



OPHI

Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative
Oxford Department of International Development
Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford

October 2012 OPHI e-Update

Welcome to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's regular email update of announcements, opportunities and new publications.

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HIGHLIGHTS

OPHI collaborates with Iraq and Kurdistan statistical offices on Iraq MPI

OPHI is pleased to announce its collaboration with the Iraq Central Statistical Office and the Kurdistan Region Statistical Office. These government entities are developing a national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as part of the National Human Development Report to be released in 2013. OPHI is assisting in the development of the Iraq MPI as well as in the preparation of the conceptual framework and the statistical analysis of the family of indices in the Iraq Human Development Report. [[Iraq MPI for national Human Development Report...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-collaborates-with-iraq-and-kurdistan-statistical-offices-on-iraq-mpi/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-collaborates-with-iraq-and-kurdistan-statistical-offices-on-iraq-mpi/>

State Government in Brazil implements a Multidimensional Poverty Index

The State Government of Minas Gerais in Brazil is implementing a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in 130 of its municipalities using OPHI's Alkire Foster methodology. The composition of the MPI is analysed when designing the [Travessia Programme's](#) package of services, and municipal MPI levels are considered when making allocation decisions. Representatives of the State Government, and the João Pinheiro Foundation, which provides it with technical support, met OPHI's Director Sabina Alkire and other staff in Oxford in September, and agreed to a one-year programme of technical training and advance to strengthen

the measurement tools of the Travessia Programme and to help develop a state-wide MPI. [[Minas Gerais implements an MPI...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/state-government-in-brazil-implements-a-multidimensional-poverty-index/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/state-government-in-brazil-implements-a-multidimensional-poverty-index/>

New Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index video

A new video explains why the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) was created, how it is constructed and the different ways in which it can be used in order to increase understanding of the connections between women's empowerment, food security, and agricultural growth. The short film includes interviews with women who took part in pilot studies in Bangladesh, Guatemala and Uganda, and with representatives of OPHI, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), who collaborated to develop the innovative index. [[Watch the new WEAI video...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/national-policy/the-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-in-agriculture-index#weaivideo)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/national-policy/the-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-in-agriculture-index#weaivideo>

Summer School on Capability and Multidimensional Poverty

The 2012 OPHI-Human Development and Capability Association summer school, held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 23 August – 4 September, brought together a vibrant mix of people to learn about multidimensional poverty measurement and the capability approach. The intensive training course, attended by nearly 50 participants including academics, government officials and NGO staff, also provided an introduction on how to implement a national or organisational Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Resources from previous OPHI-HDCA summer schools, including video and audio files, lecture slides, reading lists and exercises, can be found on our [Online Training Portal](http://www.ophi.org.uk/summerschool2012/). [[OPHI Summer School 2012...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/summerschool2012/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/summerschool2012/>

PUBLICATIONS

New Working Paper 54: Identifying BPL households in India

This new paper by Sabina Alkire and Suman Seth, which is forthcoming in India's [Economic and Political Weekly](#), empirically examines the proposed Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) methodology and compares it with alternative proposals for targeting households living below the poverty line (BPL). Using variables in the third National Family Health Survey (NFHS), it shows that the choice of a particular methodology (which may include exclusion criteria, inclusion criteria, and/or a scoring method) matters. [[OPHI Working Paper 54...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/identifying-bpl-households-a-comparison-of-methods/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/identifying-bpl-households-a-comparison-of-methods/>

New Working Paper 55: A Robust Multidimensional Poverty Profile for Uganda

This paper by Sebastian Levine, James Muwonge and Yele Maweki Batana computes a national multidimensional poverty index (MPI) for Uganda following the approach proposed by Alkire and Foster (2007). Using household survey data, it shows how the incidence of multidimensional poverty has fallen in recent years, and it uses the decomposability features of the index to explain the drivers of the reduction in multidimensional poverty. It also compares the results from Uganda with other countries for which the MPI has been computed, and notes some caveats in such a comparison. [[OPHI Working Paper 55...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/a-robust-multidimensional-poverty-profile-for-uganda/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/a-robust-multidimensional-poverty-profile-for-uganda/>

New Working Paper 56: Normative Choices and Tradeoffs

A new paper by Catherine Porter and Natalie Nairi Quinn, 'Normative Choices and Tradeoffs when Measuring Poverty over Time', examines the aggregation of an indicator of wellbeing over time and across people to measure poverty. It characterises the general form of an inter-temporal

poverty measure under mild normative principles and shows that it must embody an unambiguous ordering of possible trajectories of an individual's wellbeing. [[OPHI Working Paper 56...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/normative-choices-and-tradeoffs-when-measuring-poverty-over-time/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/normative-choices-and-tradeoffs-when-measuring-poverty-over-time/>

New Research in Progress Paper 35a: The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

This technical paper was written by researchers from OPHI and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to document the piloting and development of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, so that researchers and practitioners seeking to use the index in their own work will understand how the survey questionnaires were developed and piloted, how the qualitative case studies were undertaken, how the index was constructed, how various indicators were validated and how it can be used in other settings. [[OPHI Research in Progress Paper 35a...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-research-in-progress-35a/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/ophi-research-in-progress-35a/>

OPHI EVENTS

Lunchtime Seminar Series - Michaelmas Term

OPHI's Lunchtime Seminar Series for Michaelmas term begins on Monday 8th October with 'An Introduction to OPHI', presented by Director Sabina Alkire and other members of the OPHI team. Topics to be discussed over the course of the term include, among others: analyses of multidimensional poverty in Chile, Indonesia and India; approaches to measuring chronic multidimensional poverty; and indicators on social isolation. The seminars, presented by researchers from OPHI and elsewhere, will be held in Seminar Room 3 in Queen Elizabeth House from 1-2pm on Mondays (with the exception of the second seminar, which takes place on Friday 12 October). Everyone is welcome, and a complimentary sandwich lunch will be available on a first come, first served basis. [[Lunchtime Seminar Series listings...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/events/seminars/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/events/seminars/>

OPHI to hold side event at the 4th OECD World Forum

OPHI will hold a workshop on multidimensional poverty measures at the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, which takes place in New Delhi from 16-19 October. OPHI Director Sabina Alkire will also be a panelist in the workshop 'Reducing Inequalities and Poverty' on the main programme of the forum, which this year has the theme 'Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making'. [[4th OECD World Forum...](http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/)] <http://www.oecd.org/site/worldforumindia/>

Workshop on Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty Measures

OPHI will hold a workshop in November with Stephan Klasen, Professor of Development Economics and Empirical Economic Research at the University of Göttingen, at which invited researchers will present their comparisons of monetary poverty and multidimensional poverty in different countries, including Iraq, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Venezuela, Peru, South Africa, Indonesia and Uganda. The workshop will be held in Oxford on 21-22 November. [[Klasen workshop...](http://www.ophi.org.uk/workshop-on-monetary-and-multidimensional-poverty-measures/)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/workshop-on-monetary-and-multidimensional-poverty-measures/>

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

OPHI to present three papers at DSA conference

OPHI is to present three of its papers at the annual Development Studies Association conference in London on 3 November 2012. The research presented will include Paola Ballon

Fernandez and Mauricio Apablaza's work on chronic poverty in Ethiopia; a paper by José Manuel Roche on child poverty measurement; and Sabina Alkire and Suman Seth's paper on targeting methods to identify Below the Poverty Line (BPL) households in India. [[DSA conference...](#)] <http://www.devstud.org.uk/events/conference/>

Children of the Andes workshop on 'Rethinking Poverty'

OPHI researchers José Manuel Roche and Yadira Díaz will speak at a forum entitled 'Rethinking Poverty: Experiences from Colombia - How can a new approach to measuring poverty improve attempts to combat poverty in Colombia?'. The workshop will discuss how OPHI's Alkire Foster method was adapted by the Colombian government to create a new, national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Colombia, and how this example can help other countries produce a more nuanced picture of poverty and deprivation and, as a result, design better poverty reduction strategies. Organised by the charity Children of the Andes together with University College London's Development Planning Unit and the UCL Institute of the Americas, the workshop will be held on 6 November at UCL in London. [[Rethinking Poverty forum...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news#>

OECD DAC Development Debates in Paris

Sabina Alkire presented OPHI's work on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) at the OECD's 6th DAC Development Debate (DDD) in Paris on 20 September. The debate, titled 'New approaches to measuring poverty and well-being: The Multidimensional Poverty Index and the How-is-Life?-approach', was attended by OECD staff and delegates of DAC, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, which monitors and shares statistics, evaluates development programmes and advises on development policy issues. [[OECD 6th DDD...](#)] <http://www.ophi.org.uk/news/>

OPHI research team role at HDCA Conference, Jakarta

The OPHI research team was much in evidence during the Human Development and Capability Association's (HDCA) annual conference, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 5-7 September. Sabina Alkire, José Manuel Roche, Mauricio Apablaza, Suman Seth and Paula Ballon Fernandez were all involved in presenting in and chairing parallel sessions at the conference, which this year had the theme 'Revisiting Development: Do We Assess It Correctly?'. Alkire is Vice-President of the HDCA, and Roche is Education Officer on HDCA's Executive Council and co-leads its quantitative research methods thematic group. [[HDCA Conference...](#)] <http://www.hdca2012.org/>

OPHI PEOPLE

OPHI is pleased to welcome a number of visiting academics and students during autumn/winter 2012.

Natalia Karmaeva, University of Bielefeld, Germany, is with us for Michaelmas term as a visiting scholar.

Debasish Kumar Das, an MSc student at Warwick University in Economic Development and Growth, is also with us for Michaelmas term. He will be working as an intern on the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

Murilo Fahel, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil, is with us throughout 2012 as a Visiting Research Fellow.

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October 2012 - 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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For general information and feedback, please contact us: ophi@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

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

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

tel. +44 1865 271915

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