

Announcement

Launch of a Global Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network

6-7 June 2013, Magdalen College, University of Oxford

The global multidimensional poverty peer network is an international peer network for policymakers engaged in implementing multidimensional poverty measures. The network of policymakers will be visible, articulate, and engaged; it will create political momentum and credibility for wider approaches to poverty measurement and cross-sectoral poverty reduction activities. The network will provide peer-to-peer technical and policy support as well as mutual input into the design and institutional arrangements for successful implementation measures and programmes to eradicate multidimensional poverty.

Poverty is often defined by one-dimensional measures, such as income. But no one indicator alone can capture the multiple aspects that constitute poverty. A rapidly increasing number of policymakers around the world are working to establish multidimensional poverty measures. Many of them are using the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology and the related set of empirical techniques developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). This network will enable information-sharing on such measure design and institutionalization.

Network members will undertake the following to promote multidimensional poverty measurement and policy applications:

- a. The network will facilitate and enable leaders in multidimensional poverty measures to share their experiences with policymakers in countries that are exploring the possibility or are in the process of implementing the measures.
- b. The network will provide access to resources in a new webspace on national and subnational measures of multidimensional poverty.
- c. The network will promote technical support among its members and will facilitate technical training courses on multidimensional poverty measurement and executive education courses for policymakers.
- d. The network will promote interaction among members through various means of communication such as email exchanges, Skype calls, video conferences, an interactive web space and a meeting once a year.
- e. The network will promote multidimensional poverty measurement with regional bodies as well as international agencies, particularly those who work in poverty measurement.

Network members will have an effective and informed voice in the post-2015 discussions about multidimensional poverty measurement, and will promote the multidimensional measurement of development goals in the post-2015 context.

Since poverty is multidimensional and the new development goals post-2015 will be multidimensional, the Network may propose the creation of a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2.0 for the post-2015 context, as a headline indicator of multidimensional poverty that can reflect participatory inputs, and can be easily disaggregated.¹

Network members will promote joint research and develop tools of measurement, policy design and analysis, based on demands from the network; they will also assist with the dissemination and technical validation of efforts to implement the multidimensional poverty measures.

Participants in the network at present include policymakers from: Angola, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia, and Vietnam, as well as Germany's BMZ, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) (15 member states), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (9 member and associate member states), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

¹ The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2.0 would show how people are poor (what disadvantages they experience); which regions or ethnic groups are poorest; and the inequalities among those living in poverty. It would provide incentives for policymakers to reduce poverty by reflecting changes swiftly; it could also be used to monitor inclusive growth, and to show the nexus between challenges of poverty and sustainability.