

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2014

16 June 2014

HIGHLIGHTS ~ LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- We have **updated estimations of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) now for 7 Latin American and Caribbean countries**: Belize, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname. All will be live on www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/ on Monday 16 June 2014.
- Across our Latin American and Caribbean countries we find that **69.5% of multidimensionally (MPI) poor people live in rural areas**. If we use the national income poverty figures which are published for these countries, 36% of those who are poor according to the national income poverty measures live in rural areas. On average across the Latin American countries, 2.5% of people in urban areas are MPI poor, whereas its 17.5% of people in rural areas. Rural poverty rates vary from a low of 2.8% in Uruguay to a high of 65.9% in Haiti.
- We decompose 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries into 191 subnational regions. **The poorest regions in Latin America and Caribbean** are in Haiti (Centre, Grande-Anse, Nord-Est, Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Sud, Nord), followed by regions within Honduras, Nicaragua, Suriname, and Bolivia.
- This year we also released a **new measure of destitution**, which identifies a subset of poor people as destitute if they experience a number of extreme deprivations like severe malnutrition, losing two children, having all primary-aged school children out of school, and practicing open defecation. Our **destitution** results for Latin America and Caribbean (8 countries) are fascinating. Destitution ranges from a low of **0.6% in Mexico** to a troubling high of **18.1% in Haiti**. Destitute rates are 2.9% in the Nicaragua; 2.3% in Honduras; 2.0% in Peru, and 1.6% in Suriname.

Happily, Destitution has declined. **Bolivia** was a champion in reducing destitution in Latin America, followed by Haiti. Between 2003 and 2008, Bolivia reduced the percent of destitute people from 20% to 6% - topping all 34 countries in this comparison in terms of relative reductions. Another moving case is Haiti: in 2005/6, 30.1% of Haitians were destitute; by 2012 this had come down to 18.1%.
- We also have **changes in multidimensional poverty over time** now for **6 Latin American countries**, including Peru over two periods. Their progress in reducing MPI from fastest to slowest in absolute terms was: **Bolivia** 2003-2008, **Haiti** 2005/6-2012, **Peru** 2005-2008, **Peru** 2008-2012, **Dominican Republic** 2002-2007, **Colombia** 2005-2010, **Guyana** 2005-2009.
- The changes over time are also available for subnational regions in most Latin American and Caribbean countries, and by indicator. There is good news here too:
 - o **EVERY INDICATOR** - **Bolivia, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic** reduced all 10 indicators of multidimensional poverty statistically significantly. [*Nutrition, Child mortality, Years of Schooling, Child School Attendance, Water, Sanitation, Electricity, Flooring, Cooking Fuel, Assets*]
 - o **EVERY REGION** - **Bolivia** significantly reduced MPI in every single subnational region.
 - o **POOREST REGION** - Looking now at Latin America and Caribbean's achievements for the poorest, in **Bolivia and Colombia**, the poorest region reduced poverty the most, enhancing equity across the land.
- The updates go with really **good news on the data**: In 2010 when we launched MPI, we covered 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries, using data from 2000-2006. In 2014, we cover 18 countries. Now **11 of these 18 have data that are 2007 or later**. For **8 countries we use data that are 2010 or later**. This is thanks to many new DHS and MICS surveys.