

# 贫困监测与评估

—— 第六届东亚地区PADI协调员会议暨  
贫困监测与评估区域研讨会论文集

主 编 张 磊 Shahidur R. Khandker  
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# Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation

—— Workshop Proceedings of the Sixth East Asia PADI Consultation Meeting &  
Regional Workshop on Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation

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# 编者的话

“当前世界发展不平衡。”“现在全球 60 亿人口中的 10 亿人掌握着全世界 80% 的财富；而剩下的 50 亿人只能分享余下的 20%。”这些观点在 2004 年 5 月上海的全球减贫大会上得到了一致的认同。

上海大会已过去近四年，虽然我们的世界仍处在不平衡之中，但希望犹在。千年发展目标已经进入到发展的核心阶段，并成为重要的全球发展目标。2005 年召开的联合国世界首脑峰会重申了 2000 年《千年宣言》的原则，并认识到目标宏伟的国家发展战略的必要性，而这些战略得到了不断增长的国际援助的支持。与此同时，许多贫困国家也更加关注减贫问题的重要性并开始实施减贫战略。减贫战略的目标是，有效利用国内资源和捐赠资源，引入更多责任来实现减贫。我们看到了希望，是因为在减贫领域取得了很大的进展，不仅是在中国，在印度、巴西（该国贫困和不平等问题在近年得到显著改善）、越南，以及在亚洲和非洲的许多低收入国家都是如此。

我们是如何知道这些正在取得的减贫成就的呢？各国政府和其他相关各方，在减贫和发展项目上投资数十亿美元，当然希望知道取得了什么进展，哪些政策和项目发挥了作用，哪些政策没有发挥作用及其原因。这就关系到贫困监测和影响评估问题。

贫困监测和影响评估是通过严格的方法，评价政策、规划和项目的进度、成果及长期影响的有力工具，是学习借鉴、分析问题和制定政策的工具。政策制定者和捐助者如果真正的关心人民的福利和取得的进步，他们就应该重视并更好地开展对反贫困政策和项目的监测和评估以实现更为有效的减贫。为了确保政策和项目真正发挥作用，必须努力实现对减贫战略和千年发展目标的定期监测和评估，并将它与政策制定联系起来。

有效的监测和评估需要收集更为有效和及时的监测数据，做更好的分析，为政策制定提供源源不断的反馈。有许多国家没有能力生成和分析对监测评估有用的数据；同时也缺乏足够的研究能力，评估减贫战略的效力，确保正在执行的政策和项目能发挥作用。如果它们没有发挥作用，政策制定者和资助者们必须弄清楚其中的原因，知道如何改进，应该制定和实施什么新的政策。因此，加强本国贫困监测和影响评估能力对许多国家，包括中国来说是一个非常重要的学习需求。

随着全球减贫意识的觉醒，了解减贫的一系列选择，确立减贫的战略，监测和评

估减贫项目，以及从其他国家制定和实施减贫计划的经验中获得真知灼见，都势在必行。世界银行学院（WBI）和其合作伙伴在东亚和其他地区实施了“贫困数据分析与收集”（PADI）项目，旨在解决与贫困问题相关的能力建设的需求。从2000年开始至今，PADI项目已经举办了六次区域研修班/研讨会，应PADI成员国的要求，在东亚国家内部开展了20余次活动，参与国家有：柬埔寨、中国、印尼、老挝、马来西亚、蒙古、菲律宾、泰国、东帝汶和越南。

PADI是一个非正式网络，涵盖政策制定者、研究人员，以及反贫困项目和政策的设计、支持、实施和评估数据生产者。PADI利用从贫困测量和贫困数据分析中获得的见解，改善政策的制定和实施，推进减贫行动。PADI也在推动减贫措施的有效实施，这些措施需要通过数据进行监测和评估，来确保其效力。PADI还通过跨国的减贫经验交流来提高对减贫的认识。

世界银行学院的PADI倡议已经与在中国的另一项倡议结合，共同推动南南学习，了解到底哪些减贫措施发挥了作用，哪些未能发挥作用。2005年5月，中国在其发展伙伴的支持下，建立了中国国际扶贫中心（IPRCC）。中国国际扶贫中心的宗旨是通过积极参与减贫领域的发展活动，成为中国和其他发展中国家信息和经验交流的平台。中国国际扶贫中心通过与PADI的合作，构建和分享知识，承担PADI东亚秘书处的工作。中国国际扶贫中心同时也在东盟10+3（东盟10国及中、日、韩）高层减贫论坛中发挥着重要的作用。中国—东盟倡议不仅为本地区开展PADI项目提供了机会，也使PADI成为东盟减贫论坛和其他机构的智囊团。

中国国际扶贫中心得到中国政府高层领导人的支持，由联合国开发计划署（UNDP）共同出资，是上海大会的具体成果。一直以来，世界银行通过机构发展基金（IDF）支持中国国际扶贫中心的发展，旨在提高其贫困分析、监测和评估能力。世界银行学院作为一家全球性的学习机构，支持中国国际扶贫中心提高自身能力，以推动南南学习和分享减贫经验。中国国际扶贫中心的目标是，发展成为南南学习的平台，帮助中国政府向非洲提供减贫领域的培训和能力建设。在过去的两年中，中国国际扶贫中心举办了7次“减贫政策和实践”经验交流活动，共有来自58个发展中国家的190名代表参与其中。

这些经验交流活动由中国政府的海外发展援助培训出资，按照上海大会的模式进行（五天研讨会与五天实地考察相结合）。世界银行学院在充当知识媒介方面发挥着重要作用，并协助改进和提高这些学习活动的质量和评价。世界银行与中国政府在更广泛的层面上紧密合作，共同致力于推动南南学习，其最终目标是在全球减贫中共同发挥更重要的作用。

根据这个目标，2007年5月10日到14日，中国国际扶贫中心和世界银行学院在中国江西省南昌市共同举办了“第六届东亚地区PADI协调员会议暨贫困监测与评估

区域研讨会”。英国国际发展部（DFID）和德国技术合作公司（GTZ）对此次地区活动给予了支持。包括中国在内的 9 个 PADI 成员国的协调员参加了为期一天的咨询会。咨询会的议程是，了解 PADI 成员国在提高本国贫困分析、监测和影响评估的能力方面采取了哪些措施，讨论国家协调员、地区协调员，以及 PADI 秘书处在提高这些能力方面发挥的作用。2007 年该地区许多国家都已经通过政府和当地资助者的资金支持，成功地组织了一些国家层面的培训活动。PADI 协调员们重申了对这个非正式网络的拥护，他们认为该网络是促进跨国经验交流的平台。PADI 咨询会还最终确定了每个国家在未来两到三年内提高能力的行动计划（详见附录 2）。

东亚 PADI 已经明确了每个成员国的经验对他国减贫措施的作用。因此，咨询会建议做一个区域性工作方案，由全职的地区协调员和国家协调员共同实施该方案。咨询会还建议，应更加努力从不同资助方募集资金，来支持地区计划和设在中国国际扶贫中心的秘书处。PADI 成员对中国国际扶贫中心自 2005 年 5 月以来为 PADI 秘书处提供办公场所和部分资金表示感谢，感谢他们组织此次咨询会以及两天的贫困监测与评估区域研讨会。经过 PADI 和中国国际扶贫中心的通力合作，协调员们把 PADI 的工作方案视为中国国际扶贫中心在推动南南学习方面不可或缺的一部分。PADI 会议还同意由马来西亚在 2008 年 5 月举办下一届协调员会议。下届会议同样也会举办一个推广各国反贫困项目影响评估案例的方法研讨会。

为期一天的 PADI 中国咨询会之后是两天半的贫困监测与评估研讨会。在一些关于方法问题的分会上讨论了贫困监测的设计，还就此进行了包括江西省贫困监测系统在内的案例分析。会议通过研究孟加拉国、中国、墨西哥和泰国的案例，总结了影响评估的方法。会上讨论了世界银行对中国西南扶贫项目的研究成果，同时，介绍并讨论了墨西哥有条件的现金援助项目，即著名的 PROGRESSA 项目。与会者们交流的另一个影响研究案例是泰国的村庄基金。大家对能学习到这些国家的案例表示感谢，并希望在 2008 年马来西亚的研讨会上将它们与相似国家的案例研究相结合（这些研究已经在一些国家开展）。

本论文集是中国国际扶贫中心与世界银行学院持续合作的成果。本书的研究共分三部分。第一部分的内容是关于影响评估的章节，包括事前和事后评估、定量和定性方法，并做了案例分析。第二部分是四个影响评估的案例，分别来自孟加拉国、中国、墨西哥和泰国。第三部分是关于贫困监测与评估，包括方法讨论和几个案例分析。第四部分是中国、马来西亚和越南三个国家的贫困状况国家报告。

第一部分介绍了影响评估。如上所述，影响评估是评价项目和政策影响的工具，这些项目和政策被作为国家减贫战略的一部分来设计和实施。影响评估有两类主要方法——定量和定性方法。研究人员用来帮助政策制定的影响分析也有两种——事前和事后。事后影响评估是用来评价减贫项目、政策影响和项目实施后产生的其他形式的

福利的。与此相比,事前分析是分析政策和项目的潜在影响的,决策者们可以把它视为减贫战略的一部分。第一章由 Shahid R. Khandker 编写,对事后影响评估方法进行了综述,该方法是对项目和政策实施后的定量目标评估,被用作评估项目的真实作用。第二章由王燕编写,总结了建立在文献基础上的、评估反贫困项目和政策的定性评估法。王燕女士在书中强调了将定量和定性方法相结合,才能更好地了解项目干预的各种可能的结果,讨论了将这两种方法结合的一些途径,并进行了案例分析。第三章由 Solveig Buhl 编写,为决策者们提供了一个评估项目事前影响的方法框架,指明了减贫政策和项目的潜在作用。

第二部分讨论了一些影响评估方法的应用。四个案例全都采用定量方法来评估项目的影响。第四章由 Shahid R. Khandker 编写,介绍了工具变量和差分再差分等方法的应用,评估了孟加拉乡村银行的影响。尽管这两种方法的研究结果严格来说并不相同,但都表明,乡村银行对穷人,尤其是妇女大有帮助,提高了他们的福利。第五章由 Emmanuel Skoufias 编写,介绍了对墨西哥有条件的现金援助项目,即 PROGRESA 项目的评估。用随机方法评价了该项目对穷人福利的影响。其最显著的发现就是,PROGRESA 项目对贫困家庭的福利和人力资本投资有重要影响。第六章由陈少华、Ren Mu 和 Martin Ravallion 合著,对中国西南扶贫项目进行了评估,试图通过简单的差分再差分法和双差偏好值法,用家庭和社区的小组数据评估项目的长期影响。长达七年的小组数据研究发现,贫困地区的发展项目并没有像决策者们希望的那样促进当地经济发展。单靠某个项目并不足以支撑偏远地区的可持续发展和减贫。制定补充性政策和项目是必须的,在一些案例中更加有效,如劳动力转移、小额信贷项目和最低收入保障等。第七章是对泰国小额信贷项目“村庄周转基金”的影响评估,由 Jirawan Boonperm、Jonathan Haughton 和 Shahid R. Khandker 共同完成。该研究通过泰国社会经济调查来评估这个自 2002 年开始实施的全国范围的项目的影响。作者将偏好值得分匹配法用于全国范围的家庭调查,评估村庄基金贷款的影响,得到的结论也很有意思:最贫困人群是泰国村庄基金最主要的受益者,另外,由于该基金提供的是短期贷款,对农业收入增长的影响最大。

第三部分是关于贫困监测问题。第八章由 Shahid R. Khandker 编写,论述了贫困监测的基本原则,讨论了通常情况下贫困监测对数据的要求。第九章是一个中国广西减贫项目的监测案例,由该项目监测与评估的负责人黄承伟编写。

第四部分是三个国家的减贫报告。第十一章由 Martin Ravallion 和陈少华合著,讨论了中国在 1980—2001 年期间的减贫成就,评估了中国在此期间的减贫政策和项目。第十二章由 Ragayah Mat Zin 编写,介绍了马来西亚消除贫困和不平等现象的经验。最后,第十三章介绍了越南在 1993—2004 年的贫困状况,由 Nguyen Thi Lan Huong 撰写,回顾了近年来越南通过政府实施综合的政策和项目,在减贫领域取得的



成就。越南在短期内取得的成就是显著的，贫困率在10年内由60%下降到20%。这些国家的案例表明，通过政策和项目的结合能够推动减贫发展，同时，通过这些案例可以了解为什么这些政策对减贫起作用。

编者在此对以下机构表示由衷的感谢：国务院扶贫办、江西省扶贫办，以及英国国际发展部（DFID）、德国技术合作公司（GTZ）和联合国开发计划署（UNDP）等赞助机构。同时还要感谢本书所有章节的作者、PADI地区和国家协调员，还有Michele de Nevers女士、Philip Karp先生、李胜女士和王斌涛先生。感谢大家对研讨会的召开和论文集的出版的支持和付出。

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# Editors' Note

“Our world is out of balance.” “Of the six billion people now on earth, one billion hold 80 percent of the income; the other five billion share less than 20 percent of it.” Those were the consensus of the Global Conference on Scaling Up Poverty Reduction held in Shanghai China in May 2004.

Nearly four years have passed since Shanghai conference, we can say that our world is still out of balance but there is hope. There is hope as the Millennium Development Goals have been moved to the center stage of development and become the principal global scorecard. There is hope since the United Nations World Summit held in 2005 reaffirmed the principles in the 2000 Millennium Declaration, and recognized the need for ambitious national development strategies backed by increased international support. At the same time, many poor countries have emphasized much more on the importance of poverty reduction and introduced poverty reduction strategies (PRS). The objectives of the PRS are to reduce poverty more effectively with effective utilization of domestic and donor resources and with much more accountability introduced in the system. There is hope as we see rapid progresses in poverty reduction, not only in China, but also in India, Brazil (where both poverty and inequality have been declining in recent years), Vietnam, and in many low income Asian and African nations.

How do we know that progresses are being made? With billions of dollars spent on poverty reduction and development projects, stakeholders within the national governments and beyond would like to know how much progress has been made, what policies and programs have worked, what policies did not work, and why. Here poverty monitoring and impact evaluation come into the picture.

Poverty monitoring and impact evaluations are powerful tools to measure progresses, outcomes and long impact of policies, programs and projects in a rigorous manner. They are tools for learning, analyses, as well as for policymaking. If policymakers and donors are really concerned about people's welfare and improvements on the ground, they ought to

emphasize on effective poverty reduction with better monitoring and evaluation of anti-poverty policies and programs. To ensure that the policies and programs are working, the effort must be given to regular monitoring and evaluation of PRS and MDGs and to link M&E to policymaking.

Effective monitoring and evaluation requires better and timely data generation for monitoring as well as better analysis to provide continuous feedback to policymaking. Many countries lack capacity in both generation and analysis of appropriate data for monitoring and evaluation. They also lack adequate research capacity to assess the effectiveness of PRS to ensure that the pursued policies and programs do matter. If they do not matter, policymakers and donors must understand why they do not matter, how to improve them and what new policies to be formulated and implemented. Therefore, enhancing local capacity in poverty monitoring and impact evaluation is an important learning need of many countries, including China.

In the wake of the global commitment to reduce poverty, it becomes imperative to understand the range of options available for poverty reduction, identify strategies to reduce poverty, monitor and evaluate poverty reduction programs, as well as to gain insights from the cross-country experiences in formulating and implementing poverty reduction plans. The World Bank Institute (WBI) and its partner institutions launched the *Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative* (PADI) in East Asia and other regions to address capacity building needs on poverty related issues. Since its inception in 2000, PADI has conducted half a dozen regional seminars/workshops and more than two dozens in-country activities in East Asia in response to demand from PADI-member countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao-PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

PADI is an informal network of policymakers, researchers, and data producers involved in designing, supporting, implementing, and evaluating anti-poverty programs and policies. PADI promotes actions to reduce poverty via better policy formulation and implementation using insights from poverty measurement and analysis of poverty data. PADI also promotes effective implementation of poverty actions which needs to be monitored and evaluated with data in order to ensure that these actions are effective. PADI also promotes knowledge via experience-sharing across countries on poverty reduction.

The WBI initiative on PADI has joined hands with another initiative launched in China for promoting south-south learning of what works and what does not in reducing poverty. In

May 2005, the People's Republic of China, through the assistance of its development partners, established the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC). The IPRCC mandate is to become an information and experience sharing platform between China and other developing countries with active participation of the development community in the area of poverty reduction. Given the synergies in the knowledge building and sharing thrust of IPRCC and PADI, the IPRCC now hosts the East Asia PADI Secretariat. IPRCC is also playing a key role in the ASEAN plus three (10 countries plus China, Korea and Japan) High Level Poverty Forum. This China-ASEAN initiative provides an opportunity not only for the region to take ownership of East Asia PADI program but also for PADI to serve as a think tank for the ASEAN Poverty Forum and beyond.

The IPRCC is a concrete outcome of the Shanghai Conference, supported by top Chinese leaders and co-financed by UNDP. The World Bank has been supporting via an IDF grant, aimed at enhancing capacity on Poverty Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation. WBI, being the global learning institution, has been supporting IPRCC in enhancing its own capacity in areas of major concerns such as South-South learning and sharing poverty reduction experiences. The goal of IPRCC is to grow as one of the South-South learning platforms for Chinese government to provide training /capacity building to Africa and other developing countries, focusing in the poverty area. In the past two years, IPRCC has offered 7 experience-sharing events on "Poverty Reduction Policies and Practices", with 190 attendees from 58 developing countries. These experience sharing events were financed by Chinese government's ODA-training, and followed a format of Shanghai conference (5-day seminar integrated with a 5-day field visit) in each event. WBI plays an important role of knowledge intermediary and helps improve the quality and evaluation of these learning events. More broadly, the World Bank in partnership with the government of China is therefore to forge support toward promoting South-South learning. The ultimate objective is to achieve a larger joint impact in the global fight against poverty.

With this objective in mind, the IPRCC and the WBI jointly organized an East Asia PADI Consultation Meeting and a Regional Workshop on Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation during May 10-14, 2007, in Nanchang, Jiangxi province, China. DFID and GTZ extended support for organizing this regional event. There was a one day PADI consultation meeting which was attended by the PADI country coordinators from 9 countries including China. The agenda for the PADI consultation meeting was to take a stock of the activities undertaken by the countries in enhancing local capacity in poverty analysis, monitoring, and impact evaluation and discuss the roles of country coordinators vis-à-vis the regional



coordinator and the PADI Secretariat in promoting this capacity. Many countries in the Region have been successful in organizing several training events at the country level last year using both government and local donor funds. The PADI coordinators reaffirmed their allegiance to the informal network of PADI which they find stimulating and a forum to share cross-country experiences. The PADI consultation meeting also finalized the capacity enhancement action plan of each country for the next 2-3 years (see Annex 2).

The East Asia PADI has clearly identified the role of cross-country experience in the poverty reduction efforts of each country. Therefore, the Meeting suggested a regional work program with a full-time regional coordinator working together with country coordinators to implement the program. The PADI meeting also recommended for more efforts in raising funds from different donors in support of the regional program and its Secretariat based at IPRCC. The PADI members appreciate the role of IPRCC in housing and funding in part the PADI Secretariat since May 2005 and organizing this May 2007 PADI consultation meeting and the 2 day regional technical workshop on poverty monitoring and evaluation. Given the synergy between PADI and IPRCC, the coordinators see PADI's work program as an integral part of the IPRCC in its quest for promoting South-South learning. The PADI meeting also accepted Malaysia's offer to hold the next regional PADI consultation meeting, sometime in May 2008. The forthcoming Consultation Meeting would also be followed by a technical workshop on disseminating country case studies on impact evaluation of anti-poverty programs.

The one-day PADI Consultation meeting in China was followed by a 2 and a half day workshop on poverty monitoring and evaluation. There were several technical sessions on the design of poverty monitoring with case studies including the Jiangxi provincial poverty monitoring system. There was also an overview of impact evaluation methodologies followed by case studies drawn from Bangladesh, China, Mexico and Thailand. The findings of the World Bank's research on the China's Southwest poverty alleviation project were discussed. Similarly, the findings of the Mexico's conditional cash transfer projects, the famous PROGRESSA, were presented and discussed. Another impact study shared with the participants is the study on Thailand's Village Fund. The participants appreciated the country papers and wanted to follow up with similar country case studies (which are in progress in several countries) in the proposed Malaysia workshop.

This proceeding is an outcome of a continuing collaboration between IPRCC and WBI. There are three groups of studies included in this proceeding. Part 1 of the proceedings

includes chapters on the impact evaluation, both *ex ante* and *ex post*, as well as quantitative and qualitative, and supported by case studies. Part 2 includes 4 case studies on impact evaluation of projects drawn from Bangladesh, China, Mexico, and Thailand. Part 3 includes chapters on poverty monitoring and evaluation, including both the methodological discussions, as well as a few case studies. And part 4 contains country reports on poverty situation of 3 countries-China, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Part 1 covers the impact evaluation. As indicated earlier, an impact evaluation is a tool that helps assess the impact of programs and policies that are designed and implemented as part of a country's poverty reduction strategies. There are two major types of impact evaluation techniques-quantitative and qualitative. Also there are two types of impact analyses that researchers can carry out to help policymaking—*ex-ante* and *ex-post*. *Ex post* impact evaluation aims to assess the impacts of programs and policies on poverty and other forms of welfare after the project/policy is actually implemented. In contrast, *ex ante* analysis is an analysis of potential impacts of policies and programs that can be considered by policymakers as part of poverty reduction strategies. Chapter 1 written by Shahid Khandker is an overview of *ex post* impact evaluation methodologies that are quantitative for an objective assessment of programs and policies after implementation. These techniques are meant to estimate the actual program effects. Chapter 2 written by Yan Wang is an overview of qualitative assessment techniques found in the literature to evaluate the anti-poverty programs and policies. Ms. Wang's chapter emphasizes on integrating quantitative with qualitative methods to understand better the possible consequences of program interventions. Several approaches to integrate the qualitative and quantitative methods and case studies are discussed. Chapter 3 written by Solveig Buhl provides a framework of methods used to assess program impact *ex ante* to guide policymakers about the potential roles of policies and programs that can be designed to reduce poverty.

Part 2 discusses applications of several techniques of impact evaluation. All four case studies included here used quantitative methods to assess program impacts. Chapter 4 written by Shahid Khandker is an application of techniques such as instrumental variable and the difference-in-difference with an objective to assess the impacts of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Although the findings obtained from these two methods are not strictly comparable, they show that Grameen Bank is helping the poor, especially women, in raising their welfare. Chapter 5 written by Emmanuel Skoufias is an assessment of a major conditional cash transfer scheme of Mexico known as PROGRESA that employed a randomized technique to assess program impacts on the welfare of the poor. The

overwhelming findings are that PROGRESA has substantial significant impact on the welfare and human capital investment of poor families. Chapter 6 is an assessment of China's Southwest Poverty Alleviation Project written jointly by Shaohua Chen, Ren Mu and Martin Ravallion. The paper attempts to estimate the long term impact of the project using household and community level panel data following techniques such as simple difference-in-difference or double differenced propensity score. A major finding of this seven year panel data study is that the poor-area development project did not produce the kind of growth stimulus for local economies that policymakers wished for. Targeted program alone is not sufficient for sustaining growth and poverty reduction in geographically disadvantaged regions. Complementary policies and programs may be necessary and, in some cases, more effective such as labor migration, microfinance programs, and minimum income guarantees. Chapter 7 is an impact assessment of a major microfinance program in Thailand called the Village Revolving Fund. This is a collaborative research study written by Jirawan Boonperm, Jonathan Haughton, and Shahid Khandker. The study used the socioeconomic survey (SES) of Thailand to assess the impact of this nation-wide program introduced in 2002. The authors use propensity score matching method to the nation-wide household survey to estimate the impacts of borrowing from a village fund. The findings are interesting: The poorest are the major beneficiaries of Thai Village Fund and that the Fund, because it provides short-term loans, helps increase farm income most.

Part 3 covers poverty monitoring issues. Chapter 8 written by Shahid Khandker covers the general principles of poverty monitoring and discusses the data requirements for monitoring poverty on a regular basis. Chapter 9 discusses an example of monitoring a poverty reduction project in Guangxi province of China and is written by Huang Chengwei who was in charge of the M & E of this project.

Part 4 presents 3 country reports on poverty reduction. Chapter 11 written by Martin Ravallion and Shaohua Chen discusses the progress of poverty reduction in China during the period of 1980–2001. This study examines the policies and programs China adopted over these years to reduce poverty. Chapter 12 written by Ragayah Mat Zin covers the experience of poverty and inequality reduction in Malaysia. Finally, chapter 13 presents the poverty situation in Vietnam over the years of 1993–2004. The paper is written by Nguyen Thi Lan Huong who covers the recent progress in poverty reduction in Vietnam that was achieved through a combination of policies and programs pursued by the government. Vietnam is successful in arresting poverty over a short period of time by bringing down poverty rate to 20 percent from 60 percent in a decade. These country case studies show how poverty

reduction is possible with a combination of policies and programs, and they are critical for understanding why such policies would work to reduce poverty.

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