MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2014
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HIGHLIGHTS ~ SOUTH ASIA

- In 2015 we have **poverty estimations for seven South Asian** countries. Afghanistan is the poorest country in South Asia, with 66% of people being **multidimensionally poor** using 2010/11 data; India (2005/6) is the next poorest with 54%, followed by Bangladesh (2011) with 51%, Pakistan (2012/13) and Nepal (2011) at 44%, Bhutan (2010) at 27%, and Sri Lanka and the Maldives at 5%.

- Our **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 using open defecation. The destitution results for South Asia (not covering Bhutan, Maldives or Sri Lanka) are significant. **Afghanistan has the highest rate of destitution of 38%,** followed by India at a troubling 28.5% (i.e. over 340 million people). But interestingly Bangladesh has much lower rate of destitution than either Nepal or Pakistan, showing that the country has alleviated the worst forms of deprivations.

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Country	Year	MPI	% MPI poor (H)	Intensity of MPI (A)	% Destitute
Nepal	2011	**0.217**	44.2	49.0	**19.9**
Pakistan	2012/13	**0.230**	44.2	52.1	**20.7**
Bangladesh	2011	**0.253**	51.3	49.4	**17.2**
India	2005/06	**0.283**	53.7	52.7	**28.5**
Afghanistan	2010/11	**0.353**	66.2	53.4	**37.7**

- We also study **Changes over time** for Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and India. **Nepal** still did the best of all – now leading poverty reduction for 34 countries covering 2.5 billion people. Nepal is closely followed by **Bangladesh**. India reduced MPI only one-quarter as fast as Nepal, but **India and Nepal** reduced MPI significantly in every indicator and in every subnational region. Pakistan had the slowest of all (less than one-fifth of Nepal's rate), but still reduced MPI significantly 2006/7-2012/13. The relative progress across countries is the same in terms of reduction of **destitution**.

- Across our 8 South Asian countries we find that **86.3% of multidimensionally (MPI) poor people live in rural areas**. If we use the national income poverty figures which are published for 6 of these countries, 79.9% of those who are poor according to the national income poverty measures live in rural areas. Interestingly, **Pakistan did not reduce rural poverty significantly** (with significance set at 5%). Overall, 24.2% of people living in Urban South Asia are MPI poor, and 63.5% of those living in rural areas.

- We decompose India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan by subnational regions. **The poorest region in South Asia is Bihar, followed by 'South' Afghanistan.** The poorest 15 subnational regions in South Asia are all in India or Afghanistan, plus one region (Balochistan) of Pakistan.

- In 2010, we observed that the poorest 8 major states in India were home to more MPI poor people than the 26 poorest African countries. If we update that comparison using MPI 2015 estimations, **the poorest 8 major Indian states are home to similar number of MPI poor people to the number of MPI poor people residing in 25 poorest African countries** (approximately 440M), and their combined MPI values are also similar (0.374 vs 0.396). However India's data are from 2005/6, whereas data for 25 of those Africa countries are more recent than India's, and 17 of these African countries have data that are 2010 or later. India's data need an update