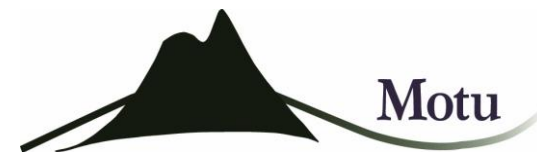


Using Data to Advance Dignity

A new approach to measuring the Human Rights performance of countries and how it can help you in your work

Anne-Marie Brook & K. Chad Clay

Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI)



Outline

1. Introduction to HRMI
2. PRODUCTION – pilot phase metrics methodology
3. IMPACT – broader agenda of HRMI
4. How can we make this most useful for YOU?
 - breakout
 - group discussion

“We tend to overvalue the things we can measure and undervalue the things we cannot.”

— John Hayes

What is wrong with the status quo?

- Human Rights abuses remain rife
- Impunity is a major problem
- Existing Human Rights data are piecemeal and of varying quality
- There are LOTS of efforts to improve enjoyment of human rights but their combined efficacy could be improved

HRMI's contribution to changing the status quo...

...to REINVENT
the way human rights data are
PRODUCED and USED,
in order to inspire
MORE ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR
by states and other actors.

Intro to HRMI



Our Purpose

To reinvent the way human rights data are produced and used, in order to inspire more ethical behaviour by Governments and other actors.



Our goal

To produce a suite of metrics for countries that become the go-to source for global measures of Human Rights



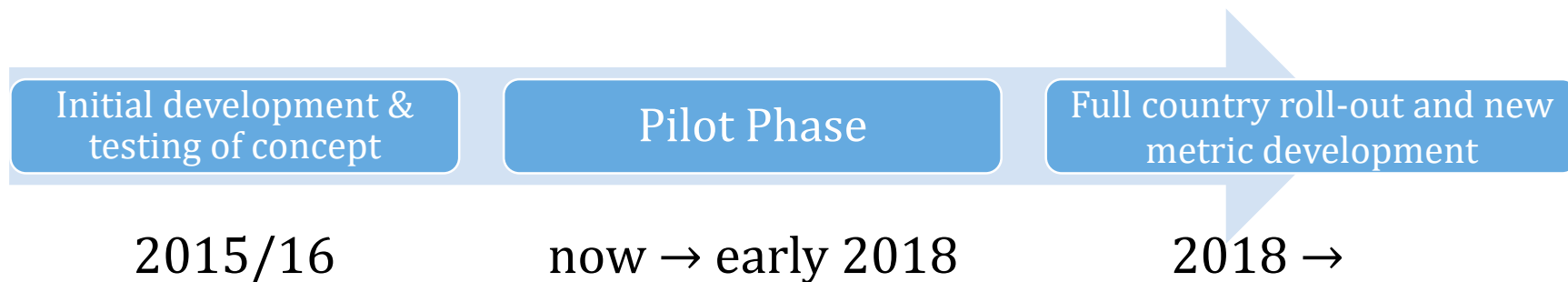
Our values

Transparency, participation, collaboration, innovation, independence from Government

Users – and uses

- **NGOs and International Government Organisations** – improve advocacy effectiveness, and develop more effective programs to promote human rights
- **Philanthropic sector** – help direct funding to where it will have the most impact
- **Private sector** – help direct capital flows ethically
- **Media** – better news coverage of human rights conditions and policies
- **Academics** – add to our understanding of what matters most and how to bring about change
- **Public** – strongly engaged in monitoring outcomes and advocating for improved policies

HRMI – key phases



How do we measure human rights?

- Tailored methodologies for each thematic area
- Based on:
 - Objective data when available
(e.g. for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
 - Expert opinion data otherwise
(e.g. for Civil and Political Rights)
- Leverage off existing expertise

Measuring Enjoyment of Civil & Political Rights

RIGHT
TO LIFE



RIGHT NOT TO
BE TORTURED



RIGHT TO NOT BE
UNLAWFULLY
DETAINED



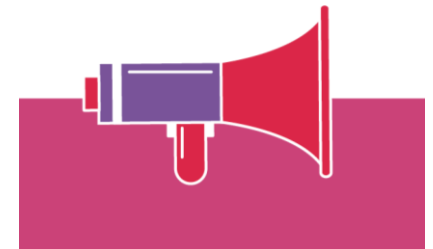
RIGHT TO FREE
AND FAIR ELECTIONS



RIGHT TO FREE
ASSOCIATION



RIGHT TO
FREE EXPRESSION

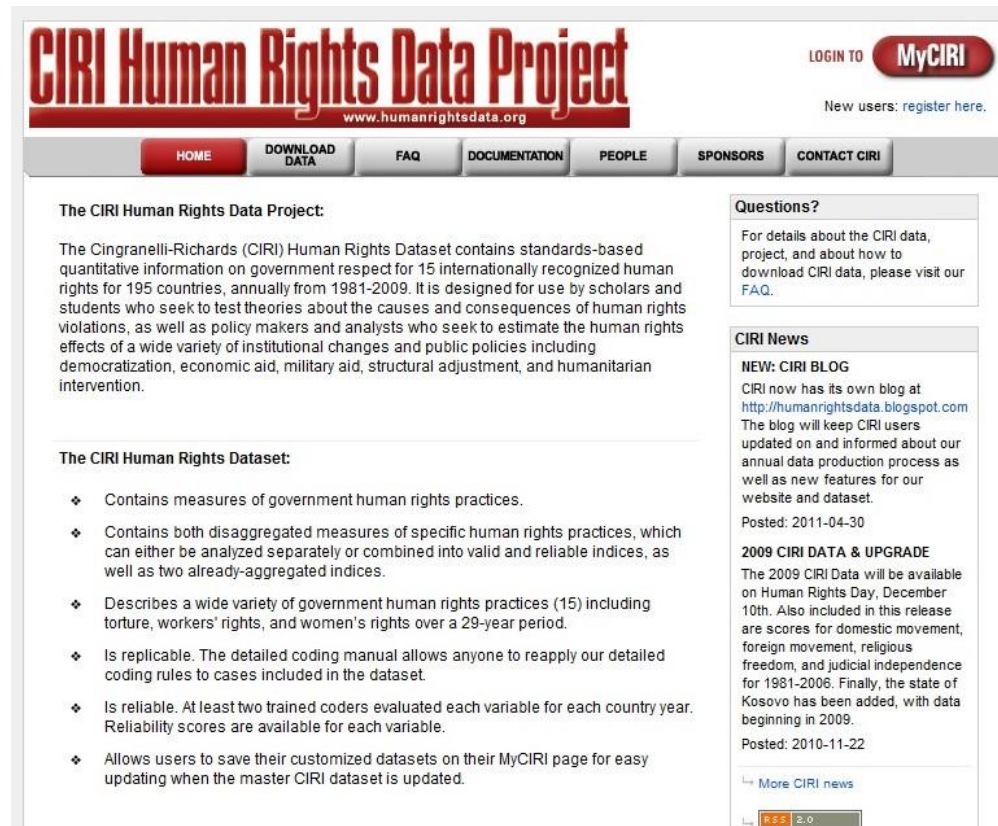


Measuring Enjoyment of Civil & Political Rights

- Previous & Ongoing Measurement Projects
 - Worker Rights (WorkR) in Law & Practice Data Project
 - Sub-National Analysis of Repression Project (SNARP)
 - CIRI Human Rights Data Project

Measuring Enjoyment of Civil & Political Rights

- Previous & Ongoing Measurement Projects



The screenshot shows the homepage of the CIRI Human Rights Data Project. The header features the project name in large red letters, the website URL, and a 'MyCIRI' login button. A navigation menu includes links for Home, Download Data, FAQ, Documentation, People, Sponsors, and Contact CIRI. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a description of the project and a list of features of the dataset. The right column contains sections for 'Questions?' and 'CIRI News', with the latter featuring two news items about a blog and a data upgrade.

CIRI Human Rights Data Project
www.humanrightsdata.org

LOGIN TO **MyCIRI**
New users: register here.

HOME DOWNLOAD DATA FAQ DOCUMENTATION PEOPLE SPONSORS CONTACT CIRI

The CIRI Human Rights Data Project:

The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Dataset contains standards-based quantitative information on government respect for 15 internationally recognized human rights for 195 countries, annually from 1981-2009. It is designed for use by scholars and students who seek to test theories about the causes and consequences of human rights violations, as well as policy makers and analysts who seek to estimate the human rights effects of a wide variety of institutional changes and public policies including democratization, economic aid, military aid, structural adjustment, and humanitarian intervention.

The CIRI Human Rights Dataset:

- ❖ Contains measures of government human rights practices.
- ❖ Contains both disaggregated measures of specific human rights practices, which can either be analyzed separately or combined into valid and reliable indices, as well as two already-aggregated indices.
- ❖ Describes a wide variety of government human rights practices (15) including torture, workers' rights, and women's rights over a 29-year period.
- ❖ Is replicable. The detailed coding manual allows anyone to reapply our detailed coding rules to cases included in the dataset.
- ❖ Is reliable. At least two trained coders evaluated each variable for each country year. Reliability scores are available for each variable.
- ❖ Allows users to save their customized datasets on their MyCIRI page for easy updating when the master CIRI dataset is updated.

Questions?

For details about the CIRI data, project, and about how to download CIRI data, please visit our [FAQ](#).

CIRI News

NEW: CIRI BLOG
CIRI now has its own blog at <http://humanrightsdata.blogspot.com>. The blog will keep CIRI users updated on and informed about our annual data production process as well as new features for our website and dataset.
Posted: 2011-04-30

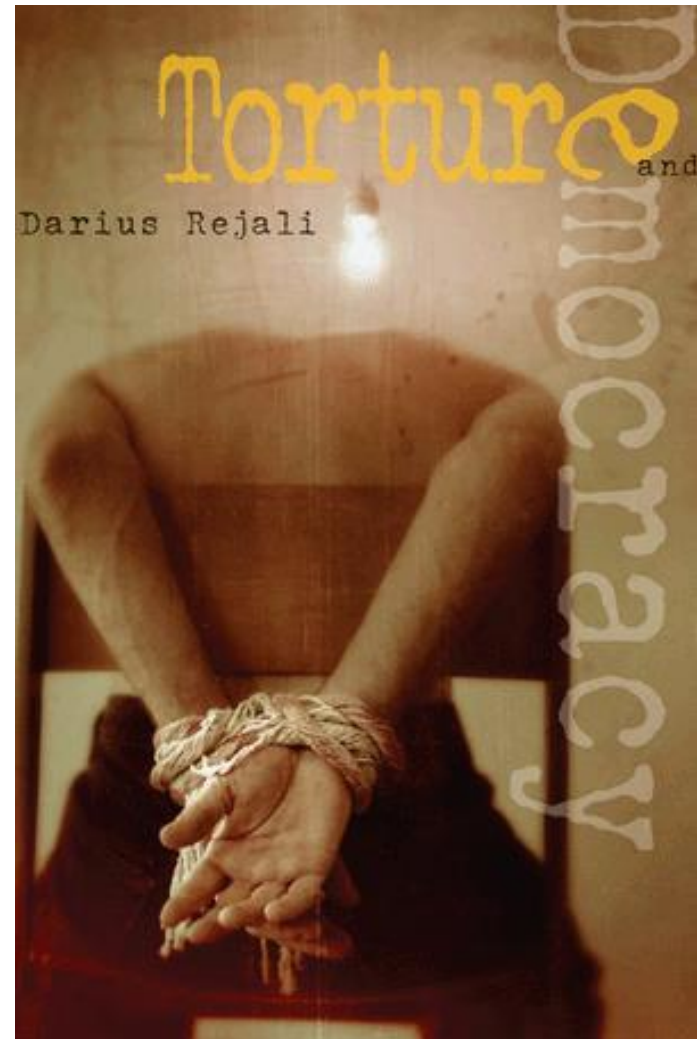
2009 CIRI DATA & UPGRADE
The 2009 CIRI Data will be available on Human Rights Day, December 10th. Also included in this release are scores for domestic movement, foreign movement, religious freedom, and judicial independence for 1981-2006. Finally, the state of Kosovo has been added, with data beginning in 2009.
Posted: 2010-11-22

[More CIRI news](#)

[RSS 2.0](#)

Why is it Difficult to Measure Enjoyment of Civil & Political Rights?

- Violations are difficult to directly observe
 - Framed & Contested
 - Clandestine
 - Subject to uneven reporting



Why is it Difficult to Measure Enjoyment of Civil & Political Rights?

- Previous measurement projects' approach
 - Public documentation produced by INGOs, NGOs, and governments

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of State website. The main heading is "Human Rights Reports". Below it, there is a quote: "We see it as fundamental to our own interests to support a just peace around the world—one in which individuals, and not just nations, are granted the fundamental rights that they deserve." — May 2010 National Security Strategy. The page lists reports from 2015 down to 1999. A sidebar on the right offers social media links and a search bar.

The cover of the Amnesty International Report 2015/16. The title "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2015/16" is written in large, bold, yellow letters on a black background. Below the title, it says "THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN RIGHTS". At the bottom, there is a large, stylized globe icon and the Amnesty International logo.



Human Rights Measurement Initiative: Civil & Political Rights

- Develop a survey instrument to collect cross-nationally comparable assessments of enjoyment of several civil and political rights directly from INGO & NGO researchers
 - Includes previously inaccessible information
 - Opens door to many additional information sources
 - Allows for the calculation and reporting of uncertainty

Human Rights Measurement Initiative: Civil & Political Rights

- Pilot Phase: Scope
 - Freedom from extrajudicial execution
 - Freedom from torture
 - Freedom from arbitrary arrest
 - Freedom from disappearance
 - Freedom of opinion & expression
 - Right to assembly & association
 - Right to participate in government
- Each right receives measures on multiple dimensions
 - Intensity (Frequency) vs Range (Distribution)
 - Violator: State vs Non-state Actors
 - Targeted & Discriminated Groups

Example: Draft Torture Instrument Intensity/Frequency

In the past year, how often have government agents, such as soldiers, police officers and other state-sanctioned actors, engaged in torture or ill-treatment?

- Never
- Rarely, affecting very few people
- Occasionally, affecting some people
- Frequently, affecting many people
- Routinely, affecting a very large number of people

Example: Draft Torture Instrument Range/Distribution & Targeting

In the past year, who did government agents, such as soldiers, police officers, and other state-sanctioned actors, target for torture or ill-treatment? (Select all that apply)

- No one
- Persons engaged in apolitical criminal activity
- Persons engaged in peaceful political activity
- Persons engaged in violent political activity
- Members of discriminated classes, identities, or groups
- All persons were equally at risk; abuse was applied indiscriminately

Example: Draft Torture Instrument Targeted & Discriminated Populations

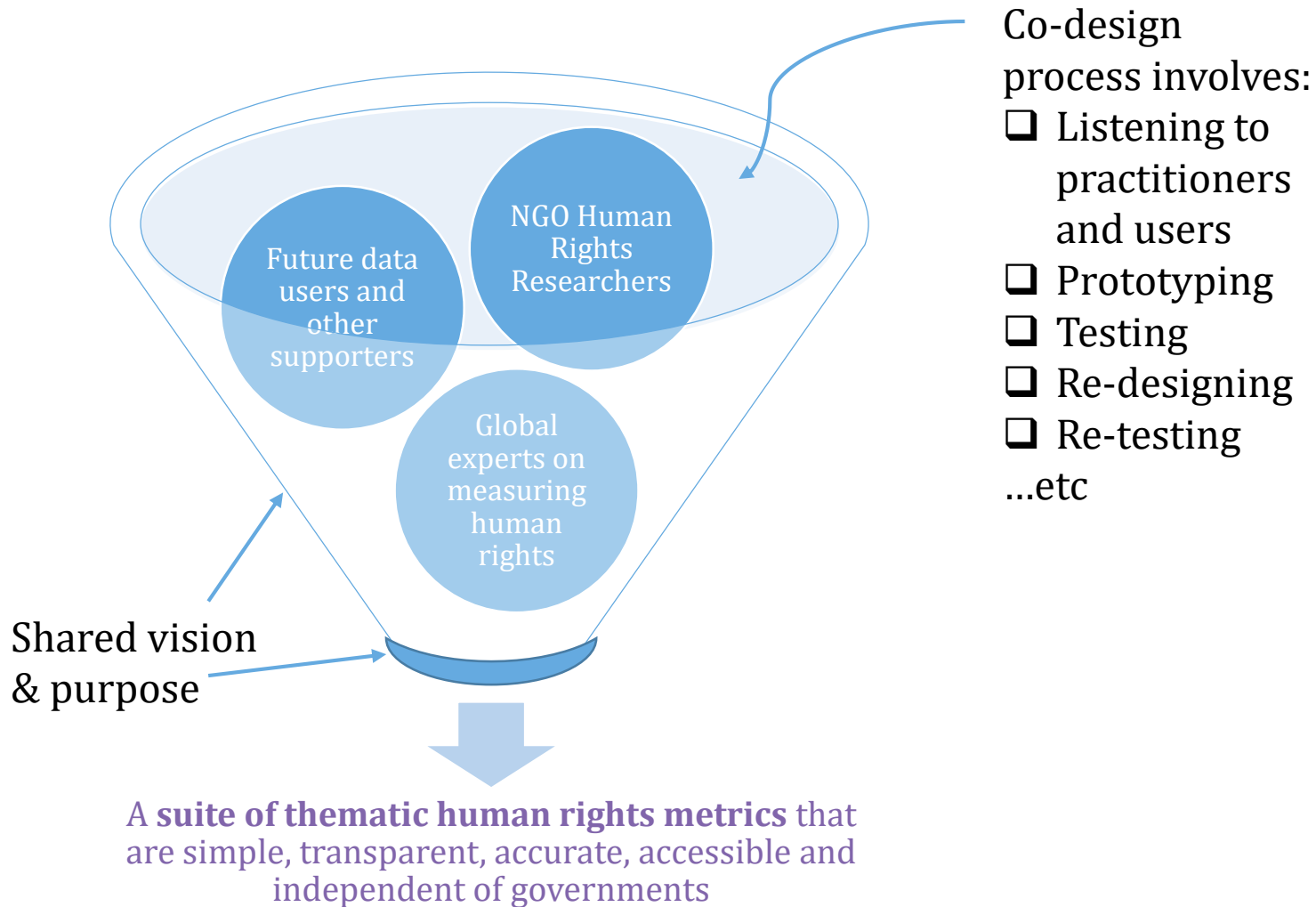
Which types of groups, if any, are at a higher risk of torture or ill-treatment from government agents than other groups in society?
(Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender minorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racial groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Men |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminals | <input type="checkbox"/> Highly educated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants | <input type="checkbox"/> Lowly educated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Social or economic status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual minorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled |

Human Rights Measurement Initiative Civil & Political Rights

- Using advanced scaling techniques, we produce measures that are:
 - Based on the best available information
 - Useful for understanding both the frequency and the distribution of human rights abuses
 - Separable by violator
 - Cross-nationally comparable
 - Honest about uncertainty

Working Concept for New CPR Metrics



Measuring enjoyment of Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs)



FULFILLING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

SAKIKO FUKUDA-PARR | TERRA LAWSON-REMER | SUSAN RANDOLPH

Pilot phase – suite of 5 ESCR metrics

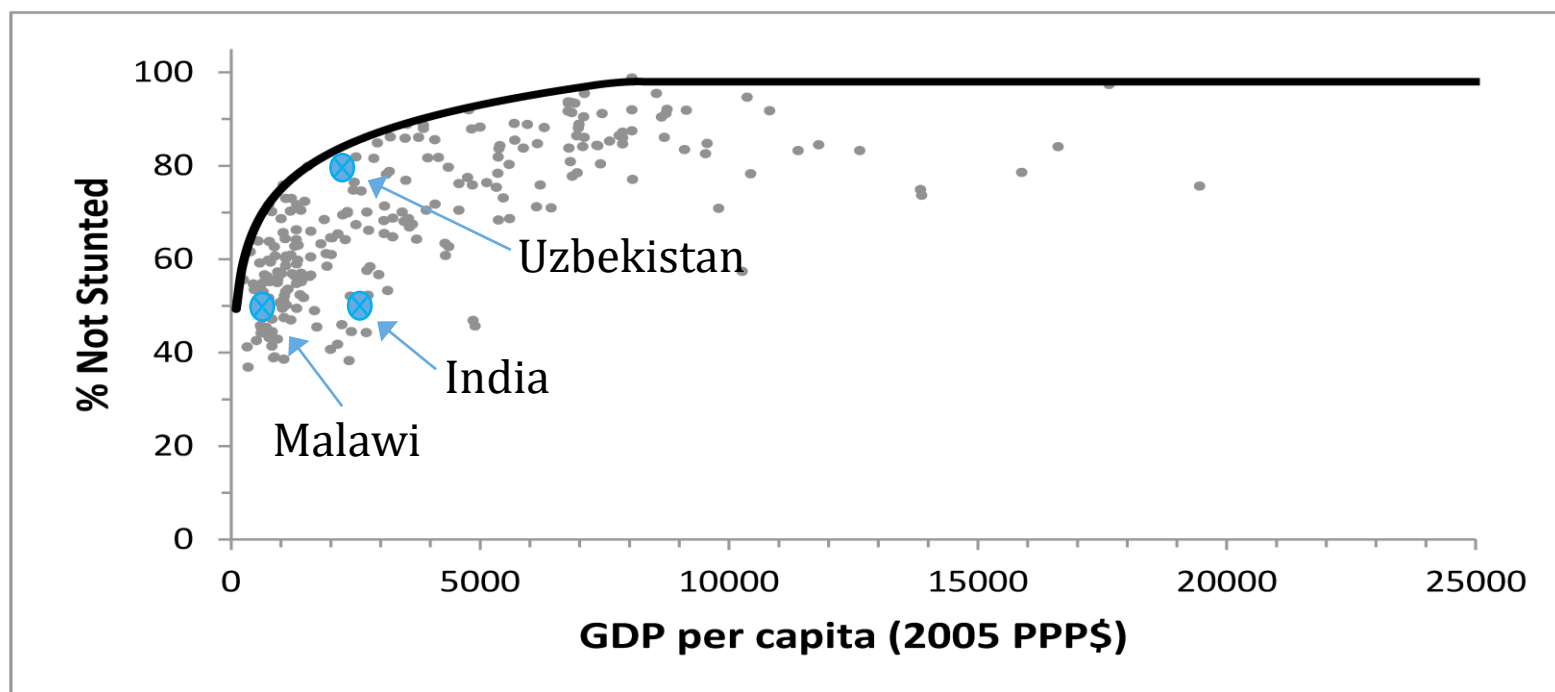
- Indicators – from list of ICESCR enumerated rights



- Calculated from objective, internationally comparable, publically accessible statistical indicators
- Principle of “progressive realization” obligates countries to fulfill rights to the extent possible given their available resources.



Achievement Possibilities Frontier – Food



Social and Economic Rights Fulfilment (SERF) methodology

- Scores = % achievement relative to the frontier:

$$P_i = 100 * (\text{right enjoyment level} / \text{state obligation level})$$

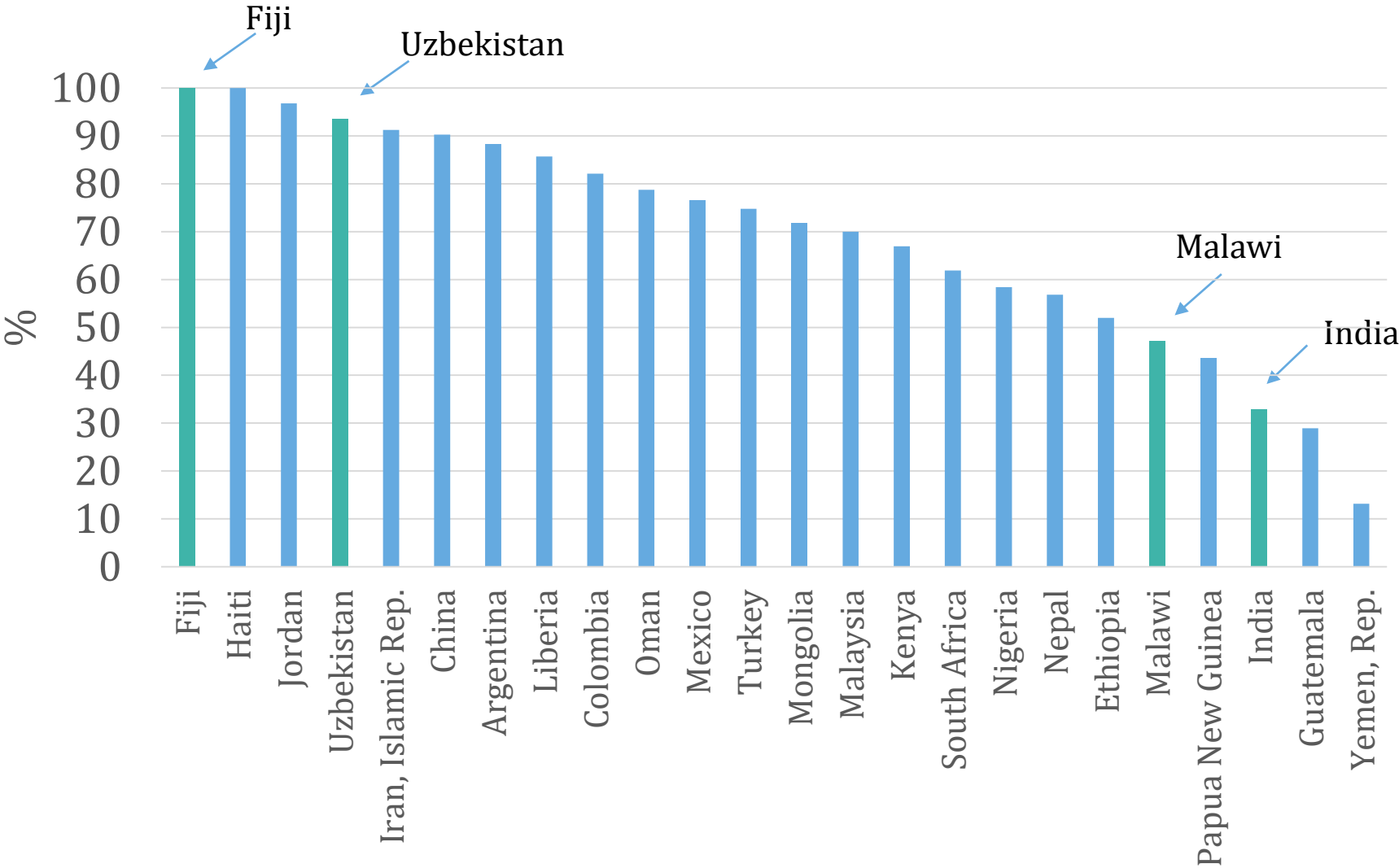
Where p = the fulfillment score on any given indicator

- And the overall Right Index is the average of indicator performance scores for the right concerned:

$$R = \sum P_i / n \quad \text{where } n = \text{number of indicators for the right concerned.}$$

Right to Food Scores

(selected countries)



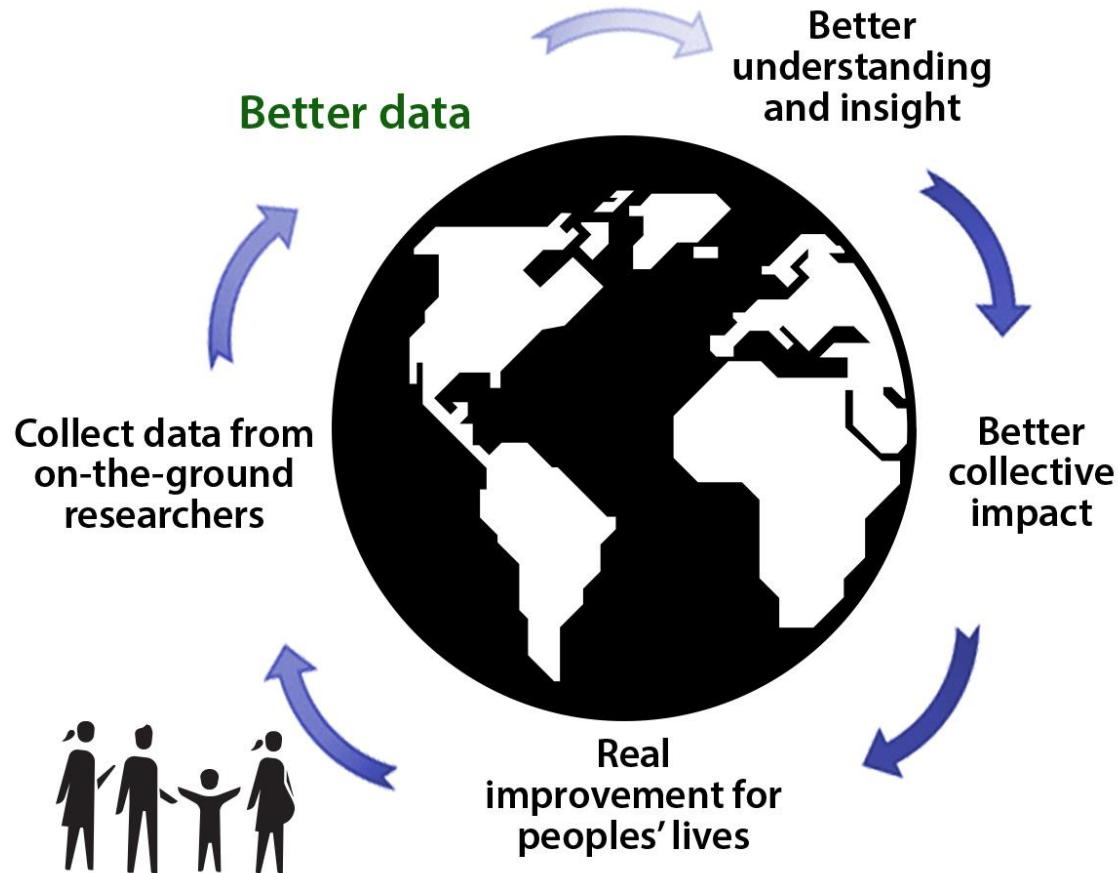
India Right to Food Index (selected states/cities)

State	Right to Food Score (%)
Kerala	77.38
Tamil Nadu	65.18
Punjab	51.44
Delhi	37.04
Bihar	23.43
Uttar Pradesh	17.28

What next for our ESCR metrics?

- Seek input on what users want
 - Data dissemination tools?
 - New metrics?
 - Something else altogether?

What else will it take to succeed?



Goals: short/med-term

Goal

Things we will monitor

1. A reasonable sample of human rights experts participate in our expert survey

- Snowball sampling: referrals & acceptances

2. Our target users look for opportunities to use HRMI data in their work

- Viral growth model: number of people accessing pilot metrics, citations etc

3. HRMI attracts sufficient funding

- \$ funding secured

Goals: longer-term

Goals

Things we will monitor

4. Use of HRMI data leads to better understanding and advocacy

- Publications and reports using HRMI metrics

5. Network of users becomes large enough to catalyse cross-fertilisation and collective impact

- Collaborative initiatives

6. Pressure on Governments and other actors becomes more impactful

- Response of Governments and other actors

Discussion

1. What's the biggest problem in your (human rights) work that you would like to solve?
2. What would make HRMI data most useful for you?
3. What ideas or feedback do you have about this project?

Ways that you can assist

- Ask questions, point out tensions
- Offer to give us feedback on our pilot metrics
- Refer us to other people/organisations
- Help us secure funding

Collaboration
is not about gluing together
existing egos. It's about the
ideas that never existed until
after everyone entered the room.