Valérie is 32 years old. She has lived in Manarintsoa, one of the poorest districts of Antananarivo, Madagascar, throughout her life. She currently lives with her two sons (14 years and 9 years old), daughter (10 years) and husband Andry, to whom she has been married for 11 years. Valérie's eldest son used to live with his grandmother, but has come to live with Valérie and Andry recently. The family live together in a little cabin made of recovered wood pieces stuffed with cardboard and with a roof of aggregated plastic bags, which they rent for 4.54 USD that the owner collects from them regularly. Their home has no electricity so they use candles for light.

Valérie left primary school at the age of 13 to work as a maid, but had to stop after the birth of her first son. Currently she has no regular work. From time to time she finds laundry to do for others. Valérie's husband is a longshoreman at Ambodifilao in a Chinese shop. Valérie’s husband Andry brings back home 0.9 USD per day. If Valérie finds linen to wash, then she may earn up to 0.72 and 0.9 USD, depending on the amount of washing that she is able to do. Valérie’s children are supposed to be in the elementary class and first grades at primary school, but they left this year because Valérie and her husband were very behind in paying the school fees according to the Director of the public primary school. Now the children find bits of scrap metal to sell and help their mother with chores such as fetching water for their home rather than going to school.

A typical day for Valérie begins at 6am in the morning. The family drinks coffee for breakfast, bought for 0.05 USD. Valérie then deals with daily household chores. At 8 am Andry leaves for work, while Valérie runs door-to-door to the families that she knows to ask if they have linen to wash. If there is none, she
returns home and plays cards (rummy) with her neighbors for an amount of 0.05 USD. The duration of the game depends on the money she has saved, but it may last until late afternoon.

Because there are now "Restaurants from the Heart"¹, a food aid project financed by UNICEF where people in the poorest districts of Antananarivo can buy rice dishes for 0.05 USD and 0.1 USD, Valérie does not cook at home anymore, but simply buys food that she brings home to share, or eat on the spot, with her children.

When she has no money, she does not eat at lunchtime, nor do her children unless they have been able to make some money by selling the metallic scrap that they collect. Recently, Valérie’s 10 year old daughter has earned 0.22 USD a day, which she shares with Valérie, by looking after a neighbour’s child. In the evening, Valérie buys what is needed to prepare dinner, which usually includes rice with sautéed vegetables and charcoal for the fire, as well as some rice for the next day. Sometimes when there is no rice to cook, Valérie waits for Andry’s return from work because he gives her money. The family rarely goes to sleep early except on Sundays.

Valérie lives and thinks on a day to day basis and does not make plans for the future. For her an improvement in her life would be a regular job and a life which is a little better.

**Valérie’s poverty profile**

**Local measure:**
Valérie is poor according to the local income poverty line.

**MPI:**
Valérie is poor according to OPHI’s MPI. The diagram below shows her poverty profile according to the MPI (shaded boxes = poor in that indicator/dimension); non-shaded boxes = non-poor in that indicator/dimension).