

# MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2014

22 June 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS ~ LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

At present, the Global MPI has national estimates for a total of 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 175 subnational regions in 14 of the 18 countries, and nearly 500 million people, which is nearly 85% of the population of the region. Of these, nearly 26 million are MPI poor. On average, 5.2% of the population in the LAC countries covered are MPI poor, and the average intensity of poverty for each poor person is 42.5%.

In 2015, we release MPI estimations for Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia for the first time, and update estimations for the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Because of their relatively small population sizes, this update provides new estimations for just 5.7% of the population covered and of 4.2% the MPI poor people in the LAC countries covered. However, in 2014, we provided new and updated MPI estimations for seven countries, so the updates from 2014-2015 cover 40% of the population in the countries included, and nearly 57% of MPI poor people. Every updated country has disaggregated data by rural-urban areas, and Dominican Republic and Ecuador are also disaggregated by subnational regions.

**Diversity within the Region (in terms of H or incidence):** As a region, LAC is moderately diverse in terms of Multidimensional Poverty levels. In eight countries less than 5% of the populations are MPI poor; in Guyana and Peru, poverty rates are 8% and 10%, respectively. In Honduras and Nicaragua, around 16% of the population are poor, in Bolivia it is just over 20%, and in Haiti 49% of the population are multidimensionally poor.

Across 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries (excluding Argentina), we find that **66.6% of multidimensionally (MPI) poor people live in rural areas.**

We decompose 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries into 175 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.

Our **measure of destitution** is computed for 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries. This measure of destitution 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 results for Latin America and the Caribbean indicate that destitution ranges from a low of **0.03% in St. Lucia** to a troubling high of **18.1% in Haiti**. Destitute rates are 0.3% in Barbados; 0.5% in Jamaica; 0.6% in Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dominican Republic; 0.7% in Ecuador; 1.1% in Guyana; 1.3% in Belize; 1.6% in Suriname; 2.0% in Peru; 2.3% in Honduras; and 2.9% in Nicaragua.

The updates go with really **good news on the data**: In 2010 when we launched MPI, we used data from 2000-2006. In 2015, we cover 18 countries, and **11 countries** these have data that are **2007 or later**. For **13 countries** we use data that are **2010 or later**.

In some Latin American countries, as in some Arab States, and in Europe and Central Asia, 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. Furthermore, due in part to data limitations, the current Global MPI does not capture some pertinent deprivations such as un- and under-employment, insecurity, and social protection. The [\*Social Panorama\*](#) released this year by CEPAL has a regional measure of MPI for Latin America which explores some of these issues for 17 countries.