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Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

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Stéphanie, Madagascar

Multidimensional Poverty Index Profile



Stéphanie is 35 years old and has always lived in Manarintsoa, one of the poorest districts of Antananarivo, Madagascar. She lives in a small makeshift cabin, with a dirt floor, built by her brother on a plot of land that she rents for USD 2.3 per month, with no water or electricity. Her cabin is about 1.5m by 3m in size, divided into two parts and located in a block of slums, where families are all crowded and poor. Stéphanie rents the plot on which the cabin is built for USD 2.3 a month.

Stéphanie is a single parent after her husband left four years ago and currently shares her home with her four children. Her eldest daughter, Hasina is 17 years old and has her own child. Hasina and her daughter had to move back in with her mother recently after Hasina's husband, went to prison.

Stéphanie is the main breadwinner and earns between USD 0.31 and USD 0.63 each day by selling salvaged garbage, such as plastic bottles, cans, shoes, rags, to earn a living. She sometimes makes a little money by storing other merchants' goods for them too. On a typical day she gets up at 5am to reach the market place in time to secure a stall from which she can sell the goods that she salvages. She then goes home to have breakfast with her children, usually coffee and sometimes some bread, before returning to her stall. Hasina, takes care of the household chores while Stéphanie is responsible for finding the money needed to support the household. The family's main meal is dinner; they usually only buy lunch on holidays. Stéphanie's 8 year old daughter is educated in a religious primary school, and from time to time the family receives rice donated by the Sisters who run the school. Stéphanie's two young sons, aged 6 years old and 4 years old, also collect pieces of scrap metal for resale, or



beg in order to buy food.



At 4 pm, Stéphanie completes her working day and spends the rest of it talking with her neighbours. Once Stéphanie returns home, Hasina goes to the market to buy the food for dinner and spends between USD 0.45 and USD 0.54. At 7pm the family gathers for dinner, and at 8pm they go to bed. Stéphanie's main goal for the future is to help her children to succeed. She wishes to leave the district to change their lives.

Stéphanie's household is poor according to the local income poverty line and the MPI. The shaded boxes of the figure below show the deprivations that her household faces.

