Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2016

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The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an index of acute multidimensional poverty that covers over 100 developing countries. It assesses the nature and intensity of poverty, by directly measuring the overlapping deprivations poor people experience at once, then building up from this information. It provides a vivid picture of how and where people are poor, within and across countries, regions and the world, enabling policymakers to better target their resources at those most in need through integrated policy interventions that tackle the many different aspects of poverty together. The MPI was developed in 2010 by OPHI and the UNDP's Human Development Report Office, and has been proposed as an indicator in the Sustainable Development Goals, which view 'poverty in its many dimensions'.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE GLOBAL MPI 2016

- A total of **1.6 billion people are living in multidimensional poverty**; about 30% of people in the countries analysed.

  There are **50% more MPI poor people** in the countries analysed than there are **income poor people using the $1.90/day** poverty line.

- **Disaggregated analysis** of the MPI is available for **962 sub-national regions,** which range from having 0% to 100% of people poor. The MPI is also disaggregated by rural-urban areas for nearly all countries as well as by age.

- Almost one third of MPI poor people live in Sub-Saharan Africa (32.%); 53% in South Asia, and 9% in East Asia.

- Three quarters of MPI poor people live in **Middle Income Countries.**

- Nearly half of all MPI poor people are **destitute** – 768 million – and 91% of destitute people live in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- In 2016 we use internationally comparable survey data from **102 countries** covering **75% of the world's population**.[1]

1. Using figures from 2012.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Target 1.2 of the SDGs calls on countries to halve poverty 'in all its dimensions.' Indicators that have been proposed for this target include the Global MPI. In particular, countries that do not have a national MPI, or prefer to halve the Global MPI, can report it as Indicator 1.2.2. The Global MPI, built using the Alkire-Foster (2011) method, is a headline indicator of acute multidimensional poverty that can be compared directly across countries. It is also an intuitive policy tool used by countries to design and monitor high-impact policy interventions. All of the indicators used for constructing the Global MPI reflect other SDGs, which means that the MPI acts as a headline of poverty-related SDG attainments. Alongside the Global MPI many countries are developing national MPIs, as official statistics whose indicators and cutoffs are tailored to their contexts and priorities. An MPI can serve as a focal point for integrated policies, can be easily disaggregated, and can monitor changes quickly.

Using well-designed MPIs to monitor SDG 1 will complement income poverty measures and energise action to overcome the interlinked kinds of suffering that continues to afflict so many. For more information see www.mppn.org, the website of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network – a network of over 40 governments and 10 international and regional organizations that supports the development and energetic use of national and Global MPIs to fight poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

Case study: Neheso Deafeso, Nepal

Neheso, lives in a remote area of Chitwan district with her youngest son. She had another daughter who died because of disease a few years ago. It is not easy to get wood every day to cook lentils and rice, and they often go to bed without a meal. Their flooring is made out of mud and a bed, television and radio are beyond their means. They use a common well and toilet shared with seven households. Yet despite water being scarce, Neheso shares it with ducks and other animals which gather around the water plates outside her house. Neheso and her son keep the house very tidy, and show off their fine crafting skills in the brooms and bamboo fences that distinguish their house.
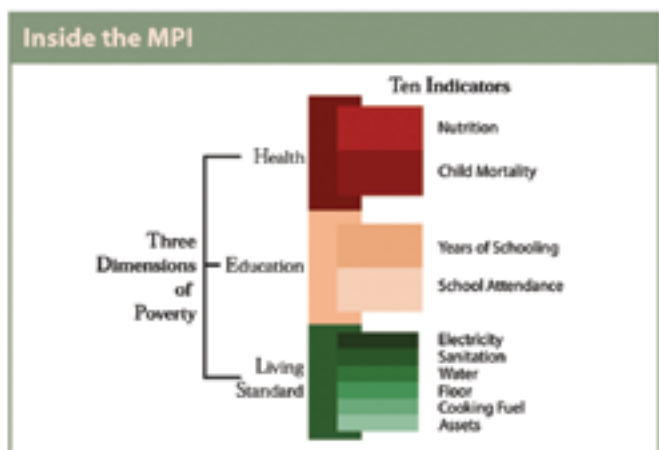
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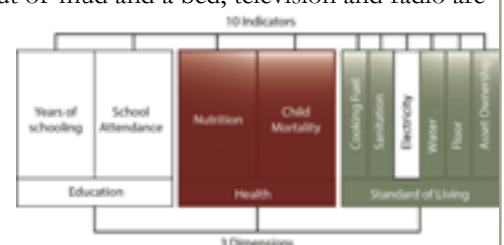
GLOBAL MPI – AT A GLANCE

The Global MPI was developed in 2010 by OPHI and the United Nations Development Programme for its flagship Human Development Reports, and has been published in the reports since then.

The Global MPI has 3 dimensions and 10 indicators; for details see www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index. A person is identified as **multidimensionally poor** (or 'MPI poor') if they are deprived in **at least one third** of the dimensions. **The MPI** is calculated by multiplying the **incidence** of poverty (the percentage of people identified as MPI poor) by the average **intensity** of poverty across the poor. So it reflects both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived.

The Global MPI shows not just which people are poor and where, but how they are poor – in **which indicators they are deprived simultaneously.** It reveals different **intensities** of poverty, as some people are disadvantaged in more indicators than others. And it can be **disaggregated** to reveal the levels and trends of poverty within a country, or between ethnicities, castes or other social groups. The Global MPI is built using DHS, MICS, and national survey data, 2005-2014.

Inside the MPI — Three Dimensions of Poverty, Ten Indicators: Health (Nutrition, Child Mortality); Education (Years of Schooling, School Attendance); Living Standard (Electricity, Sanitation, Water, Floor, Cooking Fuel, Assets)

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN AFRICA

(Alkire, Jindra, Robles and Vaz , 2016)

- **Over half (54%) of people in the African countries analysed suffer from multidimensional poverty:** 544 million people endure multidimensional poverty in 46 countries analysed in the region.
- Among 35 countries where changes to poverty over time were analysed, 30 of them have reduced poverty significantly. R**wanda had stellar performance.**
- The MPI registered impressive reductions in some unexpected places. **19 sub-national regions – regional 'runaway' successes – have reduced poverty even faster than Rwanda.** The fastest MPI reduction was found in Likouala in the Republic of Congo.
- **The Sahel and Sudanian Savanna Belt contains most of the world's poorest sub-regions,** showing the interaction between poverty and harsh environmental conditions.
- **Poverty looks very different in different parts of the continent.** While in East Africa deprivations related to living standards contribute most to poverty, in West Africa child mortality and education are the biggest problems.
- The deprivations affecting the highest share of MPI poor people in Africa are **cooking fuel, electricity and sanitation.**
- **More people tend to suffer from MPI poverty than $1.90/day poverty.** Yet nine important exceptions, where income poverty exceeds MPI, are in Africa. The number of people in multidimensional poverty in East Africa outnumbers those in West Africa, but we would not get similar conclusions if we only focus on income poverty.
- **East and West Africa have the largest number of poor people both in terms of income and multidimensional poverty.** North Africa is the least poor region.
- The number of poor people went down in only 12 countries. In 18 countries, although the incidence of MPI fell, **population growth** led to an overall rise in the number of poor people.

ONLINE RESOURCES

OPHI's Interactive Databank enables you to study how over 100 developing countries perform in terms of multidimensional poverty. Interactive graphs reveal where and in which indicators people are poor and destitute, and show how MPI values compare with complementary data, such as $1.90/day poverty. You can also download individual country briefings illustrated with graphs, maps and charts as well as data tables and full methodological details. See www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index.

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