

people are on average deprived in well over half of the indicators, and in Somalia average intensity is as high as 63% of dimensions.

In some Arab States, as in Latin America and 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 overcrowding to name but a few.

Data: The 2016 Global MPI estimations for the Arab States are taken from surveys fielded 2006-2014. Three are Demographic and Health Surveys (Jordan, Egypt, Yemen), three are PAPFAM surveys (Libya, Syria, Morocco), and the remaining six are Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. The most recent data are for Egypt (2014) and Palestine (2014), followed by Yemen (2013) Jordan (2012), Tunisia (2011/12) and Iraq (2011). The data for the Djibouti and Somalia are the oldest, being from 2006, and Libya is from 2007. Otherwise with the exception of Syria (2009) all date from 2010-2014.

We also have disaggregated data for 112 **subnational regions** in **eight Arab states:** Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. These regions range from an MPI poverty rate of less than 5% in 36 subnational regions, to poverty rates of 71% to 86% in 10 regions. We lack subnational decompositions other than rural-urban areas for Somalia, which has a national MPI poverty rate of 81%, making it by far the poorest Arab State. **The poorest subnational regions in the Arab States** outside of **Somalia** is **West Dafur** in Sudan. West Dafur has the same MPI as Somalia, 0.514. Otherwise, the 15 poorest subnational regions are found in Sudan and Yemen.

Intensity varies greatly subnationally as well – in 55 subnational regions, poor people on average experience deprivations in less than 40% of the weighted indicators of the global MPI. But in 21 subnational regions (Sudan and Yemen), the average intensity is 50% or greater – half of the MPI dimensions. The Blue Nile region of Sudan plus the country of Somalia, experience intensity levels over 60%.

For the first time, we now have destitution for all Arab States and subnational regions, including for the first time, destitution figures for Djibouti, Yemen, and Somalia. Our **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. It is shocking to note that 68% of the population in Somalia lives in destitution – only Niger and South Sudan have higher rates in all the countries covered. Between 0% and 53% of the populations living in subnational regions of the other covered countries are destitute.

However, here is the rather large surprise: on average, across the Arab States covered, a total of 26.5 million people are destitute, which is 9.9% of the total population. This figure, like that of MPI, is polarized but with some differences: in Libya, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Iraq the proportion of MPI poor who are destitute is low: 4% to 12%. In Tunisia, a low MPI country, it is 22%, suggesting pockets of poverty. In Egypt it is 20%, and in Morocco and Sudan, over 50% of MPI poor people are destitute.