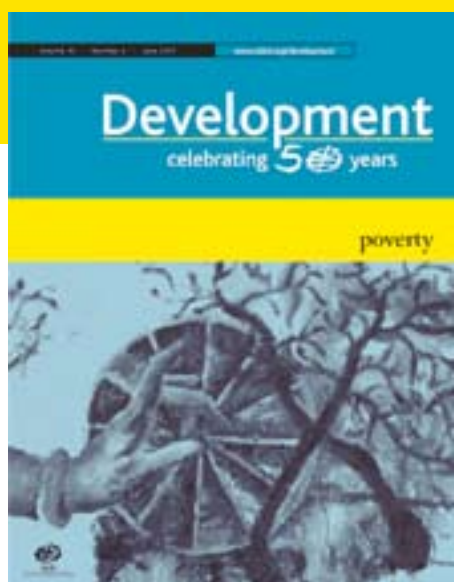


Development

celebrating 50 years



poverty

"Poverty may never be made history. But we can ask whether a precondition for its sharp reduction is that powerful professionals become more participatory and gets closer to and learn more from those who live their lives in poverty; and then act on what they experience, learn and feel."

- Robert Chambers

As the MDGs meet their half-way mark it is depressing to acknowledge that the ambition of ending poverty by 2015 is quite simply not going to happen, despite all the efforts to collect statistics, the technical talk about operationalizing, indicators and measurement. So why? Can one really expect that a reductionist, technocratic and bureaucratic approach will 'fix' an infinitely complex world?

This issue of *Development* is devoted to a deeper, critical look at poverty. Writers from multilateral and national development aid agencies, the research community, NGOs and social movements map the current thinking, action and critical concerns around poverty. The focus is largely on the experience of poverty among communities in the Global South although some articles address the issue of the marginalized poor in the Global North. In doing so the issue attempts to cut through the rhetoric around poverty, some of it generated by the MDGs and look at the harsh realities as they are lived.

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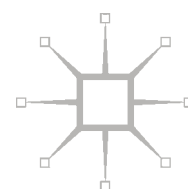
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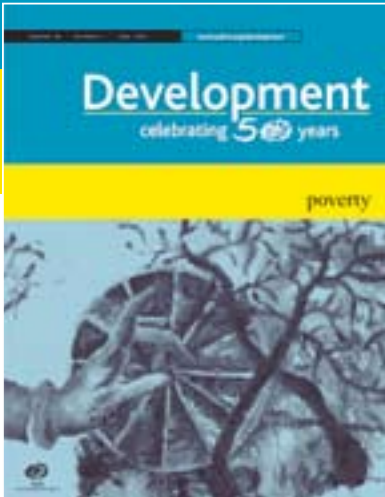
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