



Chronic Poverty Advisory Network

Background

The Chronic Poverty Advisory Network builds on the work of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) (www.chronicpoverty.org). Between 2000 and 2011, the Centre analysed the occurrence and causes of chronic poverty, of escaping from and sliding into poverty, and the possible policy responses.

There is now an urgent need to make these findings better known among policy makers, and develop practical guidance, and new policies and programmes on how to facilitate escapes from poverty, prevent descents into it, and address the causes of chronic poverty. This will help to construct the new policy agenda for eradicating extreme poverty and promoting greater wellbeing which is needed after 2015.

Objectives

- To extend awareness of chronic poverty and its causes, and of the policies to address it among development policy makers and practitioners.
- To advise governments, development agencies and NGOs, in response to demand, on effective policy and programmatic responses to chronic poverty.
- To engage in policy co-experiments with governments, development agencies and NGOs on tackling chronic poverty.

Activities

1 Policy engagement and advice in partner countries

The CPRC has already been active in 10 developing countries, and the network will continue to work to achieve the set objectives in those countries. It will respond to demand for advice from policy makers, and organise events to inform policy makers about the latest knowledge on what works. Advice can be given

in several forms - through traditional consultancy arrangements, whose cost will be subsidised during the first two years for developing country clients; through organised workshops and meetings; and through electronic communication with network members.

Immediate plans include meetings with policy makers around the launching of reports or books on policies against chronic poverty in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania.

2 Dissemination, policy engagement and advice in neighbouring countries

In order to increase the coverage of chronic poverty and responses to poverty dynamics, events will be held for policy makers in neighbouring countries. These will be organised by network partners in collaboration with one or more local organisations. The objective will be to arouse interest, and generate demand from policy makers for advice on policy and programme design, or evaluation.

Immediate plans include events in Benin, Rwanda, and possibly Mozambique.

3 Impact and lesson learning evaluation service

The gold standard of Randomised Control Trials cannot always be achieved. Alternative approaches to evaluation include combining longitudinal or panel surveys with good qualitative research, or largely qualitative approaches. These are methods which the CPRC has pioneered in research and have also been applied to evaluate the impact of particular interventions.¹ A current impact evaluation of contract cotton farming in Tanzania has used largely qualitative data to assess the impact of, and learn the lessons from a pilot programme before it is rolled out nationwide.

The network can provide advice on how to do such evaluations, and may be able to mount a team of expert researchers to undertake the work.

4 Policy guides

To support the above engagement and advisory activities, and as a practical contribution to better policy on poverty reduction, the network will develop a series of policy guides, drawing together the experience of introducing policies and programmes which address chronic and extreme poverty, and making suggestions about what may work in different contexts to support escapes from poverty, prevent slides into poverty and address chronic poverty. The objective is to improve policy making, programme design and evaluation at national level.²

The audience for policy guides are policy makers in developing countries and international development agencies. Sector policy makers need to know what will work in their sector. Ministries of Finance and Planning need to know how to measure progress and evaluate impact using the latest advances in research. The guides will be disseminated in CPAN events in developing countries.

Each guide will be produced by a team including a lead researcher, a research officer and an editor. For some, it may be necessary to produce background papers as a first step. Decisions on which guide to produce and its timing will be taken in collaboration with the CPAN Board representing users, and with funders.

See also the list of possible [policy guides](#).

For more information, correspond with Andrew Shepherd, a.shepherd@odi.org.uk

5 The website

The archived CPRC website is a valuable resource. The CPAN website will build on its strength. It will make available details of network members, the network's *modus operandi* and management structure and its publications and activities. It will build an online library of what works in addressing chronic poverty, facilitating escapes from extreme poverty and preventing people sliding into poverty.

6 The network

The Chronic Poverty Advisory Network will combine researchers from the CPRC network with others in neighbouring countries, and with policy makers and practitioners who are able to provide their experiences to others. From a small starting base, it will expand as rapidly as possible in order to cope with a level of demand which is expected to be high.

Endnotes

1 Quisumbing, A., Baulch, B., Kumar, N. (2010). 'Evaluating the long-term impact of anti-poverty interventions in Bangladesh: an overview'. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 3(2): 153-174.

2 Models include: <http://www.chronicpoverty.org/publications/details/social-transfers-and-chronic-poverty>; and <http://www.chronicpoverty.org/publications/details/stemming-girls-chronic-poverty/ss>