The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network

An international peer network for policymakers engaged in implementing multidimensional poverty measures

Harnessing multidimensional measurement for more effective poverty reduction

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New global Network connects the growing number of countries developing multidimensional poverty measures.

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The Network promotes the use of innovative poverty measures to enrich poverty reduction efforts.

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Representatives of 20+ countries and institutions including Colombia, Mexico, China, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Vietnam currently participate in the Network.
Why multidimensional measures?
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, using the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology developed at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). These measures enable them to:

- Allocate resources more effectively;
- Improve policy design;
- Identify interconnections among deprivations;
- Monitor the effectiveness of policies over time;
- Target poor people as beneficiaries of services or conditional cash transfers.

Providing international support to policymakers
The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network provides international support to policymakers engaged in constructing multidimensional poverty measures, including input into the design of the measures, and the political processes and institutional arrangements that will sustain them.

The network enables early adopters of multidimensional poverty measures to share their experiences directly with policymakers in other countries who are exploring or implementing such measures (‘South-South’ learning). It also provides technical support, executive training courses and access to a repository of lessons learned.

The network is also working to promote multidimensional poverty measurement in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, making the case for a new, global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2015+.

A growing global community
The Network was created in response to the overwhelming demand for information on implementing multidimensional measures, and for technical and institutional support.

The governments of Mexico, Colombia and Bhutan, along with the states of Minas Gerais and Sao Paolo in Brazil, are among those to have used the AF method to create multidimensional measures to shape social policies or inform the targeting of anti-poverty programmes.

Ministers and senior officials from over 20 countries currently participate in the global MPPN, including: Angola, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia, Uruguay, and Vietnam.

Institutional participants include the Southern Africa Development Community (15 members), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (9 members and associate members), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The Network was founded by Colombia’s Department for Social Prosperity, Mexico’s National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), and OPHI, which acts as the Network Secretariat. The Network is supported by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).