

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2016

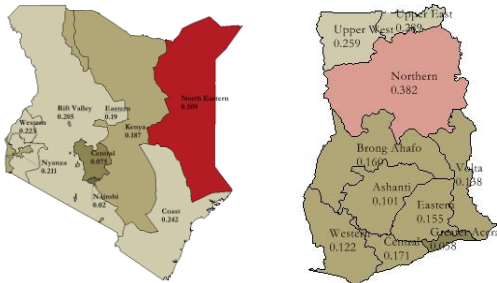
2 June 2016

HIGHLIGHTS ~ SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

All data will be live on www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/ on Wednesday 2 June.

At present, the Global MPI has national estimates for a total of 39 Sub-Saharan Africa countries, and 833 Million people, which is 96% of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa. Of these, a total of 506 million are MPI poor – over half a billion people. On average, 61% of people in Sub-Saharan Africa are MPI poor, as compared to 46% by the \$1.90/day poverty (381 million). The average intensity of poverty for each MPI poor person is 56%.¹

In 2016, we updated estimations for 4 of these Sub-Saharan African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda) and 54 subnational regions. This continues a trend in which Sub-Saharan Africa has up to date MPI estimations due to the tremendous work of DHS and MICS offices.



The 2015 Global MPI estimations are taken from surveys fielded 2010-2014 in 35 countries. To give a sense of how important this is, we remind readers that the original Global MPI, launched in 2010, covered 37 African countries, using data from 2000-2007 with only Tanzania having data for 2008. In 2015, **all except for one of the 39 countries covered have data that are 2008/9 or newer.**

- We also have disaggregated data for 419 **subnational regions** in Africa. **The poorest region in Sub-Saharan Africa** is Salamat in Chad, followed by regions within Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, Guinea and Sierra Leone. These regions range from an MPI poverty rate of less than 10% in the cities and regions of Bulawayo, Nairobi, Harare, Libreville, Yaounde, Douala, Accra, Lagos, and Dakhlett, to poverty rates of 50% and above in 291 regions, and 75% or above in 160 regions. We lack subnational decompositions only for two Sub-Saharan African countries: Guinea-Bissau and South Africa.²
- **Intensity** varies greatly – in 10 subnational regions, poor people on average experience deprivations in less than 40% of the weighted indicators of the global MPI. But in 220 regions, the average intensity is 50% or greater – half of the MPI dimensions. And in 10 regions, sadly, each poor person (and in each of these regions over 90% of people are poor) experience deprivations in 70% or more of the MPI indicators at the same time.
- What do we learn from these decompositions? **In 53 African regions, 90% or more of the population are poor.** regions are found in 15 countries: South Sudan, Chad, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Niger, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Benin, Central African Republic, Guinea, Gambia, Nigeria, and Mali.
- For the first time we now have **destitution** for all of our 39 African countries. Our **measure of destitution** identifies a subset of poor people as destitute if they experience a number of extreme

¹ Aggregates use 2012 population estimates.

² South Africa has created a census-based MPI, the [South Africa Multidimensional Poverty Index \(SAMPI\)](#), whose indicators are different, but which do provide subnational decompositions at very local levels.

deprivations like severe malnutrition, losing two children, having all primary-aged school children out of school, and practicing open defecation. On average, across Africa, a shocking **33% of Africans are destitute**. Destitution ranges from a low of **1% in South Africa and 3% in Gabon** to a high of 68.8% in Niger **71.5% in South Sudan**. More than half of the population are also destitute in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Chad. Fully 275 million people in Africa are destitute. This level of grievous poverty clearly merits a strong policy response.

- When we consider **destitution in subnational regions**, an even starker pattern emerges. In 104 subnational regions, more than 50% of the population are destitute. More than 80% of people are destitute in 13 regions belonging to Chad, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria.

We can also compare the levels of MPI in different African region with the \$1.90/day income poverty patterns. Of those identified as poor by each measure, the graphic shows that a greater proportion of MPI poor people live in East Africa.

