

Real time data to
inform policy
responses:

Monitoring Alarm
Signals:

Social Impact of Crises

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Context of real-time monitoring in East Asia and the Pacific

- UNICEF EAPRO commissioned special issue of *Global Social Policy* to explore potential impacts of this crisis on children based on lessons of the 1997/98 Crisis:
- Noted shortage of information on social impact of the 1997/98 East Asian economic crisis
- Concept note proposing “alarm signal” methodology to monitor changes in health and education outcomes, and social budgets using sentinel sites
- Real Time Monitoring Implementation so far: Lao PDR, Mongolia, 8 Pacific Island Countries
 - Slightly different versions in Indonesia and Viet Nam



Overview:

Sentinel Site and Methodology

Health:

- Sentinel sites often already exist for food prices in local markets (FEWS), notifiable diseases and to warn of epidemics (also HIV)
- Outpatient visits, total ante-natal care visits, health center user fee receipts - all collected and collated, weekly or monthly

Education:

- Sample sites – numbers could be collected from sentinel schools in selected vulnerable areas, weekly or monthly
- Possible indicators: attendance; teacher attendance; school budget receipts, including parental contributions

Social Budgets:

- Simplest: Government strategic intent to “increase”, “hold the line” or “reduce social expenditure”
- More demanding: Comparison of fiscal budget years for sectors, data on total national disbursements and planned expenditures; Public Expenditure Reviews

Details of Practices:

Lao PDR,
Mongolia,
8 Pacific Island
Countries
+
Indonesia and
Viet Nam



Lao PDR

- National consultation on monitoring the potential impact of the crisis on children in Feb 2009, following regional conference
 - Government UNICEF to help develop framework for a Lao Early Warning System (LEWS) (May 2010)
- Request from the Vice-Minister of Planning to explore a comprehensive, light-weight early warning system— positive feedback on earlier proposal to monitor social impact of the economic crisis
- DOS endorsement and leadership of LEWS: plans lead pilot in two southern provinces in 2011 (Savannakhet and Saravan)
- LEWS Protocol proposes 3 areas for monitoring:
 - Education: Attendance – weekly school attendance (primary and secondary) by gender; Teacher’s attendance
 - Health: Wasting prevalence (MUAC) and women attending at least 2 ANC sessions
 - Child protection: Reported number of street children by gender and number of women (15-49 years) illegally migrating from rural areas (collected by Child Protection Network)

Mongolia

- Deputy Prime Minister's Office leading the initiative, with the cabinet secretariat coordinating the effort among line ministries (Ministries of Health, Education, Culture and Sciences, Social Welfare and Labour, and Justice and Home Affairs)
- 15 indicators monitored: market prices of food and essential items; health; education; livelihoods; and child protection
- Sites selected based on poverty maps and poorest provinces/districts selected from country's 5 regions
 - For each selected district/province, sentinel sites included: school, dormitory, health center, police station, convenience store
- Pilot completed (December 2009): Info collected from 15 sentinel sites – 250-280 HHs – using existing administrative systems; Pulse survey of 240 HHs; Focus Group Discussions etc

Pacific Island Countries

- Initiative led by Finance/Planning Ministers from the PICs who attended the Singapore January 2009 Regional Conference
- Follow-up high level PICs conference on the “*Human Face of the Economic Crisis*” in February 2009; Technical workshop July 2010 (Senior NSO staff)
- 8 PICs: Fiji (2*), Tuvalu (2*) Solomon Is. (2*), Tonga (2*), Vanuatu (2*), Kiribati (2*), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)
- Sentinel monitoring sites (selected by National Steering Committees) in each country, covering rural and urban settings, tracking services and communities:
 - Food markets and police posts, Schools, hospitals/health centers, pharmacies
 - 30 HHs served by facilities in sites will also be monitored with a small pulse-HH survey and FGDs – therefore 60-90 HHs/country
 - Quarterly data collection throughout 2009-11
- Deputy PM from Vanuatu talked about the initiative during the Pacific Island Forum Leader’s meeting in August 2010

Indonesia

- Government requested technical support for setting up the Food Security Council that oversees initiative, which is headed by the President himself
- Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System (FNSMS) set up in June 2009
 - 4 provinces covered: East Java, NTT (Nusa Tenggara Timur), Central Sulawesi and West Kalimantan
 - 20 vulnerable districts— 5 per provinces; 1000 HHs
 - Indicators monitored: Food prices, expenditure on food, Food consumption, coping strategies
- 3 rounds of results in (third set still in draft) highlight issues related to food security and coping strategies in these areas
- The pilot monitoring system that UNICEF and WFP developed to track impact of high food prices at the HH level in 4 provinces in 2008 was the precursor to this effort

Viet Nam

- UNICEF and UNDP helped Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences develop concept note on Rapid Impact Monitoring (RIM) of vulnerable communities in April 2009
- RIM being undertaken in 10 selected sentinel sites nationally:
 - 5 rural; 5 urban
 - 2 industrial zones; 2 urban areas with many construction workers; 1 rural/coastal tourism site; 1 craft village; 1 rural site with substantial emigration; 1 rural, agriculture exporting site and 1 rural site with high concentration of poor HHs
- 2 rounds conducted so far: August-September 2009; August-September 2010
- Report from the second round has been shared with high-level policymakers – particularly National Assembly Members - in Viet Nam (data collection/processing timed to be ready before meeting of the National Assembly)
 - Report from the third round presented by VASS to National Assembly Policymakers very recently
- Information from this has fed into the discussions on the NSEDP, with discussions centering on the adoption of a “near poor” poverty line

Impact: Short Term

- Singapore 2009 discussions generated interest in monitoring social impact during crisis
 - Real Time Monitoring not meant to produce internationally comparable data but to detect alarm signals for quick response
- National ownership has led to the institutionalization of real-time monitoring
 - GSO lead vital
- Will take time to see effect on government responses but already some evidence of utility:
 - Setting up FNSMS in Indonesia
 - Personal lead by Deputy PM in Mongolia
 - Comments by Deputy PM in Vanuatu
 - Briefings in Viet Nam to national assembly members
 - Meeting with GSO Director in Lao PDR to discuss creation of a LT vulnerability detection system

Lessons learned

Key Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Useful to have early warning system to detect changes as a crisis evolves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reliable results can only be achieved if appropriate indicators are selected
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on vulnerable populations living in particular geographical, environmental and economic conditions• Focus on functioning of specific sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Not</u> estimates of prevalence:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danger that media and other users interpret data as ‘national’• Caution in reporting “baseline” data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting involvement of NSOs key to long-term success	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexibility in altering methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No international guidelines for sample size, indicators or alarm signal thresholds available yet

THANK YOU!

