

CONFERENCES

Along with the HIV/AIDS Group in UNDP, IPC organized a global conference on "Gearing Macroeconomic Policies to Reverse the HIV/AIDS Epidemic" in Brasilia on 20-21 November 2006, drawing on a broad audience of economists and specialists in HIV/AIDS.

IPC's first conference in 2007 was held in January in Brazil on "Equity and Social Mobility: Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba and South Africa", with a focus on Cuban research and participation by researchers and policymakers from all four countries. The conference was co-sponsored by the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

In June, a major Bi-Regional Conference was held in Cape Town, South Africa on "Social Protection and Poverty Reduction", based on cooperation between IPC, the Government of South Africa and UNDP South Africa. Participants came from both Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

ADVISORY MISSIONS

The IPC is active in providing research support to UNDP country offices and policy specialists and governments on the measurement and monitoring of poverty as well as on policies to reduce poverty and inequality. Such support has covered: defining national poverty lines, evaluating safety nets and transfer programmes to targeted population groups, pro-poor analysis of policies, and strategies to enhance employment creation. In 2007, such missions took place in: Angola, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Paraguay, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

For example, the mission to Uzbekistan provided background research for the formulation of the Government's new National Welfare Improvement Strategy, the missions to El Salvador and Paraguay undertook research and evaluations on Conditional Cash Transfers, and the DfID-supported mission to Ghana backstopped the technical assistance provided by the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and the Fight against Hunger to the Ghanaian Cash Transfer Programme.



● International Poverty Centre

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SBS – Ed. BNDES, 10º andar
70076-900 Brasília DF
Brazil

povertycentre@undp-povertycentre.org
www.undp-povertycentre.org
Telephone +55 61 2105 5000



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INTERNATIONAL POVERTY CENTRE, BRASILIA

Established in 2004 in Brasilia, the International Poverty Centre (IPC) is a global centre for applied research and training on poverty. It is based on a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme and the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), which is linked to the Government of Brazil.

One of IPC's major areas of focus is low-income countries, where it has linked its applied research to UNDP's increasing support for MDG-based development strategies. This has involved intensified research on pro-poor growth, economic policies, employment and social policies.

Set up explicitly as a forum for South-South cooperation, IPC is also strengthening its collaboration with researchers and governments in major developing countries, such as China, India, Mexico and South Africa. IPC has collaborated with the International Poverty Reduction Center in China and Tsinghua University and has ongoing work with the South African Government and researchers on social protection and poverty reduction.

RESEARCH

IPC focuses its applied research on two major areas:

1. The Measurement and Monitoring of Poverty and Inequality
2. Pro-Poor and Inequality-Reducing Policies

Gender issues are explicitly integrated into both areas. In every area, IPC seeks to enhance the policy relevance of its research.

Within the first broad area, IPC focuses on the Assessment of Inequality and its Impact on Poverty. Within the second broad area, it focuses on Pro-Poor Growth and Social Protection. For the former, it concentrates on economic policies and employment generation and for the latter, it concentrates on cash transfers.

TRAINING

IPC also carries out extensive training on poverty issues.

In 2007, IPC organized intensive training sessions on an innovative new global macroeconomic model in Campinas, Brazil; Beijing, China; and New Delhi, India as part of the State of the World Economy (SOWE) research and training programme.

In conjunction with the IADB, UNDP Honduras, and INE Honduras, IPC held the training workshop "The Millennium Development Goals: Beyond Averages 2007" for Latin American statisticians and policymakers in July in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This workshop gathered representatives from seven Central American countries and UNDP Country Offices.

Also In July, IPC hosted the Learning Tour on Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction of officials from the Tanzanian Ministry of Planning, Economy and Empowerment, which participated in a series of seminars with IPC and IPEA researchers and meetings with Brazilian government representatives focused on economic empowerment.

In September, IPC organized a training course on Policy Evaluation at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, gathering researchers and statisticians from Central American countries.

In November, IPC hosted the Study Tour on Social Policies for Ethnic Minorities by a Vietnamese delegation on Economic Policies for Ethnic Minorities, which focused on targeting chronic poverty and identifying effective self-help approaches.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The IPC hosts special websites related to its Research Programmes on "The State of the World Economy", "Macroeconomic Policies to Combat HIV/AIDS", "Cash Transfers and Social Protection" and "Economic Policies, MDGs and Poverty".

Further information and all publications are available on
www.undp-povertycentre.org

PUBLICATIONS

Since its inauguration, IPC has published: 1) *Working Papers* 2) *Poverty in Focus* magazine and 3) *One Pagers*.



Working Papers are the main research publication of the Centre while *Poverty in Focus* magazine presents its research findings in a popular format.

One Pagers are designed to spark discussion and debate on key poverty issues.



In 2006, IPC initiated two policy-focused publications: 1) *Country Studies* and 2) *Policy Research Briefs* and followed up in 2007 with *Evaluation Notes*, *Conference Papers* and *Training Modules*.

