

Minutes of East Africa Poverty Data Analysis Initiative Meeting

February 2–4, 2004

A meeting of the East Africa Poverty Data Analysis Initiative (PADI) was held on February 2–4 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting was chaired by Joseph Semboja (Research on Poverty Alleviation, REPOA), and Fred Kilby (World Bank, Nairobi office). The primary objective of the meeting was to share ongoing research on measuring and understanding household vulnerability, with the aim of finding more effective ways of monitoring performance in addressing poverty and of ensuring that the information is used in policy formulation. Representatives of development partners, academia and research institutes, NGOs, and the government participated in the meeting. The meeting was the first to be held since funding from the Trust Fund for Environmentally Sustainable Social Development of the World Bank was approved, operationalizing PADI. The agenda, presentations, and list of participants are attached to these minutes. An appendix with the outcomes of the meeting of the interim task force is also attached.

Main issues discussed

Researchers from the World Bank, academic institutions, and government presented ongoing work on assessing risk and vulnerability that can be applied to country-specific contexts and data. All countries of the region are in the process of developing or updating their PRSPs and poverty assessments, and researchers and policy makers are seeking to deepen their understanding of the nature and extent of vulnerability, with the aim of designing more effective programs to reduce household vulnerability to poverty. Among the key questions explored were:

- How to get more information from existing data using new techniques.
- How to modify existing surveys to ensure that they generate information on new questions without sacrificing their ability to produce comparable and generalizable data.
- How to link research to ongoing policy debates.
- How to improve our understanding of the short and long-term impact of different types of shocks through survey data.
- How to improve our understanding of people's willingness to pay for insurance protection against shocks.

Participants agreed that sharing ongoing work in this rapidly evolving field is important to maximize opportunities to learn from each others' experiences. They supported PADI's decision to create a network to facilitate communication on these issues in the future.

APPENDIX

The interim PADI task force took the opportunity of the meeting to agree on the organizational framework for East Africa PADI, discuss future research work, and plan future events. Conclusions of the meeting of the interim task force are as follows.

Organizational structure

Advisory committee. This will be responsible for overall guidance and oversight. It will comprise:

- Heads of the national committees
- A representative of a regional research organization (AERC)
- A representative of an international research organization (Cornell)
- A representative of the World Bank, Nairobi
- A representative of the World Bank Institute, Washington D.C.

Secretariat. This will be responsible for managing the daily workflow and ensuring that the work program is implemented smoothly. The secretariat will be housed at the World Bank offices in Nairobi under the direction of Fred Kilby.

National chapters. National chapters established in each of the participating countries will be responsible for guidance and oversight of implementation of the national work program. The national chapters will be headed by a senior policy maker from the country's ministry responsible for planning, and comprise representatives of national statistics bureaus and research organizations. Each national chapter will appoint a national coordinator, who will be responsible for the daily management of the work program. **National chapters are expected to be established and the coordinator appointed by the end of April 2004.**

Networks

A primary objective of PADI is to establish a network to facilitate the sharing of information and experiences on issues related to measuring and reducing vulnerability and poverty. The meeting agreed that PADI will finance the establishment and maintenance of a web page on the World Bank country office websites of the countries participating in the initiative. PADI will also work to create a web page on the main World Bank external website.

Events

The next PADI event will focus on measuring poverty, including improving the design of consumption modules in survey questionnaires in the region, and improving the use of mixed methods in poverty measurement. The event will be held in Kenya, May 6–8, 2004. Professor Angus Deaton (Princeton University), one of the world's foremost

experts on econometric methods, data analysis and poverty, has agreed to participate. A separate announcement on the event will follow.

Training

The World Bank Institute, a partner of the East Africa PADI, plans to conduct an advanced poverty measurement and diagnostics workshop for trainers of trainers in Kenya on March 1–9, with participants from Anglophone African countries. The workshop will focus on building statistical skills, especially on panel or repeated cross section data. The theoretical topics will include transitions in and out of poverty, vulnerability to poverty, trends in poverty, decompositions of changes in poverty over time, and income and consumption variability. Other training workshops will be offered by the World Bank Institute on issues relating to PADI on a demand-driven basis.

Research program

Many potential topics for research projects have been proposed in the broad areas of measuring poverty; poverty and social impact evaluation; delivering services to poor people; agriculture, risk, and rural poverty; and labor markets and poverty; among others. National chapters are responsible for identifying the priority research topics for their countries and for developing detailed proposals for funding under PADI. The proposals must reflect a consensus of the key government officials, of members of the research community, and of data generators and be in line with national priorities for economic research and analysis on issues related to the design and implementation of PRSPs. The proposals should include:

- Stock-taking of who is doing what in the particular research area.
- Specification of the available datasets.
- Specification of data needs. Are panel data needed? How can it be produced?
- What is needed to develop a common methodology (for example, adding a module to a household survey module to a household survey in each country that explores a topic of interest to all).
- Medium-term goal of the research.

The PADI advisory committee is responsible for the final selection.

Next steps

- National chapters established and national coordinators appointed: April 2004.
- Research proposals for funding prepared and circulated to the PADI secretariat by national coordinators for comment: end of May 2004.
- Members of the advisory committee appointed: May 2004.
- First meeting of the advisory committee held to select research proposals for funding and topics of future events: June 2004.

Measuring, Understanding, and Alleviating Household Vulnerability: Data Needs and Policy Implications

PADI workshop by REPOA and the World Bank

February 2–4, 2004
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Agenda

Monday, February 2

- 8:00–8:30 Arrival of participants, registration, coffee
- 8:30–8:50
- Opening Remarks
(Joseph Semboja, Executive Director, REPOA and Kevin Carey, World Bank)
- 8:50–9:30
- Introductory remarks: the risk-development nexus
(Robert Holzmann, Sector Director, Social Development Department, World Bank)
- 9:30–10:30 **Measuring household vulnerability**
- Overview of different approaches to measure vulnerability illustrated with examples from across the world
(Luc Christiaensen, World Bank)
- 10:30–10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45–11:45
- Census based approaches to measuring vulnerability? An application from Uganda
(Hans Hoogeveen, Social Protection Department, World Bank)
- 11:45–12:30
- Implications for data collection and policy-making: discussion
- 12:30–1:45 Lunch Break
- 1:45–3:45 **Understanding the determinants of household vulnerability**
- Commodity insurance: Estimating the demand for commodity insurance among farmers: evidence from Ghana
(Alexander Sarris, FAO)
 - Risk and vulnerability among pastoralists: Evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya (John McPeak, Syracuse University, presented by Stephen Younger, Cornell University)

- 3:45–4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00–5:00 • Determinants of rural household vulnerability: Evidence from Kenya (Luc Christiaensen, World Bank)
- 5:30 - 7:00 Cocktails

Tuesday, February 3

- 8:30–8:45 Coffee
- Ongoing and past vulnerability studies**
- 8:45–9:35 • Household vulnerability and the demand for market based insurance schemes (Alexander Sarris, FAO; Donald Mmari, Consultancy Coordinator, REPOA)
- 9:35–10:25 • Household vulnerability and Aids in Kagera: Revisiting households 10 years later (Jochaim de Weerd, Economic Development Initiatives)
- 10:25–10:40 Coffee break
- 10:40 – 11:00 • Data collection: Lessons from Kenya (Godfrey Ndeng'e, Central Bureau of Statistics, Kenya)
- 11:00–12:30 • Studies on vulnerability anticipated under the CEM/Poverty Assessment: Tanzania (Hans Hoogeveen, World Bank)
- 12:30–1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 **Implications for policy makers** (Robert Holzmann, Sector Director, Social Development Department, World Bank)
- 2:30–2:45 Closing remarks by Fred Kilby (World Bank)
- 2:45 Coffee break
- 3:00–5:00 Meeting PADI Steering Committee (discussion of work program)

Wednesday, February 4

- 9.00–11:00 Social budgeting and assessing fiscal space for national social protection schemes (Dr. Krystof Hagemejer, Senior Social Security Statistician, ILO Geneva)

PADI Workshop: Participants' Contact Details

	Name	Institution	Address
1.	Dr Krzystof Hagemejer	Senior Social Security Statistician ILO (Geneva)	Tel: 41-22-799 7831 Fax: 41-22-799 7962 Room 9-48, ILO 4, Route des Morillons CH – 1211 Geneva, Switzerland hagemejer@ilo.org
2.	Ms Alana Albee	Social Development Advisor ILO (Geneva)	Tel: 41-22-799 7654 Fax: 41-22-798 6977 Room 5 – 44, ILO 4, Route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland albee@ilo.org
3.	Valerie Leach	UNICEF Head: Analysis, Monitoring for and with Children and Adolescents	PO.Box 4076 DSM Tel: 255-22-2150811 ext 1145 Fax: 255-22- 2151603 vleach@unicef.org
4.	Ms Theresa Smout	Senior Programme Officer ILO	P O Box 9212 DSM Tel: 255-22-2126821 Fax: 255-22-2134167 smout@ilo.org
5.	Timo Voipio	Social Development Advisor MFA Finland (Helsinki)	Tel: 358-40-7782954 P O Box 176, 00161 Helsinki Finland timovoipio@formin.fi

6.	Vitalis E Muba	CEO East Africa Statistical Training Centre	DSM eastc@ud.co.tz
7.	Gerard Howe	Poverty Policy Adviser DfID, Tanzania	Tel: 255-22-2110141 Cell: 255-744-210112 P O Box 9200, DSM g-howe@dfid.gov.uk
8.	Tamahi Yamauchi	JICA	PO. Box 9450 DSM Yamauchi.tamahi@jica.go.jp
9.	Arianna Legovini	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist World Bank	P O Box 30577, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 254-20-260300 Cell: 254-722-207122 Fax: 254-20-260 382 alegovini@worldbank.org
10.	Wendy Ayres	Economist (Consultant) World Bank	P O Box 30577, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 254-20-260 403 Fax: 254-20-260 382 wayres@worldbank.org
11.	Dr. Joachim De Weerd	Research Director Economic Development Initiatives	P O Box 393, Bukoba, Kagera, Tanzania Tel/Fax: 255-28-22 00059 Cell: 255-744-771456 j.deweerd@edi-africa.com
12.	Dr. Rosemary Atieno	Research Fellow Institute of Development Studies University of Nairobi	P O Box 30197 Nairobi, Kenya 254 20 334244 Ext.28177 Fax: 254-20-222036 r.atieno@form-net.com , r.atieno@kenyaweb.com

13.	Dr. Jane Kabubo-Mariara	Lecturer Department of Economics University of Nairobi	P O Box 30197 Nairobi, Kenya 254 20 334244 Ext.28122 fax 254 20 336885 jmariara@uonbi.ac.ke , jkmariara@yahoo.com
14.	Ms. Darlison Kaija Okwi	Lecturer Makerere University Institute of Economics Department of Development Economics	P O Box 7062 Kampala, Uganda Tel: 256-41-530115 Cell: 256-77-505524 Fax: 256-41-532355 dkaija@muie.mak.ac.ug , dkaija@yahoo.com
15.	Mr Paul Okiira Okwi	Lecturer Makerere University Institute of Economics Department of Development Economics	P O Box 7062 Kampala, Uganda Tel: 256-41-530115 Cell: 256-77-505524 Fax: 256-41-532355 pokwi@muie.mak.ac.ug , pokiira@yahoo.com
16.	Mr. Joseph Enyimu	Economist Ministry of Finance – Uganda Plot 2 – 12 Apollo Kagwa Road	P O Box 8147 Kampala Uganda Tel: 256-41-234700/9 Res: 256-41-289099 Cell: 256-77-513992 Fax: 256-41-230163 bycovenant@yahoo.com
17.	Stephen D. Younger	Professor Cornell University	Room 3M4 MVR Hall Ithaca, NY 14853 USA Tel: 1-607-255-9183 Fax: 1-607-255-0178 sdyl@cornell.edu

18.	Ato Mekonnen Bekele	Ethiopian Development Research Institute Addis Adaba, Ethiopia	Tel: 251-1-523555 Tel. 251-1-523439 Fax: 251-1-505588 P.O. Box 2479 Mokonmergaa@yahoo.co.uk
19.	Prof. Germano Mwigu Mwabu	Chairman Department of Economics University of Nairobi	P.O. Box 30197 Nairobi Kenya Tel: 254-20-334244 Cell: 254-721-565387 Fax: 254-20-243046 mwabu@form-net.com
20.	Godfrey Kyalo Ndeng'e	PRI Economist Central Bureau of Statistics Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: 254-20-333971 ext. 168/101 Cell: 254-722-905169 gkndenge@CBS.go.ke
21.	Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u	Director of Training African Economic Research Consortium	International House, 8th Floor Mama Ngina Street P. O. Box 62882 - 62882- 00200 Nairobi Tel: 254-20-228057, 225234 Fax: 254-20-246708

22.	Donald Mmari	Consultancy Coordinator Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-741-232323 P.O. Box 33223, DSM mmari@repa.or.tz
23.	Odass Bilame	Consultant Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-744- 961964 P.O. Box 33223,DSM bilame@repa.or.tz
24.	Ann May	Research and Communication Officer Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-744-960590 amay@repa.or.tz
25.	Kevin Carey	World Bank Institute Poverty and Growth Program	Tel: 1-202-473 0605 kcarey@worldbank.org

26.	Louise Fox	Lead Specialist World Bank	Washington DC 20433 Tel: 202-473-9811 Lfox@worldbank.org
27.	Vivian Hoffman	World Bank/Cornell University	v.hoffmann@cornell.edu
28.	Dr Ben Tarimo	Consultant (Macroeconomics) The World Bank Tanzania Country Office	50 Mirambo Street, 5th Floor P.O. Box 2054 DSM, Tanzania. Tel: 255-22-2114575-7; 2110893; Cell: 255-744-785645 Fax: 255-22-2-113039 Btarimo@worldbank.org
29.	Jackson Biswaro	JICA	

30.	Robert Holzmann	Sector Director Social Protection Department World Bank	1818 H Street, N. W. G 7 – 121 Washington DC 20431, USA Tel: 1-202-473 0004 rholzmann@worldbank.org
31.	Luc Christiaensen	World Bank Poverty Economist for East Africa & the Horn Countries	PO Box 5515, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia lchristiaensen@worldbank.org Tel: 251-1-62770 ext 270 Fax: 251-1-627717
32.	Hans Hoogeveen	World Bank Social Protection Department	1818 H-Street, N. W. G 7 - 059 Washington DC 20431, USA Tel: 1-202-473 5429 jhoogeveen@worldbank.org
33.	Alexander Sarris	FAO	Commodities and Trade Division FAO Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100, Rome, Italy Tel : (+39) 06 57054201 Fax : (+39) 06 57043395 Alexander.sarris@fao.org

34.	Fred Kilby	Lead Economist World Bank	P O Box 30577, Nairobi Tel: 254-20-260408 Fax: 254-20-260382 fkilby@worldbank.org
35.	Prof. Joseph Semboja	Executive Director Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-744-265780 P.O. Box 33223, DSM repa@repa.or.tz
36.	Dr Krzysztof Hagemeyer	Senior Social Security Statistician ILO (Geneva)	Tel: 41-22-799 7831 Fax: 41-22-799 7962 Room 9-48, ILO 4, Route des Morillons CH – 1211 Geneva, Switzerland hagemeyer@ilo.org
37.	Ms Alana Albee	Social Development Advisor ILO (Geneva)	Tel: 41-22-799 7654 Fax: 41-22-798 6977 Room 5 – 44, ILO 4, Route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland albee@ilo.org

38.	Valerie Leach	UNICEF Head: Analysis, Monitoring for and with Children and Adolescents	PO.Box 4076 DSM Tel: 255-22-2150811 ext 1145 Fax: 255-22- 2151603 vleach@unicef.org
39.	Ms Theresa Smout	Senior Programme Officer ILO	P O Box 9212 DSM Tel: 255-22-2126821 Fax: 255-22-2134167 smout@ilo.org
40.	Timo Voipio	Social Development Advisor MFA Finland (Helsinki)	Tel: 358-40-7782954 P O Box 176, 00161 Helsinki Finland timovoipio@formin.fi
41.	Vitalis E Muba	CEO Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre	Tel: 255-22-2410052 Fax: 255-22-2410053 P O Box 35203,DSM eastc@ud.co.tz
42.	Gerard Howe	Poverty Policy Adviser DfID, Tanzania	Tel: 255-22-2110141 Cell: 255-744-210112 P O Box 9200, DSM g-howe@dfid.gov.uk
43.	Tamahi Yamauchi	JICA	PO. Box 9450 DSM Yamauchi.tamahi@jica.go.jp
44.	Arianna Legovini	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist World Bank	P O Box 30577, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 254-20-260300 Cell: 254-722-207122 Fax: 254-20-260 382 alegovini@worldbank.org

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46.	Dr. Joachim De Weerd	Research Director Economic Development Initiatives	P O Box 393, Bukoba, Kagera, Tanzania Tel/Fax: 255-28-22 00059 Cell: 255-744-771456 j.deweerd@edi-africa.com
47.	Dr. Rosemary Atieno	Research Fellow Institute of Development Studies University of Nairobi	P O Box 30197 Nairobi, Kenya 254 20 334244 Ext.28177 Fax: 254-20-222036 r.atieno@form-net.com , r.atieno@kenyaweb.com
48.	Dr. Jane Kabubo-Mariara	Lecturer Department of Economics University of Nairobi	P O Box 30197 Nairobi, Kenya 254 20 334244 Ext.28122 fax 254 20 336885 jmariara@uonbi.ac.ke / jkmariara@yahoo.com
49.	Ms. Darlison Kaija Okwi	Lecturer Makerere University Institute of Economics Department of Development Economics	P O Box 7062 Kampala, Uganda Tel: 256-41-530115 Cell: 256-77-505524 Fax: 256-41-532355 dkaija@muie.mak.ac.ug , dkaija@yahoo.com
50.	Mr Paul Okiira Okwi	Lecturer Makerere University Institute of Economics Department of Development Economics	P O Box 7062 Kampala, Uganda Tel: 256-41-530115 Cell: 256-77-505524 Fax: 256-41-532355 pokwi@muie.mak.ac.ug , pokiira@yahoo.com

51.	Mr. Joseph Enyimu	Economist Ministry of Finance – Uganda Plot 2 – 12 Apollo Kaggwa Road	P O Box 8147 Kampala Uganda Tel: 256-41-234700/9 Res: 256-41-289099 Cell: 256-77-513992 Fax: 256-41-230163 bycovenant@yahoo.com
52.	Stephen D. Younger	Professor Cornell University	Room 3M4 MVR Hall Ithaca, NY 14853 USA Tel: 1-607-255-9183 Fax: 1-607-255-0178 sdyl@cornell.edu
53.	Ato Mekonnen Bekele	EDRI Ethiopian Development R Institute	Tel: 251-1-523555 Tel. 251-1-523439 Fax: 251-1-505588 P.O. Box 2479 Mokonmergaa@yahoo.co.uk
54.	Prof. Germano Mwiga Mwabu	Chairman Department of Economics University of Nairobi	P.O. Box 30197 Nairobi Kenya Tel: 254-20-334244 Cell: 254-721-565387 Fax: 254-20-243046 mwabu@form-net.com
55.	Godfrey Kyalo Ndeng'e	PRI Economist Central Bureau of Statistics Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: 254-20-333971 ext. 168/101 Cell: 254-722-905169 gkndenge@CBS.go.ke

56.	Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u	Director of Training African Economic Research Consortium	International House, 8th Floor Mama Ngina Street P. O. Box 62882 - 62882- 00200 Nairobi Tel: 254-20-228057, 225234 Fax: 254-20-246708
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58.	Louise Fox	Lead Specialist World Bank	Washington DC 20433 Tel: 202-473-9811 Lfox@worldbank.org
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61.	Jackson Biswaro	JICA	
62.	Robert Holzmann	Sector Director Social Protection Department World Bank	1818 H Street, N. W. G 7 – 121 Washington DC 20431, USA Tel: 1-202-473 0004 rholzmann@worldbank.org
63.	Luc Christiaensen	World Bank Poverty Economist for East Africa & the Horn Countries	PO Box 5515, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia lchristiaensen@worldbank.org Tel: 251-1-62770 ext 270 Fax: 251-1-627717

64.	Hans Hoogeveen	World Bank Social Protection Department	1818 H-Street, N. W. G 7 - 059 Washington DC 20431, USA Tel: 1-202-473 5429 jhoogeveen@worldbank.org
65.	Alexander Sarris	Director Commodities and Trade Division FAO	Commodities and Trade Division FAO Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100, Rome, Italy Tel : (+39) 06 57054201 Fax : (+39) 06 57043395 Alexander.sarris@fao.org
66.	Fred Kilby	Lead Economist Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (Nairobi) World Bank	P O Box 30577, Nairobi Tel: 254-20-260408 Fax: 254-20-260382 fkilby@worldbank.org
67.	Prof. Joseph Semboja	Executive Director Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-744-265780 P.O. Box 33223, DSM repa@repa.or.tz

68.	Donald Mmari	Consultancy Coordinator Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell:: 255-741-232323 P.O. Box 33223, DSM mmari@repa.or.tz
69.	Odass Bilame	Consultant Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-744- 961964 P.O. Box 33223,DSM bilame@repa.or.tz
70.	Ann May	Research and Communication Officer Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	Tel: 255-22-2700083 Fax: 255-22-2775738 Cell: 255-744-960590 amay@repa.or.tz