



About the Authors

Sarah Burd-Sharps has twenty-five years of experience in human development research, programming, advocacy, and management. Sarah began her career at the United Nations in 1988 working on issues of food security, gender equality, and economic empowerment in Africa and China. She later led UNIFEM's work in Beijing in preparation for the 1995 UN Women's Conference there and supported the nascent NGO movement in China. Most recently, Sarah was Deputy Director of the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report Office, where she contributed to global human development reports on human rights, globalization, and environmental issues and led UNDP's work to stimulate the highest standards of quality and policy impact in national human development reports on every continent.

Having seen a need to address the dearth of noneconomic measures of progress in wealthy nations, Sarah left the United Nations in 2007 with a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to produce a report on well-being for the United States. As co-director of Measure of America, Sarah has co-authored human development reports for the United States at the national, state, and local levels and has contributed to in-depth research on such topics as health care reform, child well-being, youth disconnection, and the measurement of social impact.

Sarah contributes regularly, along with Kristen Lewis, to mainstream media outlets, with articles published in the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Huffington Post*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review* and more, in addition to having their expert commentary and research cited by *Forbes*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, *Slate*, Human Rights Watch, *ABC World News Tonight*, *NPR*, *Freakonomics blog*, and many others.

Sarah is a frequently invited speaker at conferences for audiences ranging from philanthropists to policymakers to community advocates. Recent speaking engagements include the Milken Institute Global Conference, the Association of Small Foundations, and the Federal Reserve Board. Sarah received her Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Prior to her current post with Measure of America, **Kristen Lewis** worked for over fifteen years in international development, with a focus on substantive issues of gender, water and sanitation for health and development, and the environment. She was on staff at the United Nations Development Program and UN Women, and has consulted for the World Bank, the Global Water Partnership, and various UN agencies, including UNICEF and UNFPA. Kristen was a lead author of the water and sanitation report of the UN Millennium Project led by Jeffrey Sachs. Kristin received her Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Since 2007, Kristen has co-directed the Measure of America project of the Social Science Research Council. The Measure of America series explores well-being and opportunity in the United States using the American Human Development Index, a composite index comprised of indicators on health, education, and living standards. The project is one of the only sources of life expectancy calculations for different racial and ethnic groups as well as for states and for smaller populations within states in the U.S. today.

Kristen has co-authored two volumes of the “Measure of America” series (Columbia University Press, 2008; NYU Press, 2010) as well as research briefs and state-level human development reports. She contributes regularly to mainstream media outlets on topics related to health, education, and standard of living. Her articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Huffington Post*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review* and more, in addition to having her expert commentary and research cited by *Forbes*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, *Slate*, Human Rights Watch, *ABC World News Tonight*, *NPR*, *Freakonomics blog*, and many more.

Kristen is frequently sought after as a speaker and panelist, and has most recently spoken at the New School, the Russell Sage Foundation, Catholic Charities’ Poverty Summit, Southern California Grantmakers, and Philanthropy New York.