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OXFORD POVERTY & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

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Post-2015 MDGs and Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data

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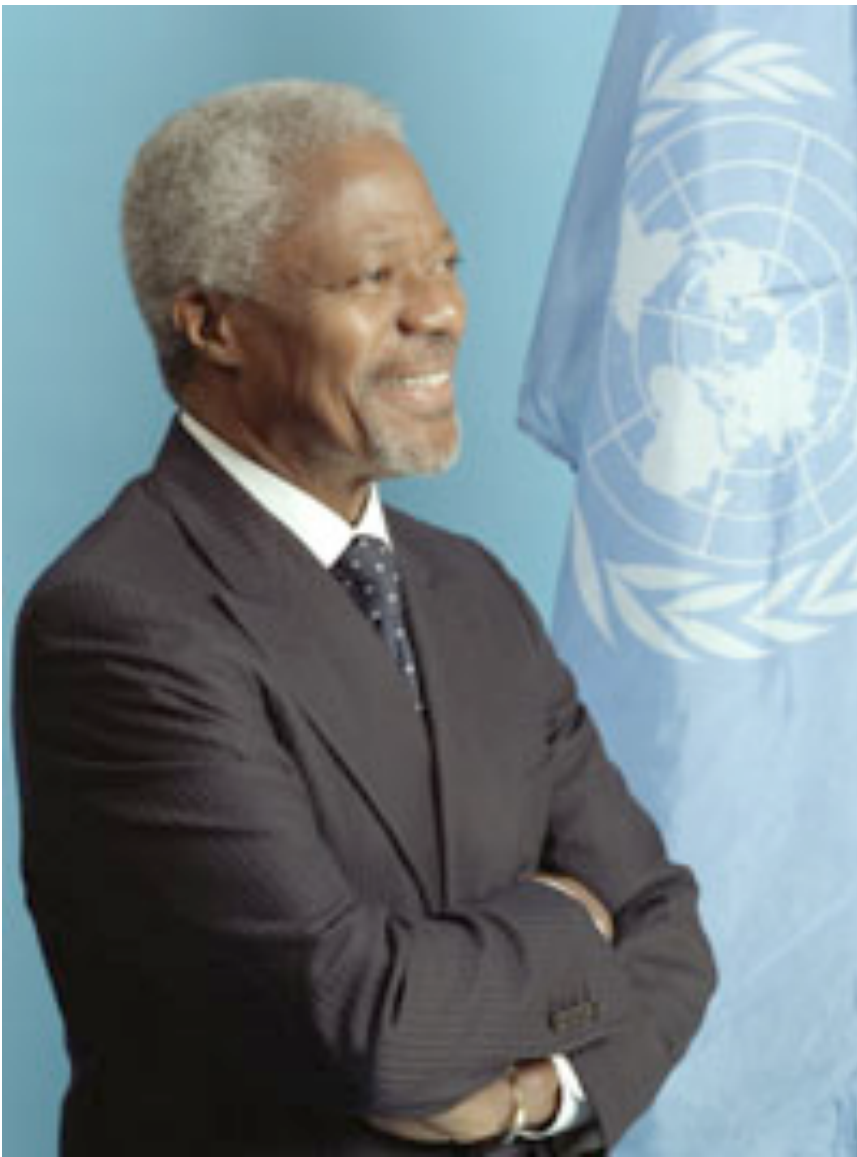


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Motivation for the MDGs

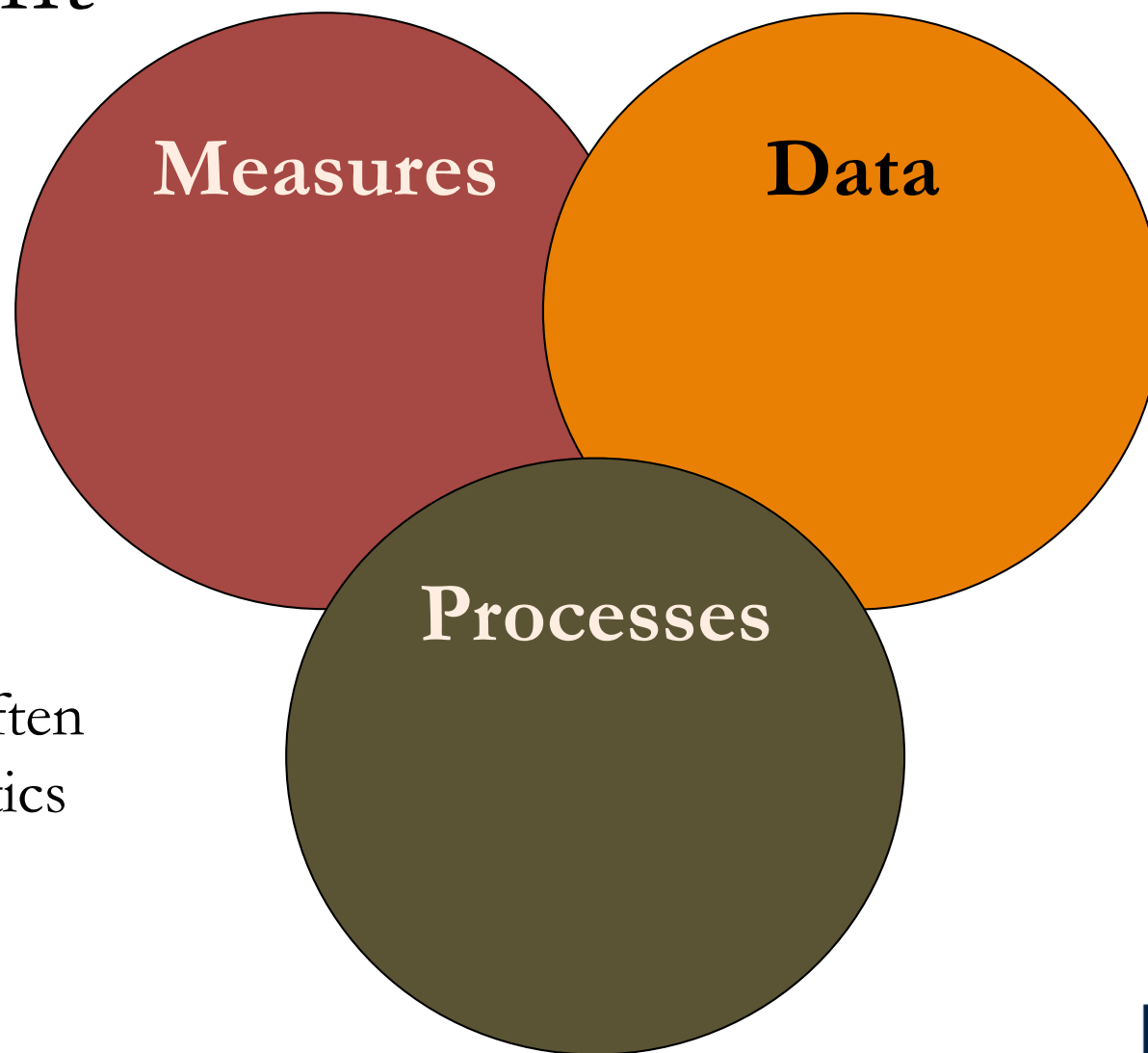
“We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women, and children, from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are now subjected.”

Kofi Annan

Three Assumptions

- Why: That post-MDGs will share the ethical motivation of the MDGs, to reduce abject human suffering.
- Purpose: That post-2015 MDGs aim to create momentum – political & financial, and be a focal point for research, advocacy, and collective action to reduce suffering.
- How: The 'tools' of post-MDGs (data, indicators, measures, processes, reports) must catalyse and sustain results – cost effectively. Reports/measures are not ends in themselves.

Measurement Inputs



Thus far: We have often
ignored data & politics

Missing data

A key constraint in 2015?

- **Part I: Data Content**
(Missing Dimensions)
- **Part II: Data Availability**
(Frequency, Quality)

Missing
Data
Work
Violence
Empowerment
Relationships

Missing data I. .

A key constraint in 2015?

- The MDGs focus on living standards, health, education, gender and the environmental conditions. There are well-known weaknesses in existing indicators.
- The number of proposed ‘ninth’ MDGs is not infinite.
- Proposals mainly fall into four categories, as above.
- Sources of proposals include poor people, experts, MDG Reports, PRSP documents, and research.

Values: Voices of the Poor

Material Well-being
Freedom of Choice & Action
Security
Social Well-being
Psychological Well-being
Bodily Wellbeing
Mental Wellbeing

Example: Voices of the Poor

Material Well-being (+)
Freedom of Choice & Action
Security
Social Well-being
Psychological Well-being
Bodily Wellbeing
Mental Wellbeing

Quality of Life: Sen-Stiglitz- Fitoussi

Subjective measures of quality of life

Health

Education

The Balance of Time

Political Voice & Governance

Social Connections

Environmental Conditions

Personal Security

Economic security

Quality of Life: Sen-Stiglitz-Fitoussi

Subjective measures of quality of life

Health

Education

The Balance of Time

Political Voice & Governance

Social Connections

Environmental Conditions

Personal Security

Economic security (+)



ARE THEY REALLY MISSING?

YES... Data on these dimensions are **missing**
from MDG surveys & other hh surveys

Most MDG data come from 4 survey instruments:

- **Violence** is nearly invisible. (Domestic V in some DHS)
- Formal employment is covered in LSMS surveys but not **Informal employment** or **quality of work** usually; DHS/MICS are weak.
- **Voice/Empowerment** is systematically absent.
- **Shame Humiliation and Isolation** are absent.

We might wish to look ahead as data will constrain 2015 baseline

What's needed: see interconnections

Dimensions	Health	Educa- tion	Income	Safety from Violence	Work	Empow.
Individual 1	NP	P	NP	P	P	P
Individual 2	NP	NP	P	NP	P	NP
Individual 3	P	P	P	NP	NP	NP
Individual 4	P	P	P	P	P	P

**Missing
Data**

From Dimensions to Indicators

- We've identified *dimensions*: poor people & policy
- Now we must identify *indicators* that generate *data* which are:
 - *comparable* – populations, time
 - *accurate* – insofar as is feasible for comparable data
 - *fulfil validity tests*
 - *statistically independent*
 - *demonstrated analytical value*
- **Process:** *collaborate* with others; build on their work
- **Concrete Output:** a short module for survey instruments implemented by standardly trained enumerators; Chapters for an LSMS *Designing HH Survey* book; optional modules easily available.

Criteria for indicator selection

- International comparability
- Measure intrinsic as well as instrumental value of the dimensions proposed
- Identify *changes* in dimensions over time and between population sub-groups
- Experience with particular indicators to date:
How frequently have they been fielded previously and found to be adequate measures for research purposes?

5-8 min
survey
modules

QUALITY OF
WORK

Informal
employment,
security and
safety at work



WITHOUT
SHAME

Freedom from shame,
humiliation and
isolation



EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the
power people have
to shape their lives



PHYSICAL
SAFETY

Freedom from
violence against
people and
property



PSYCHOLOGICAL
WELLBEING

Happiness,
satisfaction and a
meaningful life



EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the power people have to shape their lives

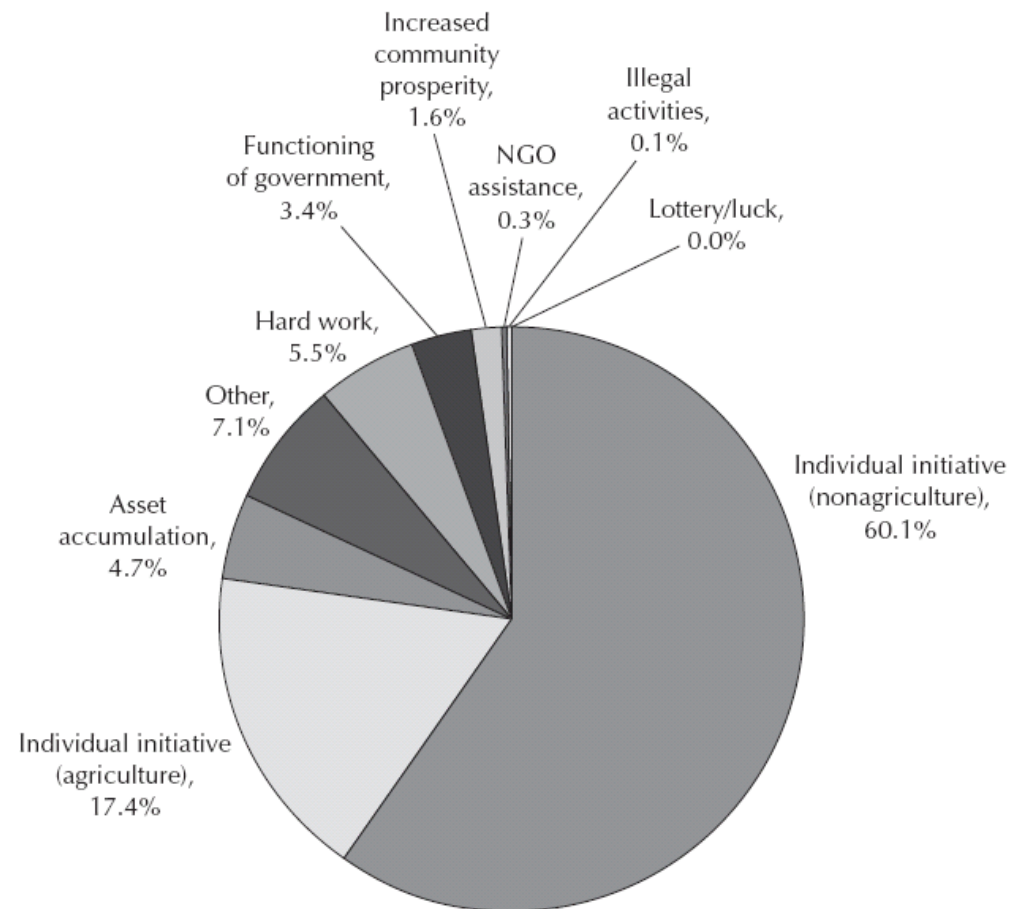


In an important 2009 study of people in 15 countries, over 75 per cent who moved out of poverty attributed this to their own initiative.

Movers most frequently cite initiatives as reasons for their move out of poverty

Arab Spring – most potent indication

- *Moving out of poverty 2009* found that 77.5% of those who exit poverty cite their 'own initiative' as the most important reason for moving out of poverty.



Source: Authors' analysis of household survey; all study regions; N = 3,991 movers.

Motivation

Conceptual motivation:

First, more freedom gives us more opportunity to pursue our objectives – those things that we value... Second we may attach importance to the process of choice itself. (Sen 2009, *The Idea of Justice*)

Importance in participatory accounts:

‘For me, what becomes important in freedom is doing something with self assurance, and at the end nobody opposes me and disturbs what I have done. Otherwise I become just a slave’ (MoP informant, Kagera, Tanzania)

Prominence of freedom in international accords:

Preamble to UN charter anchors the pursuit in progress in the broader context of ‘larger freedom’ and concept of freedom underlies many international covenants.

Congruent with psychological literature on autonomy as a basic need:

Autonomy is “an essential aspect of health human functioning”... “there are not instances of optimal, healthy development in which a need for autonomy, relatedness, or competence was neglected” (Deci and Ryan 2000).

EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the power people have to shape their lives



In an important 2009 study of people in 15 countries, over 75 per cent who moved out of poverty attributed this to their own initiative.

OPHI's empowerment module collects data on:

- Domain-specific Autonomy (Ryan and Deci) (✓)
- Control over personal decisions (✓)
- Domain-specific household decision-making (DHS) ✗
- Global empowerment (WVS, Gallup) (✓)
- Ability to change aspects in life (Alsop et al 2006) (✓)
- Ability to change aspects in one's community (*ibid.*) (✓)
- *Domain-specific Efficacy* (Bandura) (✓)

QUALITY OF WORK

Informal employment,
Income, security and safety
at work, fair treatment



A good job is generally associated with being out of poverty. Yet many jobs pay less than \$1 a day, are unsafe and insecure.

- At least 5 countries identified ‘decent work’ as a ninth MDG, or as a high priority target along the MDGs
- Of 19 composite indices of poverty and well-being, 14 included work-related indicators
- Informal work is predominate among poor & among women, so important to grasp.
 - 2 million people die each year from work-related accidents, illnesses or wounds in **formal** work sites (WHO 2010)
 - 268 million non-fatal accidents cause three lost days of work per injured worker; 160 million cases of work-related illnesses. All on **formal** worksites (informal higher).

QUALITY OF WORK

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OPHI's employment module
collects data on:

And complements the
standard employment
module

Protection	1. Informal Employment 2. Ability to withstand shocks
Income	3. Income from employment (incl. the self-employed)
Safety	4. Occupational hazard (accidents, illness, and workplace exposures)
Time	5. Under- & over-employment 6. Multiple activities
Quantity	7. Discouraged unemployment
Perceptions	8. Perceived meaning/value

PHYSICAL SAFETY

Freedom from violence
against people and property,
responses to violence



Violence undermines development gains in areas such as education, health, employment, income generation and infrastructure provision.

- Recognition of its importance:
 - *19 countries stressed security from violence in their PRSP or plan*
 - *Two countries developed a 9th MDG around security*
 - *At least 17 more place violence as a pillar of their national strategy alongside meeting the MDGs.*
- An estimated 90 percent of all violence-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (Krug et al., 2002).
- Fragile and failed states, and countries in conflict, are disproportionately failing in progress on the MDGs.
- For every war death, more than 3 people die of crime & homicide (WHO Burden of Disease 2004; 2008 update)

Motivation

- Value of security against violence: direct and indirect cost

Safety from violence is clearly valued for its own sake. Yet in addition to the direct costs of violence, the indirect costs and the threat of violence are very significant.

- Links with development and poverty traps

Violence undermines development gains, sustains poverty traps and impedes human freedom to live together safely and securely.

- Horizontal inequality

While Horizontal Inequality can cause highly antagonistic conflicts many multi-ethnic, multi-religious and poor peoples live together peacefully.

- Violence and Human Security

Violence perpetrated by individuals, groups and agents of states **within** countries has displaced wars between nations as the biggest impediment to human security in the post-war era.

Indicators

1. Incidence of violence against property

- Theft
- Property destruction

2. Incidence of violence against person

- Robbery, assault with and without weapons
- Kidnappings
- Explosions/ bombs

3. Perceptions of safety and violence

- Frequency of incident
- Injuries, deaths
- Perpetrators
- Weapons
- Location
- Reporting (formal/informal)
- Satisfaction with response
- Links between incidents/persons affected

- Likelihood of future victimisation
- Perceptions of change in violence over time
- Perceived safety in one's area
- Perception of violence vis a vis other threats
- Links btw incidents/persons affected

WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, stigma, discrimination, humiliation and isolation



Experiences of shame are regularly cited by poor people as painful aspects of poverty, and can corrode social relations and lead people to turn away from public services.

- The stigma of poverty is a recurring theme among the poor
- Can result in increasing **isolation** from services and support

People are “able to participate less and less in the social ceremonies and traditions that once brought people together and helped to create and maintain the social bonds between people” (Narayan et al 2000a: 70)

- Can undermine social relationships and provoke psycho-social maladies: low self-esteem, poor interpersonal relations, school-related difficulties, delinquency, social phobia, etc.
- May fuel horizontal inequalities and spill over into conflict.
- May discourage use of public services by poor

WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, stigma, discrimination, humiliation and isolation



Experiences of shame are regularly cited by poor people as painful aspects of poverty, and can corrode social relations and lead people to turn away from public services.

OPHI's shame and humiliation module collects data on:

Shame	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stigma of poverty2. Shame proneness
External experience of humiliation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Respectful treatment4. Unfair treatment5. Discrimination
Internal experience of humiliation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Accumulated experiences of humiliation

PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

Happiness, satisfaction
and a meaningful life



While psychological well-being is not necessarily a dimension of poverty, it is a vitally important aspect of people's lives.

Recent interest in Happiness:

Increasingly hailed as policy objective.

Emotionally appealing, uni-dimensional, easy to capture.

Why subj. and psych. wellbeing matters

Intrinsic and instrumental importance.

Richer understanding of human experience and values.

May explain behavior objective circumstances cannot.

BUT... we argue for a slightly different focus than proponents of happiness...

1. Focus on psychological indicators
2. **Not** goal in self but source of complementary information

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and a meaningful life



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OPHI's psychological wellbeing module collects data on:

Psychological wellbeing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meaning2. Autonomy3. Competence4. Relatedness
Subjective wellbeing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Life satisfaction (overall)6. Life satisfaction (domains)7. Happiness

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FIVE 8-10 MINUTE SURVEY MODULES

WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame,
humiliation and
isolation



PHYSICAL SAFETY

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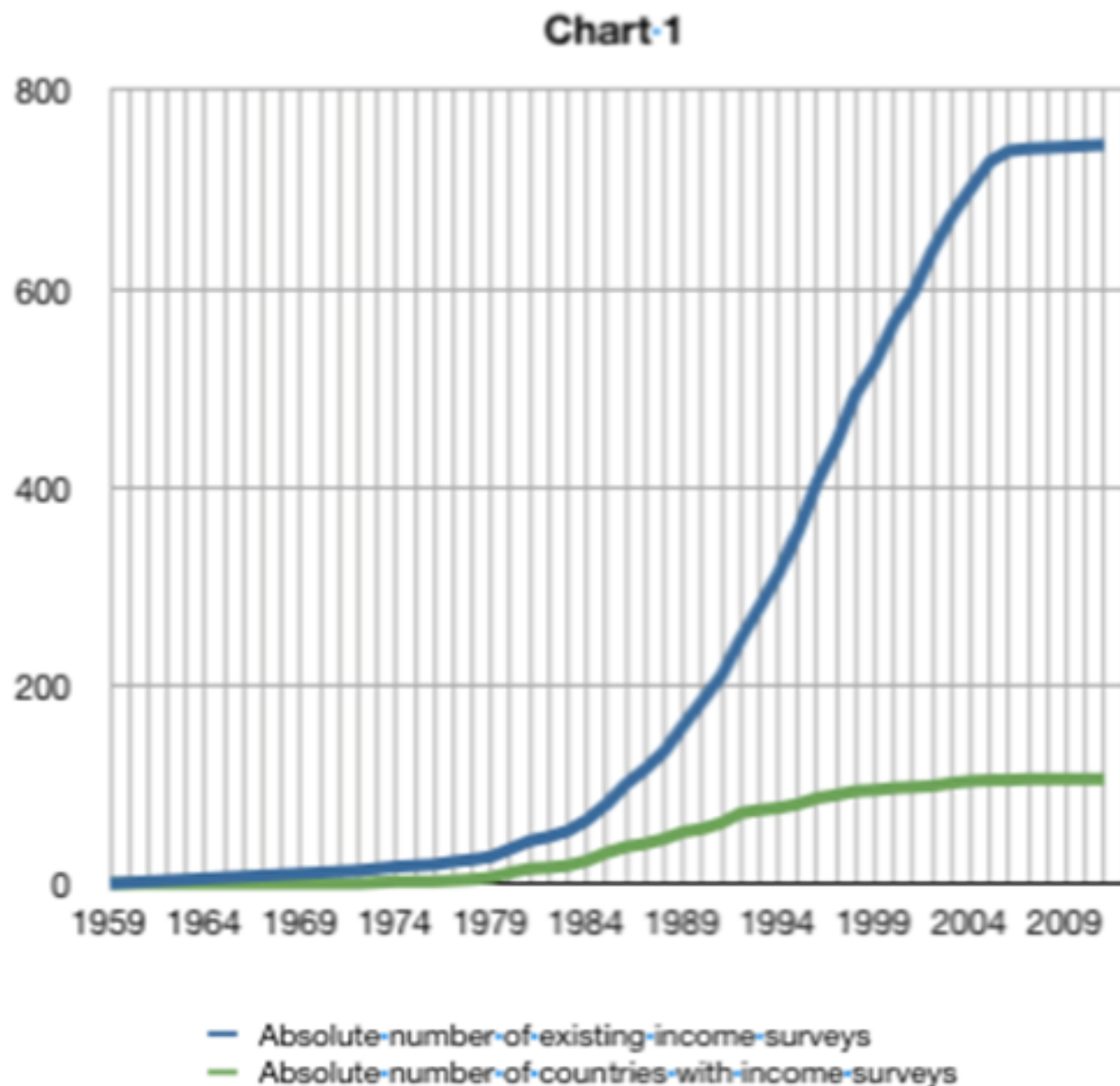


Missing data

A key constraint in 2015?

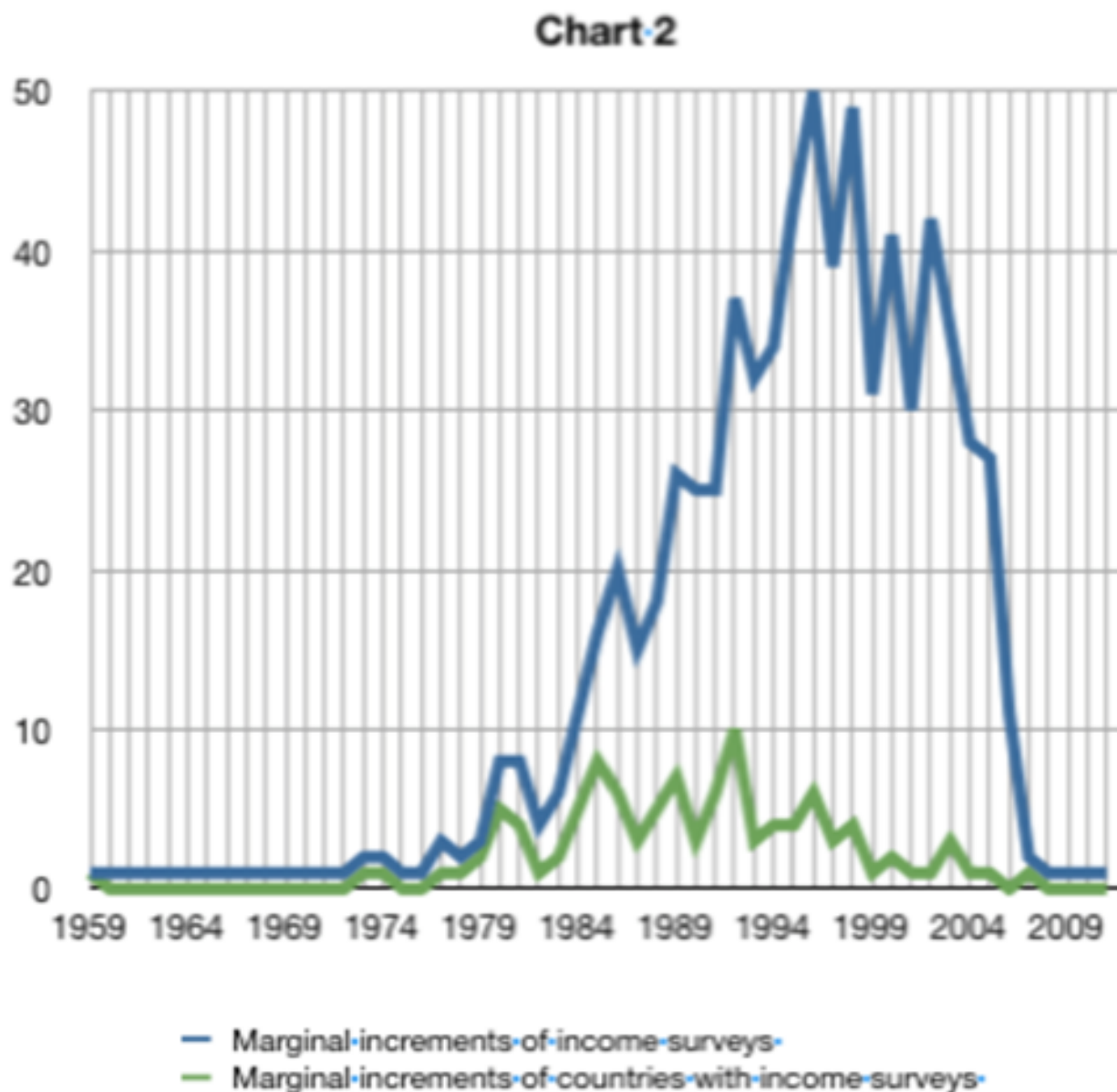
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HH Income/Consumption surveys



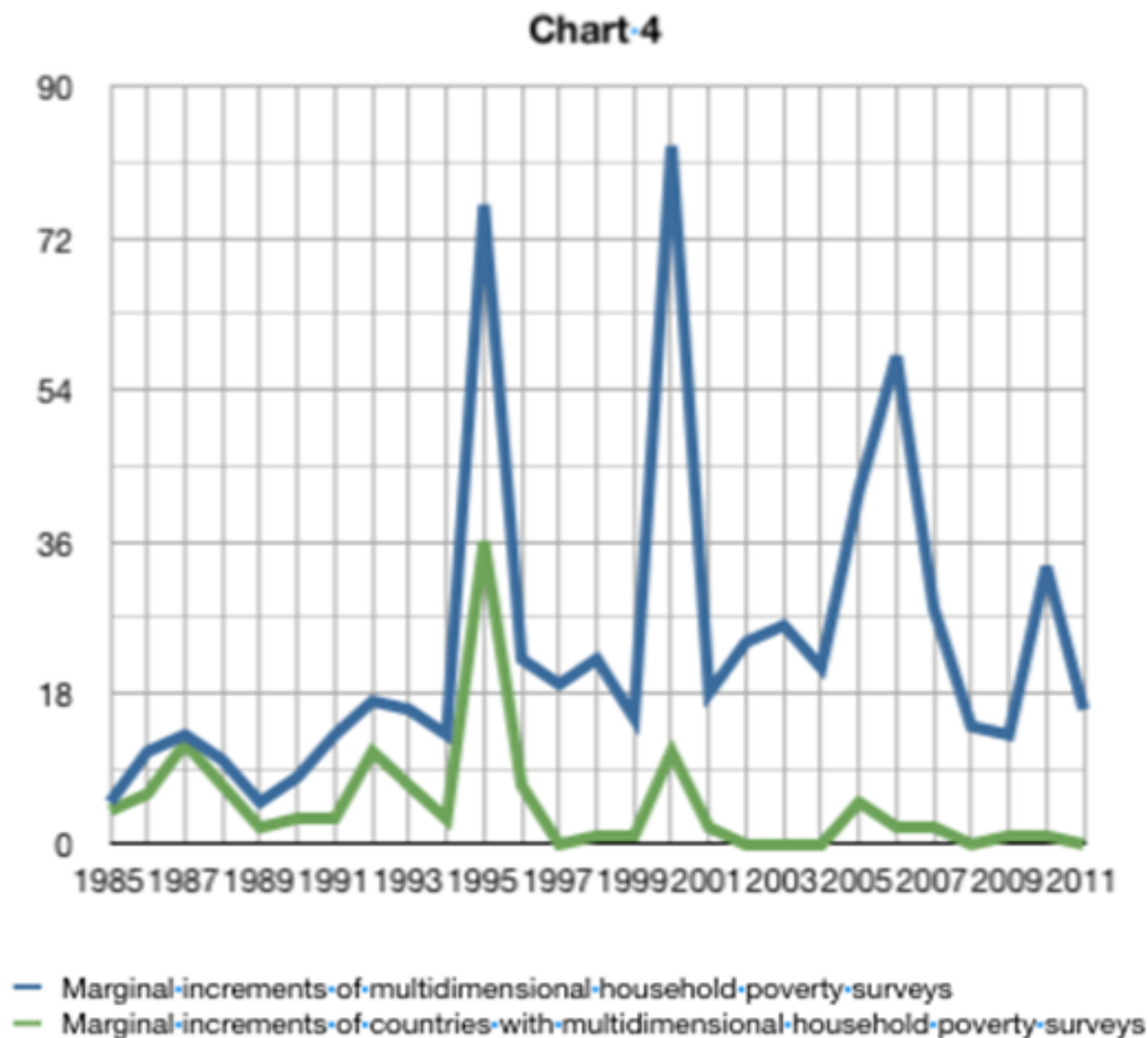
The number of multidimensional household poverty surveys has increased drastically since 1985 and now covers nearly 130 countries

New Income Surveys by year



Major increases of both income surveys and the countries with income surveys occurred during the mid 1995 and 2000

New MD Surveys



Major increases occur with success waves of MICS (data from 2009 on are incomplete).

Data Frequency

A major limitation is the missing frequency of multidimensional poverty data.

Most poverty surveys continue to be carried out in intervals that range from every three to ten years.

This ‘negligence-lag’ makes it impossible to answer questions concerning the impact of the financial crisis or of environmental disaster on the poor.

Also, huge money is ‘wasted’ paying for extrapolations instead of getting direct inputs

Data Ownership

A major controversy in the MDGs is whether to use national or international data sources.

National:

- have country ownership;
- may be tailored for relevant indicators
- may have lower data quality or corruption
- may not be comparable

International:

- comparable; quality; harmonization easy

Data Cost – some questions

Would it be *cheaper* to collect data annually than pay expensive consultants to extrapolate between surveys?

Can national ‘statistical capacity building’ work? Or are politics and human resource shortages too big?

Can work-fare programs include data collection?

Could enumerators *also* deliver other services – e.g. extension or health information or programme M&E?

Solving the Data Issues post-2015

Option 1: Business as usual: complex combinations

Option 2: Standard 'short' survey, international, annual
e.g. Gallup International

Option 3: Standard survey *with room for national inputs*
annual: national *or* international partner

Option 4: Different surveys for different indicators.

Option 5: sms, crowd-sourcing, viral techniques.

Questions for Discussion:

How could data innovations support a break-through for post-2015 MDGs?

What are the dangers that data-gathering would detract resources from poverty reduction? How do we avoid it?

Should surveys require some comparable questions as well as allowing national adaptations/new questions.

How could an adapted MPI (or a child and adult MPI) add value to the post-2015 MDG/SDG dashboard?