

OPHI

June 2009 Monthly OPHI Update

Dear colleagues (with apologies for any cross-posting),
Welcome to the monthly update of opportunities, announcements and events by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI). These messages aim to highlight key resources and information materials. In addition, in the coming months our website will be developed <http://www.ophi.org.uk/> to enable access to our work in the most timely and convenient way for you. We welcome your feedback and participation.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Get involved! Research and Visiting Fellows, Work Exchange, and Volunteers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The IADB Adapts OPHI measure for Targeting Beneficiaries in Oportunidades, Mexico
- OPHI Measure Used in Creating the Bhutan Gross National Happiness Index
- New OPHI Working Paper
- New 'Research in Progress' series
- OPHI 'Missing Dimensions' poster

OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved! Research and Visiting Fellows, Work Exchange, and Volunteers

Read our new web page that details the various ways of interacting with OPHI, whether learning about our work, supporting us, joining as a volunteer, coming as a visiting researcher, doing your thesis on related topics, or engaging in a short course. Visiting fellows, sabbaticals and interns are invited to apply within a rolling process, with three deadlines each year, on 1 December, 1 April, and 1 September. [read more...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=involved0#informed>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The IDB Adapts OPHI measure for Targeting Beneficiaries in Oportunidades, Mexico

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has adapted and promoted the Alkire Foster measurement methodology to help Oportunidades, a prominent Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme in Mexico, to target beneficiaries. With IDB supervision, the methodology was adopted in Mexico in 2008 and has just been designed for the Honduras urban CCT. It is currently being considered by Nicaragua, and was initially presented in Panama in June 2009. [read more...]

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=events0>

OPHI Measure Used in Creating the Bhutan Gross National Happiness Index

On 26 November 2008, Bhutan launched its first quantitative Gross National Happiness Index. The Centre for Bhutan Studies, which crafted the nine-dimensional measure, used OPHI's methodology to construct the index. 'We must always remember that as our country, in these changing times, finds immense new challenges and opportunities, whatever work we do, whatever goals we have – and no matter how these may change in this changing world – ultimately without peace, security and happiness we have nothing. That is the essence of the philosophy of Gross National Happiness.' –

His Majesty King Khesar, The 5th Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan, 2008. [read more...]

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=events0#bhutan>

New OPHI Working Paper

‘An Axiomatic Approach to the Measurement of Corruption: Theory and Applications’, by James E. Foster, Andrew W. Horowitz, and Fabio Méndez (OPHI Working Paper 29, May 2009)

[available at...] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=publications0#wp>

New ‘Research in Progress’ series

This new series will include documents that are discussion papers, policy papers, or are drafts of papers that will become OPHI working papers after review and revision. [available at...]

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=publications0#Research>

‘The MDGs: Multidimensionality and Interconnection’. Sabina Alkire with James Foster (OPHI RP8a May 2009). A background paper to the UK White Paper on Development, ‘Eliminating Poverty’, which is under construction.

‘Determining BPL Status: Some Methodological Improvements’. Sabina Alkire and Suman Seth (OPHI RP7a, April 2009). A draft paper on the 2002 method for identifying Below the Poverty Line households in rural India, which argues that mis-targeting is significantly influenced by the measurement methodology, not only by corruption as has been supposed.

‘Multidimensional Measures of Poverty & Well-Being’. Sabina Alkire and Moizza Sarwar (OPHI RP6a, January 2009). A background paper for the European Commission Report, ‘An Agenda for a Reformed Cohesion Policy’, and surveys institutions that are implementing multidimensional measures.

‘Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Index: Methodology and Results’. Sabina Alkire (OPHI RP5a, November 2008). An informal note on the Gross National Happiness Index that was released by the Centre of Bhutan Studies.

‘Gross National Happiness and Poverty in Bhutan: Applying the GNH Index Methodology to explore Poverty’. Sabina Alkire, Maria Emma Santos, and Karma Ura (OPHI RP4a, November 2008). Paper presented at the Gross National Happiness Conference in Bhutan, at 26 November 2008, re-analyses pilot GNH data, using ‘poverty’ cutoffs rather than, as in the GNH Index, ‘sufficiency’ cutoffs.

‘Amartya Sen’. Sabina Alkire (OPHI RP3a, January 2008). Draft entry for the Edward Elgar *Handbook of Ethics and Economics*.

‘The Capability Approach to Quality of Life Measures’. Sabina Alkire. (OPHI RP2a, September 2008). A background paper for the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, instigated by President Sarkozy.

‘Counting and Multidimensional Poverty’. Sabina Alkire and James Foster (OPHI RP1a, October 2007). A non-technical policy-oriented summary of Working Paper 7 by Alkire and Foster, which was presented at the IFPRI meetings in Beijing, October 2007.

OPHI ‘Missing Dimensions’ poster

We have produced a colourful poster in two sizes (A3 and A4) that introduces the ‘missing dimensions’ of poverty data, available in PDF or printed upon request. [read more...]

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=research2>

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“Advancing freedoms and overcoming poverty.”

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Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative
Oxford Department of International Development
Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford
Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB, UK

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/>

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