

# OPHI

## Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

[www.ophi.org.uk](http://www.ophi.org.uk)

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Ann-Sophia, Kenya

### Multidimensional Poverty Index Profile



Ann-Sophia is a 37 year old single parent living with her four children in Lunga Lunga slum, just outside of Nairobi. She has lived there for 28 years. Ann-Sophia has been battling with a debilitating illness which she can't afford treatment for. "I have been sick for two years. I am meant to go to a clinic every month but I cannot afford to" she says. This illness has severely impacted her life and what she is able to do. Despite her illness, the family depends on her income as a hairdresser but work is always unreliable. Sometimes she can go for weeks without a customer. When this happens, she travels to different salons many kilometres away to see if they need an extra person to help.

Sometimes she can get lucky and find work this way and sometimes she goes back home empty handed.

Ann-Sophia's eldest son is currently unemployed and the second eldest has just completed his primary education certificate. The whole family now hopes for him to go on and continue his secondary education but lack of financial resources means this may not be possible. "I am worried that I won't be able to afford for my son to continue to study at secondary school" Ann-Sophia says. Her youngest children also go to school but in an area outside of their slum.

The family all live in a rented dwelling together. The house has two rooms made of an iron sheet roof and wall, and a dirt floor. The house has no toilet and so they use one of public toilets which charge Ksh 5 (USD 0.16) per visit. They also have no running water, so they need to buy water from a neighbouring water point which charges Ksh 5 (USD 0.16) per jerrican. On a typical day, Ann-Sophia wakes up at 6am and only cooks breakfast for



her children if there is food available. If there are hairdressing customers, she does their hair straight after breakfast, since most of them like their hair done in the morning. She then spends the rest of the day doing household chores of washing dishes, washing clothes and cleaning the rest of the house. She does not cook lunch and prefers saving what food she has for the evening meal. Sometimes they are forced to go the whole day without a meal.

Ann-Sophia expresses her life as a constant struggle. Because of this, she worries for the future of her children and that their lives will be a struggle too.

Ann-Sophia's household is poor according to both the local income poverty measure and the MPI. The shaded boxes of the figure below show the deprivations that her household faces.



*Artistic Braiding outdoors*

