



## Context

Ten years after the world's leaders set an ambitious agenda for improving human welfare by 2015, and despite the fast growth of some developing economies in the past decade, many countries are still behind target on reaching the Millennium Development Goal 1, "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger". International trade can play a positive role in sustainable human development in developing countries. It can create employment, enhance access to technology and knowledge, raise productivity, increase the variety and quality of goods available to consumers, stimulate capital inflows, and generate resources for poverty reduction. However, this positive relationship does not necessarily work in all countries and contexts. Both national and international policies must be implemented to maximize the positive impact of trade on the poor. The design of such national policies, as well as the formulation of negotiation positions on trade issues, must be grounded in thorough analysis of data, and based on a careful assessment of possible impacts of various policy options and negotiation outcomes. Academia plays an important role in the generation of the analysis critical to inform policymaking.

## Strategy

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of developing and transition country researchers to conduct policy-oriented analysis of the potential contribution of trade to poverty reduction, and foster their cooperation with policymakers. To this end, the project:

- Developed and delivered online courses on data sources, tools, methods and research questions required for policy analysis of trade and poverty;
- Produced a series of national country case studies, developed by course graduates in cooperation with partner policymakers, addressing trade and poverty-related issues relevant to their countries;
- Provided coaching to support researchers in the development of their studies;
- Organized an international seminar to present the findings of the studies; and
- Published the best studies in an edited volume.

The project thus covered the entire capacity-building cycle - from training through the application of the knowledge acquired, to the production of analysis which could be used by national governments of participating researchers' countries.

## Results

- **More than 100 researchers around the world acquired new skills on trade and poverty research methods**  
108 researchers, including 38 women, from 56 developing and transition countries, successfully completed one of the two editions of the online course on trade and poverty.
- **Eleven policy-relevant trade and poverty studies were written by participating researchers**  
National case studies - on Argentina (2), Benin, China, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, and Viet Nam - were completed by participating researchers, in cooperation with national policymakers.
- **Research findings shared with the policymaking and academic community and interested stakeholders**  
An international seminar will be held in Geneva 8-10 September 2014 where researchers and their policymaker partners will present the findings of the studies. The book "Trade policies, household welfare and poverty alleviation", containing a selection of case studies, will be launched during the event.
- **Trade and poverty skills from the project were used in research and teaching in developing and transition countries**  
All respondents to the 12-month-post-course evaluation questionnaires used the knowledge from the course in their research and university teaching.

**Official title:** Strengthening capacities for policy-oriented analysis of key global development challenges at developing country universities

**Website:** <http://vi.unctad.org/tap>

**Duration:** 2012-2014

**Total budget:** US\$ 766'000

**Donors:** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Government of Finland

**Implementing agency:** Virtual Institute (Vi), capacity building and networking programme for academia of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

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