About OPHI

Sabina Alkire
Launched in 2007, OPHI’s objective is to advance the human development approach to poverty reduction through fundamental, sustained, and multidisciplinary research that is effectively disseminated.
Who we are: light structure

**Advisors:** Sudhir Anand, Tony Atkinson, Amartya Sen

**Management Committee:** Valpy FitzGerald, Ian Goldin, John Hammock, Barbara Harriss-White

**Institutional location:** Sit within ODID, QEH; member of OXIGED
Principles

– academic rigor
– practicality and policy relevance
– engagement with economics
– engagement of southern researchers
– research co-ordination
– to enrich welfare economics
Core Purpose

OPHI’s core purpose is to understand and affect poverty, inequality, and welfare, all seen as fundamentally multidimensional constructs.

“To build a multidimensional economic framework for reducing poverty grounded in people’s experiences and values.”
OPHI’s current work at a glance

– Missing Dimensions
– Multidimensional Poverty
– Education and Training
OPHI’s *current* research at a glance

- **Missing Dimensions**
  - Developing *modules* for inclusion in internationally comparable household surveys. Analysing key policy questions

- **Multidimensional (Poverty) Comparisons**
  - Developing *new measures & analyses*
  - Applying *these* to regions, countries, and sectors
  - Developing better *methodologies* of analysis and evaluation
Missing Dimensions
Problem: We are obtaining better data on health, education, consumption, and other MDGs but data on other key dimensions are missing…

Clear areas of omission:
Violence
Empowerment
Informal Work
Dignity
(Psychological & subjective well-being)

How can OPHI catalyze a process so more and better data are available?
International Poverty Data are not enough (nor always relevant).

They must be complemented by:
• Timely humanitarian responses
• Participatory exercises and self-analysis
• Group or community surveys
• Nation- or context-specific data

And political and institutional considerations circumscribe the use of empirical analyses.

But without international data, key dimensions are invisible in comparative empirical analyses.
Our dream is a world filled with (policy-relevant) poverty data…?
(no)

"You're fifty-seven years old. I'd like to get that down a bit."

*internationally comparable"
4 Missing Dimensions of Poverty

Data:

• **employment** (poverty: informal (some), insecure and unsafe work)

• **empowerment** (poverty: acting under force or compulsion)

• **physical safety**; (poverty: victim of violence or lethal violence)

• **ability to go about without shame**: (poverty: being stigmatized, humiliated, isolated, discriminated against)

• **meaning & satisfaction**: (poverty: alienation, unhappiness, dissatisfaction)
Some progress

- Piloted in Kenya, South Africa, Mexico, Philippines, China, Pakistan, Ecuador, Bolivia & the Czech Republic.
- Nationally representative sample in Chile completed.
- PEP studies undertaken in Chad, Nigeria & Sri Lanka
- Share at Durban, Busan, and other ISI meetings.
- Prepared questions for IHSN (Paris 21)
- Preparing survey in Chad
- Preparing small survey in China
Multidimensional Poverty Measures
François Bourguignon, Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Stefan Dercon, Antonio Estache, Jan Willem Gunning, Ravi Kanbur, Stephan Klasen, Simon Maxwell, Jean-Philippe Platteau, Amedeo Spadaro

‘The correlation between GDP per capita growth and non-income MDGs is practically zero…’
New Measures Designed:

• Alkire and Foster (2007) – J Pub E
• Santos & Foster – Chronic poverty
• Yalonetzky – MD inequality of opportunity
• Seth – association sensitive inequality
AF methodology implemented

- 25 country studies
- MPI for 2010 HDR, with UNDP input
- MPI across time
- AF measures with panel data
Some research issues

• Dashboard vs Index
• Weights
• Deprivation Cutoffs
• Decomposability
• Income
• Combining Individual and Household Data
• Endogeneity
• Data
• Data Qualities
• Complementarity and Substitutability

* Ordinal data
* Statistics
* MD Poverty Dynamics
* Welfare Economics
* Politics
An new era?

Measurement Methodologies of Multidimensional Poverty – but also well-being etc - are on the upswing.

Policy Space is opening for multidimensional measures (Governments; UNDP MPI; Stiglitz Sen Fitoussi).

Multidimensional methods of measurement and analysis are also advancing (and need to do so more).

Multidimensional measures must be coherently related to a core economic framework akin to welfare economics.