

# MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2015

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## HIGHLIGHTS ~ EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

At present, the Global MPI has national estimates for 15 countries in Europe and Central Asia, which are home to 152 million people, which is only 31% of the population in this region. Of these, just over 3 million people are MPI poor. This is the least poor region of those covered by the Global MPI, and also the region with the lowest population coverage. On average, just 2% of people in ECA are MPI poor, and the average intensity of poverty for each poor person is 38.1%.

In 2015, we have updated MPI estimations for five out of the 15 countries, and in 2014-15, we updated an additional four, providing between the two years updated estimations for a total of nine countries, housing 62% of the population presently covered and of 59% the MPI poor people in the countries covered.

**Diversity in the Incidence of Poverty (H) within the Region:** As a region, Europe and Central Asia has the lowest poverty rates and is the most uniform region, with all countries having a headcount ratio of 2% or less except Uzbekistan at 2.3%, Azerbaijan at 5.3%, and in Tajikistan – the largest country in terms of population –, with 13.2% of the population being MPI poor.

**Diversity in Intensity (A) within the Region:** The pattern is actually rather different in terms of intensity, which has a higher spread than might be anticipated. While most countries have low intensity, the highest intensity is found not in Tajikistan, the poorest country, but in Montenegro; Serbia also has relatively high intensity for its poverty rate. These suggest that there may be pockets of deep poverty in otherwise low poverty regions.

In some countries within ECA, as in EAP, Latin America, and the Arab States, the Global MPI rates are very low, so the Global MPI – which measures acute multidimensional poverty – should be complemented by a measure of moderate multidimensional poverty, whose indicators and cutoffs better reflect the aspirations and standards of poverty in this region. This is particularly the case in ECA. However, there is still a value in reporting the very low figures of the ECA countries, because this provides evidence to other countries that it is indeed possible to eradicate acute multidimensional poverty as measured by the Global MPI.

- **Data:** The 2015 Global MPI estimations for ECA are taken from surveys fielded 2005-2014. All are Demographic and Health Surveys or Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. The most recent data are for Serbia (2014), Montenegro (2013), and Ukraine, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan (2012), followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina (2011/12), and Macedonia (2010). Ten of the 15 ECA countries covered have MPI estimations based surveys that have been fielded 2010-2014.