

OPHI

December 2011

OPHI e-Update

Welcome to a special edition of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's (OPHI) regular update email, which presents new Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) data and analysis for 2011. The email also features announcements, new publications and opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MPI 2011 – Key findings and resources

On 7 December, OPHI released new MPI analysis for 2011 at a special policy forum in London, UK. Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University and Professor James Foster, George Washington University responded to a presentation of the new findings by OPHI's Sabina Alkire, José Manuel Roche and Suman Seth. Joanna Macrae of DFID chaired the event, which you can watch here: [[WATCH VIDEO...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/special-policy-forum-mpi-2011-findings/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/special-policy-forum-mpi-2011-findings/>

National-level MPI data for 109 countries was released in UNDP's 2011 *Human Development Report* in November. The new work, supervised by José Manuel Roche and Sabina Alkire, and involving Suman Seth and Maria Emma Santos and a network of OPHI Research Assistants around the world, builds on these updates to include analysis of:

- MPI poverty in 683 sub-national regions across 66 countries
- Changes of MPI over time for 10 countries and their regions
- Robustness – showing the MPI is robust to a range of plausible weights and poverty cutoffs

Key findings:

- Most MPI poor people live in middle-income countries – as do most 'severely' MPI poor people.
- 50% of the MPI poor people live in South Asia and 29% in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Income classifications hide wide disparities in MPI poverty: The percentage of MPI poor people in low income countries varies from 5% to 92%; in middle income, from 1-77%.
- MPI varies within countries, sometimes greatly.
- Poverty reduction over time varies by dimension and by region.

Essential resources include:

[Multidimensional Poverty Index 2011: Research Brief](http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHI-MPI-Brief-2011.pdf) - Key findings and method
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHI-MPI-Brief-2011.pdf>

Data tables – National, sub-national and trend analysis data

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/mpi-data-methodology/>

Country profiles – National data for 109 countries, with sub-national analysis for 66

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/mpi-country-briefings/>

Mapping the MPI – Global, national and sub-national MPI poverty maps

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/mapping-the-mpi/>

Ground Reality Checks – New stories of people living in MPI poverty in Bhutan and Dominican Republic <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/mpi-case-studies/>

Video of Special Policy Forum 2011 – Presentations of findings, responses and a lively Q&A <http://www.ophi.org.uk/special-policy-forum-mpi-2011-findings/>

Visit OPHI's MPI pages for full information: <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>. We welcome your feedback and comments on the MPI 2011. Please write to us at ophi@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Announcing Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have come together to develop a **Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index** to measure women's roles and engagement in the agriculture sector. [[About the Index...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/the-womens-empowerment-in-agriculture-index/>

PUBLICATIONS

On the Possibility of Measuring Freedom: A Kantian Perspective

More than three decades after Amartya Sen's first formulation of the so-called "capability approach", practitioners have yet to measure a capability set. This paper by Sebastian Silva-Leander explores the valuable insights Kantian philosophy may offer in dealing with this problem. [[Working Paper 49...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/on-the-possibility-of-measuring-freedom-a-kantian-perspective/>

Revealed Meta-Preferences: Axiomatic Foundations of Normative Assessments in the Capability Approach

In this paper Sebastian Silva-Leander explores the possibility of defining a non-utilitarian normative standard for assessments of welfare and deprivation. [[Working Paper 48...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/revealed-meta-preferences-axiomatic-foundations-of-normative-assessments-in-the-capability-approach/>

Multidimensional Poverty: Measurement, Estimation, and Inference

This paper by Christopher J. Bennett and Shabana Mitra demonstrates how multiple testing may be coupled with the Alkire-Foster class of measures to obtain novel insights, not otherwise captured by traditional approaches to multidimensional poverty analysis. [[Working Paper 47...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-measurement-estimation-and-inference/>

Multidimensional Poverty and its Discontents

The paper by Sabina Alkire reiterates the value-added of measures that reflect the joint distribution of disadvantage. It also explains the construction of the 2010 MPI further. [[Working Paper 46...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-and-its-discontents/>

Where Did Identification Go?

This paper, published in the [Journal of Economic Inequality](#), and written by Sabina Alkire, James Foster & Maria Emma Santos supplements Understandings and Misunderstandings of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement (also published in the [Journal of Economic Inequality](#) and as [OPHI Working Paper 43](#)). The two papers are best read together and elucidate the strengths, limitations, and misunderstandings of multidimensional poverty measurement in order to clarify the debate and catalyse further research. [[Working Paper 43b...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ophi-wp43b-8sept.pdf>

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

Workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Dynamics

In November, OPHI hosted a research workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Dynamics, featuring presentations on measuring deprivations among children in different countries; time series and intertemporal poverty comparisons, as well as discussions of the directions for research in the field. Gaston Yalonetsky, OPHI Research Associate, led the workshop, which featured presentations from leading academics and OPHI Researchers. [[Poverty Dynamics Workshop ...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/?p=10892>

South Asia in Transition Conference

OPHI and the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford, co-sponsored a conference on “South Asia in Transition” in Oxford, 25-26 November 2011. Suman Seth, OPHI Research Officer, presented a new paper entitled *Identifying Below the Poverty Line (BPL) Households in India: A Comparison of Methods* (jointly authored with Sabina Alkire) [[South Asia in Transition...](#)] <http://oxfordsociologysouthasia.wordpress.com/home/>

Presenting at OECD, HDCA, DSA, UNDP and UNICEF in Dominican Republic and others

OPHI team members have presented at numerous leading forums such as the [OECD](#) meeting “Two Years After the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report”, the UK Development Studies Association ([DSA](#)) and European Association of Development Institutes ([EADI](#)) annual conference, UNDP and UNICEF conference on child poverty in Dominican Republic, the [HDCA](#) annual conference in Netherlands and many others. [[OPHI speaking engagements...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news/>

OPPORTUNITIES

OPHI-HDCA training course 2012

The 2012 schedule of OPHI short courses is currently under construction. If you are interested in being updated when this schedule is put together, please send an email entitled “Please send me OPHI training course updates” to ophi@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

Join OPHI on Facebook

OPHI is now on Facebook! Our page gives OPHI’s latest news, announcements, publications and events. Please join us and spread the word. [[Visit OPHI on Facebook...](#)] <http://www.facebook.com/pages/OPHI-Oxford-Poverty-and-Human-Development-Initiative/206436442734224>

OPHI PEOPLE

New staff and visitors

OPHI is delighted to welcome **Maja Jakobsen** to the team as a Research Assistant, working principally on the MPI, and **Paola Ballon** who will join in December as a Research Officer. **Gaston Yalonetsky** has joined the Business School of Leeds as a Lecturer in Economics. We wish Gaston all the best for his new role and are very happy that he remains with OPHI in the capacity of a Research Associate. OPHI is also very pleased to welcome **Yadira Diaz** as a

Visiting Student from University of Essex and former Technical Advisor to the Government of Colombia on the MPI-Colombia.

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December 2011 - OPHI e-Update “Advancing freedoms and overcoming poverty.”

OPHI e-Updates aim to highlight key resources and information materials. We welcome your feedback and participation.

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International Development Research Council (IDRC) of Canada, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and AusAID are also recognised for their past support.

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