

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2014

16 June 2014

HIGHLIGHTS ~ AFRICA

- We have **updated estimations of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) now for 14 African countries**: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Togo. All will be live on www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/ on Monday.
- The updates go with really **good news on the data**: In 2010 when we launched MPI, we covered 37 African countries, using data from 2000-2007 with one country (Tanzania) having data for 2008. In 2014, we cover 37 countries. Fully **27 of them have data that are 2008 or newer**. For **23 Countries we use data that are 2010 or later**. This is thanks to many new DHS and MICS surveys.
- We also have **changes in multidimensional poverty over time** now for **20 African countries**. Their progress in reducing MPI from fastest to slowest in absolute terms was: **Rwanda** 2005-2010, **Ghana** 2003-2008, **Tanzania** 2008-2010, **Uganda** 2006-2011, **Ethiopia** 2000-2005, **Mozambique** 2003-2011, **Ethiopia** 2005-2011, **Niger** 2006-2012, **Benin** 2001-2006, **Zambia** 2001/2-2007, **Nigeria** 2003-2008, **Lesotho** 2004-2009, **Kenya** 2003-2008/9, **Malawi** 2004-2010, **Zimbabwe** 2006-2010/11, **Gabon** 2000-2012, **Cameroon** 2004-2011, **Namibia** 2000-2007, **Egypt** 2005-2008, **Senegal** 2005-2010/11, **Madagascar** 2004-2008/9 (Madagascar alone increased MPI). Here's some good news:
 - **EVERY INDICATOR** - **Gabon, Mozambique and Rwanda** 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*]
 - **EVERY REGION** - **Gabon, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, and Rwanda** significantly reduced MPI in every single subnational region.
 - **POOREST REGION** - Looking now at Africa's achievements for the poorest, in **Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Niger**, the poorest region reduced poverty the most, enhancing equity across the land.
 - **POOREST ETHNIC GROUP** – and in **Kenya** the poorest ethnic group reduced multidimensional poverty the fastest – it was closing the gap.
- Across our Sub-Saharan African countries we find that **85.8% of multidimensionally (MPI) poor people live in rural areas**. If we use the national income poverty figures which are published for these countries, 73.8% of those who are poor according to the national income poverty measures live in rural areas. On average across the 38 Sub-Saharan African countries, 27.4% of people in urban areas are MPI poor, whereas its 73.8% of people in rural areas. Rural poverty rates vary from a low of 20% in South Africa to a high of 96% in Niger, Ethiopia and Mali.
- We decompose 34 Sub-Saharan African countries into 363 subnational regions. **The poorest regions in Sub-Saharan Africa** are in Burkino Faso (Est, Sahel), followed by regions within Niger, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda, Benin and Mali.
- 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 Africa (24 countries) are significant. Destitution ranges from a low of **1% in South Africa** to a high of **68.8% in Niger**. Destitute rates are 40% in the Central African Republic; 35% in DRC; 21% in Cameroon, and 9% in Ghana. Although still 58% of Ethiopians are destitute, **Ethiopia masterfully reduced destitution by 30 percentage points** – the most of any country.