

Concept Note

Training in Multidimensional Poverty

Background

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network covers more than fifty five countries globally and has presence in 15 countries in Africa. The Peer Network meets annually around the world with the previous meeting having been in China and the next one will be in November scheduled in South Africa.

Multidimensional poverty has gotten traction and is now seen as a crucial instrument to be applied not only for monitoring poverty and reporting on it but as a crucial platform for multivariate approach vested in planning systems.

Progress to date

More than fourteen countries on the African continent work and report on multidimensional poverty. In fact some eight African countries participated in the Summer School training in Oxford this summer. Sixteen participants were trained and they were from Egypt, Tunisia, South Africa, Kenya, Gambia, Seychelles, Tanzania and Mozambique. This is put in practice the training the delegation discussed with the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Director of Statistics.

OPHI has just concluded a report on Global Multidimensional Poverty Index which shall be launched in September at UNGA this year. This is not the only function OPHI will host but will subsequently with a host country also have a side event showcasing the power of multidimensional poverty approach not only as an instrument for monitoring poverty but as a crucial measure for planning. For a number of years OPHI has risen in status presenting on multidimensional poverty at UNGA. In the last two years South Africa with Seychelles hosted the launch and before then South Africa had hosted. There is no doubt that MPI is the way to go.

Not only has OPHI led the agenda on poverty measures but has successfully and successively hosted well attended side events by the MPPN at the United Statistics Commission but has expanded the MPPN fraternity.

OPHI has presented its work in Addis at the ECA for the UN Secretary General's third decade on poverty eradication but also on the Africa programme for tackling poverty. It is time for the ECA region to focus on multidimensional poverty as a strategic statistical measurement asset for Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

Next Steps

As a preparation for meeting the agreement between the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary and the OPHI delegation led by Prof Alkire, it is appropriate given the steps thus taken to build towards the meeting of ministers next year to have two processes at the CODGs meeting. First to have a side event training officials at this

meeting as well as an hour in the agenda for policy decisions by DGs. This is crucial so that Africa is in step with the developments on poverty measurement as well as enjoying the intellectual and measurement benefits and training from the peers in the south and other African countries that are in this space.

Specific proposal

That OPHI

1. Have a four hour training session as part of the side event for multidimensional training at the forthcoming CODGs meeting in Addis end of September beginning of October;
2. Have an agenda item of 30 minutes to an hour in the CODGs meeting to present way forward and have a decision from the CODGs on way forward in terms of Multidimensional poverty measurement;
3. Invite African countries to the Multidimensional Peer Network that will be hosted by South Africa;
4. Builds up to a major side event training on the margins of the meeting of ministers in 2019 as well as tabling a proposal for Africa to adopt multidimensional poverty measurement;
5. Presents progress on multidimensional poverty measurement to heads of state in June in Addis following on the ministers meeting in April/March 2019;
6. If acceptable propose multidimensional poverty measurement as part of curriculum for the ECA Institute for Planning located in Dakar – Senegal;
7. Have a country host the side event on the margins of the UN Statistics Commission in 2019;
8. Request ECA to specifically draw the attention of heads of statistics to the participants who attended the summer school in Oxford with a view of having them be part of the side event program at the ECA.