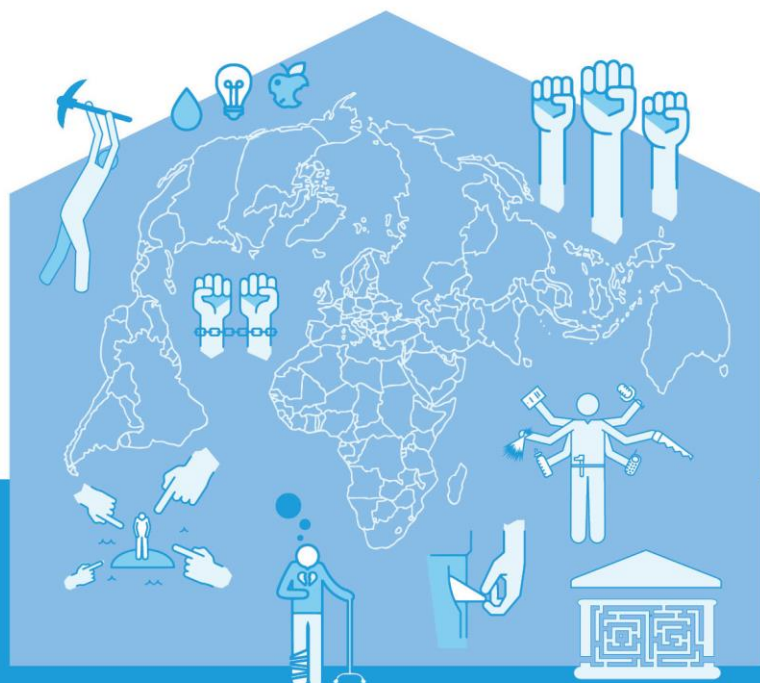


Addressing the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty

Paris, 10 May 2019
OECD Conference Center



ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

Updated: 14 May 2019

- 9:00 Arrival and coffee
- 9:15 Welcome
Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics and Data
- 9:20 [Opening address](#)
Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General
- 9:30 Keynote address: “The art of ignoring the poor”
Baroness Ruth Lister, CBE, FBA, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, [Presentation](#)
- 9:50 Short video: “The international participatory research on the dimensions of poverty”
- 10:00 Key findings of the international participatory research on the dimensions of poverty
Presentation by the members from the National Research Teams and the International Coordination Team, [Presentation](#)
- 10:35 **Panel: “How does this research challenge the way poverty is measured? What is the way forward?”**
Chair: Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre
Panellists:
Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director-General, INSEE (French National Statistics Office)
Dean Jolliffe, Lead Economist, Development Data Group, The World Bank
Corinne Mitchell, Research & Policy Manager, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
Marco Mira d’Ercole, Head, Household Statistics and Progress Measurement Division, OECD Statistics and Data Directorate
Discussant: Robert Walker, Professor Emeritus, Oxford University

Outcomes of the research on “The Hidden Dimensions of Poverty”

While it is widely recognised that poverty is multidimensional, and despite the measurement advances made in this field, poverty is still primarily measured in terms of household income or consumption expenditures. Even when multi-dimensional measures exist, they are only rarely co-created with people with lived experience of poverty, implying that their knowledge on how poverty affects their life is poorly reflected in existing measures.

The ATD/Oxford University research concludes that the complexity of poverty is best described in terms of three inter-related sets of dimensions. The first set expresses the Core experience of poverty and comprises the dimensions of Disempowerment, Suffering in body, mind and heart, and Struggle and resistance. The second set of dimensions relate to Relational dynamics, comprising the dimensions of Institutional maltreatment, Social maltreatment and the Unrecognised contributions to society of people living in poverty. The final set concerns Deprivations, including Lack of decent work, Insufficient and insecure income, and Material and social deprivation. These nine dimensions, in turn, are shaped by five factors: identity; timing and duration; location; environment and environmental policy; and cultural beliefs. The research project hence implicitly defines the contours of a measurement agenda in this field.

Key questions

- 1. How do the ATD/Oxford University research’s conclusions challenge the way poverty is defined and measured by government agencies, statistical offices, and international organisations?*
- 2. Can the conclusions of the project be operationalised in concrete ways? Is this easier for some dimensions than for others?*
- 3. For which dimensions are data already available? And for which aspects are new measures and/or tools needed?*
- 4. What type measure should we aim for? A single poverty measure or a small dashboard of different indicators? What methodological and measurement issues should be addressed when trying to translate these dimensions into statistics?*

The panel will be followed by a Q&A with participants and external participants following online.

11:35 Coffee break

12:00 **Panel: “How does this research challenge the way poverty is addressed? What is the way forward?”**

Chair: Monika Queisser, Senior Counsellor, OECD Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate

Panellists:

Thangavel Palanivel, Deputy Director, Human Development Report office, United Nations Development Programme, New York

François Bourguignon, Chair Emeritus, Paris School of Economics

Alison Tate, Director, Economic and Social Policy, International Trade Union Confederation

Jean-Paul Moatti, Member of the Global Sustainable Development Report Expert Group

Discussant: Xavier Godinot, Research Director, ATD Fourth World

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Outcomes of the research on “The Hidden Dimensions of Poverty”

Policies are only rarely designed and implemented with the involvement of citizens or of specific target groups such as people living in poverty. By implicating people as co-researchers, the ATD/Oxford University project has provided insights that can contribute to more effective policies and programs.

One of these insights is that, to be effective, policies will need to be global, addressing poverty in all its dimensions and in ways that recognise their inter-relation. Leaving responsibility just to Ministries of Welfare and Social Protection, and to the cash benefits that they generally provide, is unlikely to suffice to respond to the problems faced by people living in poverty. Another insight relates to the project’s dimension of institutional maltreatment, which suggests that the very institutions that are in closer contacts with people living in poverty may often deepen, rather than alleviate, their problems, leading to lower take-up of the benefits that are available. More generally, the project implicitly calls for a balanced package of benefits and services addressing the needs of the poor; for leveraging the initiatives of public and private actors as well as of civil society organisations in the fight against poverty; and for making the eradication of poverty a priority of all countries, whatever their level of economic development.

Key questions

1. *How do the research findings challenge the way in which policy makers and analysts design policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty? Are all the poverty dimensions identified by the project amenable to policy interventions? Can policies more easily influence some dimensions than others?*
2. *A multidimensional approach to poverty requires breaking out policy silos and promoting coordinated interventions at different levels (local/national, across ministries). Are there any good practices that can be identified?*
3. *Which tools and processes can be used to involve people with lived experiences of poverty in policy formulation? What are the problems raised by such approaches?*
4. *What type of information provided by people living in poverty would be most useful to make the actions of public agencies and private actors more effective?*

The panel will be followed by a Q&A with participants and external participants following online.

13:15 Lunch

14:30 Parallel sessions

Each parallel session will be facilitated by representatives from ATD Fourth World and an academic or practitioner from another institution. Sessions will start with contributions from participants in the ATD/Oxford University research (people in poverty, academics and practitioners) and then a dialogue will be open with participants.

Parallel session 1: How should we measure the hidden dimensions of poverty?

Chair: Julien Damon, Associated Professor, Sciences Po Paris

Contributors:

ATD-Oxford Research Participants, [Presentation](#)

*Nicolas Duvoux, Professor of sociology at the University of Paris, member of ONPES
Matthew Oakley, Director, WPI Economics*

Rapporteur: Ides Nicaise, Professor, University of Leuven, Belgium

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Session description

The ATD/Oxford University research has shed light on both old and new dimensions of poverty, on how these dimensions are interrelated and interact with each other and on the existence of both individual and collective aspects of poverty.

The discussion in this session will deepen some of the issues raised in the morning, looking in more depth at the measurement challenges to be faced when trying to measure the core experiences of poor people (Disempowerment; Suffering in body, mind and heart; Struggle and resistance), the deprivations that they face (Lack of decent work; Insufficient and insecure income; Material and social deprivation), and their relations with the rest of society (the maltreatment they experience when dealing with institutions and with other people, the lack of recognition of their contribution to society).

Key questions

1. *How can the core and the relational dimensions of poverty best be measured?*
2. *How can statistical offices and other data producers reach out to people living in poverty in their regular surveys?*
3. *Which other tools might be needed to reach populations that are not (or are poorly) covered by surveys and administrative data? In which ways can different data producers cooperate to share and leverage available information?*

Parallel session 2: What are the methodological and epistemological innovations of the project compared with other participatory approaches?

Chair: Catherine Neveu, Research Director at the CNRS

Contributors:

ATD-Oxford Research Participants, [Presentation](#)

Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo, Professor, University of Makerere, Uganda, [Presentation](#)

Ji-Yeun Rim, Co-ordinator, Social Protection Project, Thematic Division, Social Cohesion, OECD Development Centre

Rapporteur: Marion Carrel, University of Lille, France

Session description

The ATD/Oxford University project was based on the Merging Knowledge methodology, where people in poverty are active participants, alongside researchers and practitioners, rather than “objects” of investigation. While this methodology requires overcoming many obstacles, the participation to the project of actors with different perspectives makes it possible to confront these perspectives, generating new knowledge and helping participants to change their views.

Key questions

1. *How does the Merging Knowledge methodology compare with other participatory approaches?*
2. *Does the Merging Knowledge methodology facilitate understanding between people with different experiences and backgrounds?*
3. *Could this approach be used in other contexts and by other organisations? Under what conditions?*

Parallel session 3: What are the implications of this research for public agencies and government actors?

Chair: Claire Hédon, President, ATD Fourth World France

Contributors:

ATD-Oxford Research Participants

Henk Van Hootegem, Combat Poverty Service, Belgium, [Presentation](#)

Chris Papageorgiou, Research Department on Development, IMF

Rapporteur: Romina Boarini, Senior Advisor and Coordinator of the OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative, Office of the Secretary General, OECD

Session description

The ATD/Oxford University project shows that public policies aimed at improving the lives of people in poverty often fail to do so, and that in some cases they may even work against them. This runs against the ambition of the 2030 Agenda to “leave no one behind”.

Key questions

- 1. What are the main features of existing policies and programmes that end up discouraging use by poor people?*
- 2. What lessons can be drawn from the ATD/Oxford University project on how to make public institutions more responsive to the needs of people living in poverty?*
- 3. What could be done to improve poor people’s access to, and use of, public policies and programmes?*

Parallel session 4: What are the implications of this project for civil society organisations?

Chair: David Donoghue, former UN Co-facilitator of the 2030 Agenda

Contributors:

ATD-Oxford Research Participants

Véronique Fayet, President, Caritas France

Pierre Hubbard, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)

Rapporteur: Roberto Bissio, Coordinator, Social Watch

Session description

The research has shown that disempowerment, institutional and social maltreatment, unrecognised contributions of people living in poverty are salient dimensions of poverty. How does this affect the way civil society organisations are working?

Key questions

- 1. How can civil society organisations use the conclusions of this project in the fight against poverty?*
- 2. How do the findings of this research change your understanding of the role of civil society organisations in reducing poverty?*
- 3. Is there a difference between local and international civil society organisations in this regard?*

Parallel session 5: Poverty as defined by children and elders: evidence from Bangladesh and Tanzania

Chair: Martin Kalisa, ATD Fourth World Regional Delegate for Africa

Contributors:

ATD-Oxford Research Participants

Olivier Thévenon, Social Policy Economist, OECD Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate, [Presentation](#)

Emilie Béatrice Epaye, Central African politician and educator and President of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Rapporteur: Rachel Bray, Oxford University

Session description

Children and elderly people make up an important share of people living in poverty in both developing and developed countries. While their specific views are rarely considered, they bring new insights to our understanding of poverty.

Key questions

- 1. What are the specific dimensions of poverty that are identified by children and elderly people? What should be done to reach to them?*
- 2. Does the questioning of children and elderly people help us to better capture within-household poverty? Or, in the case of elderly people, their life-course trajectory?*
- 3. What type of interventions would be more effective if responding to the needs of children and elderly people living in poverty?*

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Reporting on parallel session in plenary by rapporteurs

Chair: Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics and Data

This session will be followed by a Q&A with participants and external participants following online.

17:35 Wrapping up remarks on the main outcomes of the day

Gael Giraud, Chief Economist, Agence Française de Développement

17:50 Conclusion

Isabelle Pypaert Perrin, Director General, ATD Fourth World

18:00 End of conference