

OPHI – ADVANCING A FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

OPHI is an economic research centre at the University of Oxford which develops and implements multidimensional measures of poverty tailored to specific contexts, in order to capture the complexity of poverty and better inform policies to relieve it.

MEXICO – MULTIDIMENSIONAL MEASURE SUPPORTS CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME

In 2009, Mexico's National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) adopted a multidimensional poverty measure co-developed with OPHI researchers. The innovative measure evaluates income levels alongside other dimensions of poverty, such as education, housing, health, social cohesion and access to food. The same methodology has been used for the targeting of conditional cash transfers under the Mexican government's flagship anti-poverty programme Oportunidades.



COLOMBIA – A PIONEERING POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY BASED ON AN MPI

In 2011, the Government of Colombia adopted a [national multidimensional poverty index](#) (MPI) linked to a pioneering new poverty-reduction strategy. Each indicator in the index reflects the goals and targets of Colombia's national plan. Devised by Colombia's Ministry of Planning and implemented by the Department for Social Prosperity (DPS), it is the first time the AF method has been used to monitor progress towards targets in a national plan. The index assesses social and health-related aspects of poverty in five dimensions, and shows how the method can inform poverty reduction strategies and help to create a clear system of accountability. Colombia's MPI complements its income poverty measure.

President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia said at the launch of the [Network](#): "It is our duty to lead ambitious social changes within our countries. Fortunately, the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network \(MPPN\)](#) will be the platform to help this happen. The sole idea of applying this tool (the MPI) in more countries is inspiring."



With the financial support of
BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Cover Photo by Cameron Thibos • Photographs © OPHI 2013

www.ophi.org.uk/policynetwork

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network

An international peer network for policymakers engaged in implementing multidimensional poverty measures

Harnessing multidimensional measurement for more effective poverty reduction



- ❖ New global Network connects the growing number of countries developing multidimensional poverty measures.
- ❖ The Network promotes the use of innovative poverty measures to enrich poverty reduction efforts.
- ❖ Representatives of 20+ countries and institutions including Colombia, Mexico, China, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Vietnam currently participate in the Network.

www.ophi.org.uk/policynetwork

Why multidimensional measures?

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 policymakers around the world are working to establish **multidimensional poverty measures**, using the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology developed at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (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.

Providing international support to policymakers

The [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network](#) provides international support to policymakers engaged in constructing multidimensional poverty measures, including input into the design of the measures, and the political processes and institutional arrangements that will sustain them.

The [network](#) enables early adopters of multidimensional poverty measures to share their experiences directly with policymakers in other countries who are exploring or implementing such measures ('South-South' learning). It also provides technical support, executive training courses and access to a repository of lessons learned.

The [network](#) is also working to promote multidimensional poverty measurement in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, making the case for a new, global [Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\) 2015+](#).



Source: Archivo Oficina de Comunicaciones. Departamento para la Prosperidad Social - DPS

A growing global community

The [Network](#) was created in response to the overwhelming demand for information on implementing multidimensional measures, and for technical and institutional support.

The governments of Mexico, Colombia and Bhutan, along with the states of Minas Gerais and Sao Paulo in Brazil, are among those to have used the AF method to create multidimensional measures to shape social policies or inform the targeting of anti-poverty programmes.

Ministers and senior officials from over 20 countries currently participate in the global [MPPN](#), including: Angola, [Bhutan](#), [Brazil](#), Chile, [China](#), [Colombia](#), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, [El Salvador](#), Germany, India, Iraq, [Malaysia](#), [Mexico](#), Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia, and Vietnam.

Institutional participants include the Southern Africa Development Community (15 members), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (9 members and associate members), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The [Network](#) was founded by Colombia's Department for Social Prosperity, Mexico's National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), and OPHI, which acts as the Network Secretariat. The Network is supported by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

