



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Ref. No. 18-RP-01-GE-RES-C-AP14-PP2000012-001

PIP Issue Date1	20 April 2020
Project Code	18-RP-01-GE-RES-C-AP14
Title	Research on the Widening of Economic Divides under the Impact of COVID 19
Reference	Project Notification 18-RP-01-GE-RES-C dated 13 March 2018
Timing and Duration	15 April 2020-30 May 2020
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat

1. Objectives

- a. To analyze the economic consequences of COVID-19 on the base of the pyramid (BoP) population and its implications for income inequality in the long term; and
- b. To outline suggestions to governments for mitigating widening economic divides as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Background

The evolving COVID-19 pandemic is drastically affecting the global population in many ways. Aside from overloading healthcare systems and causing social disruptions, it is estimated that COVID-19 will result in greater economic damage than any preceding pandemic. As various economic activities slow down or are suspended, a recession over the months and years to come appears unavoidable. Even though the magnitude of its impact is yet to be determined considering the continuing escalation, it is evident that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will not be distributed evenly among the rich and the poor. The BoP population, accounting for two-thirds of people worldwide, is the most vulnerable and the worst affected economically. Before COVID-19, economic inequality was a longstanding social issue. It is forecast that after the pandemic is brought under control, economic divides will widen. With confinement measures hitting production and services and businesses slowing down, workers are facing greater risks of losing their jobs and incomes. In some developing countries, lockdown measures mean no food or jobs for the working poor. The catastrophic unemployment crisis will significantly increase the unemployment rate among the BoP. In the long run, the prolonged slowdown of economies will hit this vulnerable segment of the population the hardest.

As an effort to minimize the economic impact of the pandemic among its member economies, the APO is initiating research on the Widening of Economic Divides under the Impact of COVID-19. The research will support members with large populations, especially BoP populations, in mitigating the long-term economic consequences on income inequalities. The research will analyze the different situations in member countries focusing on how the BoP is affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for increasing inequalities in the long term. Recommendations for policy responses by member governments will be given based on the research findings.

3. Scope and Methodology

Scope

- a. The BoP population and the working poor;
- b. Economic impact of COVID-19;
- c. The economic divide and income inequality; and
- d. Slowdowns in economic and productivity growth.

Methodology

A team of experts will be assigned to undertake the research.

- a. Each expert will identify the specific problems of each participating country and then collect and analyze data on the situation following the timeline agreed with the APO Secretariat;
- b. The experts will use the data collected and analyzed to write country reports; and
- c. One expert will consolidate the country reports with recommended policy responses for publication.

4. Task Assignments of Experts

Experts' tasks:

- a. Formulating country-specific problems under the topic of the BoP and the widening of the economic divide as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- b. Collecting data to write country analyses including policy implications;
- c. Adhering to the timeline set by the APO Secretariat;
- d. Ensuring the quality and consistency of the final publication; and
- e. Supporting the APO Secretariat during the publication process.

5. Qualifications of Experts

The APO-appointed experts must possess the following:

- a. Extensive knowledge on the topic of economic inequality, the BoP, and inclusive economic growth policy;
- b. Publications in English on those topics are desirable;
- c. Excellent English writing and presentation skills, as the final report will be written in English; and
- d. Strong commitment to undertaking and completing the research project within the given time frame.

6. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

Honoraria for the experts to be paid upon completion and submission of the country reports for inclusion in the final publication.

To be met by experts

All local implementation costs incurred by the experts when conducting the research and related activities.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mochtan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General

