

## PEGNet Newsletter

This is the third PEGNet Newsletter. I would like to highlight our Conference in South Africa in September. The registration is now open. PEGNet has also organised a workshop on HIV/Aids in Zambia. And past Newsletter are now also available online at: [www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de](http://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de).

If you want to be taken off the PEGNet Newsletter mailing list, please send us an Email to [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de).

I hope you will enjoy our newsletter.



Linda Kleemann

### Topics in this Volume

#### 1. PEGNet Conference 2010 in South Africa

The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network's (PEGNet) conference 2010 on "**Policies to foster and sustain equitable development in times of crises**" will be held at the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Midrand, South Africa, 2-3 September 2010. The registration is now open. Please go to the [conference website](#), download the [registration document](#) and send it to [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de).

[> more](#)

## **2. PEGNet Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Development in Zambia: Taking Stock and Rethinking Policies**

With financial support from PEGNet, a workshop on HIV/AIDS and development will take place on February 4, 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia.

The program of the workshop can be downloaded [here](#).

Videos of the Workshop are [here](#).

[Summary of the Workshop](#)

## **3. Global Economic Symposium in Istanbul, September 28 and 29, 2010**

The Global Economic Symposium takes place once a year. It aims to provide a new collaborative setting to analyze the world's most important economic problems, create shared visions of the future and formulate innovative strategies to achieve these visions. [> more](#)

## **4. New ODI publications on equity**

Equity in development: Why it is important and how to achieve it. November, 2009. Harry Jones.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=3480&title=equity-development-working-paper>

The MDG fundamentals: improving equity for development. April, 2010. Milo Vandemoortele.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=4751&title=millennium-development-goals-equity-development>

Within-Country Inequality, Global Imbalances and Financial Instability

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=4165&title=inequality-global-imbalances-financial-instability>

Equity: downplayed, but crucial for development

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=4239&title=equity-growth-justice-disadvantage-redistribution-redistributive-measures-actionaid-cida>

## 5. Two Vacancies at ISS, The Hague

The International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam has a vacancy in Development Economics on the Post-doctoral level. The candidate will mainly support projects that deal with impact evaluations in South-East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. For details, please visit:

<http://www.iss.nl/About-ISS/Vacancies/Vacancy-Post-Doctoral-Researcher>

The ISS invites applications for an Assistant Professor (Lecturer/Senior Lecturer) of International Economics/Macroeconomics. The Institute is interested in candidates with a demonstrated theoretical and empirical expertise in one or more of the following fields:

- International economics: Relevant topics include the effectiveness of aid, foreign trade, foreign investment and remittances and the impact of financial globalisation on development.
- Macroeconomic policy: An interest in the distributional and poverty implications of macroeconomic policies would be particularly relevant and an awareness of how globalisation changes the context in which such policies are implemented.

For details, please visit:

<http://www.iss.nl/About-ISS/Vacancies/Vacancy-Assistant-Professor-Lecturer-Senior-Lecturer-of-International-Economics-Macroeconomics>

## 6. News from 3ie

3ie launches innovative 'Policy Window' for high impact research

New window targeting priority interventions of governmental and non-governmental agencies in developing countries

3ie New Open Window Call

3ie is launching a new call for proposals for Open Window Round 3 on May 17 with a deadline for submission in July. Researchers will first be asked to submit an Expression of Interest through an online application system. Only Expressions of Interests that have passed the first screening will be requested to submit a detailed application in August. More information soon to be posted on:

[www.3ieimpact.org](http://www.3ieimpact.org)

[> more](#)

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## 1. PEGNet Conference 2010 in South Africa

The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network's (PEGNet) conference 2010 on "**Policies to foster and sustain equitable development in times of crises**" will be held at the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Midrand, South Africa, 2-3 September 2010.

### **Conference Format**

The Conference will provide a platform for high-level dialogue between development researchers, practitioners and policy-makers. The two conference days will feature parallel-sessions based on invited and contributed papers and project presentations. These will be complemented by a debate, a round-table discussion, and keynote speeches by renowned speakers from academia, economic policy and development practice. A total of about 30 contributed papers and projects based on author's original work, are expected to be presented in the conference.

In addition, the PEGNet Best-Practice Prize will be awarded for the second time to best-practices in cooperation between researchers and practitioners.

### **Conference theme**

This conference sets about finding policies that reduce vulnerabilities of the poor to shocks, sustain the socioeconomic balance and promote development that is equitable in times of growth and crisis alike. We are interested in high-quality papers as well as innovative projects, including comparative works that provide new insights on the scope of **Policies to foster and sustain equitable development in times of crises**. Sub-themes are:

- Insurance mechanisms
- Adaptation to climate change
- Escaping the informal-employment trap
- Migration and remittances
- ODA and shocks
- Income diversification

## **Best-Practice Award**

An award will be granted to programmes, projects, and initiatives that have achieved effective interaction between research and practice. All initiatives that have proved to put research into action and have thereby fostered cooperation between development research and practice are encouraged to apply. Such initiatives can be development projects or programmes that have incorporated research tools into their design or research projects that have been particularly successful in translating their findings into policy and practice. Initiatives targeted at improving dialogue between researchers and practitioners are also encouraged to apply. The proposed projects do not necessarily have to be closely related to this year's conference theme.

The registration is now open. Please go to the [conference website](#), download the [registration document](#) and send it to [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de).

## 2. Summary of PEGNet Workshop in Zambia

**PEGNet and FSRP/ACF Workshop**  
SUMMARY  
**HIV/AIDS and Development in Zambia**  
**Taking Stock and Rethinking Policies**  
4 February 2010, Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka

This focused workshop on the role of AIDS in Zambian development had two objectives. It aimed (i) to offer an opportunity for Zambian policymakers and development practitioners to take stock of the latest empirical research on the socio-economic consequences of HIV/AIDS and (ii) to provide a platform for lively exchange between policymakers and researchers to foster the effectiveness of AIDS-related policies for Zambia's overall development.

In her opening address, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Hon. Dr. Solomon Musonda, set the stage by stressing that – despite some recent successes such as a drop in HIV prevalence rates from 15.6% in 2001 to 14.3% in 2007 – AIDS continues to pose a great challenge to Zambia's social and economic development. She emphasized the Zambian government's resolve to halt the spread of the pandemic, enabling concerted efforts by different societal groups (government, the private sector, civil society) as envisaged in the national HIV and AIDS strategic framework. The first two presentations of the workshop provided overviews from a research and a (Zambian) policy perspective. Robert Greener (UNAIDS) asked what we know about the developmental impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa. He identified a number of channels through which AIDS can be expected to adversely affect socio-economic outcomes. At the macro level, economic growth may for example be compromised by lower aggregate labour productivity or lower savings and investment. Among the negative effects felt at the household level are the losses of income of those who die and higher costs of medical care borne by the families of AIDS-afflicted individuals. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, empirical studies often fail to find clear support for a negative impact of AIDS on per-capita incomes. This arguably reflects at least to some extent that the estimates do not capture the impact of human capital losses which only materialize over long time horizons. Ben Chirwa (Director General, National AIDS Council)

described the multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS adopted by the Zambian government, which comprises a large set of instruments ranging from various HIV prevention measures to the provision of support for orphans. He pointed to notable achievements of recent Zambian AIDS policies – e.g. the provision of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services that helped reduce transmission rates from 30% to 12%, and the increase in ART programme coverage from 33% in 2006 to 70% in mid-2009 – but also acknowledged some disappointing features such as a low share of prime-age men and women receiving HIV tests. As a way forward, he suggested to carefully target specific populations with specific programmes in specific areas, and to establish an AIDS fund in order to sustain current AIDS-related investment by the government. The remaining two sessions took a closer look at some crucial issues already raised in the overview presentations. The first session highlighted several implications of AIDS for rural areas where most of Zambia's poor earn their living, while the second session focused on ARV treatment, a core component of the Zambian government's response to AIDS. In rural Zambia, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has substantially increased the number of widowheaded households. It is feared that widows face difficulties in retaining access to land after the death of their husbands. The panel data estimates for the period 2001-2004 presented by Antony Chapoto (FSRP) suggest that widow-headed households are indeed more likely to lose land than households that are not widow headed. The risk appears to be highest for young widows who have no kinship ties to the village authorities. Chapoto concluded that efforts to safeguard widows' rights to land through land tenure innovations involving village chiefs and other community authorities could be an important component of Zambia's HIV/AIDS mitigation strategy.

Toman Omar Mahmoud (Kiel Institute for the World Economy) took up the unresolved issue of whether there is evidence for significant effects of prime-age death on per-capita incomes. According to the estimates, surviving household members in rural Zambia were able to stabilize their per-capita incomes over the four-year period (2001-2004) under consideration. A likely explanation for this finding is that affected households pursued a mix of income coping (livestock sales) and demographic coping (attracting new household members; sending away children) that prevented incomes losses in the short run. By contrast, households hosting orphans saw per-capita income fall, which calls for an inclusion of these households in programmes aimed at cushioning the AIDS-related burden.

Gelson Tembo (University of Zambia) presented evidence in support of an adverse impact of prime-age mortality on rural household welfare when using panel data that cover a longer time span (2001-2008). The provision of food aid, which has become a central mitigation strategy of some NGOs, is shown to have a weakly positive effect on cereal production and livestock income. This effect is, however, not strong enough to mitigate the welfare losses incurred after an adult death.

The session on ARV treatment started with an account of Zambia's policy stance by Chileshe Mulenga (University of Zambia). ARV treatment emerged as a significant policy option only in 2004 when Zambia declared HIV/AIDS a national disaster and offered subsidized treatment to all those who could afford it. In 2005, Zambia committed itself to the provision of ART to all persons in need of treatment. While achievements so far have been remarkable, formidable challenges remain on the way to universal coverage. These challenges include the hidden costs of access to ART (in terms of both money and time due to long distances, high transport costs and long waiting hours), a shortage of health

workers that undermines the quality of services, poor provision of information about ART, and poor linkages between traditional health providers and public health institutions which make it harder to dispel myths about ARV treatment. Based on very detailed information gathered from carefully tracking a small sample of rural TB patients co-infected with HIV, Virginia Bond (ZAMBART) came up with a long and nuanced list of barriers that may prevent AIDS-afflicted individuals from accessing ARV treatment. She distinguished economic barriers, such as high transport costs and a lack of food, social barriers, such as the stigma associated with being known in the village to be on ARV treatment, as well as health facility barriers, such as faulty equipment and unnecessarily bureaucratic procedures. Her policy recommendations included to reduce the steps in the process of ART enrolment and to extend ART delivery to peripheral centres.

The workshop closed with a roundtable debate on the role HIV/AIDS-related policies should play in Zambia's overall development agenda. The moderator of the panel, Thomas Jayne (FRSP), first introduced the participants and then raised three questions they might address in their initial statements:

1. What is the actual capacity of Zambia to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic given its limited funds?
2. How can programs be designed to overcome remaining barriers to ARV treatment, thereby closing the gap between high de jure access and much lower de facto availability?
3. How confident can we be that prevention programs work?

The first panelist, Robert Greener (UNAIDS), focused on the capacity question and argued that the HIV/AIDS budget needs to be discussed in quantitative terms. The government should explicitly state how much money it can raise for HIV/AIDS domestically, and what alternative sources of international financing it may be able to secure. The latter is all the more important given that PEPFAR funding for Zambia will be declining very soon. From the research sessions, he took targeted financial support to orphans and their caregivers as well as transport subsidies for ART patients as promising policy recommendations.

The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Lands, Hon. Request Muntanga, pleaded for Parliament to be included in the National AIDS Council as a complement to the existing committee of ministers. Parliament has already set up a committee dealing with health and AIDS issues. As concerns Zambia's AIDS policy in general, he struck an optimistic note, asserting that so far anti-AIDS efforts have played out and that there is an open climate for debate, with further room for improvements.

A three-pronged strategy towards HIV/AIDS was advocated by Suba Lungu from the Zambia National AIDS Network. He recommended (i) to increase finance for ART at the community level for more impact (so far there is too little involvement of the legislature in community programs); (ii) to improve access to ART, in particular for women and girls in rural areas; and above all (iii) to increase prevention efforts. He stated the very ambitious objective of reducing infections by 50% by 2015. For this to happen, prevention has to be taken as seriously as ART, which is likely to require a shift in the budget from ART to prevention. As one concrete step, Lungu suggested to use the as yet largely unused potential of traditional healers in prevention efforts. He also urged the government not to view civil society as an enemy, but as a partner to enhance national capacity to fight HIV/AIDS.

Mannasseh Phiri, Executive Director of the Society for Family Health deplored that the debate on HIV/AIDS is often cast in too negative terms. In fact, he argued, Zambia has done tremendously well, having made the way from an

ignorant society to one where 250,000 people are on ART. At the same time, he demanded Zambian ownership in the fight against AIDS and a greater involvement of Parliament and ministries. In particular, the question of national capacity would have to be addressed heads-on, rather than endlessly talking about the AIDS fund and paying lip service to foreigners. One participant asked (without getting an explicit answer) whether Zambia will be able to mobilize significant additional resources for AIDS, given that it already spends 15% of its budget on health.

During the floor discussion, a participant referred back to a previous session, asking what Parliament is doing to increase widow's land security. Hon. Muntanga responded by pointing to the new constitution, which will render it possible to obtain a kind of certificate that secures land allocated by the chief. Another participant favored the option of establishing village-level land committees that are more representative than leaving the issue of land to the village head only.

In his summarizing remarks, Thomas Jayne provided a personal account of what he considered to be the main lessons learned in the workshop. These include:

- The political will to fight AIDS cannot be taken for granted (AIDS is not even mentioned in the current draft of the National Development Plan).
- Universal access to ART does not guarantee universal coverage.
- Anti-AIDS efforts need to be scaled up, but donors are unlikely to give more.

For more information, please contact [Dr. Rainer Thiele](#) or [Toman Omar Mahmoud](#).

### 3. Global Economic Symposium 2010 in Istanbul, 28.-29. September 2010

The Global Economic Symposium (GES) takes place once a year. It aims to provide a new collaborative setting to analyze the world's most important economic problems, create shared visions of the future and formulate innovative strategies to achieve these visions. The GES thereby seeks to be a catalyst for future change. The GES 2010 takes place at the Central Bank of Istanbul, September 28 and 29, 2010.

Find more information about the Global Economic Symposium at:

<http://www.global-economic-symposium.org/>.

### 6. News from 3ie

3ie launches innovative 'Policy Window' for high impact research  
New window targeting priority interventions of governmental and non-

governmental agencies in developing countries

3ie is leading a path-breaking funding window, which calls for policy makers and programme managers from developing countries to identify priority interventions and flagship programmes which would benefit from a timely evaluation of their impacts on affected communities.

“The main challenge for 3ie is to promote influential impact evaluations that will help improve policies and programmes and ultimately improve lives in developing countries. By directly asking policy makers from governmental and non-governmental agencies which interventions should be evaluated, this new policy window will help bridge the existing divide between research and policy and so better inform policies and programmes”, said Howard White, 3ie Executive Director.

This window operates through a two step process. The first step is a call to implementing agencies from developing countries (governmental or non-governmental) to propose social and economic development interventions to be evaluated. A panel of policy experts will select interventions from these proposals with 3ie support.

Once the interventions are selected, 3ie will run an international competitive bidding process amongst researchers and evaluators. These proposals are screened by a panel of technical experts, together with a representative of the implementing agency.

The deadline for submission to the first call is June 11. Read more and download application form on: [http://www.3ieimpact.org/policy\\_window.html](http://www.3ieimpact.org/policy_window.html)

Find more news on [www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/](http://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/)

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The PEGNet Newsletter is not sent out on a regular basis, but depending on new developments or events within PEGNet and from our partners and members.

We are happy to include news from your side, if they are related to poverty reduction, equity and growth and in particular to the interaction between policy, practice and research in development. Please send the news you want to be distributed to [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de). This could include calls for papers, reports of conferences or workshops, published papers or books, grants, new projects, programmes, or related initiatives.

If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future please write a short notice to [pegnet@ifw-kiel.de](mailto:pegnet@ifw-kiel.de).

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