PANEL 4B – INFORMING POLICY TO END POVERTY

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Research as a foundation for innovation and change in poverty measurement and action

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AGENDA SETTING RESEARCH

IDENTIFYING OR REDEFINING THE PROBLEM
CONTRIBUTING TO SOLUTIONS
NAVIGATING POLITICS
What's the Problem Represented to be?

1. What’s the ‘problem’ (for example, of ‘problem gamblers’, ‘drug use/abuse’, ‘gender inequality’, ‘domestic violence’, ‘global warming’, ‘sexual harassment’, etc.) represented to be in a specific policy or policy proposal?
2. What presuppositions or assumptions underpin this representation of the ‘problem’?
3. How has this representation of the ‘problem’ come about?
4. What is left unproblematic in this problem representation? Where are the silences? Can the ‘problem’ be thought about differently?
5. What effects are produced by this representation of the ‘problem’?
6. How/where has this representation of the ‘problem’ been produced, disseminated and defended? How has it been (or could it be) questioned, disrupted and replaced?

Bacchi, 2009
What's the Problem Represented to be?

“Poverty can be accurately assessed by interviewing the household head”

“Poverty is only defined only by income or consumption”

What are the assumptions?
What are the silences?
What are the consequences?
What does ‘the problem’ look like from the perspective of women and men – across the life course, in rural and urban areas?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Education</th>
<th>Quality Education free from Discrimination</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Health Care with Respect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shame</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Time Burdens</td>
<td>Exploitative and Dangerous Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Housing</td>
<td>No Running Water</td>
<td>Inadequate Food - due to cost</td>
<td>Inadequate Food - due to gendered distribution</td>
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<tr>
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Quality Education

Quality Education free from Discrimination

Health Care

Health Care with Respect

Shame

Violence

Time Burdens

Exploitative and Dangerous Work

No voice

Inadequate Housing

No Running Water

Inadequate Food - due to cost

Inadequate Food - due to gendered distribution

No Social Support

Social Exclusion

Stigma

Isolation

No choice
Poverty is the interplay between material and key non-material deprivations that prevent an individual from participating in her or his society and living with dignity.
What are the numbers?
Quantitative research
Survey based

What is the problem? matters?
Qualitative research
Participatory methods

What do the number mean?
What was the impact of the survey?
Qualitative research
In-depth interviews

Mixed-Methods
FROM RESEARCH TO .............

UNDERSTANDING

DEBATE

POLICY

ACTION

CHANGE
AGENDA SETTING RESEARCH

Kingdon, 1984
AGENDA SETTING RESEARCH

Kingdon, 1984
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Problem Stream</strong></th>
<th>Identify where new ways of thinking are emerging</th>
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<td>Uncovering taken for granted assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Stream</strong></td>
<td>Understanding deeply the context, the challenges, the actors, and the potential drivers for change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy</strong></td>
<td>Challenging some perceptions/supporting others</td>
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Pressure to respond to the global sustainable development agenda has focused attention on how the problem is defined – and addressed

Policy entrepreneurs/advocates have already identified gaps in knowledge – and are existing agents for change.
Policy Window – Policy stream

While Indonesia is relatively data rich at the national level, there are gaps in local data.

Decentralisation has created a need for reliable, local data that are relevant to policy.

A strong desire to know what is working and what is not among some policy makers.
Policy Window – Politics stream

Election cycles influence when take up is likely to be greatest – and impact on the nature and timing of post-research engagement.

This is difficult without strong existing networks

Engaging constructively, critically and respectfully with ideas – and possibly providing alternative ways of thinking.

Offering evidence to counter assumptions

Recognising that openness to ideas will always be greatest amongst ‘natural champions’ and building alliances
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POTENTIAL FOR RESEARCH INFLUENCE BUILT ON A BEDROCK OF LONG ENGAGEMENT, RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL PARTNERS, DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEXT