Measuring Need
The Spatial Placement of Aid in Morocco

INTRODUCTION
Evaluating the impact of aid has been a decades-long exercise through which best practices have emerged.

- Shift from GDP growth to advancing human development.
- Decentralization of aid projects as a way to ensure the input of its beneficiaries.
- Beyond evaluation efforts, the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) impacted the way in which human development has been promoted and measured.
- Created targets for the advancement of human development.
- Goals were aggregated to the country-level.

In Morocco, National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), facilitates the decentralization of aid and supports projects that advance human development. Thus one would expect to see greater convergence between the locations of aid projects and human security in Morocco.

RESEARCH QUESTION:
Do donors target human security hot spots in the spatial placement of their aid projects?

DEFINING TERMS
Human Development
- 3 Components: living a healthy life, access to knowledge, and a fair standard of living
- Goal: expand the capabilities and opportunities of individuals

Human Security
- Living free from fear and want
- Acts a rearguard of human development

Human Security Hot Spot: Areas in which human security threats overlap

Figure 1: Categories of Human Security
(Published National Arab Human Development Report, 2009)

MEASUREMENT OF NEED
Poverty vs. Human Security
How should need be measured?

Poverty
- The first Millennium Development Goal is to Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger which drives many donors to use poverty as a measure of need.

Advantages
1. Widely available data
2. Easy to compare rates of poverty to other countries

Possible Shortcomings
1. Poverty estimates are static, examining one point in time
2. Poverty estimates do not reveal vulnerabilities or threats faced by individuals.

Human Security Approach
- Identifies the risks and vulnerabilities that affect the lives and livelihoods of individuals

Advantages
1. Provides context for understanding the root causes of poverty
2. Identifies areas at risk of falling into poverty

Possible Shortcomings
1. Difficult to measure
2. Standard definition is not agreed upon

METHODS
I employ a case study of how effectively aid donors target human security hot spots in Morocco using geo-coded aid data and spatial data on human security threats.

Aid Data
Includes World Bank and African Development Bank Projects active between 2010 and 2014
- Most up-to-date and accurate geo-coded aid data
- Obtained through the AidData portal
- Additional aid organizations were excluded due to the lack of comprehensive spatial data for their projects

Measurement of Need
Human Security Hot Spots
Step 1: Identity Human Security Threats in Morocco
- Based on a 2009 United Nations’ Survey, Morocco respondents identified the following human security threats

Figure 2: Human Security Threats in Morocco

Step 2: Disaggregate Human Security Threats
- Using spatial data provided by the FAO’s geonetwork and data on the locations of hospitals and clinics I use ArcGIS to identify the areas threatened by each insecurity.

Figure 3: Hot Spot Areas

RESULTS
Distribution of Aid
Do donors target human security hot spots in the spatial placement of their projects?

Figure 4: Aid Relative to Poverty

Figure 5: Aid Relative to Human Security Hot Spots

- Aid is aligned with poverty more so than human security hot spots.
- 65% of aid projects are located in rural communes (municipalities).
- 98% of the communes affected by all human security threats are rural communes.

- The impact of a human security hot spot is likely not contained within its own borders. Individuals living in the vicinity of hot spots are impacted by these threats.

If hot spots are expanded to the commune-level, is the convergence of aid and human insecurity greater?

Figure 6 & 7: Aid Relative to Hot Spot Communes

CONCLUSIONS
- The location of ADB and WB projects suggest poverty is used as a measurement of need.
- ADB and WB aid projects are overwhelmingly located outside of hot spot areas.
- Is the dis-alignment a function of the donor or the Morocco government?
- Both banks create strategic objectives for a period of several years and work closely with the Moroccan government to align objectives with country priorities.
- Governmental support is required for the World Bank and the African Development Bank to strategically place their aid projects.

IMPLICATIONS
- Poverty as a measurement of need overlooks areas affected by multiple human security threats.
- The ineffective placement of aid has potential consequences for social stability in Morocco.

Future Research
1. Examine the extent to which other donors are aligned with human security hot spots.
2. Test the relationship between aid locations and social instability in Morocco.

RELEVANT LITERATURE