



PROJECT MUSE®

---

## Commitment to Equity Handbook

Nora Lustig

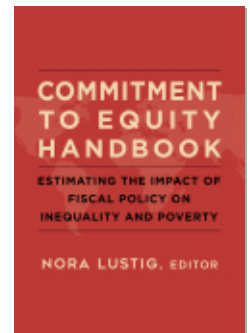
Published by Brookings Institution Press

Lustig, Nora.

Commitment to Equity Handbook: Estimating the Impact of Fiscal Policy on Inequality and Poverty.

Brookings Institution Press, 2018.

Project MUSE.[muse.jhu.edu/book/61437](https://muse.jhu.edu/book/61437).



➔ For additional information about this book  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/61437>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO THE 2013 EDITION

**L**aunched in 2008, the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) framework was designed to analyze the impact of taxation and social spending on inequality and poverty in individual countries and to provide a roadmap for governments, multi-lateral institutions, and nongovernmental organizations in their efforts to build more equitable societies. Led by Nora Lustig, the CEQ is a project of the Center for Inter-American Policy and the Department of Economics, Tulane University, and the Inter-American Dialogue, with Peter Hakim as Co-Director.

This Handbook was written with invaluable inputs and suggestions from a large number of people. Jim Alm, Carola Pessino, and John Scott provided essential contributions and guidance from the project's inception in 2008. We would also like to thank the Tulane University's Center for Inter-American Policy and Research and, in particular, Ludovico Feoli, its Director, for his constant support. Specific sections of this Handbook relied substantially on inputs and feedback from others. We are very grateful to Gary Burtless, David Phillips, and Paolo Verme for authoring boxes. The section on Inequality of Opportunity is based on a write-up sent to the authors by Norbert Fiess. The section on Fiscal Mobility Matrices is based on a paper written by the authors (Higgins and Lustig, 2013) which benefited greatly from conversations with and comments from François Bourguignon, Satya Chakravarty, Nachiketa Chattopadhyay, Jean-Yves Duclos, Francisco Ferreira, Gary Fields, James Foster, Peter Lambert, Darryl McLeod, John Roemer, Jon Rothbaum, Shlomo Yitzhaki, and participants in the Symposium on Ultra-Poverty hosted by the Institute for International Economic Policy at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., March 22–23, 2012; “Well-Being and Inequality in the Long Run: Measurement, History and Ideas,” hosted by Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and the World Bank, Madrid, June 1, 2012; the annual meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Lima, November 1–3, 2012; the XX Meetings of the Research Network on Inequality and Poverty (NIP), Washington, D.C., May 6, 2013; and the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ), Bari, Italy, July 24, 2013.

Important recent revisions have been largely guided by the feedback received from the World Bank team and the Advisory Committee of the CEQ and World Bank project on *The Distributional Impact of Fiscal Policy*. In particular, we are very grateful to Jaime Saavedra, as well as to Gabriela Inchauste and her collaborator Catherine Lee; to peer reviewers Shubham Chaudhuri, Andrew Dabalen, Luis F. Lopez-Calva, and Luis Serven from the World Bank; and to advisors François Bourguignon, Gary Burtless, David Coady, Robert Gillingham, Jorge Martinez-Vasquez, Cormac O’Dea, David Phillips, Ian Preston, Sally Wallace, and Stephen D. Younger. We are also highly indebted to Jean-Yves Duclos. We are also thankful to Mariellen Jewers and Emily Travis for their research assistance.

We are also greatly indebted to the members of the CEQ-Latin America Advisory Board. In particular, we wish to thank Jere Behrman, Nancy Birdsall, Otaviano Canuto, Mauricio Cardenas, Fernando Carrera Castro, Miguel Luis Castilla, Louise Cord, Rolando Cordera, Augusto de la Torre, Ludovico Feoli, Francisco Ferreira, Ariel Fiszbein, Juan Alberto Fuentes Knight, Juan Carlos Gomez Sabaini, Carol Graham, Rebeca Grynspan, Martin Hopenhayn, Santiago Levy, Luis F. Lopez-Calva, Mario Marcel, Jonathan Menkos, Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Judith Morrison, Hugo Noe Pino, Jose Antonio Ocampo, Daniel Ortega, Tamara Ortega Goodspeed, Guillermo Perry, Jeffrey Puryear, David Roodman, Ana Maria Sanjuan, Michael Shifter, Vito Tanzi, and Andras Uthoff.

The Handbook has also benefited enormously from the country teams’ important contributions to the methodological discussions and revisions. For that, we are grateful to Shamma Alam, Rythia Afkar, Florencia Amabile, Nisha Arunatilake, Marisa Bucheli, Margarita Beneke de Sanfeliu, Maynor Cabrera, Eliana Carranza, Andres Castañeda, Dante Contreras, Camilo Gomez Osorio, George Gray Molina, Carlos Hurtado, Veronica Paz Arauco, Miguel Jaramillo, Jon Jellema, Wilson Jimenez, Cristina Llerena, Mashekwa Maboshe, Yusuf Mansur, Marcela Melendez, Hilcias Estuardo Moran, Jose Andres Oliva, Claudiney Pereira, Julio Ramirez, Maximo Rossi, Jaime Ruiz-Tagle, Pablo Sauma, Nistha Sinha, Barbara Sparrow, William Swanson, Juan Diego Trejos, Eyasu Tsehaye, Paolo Verme, Matthew Grant Wai-Poi, Tassew Woldehanna, Ingrid Woolard, Ernesto Yañez, and Precious Zikhali.

At numerous conferences and workshops, many individuals contributed to discussions on the methodological issues explored here, and others provided comments on earlier versions of the Handbook; we would like to thank in particular Maria Socorro Bautista, Andrew Berg, Benedict Clements, Chistian Daude, Manuel Deshon, Norbert Fiess, Robert Gillingham, Samantha Greenspun, Margaret Grosh, Friederike Koehler, Kathy Lindert, Maria Ana Lugo, Christina Malmberg-Calvo, Angel Melgizo, Emiro Molina, Jose Molinas, Judith Morrison, Ahmed Moumami, Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez, Jacob Ricker-Gilbert, Jamele Rigolini, Tomas Rosada, Eliana Rubiano, Whitney Ruble, Pablo Sanguinetti, Abebe Shimeles, Tim Smeeding, Dan Teles, Teresa Ter-Minassian, Erwin Tiongson, Dominique van de Walle, Renato Vargas, Adam Wagstaff, and Quentin Wodon, as well as participants in the Commitment to Equity

Workshops (hosted by Tulane University and CIPR, New Orleans, October 2010; Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires, December 2010; and the Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, D.C., November, 2011), the Workshop on Fiscal Incidence in LAC (World Bank, Washington, D.C., May 2012), Fiscal Policy for an Equitable Society (World Bank, Washington, D.C., June 2013), Fiscal Incidence Analysis for Selected African Countries (African Development Bank, Tunis, August 12, 2013).

We are indebted to Shaohua Chen for answering our incessant questions about the methodologies used by the World Bank's PovcalNet, to Guillermo Cruces, Leonardo Gasparini, Leonardo Lucchetti, and Leonardo Tornarolli for answering similar questions about CEDLAS and the World Bank's Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEDLAC), to David Phillips for answering questions about the Institute for Fiscal Studies' research, to Abdelkrim Araar and Jean-Yves Duclos for answering our questions about their Distributional Analysis Stata Package (DASP) and providing us with additional ado files, to Rafael Osorio, Sergei Soares, and Pedro Souza at the Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada for providing us with the Stata code to implement their methodology to correct for underestimation of the number of cash transfer beneficiaries, and to the Fiscal Affairs department at the International Monetary Fund for providing us with the Stata code to estimate the indirect effects of price increases using input-output tables.

Since its inception, the CEQ has received financial support from Tulane University's Center for Inter-American Policy and Research, the School of Liberal Arts, and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies, as well as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the General Electric Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDP/RBLAC), and the World Bank.

Of course, the authors remain fully responsible for any remaining errors or omissions.

