Improving the Availability & Use of Multidimensional Poverty Data

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Background

Half-way to 2030 Agenda

Need to accelerate progress on reducing poverty

Effective policymaking requires **timely and accurate data**

MPI used by 40+ countries to monitor progress on Indicator 1.2.2 and reduce poverty among all

Most MPIs rely on data from **multi-topic household surveys**

- Cost-effective, high-quality and comprehensive sources of data
- Single dataset –interlinkages

Gaps in Poverty Data Remain

Despite the UN's Data Revolution, <u>data irregularities</u> in household surveys remain the **biggest problem for effective monitoring** of poverty

Some of the **poorest countries have the oldest data** (UNDP & OPHI 2022)
- Burkina Faso 2010, South Sudan 2010, Niger 2012 - *50m in acute poverty*

Half of ECA countries covered have 5+ years old data (UNDP & OPHI 2023)

o Some **aspects of poverty are not well captured or missing**
    e.g. health, nutrition, quality of education, etc.

o Modules are often collected in different surveys (**silos**)
    e.g. employment not in DHS/MICS, health not in most HBS

o Data often **not comparable** due to differences in recall or question wording

o Some data are not publicly available

Data limitations affect MPIs

MPIs aim to reflect the **lived experiences** of poverty

o Go beyond lack of income

o Capture complexities of poverty (Voices of the Poor)

o But many **deprivations are not captured due to lack of suitable data**

Few national MPIs include indicators on:

- Experiences of violence – Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, Palestine

- Discrimination – Dominican Republic

- Agency/women's empowerment – Palestine

- Shocks – Afghanistan, Nigeria

Common MPI Indicators

Reflects data availability and demand to date (mostly acute poverty)

Domain	Indicators
Health & Nutrition	Food security Anthropometrics Access to healthcare Child mortality
Education	Attainment Attendance School lag
Living Conditions	Access to basic services (drinking water, sanitation, electricity) Type of housing materials Type of heating/cooking fuel ICT access
Employment	Unemployment Youth NEET Informal / Precarious employment Dependency

Need for 'moderate' poverty measures

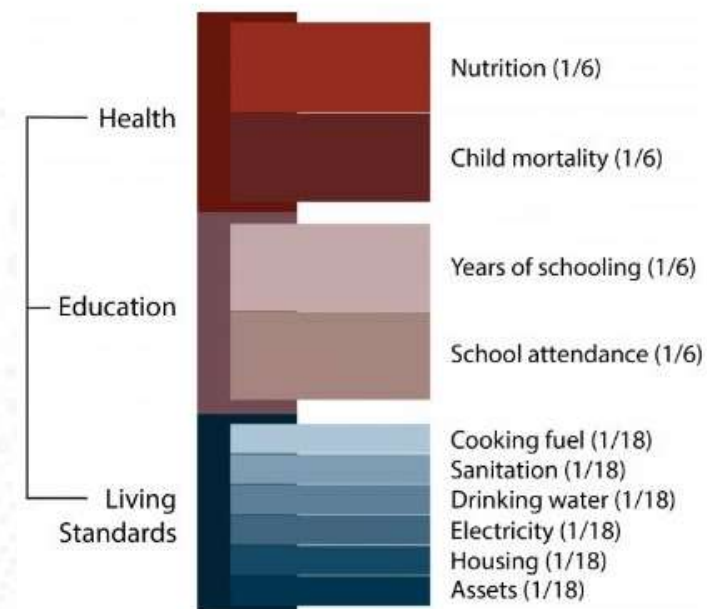Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a measure of **acute poverty**

- o 3 dimensions: health, education, living standards

Many middle-income countries eliminated these conditions

o 55 countries (3bn) have under 10% headcount ratio

o 44 of them have less than 5%

o Lowest levels in LAC, EAP and ECA (H: 0.11% to 7.4%) regions

Need to measure new types of deprivations ('**moderate poverty**')
o**Higher aspirations** that go beyond eliminating acute conditions and the SDGs
o**New challenges** – climate crisis, energy transition, etc.

Health
- Nutrition (1/6)
- Child mortality (1/6)

Education
- Years of schooling (1/6)
- School attendance (1/6)

Living Standards
- Cooking fuel (1/18)
- Sanitation (1/18)
- Drinking water (1/18)
- Electricity (1/18)
- Housing (1/18)
- Assets (1/18)

Motivation & next steps

Improve existing survey questions
- Adjust recall period
- Adjust question wording
- Increase number of respondents and/or age group covered
- Collect annually

Explore new survey questions
- 'Moderate' deprivations – going beyond acute poverty, capturing realities in middle/high income contexts
- Missing dimensions

OPHI is convening a data forum

Engaging subject experts to propose new survey questions/modules

Engaging data providers to explore implementation

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Work to date

2007: Missing Dimensions (Alkire, Lugo, Diprose, Zavaleta, Samman, Ibrahim)

Developed survey questions on employment, violence, shame, agency & empowerment, psychological & subjective wellbeing

2015: Light Powerful Survey Modules (MPPN & OPHI)

Response to Data Revolution, proposed complete modules for household surveys

2019: 'Middle Income MPI' (Conconi, Kovesdi, Moreno, Nogales, Pinilla-Roncancio)

Trialed a comparable MPI including employment for 7 countries in Latin America

2020/21: 'Moderate MPI' (Alkire, Kovesdi, Scheja, Vollmer)

Trialed a new version of the global MPI adjusted for 'moderate' poverty in 6 countries

2022: Data Scoping Study (Kovesdi, Alkire)

Assessed data availability and feasibility for new internationally comparable MPI with expanded dimensions

Better data for 10 domains

Drawing on previous work and the Scoping study, we identified the following domains:

~ Health

~ Education

~ Employment

~ Voice and Agency

~ Environment

~ Nutrition

~ Housing

~ Violence

~ Social Isolation

~ Child Indicators

These includes the 6 Atkinson domains (bold), others regularly used in national MPIs and in the literature, and missing dimensions.

Topics being explored (poverty & wellbeing)

Domain	Indicators
Health & Nutrition	Diet quality and diversity Obesity Prevalence of non-communicable disease Treatment for chronic conditions
Education	Cognitive assessment (adults, children)
Employment	Decent work Skills development Digital literacy
Living Conditions	Disruption to basic services Affordability of basic services Security of housing Quality of living environment
Environment	Resilience to shocks and natural hazards Adoptive capacity

Topics being explored (poverty & wellbeing)

Domain	Indicators
Violence & security	Experiences of physical/sexual/psychological abuse (incl. IPV) Bullying & stalking Access to support services Quality of care & services
Voice & Agency	Relative autonomy Decision-making
Social Relations	Isolation Shame & humiliation Trust
Children	Early childhood development Health (5-18) Safety Digital literacy

Conclusion

Need better and more data to accurately capture people's lived experiences of poverty and its complexities

Irregular or incomplete data hinders monitoring key goals like SDG 1
o Available data is often limited – frequency, modules, population coverage
o Data Revolution has not been equal – poorest countries left behind

Growing demand for MPIs in middle and high income contexts
o Data needs to capture new aspects of poverty
o Requires long-term investment in household surveys alongside innovation

OPHI is convening key stakeholders & experts
o Scrutinize proposals for new survey questions across 9 domains
o Explore implementation & future collaborations

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