



# OPHI

Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative  
Oxford Department of International Development  
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## 2015 Year in Review

Welcome to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's regular email update of announcements, opportunities and new publications. If you have any problems viewing this email, you can read it online here: <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news/ophi-updates/>

2015 has been a busy year at OPHI. As the year draws to an end, here is a brief overview of some of our key events and achievements of the past 12 months. For more information, please visit our website, [www.ophi.org.uk](http://www.ophi.org.uk).

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 5 years of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (Global MPI)

2015 marked the 5th anniversary of the [Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#). The Global MPI, which was developed by OPHI in partnership with the United Nations Human Development Report Office, is now a key international index of multidimensional poverty, supplementing income-based poverty measurements.

The [Global MPI 2015](#) covers 101 developing countries which are home to some 5.2 billion people, or 75 per cent of the world's population. It shows that some 1.6 billion people are living in multidimensional poverty. More than half of the multidimensionally poor live in South Asia, and 31 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

An [interim Global MPI update](#) was recently released on OPHI's website. This update now disaggregates the Global MPI into 990 subnational regions.

### Growing take-up of national-level multidimensional poverty indices

In 2015, multidimensional poverty measurement kept gaining international momentum.

Membership in the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network](#) grew to 40 countries and ten international agencies. The annual MPPN meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, was attended by Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, and saw participation by network leaders from around the world. OPHI continues to act as the network secretariat.

Three countries launched official, national measures of multidimensional poverty — Chile, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Moreover, Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam also launched a city-wide MPI. At least four countries are poised to launch national MPIs in early 2016.

### MPI indicators within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September, at the [Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda](#), the UN accepted the multidimensional nature of poverty in the Sustainable Development Goals. In the lead-up to this announcement, OPHI, the MPPN and the Government of Costa Rica hosted a high-level side event on the importance of including the MPI as an official indicator for the SDGs. The event was attended by four Heads of State and included prominent speakers from 20 countries.

OPHI also hosted a side event on this topic at the [United Nations Statistical Commission](#) in March. Both these events promoted and showcased multidimensional poverty indices as useful tools for enhancing national policies to tackle poverty in all its dimensions. **Intensive courses on multidimensional poverty measurement**

OPHI organises intensive technical courses to share knowledge of multidimensional poverty measurement methodologies with both academics and research users. In August, OPHI ran its intensive two-week Summer School in Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Nearly 70 people from more than 30 countries took part, including researchers as well as policymakers and technical experts. In December 2015, over 60 participants from national statistical agencies and relevant ministries in some 30 mainly African and Asian countries joined a [7-day training session](#) on multidimensional poverty in Dakar, Senegal.

### **OPHI's key expertise in one book**

2015 saw the launch of the '[OPHI book](#)', *Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis* ([Oxford University Press](#)). Written by Alkire, Foster, and former OPHI researchers Seth, Santos, Roche and Ballon, this rigorously academic book provides an in-depth account of multidimensional poverty comparison methodologies, with a particular focus on the Alkire-Foster method.

### **OPHI awarded for its research impact**

OPHI's work was selected as one of the [20 most impressive examples of UK research contributing to global development](#) by the [UK Collaborative on Development Sciences](#). Nearly 7,000 impact case studies were submitted, and OPHI was recognised for its work to develop the [Alkire Foster \(AF\) method](#) for multidimensional poverty measurement.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Throughout the year, OPHI researchers and affiliates have produced a range of academic publications on different aspects of poverty and its measurement including 15 working papers. These are all available on the [OPHI website](#). Recent papers include:

Vaz, A, P. Pratley and S. Alkire, "[Measuring Women's Autonomy in Chad using the Relative Autonomy Index](#)" online and forthcoming in *Feminist Economics*.

Suppa, N. (2015). "[Towards a multidimensional poverty index for Germany](#)." *OPHI Working Papers* 98, University of Oxford.

Quang, van Tran, S. Alkire and S. Klasen, "[Static and Dynamic Disparities between Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement: Evidence from Vietnam](#)", *Review of Income and Wealth*, 2015.

Alkire, S and S. Seth. "[Multidimensional Poverty Reduction in India between 1999 and 2006: Where and How?](#)" *World Development*. 72. 93-108.2015.

"[Identifying the Poorest People and Groups: Strategies Using the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#)", with J.M. Roche, S. Seth and A. Sumner. *Journal of International Development*. 27 (3) 362-387. 2015.

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OPHI would like to apologise for the prolonged silence. More regular e-updates will resume in 2016. Readers are also invited to follow OPHI on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#), and may also consider [supporting OPHI](#)'s work across the world.

For general information and feedback, please contact us: [ophi@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ophi@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

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