



January 2015 OPHI e-Update

Welcome to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's regular email update of announcements, opportunities, new publications and events. If you have any problems viewing this email, you can read it [online](#).

OPHI launches Global MPI updates for Winter 2014/2015

First chapters of OPHI book on multidimensional poverty measurement available online

Chile announces national Multidimensional Poverty Index

Secretary-General's post-2015 synthesis report calls for multidimensional poverty measures

OPHI lunchtime seminar programme for Hilary Term 2015

Recent publications: New working papers and global MPI highlights briefing

Blogs and media coverage: TIME, Guardian, New York Times and Huffington Post

OPHI people: New staff

Highlights

OPHI launches Global MPI updates for Winter 2014/2015

OPHI released the latest updates of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) on 7 January 2015. In total, the Global MPI now covers 110 countries and 803 sub-national regions, of which the poorest is Salamat in Chad. OPHI's analysis of the updated Global MPI found that 60 per cent of people living in the world's poorest regions are actually not in the least developed countries. Download the [Winter 2014/2015 MPI highlights briefing](#) on how poverty varies within countries. Further information can be found in our [country-specific briefings](#), [interactive databank](#) and detailed [Global MPI data tables](#).

First chapters of OPHI book on multidimensional poverty measurement available online

Chapters 1 – 4 of OPHI's forthcoming book, '[Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis](#)', are now available to download as working papers from the [OPHI website](#). The book provides an in-depth account of multidimensional poverty comparison methodologies, with a particular focus on the [Alkire Foster method](#). Further chapters will be made available over the coming weeks, both as working papers and electronically on the [book website](#), alongside a range of study and teaching resources. The book will be published in hardcopy by [Oxford University Press](#) in June 2015.

Chile announces national Multidimensional Poverty Index

The Chilean government has announced its national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) at the same time that it released its updated income poverty measure. The prior methodological launch with Sabina Alkire and James Foster in December was covered in major newspapers. [Read more](#).

Secretary-General's post-2015 synthesis report calls for multidimensional poverty measures

The UN Secretary-General's global synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda highlights the need for poverty measures that reflect the multiple deprivations experienced by the poor. OPHI, with the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network](#), welcomes the acknowledgement of the multidimensionality of poverty and calls for the post-2015 implementation of a headline Multidimensional Poverty Index that complements the \$1.25 a day income poverty measure to ensure that the many overlapping disadvantages faced by the poor, including malnutrition, poor sanitation, and lack of education, are not overlooked. [Read more](#).

Events

OPHI lunchtime seminar programme for Hilary Term 2015 announced

Details of OPHI's Hilary Term lunchtime seminar series are now available [online](#). Seminars will take place on Mondays from 13:00-14:00 in seminar room 3, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. Presentations and podcasts from the Michaelmas Term 2014 seminars are also available on the [OPHI website](#).

Recent publications

[High Visibility: How disaggregated metrics help to reduce multidimensional poverty](#) – OPHI briefing paper by Sabina Alkire and Gisela Robles Aguilar

The authors analyse poverty by sub-national regions, revealing a clearer picture of where the poorest people in the world live.

[Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis: Chapter 4 – Counting Approaches: Definitions, Origins, and Implementations](#) - OPHI working paper by Sabina Alkire, James E. Foster, Suman Seth, Maria Emma Santos, Jose M. Roche and Paola Ballon

In this working paper, chapter 4 of OPHI's forthcoming book, the authors review applications of counting approaches in the history of poverty measurement

[Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis: Chapter 3 – Overview of Methods for Multidimensional Poverty Assessment](#) - OPHI working paper by Sabina Alkire, James E. Foster, Suman Seth, Maria Emma Santos, Jose M. Roche and Paola Ballon

This working paper, chapter 3 of OPHI's forthcoming book, presents a constructive survey of the major existing methods for assessing multidimensional poverty.

[Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis: Chapter 2 – The Framework](#) – OPHI working paper by Sabina Alkire, James E. Foster, Suman Seth, Maria Emma Santos, Jose M. Roche and Paola Ballon

This working paper, chapter 2 of OPHI's forthcoming book, introduces the notation and basic concepts that are used to discuss multidimensional poverty.

[Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis: Chapter 1 – Introduction](#) – OPHI working paper by Sabina Alkire, James E. Foster, Suman Seth, Maria Emma Santos, Jose M. Roche and Paola Ballon

This working paper, chapter 1 of OPHI's forthcoming book, presents the normative, empirical, and policy motivations for focusing on multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis.

[Multidimensional Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Levels and Trends](#) – OPHI working paper by Sabina Alkire and Bouba Housseini

The authors provide an overview of multidimensional poverty – levels and trends – in Sub-Saharan Africa, using the June 2014 estimations and analyses of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.

[Social Isolation and its Relationship to Multidimensional Poverty](#) – OPHI working paper by Kim Samuel, Sabina Alkire, John Hammock, China Mills and Diego Zavaleta

This paper argues that social connectedness is an important missing ingredient of multidimensional poverty, with social isolation being a central component.

[Identifying the Poorest People and Groups: Strategies Using the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) – OPHI working paper by Sabina Alkire, Jose Manuel Roche, Suman Seth and Andy Sumner

The authors compare three different approaches to identifying the poorest billion people in the world.

[Did Poverty Reduction Reach the Poorest of the Poor? Assessment Methods in the Counting Approach](#) – OPHI working paper by Suman Seth and Sabina Alkire

In this paper, the authors argue that poverty measures should be supported by a separate assessment of inequality among the poor. They propose a new inequality measure, designed to capture the variety of deprivations that poor people experience across different areas of their lives.

Blogs and media

Recent coverage of OPHI's work includes:

- Launch of the Winter 2014/2015 Global MPI covered by TIME: [The world's poorest regions are not always where you'd expect](#)
- Letter from Sabina Alkire in the Guardian: [2015 is a crucial year in fight against poverty](#)
- Huffington Post publishes blog on social isolation by OPHI Scholar in Residence, Kim Samuel: [Let's Resolve to Combat Social Isolation in 2015](#)
- Chilean media cover [Sabina Alkire's and James Foster's visit to Chile](#) and discussion of multidimensional poverty measurement: La Tercera, El Mercurio, La Estrategia, [La Segunda](#), Litoralpress and [Economía y Negocios](#). Press coverage of Chile's MPI announcement can be found at [latercera.com](#) and [emol.com](#).
- New York Times article compares OPHI poverty figures with World Bank's poverty line: [A Global Gauge Finds Progress Against Poverty](#)

OPHI People

OPHI has welcomed several new members of staff in recent months:

- Claire Battye, Research Communications Officer
- James Brown, Project Co-ordinator
- Yangyang Shen, Research Officer

OPHI's Sabina Alkire appointed to Professorship at George Washington University

OPHI is delighted to announce that Dr Sabina Alkire will be the inaugural holder of the Oliver T. Carr, Jr. professorship at the Elliott School of International Affairs as well as Professor of Economics, and of International Affairs, George Washington University (GWU). She will take up this post in January 2015 and for the next 20 months will hold a joint appointment at Oxford University, where she will continue as director of OPHI. [Read more.](#)

OPHI e-Updates aim to highlight key resources and information materials. We welcome your feedback and participation. [Friend us on Facebook](#) | [Follow us on Twitter](#)
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