The support of these organizations bodes well for the continuous expansion of CBMS in the country and hopefully achieves the target of 100% CBMS coverage by 2010 as envisioned by the Working Group on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Social Progress of the Philippines Development Forum (PDF). Chaired by the Philippine government and the World Bank, the PDF is the primary mechanism of the government for facilitating substantive dialogue among stakeholders on the country’s development agenda.

How can LGUs and other organizations get technical assistance from the CBMS Network Coordinating Team?

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team and its partners provide free technical assistance to local government units (LGUs) and other organizations in the implementation and full-scale institutionalization of a CBMS.

Interested local government units and other organizations may contact the CBMS Network Coordinating Team at the following address:

**PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team**
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**What is CBMS?**

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) is an organized process of data collection and processing at the local level and of integration of data in local planning, program implementation and impact-monitoring. It is a system that promotes evidence-based policymaking and program implementation while empowering communities to participate in the process. It was developed in the early 1990s under the Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) Project-Philippines to provide policymakers and program implementers with a good information base for tracking the impacts of macroeconomic reforms and various policy shocks. Currently, coordination on CBMS work is being handled by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team.*

**What is the rationale for CBMS?**

Standard poverty monitoring systems (PMS) in the Philippines generally rely on surveys such as Income-Expenditure surveys, Health surveys, Censuses, etc. However these national censuses and surveys:

- Are too costly to be replicated frequently;
- Are conducted at different time periods making it impossible to get a comprehensive profile of the different socio-demographic groups of interest at a specific point in time; and
- Have sampling designs that do not usually correspond to the geographical disaggregation needed by local governments.

In addition, the implementation of decentralization policy, which devolves the delivery of basic services to local governments, creates greater demand for data at the local level.

CBMS seeks to address the existing data gaps at the local level for diagnosing extent of poverty at the local level in determining the causes of poverty, formulating appropriate policies and program,

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*LMP Memorandum Circular 027-2006
Issued in June 2006, enjoining all CBMS-implementing municipalities to adopt/sustain the adoption of the CBMS as a tool for local poverty diagnosis and ensure the incorporation of the MDG targets and utilization of CBMS data in the formulation of local development plans.*

**SDC Resolution No. 3, Series of 2006**
Issued on July 19, 2006, the resolution adopts the CBMS as the prescribed monitoring tool for the generation of the Core Local Poverty Indicator Database. It further enjoined the NAPC, DILG, other government agencies and LGUs to coordinate with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team towards the fast-tracking and full implementation of the CBMS.

**Partnerships**

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team have partnered with a number of agencies to scale up the implementation of the CBMS.

- Department of the Interior and Local Government – lead agency in providing capacity building to local government units and other government agencies. Trainings on the CBMS Modules have been provided to selected staff of Bureau of Local Government Development and to some of their regional offices.
- National Anti-Poverty Commission – have been active in advocating CBMS especially in Mindanao. Selected staff have also been trained on the CBMS Modules.
- League of Municipalities of the Philippines – lead advocates of the CBMS in the municipalities.
- National Economic and Development Authority – in particular Region IVA has collaborated with the CBMS Team for the implementation of CBMS in their localities.
- NGOs – such as Institute for Democratic Participation and Governance (IDPG) and Social Watch are also actively advocating for the implementation of CBMS in their sites. On the other hand, Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) has been providing resources to finance poverty interventions identified through the CBMS.
- Donor agencies – Development partners, e.g., UNDP, World Bank and UNFPA, have also been actively supporting the implementation of CBMS.

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*The CBMS Network, which is under the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of De La Salle University-Manila, is part of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network with fund support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Ottawa, Canada. IDRC has also provided support to the MIMAP-Philippines Project.*
What is the level of government support for CBMS?

Memorandum circulars and policy issuances have been prepared by key national government agencies supporting the use of CBMS:

- **DILG Memorandum Circular 2001-105**
  Issued in August 2001, the circular enjoins all local chief executives to undertake local programs on poverty reduction and economic transformation and emphasized the need to designate Local Poverty Reduction Action Officers (LPRAOs) and to formulate a Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP).

- **NAPC En Banc Resolution No. 7**
  Issued in March 2003, the resolution directs LGUs to adopt the 13 core local poverty indicators as the minimum set of community-based information for poverty diagnosis and planning at the local levels and integrate such information in their local poverty monitoring system and local level action plans and program.

- **DILG Memorandum Circular 2003-92**
  Issued in April 2003, it provides policy guidelines for the adoption of the 13 core local poverty indicators for planning. The guidelines shall aid the LGUs in assessing and understanding poverty and its dimensions at the barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces with the end view of formulating an LPRAP and implementing the plans and programs to reduce poverty.

- **DILG Memorandum Circular 2004-152**
  Issued in November 2004, the circular encourages LGUs to intensify efforts in implementing programs, projects and activities towards the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs).

- **NSCB Resolution No. 6, Series of 2005**
  Issued in January 24, 2005, the resolution recognizes and enjoins support to the community-based monitoring system as a tool to strengthen the statistical system at the local level. It resolved further that the NSCB Technical Staff should initiate and coordinate an advocacy program for the adoption of the CBMS by the LGUs, through the RSCCs, the technical arm of the NSCB Executive Board in the regions.

What are the key features of CBMS?

The CBMS has several features that enhance the capacity of local governments in detecting and reducing poverty: (a) LGU-based while promoting community participation; (b) taps existing LGU personnel and community volunteers as monitors; (c) has a core set of indicators; (d) involves complete enumeration of all households; and (e) establish databanks at all geopolitical levels.
## How is CBMS being implemented?

Once a local government unit decides to adopt the CBMS, a number of activities (as seen in Figure 2) are needed to be carried out. Technical assistance is being provided for free by the CBMS Team and its partner agencies. These include provision of technical support in the conduct of training workshops on data collection, computerized data processing, data validation and preparation of socioeconomic profiles and development plans using CBMS data.

Computerized processing system softwares, such as the CBMS Encoding System, Statistics Simulator and the CBMS-NRDB, are also being provided for free to partner LGUs.

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### CBMS Encoding System, Statistics Simulator and CBMS-NRDB

CBMS Encoding System, Statistics Simulator and CBMS-NRDB are being distributed for free to CBMS-implementing LGUs.

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## How many LGUs in the country are currently implementing CBMS?

As of September 15, 2007, **35 provinces, 16 of which is province-wide, 371 municipalities and 24 cities covering 9,547 barangays** (Figure 3) have already joined the CBMS bandwagon and are at varying stages in implementing the CBMS. The costs of implementation have been borne largely by the local government units, indicating that they see the usefulness of the system. This bodes well for the sustainability of the system. In some cases, NGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders have contributed to the implementation.

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### CBMS Coverage in the Philippines as of September 15, 2007

![Figure 3. CBMS Coverage in the Philippines as of September 15, 2007](image-url)
What kind of statistics/data that the CBMS can generate?

Although the CBMS can generate a wide range of LGU-specific indicators, at the very minimum there are 14 core indicators (Table 1) that are being measured to determine the welfare status of the population. These indicators capture the multidimensional aspects of poverty and have been confined to output and impact indicators.

Other information that can also be generated from the CBMS are the following: migration, community/political participation and access to programs, among others.

All household level data from the CBMS can be disaggregated by purok, barangay and municipality/city while all individual level data can be disaggregated by sex.
What are the uses of CBMS data?

CBMS has a number of potential concrete uses particularly in the areas of local governance and poverty monitoring. Specifically, data gathered from CBMS can:

- **Build the capacities of LGUs and communities**
  CBMS can be used to further nourish if not 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.

- **Facilitate resource allocation**
  One of the most common dilemmas among local chief executives is how to efficiently and effectively use and manage the meager financial resources of the local government unit given the many competing projects and programs that need to be delivered in their localities. CBMS tries to address this issue by providing the necessary information that would reveal to decision makers an up-to-date development situation of communities in terms of core areas of welfare.

- **Enrich existing databases**
  CBMS can complement existing databases by providing a regular source of information on socioeconomic attributes of communities to further enrich the contents and usefulness of existing databases. A number of local government units were able to get funding support from international organizations in the past for setting up databanks containing information on children, environment and the like. CBMS can help enrich these databases by providing a complete set of household, barangay, municipal/city and provincial level information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC NEEDS</th>
<th>CORE INDICATORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Health</td>
<td>1. Proportion of children’s deaths (0-5 years old)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Proportion of women deaths due to pregnancy-related causes</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Nutrition</td>
<td>3. Proportion of children 0-5 years old who are malnourished</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Housing</td>
<td>4. Proportion of households living in makeshift housing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Proportion of households that are squatters</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>6. Proportion of households without access to safe water supply</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Proportion of households without access to sanitary toilet facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Basic Education</td>
<td>8. Proportion of children aged 6-12 years old who are not in elementary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Proportion of children aged 13-16 years old who are not in secondary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Income</td>
<td>10. Proportion of households with income below the poverty threshold</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11. Proportion of households with income below the food threshold</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12. Proportion of households that experienced food shortage</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Employment</td>
<td>13. Proportion of persons who are unemployed</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Peace and Order</td>
<td>14. Proportion of persons who were victims of crime</td>
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</tbody>
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