

## REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

### 1. [UID COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS](#)

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND POLICY (NOVEMBER 2012)**

This study estimates the costs and benefits of Aadhaar. We find that substantial benefits would accrue to the government by integrating Aadhaar with schemes such as PDS, MNREGS, fertiliser and LPG subsidies, as well as housing, education and health programmes. The benefits arise from the reduction in leakages that occur due to identification and authentication issues.

### 2. [CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, AND VOTING BEHAVIOR](#)

**THE WORLD BANK (OCTOBER 2012)**

This paper estimates the effect of enrollment in a large scale anti-poverty program in Colombia, Familias en Acción, on intent to vote, turnout and electoral choice. For identification the analysis uses discontinuities in program eligibility and variation in program enrollment across voting booths. It finds that Familias en Acción had a positive effect on political participation in the 2010 presidential elections by increasing the probability that program beneficiaries registered to vote and cast a ballot, particularly among women.

### 3. [REPORT ON STATUS OF ELDERLY IN SELECT STATES OF INDIA, 2011](#)

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (NOVEMBER 2012)**

The report covers a primary survey carried out in seven states - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal - having a higher percentage of population in the age group 60 years and above compared to the national average. The information gathered in this survey includes socio-economic status, work participation and benefits, income and asset holding, living arrangement patterns and familial relations, health status, utilization and financing of health care, and reach and awareness of social security schemes among the elderly.

### 4. [INFORMATION ECONOMY REPORT 2012](#)

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Information Economy Report 2012 finds that, because software is increasingly permeating societies at all levels of development and activity, it is becoming more important for countries to develop the technological capabilities needed to adopt and adapt existing software solutions, and eventually to innovate. Software and service activities represent an opportunity for developing countries, thanks to the low capital entry requirements, the sector's high-value, high-growth nature and knowledge-rich profile. Due to changes in the ICT landscape, even small-scale developers in developing countries can now participate in software development and production, for example in the area of mobile applications. The Report suggests that there is considerable room for developing countries to make better use of the software potential.

5. [INDIA ECONOMIC UPDATE: WHERE IS INDIA'S ECONOMY HEADED?](#)  
**WORLD BANK (OCT 2012)**

India's economic growth has slowed to a pace not seen since the beginning of the 2000s. At the same time, the current account deficit has reached a record high. The World Bank projects growth in the current fiscal year to reach around 6%, a slowdown from the already low 6.5% growth in the previous year. This growth projection is predicated on an improving domestic and external environment, but the risks for a worse outcome are high. On the domestic front, recently announced measures to reduce subsidies and boost FDI were important to lift sentiment, but investors are waiting for signals on other issues: the reform of direct taxes, the implementation of the long-delayed GST, and passage of the land acquisition and mining bills.

6. [INEQUALITIES AND THE POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA](#)  
**UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (OCT 2012)**  
**BY RHEEM AL-ADHAMI AND SHAHRA RAZAVI**

Income inequalities between and within countries have worsened in recent decades. Gender inequalities are narrowing at a snail's pace. Citizenship and location continue to determine life chances, despite the increasing integration of economies. Policy instruments to promote equality of outcome have largely been neglected in the name of approaches to claim to create "equality of opportunity". This has failed to stem the tide of inequality. Current social discontent and distrust of government highlight the urgency of addressing inequality head-on: it should be high on the post-2015 development agenda, both as a goal in itself and reflected in targets for other goals.

7. [POST- 2015: THE ROAD AHEAD](#)  
**OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (OCT 2012)**  
**BY CLAIRE MELAMED**

How broad should a post-2015 agenda be, and how deeply should it go into the different factors which drive poverty and development? This is the heart of the current stage of the debate on post-2015. This paper looks first at progress on the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to draw some lessons on how a new agreement should aim to finish the job started in 2000. Expanding the poverty agenda beyond the current MDGs, to include new areas of equal concern to poor people is a second option discussed, followed by the implications of expanding the agenda beyond extreme poverty to include some new global objectives such as environmental sustainability.

8. [AN ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL AND MONETARY LOSSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN INDIA](#)  
**WORLD BANK (OCT 2012)**

This study provides estimates of social and financial costs of environmental damage in India from three pollution damage categories: (i) urban air pollution; (ii) inadequate water supply, poor sanitation, and hygiene; and (iii) indoor air pollution. It also provides estimates based on three natural resource damage categories: (i) agricultural damage from soil salinity, water logging, and soil erosion; (ii) rangeland degradation; and (iii) deforestation.

9. [EXTREME WEATHER, EXTREME PRICES](#)  
**OXFAM (SEPT 2012)**

## **BY TRACY CARTY**

Our failure to slash greenhouse gas emissions presents a future of greater food price volatility, with severe consequences for the precarious lives and livelihoods of people living in poverty. This briefing draws on new research commissioned by Oxfam which models the impact of extreme weather – like droughts, floods and heat waves – on the prices of key international staple crops in 2030. It suggests that existing research, which considers the gradual effects of climate change but does not take account of extreme weather, is significantly underestimating the potential implications of climate change for food prices.

## **A LOOK AT THE DEVELOPMENT BLOGS**

### **1. [HOW CAN A POST-2015 AGREEMENT DRIVE REAL CHANGE? FROM POVERTY TO POWER \(29 OCT 2012\)](#) BY DUNCAN GREEN**

The post-2015 discussion on what should succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is picking up steam, with barely a day going by without some new paper, consultation or high level meeting. So I, along with Stephen Hale and Matthew Lockwood, have decided to add to the growing slush-pile with a new discussion paper. The paper argues that there's an urgent need to bring power and politics into the centre of the post-2015 discussion. To have impact, any post-2015 arrangement has to take into account the lessons of over a decade of implementing the existing MDGs, and be shaped by the profound global change since the MDGs were debated over the course of the 1990s and early noughties.

To access the discussion paper, click below-

[HOW CAN A POST- 2015 AGREEMENT DRIVE REAL CHANGE- DISCUSSION PAPER](#)

### **2. [REDUCING THE RISK OF DISASTERS; REDUCING INEQUALITY- WHAT'S THE LINK? FROM POVERTY TO POWER \(12 OCT 2012\)](#) BY DEBBIE HILLIER**

I have never understood why disaster risk reduction (DRR) gets so little attention – from governments, donors and the aid system in general. Be honest, how many of you know what the Hyogo Framework for Action is, or know what UNISDR stands for? This is despite the proven effectiveness and – the holy grail - value for money of disaster risk reduction. Frankly speaking, it's a no-brainer. We all seem to understand the imperative for prevention when it comes to vaccinations and insurance, but somehow this falls apart when it comes to reducing the impacts of disasters.

### **3. ["HAVES" AND "HAVE-NOTS": A SIMPLE GLOBAL POVERTY TARGET DEVELOPMENT IMPACT \(15 OCT 2012\)](#) BY AART KRAAY**

There has been much discussion around the World Bank on the choice of a "global poverty target" that can be used to measure global progress against poverty. To be successful,

such a target needs to be (a) simple to understand, and (b) relevant to all World Bank client countries.

4. **IT'S A MAKE-OR-BREAK DECADE FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE (25 SEPT 2012)**  
**BY RACHEL KYTE**

Faced with conclusive scientific evidence of the impacts of climate change, especially on the world's poorest, and a new global agreement some years off, we're in a 'make-or-break' decade for action on global climate change. And, it's going to be developing countries that will be hardest hit by changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, major impacts on food supply, increased health risks that come from deepening poverty and more natural disasters.

## **A REVIEW OF BOOKS**

1. **GENDER AND SOCIAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY**  
**BY NAILA KABEER**  
**ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY**

Naila Kabeer's main aim in this book is to investigate the constraints that face women located mainly in the informal economies. The book makes several strategy and policy suggestions in this regard. In particular, the women from low-income households are considered, those who are engaged in casual, poorly paid and irregular activities that lie largely outside the formal social security and protective legislation. She also examines why such a vast majority of women are engaged in these forms of work and what implications this has for their ability to provide for themselves and families and what could be done to cope with their insecurity.

2. **CHURNING THE EARTH: THE MAKING OF GLOBAL INDIA**  
**BY ASEEM SHRIVASTAVA AND ASHISH KOTHARI**

**THE CARAVAN**

In Churning the Earth: The Making of Global India, authors Aseem Shrivastava and Ashish Kothari open by writing of India and Bharat, but also a third country within the South Asian subcontinent, the natural world comprising earth, water and air, which all Indians and non-human living creatures are utterly dependent upon. In the nation's rapid economic rise of the previous generation, development and overpopulation have led to the pillaging of these resources—a seemingly unavoidable price to pay for progress.

3. **ECONOMICS OF THE CRISES**  
**BY V. SRIDHAR**  
**FRONTLINE**

The book adopts a refreshing approach to explain economics to those who seek answers to the many 'real life' economic issues. Two features of the book stand out. For one, it refuses to dumb down the deeply problematic issues in economics. In fact, Prof. Kurien admits upfront that any 'economy' is as much an abstraction as it is of real social relations and of production, consumption and distribution. The other critical feature is that it looks at the economy as a question of social classes as much as it is about things or money. In doing this, it brings back to centre stage social relations, which determine not only how the cake is baked but how it is cut and shared among different social groups. In this refreshingly different (not new certainly, but long lost under the onslaught of neoclassical economics) way of looking at the economy, the author sums up the central questions as: 'Who owns what?, who does what?, and who gets what?'