverty and unemployment by 2015 (Statistics South Africa 2007).

3. The structures and mechanisms for monitoring development and poverty status

The first Living Conditions Survey (LCS) was conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) between September 2008 and August 2009. The main aim of this survey was to provide data that would contribute to better understanding of living conditions and poverty in South Africa and for monitoring levels of poverty over time (Statistics South Africa 2011).

The first poverty line constructed in South Africa was the Poverty Datum Line which was developed in the 1940’s (Magasela, 2005). Poverty Datum Line was made up of the Primary Poverty Datum Line which consisted solely of the cost of food, clothing, cleansing materials and fuel and light, and the Secondary Poverty Datum Line which in addition made provision for the cost of accommodation and transport for the breadwinner (Franklin 1967). The Household Subsistence Level developed at the University of Port Elizabeth included no provision for medical expenses, education, savings, holidays recreation, insurance, buying household equipment and any transport beyond that of the breadwinner going to and from work (Meth, 2006). Moreover the process of setting of poverty lines in general made no provision for public consultation or comment about the appropriateness of their values, despite the fact that many employers based their wages on these poverty lines (UN 2010)

Currently, Statistics South Africa conducts the Income and Expenditure survey (IES) at an interval of every 5 years. The survey provides multi-topic household surveys which form sources of information for measuring and understanding poverty in the country (UN 2005; May 2001). For example, Statistics South Africa has conducted 4 nationally representative post apartheid income and expenditure survey (IES). The survey is the main source of data for most poverty measures used in South Africa for money-metric dimension. Furthermore surveys undertaken with data from Statistics South Africa include; Labor Force Survey used to measures and monitor formal employment increase, unemployment working-age adults. Data from the General Household Survey used to measure and monitor children from poor households dropping out of school( Statistics South Africa, 2007). The community survey undertaken in 2005 was used to assess government services and the number of poor households that still had no piped water on site and electricity. Another useful set of data is the
Census Series which was used to measure poverty at small area level (Tarozzi and Deaton 2009).

Other household surveys included the annual General Household Survey and the Labor Force data used in exploring other dimensions of poverty for example hunger, employment levels and consequently earned incomes. (Statistics South Africa, 2007). In addition the core expenditure module was traditionally designed to collect consumption data to update the Consumer Price Index basket of goods and service, with the addition of carefully structured modules the survey became a comprehensive source of data for poverty measurement in the country (UN 2005). The above empirical information is an indication of the effort that the government of South Africa towards assessing poverty status in the country. South Africa Local government requires a tool that would looks at multi-dimension poverty status across villages and at household levels in order to come up with effective policy interventions at grassroot levels.

4. South Africa Poverty and Economic Policy framework

As part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) initiative, countries have been developing monitoring systems with the objectives of tracking impact on poverty (German Federation Ministry for Economic Corporation (GFA), 2004). However, poverty monitoring is more than the measurement of poverty trends or the analysis of poverty profiles (National Planning Commission [NPC], 2011). May, (2001), explained that monitoring also take into account the inputs made by governments and other stakeholders in the interventions that are intended to reduce poverty. In a recent review of more than 40 national poverty studies, May, (2001), found that in practice, poverty is recognized as being multidimensional. National Policy Commission proposed a poverty line of R 499 per month (NPC 2011), Much of government work aimed at addressing poverty and ensuring a better life for allthrough creation of economic opportunities and enabling or empoweringcommunities and individuals to access these opportunities (DRDCLR, 2008).This is reflected in the types of policies and strategies adopted by The South African government as well as in the spending on social policies.

The Municipal Systems Act (MSA) (Act 32 of 2000), on the other hand requires that Municipalities develop Integrated Development Plans (IDP) that gives an overall framework for development and annually reviews ( IDP 2007/2008). The South African Constitution of 1996 created space for Integrated development planning to ensure sustainable provision of services,
promote social and economic development, promote a safe and healthy environment, encourage involvement of communities, and give priority to the basic needs of communities (Integrated Development Plans [IDP], 2012). The White paper on Local Government considers the integrated development planning process as an instrument aimed at creating room for municipalities and communities to engage each other; aligning scarce resources around agreed objectives and programmes, and prioritizing the essential needs. It is the objective of CBMS to support the Mutale Local Municipality in accomplishing this goal.

Community-based monitoring tool sought to address the above gaps by providing timely data at the local level and accurately diagnosing the cause and extent of multi-dimensional poverty in order to formulate appropriate policies and intervention strategies. It offers grass root level simple and easy tools to collect data on poverty indicators, highlight the impact of strategies, and determine the trend of multi-dimensional poverty per ward and villages. Community-based monitoring is an attempt to build and strengthen the capacity of local planners and program implementers for an improved transparent system of evidence-based resource allocation and governance.

The basic economic macro-economic policy of the South Africa government known as Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) was a macroeconomic strategy adopted by the Department of Finance in 1996 as a five year plans aimed at strengthening economic development, broadening of employment, and redistribution of income and socioeconomic opportunities in favor of the poor. GEAR remains government policy (Knight, 2001a). The basic social development policy, the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), addressed needs such as housing, land, health, education and services (Erwin, 2001). A key aspect of the RDP was that it linked reconstruction and development. The RDP recognized that all the problems (lack of housing, a shortage of jobs, inadequate education and health care, a failing economy) are connected (Knight, 2001). United Nations Development programme (UNDP) in South Africa's work on poverty reduction governed by several internationally agreed frameworks such as the Millennium Declaration, the MDGs, and the International Development Goals. Our core services to support national efforts to reduce poverty and inequities (UNDP, 2007).
5. Indicators for poverty measurement in South Africa

According to Statistics South Africa (2007), the government has no consistent and agreed national poverty measure, hence analysts have developed various incongruent indices, each based on particular assumptions and leading to sometimes confusing or contradictory conclusions. For example Poverty and Inequality Report (PIR), which considered both money-metric measures of poverty as a standard proxy for poverty, but was also used as a broader, composite indicator to deepen understandings about the comprehensive manifestations of poverty deprivation (May, 1998). According to (Mattes et al., 2003). Furthermore indicators of deprivation included lack of access to key services such as electricity, water and sanitation, or lacking decent housing.

Nine Provincial Indices of Multiple Deprivation for South Africa was produced at ward level using 2001 Census data (Noble et al., 2006b; Noble et al., 2006c). The conceptual model behind each Provincial Index of Multiple Deprivation (PIMD) was based on the idea of distinct one-dimensional domains of deprivation which can be recognized and measured separately. The domains included; Income and material, employment, health, education and living environment deprivation. Provincial Indices of Multiple Deprivation was created using 13 indicators from the 2001 Census, and provides a tool for people to identify the most deprived areas within each province.

Other South African composite indices included; Klasen’s Deprivation Index for 1997 and 2000 Provincial-level Development Indices comprising a Household Infrastructure Index and a Household Circumstances Index. (Hirschowitz et al., 2000). Four magisterial district-level Deprivation Indices which focus on the relationship between deprivation and health inequalities (McIntyre et al.2000). South Africa’s first national longitudinal panel survey, on the National Income Dynamics Study, an integrated qualitative and quantitative survey aimed to track changes in living standards and social mobility (SALDRU,2006). The Household Subsistence Level (HSL) provided three cost scales to meet nutritional demands for different age-gender groups. The food items were used to design the food poverty line for a male of over 19 years old per month (Woolard and Leibbrandt, 2006).

The United Nations Development Programme on the other hand, developed a series of indices used for South Africa poverty measurements. The Human Development Index
including three equally weighted indices, namely the life expectancy index, the educational attainment index and the gross domestic product index (UNDP, 2003). The Human Poverty Index measured the distribution of progress and the backlog of deprivation in the same dimensions of development as the Human Development Index, namely longevity, knowledge and economic positioning. The Gender Empowerment Index measured gender equality in terms of political participation and economic opportunities. Moreover, the Service Deprivation Index measured progress and existing backlogs in access to basic services looking at seven dimensions of basic services, namely housing, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, water, toilets and refuse removal (UNDP, 2003).

The above empirical literature is a demonstration of the magnitude of indicators that have used to measure poverty in South Africa. Moreover, the decentralized structure of the South Africa local government demands for accurate and timely data for poverty targeting, basic services delivery, identification of eligible beneficiary, budgeting and for the implementation of development projects to the local communities (Statistics South Africa, 2007). However, Statistics South Africa conducts sampled Income and Expenditure survey (IES) every 5 years providing Multi-topic household surveys which form the main source of information for measuring and understanding poverty in the country. The survey do not usually correspond to the geographical disaggregated information needed at the local government structures.

6. Assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses and Gap

Although Poverty measuring methodology is institutionalised at national government levels, not much is known about the nature and levels of multidimensional poverty at local government levels nor is there adequate scientifically generated information on how effective poverty reduction strategies are to be implemented at local government levels especially at ward and village levels. This shows that there is a gap in knowledge on the effective strategies that could be adopted at ward and village level environments. In spite of the efforts made by the South African government to conduct regular poverty monitoring surveys its efforts can best be regarded as limited and isolated. This is due to the fact that the data is samples. Moreover, the macro-level analysis camouflage differences in poverty based on district and local municipal conditions.
According to Scott (2005) lack information on the share of the population living in poverty or data on poverty trends at village and household levels hinders evidence-based policy making in about 55 developing countries (Scott, 2005). To effectively tackle issues on poverty, there must be a consistent monitoring framework that revolves around rationalizing monitoring mechanisms (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), 2008). Community Based monitoring tool provides a consistence poverty monitoring framework that enhance local planning, budgeting and implementation at Ward, village and household levels. Further more Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) address the gaps by providing timely data at the local level, accurate diagnosis of the cause and extent of multi-dimensional poverty, thus enhancing appropriate policy formulation and intervention strategies.

Statistics South Africa conducts the Income and Expenditure survey (IES) every 5 years providing Multi-topic household surveys which form the main source of information for measuring and understanding poverty in the country. The decentralized structure of the South Africa local government demands for accurate and timely data for poverty targeting, basic services delivery, identification of eligible beneficiary, budgeting and for the implementation of development projects to the local communities, however, the national poverty surveys and census use sampling designs that do not usually correspond to the geographical disaggregated information needed at the local government structures. CBMS is an organized way of collecting ongoing or recurring information at the local level to be used by local governments, national government agencies, NGOs, and civil society for planning and implementing local development programs, as well as for monitoring and evaluating their performance.

Decentralization of public functions in and of itself does not assure the necessary conditions for poverty reduction, especially where institutional and legal frameworks are weak, political will is lacking, and there is little public Recognizing the importance of understanding poverty from the perspective of the poor themselves and conveying this information to policymakers (Reyes and Due, 2009). CBMS is an organized way of jointly collecting ongoing or recurring information at the local level to be used by local governments and conveying this information to policymakers through workshops and policy briefs.

The Municipal Structures Act of 1998 and Municipal Systems Act of 2000 provided a framework for people to participate in budget processes and formulation of Integrated
Development Plans (IDPs). However, to date the involvement of grassroots community in decision-making processes has not been successful due to lack of appropriate poverty targeting and a continuous community-based poverty monitoring systems. (Schou, 2002). Meth (2006) argues that conceptualization of poverty, and relating to both the execution and the interpretation of the surveys that provide the data for studies into the incidence of poverty in South Africa is a challenge. Sometimes this has led to great uncertainty about poverty levels and the changes in the extent and nature of poverty in South Africa. CBMS is grounded in the principle that poverty can best be understood through the lives and experiences of the poor themselves. Furthermore CBMS tracks poverty and development at the household level at regular intervals through a set of basic indicators.

The income and expenditure based approach presents only one of many dimensions to the measurement of wellbeing in South Africa. (Bhorat and Kanbur; 2006). Magasela (2005) argues that there is a need for poverty research to focus more keenly on the use of indicators of multiple deprivations in South Africa rather than absolute or minimalist income based poverty lines, to enable government departments to be true to the realization of their constitutional mandates. CBMS would therefore be an appropriate supplementary tool for collecting sufficient data that address the above shortcoming.

In South Africa, the relative poverty line is often set at the level that includes people living below 40% of national income, with those living below 20% as being very poor. Internationally, however, such poverty lines are more typically defined as people or households living below a percentage of median or mean equivalised income. (Frye 2005). The most common units of measurement for poverty lines are either individuals or households. Measuring poverty levels of individuals has been criticized in the past for the fact that it cannot take into account economies of scale (SPII, 2007).

The CBMS methodology highlights dimensions of poverty other than income, the characteristics of the poor who they are, where they live, and what factors contribute to their poverty in order to address the poverty. Community Based Monitoring (CBMS) is a poverty-monitoring system that is adapted to local contexts and capacities, conducted by local researchers, and intended for local-level planners. The system captures the various dimensions of poverty in an ongoing, dynamic way, and allows the poor themselves to validate the
information in collaboration with local officials and planners. This makes it easier to diagnose the extent and nature of poverty, to formulate appropriate responses (Reyes, 2009).

The system is developed in consultation with local government officials, community representatives, and other stakeholders, according to the specific features of the locality in which it would be administered. It demonstrates the value of the system for local poverty monitoring and local-level planning to both local government officials and community representatives. The process of data collection builds capacity and empowers local officials and communities as they become aware of their economic and social conditions. National Plan Vision 2030 (2011) mission sought to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality in South Africa. In spite of the above efforts, South Africa still faces mixed results and continues to face serious poverty-related challenges. According to UNDP (2000), efforts in the formulation of strategies and policy options, viable mechanisms have yet to be established to evaluate the effects of programme implementation and monitoring impact on poverty and service delivery at local government levels.

The Municipal Structures Act of 1998 and Municipal Systems Act of 2000 provide a framework for people to participate in budget processes and formulation of Integrated Development Planning. However, to date, the involvement of grassroots community in decision-making processes has not been successful due to lack of appropriate poverty targeting and a continuous community-based poverty monitoring system (Integrated Development Plans [IDP], 2007). The non-existence of any institutional mechanism to generate and monitor poverty data at the local government structure levels remains a significant constraint in designing an effective poverty reduction agenda. Moreover, efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of integrated development planning process are beset by various challenges including the lack of adequate tools to capture conditions at village and ward levels (Integrated Development Plans [IDP], 2007). Community-Based monitoring is a tool that promotes the implementation of an effective planning and prioritization of projects in Ward and village levels.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The main objective of this secondary research was to review poverty measuring methodology in South Africa. Five specific areas were set for the review. The background of poverty
measuring in South Africa, evolution of poverty measuring and monitoring methodology, The structures and mechanisms for monitoring poverty status, South Africa Poverty and Economic Policy framework and Indicators for poverty measurement in South Africa. The above review was then concluded by an assessment of strengths, weaknesses and gap of the current poverty measuring methodology. This section summarises the findings of the review followed by the conclusions and finally recommendations.

The review indicates that the lack of appropriate local information about the poor in majority of developing world including South Africa hinders development planning and programs, and constrains efforts to monitor change (Reyes and Dues 2009). Furthermore, South Africa has a commitment to various national and international bodies and treaties to monitor poverty upon which it has to comply.

It is worth noting that South Africa National level poverty monitoring surveys is significantly institutionalized both in design and coverage, (Statistics South Africa, 2008). Never the less, the non-existence of any institutional mechanism to generate multi-dimensional poverty data at the local government level remains a significant constraint in designing an effective poverty reduction agenda. Moreover Statistics South Africa conducts sampled Income and Expenditure survey (IES) every 5 years providing Multi-topic household surveys which form the main source of information for measuring and understanding poverty in the country.

Further more the Local Government in South Africa is challenged through the South Africa legislation to implement a performance management system that improve and enhance quality, effectiveness and provide efficient service delivery. However the district and local municipalities are still struggling with insufficient and timely data production. South Africa Local government therefore requires a tool that would looks at multi-dimension poverty status across villages and at household levels in order to come up with effective policy interventions at grassroot levels.

Much of government work has been aimed at addressing poverty and ensuring a better life for all through creation of economic opportunities and enabling or empowering communities and individuals to access these opportunities (DRDLR, 2008). This is reflected in the types of policies and strategies adopted by the South African government as well as in the spending on social policies. Since independence for example; The Municipal Systems Act (MSA) (Act 32 of 2000), on the other hand requires that Municipalities develop Integrated Development Plans (IDP) that gives an overall framework for development and annually reviews (IDP 2007/2008).
In addition the White paper on Local Government considers the integrated development planning process as an instrument aimed at creating room for municipalities and communities to engage each other; aligning scarce resources around agreed objectives and programmes, and prioritizing the essential needs.

Inspite the above efforts the country still face a multitude of challenges such as lack of consistent and agreed national poverty measure, causing analysts have developed various incongruent indices, each based on particular assumptions and leading to sometimes confusing or contradictory conclusions. Yet the decentralized structure of the South Africa local government demands for accurate and timely data for poverty targeting, basic services delivery, identification of eligible beneficiary, budgeting and for the implementation of development projects to the local communities (Statistics South Africa, 2007).

The general objective of the Community- Based Monitoring System (CBMS) project in the Vhembe and Mopani District Municipalities was to complement the existing national and provincial poverty targeting and monitoring initiatives. The project aimed to provide the national and local governments with continuous and timely up-to-date information for policy-making, policy reviews, planning, budgeting, and service delivery and programs implementation.

Regular collection of CBMS indicators would provide up to date baseline data which can then be used in subsequent information assessment of progress of the conditions and services offered to communities. CBMS would also provide empirical data for development practitioners when they assess the impacts of their programs and interventions. CBMS would help local municipalities to allocate resources, diagnose poverty in their locality, identify who should receive assistance and provide social economic information about communities by wards, villages and households. This is because the CBMS is able to provide data about the location and extent of communities unmet needs at household levels. Local economic development officials, district and local municipalities; policy makers, academics, donors and NGOS will be able to use the information for prioritization of projects, effective planning and monitoring of development progress.

It is envisaged that data gathered from CBMS will be used to further build the capacities of local government units as well as members of communities in addressing the needs of their respective localities by maximizing the use of their existing resources and providing the
necessary information that would reveal to decision makers an up-to-date development situation of communities. It is further recommended that CBMS be used as a vital tool in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at local levels, monitor local service delivery and gender-based budget allocation.
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