# Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2017

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**The global MPI is a new generation of multidimensional measures that supports key priorities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). High-resolution poverty diagnostics are needed to leave no one behind. The global MPI is disaggregated by children, disability status, sub-national regions and rural/urban areas. Linked indices of destitution and severe poverty highlight the very poorest. The SDGs call for analyses of interlinkages across indicators, and the global MPI is built upon household-level multidimensional poverty profiles. The SDGs advocate integrated multisectoral policies. The global MPI unfolds to show the composition of poverty by indicator nationally, and in every disaggregated group.**

The 2017 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2017 investigates poverty across **5.4 billion** people. Of these, **1.45 billion** people are MPI poor, some **26.5%** of the people living in **103 countries.** Figure 1 shows **48%** of these poor people live in **South Asia,** and **36%** in **Sub-Saharan Africa.** Over one billion MPI poor people live in middle income countries.

Fulfilling the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG)'s aim to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the Global MPI complements monetary poverty indices and directly measures 10 indicators reflecting poor health, a lack of education and low living standards. In 2017, the was reported or updated for 25 countries including Algeria, China, El Salvador, India, Mexico, and South Africa.

Turning to the poorest of the poor, OPHI finds that nearly half of all MPI poor people are destitute - **706 million** - so experience extreme deprivations such as severe malnutrition. Destitution rates are the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, where in six countries and 117 subnational regions, more than half of citizens live in destitution. But **India** alone is home to more destitute people than Sub-Saharan Africa (295 million vs 282 million), and **Pakistan** is home to more destitute people (37 million) than either East Asia and Pacific (26 million) or the Arab States (26 million).

Across the **103 low and middle income** countries surveyed, children are found to constitute **34%** of the total population – but **48%** of the poor.

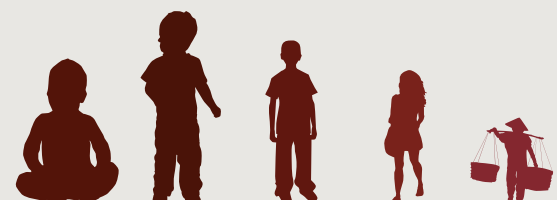Nearly two out of every five children – **37%**, forming a total of **689 million** children – are

multidimensionally poor. Some **87%** of these 689 million poor children are growing up in **South Asia** and in **Sub-Saharan Africa** – 300 million in each region. Half of South Asia's children and two thirds of Sub-Saharan children are multidimensionally poor.

Global MPI estimates are higher for **children** than for adults in all 103 countries. Children are also deprived in more indicators at the same time. In 36 countries, including India, at least half of all children are MPI poor. In Ethiopia, Niger and South Sudan over 90% of all children are MPI poor. Half of multidimensionally poor children aged zero to 17 live in 'alert' level fragile states, and child poverty levels are highest in the fragile states.

Figure 2 shows MPI and monetary poverty disaggregations by age cohorts for children and adults.

The global MPI can also be disaggregated by **disability** status. In Uganda, **22%** of people live in a household where one member
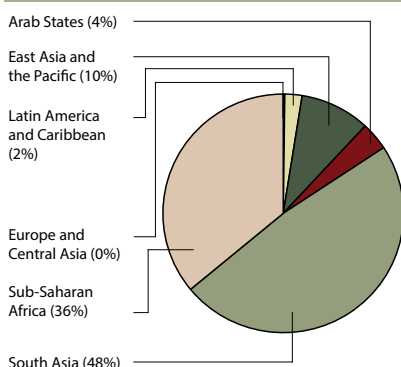
## Fig. 1 Distribution of MPI poor persons by region

- Arab States (4%)
- East Asia and the Pacific (10%)
- Latin America and Caribbean (2%)
- Europe and Central Asia (0%)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (36%)
- South Asia (48%)

## Fig. 2 MPI and income poverty disaggregations by age cohorts for children and adults

| | Age 0 – 4 | Age 5 – 9 | Age 10 – 14 | Age 15 – 17 | Age 18 + |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Headcount (*H*) | 37.2 | 41.5 | 37.5 | 30.1 | 21.0 |
| Intensity (*A*) | 53.1 | 53.8 | 51.7 | 48.5 | 48.0 |
| $1.90/day (H) | 21.0 | 21.5 | 18.7 | 14.6 | 9.2 |

- Size of figures reflects Headcount
- Colour of figures reflects Intensity
- Global MPI 2017 figures found at www.ophi.org.uk
- World Bank 2016 decomposition found at www.unicef.org

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experiences severe disability, and MPI in these households is higher (76% vs 69%). As disability data improve, disability disaggregation for the global MPI will become standard.
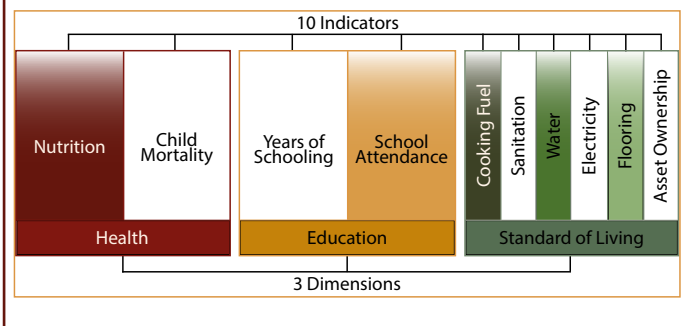
## POVERTY PROFILE: NAHATO, UGANDA



A person who is deprived in 1/3 or more of the weighted indicators is MPI poor. Consider Nahato, from Uganda.

Her home has a dirt floor. The only light is a solar lamp that also charges the phone. Nahato, 3, is one of 10 children of her mother, Nambubi, who is 39 years old. Nahato's elder siblings have dropped out of school as they cannot afford the fees, which are US$2.75 for four months.

Nambubi goes to the field at 7am to work in a neighbour's field with her children. Often they remain there till 7pm.

Nahato and her family are MPI poor. Yet she and her siblings are outgoing and confident. At night sometimes they dance together to the music from a radio shared between neighbours. The coloured boxes in the chart show the deprivations she faces.



### FURTHER READING

Alkire, S. and Robles, G. (2017). 'Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2017.' *OPHI Briefing* 47, University of Oxford.

Alkire, S. and Robles, G. (2017). 'Multidimensional Poverty Index – Summer 2017: Brief methodological note and results.' *MPI Methodological Notes* 44, University of Oxford.

### INTERACTIVE DATABANK

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 profiles for each of the countries included in the Global MPI, illustrated with graphs, maps and charts (*link*).
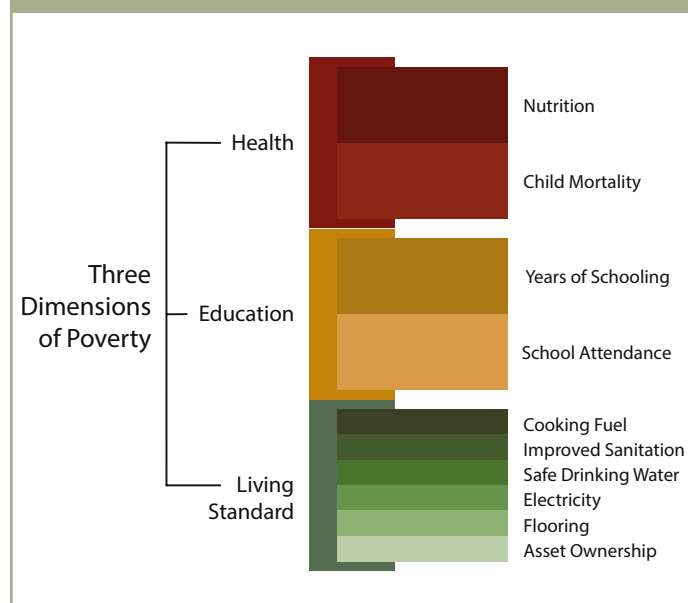
## GLOBAL MPI – AT A GLANCE

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 (Figure 3). 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 shows 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, 2006-2016.



Fig. 3   Dimensions and indicators of the global MPI

Alkire, S., Jindra, C., Robles, G., and Vaz, A. (2017). 'Children's multidimensional poverty: Disaggregating the global MPI.' *OPHI Briefing* 46, University of Oxford.

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