INFORMING POLICY TO END POVERTY

From critique to change: the role of civil society organisations in new approaches to measuring poverty

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GOOD NEWS. BUT FOR WHOM? AND MEASURED HOW?
POVERTY DATA IS (STILL) INCOMPLETE

The world currently measures the poverty of households. This hides the circumstances of individuals within households.

Poverty measurement also focuses mainly on money, or on a few key areas of life, when people experiencing poverty say there are many other factors that are keeping them poor.
IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

Gender composition of the population living in households with HPCY less than $1.90/day in LAC, latest available years.

Source
World Bank presentation, Individual Poverty Measurement Workshop 1 February 2017
IDENTIFYING THE CHANGE IMPERATIVE

Goal: To end poverty in all its forms everywhere

- ‘While ‘women’s socio-economic disadvantage is reflected in pervasive gender inequalities across many dimensions of poverty, the absence of sex disaggregated data makes it difficult to establish if women are, across the board, more likely to live in poverty than men.’
  UN Women, *Progress of Women 2015-16*

- Achieving SDG 1 requires us to move beyond income-based, household-level measurement
TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND WE NEED TO MEASURE AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL
BEYOND CRITIQUE – DEVELOPING AN ALTERNATIVE

6 COUNTRIES, 3 SITES IN EACH, 3 AGE COHORTS

Pacific          Fiji
South East Asia  Indonesia, Philippines
Southern Africa  Angola, Malawi, Mozambique

Urban               Young women and men
Rural               Middle age women and men
Highly marginalised Older women and men

PHASE 1: QUALITATIVE (~ 1,115 people)
Participatory research, to gain insight & understanding

PHASE 2: PARTICIPATORY RANKING (~ 1,800 people)
Dimension preference, to gauge priorities & gaps

PHASE 3: DEVELOPING & TRIALLING THE IDM (~ 1,800 people)
Nationally representative survey in the Philippines
THE RESULT: THE INDIVIDUAL DEPRIVATION MEASURE

Measures at the individual level, can be disaggregated by sex, age, disability, urban/rural & intersections

Gender sensitive

Multidimensional: 15 dimensions, Material and non-material

Scalar: moves beyond poor/not poor

Is not limited by existing data
SHOWING WHY INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL GENDER-SENSITIVE POVERTY MEASUREMENT MATTERS

The Fiji IDM study found that people living in the households sampled spent an average of 64.5 minutes per day exposed to fumes related to cooking and heating.

The Fiji IDM study found that women on average were exposed to 1 hour 45 minutes per day of fumes related to cooking and heating, compared to an average of 24 minutes per day for men.

Longer exposure times were linked to higher frequency and severity of health problems.
Building awareness & profile
MISSION SUPPORTING CHANGE

- Htun & Weldon (2012): Research across 70 countries & four decades has shown that feminist civil society mobilising is more important for tackling violence against women & girls than progressive political parties, women in government or economic factors like national wealth.
- Knowledge of local context and communities
- Focusing attention, advocating, following up, seeking accountability
- Supporting women, including marginalised women, to be heard
- Providing a transformative alternative to mainstream initiatives and services
- Contributing to collective action and change through movements and networks
- Creating an enabling environment for government response and action
Critical gender equality issues with insufficient global data

The process of research and consultation that has generated the 2018 pilot SDG Gender Index has also revealed a number of issues that are of critical importance for girls and women worldwide. These issues are, at present, ‘missing’ from, or insufficiently covered in, the current stock of global data on gender equality. Given their importance, these are issues Equal Measures 2030 would have included in the SDG Gender Index if sufficient data were available.

Taken together, these ‘missing’ issues can form part of an advocacy agenda. These are data gaps that need to be filled and that can be filled if gender advocates speak with one voice in calling for more and better gender data.

THE INCLUSIVE DATA CHARTER IS
A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT
NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND
IN THE PURSUIT AND MEASUREMENT
OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS
Good quality development research improves effectiveness and is an important precursor to innovation – but there are diverse barriers and challenges to its use

- Limited mechanisms to coordinate and consolidate need, production, developments, evidence across sectors
- Practical challenges to align demand for and supply of evidence across multiple and diverse development actors
- Getting research used in ways that maximise impact requires detailed, practical understanding of incentives, constraints, opportunities, requirements
WHAT FACILITATES DEVELOPMENT IMPACT?

1. **Foundational facilitators**: familiarity and prior engagement with research context and users
2. **Planning for impact**: intentional focus on impact and integrated methods for its achievement
3. **Engaging end users**: proactive engagement and co-production of knowledge
4. **Influential outputs**: tailored fit-for-purpose design of outputs
5. **Lasting engagement**: Ongoing engagement and continuity of relationships

Where these facilitators were present, many development contributions were documented, including policy changes, practice & system changes, capacity changes
MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP: LEVERAGING CONTRIBUTIONS
APPROACHES TO POVERTY MEASUREMENT ARE SHIFTING

4 Beyond Monetary Poverty
Why look beyond monetary poverty?
Considerations for constructing multidimensional poverty measures
A first global picture
A deeper look
Conclusion
Annex 4A Comparison of indicators used in multidimensional poverty measures
Annex 4B Multidimensional poverty measures: A formalization
Annex 4C Statistical tables
Notes
Spotlight 4.1 National Multidimensional Poverty Indexes

5 Inside the Household: Poor Children, Women, and Men
Introduction
Beyond headship: Gender and age profiles of the global poor
Differences in resources and poverty within households
An individual perspective on multidimensional poverty
Conclusion
Annex 5A Technical note: Estimating intrahousehold resource shares
Notes
The IDM Program is a partnership between the Australian National University (ANU), the International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The original research that developed the IDM was a four-year, international, interdisciplinary research collaboration, led by the ANU, in partnership with IWDA and the Philippine Health and Social Science Association, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Oxfam Great Britain (Southern Africa), with additional support from Oxfam America and Oslo University. It was funded by the Australian Research Council and partner organisations.

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