

**BRIDGING POLICY AND POVERTY:
MICRO IMPACT OF MACROECONOMIC AND ADJUSTMENT POLICIES
PROGRAMME IN BANGLADESH**

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By
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Evaluation Unit of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has recently evaluated the ways and extent to which IDRC's supported programmes have had an impact on policy formulation. Concerned with fostering research-policy links and enhancing the opportunities for policy impact, IDRC increasingly focused on supporting research with potential to influence policy. As part of a strategic evaluation, the Evaluation Unit of IDRC has commissioned external evaluations of IDRC funded projects to assess the influence of research on public policy. This study contributes to such evaluation by assessing the case of Micro Impact of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies Programme (MIMAP) in Bangladesh.

This study offers new insights to understand the types of policy influence experienced in the case of MIMAP. The relevance of this case rests on its contribution to new conceptual and methodological approaches to anti-poverty programmes in Bangladesh. By evaluating the research-policy nexus on the case of MIMAP, this assessment will help to draw lessons that can be applied in the institution's strategic planning process.

This study was based on a previous version elaborated by Kirit Parik. Methodologically it followed the terms of reference and guidelines provided by the IDRC's Evaluation Unit. A review of several documents related to MIMAP, in particular Mujeri and Khandker (2000) *Basic MIMAP Poverty Profile (BMPP) of Bangladesh* and other evaluation reports and publications were important sources for this evaluation. The analysis of policy influence, however, thoroughly relies on the interviews conducted by Kirit Parik during 2002.

This report first analyses the context in which MIMAP was implemented, the background of the programme and its rationale, objectives and relevance for the Bangladesh anti-poverty policies. A brief description of the project phases also provides a better understanding of MIMAP-Bangladesh. This is followed by an analysis of the methodological innovations and outcomes of the programme, including dissemination and outreach activities that have shaped the way in which knowledge producers and users interact in the formulation and implementation of anti-poverty policies in Bangladesh.

The final part of this report explores types of policy influence. Policy influence in the case of MIMAP is determined by the distinctive fact that research has permeated the inner circle of policy-making to be a constitutive part of the policy process. From this perspective some insights on policy influence are explained as MIMAP activities expand policy capacities, enhance policy horizons and change policies. This analysis presents a final reflection on factors that enhance or limit the capacity of policy influence of MIMAP related activities.

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INTRODUCTION

Identifying logical patterns of influence of research on policy is not an easy task. However, the case of Micro Impact of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies Programme (MIMAP) in Bangladesh challenges the assumption. In effect, the case of MIMAP-Bangladesh demonstrates a dynamic relation between research utilization and policy making in which the policy community turns to the academic community in the search for policy-oriented knowledge. Concretely, policy-makers gave rise to demands for information in poverty-related issues in an attempt to understand and decode a complex reality for which analytical instruments were not adequate. The MIMAP-Bangladesh programme offered information and interpretation pivotal not only in the agenda-setting and policy formulation processes but also in the monitoring of ongoing programmes.

As part of a strategic evaluation, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has commissioned an external review of the influence of research on public policy in the case of IDRC sponsored MIMAP programme. In Bangladesh, the MIMAP project is concerned with the creation of reliable and timely information on the state and processes of poverty formulation that is required for the implementation of sustainable anti-poverty strategies. MIMAP-Bangladesh has helped policy-makers to design policies that meet economic reforms and structural adjustment in combination with poverty alleviation strategies. Through research, training and networking, the programme increased knowledge to improve policies and programmes to alleviate poverty and increase equity.¹

In the case of Bangladesh, the relevance of MIMAP rests to create a new set of policy indicators that expand policy capacity of government officials by improving the knowledge and data on poverty-related issues.² As a consequence of the production of policy-oriented knowledge, the relationship between researchers involved in MIMAP and those in the front-line of policy-making processes has been enhanced. In turn, a sense of 'ownership' in the formulation of policy alternatives reinforced effective policy-making and an effective methodology to tackle the socio-economic agenda in Bangladesh.

¹ www.idrc.ca/mimap

² Interview with Mustafa K. Mujeri (2002)

IDRC has been an active sponsor of the development of related activities and lesson drawing for the expansion of the programme throughout Asia and Africa since the early 1990s. Together with the case of Philippines, MIMAP Bangladesh has pioneered the application of economic modeling techniques, poverty monitoring, and development of other policy-oriented instruments in more than 10 countries in these regions.³ MIMAP enabled researchers and policy makers to work in tune with urgently needed policy solutions in the country.⁴ Since the project's inception in 1992, the research has produced substantial improvements in monitoring of poverty by standardising surveys and other instruments. The major policy implication of the project however relates to the fact that MIMAP knowledge-related production has become a key source of information for policy-making regarding poverty issues.

Given the increasing importance of influencing policy in IDRC programming and research, the Centre has engaged in a strategic evaluation of the influence of its supported research on public policy. This study sheds some light on the issue of policy influence of IDRC supported research in the case of MIMAP-Bangladesh.

I. BACKGROUND

MIMAP Programme

In 1989, IDRC created the Micro Impact of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) programme to help developing countries to undertake alternatives to traditional macroeconomic policies by meshing policy analysis with poverty monitoring. Since its creation, MIMAP activities have helped developing countries minimize the negative impact of structural adjustment programs on the poor, such as currency devaluation, public expenditure reductions, trade liberalisation and other policies. The main objectives of MIMAP programmes have been to increase the understanding of poverty and to promote dialogue among researchers, politicians, government officials and NGOs in the search of equitable and effective policies of poverty alleviation.

The programme has been triggered by two main trends in policy analysis: First, a conviction that poverty reduction strategies and programmes will succeed only if reliable information about poverty indicators is provided on regular bases. Poverty indicators and analytical tools were considered critical elements to understand the many dimensions and changing dynamics of poverty. Second, a belief that poverty reduction strategies and programmes will not succeed

³ IDRC (2000) 'MIMAP. Building Capacity to Reduce Poverty'. Available at MIMAP web site at www.idrc.ca/mimap

⁴ Interview with Sattar Mondal (2002)

without a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of macroeconomic policies on the poor. As the next section describes, these underpinnings were particularly important in the design and implementation of MIMAP in Bangladesh.

MIMAP represents an innovative programme that contributes to the improvement of methodological and analytical frameworks that enhance the development of anti-poverty policies in developing countries. In effect, MIMAP projects have involved poverty monitoring beyond collecting conventional income and consumption-based indicators to include health, access to drinking water and land, the quality of housing, and a myriad of other factors. Within the MIMAP methodology new economic models linked micro and macro level of analysis to determine the impact of economic policies implemented at national level on, for instance, household welfare. These particularities of MIMAP contributed to the development of multidisciplinary studies that focus on specific context affecting the effectiveness of poverty programmes.⁵

In general, the MIMAP programme has assisted in the analysis and creation of alternate policies to achieve the goals of economic stabilization and adjustment while reducing poverty and softening impacts on vulnerable groups.

The specific objectives of MIMAP aimed to:

1. Enhance the research capacity of developing countries to analyse the impact of macroeconomic policies on their citizens;
2. Provide new instruments for policy and program design and analysis, by developing rigorous analytical tools and poverty monitoring systems;
3. Assist the development of community-based monitoring and local development mechanisms;
4. Strengthen the ability of policy-makers to negotiate with international players, such as the banks and other multilateral and bilateral organizations;
5. Bring together researchers, politicians, government officials, and NGOs in policy dialogue at the national and regional levels; and
6. Promote the exchange of research knowledge, tools, results and policy dialogue among countries, institutions and donors.⁶

Operationally, MIMAP projects have supported initiatives oriented to policy analysis and capacity building taking as priorities the adaptation of project objectives and design to local

⁵ See http://www.idrc.ca/Nayudamma/mimap_e.html#Introduction

⁶ MIMAP Prospectus 2000-2005. IDRC October 2000. Available at IDRC website http://web.idrc.ca/ev_en.php?ID=6724_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC#objectives

needs; data collection at a disaggregated level; sense of ownership by national authorities and participatory policy-oriented endeavours.

IDRC's support in this area began with the introduction of the MIMAP programme in the Philippines in 1990. Different endeavours preceded the support of IDRC to the evaluation of the social dimensions of adjustment policies and understanding the micro-macro linkages. However, they suffer from a number of procedural weaknesses, due to limited involvement by developing country researchers and policy-makers and the one-off nature of the exercises.⁷ In regards to implementation, MIMAP has applied a process of 'learning by doing' assuring the adjustment to local characteristics and needs.

The MIMAP initiative expanded geographically to Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Vietnam, among other countries. Although essentially MIMAP is developed according to local needs, the components that can be traced in most MIMAP projects are: assessment of macroeconomic policies in responding to forces of structural change; analysis of policy impacts on well-being at the micro level; dissemination to a wide range of institutions involved in the national policy dialogue; participation in the refinement or redesign of macroeconomic policies to achieve an optimal mix of economic, environmental and social objectives; and identification of ways to continue the process of capacity building and consensus building within a country and region through policy, research and program implementation.

Organisationally, MIMAP articulated a Network among research institutions within the countries where the programme is undertaken. The exchange of experiences and lessons-drawn have been at the core of the network activities. These focus on concerted training, technical support and comparative research activities involving many project teams. The program has established the MIMAP Network to connect developing-country researchers, policy officials, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international experts. By mid-2000, the MIMAP Network included over 40 teams from Asian and West African countries. In addition, an external secretariat coordinates functions and aid resources.

II. MIMAP- BANGLADESH

Economic situation of Bangladesh

⁷ Some of these programmes identified in the MIMAP Prospectus are: the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Surveys (LSMS) and Social Dimensions of Adjustment, aimed at collecting and disseminating disaggregated statistics on poverty and the study of micro-macro interactions for use in policy analysis. Also the OECD's 'Adjustment and Equity' for the analysis of micro-macro linkages in seven countries. See: http://web.idrc.ca/ev_en.php?ID=6724_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC#background

Poverty is an endemic economic problem in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries with annual per capita income in 2000-01 of US\$ 387 (see Table 1). It was recognised that the underlying factors that have created and perpetuated poverty involved a number of dimensions, such as low growth and unequal distribution of growth benefits; inadequate access to employment, basic services and resources by the poor; inequitable distribution of assets, technology and socio-economic opportunities; low productivity and wages; underdeveloped infrastructure and other structural processes.⁸

Table 1: GDP growth rates and per capita income

Activity/Sector	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (P)
Per capita income (US\$)	351	359	369	377	387
GDP growth rate (%) at 1995-96 price	5.39	5.23	4.87	5.94	6.04
Major sectoral growth rate (%) at 1995-96 prices					
Agriculture	6.00	3.20	4.74	7.38	5.04
Industry	5.80	8.32	4.92	6.17	8.68
Services	4.51	4.96	5.16	5.48	5.24

The growth rate of real GDP started to increase by the end of the 1990s. During 1996-2000, annual growth rate of GDP showed an average growth of 5.49 % generating as a consequence growth in per capita income. GDP rates have increased as major sectors like agriculture, service and industry have shown significant growth. Yet, despite increasing rates in GDP growth and per capita income surveys conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) indicated that between 1983 and 1999 poverty has been stagnant, affecting rural and urban population. As shown in Table 2 below, 44.9 % of the rural population lived below the poverty line in 1999 compared to 61.9 % in 1983/84. In the urban areas, the incidence of poverty declined to 43.3 % in 1999 from 67.7 % in 1983/84.

⁸ See Mujeri and Khandker (2000) 'Impact of Macroeconomic Policy Reforms in Bangladesh A General Equilibrium Framework for Analysis'. Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific. Dhaka, Bangladesh. Paper Presented at the MIMAP Third Annual Meeting. November 2-6, 1998 Kathmandu, Nepal.

Table 2. Incidence of poverty

Year	Rural	Urban
1999	44.9	43.3
1998	47.6	44.3
1997	46.8	43.4
1996	47.9	44.4
1995/96	47.1	49.7
1991/92	47.6	46.7
1988/89	47.8	47.6
1985/86	54.7	62.6
1983/84	61.9	67.7

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2002), Report of the Poverty Monitoring Survey, May 1999.

The multidimensional nature of poverty in Bangladesh has been demonstrated in the Basic MIMAP Poverty Profile (BMPP) of Bangladesh. This study has been based on selected indicators in key economic and social dimensions, such as income/expenditure, employment, nutrition, education, health, water/ sanitation, housing, assets and services.⁹

Poverty in Bangladesh, however, not only rests on these political-economic issues but also on a deeper methodological challenge. In effect, one of the most striking problems combating poverty in Bangladesh has been related to the lack of adequate sources of information on poverty-related issues. Access to information on poverty has been a critical challenge to the design of effective and sustainable economic policies that can have positive impact on the poor. Access to adequate information on poverty-related issues and understanding the dynamics of poverty was considered a key priority in the government's anti-poverty agenda.

Bangladesh has initiated a number of anti-poverty programmes to fight poverty. Although much attention has been given to the incidence and causes of poverty, sources of information were inadequate as they were both outdated and unreliable. This situation has undermined several attempts to implement and monitor poverty reduction programmes. For example, Bangladesh's authorities have traditionally relied on only one source of data collection: the

⁹ Mujeri and Khandker (2000) *Basic MIMAP Poverty Profile (BMPP) of Bangladesh*. Document presented at the MIMAP Annual Meeting, Philippines, 4-8 September.

Household Expenditures Survey (HES). This survey was of little use to policy-makers because it was produced irregularly and its results published with a time lag of 3 to 4 years. Moreover, the HES offered limited one-dimensional information as they looked at consumption, expenditure or income.¹⁰

In order to develop capabilities to establish, undertake and monitor antipoverty policies at the national level, the Research Division of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) with the assistance of IDRC and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) initiated the *Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty Project (MAP)* in Bangladesh in 1990 to address some specific issues related to the monitoring of poverty using multidimensional indicators. In the early 1990s, as the Bangladesh economy undertook a process of structural adjustment the MAP programme focused on the analysis of micro impact of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies on poverty. Overall, the major contribution of this programme has been that it provided reliable sources for policy-makers to formulate and implement sustainable anti-poverty strategy in Bangladesh.

MIMAP- Bangladesh: Project Phases

The MAP project provided policy makers in Bangladesh with institutional arrangements and technical capability to monitor poverty and impact of macroeconomic and adjustment policies at the micro level. MIMAP-Bangladesh started as MAP-I in 1992 at CIRDAP in Dhaka. MAP-I was followed by MAP-II. The third phase of the programme included a name change to MIMAP and was shifted to Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). The project leader at CIRDAP, Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, also shifted to BIDS. Administrative information on MIMAP's phases are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. MIMAP-Bangladesh

Phase I	MAP-I 91-0235	1992-93	CAD \$ 186,930
Phase II	MAP-II 93-8305	1993-94	CAD \$ 150,000
Phase III	MIMAP-III 94-8304	1995-98	CAD \$ 375,182
Phase IV (extension of previous phase)	MIMAP-IV 2000/80713	2000-01	CAD \$ 356,579

¹⁰ Interview with Mustafa K. Mujeri (2002)

Phase I of the MAP project was initiated in 1992. It tested a set of multidimensional indicators of poverty and suggested a methodology for regular monitoring of poverty and the impact of macro policies by national institutions in Bangladesh.

Phase II was initiated in 1993 and carried the work further to identify specific issues and pursue additional activities in achieving the MAP objectives.

The Phase III of the project started in 1995 to strengthen the capability of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) to establish and undertake, on a regular basis, monitoring of poverty and impact of macro policies on poverty at the household level and provided feedback to policy makers.

IDRC and the CIDA approved at the initial stage an amount of \$1,122,800 CAD that was later revised to \$1,167,892 CAD to CIRDAP to undertake the research project entitled *Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty (MAP) –III*. This three-year phase of the project was initiated in 1995 and expected to be completed in 1998. Due to some contextual circumstances, the project was extended to 2001. This project aimed to strengthen the capacity of two national institutions in Bangladesh, the BBS and the Planning Commission (PC), to regularly monitor the incidence of poverty using multidimensional indicators.

The main activities of this phase involved: the development of an analytical framework to analyse the impact of key macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies on the poor, a number of focus studies on topics related to poverty issues and network of institutions - from government, research and NGO sectors - to improve policy dialogue in the country.

In the initial two phases a number of studies were conducted in order to assess (i) the links between poverty and the environment; (ii) markets as conduits of micro-macro linkages; (iii) human resources development policies; and (iv) public finance and poverty. Phase III and IV focused on strengthening institutional arrangements and technical capability of researchers and policy-makers. In this context, the last two phases of the programme enforced a policy process in which knowledge producers and knowledge users participated in the formulation and implementation of anti-poverty programmes in Bangladesh.

III. MAP AND MIMAP: METHODOLOGY AND OUTCOMES

Methodologically, several approaches were used by MAP and MIMAP teams to link macroeconomic policies and microeconomic impacts. These include the following four instruments:

(i) Poverty Monitoring System

The Poverty Monitoring System (PMS) was designed to develop and institutionalise a process of monitoring the incidence of poverty on a regular basis through a set of indicators for use by the policy makers and others. The PMS was located at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The activities focused on consolidation of the survey methodology, expansion of coverage of the indicators, disaggregation over spatial units and training and other activities. Efforts had also been given to minimise the time required in publishing the survey results.

Before the introduction of the PMS, the BBS was the only provider of national level systematic data source in Bangladesh. The main methods utilised by the BBS were the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Most studies of poverty in Bangladesh, including those by the World Bank, have relied on these instruments. However, as several participant and beneficiaries of MIMAP have argued, poverty is much more than a lack of income and that measures of poverty must include dimensions beyond what traditional income and expenditure data can provide.¹¹

The PMS includes a set of core indicators in twelve areas: income, nutrition, health, education, housing, access to community services, access to land, peoples' participation, crisis coping capacity, economic diversification, employment, and public expenditure. The multi-dimensional nature of this analytical instrument confers qualitative indicators for a broader audience beyond those inside the policy line. In addition to the substantial improvements in the overall design of poverty surveys in Bangladesh, PMS data is also tested and revisited during different rounds of surveys in the same household. This methodology allows measuring the poverty situation of the same set of households and determine patterns over time and over coverage of population.¹² Furthermore, PMS have been adjusted and refined over the life of the project and new indicators, including increased gender disaggregation, have been included.¹³

In terms of policy impact, the PMS indicators also suggest the need to adopt a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction in the country. Actions recommended by the PMS were oriented to (i) physical capital to increase productivity and income; (ii) human capital to enhance social capabilities and encourage new opportunities for socio-economic

¹¹ The interviews with Mujeri (Project leader, MIMAP), Ahmed (Project leader MAP-I) and Solaiman (Research Director from CIRDAP) highlight this point.

¹² See CIRDAP (2001) Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty in Bangladesh-Phase III. Project Completion Report. Research Division, March.

¹³ CIRDAP's 2001 Report though hourly assess findings of poverty-related issues in Bangladesh. Among those, it is salient that differential incidence of poverty among various socioeconomic groups in Bangladesh, including: (i) higher levels of education and land ownership are associated with a lower probability of being poor; (ii) rural households with heads working in the non-farm sector are less likely to be poor than landless farm workers; and (iii) female-headed households are poorer than their male-headed counterparts.

development; (iii) financial capital to facilitate better livelihood options; (iv) natural capital to ensure sustainability and diversity of income streams; (v) social capital to enhance networking capacity; and (vi) political capital to strengthen bargaining strength to compete with other interest groups and ensure a fair share to resources and public services.

The PMS has acted as a bridge between the policy-makers and poverty analysts bringing closer interactions to the centre of the poverty agenda. These surveys have emerged as a primary source of information on trends in poverty with strong policy implications. As the PMS delivers data within a short period of time, usually less than a year, the PMS has been particularly useful for national and international policy-makers, researchers, academics and NGOs. Before the PMS, the poverty estimates based on household expenditure survey were carried out with an interval of three to five years by the BBS. The results of these surveys took a lot of time to process and time lags of 3 to 4 years were common. The PMS results in contrast are available within a year of the survey allowing policy formulation to be based on reliable and timely effective information enhancing efficiency in poverty-related policies. In this context, decision-making on poverty-related issues has improved as policies can be based on alternative scenarios, and their implementation monitored and adjusted along the process.

Local Level PMS

In the latest MIMAP phase, a local level PMS (LLPMS) was introduced for the monitoring and planning of poverty-related programmes following a decentralised procedure of sampling. The 1999 survey was the first one that provides district level information on poverty and its various aspects in Bangladesh. As a result, the initial sample of the PMS surveys was expanded from estimates for 5 sample survey regions to a much larger sample that gives estimates of poverty for 21 districts. Relevant information on poverty and development profiles include: village transect (geographical and physical characteristics), social mapping (village/household characteristics), resource mapping (social/natural resources identification), social sector program identification, wealth ranking (household wealth and poverty status), seasonality exercise (seasonal vulnerability and disease profile), problem ranking (priorities and prospects) and focused group discussion/household survey (individual household and related information). The information is made available directly to the local representatives and the local officials of the line ministries for their use in planning and implementation of poverty-related programs. They are also available to NGOs, local civil society organisations and other agents involved in local-level development activities.¹⁴

¹⁴ Interview with members of the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development BARD, Comilla

The geographic division of Bangladesh is quite complex and represents a critical challenge for this kind of decentralised data collection. The country is divided into 64 districts gathering a total of 60,000 villages! While the experience of local surveys have been applied to 13 villages, members of the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development are confident that the experience could be replicated in other villages. They highlighted that the involvement of local NGOs is crucial for the implementation of the survey in other villages.¹⁵

(ii) Computerised Information System

In order to support policy deliberations, a computerised system of information collection, storage and retrieval was established. Since the start of the MAP project priorities have evolved through trial and errors and adapted in a process of ‘learning by doing’ and therefore the accumulation and storage of systematised data was an important component of this learning process. The Computerised Information System (CIS) was created for the development of an integrated database and process display to archive and disseminate poverty related information with technical assistance from the Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARSO). The activities undertaken to operationalise the CIS were:

- Implementation of hardware and software of the CIS;
- Development of customised software for Geographic Information System (GIS) data analysis and output generation;
- Demonstration of Case Studies showing utilisation of CIS using the collected data and data available from secondary sources. Data/information gathered through the PMS surveys have been processed on an experimental basis and presented in an Expert Group Meeting in September 1997 at CIRDAP
- Training of users on GIS; and
- Preparation of final report.

Capacity building in the management of this system was an important feature of the programme. Therefore, training activities were conducted in March 1998 for the PMS staff of BBS and MAP staff to take full advantage of the proposed CIS structure and relate it to GIS and other software.¹⁶

¹⁵ Interview with Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, former Leader, MAP-I

¹⁶ Ibid.

(iii) Computable General Equilibrium Model

The poverty analysis undertaken by MIMAP Bangladesh involves the development of analytical tools that can help assess the impact of macroeconomic policies on poverty. This responded to the lack of a systematic analytical framework to assess the micro-impacts of macroeconomic policies in Bangladesh, and the substantial disagreements on the appropriate macroeconomic policies for reducing poverty more effectively. The MIMAP Bangladesh has developed a Computable General Equilibrium Model (CGE) that offers a tool for the analysis of poverty impacts of economic policies.

CGE models are used to estimate the impacts of macroeconomic shocks or policy changes on key economic sectors and household or social groups. The model was designed to analyse and monitor poverty implications of key macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies. The model has been made operational at the Bangladesh Planning Commission.

In Bangladesh, the CGE model has been particularly useful as the country embarked in a process of structural adjustment and macroeconomic reforms. Those reforms responded to the need to advance new policies of poverty reduction after erratic government efforts and implementation of various programmes targeted to the poor since the early 1970s. In effect, the success of these programmes in poverty reduction has not been significant and the economy produced unsustainable growth and macroeconomic imbalances. As a result, a comprehensive economic reform programme was launched to open up and establish a liberalized, market-based, and private sector-driven economy. These reforms were considerably success in achieving macroeconomic stability, and especially important was the reduction of inflation, fiscal and current account deficits. However, as is the trend in developing countries in most regions, the achievement of macroeconomic stability did not translate into accelerating growth-with-equity. On the contrary, there is extensive documentation about the negative effect of macroeconomic reforms in the poor.

The implementation of the GEM allowed examining and monitoring the impacts of adjustment measures on poverty situation. In this context, anti-poverty policies can be followed as the government implements necessary economic reforms observing macro and micro aspects of economic impact, such as the consequences of macroeconomic adjustment policies on household welfare and income distribution.

(iv) Focus Studies

At the technical and policy levels, to date MIMAP has generated a series of working papers, technical papers and policy papers.¹⁷ These focused studies were conducted on poverty related issues to supplement the modelling and poverty monitoring efforts. Focus studies include in-depth analysis of poverty-related issues to supplement the modelling and poverty monitoring efforts. MIMAP also produced newsletters widely disseminated nationally and internationally to governments, researchers, NGOs and donor agencies.

Focus study areas have covered several issues e.g. the role of public expenditure in poverty alleviation, agriculture and rural poverty, efficiency of rural markets, human resource development of the poor, poverty-environment linkages, micro-credit, rural-urban migration, agricultural diversification, farm level investment and similar concerns.

IV. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH STRATEGIES

The dissemination strategies of MAP and MIMAP activities were specifically focused on the main objective of the programme to provide policy assistance based on adequate research. In this context, those closely related to the policy-making process were the primary targets of dissemination activities. Relevant government institutions, NGOs and other national/international agencies acted as collaborative partners.

Dissemination of research results and of data sets were achieved through several avenues, including publication of working paper series, technical papers and focus studies, policy briefs, ten books, MIMAP newsletters and journal articles, among others. These publications have been circulated regularly among relevant policy makers, researchers, academicians, relevant institutions, and donors.

National newspapers, both English and Bengali, have published reports and commentaries on project-related outputs and have used the resulting data and its analysis for furthering poverty concerns in the country. The project also uses Geographic Information System (GIS), and related technologies for effective outreach of project outputs to concerned stakeholders and/or policymakers.

In addition, 12 seminars and other meetings provided useful forums for promoting dialogue among the policy makers, researchers, development partners and others on suggesting ways to mainstream poverty analysis in policy-making and designing programmes and projects. In effect, seminars, conferences and roundtables were organized by the MAP team to present and

¹⁷ See Appendix A for a complete list of MIMAP publications including focus studies titles.

discuss the implementation of poverty monitoring surveys and its results.¹⁸ Other capacity building and outreach activities were undertaken through 4 training programmes and workshops.¹⁹

V. KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND USE OF THE RESULTS

MIMAP-Bangladesh presents a case of functional correlation where policy-makers use research to sort out alternative solutions. From this perspective, the target of research production has been national level decision-makers to influence national policies.

The interviews and policy reports related to MIMAP-Bangladesh have indicated that influence on public policy have been pursued by the generation of poverty-related research and methods oriented towards problem solving. The type of knowledge generated within the framework of MIMAP has been centered on a policy-oriented and technical approach for the development of qualitative analysis and quantitative models for poverty measuring and monitoring.

The objective of influencing policy has been implicit in the content of the IDRC-supported programme. Its key aim in this sense is to articulate research that has the potential to inform policy-makers in a linear manner and to contribute to the formulation of sound policy options. For research to inform and influence policy, direct and indirect mechanisms were set in place. For example, capacity building mechanisms, such as training, workshops, dissemination of research outputs and policy dialogue have been important components of MIMAP- Bangladesh. These mechanisms have exerted policy impact in a direct manner since they involved actors closely linked to policy processes. As for indirect mechanisms, policy-oriented publications in academic journals, ad hoc publications in local and national newspapers and the MIMAP newsletter have been important channels enhancing public awareness among civil society and policy makers in general. Ahmed highlighted that since the beginning of the project, the intention was established as providing guidelines and increasing policy awareness on the fact that 'Macro Adjustment policies can have a micro impact'.²⁰ The results of PMS, focus studies and economic models, have been important to broadening the understanding of poverty. Therefore, MIMAP activities not only filled the gaps in the existing knowledge of researchers and policymakers but also introduced new fields of policy inquiry, putting these issues on the

¹⁸ Reports of the National Seminars on Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty in Bangladesh have been produced for the meetings in November 1995, 19 August 1996, 30 April 1997, 24 March 1998, 6 April 1999

¹⁹ CIRDAP (2001) 'Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty in Bangladesh-Phase III'. Project Completion Report. Research Division, CIRDAP. March

²⁰ Interview with Salehuddin Ahmed (2002). Also Quazi Shahbuddin (2002)

agendas of policymakers.²¹ Through PMS indicators, poverty has been defined and therefore tackled as a multi-dimensional problem.

In this context, MIMAP has impacted on the policy process by contributing with cognitive and empirical insights that are incorporated in government decisions and policies. For example, interviewees noted that information gathered by the PMS was the main resource backing the Finance Minister's budget documents as well as gives important input for the Planning Commission's work. In addition, the Planning Commission has significantly relied on MIMAP modeling work. In this case, CGE modeling was considered an essential tool to analyse options for liberalisation and market-oriented reforms. Moreover, the fact that a CGE model was managed in the Planning Commission has enhanced the ability of government officials to use instrumental data on issues of micro impact of macro policy. This was especially the case within the General Economics Division.²²

Other policy analysis carried out with the model includes:

- Tariff policy analysis. Specifically the impact of reducing tariff of different sectors on the economy and its distributional consequences;
- Impact of some macro-policies on household consumption and nutritional status;
- Trade offs of alternative indirect tax structures with revenue neutrality and their impact on poverty; and
- Natural gas policy

These studies were complemented with the introduction of sectoral analysis framework, the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). The SAM based modelling framework estimates poverty alleviating impacts of sectoral growth. One of its major contributions has been determining which sectors are more efficient in reducing poverty and improving distribution. In this context, education, health and agriculture were indicated as the sectors having strong impact for poverty alleviation goals.²³

Another example of direct use of knowledge in policy-making is the contribution of the CGE and the poverty monitoring survey data to the in preparation of the Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP). The PRSP is a policy document developed by the Planning Commission detailing 5-year planning process. Mujeri, who participated in the process, has

²¹ Adamo Abra (2002) *Strategic Evaluation of Policy Influence: What Evaluation Reports Tell Us About Public Policy Influence by IDRC-Supported Research*. Report Prepared for the Evaluation Unit, IDRC, p.26

²² Interviews with Mohammad Solaiman, Shafiqur Rahman, and Mustafa Mujeri (2002). Also see interview with Bazlul Haque Khondker, MIMAP modeler (2002).

²³ Interview with B. Khondker (2002).

highlighted the impact of MIMAP research outputs in the PRSP. He pointed out that ‘Bangladesh is now allocating 26 or 27% of its total budget to social sectors: when we started, the allocations were 15-17%. MIMAP has stressed the importance of social development since the beginning’.²⁴

MIMAP-related activities have also contributed to an organizational learning process within government institutions. This was particularly the case of the BBS. Some interviewees highlighted the importance of the BBS involvement in MIMAP activities for the development of a new culture in which knowledge-policy become embedded in the agency.²⁵ In effect, the research generated by MIMAP went beyond the role of enlightening actors to become an instrument of policy-making. The recruitment of former participants in MIMAP activities within the government agencies was an important factor enforcing this trend. Similarly, members of MIMAP advising or directly participating in government agencies contributed to the institutional and organizational learning processes. This was for example the case of Dr. Mustafa Mujeri, who was leader of the MIMAP team at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies in Dhaka, later appointed as Advisor to the Prime Minister.

Another important use of MIMAP’s findings has been related to capacity building. Project reports and interviews suggest that capacity building has strengthened policy-interested actors’ capabilities to develop innovative and sustainable policy solutions to poverty problems. From this perspective, MIMAP has strengthened the professional capacities of researchers and research institutions for conducting high quality, policy relevant research, and the organizational capacity of decision-makers to absorb good research and use it for poverty alleviation programmes on the ground. For example, the results from poverty monitoring surveys carried out by the MIMAP team have been a crucial input for the governmental poverty alleviation strategies. The design of the poverty monitoring surveys with improved methodology for measuring poverty has mainstreamed the work on poverty analysis, policy design, implementation and evaluation.

Finally, as poverty-monitoring activities were carried out in collaboration between government agencies and MIMAP project members, capacity building has significantly benefited the development of new government officials skills . In this context, it has been recognized that the BBS, and other development partners within and outside the government circle, have increased their capacity to assess poverty status in the country and design policies

²⁴ ‘From Research to Policy in Bangladesh’. *News Article* by Michelle Hibler. 2002-12-23. Available at http://network.idrc.ca/ev.php?ID=27301_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

²⁵ Interview with Mohammad Solaiman (2002)

accordingly.²⁶ In addition to the evidence of capacity building in the academic and policy communities, some civil society organizations and individuals from local villages have participated in training programmes for collection, processing and consistency checking of the data. This experience not only opened new opportunities for networking but also created new links between non-governmental and governmental bodies facilitating integrated strategies on poverty alleviation.²⁷

Increasing ownership in poverty alleviation programmes

Another factor highlighted by several interviewees is the impact that policy research has had in policy processes related to the elaboration of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. According to some participants, the demand for MIMAP was rising in the context of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) and PRSP agendas, and much renewed donor support for poverty reduction strategies and programs. In Bangladesh, the use of research results offered by MIMAP activities has affected major decisions in poverty planning. For example, reliable information and analytical tools developed within the framework of MIMAP, encouraged the development of a new policy document detailing the official strategy towards combating poverty with the collaboration with other donors such as bilateral and multilateral agencies. In this context, the adoption of PRSP document replaced the government five-years plan. In effect, MIMAP research outputs helped the Planning Commission to develop new poverty reduction strategies assessment that were incorporated in the PRSP. The allocation of resources in the budget is another important factor in which research informed policy-making. In this context new methods of poverty monitoring and evaluation allowed a better assessment of policies and allocation of resources. The PMS and other MIMAP resources helped to incorporate new issues within the official strategy such as a chapter on non-farm industry.

Another major impact of MIMAP highlighted by some interviewees has been related to ownership of Bangladesh participants with the donor community within the discussions of long-term economic and poverty alleviation strategies. MIMAP has become a wide-range source of information and it is cited in various policy publications within the development community, especially by World Bank and UNDP analysis of education and health.²⁸ In addition, MIMAP representatives are increasingly invited to join donor initiatives.²⁹

²⁶ Interviews with Solaiman and Rahman (2002)

²⁷ Interview with Mantaz Uddin Ahmed (2002)

²⁸ Interview with Mustafa Mujeri (2002)

²⁹ Interviews with Shahbuddin (2002) and Sattar Mondal (2002)

Finally, MIMAP Bangladesh represents a case of research influencing national policy by developing close links between research producers and research users within the policy spectrum. However, the research-policy links detected in this case go beyond national policy-making drawing lessons and practices cross-nationally. That is, MIMAP-Bangladesh has been replicated in Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and through CIRDAP it provides technical assistance to Laos and Vietnam.³⁰

VI. TYPES OF POLICY INFLUENCE

Direct and Indirect Policy Influence

The type of policy influence detected in the MIMAP research activities is particular in that research has permeated the inner circle of policy-making to be a constitutive part of the policy process. As such, researchers, academics and policy-makers are part of an increasing culture of knowledge utilisation in which research represents an important instrument beyond its indirect impact in percolating ideas.

As researchers and policy-makers participate in the process of policy definition, there is no clear distinction between insiders and outsiders in the research-policy nexus. Yet the relation between knowledge producers and users in the case of MIMAP illustrates two ways of exercising influence: direct and indirect influence.

Direct influence has been evident in cases in which MIMAP researchers have been appointed to positions of political responsibility. This was the case of Mustafa Mujeri, whose involvement ranges from project leadership, to be actively involved in programme design within the preparation of the PRSP. Since then, Dr. Mujeri has been made advisor to the Prime Minister. This is just one case that illustrates the involvement of experts in policy-making as a consequence of enhancing policy expertise in the area of poverty reduction. Other cases of MIMAP staff taking on policy responsibility in governmental agencies such as the BBS and the PC have been highlighted by the interviewees.³¹ This type of direct influence in which research and researchers are directly involved in the policy-making process has also been reflected in the case of links between the PMS and CGE results and the PRSP. Finally a direct influence of research into policy is to be found in terms of conceptual frames. With the introduction of the PMS, the concept of poverty has been a moving target incorporating different dimensions

³⁰ Interviews with Solaiman and Rahman (2002). Also see *MIMAP Prospectus 2000-2005* available at <http://www.idrc.ca/MIMAP>

³¹ Interview with Mantaz Uddin Ahmed (2002)

according to the results of policy surveys and policy monitoring.³² These new conceptualisations became embedded in the policy stream and in turn influence the definition of policy goals.

In terms of indirect policy influence, dissemination of documents, policy briefs, newsletters and networking have been indicated as mechanisms of indirect influence of MIMAP research. In this case the main targets are not only those close to the decision-making core but rather the beneficiaries and the research community in general. Thus, research in this case is not reflected in policy decisions and programmes but instead it is aimed at raising awareness of the effects of certain policies in poverty. A clear example pointed out by some interviewees refers to the effectiveness of MIMAP research results in raising awareness among NGOs of impact of macro adjustment policies.³³

As proposed by Lindquist, the types of influence can be described as:³⁴

- Expanding policy capacities
- Broadening policy horizons
- Affecting policy regimes

From the evidence offered by the interviews, the project achieved impact through all three types of influence. The greatest impact, however, was concentrated in the first two types.

Expanding Policy Capacities

Improving knowledge, supporting recipients to develop innovative ideas, improving capabilities to communicate ideas, and developing new talent for research and analysis are considered means of expanding policy capacities. These categories represent an important outcome of MIMAP-Bangladesh. Particularly relevant has been the improvement of knowledge. MIMAP-Bangladesh has been a key factor in the reconceptualisation of poverty. MIMAP helped to improve regular credible information on poverty beyond traditional indicators of income and consumption. As a consequence approaches to poverty have become more encompassing as they now consider multidimensional data and information. As a valuable contribution of MIMAP, improving knowledge of actors, especially policy-makers, have enhanced the effectiveness of policies regarding poverty alleviation. Of particular relevance

³² Interview with Quazi Shahbuddin (2002)

³³ Interviews with Salehuddin Ahmed (2002), Quazi Shahbuddin (2002), Saleha Begum and other members of the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (2002)

³⁴ Lindquist, E. Discerning Policy Influence: Framework for a Strategic Evaluation of IDRC-Supported Research, page 24

have been PMS and focus studies that contributed to new understandings of poverty supporting innovative ideas on poverty alleviation policies. New policy approaches towards poverty alleviation were incorporated into in the PRSP policy programme.

Broadening policy horizons

In addition to the new concepts introduced into policy frame and debates, new ideas on poverty alleviation and methodological tools for assessment and monitoring have enhanced the agenda of researchers and policy-makers to take up new positions with broader understanding of issues. Moreover, the work of researchers and policy-makers become intertwined as their policy expertise developed. In this case, MIMAP has been a critical tool providing opportunities for networking.

Stimulating dialogue among decision makers and among or with researchers has been an important contribution of MIMAP. Before the programme, there was no culture of informed research on policy in Bangladesh, nor to consult researchers. In this context, MIMAP has helped to construct new dialogues among researchers and policy-makers by fostering close interaction from the beginning. Mustafa Mujeri, for example, has pointed out that he was working with the government before taking on MIMAP's leadership. In his view this helped to involve government representatives in poverty surveys for instance. The implications of policy-makers involvement in MIMAP activities have been key for the research-policy nexus and for the ownership of the programme. As Mujeri stated, 'we could have carried them [poverty surveys] out ourselves and there would have been a report, but continuity would not have been there'.³⁵ Dialogue between policy and research communities has resulted in a direct impact on decision-making processes.

MIMAP-Bangladesh created opportunities for networking as the programme has brought together researchers, government policymakers and NGOs to participate in policy discussions and implementation of programmes at the national and local levels. Constant interactions with government representatives, especially from the BBS and the Planning Commission have helped embed MIMAP research activities within the policy process.

The close links developed in joint activities between MIMAP staff and government representatives also helped the evolution of MIMAP methodology and areas of relevance. New models and scenarios were developed in tune with government needs.

³⁵ Interview with Mustafa Mujeri (2002)

Affecting policy regimes

This type of policy influence refers to a fundamental redesign or modification of programs or policies. Modification of existing programmes and fundamental change in policy approaches have been intimately related to the change in the context in which research and policy interact. That in Bangladesh a major contribution of MIMAP has been the development of dynamic channels and mechanisms in favour of greater research use by policy-makers.³⁶ From this perspective, the main project outcomes, such as poverty surveys, computable general equilibrium models and focus studies, have contributed to the design policies that foster policy change. While poverty alleviation has been a priority in Bangladesh, MIMAP outputs contributed to the elaboration of guidelines and effective approaches to effectively combat poverty. New issues came up as a consequence of MIMAP research outcomes, such as the necessity to approach poverty reduction in a more integrated and sustainable way. Other findings that affected the approach to poverty in Bangladesh were related to the relevance of certain sectors, i.e. health and education, for the goal of reducing poverty and improving distribution.³⁷

VII. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO POLICY INFLUENCE

Several factors emerge as contributing or inhibiting the influence of MIMAP activities in policy making in the case of Bangladesh. Although most of the interviewees have concentrated on the positive aspects, some have pointed out the challenges and limitations it posed for an effective uptake of research into policy-making.

The relevance and the urgency of poverty issues in the context of Bangladesh have shaped the perception among most interviewees that MIMAP has effectively contributed to expanding the understanding of poverty in the country as well as to design, implement, and assess poverty alleviation programmes. The close and non-conflicting relations between researcher producers and research users in this case challenge the traditional division between the policy community and the academic community. MIMAP-Bangladesh has effectively canalised policy needs offering problem-solving research in tune and time with policy-makers challenges. Yet some obstacles have been encountered as MIMAP activities evolved. Among the most challenging problems, it has been noted that high turnover of people in the Planning Commission in turn limited the effectiveness of the programme. That is, transfer and rotation of people from policy

³⁶ Interviews with Solaiman and Rahman (2002)

³⁷ Interview with Bazlul Haque Khondker (2002)

positions and agencies have become a pattern as they developed new policy skills in MIMAP training and capacity building activities. In this context, the major risk relates to the capacity to create a successful critical mass in the Planning Commission and other agencies closely linked to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of poverty alleviation programmes.³⁸ In addition, lack of policy influence has also been associated with technological barriers. The level of development in terms of computer systems and methodological tools that MIMAP activities entail, in particular those related to computable general equilibrium model, demands higher levels of training and capacity building.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT POLICY INFLUENCE: A SYNTHESIS

Factors contributing to policy influence of research

<p>Involvement of government officials and policymakers in project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances the capacity of knowledge utilisation. Some examples how PMS data was used by the Bangladesh Finance Minister, PMS and modelling data used by the Planning Commission in the development of the 5th five year plan and the PRSP. Also research analysis from MIMAP has been used in programme activities of UNDP and the World Bank. • At the local policy-making level, results of LLPMS have offered new insights for local programmes: A pilot project in 4 villages has been initiated in collaboration with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development. The process involves Participatory Rapid Appraisal and estimates of many indicators of poverty as well as inventory of resource base and environmental resources are included to facilitate planning and project formulation.
<p>Relevant, high quality and timely efficient research and outputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP helped define the multi-dimensional indicators going beyond just income poverty. These indicators were discussed with policy makers from different ministries. The indicators have evolved over time and now contain greater emphasis on new aspects such as gender. • Elimination of delays between the time of data collection and their availability to policymakers, planners, researchers

³⁸ Interview with Mustafa Mujeri (2002)

	and other users has greatly enhanced the relevance and applicability of poverty statistics in the country.
Novelty of approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the PMS under the project has resulted in substantial improvements in the coverage as well as overall design of poverty surveys in Bangladesh. In particular, improvements are visible in a number of areas e.g. coverage of (i) rural and urban population representing different geographical regions, (ii) multi-dimensional indicators of poverty with individual, household and community characteristics, (iii) seasonal as well as annual data relating to state and process of poverty in rural and urban areas. • Computerised system (CGE) supported by focus studies that provide a background defining model scenarios and in interpreting the results.
Supportive policy environment and enhance ownership of policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The joint dynamic of MAP team and the BBS enhance the sense of ownership and was considered an element of success

Factors inhibiting to policy influence of research

Capacity development vs mobilisation of human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the model was built jointly with the Planning Commission, the Commission does not have the capacity to operate the model. This is mainly the result of personnel changes. People involved or trained in modelling get transferred or move away.
Further development and dissemination of the model is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a disaggregated SAM and aggregate it at almost the running time to facilitate analysis of many sectoral issues with significant poverty impact. • Develop an updated and user friendly software to use the model.
Presentation of data and public availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide easy overlaying of different data and effective graphical presentation, especially those related regional data on poverty monitoring available in computerised information systems. • The progress is little. CIS is not publicly available. GIS software has been developed but its effective use with data is yet to be done.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

This section offers some conclusions based on the analysis of MIMAP-Bangladesh documents, IDRC project documents and evidence from interviews. These conclusions reflect a narrative based on the impact of MIMAP related activities on the policy process related to poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. Most of the interviewees are closely related to the establishment and the implementation of the MIMAP programme in the country. As such, the information gathered from these interviews reflects the perception of those ‘insiders’ or actors that were fully engaged with the development of MIMAP in Bangladesh.

Notwithstanding, this study has identified the importance of MIMAP research activities for policy alleviation programmes in Bangladesh. The major implication of this programme has been to provide policy-making processes with new analytical instruments and assessment for the implementation and monitoring of existing programmes on poverty reduction, and the design of future programmes according to different scenarios. This is particularly important as the results of MIMAP studies helped to undertake new, or modify ongoing socio-economic

programmes during the period over which structural adjustment and stabilisation programmes have been implemented in Bangladesh.

Another important implication of the MIMAP programme has been its contribution to a new dynamic within the research-policy relationship. In effect, from the beginning the implementation of MIMAP, its methodology was based on coordinated work bridging the need of policy makers in terms of policy instruments and the expertise of research institutions and experts in the development of new methodologies to approach the issue of poverty. As such, researchers and policy-makers developed close links in the process of policy formulation, monitoring and assessment. In the process, a culture of research usage and ownership in the development of economic policies was strengthened.

As for specific indicators of impact of MIMAP research activities on policy, four main features have been detected. First, most of the interviewees and participants in the programme have highlighted the importance of the poverty surveys, such as the PMS. In effect, this methodology has provided new relevant multi-dimensional data on 21 district level poverty. The disaggregation of poverty indicators and distributional characteristics has affected the approach to policies towards poverty. In other words, a more encompassing conceptualisation of poverty considering local factors help to develop focus and targeted policies.

Second, MAP/MIMAP insights have had an impact on resource allocation. New priorities were established as surveys and focus studies were showing policy scenarios. The local level poverty monitoring system has also contributed to geographic disaggregation in terms of policies and budget allocation. In addition, local level approach to poverty contributes to create new grounds for public awareness and the empowerment of local actors in the search of poverty-alleviation solutions. Training and capacity building involving local actors also contributed to this trend.

Third, ownership in government agencies has been created as the management of new data, reliable information and time-efficient analysis is offered by PMS, focus studies and CGE models. Moreover, the creation and administration of these MIMAP research outcomes within government agencies such as the Planning Commission, have also contributed to enhance the ownership on policy formulation. This has been an invaluable instrument for policy-makers in dialogue with multilateral donors and aid agencies.

Fourth, some direct effect on policies of the project may have been due to the involvement of many policy-makers in MAP and MIMAP activities. Especially relevant has been for members of the Planning Commission who were involved in the design of MIMAP instruments and in their implementation. Therefore, collection and analysis of data on poverty-related issues

was not relegated to experts from the academic community that transfer information to policy-makers, but rather a work based on partnership as a practical principle.

Finally, learning by doing essence of MIMAP activities has had a crucial impact on researchers themselves. Capacity building activities and their involvement in policy processes through the design of new instruments of measurement and policy analysis have strengthened the capacity of researchers to advice and participate in the formulation and implementation of the key strategies for poverty reduction. The participation of project members within government agencies and their collaboration in poverty related issues with international financial institutions have been evidence of this trend. An illustrative indicator has been the collaboration of members of MIMAP in the development of the poverty reduction strategic paper, PRSP, as the document that lays out the national strategy attacking poverty in Bangladesh.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF MIMAP PUBLICATIONS

Reports

- Socio-economic Indicators for Monitoring Rural Poverty, Report of the Brainstorming Session, 26-27 June 1990.
- Framework Project on Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty (MAP) in Bangladesh, Report of the Regional Workshop, 27-29 April 1992.
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- A Review of Bangladesh's External Sector Performance, MIMAP Working Paper No. 1.

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- Macroeconomic Developments in the 1990s, MIMAP Working Paper No. 3.
- Poverty Trends and Growth Performance: Some Issues in Bangladesh, MIMAP Working Paper No. 4.
- The Basic MIMAP Poverty Profile (BMPP): Bangladesh, MIMAP Working Paper No. 5.
- Bangladesh: External Sector Performance and Recent Issues, MIMAP Working Paper No. 6.
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- Welfare and Poverty Impacts of Tariff Reforms in Bangladesh: A General Equilibrium Approach, MIMAP Working Paper No. 8.
- A Macroeconometric Model of Bangladesh, MIMAP Working Paper No. 9.
- Data base for the Macroeconometric Model of Bangladesh, MIMAP Working Paper No. 10.
- Estimates of Capital Stock for the Bangladesh Economy, MIMAP Working Paper No. 11.

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- Report of the Urban Poverty Monitoring Survey (April 1998), May 2000.
- Report of the Urban Poverty Monitoring Survey (May 1999), January 2002.

APPENDIX B

LIST OF INTERVIEWS

Abu Abdullah

Director General BIDS
Member, Planning Commission

Faizuddin U. Ahmed

Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Mantaz Uddin Ahmed

Member Planning Commission (GED)

Salehuddin Ahmed

Former Leader, MAP I. Director General, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD). Current Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau; Managing Director, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).

Mohammed Aldal Quader

Deputy Director
Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development, Comilla

Saleha Begum

Additional Director General
Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development, Comilla

Omar H. Chowdhury

Senior Research Fellow, BIDS;
Research Director, BIDS

Rajan Kumar Guha

Assistant Director
Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development, Comilla

Ismail Hossain

Professor, Jahangirnagar University;
Consultant, Planning Commission

Bazlul Haque Khondker

Associate Professor, Dhaka University
MIMAP Modeler

M.A. Sattar Mondal

Former member (General Economic Division), Planning Commission

Mustafa K. Mujeri

Director Research, CIRDAP
Project Leader, MIMAP-Bangladesh

Anwar Pasha

Assistant Director
Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development, Comilla

Shafiqur Rahman

Project Associate, CIRDAP

Quazi Shahabuddin

Research Director BIDS

Mohammad Solaiman

Director Research, CIRDAP

Habib Ullah

Director
Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development, Comilla