

# Approaches to Measuring Social Exclusion

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# Taskforce aims

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- Look beyond poverty to the wider concept of social exclusion
- Explore how social exclusion is currently measured across a range of countries
- Identify relevant practices and share learning
- Recommended future directions



# Social exclusion is challenging to define

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- It is a broad concept for which no exact or widely accepted definition exists.
- It inherently involves the juxtaposition of those who have and those who lack; is context and culturally-specific and changes over time.
- It refers to outcomes (eg, exclusion from the labour force) and to the processes by which exclusion happens (eg, discrimination).



# Policy goals often relate to inclusion/exclusion

- Recently, 'social exclusion' seems to be less prominent in policy discourse in many countries
- But a range of policy goals inherently focus on reducing social exclusion or increasing social inclusion
- May be framed as things we'd like **to limit** (inequalities, social divisions) or things we'd like **to promote** (social justice, inclusive growth, leaving no one behind)

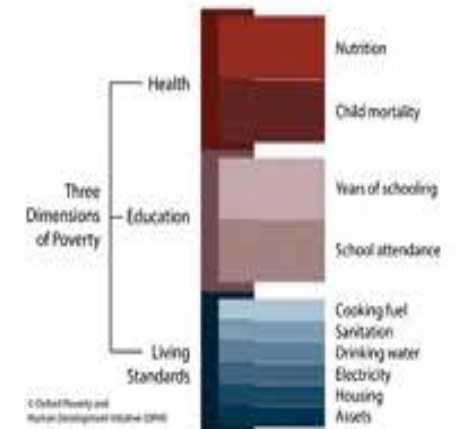


# We explored common approaches to measurement

- First surveyed Taskforce members about approaches to measurement in Spring 2019; surveyed again across wider UNECE members in Spring 2021
- Augmented the surveys with a literature review
- Many approaches start with poverty or material deprivation and build from there to consider exclusion in other areas of life
- Can include employment; education & skills; health & disability; access to healthcare, public services, essential infrastructure; social, political and civic engagement



What does the global MPI measure?



The UNDP social exclusion index for Europe and Central Asia



Mihail Peleah, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Presentation at the Seminar on regional well-being indicators (Development of the Inclusive Society Index), 19 October 2016, Brussels



# And how we can be more inclusive

- In measuring social exclusion, it's imperative to include potentially marginalized groups.
- The report considers this in relation to sampling, surveys, and censuses
- And a human rights-based approach throughout the research process (eg, data collection, analysis and reporting)



# We took stock of where we are now

- Survey among Taskforce members on measurement approaches, topics covered, groups included, best practice examples
- Findings showed extensive coverage of some topics (eg, economic participation, education); less on others (social, political & civic participation); limited coverage of non private household populations



# And suggested possible future directions

- Explore minimum criteria for a working definition of social exclusion
- Facilitate knowledge exchange on how admin data could be used to augment measurement of social exclusion
- Provide deeper comparisons of indicator frameworks to enable NSIs to choose more effectively between them
- Consider how environmental risks relate to social exclusion and how best to measure
- Explore approaches to improving granularity of data for sub-groups and geographical areas





# Thank you

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