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Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford***SADC Secretariat**<http://www.sadc.int/>*Southern African Development Community
Private Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana***Executive Education Course on Multidimensional
Poverty for SADC Steering Committee members***(Johannesburg, South Africa, 18th/19th of March 2012)***Background**

To date most countries use a national income poverty measure for policy decisions. Recently, a number of policy makers have adopted official multidimensional measures that: (1) analyse non-monetary deprivations and their interconnections; (2) enable the creation of high-impact policies that address multiple interconnected deprivations and accelerate progress towards the MDGs or their successors, and (3) guide policy and provide feedback in a timely manner.

The international Multidimensional Poverty Index developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and released by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Human Development Report 2010 and 2011 is a novel measure for policy analysis, dialogue and monitoring. But just like all countries use national income poverty measures for policy, so too many countries are developing national MPIs, which are adapted to reflect their own specific poverty priorities.

The MPI can be used as an analytical tool to identify the most vulnerable people, show aspects in which they are deprived and, consequently, to target resources and design policies more effectively. Because the MPI measures outcomes directly, it will immediately reflect changes such as school attendance, whereas it can take time for this to affect income, thus may show outcomes of effective policy interventions quickly. Finally, in the understanding that each country is different, the MPI can be tailored to local context using country-specific data and indicators to provide a better understanding of country-level poverty. The governments of Colombia and Mexico have implemented and included nationally adapted multidimensional measures of poverty in their long term social development strategies.

In summary, 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 policy makers around the world are working to establish multidimensional poverty measures, using the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology developed by 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.

This seminar, organised by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through GIZ as part of cooperation to establish an international peer network on multidimensional poverty measurement. The focus of this network is on *strengthening country policy makers' capacity to understand, design, and use multidimensional approaches to poverty measurement for policy purposes.*

SADC Regional Poverty Observatory

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a regional community of 15 Southern African states that cooperate in pursuit of politically stable, socially just and sustainable economic development in the region. Their long-term objective is to reduce poverty in the region through economic growth as well as peace, democracy and stability. The SADC Heads of State and Government convened a Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development in 2008, in Mauritius. The aim of the Conference was to intensify dialogue on regional dimensions of poverty, strengthen collective efforts to address poverty through regional cooperation and integration and to continue dialogue on the partnerships necessary to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The conference concluded with the signing of a Declaration on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development resolving:

- i. Work towards the establishment of a Regional Poverty Observatory (RPO) to monitor progress made in the implementation of actions in the main priority areas of poverty eradication ; and
- ii. Acquire and develop adequate capacity both at the Secretariat and Member States level to ensure effective implementation of poverty eradication programmes.

The SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in August 2008, in Sandton, South Africa, endorsed the SADC Council decision to establish within the SADC Secretariat, a SADC Regional Poverty Observatory. Following this decision, the Secretariat engaged Consultants to develop a concrete proposal for the establishment of the Regional Poverty Observatory. The RPO institutional proposal was approved by Council and endorsed by Summit in August 2010, in Windhoek, Namibia. The Proposal prescribes the institutional, technical and financial architecture of the RPO. The RPO institutional framework provides for the SADC Regional Poverty Observatory to have a Steering Committee which reports to the SADC Council of Ministers.

The Steering Committee was established (first met in May 2012, second in October 2012) and it reflects the multi-stakeholder approach of the SADC RPO, comprising twenty-five members representing the following stakeholders:

- i. Government: one Senior Official from the Ministry responsible for poverty issues in each MS;
- ii. Civil Society: four representatives from regional apex organisations;
- iii. Business Sector: one representative from the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- iv. Experts on poverty and development issues drawn from the region: three; and
- v. International Cooperating Partners: Two representatives.

Aim The aim of this seminar is to provide an introduction to multidimensional poverty approach for SADC Steering Committee members and to discuss the implementation and use of multidimensional approaches for SADC policy purposes. The course takes place right before the third SADC Steering Committee Meeting and thus provides an excellent opportunity to make use of a multidimensional poverty measure for policy-making.

Target-Group 45 representatives of the SADC RPO Steering Committee (Senior Officials from Member States and SADC Secretariat, representatives from Civil Society Organisations and Business Sector, researchers and International Cooperating Partners).

Objectives

1. At the end of this two day executive education course, participants will understand the framework in which the multidimensional poverty measurement emerges and its relevance for the design, dialogue and monitoring of public policies.
2. Likewise, participants will learn about the Mexican, Colombian and Brazilian experiences (among others) in adapting, implementing and using multidimensional poverty measures and discuss regional benefit of this model.
3. Participants will have discussed how to define a multidimensional poverty measure according to their own requirements and national/regional contexts and to use it for policy design, dialogue on regional dimensions of poverty and monitoring progress and collective efforts within the SADC Regional Poverty Observatory.
4. Participants will know about further opportunities to engage within the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network for policy makers.

Facilitators:

- **Dr. Sabina Alkire**
Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- **Prof. Jonathan Mayuyuka Kaunda**
Lecturer, University of Botswana (UB) and RPO Steering Committee Member
- **Dr. Mauricio Apablaza**
Researcher, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

Agenda:

DAY 1: 18 MARCH 2013

Time	Item description	Facilitator
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	SADC Secretariat
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome Remarks	SADC Secretariat
	Why multidimensional poverty? Value-added for policy design, dialogue and monitoring, targeting	OPHI
10:30 -10:45	Tea Break	
	Discussion of relevance to southern Africa	OPHI
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
	The International MPI & case of southern Africa	OPHI
15:30 -15:45	Tea Break	
	Multidimensional Poverty measurement and southern African values	OPHI

DAY 2: 19 MARCH 2013

Time	Item description	Facilitator
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome Day 2	OPHI
	The cases of Mexico, Colombia and Brazil and growing demand	OPHI
	Normative Issues (Purpose & Institutions) & Implementation (Dimensions, time, people & Process)	OPHI
10:30 -10:45	Tea Break	
	Exercises: institutional processes and relevance to southern Africa	OPHI
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
	Politics of MPI	OPHI
	The Multidimensional Poverty Network	
15:30 -15:45	Tea Break	
	Reflections, feedback and next steps	OPHI
17:00 - 17:30	Closure	SADC Secretariat