THE LAST MILE IN ANALYZING GROWTH, WELLBEING AND POVERTY: INDICES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & APPLICATION TO AFRICA

Arjan de Haan, IDRC
Roberto Foa, Harvard University

WIDER conference Inclusive Growth in Africa
September 2013
Contents

- Why social development matters
- Relevance for Africa
- What IndSocDev (www.indsocdev.org) measures
- 6 indices: illustrations Africa
- Research and data priorities
Why does social development matter?

- Social development is *about* putting people at the center of development (1995 Copenhagen Summit)
- Social development much more than health, education, child welfare -> glue that keeps society together
- “behaviours, norms, conventions that pattern human interaction”
  (thus also: structures, markets and governance, both cause and consequence)
Why should we measure it?

- Social development usually terrain of more qualitative methods and disciplines
- Measurements of development broadening: steel, GDP, poverty/inequality, HDI, governance, happiness
- IndSocDev = last mile in this sequence
- The promise:
  - systematise and compare different aspects social development
  - relate those to other development outcomes
  - trends over time
How does this matter for Africa?

- Importance of conflict (often, ‘ethnic’)
- Kinship and impact quality institutions
- Ibid: informal institutions
- On-going structural transformation - changes in informal institutions
- = > ‘soft’ dimensions as important for low-income countries?
What does it measure

Design on basis of iterative process of expert discussions + comparison with available data

IndSocDev focus on six aspects (indices) of social development, based on:

- 200 indicators
- from 25 reputable and independent data sources, aggregated into Indices
- using ‘matching percentiles’
Matching percentiles & how covers 200 countries

- Combining sources more reliable than single source (minimum 3 sources)
- Many indicators limited coverage between 15 and 200
- Aggregating and comparing allows to enhance coverage – details explained later
- Progressively more reliable
1) Civic activism: social norms, organisations, practices which facilitate citizen involvement in public policies and decisions

**Examples of questions**
- % people participated in demonstration, petition, boycott
- % people with access to radio, TV, newspaper
- Density international organisations
- Civicus civil society rating

**..... related sources**
- World Values Survey, regional barometers
- barometers / ITU
- Global Civil Society
- Civicus
Civic activism and GDP
2) Clubs and associations: strength of ties to neighbourhood and associational life (voluntary groups, time with clubs, community meets, development associations)

Examples of questions

- % people using free time for groups and associations
- % people members of clubs
- Spent time socialising
- % people state people ‘generally help one another’

..... related sources

- barometers, WVS,
- World Values Survey
- ICVS
Clubs & associations and GDP
3) **Interpersonal safety and trust:**
extent that individuals feel they can rely on people they have not met before

*Examples of questions*

- % people experienced theft, robbery etc.
- % people that feel safe
- Perception people can be trusted, are fair
- Crime as business constraint

*..... related sources*

- Afrobarometer
- World Value Survey
- World Development Indicators
- ICVS
- Interpol
Interpersonal safety & trust
4) Inter-group cohesion: relations of cooperation and respect between predominant identity groups in a society

Examples of questions

- Incidences of riots, terrorist acts
- Levels ethnic/religious tension
- Proportion people who reject others as neighbours

..... related sources

- Databanks, EIU
- ICRG
- Minorities at Risk, Fund for Peace
- World Values Survey
Inter-group cohesion
5) Inclusion of minorities:

Examples of questions

- Perceived and reported discrimination
- Rating of uneven economic development
- Levels ethnic tension

….. related sources

- barometers, WVS
- Fund for peace
- ICRG
Inclusion of minorities
6) Gender equality: extent to which women face the same opportunities and constraints with family, work, society

Examples of questions
- Perceptions equality of rights and opportunities
- Rating economic rights
- Ratio of women in education, labour force
- Wage rates

...... related sources
- barometers, WVS
- CIRI
- WDI
- ILO
Gender Equality and Infant Mortality

Residual Scatter Plot between gender equity and infant mortality, after controlling for: log GDP/capita, log GDP/capita², female progression to secondary school (%), civic engagement, governance (Voice and Accountability), HIV-AIDS infection rate.
Levels of gender equality in **Southern** and **Eastern** Africa are higher than their GDP would lead us to expect.
Conclusion

- points suggestive, further work multivariate analysis, teasing out causation & Africa data still limited

- correlations with GDP per capita:
  - positive civic activism, inter-group cohesion, inclusion of minorities, gender
  - negative with clubs & associations
  - no association with safety and trust

- no trade-offs growth-inclusion?