

Dimensions

Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)

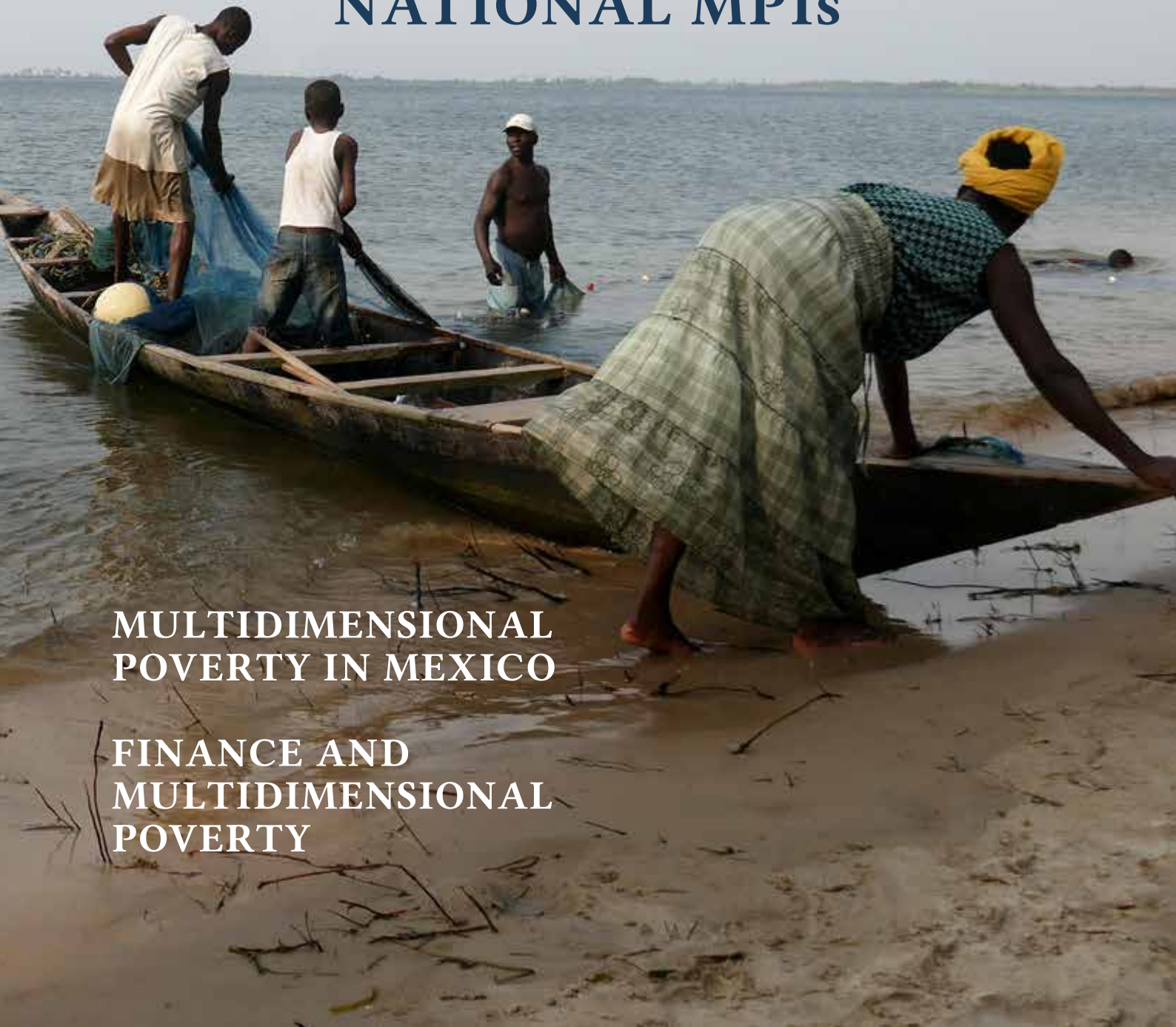
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INTERVIEWS ON GHANA AND NAMIBIA'S NATIONAL MPIs

MULTIDIMENSIONAL
POVERTY IN MEXICO

FINANCE AND
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Editor:

Carolina Moreno

Editorial Board:

Sabina Alkire
Gonzalo Hernández-Licona
Mónica Pinilla-Roncancio

Collaborator:

Kelly-Ann Fonderson

Proofreader:

Maya Evans

Designer:

Sandra Pérez

Translation:

Luis Ruiz

Cover Photo:

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Contents

Editorial	3
Supporting the budgetary process with a national MPI: An interview with Fransina Amutenya from Namibia	5
Incorporating the MPI into data collection in Ghana: An interview with Francis Mensah	8
Multidimensional poverty in Mexico in the context of the COVID-19 health emergency by Mariana Rosalía Galindo Orozco, Carlos Fabian Fuentes Rivas, María Guadalupe Alcántara Manjarrez and Aketzali Natividad Martínez Santiago	10
Oaxaca and the largest decrease of multidimensional poverty and extreme poverty in a decade by Edith Yolanda Martínez	14
The intersection of gender, forced displacement, and multidimensional poverty by Sophie Scharlin-Petree	17
Finance and multidimensional poverty: Harnessing the former to eliminate the latter by John Hammock	19
Using the MPI to maximise equitable programming in a flagship sexual and reproductive health programme by Meg McLaren	21
Innovations, collaborations and forthcoming MPIs shared at UNGA 77 Side Event hosted by Nigeria	24
Day in the Life: Nyawala from South Sudan	25
Data of the Month	26
News	27





Editorial

In this new edition of *Dimensions*, we present work being carried out for the measurement of multidimensional poverty in several countries and how this has been used in different regions of the world.

We begin with interviews with Fransina Amutenya, Senior Statistician at the Namibia Statistics Agency, and Francis Mensah, Head of National Accounts and Economic Indicators at the Ghana Statistical Service who share with us details of introducing the MPI to Namibia and Ghana respectively.

Then we fly to Mexico where a group of CONEVAL analysts share data on how poverty has changed in Mexico in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. For them, the multidimensional measurement of poverty in Mexico serves as a tool to identify the challenges that social development policy must face.

We move across to the state of Oaxaca, where the Secretary of Social and Human Development, Ministry of Social and Human Development of Oaxaca, Edith Yolanda Martínez, reports on a successful case of multidimensional poverty reduction and how the MPI guided public policy.

The analysis of multidimensional poverty can be incorporated into other domains. For example, Sophie Scharlin-Pettee presents the gender-sensitive MPI for forcibly displaced populations in five territories in sub-Saharan Africa: Ethiopia, northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

John Hammock, meanwhile, describes how the MPI can be used in the private sector, as Citigroup and SOPHIA Oxford launch a report that features a robust framework of social metrics for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investment and impact assessment, using a multidimensional poverty approach.

Finally, Meg McLaren from MSI Reproductive Choices describes why they chose the MPI as a metric to assess the impact of their sexual and reproductive health programmes.

We invite you to read *Dimensions*.

Carolina Moreno

Authors

Aketzali Natividad Martínez Santiago, Assistant Director of Information Sources Monitoring at the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), Mexico

Carlos Fabián Fuentes Rivas, Assistant Director of Poverty Measurement at CONEVAL

Edith Yolanda Martínez López, Secretary of Social and Human Development, Ministry of Social and Human Development of Oaxaca, Mexico.

John Hammock, OPHI Co-Founder, Research Associate, Chair of Board of SOPHIA Oxford

Kelly-Ann Fonderson, Communications and Events Officer at OPHI

Mariana Rosalía Galindo Orozco, Director of Poverty Measurement at CONEVAL

María Guadalupe Alcántara Manjarrez, Assistant Director of Economic Analysis at CONEVAL

Meg McLaren, former Evidence & Impact Advisor at MSI Reproductive Choices

Sophie Scharlin-Pettee, former Research and Policy Manager at OPHI



Supporting the budgetary process with a national MPI: An interview with Fransina Amutenya from Namibia



Namibia launched its first national MPI in June 2021 following extensive consultations with stakeholders across government, NGOs and academia. In this interview, Fransina Amutenya discusses the construction and implementation of Namibia's national MPI with Kelly-Ann Fonderson.

Fransina Amutenya is a Senior Statistician at the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). Her work specialises in poverty, welfare and gender statistics.

The process of creating the Namibian MPI included extensive consultations with government and academia. How did the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) approach this and what would you recommend to other government officials beginning this stage in other countries?

The structure of [Namibia's MPI \(NAMPI\)](#) is a result of a series of discussions led by the NSA, the National Planning Commission (NPC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – Namibia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)– Namibia, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Namibia.

The design and computation of the national MPI has included consultations and discussions with the national steering committee, which was comprised of various offices, ministries and agencies (Ministry of

Finance; Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; Ministry of Urban and Rural Development; Namibia University of Science and Technology; University of Namibia; Institute for Public Policy Research; National Planning Commission; Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare; and Ministry of Health and Social Services) to ensure that the MPI is tailored to the local context using Namibian-specific indicators to provide a comprehensive understanding of country-level multidimensional poverty.

The steering committee met whenever necessary, but not less than twice a month. These consultations were necessary for stakeholders to understand their respective roles in revising the measure and make sure the proposed indicators were collected in the next data source.



The NSA, as the lead institution in the development of the NAMPI, is responsible for updating the estimations whenever new data becomes available, i.e., every five years.

Governments planning to adopt the MPI in their respective countries should ensure they have key stakeholders in the established study steering team based on the chosen dimensions and indicators.

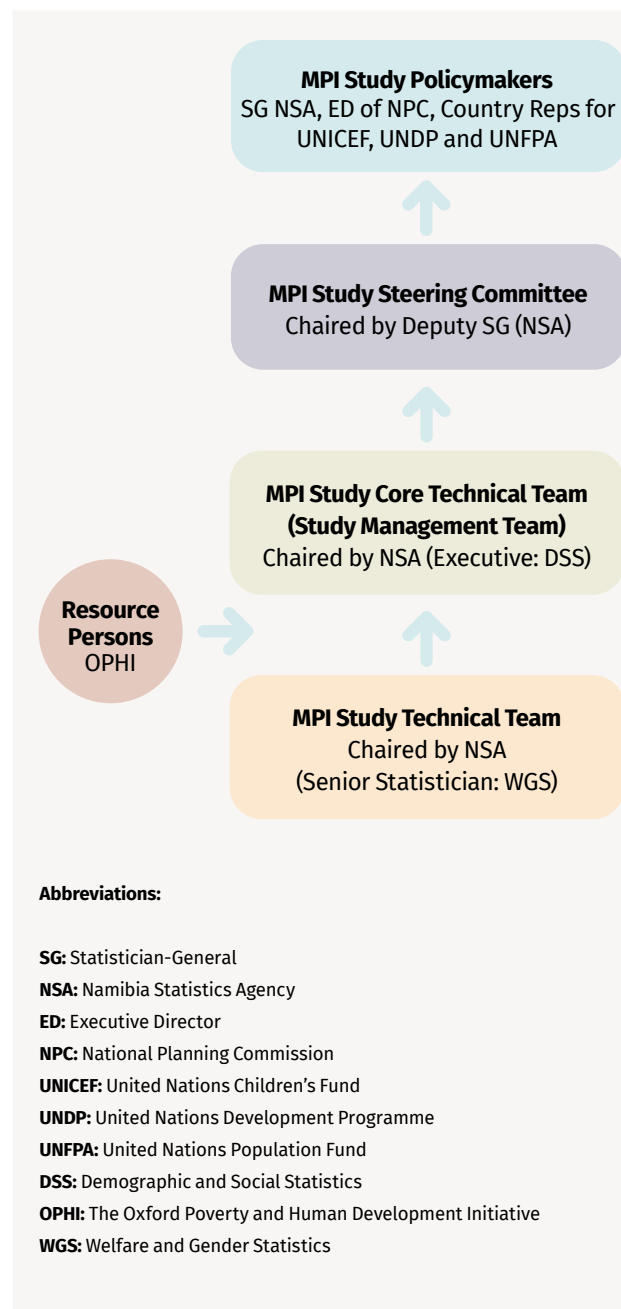
In addition, where possible, they should include the technical staff from relevant institutions during the capacity-building trainings. For Namibia, this was offered with support from OPHI virtually over a span of one month. This was necessary for building capacity across Namibia's National Statistical System (NSS) for understanding the methodology in-depth, as the NSS were later consulted in the process for their inputs into the dimensions, indicators, and cutoffs.

How were the dimensions, indicators, and weights of Namibia's MPI chosen?

Several factors guided the creation of Namibia's MPI. Mainly, the selection of dimensions, indicators, and cutoffs was determined through a consultative process of the steering committee, drawing on expertise from many different sectors and reflecting National Development Plans (NDPs) and priorities.

Other factors that were considered included the availability of data from the selected data source, as well as an examination of the global MPI and its dimensions and indicators.

Figure 1. MPI Study Institutional Framework



The global MPI consists of three dimensions: 'Living standards', 'Health' and 'Education', measured across ten indicators. While Namibia's MPI retains these three dimensions, the indicators have been adjusted to better reflect the specific context and priorities of the country.

How has Namibia’s MPI supported the implementation of Namibia’s National Development Plans (NDP)?

While the NSA’s core mandate is to produce official statistics in the country, the government of Namibia, specifically the National Planning Commission (NPC) is the custodian of the formulation and implementation of National Development Plans (NDP).

Although the first MPI for Namibia was only published in 2021, the results are being used by the National Planning Commission.

The NDP5, or the fifth National Development Plan for Namibia, which started in April 2017, completed its term in March 2022. Although the first MPI for Namibia was only published in 2021, the results are being used by the National Planning Commission to evaluate the NDP5 and consequently provide baselines for NDP6.

Furthermore, the national MPI supports the budgetary process of the Ministry of Finance in the allocation of resources to the three sectors namely education, urban and rural development, and health. The MPI is included in the budgeting equation by the affected sectors at the national level and not necessarily the MPI poor individuals.

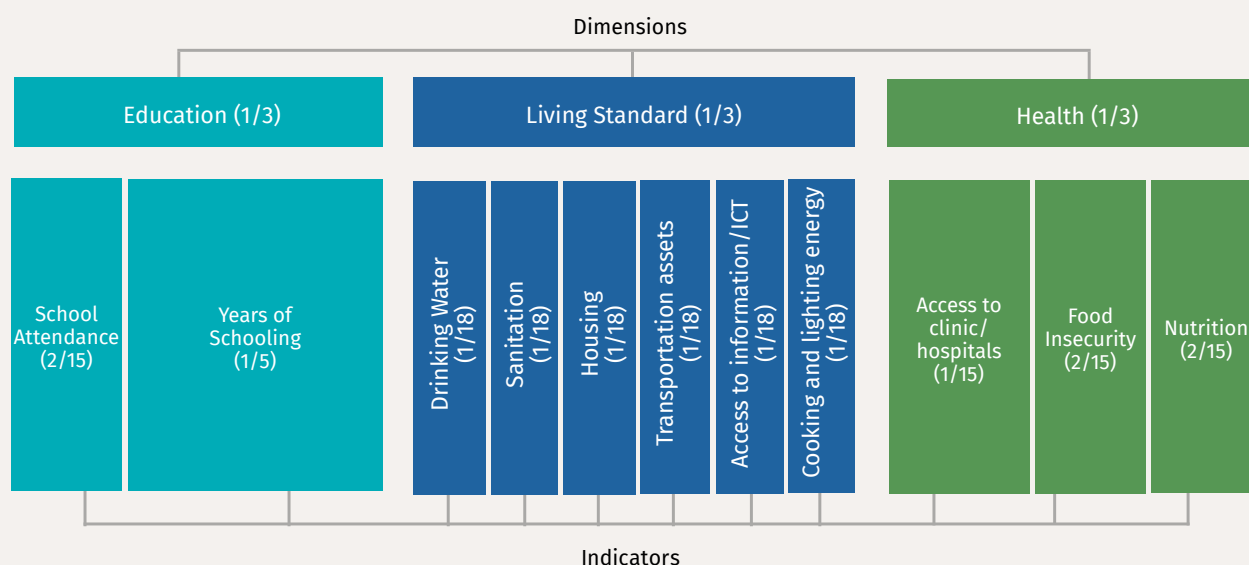
The NSA is planning regional disseminations in September 2022 from which a session on how the Regional Councils can use the MPI in its budgeting process will also be presented.

Child poverty was an important focus in the 2021 Namibia Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. How has the national MPI been used to help alleviate child poverty in Namibia?

Since the publishing of the national MPI in June 2021, two policy advocacy engagements have taken place between the NSA and UNICEF-Namibia focusing specifically on the Namibian children.

Regional infographics have also been developed and scheduled for dissemination in the 14 administrative regions of the country by the NSA and UNICEF-Namibia in 2022. ■

Figure 2. Structure of Namibia Multidimensional Poverty Index



Source: [Namibia Multidimensional Poverty Index Report](#)



Incorporating the MPI into data collection in Ghana: An interview with Francis Mensah



Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) launched the first official national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of Ghana in 2020 and has since focused on regular data updates to keep the MPI relevant for informing policymaking. In this interview, Francis Bright Mensah, Head of National Accounts and Economic Indicators at GSS, shares the process of introducing a new poverty measure with Kelly-Ann Fonderson.

Which stakeholders were involved in creating the national MPI in Ghana?

Two committees were set up to create the national MPI in Ghana: The Steering Committee and the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee had representation from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), academia (University of Cape Coast), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The Steering Committee had members from the Ghana Statistical Service, academia (University for Development Studies, Ghana), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Development Planning Commission, the Local Government Authority, the German Federal Government through Agenda 2030, GIZ Ghana and the Ministry of Finance.

How were dimensions, indicators and weights chosen for Ghana's national MPI?

Guided by the policies of the Ghanaian government, the Technical Committee presented

nine options of candidate dimensions, indicators, and weights to the Steering Committee for approval. After several deliberations and meetings, the Steering Committee approved one of the nine options for computing the [Ghana national MPI](#).

The dimensions and indicators were chosen because they reflect the Ghanaian situation and are appropriate for measuring poverty levels. Moreover, they were guided by the policies of the government aimed at reducing poverty.

You launched Ghana's MPI in 2020, how regularly are you planning to update the MPI, and which sources of data will be used?

Following the MPI launch, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) has instituted that every major survey and census undertaken by GSS should have a section on MPI.

The MPI was incorporated into the [2021 Population and Housing Census](#) (PHC). In 2022 the MPI will be incorporated into the [Annual Household and Income Expenditure Survey](#) (AHIES), which is ongoing [and generates quarterly results].

In September 2022, the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey will be conducted, and all MPI indicators will be incorporated into the questionnaire.

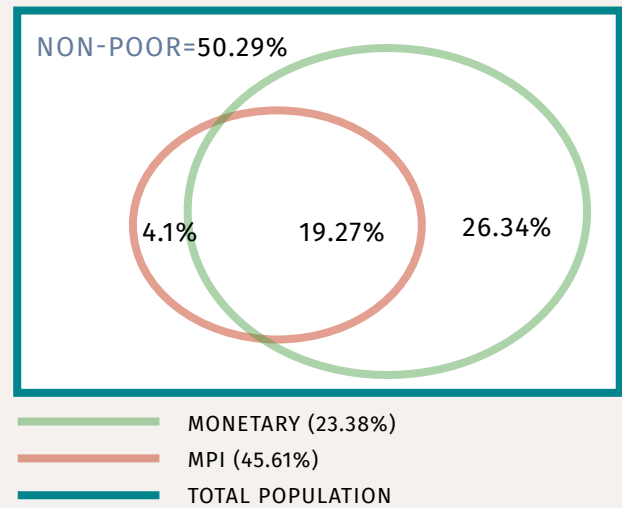
How is the MPI being used to engage with local stakeholders and inform district budget allocation?

GSS has produced the tables of the district-level MPI from the 2021 Population and Housing Census and will be engaging the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA) to train them on the MPI and guide them through the MPI estimates or tables generated to prepare the district MPI. 30 districts will be engaged in this activity. Local stakeholders will further be engaged in validating and disseminating the MPI report.

Currently, GSS is preparing to release the 2022 Q1 and Q2 MPI report from an Annual Income and Expenditure Survey. The same dimensions and indicators from the census were used for the quarterly report to be releases.

Ultimately, it is hoped that the MPI will inform the allocation of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF), which according to the Ghanaian constitution requires that the Central Government allocate at least five per cent of national revenue into the DACF, which is distributed among all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and forms a core part of their revenue. ■

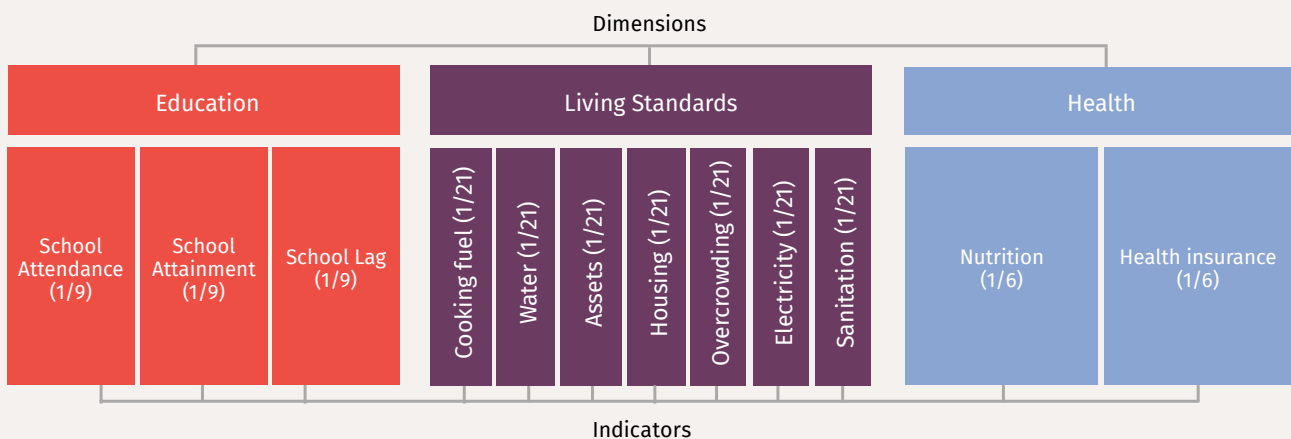
Figure 1. Comparison between monetary and non-monetary poverty 2017



Source: Ghana Statistical Service

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of Ghana is intended to be a useful tool to gain an integrated perspective of what it means to live in poverty by complementing the monetary measure of poverty. The two approaches provide the most efficient ways of tackling the different dimensions that keep Ghanaians in poverty. As this diagram shows the two approaches of poverty measurement do not completely overlap revealing a proportion of the population who might otherwise be left behind.

Figure 2. Structure of Ghana Multidimensional Poverty Index



Source: Ghana Statistical Service. (2020) *Multidimensional Poverty – Ghana*.



Multidimensional poverty in Mexico in the context of the COVID-19 health emergency

Mariana Rosalía Galindo Orozco, Carlos Fabián Fuentes Rivas, María Guadalupe Alcántara Manjarrez, and Aketzali Natividad Martínez Santiago

The methodology of multidimensional measurement of poverty in Mexico links two analytical spheres: economic wellbeing and social rights. The latter includes indicators of [social deprivations](#) (education lag, access to health services, access to social security, housing quality and housing spaces, access to utilities at home, and access to nutritious and quality food.)

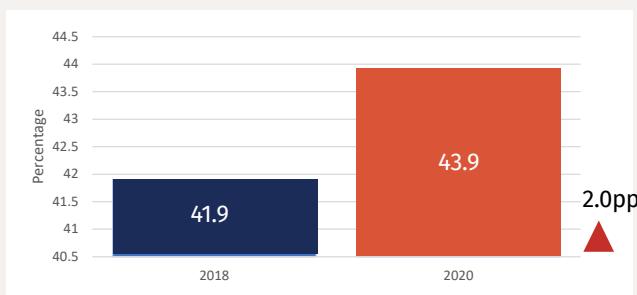
In Mexico, the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) is the institution responsible for carrying out the multidimensional measurement of poverty based on data from the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (ENIGH), generated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). The most up-to-date data are from 2020,

which provide an overview of the implications of income and social deprivations of Mexicans in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This article provides a summary of the main findings.

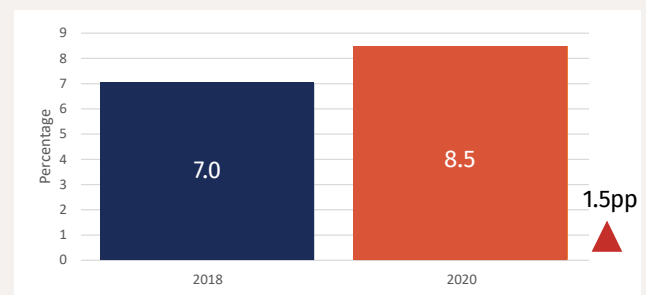
Evolution of the main indicators of poverty and social deprivations

Between 2018 and 2020, the percentage of people living in multidimensional poverty in Mexico rose from 41.9% to 43.9%, which is an increase of 3.8 million more people living in poverty (from 51.9 to 55.7 million people). Similarly, the percentage of the population living in extreme poverty went up from 7.0% to 8.5% between 2018 and 2020, representing an increase of 2.1 million more people living in extreme poverty, which rose from 8.7 to 10.8 million.

Percentage of the population in multidimensional poverty, 2018–2020

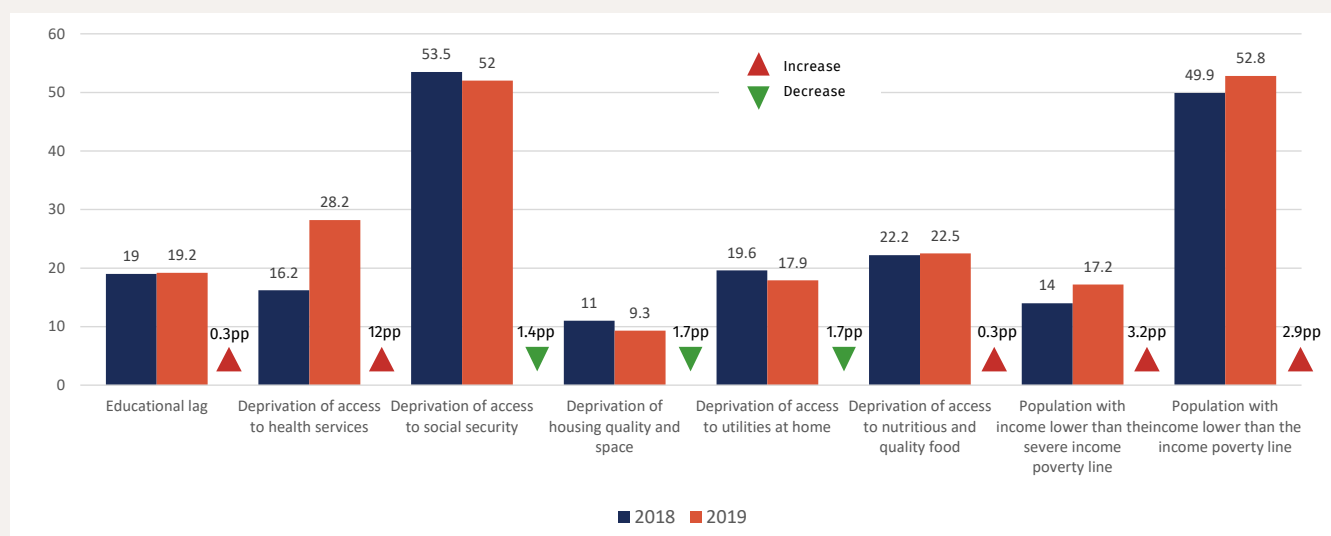


Percentage of the population in extreme poverty, 2018–2020



Source: CONEVAL's estimates, based on ENIGH 208 and 2020. NB: percentage points (pp); the differences may vary due to rounding.

Percentage of the population by indicator of social deprivation and economic welfare, 2018–2020



Source: CONEVAL's estimates, based on ENIGH 2018 and 2020.

NB: percentage points (pp); the differences may vary due to rounding.

Accessing health services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, of the six deprivations considered the lack of access to health services showed the greatest increase between 2018 and 2020, going from 16.2% to 28.2% of the population, representing an increase of 15.6 million people compared to 2018. It should be mentioned that an institutional process of administrative and operational transition occurred in the health system at the same time, focusing on the people who had no social security, which involved the creation of the [National Institute of Health for Wellbeing \(INSABI\)](#) in early 2020, and the termination of People's Insurance.

Economic wellbeing

In the sphere of economic wellbeing, the income of families was mainly affected by the health emergency caused by COVID-19. Against this background, between 2018 and 2020, the total current income per person per month (at 2020 prices) decreased by 6.9% at the national level.

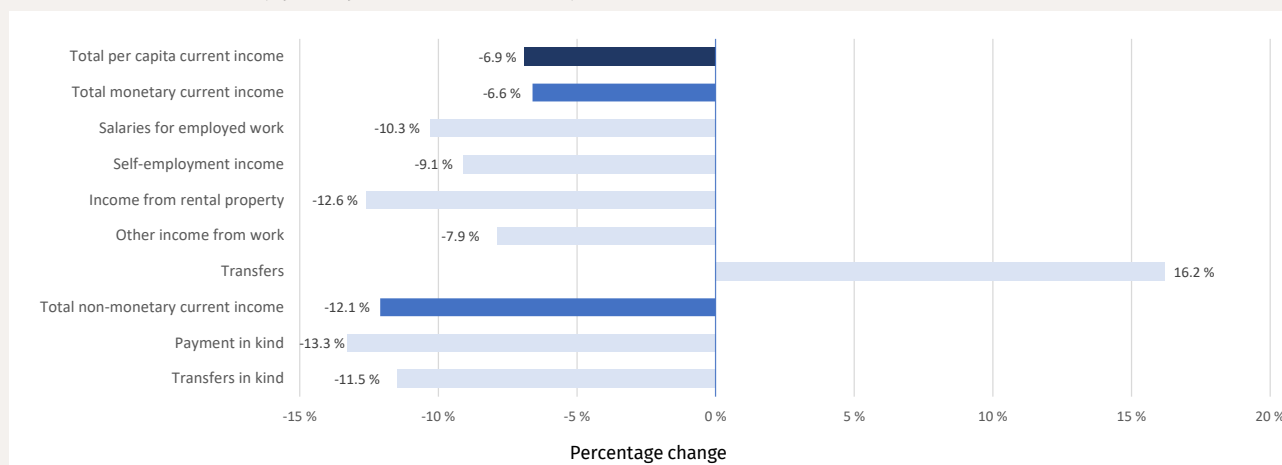
The fall in income was reflected in the increase of the percentage of the population who had an income

below the extreme income poverty line (LPEI), which went from 14.0% to 17.2% at the national level between 2018 and 2020. In other words, during this period, the number of people who were spending all their income on buying food but who were still unable to purchase the products of the food basket, rose from 17.3 to 21.9 million people.

On the other hand, the percentage of the population with an income below the income poverty line (LPI) rose from 49.9% to 52.8% between 2018 and 2020. This means that there was an increase from 61.8 to 66.9 million people who did not have sufficient money to acquire the goods and services needed to meet their needs (food and non-food).

Analysis of the source of income enables us to see the impact on employment. Between 2018 and 2020, there was a decrease of 10.3% in income derived from wages for employed work the largest category of income in Mexico, accounting for about 60.0% of wages. Likewise, income from self-employment declined by a similar amount (9.1%) during this period. In contrast, the only line of income that showed an increase at the national level was transfers, which showed an expansion of 16.2% between 2018 and 2020.

Variation in total monthly per capita current income by source of income, Mexico, 2018-2020



Source: CONEVAL's estimates, based on ENIGH 2018 and 2020.

The short-term data on labour obtained through the National Employment and Occupation Survey (ENOE) by INEGI shows that between the first quarter of 2020 (before the pandemic) and the third quarter of 2020 (once the pandemic had started), there was a reduction of 4.2 million people in employment, and a 3.9% decrease in the average labour income of those who remained employed.

The lack of access to health services showed the greatest increase between 2018 and 2020, going from 16.2% to 28.2% of the population.

On the one hand, the main effects hit people who were employed informally, with 3.1 million fewer people employed, and an 8.1% drop in their average labour income. Women were also impacted: there were 2.2 million fewer women employed informally, with a 6.5% reduction in their average labour income.

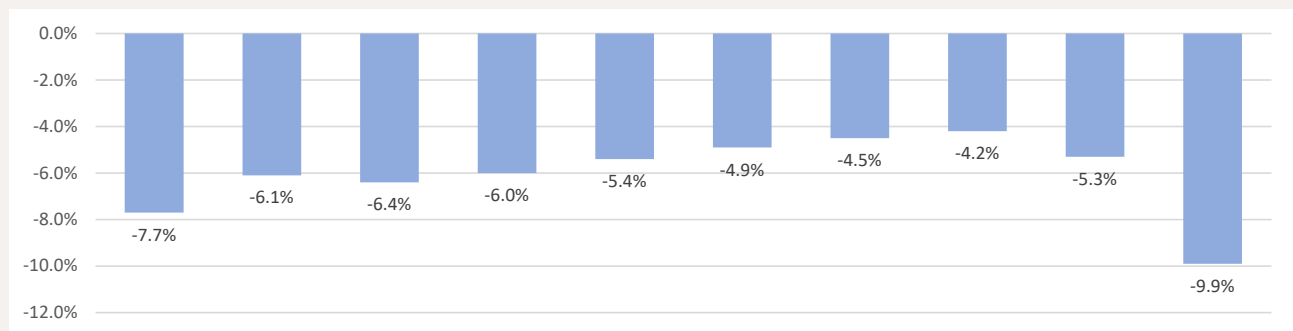
Informally employed women were therefore the most affected, since, in addition to their labour income being approximately half the national average, their labour participation was further reduced, compared to their male counterparts.



When we explore the total current income per capita according to deciles of income (deciles that have been constructed by dividing the population into 10 equal parts, arranged by total current income per capita from lower to higher), it is observed that Decile I (10% of the population with lower income) experienced the second largest decrease (7.7%) between 2018 and 2020, whereas Decile X (10% of the population with the highest income) had the greatest decrease (9.9%). Although the greatest reduction in average income occurred in Decile X, it should be noted that, on average, income fell more in 50% of the population with lower incomes than in 50% of the population with higher incomes: 6.3% against 5.7%.



Variation in total current income per capita per month according to income decile, 2018-2020



Source: CONEVAL's estimates, based on ENIGH 2018 and 2020.

Based on the exercises and analysis carried out by CONEVAL, it was found in 2020 that monetary transfers from social programmes had a relevant impact by helping 4.6 million people have an income equal to or greater than the monetary value of the food basket (LPEI). (CONEVAL, 2021). This reflects the importance of social programmes for people who are poorer.

Conclusion

The multidimensional measurement of poverty in Mexico serves as a tool to identify the challenges that a social development policy must face.

Based on the information collected from 2018 and 2020, it was found that the dimensions of the measurement of multidimensional poverty that had

been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic were the lack of access to health services and the income of families. Thus, it is important to strengthen the functioning and availability of public health services, especially those focused on the most vulnerable population, since adverse events such as COVID-19 can affect not only their health, but also their economic stability and assets.

Finally, it is imperative to promote the sustained recovery of salaries for employed work, since it is the main source of household income, as well as the working conditions of women who work informally, because they were the most affected by the health contingency, both by the drop in their participation in the labour market, and by the reduction of their income. ■



Oaxaca: the largest decline of multidimensional poverty and extreme poverty in a decade

By Edith Yolanda Martínez López

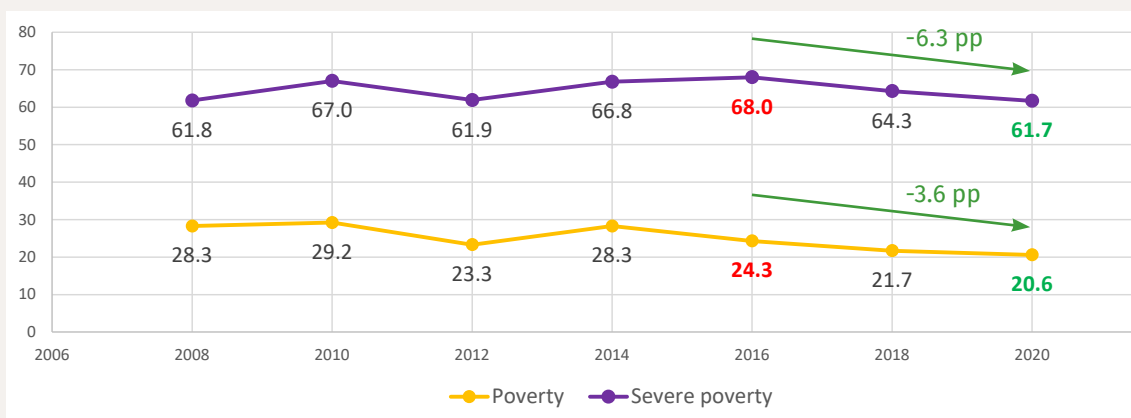
In 2021, Mexico's National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) presented the results of the most recent multidimensional measurements of poverty at the state and municipal levels for 2020. As far as the results of state poverty are concerned, this is the second measurement made during the administration of Governor Alejandro Murat Hinojosa.

The results of these estimations are both revealing and interesting. Even though Oaxaca has suffered devastating natural disasters in recent years, like an earthquake in 2017 in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec

(resulting in more than 63,000 homes, schools, and hospitals damaged), as well as being hit by hurricanes, droughts, and the COVID-19 pandemic, this Mexican state has seen the largest reduction in poverty, as well as severe poverty, in the last decade.

CONEVAL's results show that between 2016 and 2020, 90,684 people were lifted out of poverty, and 88,880 out of severe poverty. In the following graph, we can see the evolution of poverty and severe poverty in Oaxaca since 2008, when CONEVAL started the multidimensional measurement of poverty.

Evolution in the percentage of population living in poverty and severe poverty 2008–2020

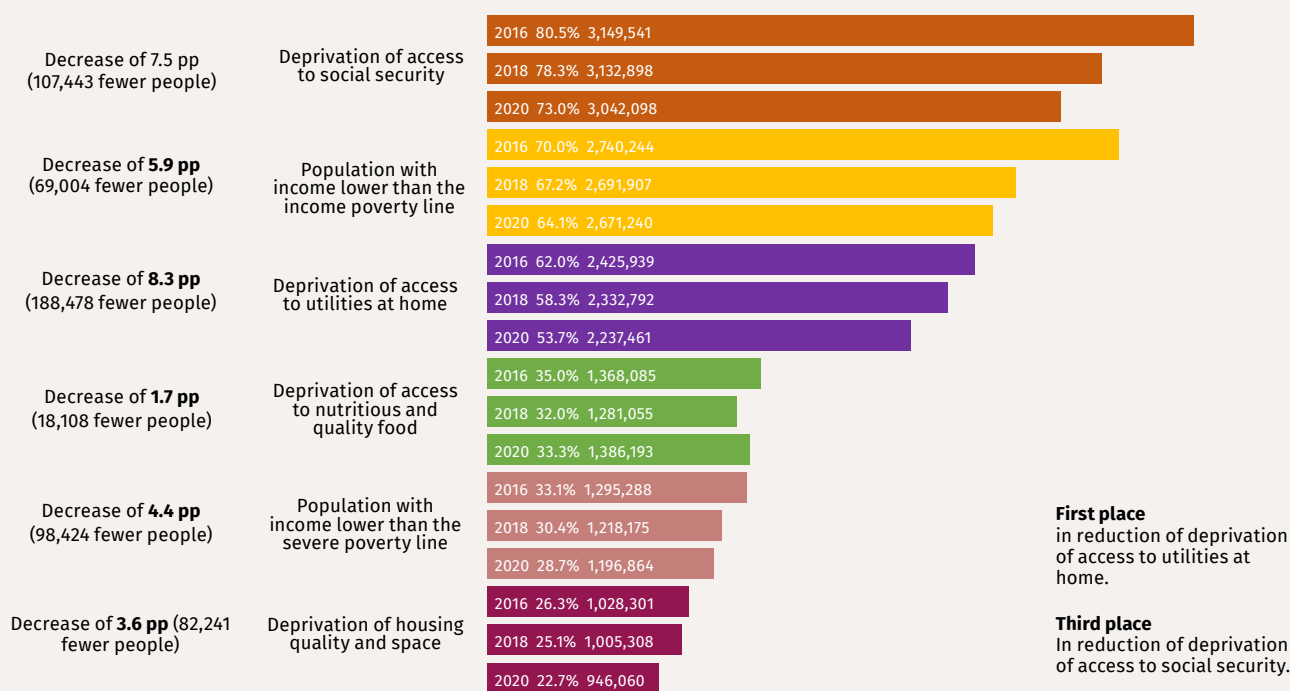


Source: CONEVAL, [Measuring poverty 2008–2020](#)

It is important to mention that improvements were observed in four of the six social deprivations by which CONEVAL measures poverty. There were also

substantial advances in the population with incomes below the income poverty line, and in the population with incomes below the severe income poverty line.

Variation in social deprivations in Oaxaca, 2016–2020



Source: CONEVAL, [Measuring poverty 2008–2020](#)

This Mexican state has seen the largest reduction in poverty as well as severe poverty in the last decade.

Contrary to country's national trends, that unfortunately show a growth in poverty and in severe poverty, Oaxaca can tell a different story to the world. What did we do differently? Why does Oaxaca present this significant decrease? These results are a consequence of a strategy to combat poverty, described extensively [in my previous article](#), and I would like to highlight, due to their importance, these five lines of action:

1) Strategic planning through quantitative and qualitative diagnoses

Quantitative diagnostics

By using the results of the multidimensional measurement of poverty at the municipal level in 2015, we developed diagnoses that allowed us to accurately identify the most pressing social deprivations and sub-deprivations.

Qualitative diagnostics

In collaboration with academic institutions and research centres, we developed qualitative studies to understand the causes of poverty and establish effective interventions in coordination with federal agencies.



2) Geolocation of social deprivations

To focus support at the municipal level, we developed interactive maps that showed the degree of concentration of the population or homes for a group of social sub-deprivations at both street and neighbourhood levels.

Municipal governments), allowing the inclusion of academia, the private sector, and civil society for executing programmes and actions oriented to social development.

3) Focusing actions by targeting State Public Investment

Based on the data generated with quantitative and qualitative diagnoses, as well as the maps of social deprivations, we targeted public state investment to implement priority and permanent actions with a focus on the municipal level.

5) Digital tools for monitoring and evaluation

To monitor compliance with the goals of the social programmes and actions, we created the [System of Georeferencing for Social Development Policy \(S-GPS\)](#), which is a public-access platform that houses the Single Register of Beneficiaries, georeferencing the interventions of the State Government.

4) Inter-institutional coordination

The Governor of the State set up the Committee of Attention for the Reduction of Social Deprivations, with which we developed an inter-institutional coordination scheme between the three levels of government (Federal, State, and

In this way, CONEVAL's data confirm that in Oaxaca we have drawn a suitable strategic route to address the deficiencies of Oaxacans, contributing to reducing poverty and severe poverty in our State. Thus, in the State Government, through the Secretary of Welfare, we continue working in order to leave no one behind, and to transform the global from the local. ■



The intersection of gender, forced displacement, and multidimensional poverty

By Sophie Scharlin-Pettee¹

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) disproportionately suffer chronic deprivations, such as food insecurity, temporary housing, and [limited access to services and employment](#). Women and girls in forced displacement also face [increased vulnerabilities](#), including greater health and [gender-based violence](#) risks than their male peers. To evaluate the intersection of forced displacement, multidimensional poverty, and gender, we developed a gender-sensitive Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for forcibly displaced populations in five Sub-Saharan African countries: Ethiopia, Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

indicators differ. For health, we evaluate food security, early marriage, antenatal care, and physical safety, rather than nutrition and child mortality, and for living standards, we replace the assets indicator with the main method of garbage disposal. We also include a fourth dimension covering unemployment, legal identification, and bank account ownership.

Secondly, the poverty cutoff identifies those deprived in at least half of the weighted indicators as multidimensionally poor, rather than at least a third of the weighted indicators, as is the case with the global MPI.

Our results show that forcibly displaced communities are poorer than host communities in all five countries

The MPI measures deprivations with 15 indicators across four dimensions (education, health, living standards, and financial security) and diverges from the global MPI in two key ways. Firstly, some

Our results show that forcibly displaced communities are poorer than host communities in all five countries, although the most salient indicator differs by country. Among the poor in Ethiopia, deprivations are highest for displaced communities in bank account ownership and cooking fuel; in Nigeria, legal identification; in Somalia, years of schooling; in South Sudan, drinking water; and in Sudan, electricity. We also find that female-headed households are poorer than male-headed households in most countries, and that displaced female-headed households are poorer than their non-displaced counterparts.

¹ Written with Yeshwas Admasu, Sabina Alkire, Uche Eseosa Ekhatior-Mobayode, Fanni Kovessi, and Julieth Santamaria. Published as Admasu, Yeshwas; Alkire, Sabina; Scharlin-Pettee, Sophie. 2021. Multidimensional Poverty, Gender, and Forced Displacement: A Multi-Country, Intrahousehold Analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa. Policy Research Working Paper, No. 9823. World Bank, Washington, DC. ©World Bank. License: CC BY 3.0 IGO. Also published as Admasu, Y., Alkire, S. and Scharlin-Pettee, S. (2022). 'Multidimensional poverty, gender, and forced displacement: A multi-country, intrahousehold analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa', OPHI Working Paper 139, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.



Generally, we observe that displacement affects a household's poverty status, whereas gender affects intrahousehold inequality, and that among the multidimensionally poor, children in displaced households – and especially girls – face greater barriers to educational equity than their non-displaced peers.

These educational findings predate the global pandemic and highlight potential [long-term repercussions of school closures](#) both for the generation already out-of-school and for the children who recently became deprived in school attendance.

Overall, our findings reinforce the need to unpack headline MPI findings at lower levels, be it within the household or across geographic regions, to best inform policymakers where to deploy targeted, evidence-based anti-poverty interventions.

Dimension	Indicator	Household is deprived if ...	Weight
Education	Years of schooling	No eligible household member has completed at least 6 years of schooling. ¹	1/8
	School attendance	Any child of primary school age is not attending school up to class 6.	1/8
Health	Food security	In the past 7 days, there was ever a time when there was not enough food or money for food.	1/16
	Pregnancy care	A woman who gave birth in the last 2 years did not visit a clinic while pregnant or have a trained assistant during delivery.	1/16
	Physical safety	Any member feels unsafe at home or walking alone. ²	1/16
	Early marriage	A member was married before age 19.	1/16
Living Standards	Garbage disposal	Main method of solid waste disposal is dumping, burying in own compound, burning, or other.	1/24
	Drinking water	Main source of drinking water is unsafe, or it takes more than 20 minutes (round-trip) to get water. ³	1/24
	Electricity	It does not have electricity.	1/24
	Cooking fuel	Main energy source for cooking is solid fuels.	1/24
	Housing	It is an unimproved housing type.	1/24
	Sanitation	Main toilet facility is unimproved or shared with other households. ⁴	1/24
Financial Security	Unemployment	Any member 15 or older is unemployed and looking for work. ⁵	1/12
	Legal identification Bank account	No member has a form of legal identification.	1/12
	Bank account	No member has a bank or mobile money account.	1/12

¹ Eligibility is determined by primary school starting age in the country. Those aged 6 years or older than the starting age are eligible. For starting age in each country, see [UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Data for the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

² A household is deprived if the respondent reports feeling moderately or very unsafe when alone at home, walking alone after dark, or walking around during the day. In Sudan, the indicator on the 'feeling safe from crime and violence when at home' was not available, and the indicator only considers answers to the questions on safety when walking alone.

³ Unprotected dug well, unprotected spring, carts with tank, tanker-truck, surface water, or other are considered as unsafe waters sources according to international guidelines. See the [WHO/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme, Drinking Water](#).

⁴ Pit latrine without slab, bucket, hanging toilet, no facility (open defecation) facilities are considered as unimproved sanitation facilities according to international guidelines. See the WHO/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme, [Sanitation](#).

⁵ According to the ILO definition, those who did not participate in employment in the last four weeks (and have no work to return to), are actively looking for work and are available to start, or those currently waiting to start work are classed as unemployed. See ILO, Unemployment Rate. ■



Finance and multidimensional poverty: harnessing the former to eliminate the latter

By John Hammock

In February 2022, Citigroup and SOPHIA Oxford launched a report presenting a robust social metrics framework for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing and impact assessment using a multidimensional poverty approach.

This groundbreaking framework – available to investors in equity and the debt capital markets, finance ministers and business executives – has the potential to shift the paradigm of social investment by unlocking a US\$1.6 trillion opportunity through engaging the private sector in achieving SDG 1.

This focus on the use of the proven Oxford multidimensional poverty approach in social investment will complement the work being done directly with corporations on measuring and impacting the wellbeing of employees.

Oxford University Innovation, OPHI and SOPHIA Oxford have created a new, private

company—called Wise Responder Inc.—to provide investors, corporates and governments with robust social factor analytics that can be traced from the capital market down to help individual people.

Almost two trillion dollars are being invested in ESG investment vehicles annually. And yet to date the instruments for investing and tracking the impact of social dimensions are weak.

The Citi-SOPHIA Oxford collaboration has uncovered a robust way to improve this. The [Citi-SOPHIA Oxford report](#) details a new way to reach those left behind through investments. SOPHIA Oxford has spun-out a new company Wise Responder to lead this work. Wise Responder Inc. will work with Finance Ministers in the development of social bonds linked to multidimensional poverty.

This will dovetail and complement the work of OPHI and national governments on national MPIs.



This will incorporate investments made through national and international bonds into the effort to reduce and eliminate poverty.

The Citi-SOPHIA Oxford report details a new way to reach those left behind through investments.

As MPPN participants know, poverty includes many social deprivations that people suffer at the same time. This idea has already caught on with governments. It is time for it to catch on with corporations, investors and issuers of bonds and social investment instruments. If we are going to tackle poverty globally, we are going to have to get the private sector involved in the social aspects of wellbeing and inequality upfront. We now have the tools for the private sector to do this.

The new methodology will provide financial markets with high frequency estimates of poverty and wellbeing data and at the same time provide regionally relevant frameworks to corporates and governments for benchmarking and showing sustainability leadership.

So, what does this mean for the wellbeing of employees or citizens?

It means that governments and companies can access more favourable pools of capital. It provides investors with robust impact metrics.

This social investment supports those companies investing in upgrading their human resources function to capture, measure, and act on social deprivations and assess impact. It can support government electrification, sanitation, and education programmes so that employees or citizens escape multidimensional poverty with their families.

At the launch of the Citi-SOPHIA Oxford Report, Carlos Alvarado, the former President of Costa Rica said, “The report presented by Citigroup and SOPHIA Oxford has the potential to be a game changer in the fight against poverty. Just as the MPI revolutionized the social policy of the government in Costa Rica and in many other countries around the world, its application as an ESG factor, as proposed in this report, can transform the equity and debt capital markets into powerful engines to end poverty, to comply with SDG 1.”

For further information Wise Responder can be reached at www.wiseresponder.com. ■



Using the MPI to maximise equitable programming in a flagship sexual and reproductive health programme

By Meg McLaren

[MSI Reproductive Choices](#) is made up of 9,000 team members working across 37 countries to deliver compassionate, high-quality sexual and reproductive healthcare for all. We currently serve more than 75,000 people daily with services and products, and an estimated 34 million women and girls worldwide use a method of contraception provided by us.

There are still over 35 million unsafe abortions happening globally every year, and over [257 million](#) women and girls want but have little or no access to contraception. Our ambition is bold: by 2030, no abortion will be unsafe and everyone who wants contraception will be able to access it.

To achieve this goal, it is critical that no one is left behind: a pillar underpinning our strategy, [MSI 2030](#). [Evidence shows](#) that people living in poverty have disproportionate barriers to accessing sexual and

reproductive health services, so to level this inequality we will ensure that by 2030, the proportion of MSI clients served meets or exceeds the national poverty level.

The MPI was the metric that made most sense for assessing our impact primarily.

Expanding access to marginalised groups has been a core tenet of the organisation for decades. Our mobile outreach approach, in operation for over three decades, was designed to serve the hardest to reach.

MSI has collected data on the socio-economic status of clients for 11 years through over 160,000 exit interviews and through millions of client visits in countries utilising MSI's pioneering approach to



the routine collection of poverty data. This data has been used to drive the design and implementation of programmes that are amongst the most equitable globally.

A recent catalyst for additional learning on equity has been MSI's role as the lead partner on Lot 1 of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) flagship [Women's Integrated Sexual Health \(WISH\) programme](#).

In the lead up to the programme, MSI explored the nuances of a variety of benchmarks for success in reaching those in poverty, a learning process that has continued across the course of WISH.

MSI trialled a range of poverty metrics simultaneously over the course of 2018–2020, reaching the conclusion that the MPI was the metric that made most sense for assessing our impact primarily because:

1. It is standardised, holistic and conceptually straightforward to communicate across a vast organisation comprising many different countries, cultures, and experiences.
2. It enables sub-group analysis, the ability to understand how our clients are poor, and means we can benchmark against a comparable population.

We measure the MPI indicators in our annual client exit interview (CEI), a global representative survey of our clients. We calculate the incidence of poverty, H , among our clients and benchmark this against the national incidence of multidimensional poverty H for that year's global MPI.

Challenges of collecting MPI data in a programme

Administering the MPI in a healthcare exit interview setting rather than a household survey setting brings different challenges. Chiefly, we lack the same resources as larger surveys to collect anthropometric data to compute the nutrition indicator (and client feedback indicated this was uncomfortable and unacceptable in certain contexts). On the advice of OPHI, we mitigated this challenge by not measuring nutrition status, but instead doubling the weight of the other health indicator (child mortality) to account for this.

Creating a national benchmark to compare like with like

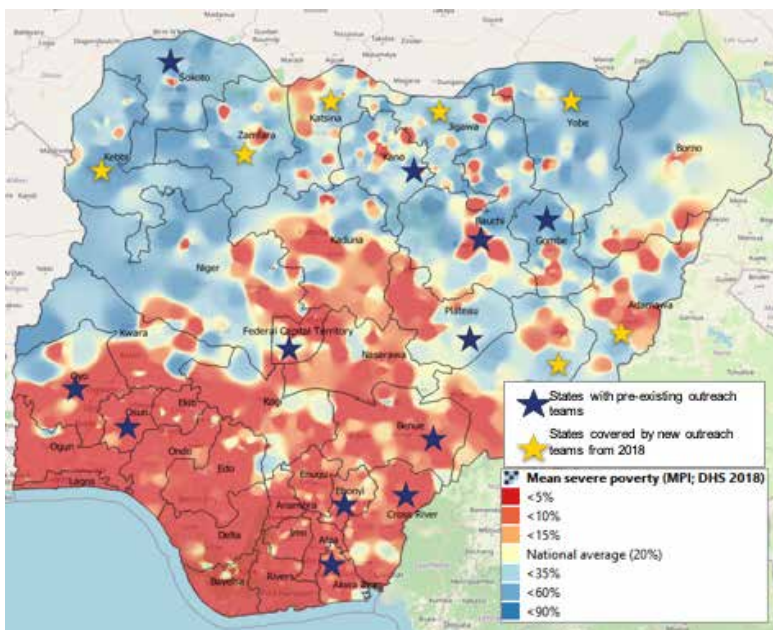
Adapting OPHI's publicly available analysis files, we recalculate national prevalence by omitting nutrition and double weighting child mortality to provide a comparable benchmark (child mortality being much less prevalent than malnutrition). To further improve the comparability of the benchmark, we also limit the national estimate to women of reproductive age (15–49) to represent the overwhelming majority of our clients.

Using MPI data in the DHS for mapping poverty

Demographic Household Survey (DHS) datasets are published with geospatial covariates, including GPS coordinates of clusters. Where the global MPI is based on a DHS dataset, we have geospatially visualised the distribution of multidimensional poverty in country in maps using [QGIS](#) (based on the mean poverty prevalence per cluster in the DHS datasets).

This supports us to identify communities with the most limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, and we tailor our outreach coverage planning accordingly to make sure no one is left behind. MSI has publicly available guidance on this process, which is forthcoming.

In Nigeria, we used one of these maps as a source of information when deciding where to expand mobile outreach services as part of the WISH programme in 2018. The percentage of outreach clients in Nigeria living in multidimensional poverty effectively doubled following expansion to these states.



The potential for collecting MPI data routinely

Given the cost and scale of the CEI, we only have one annual measure of how well we are doing at reaching people living in poverty. So, we have been exploring ways to collect data on the MPI indicators more frequently, while making sure such data collection is not too burdensome on clients during their visit.

In 2021, two of our outreach teams in Nigeria piloted asking MPI questions in random combinations of two to every client during their registration. From this data, we were able to build a proxy headcount ratio at a group level for clients served by the outreach team. We checked reliability by administering the full MPI question set to every 50th client.

The pilot found that we were able to collect reliable data on the MPI indicators in this way with minimal disruption to clients. We plan to roll this out to all priority countries in our next data systems upgrade at the end of 2022.

We will continue to innovate using the poverty data available to maximise our reach and look forward to sharing further insights and learning from this work. ■

Innovations, collaborations and forthcoming MPIs shared at UNGA 77 Side Event hosted by Nigeria

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) and the Federal Government of Nigeria co-hosted a high-level in person side-event at the 77th United Nations General Assembly on Friday 23 September convening world leaders and policymakers to discuss the topic [‘Driving multidimensional poverty reduction to secure well-being for all’](#).

At the event, co-organized with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford, twenty-one high-level representatives from countries and international agencies shared the innovative and collaborative ways in which multidimensional poverty indices are being used to drive multidimensional poverty reduction and secure well-being.



1.- Panelists of the MPPN event. **2.-** Prince Clem Ikanade Agba, Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria, and Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. **3.-** Hala Helmy ElSaid, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt, and Samheng Boros, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia. **4.-** Dr Zainab Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria **5.-** Sabina Alkire, OPHI Director **6.-** Ministerial Panel.

Day in the Life

Nyawala from South Sudan

Nyawala, 52, and her young granddaughter, 9, fled a crisis in Southern Sudan and live in a refugee settlement in Northern Uganda. In the mornings Nyawala takes her granddaughter to play with other children in the settlement and takes a reflective walk.

Sometimes she feels lonely, but through her cell phone she can keep in contact with relatives in neighbouring settlements or back home. Fortunately, no child has died in Nyawala’s household.

Nyawala’s housing has a dirt floor and two beds, a solar lamp and a power outlet charged by a low-cost solar panel. For water the women walk together with jerrycans to a common borehole well that is more than a 30-minute roundtrip walk from the settlement, and their latrine toilets are shared with eight other households.

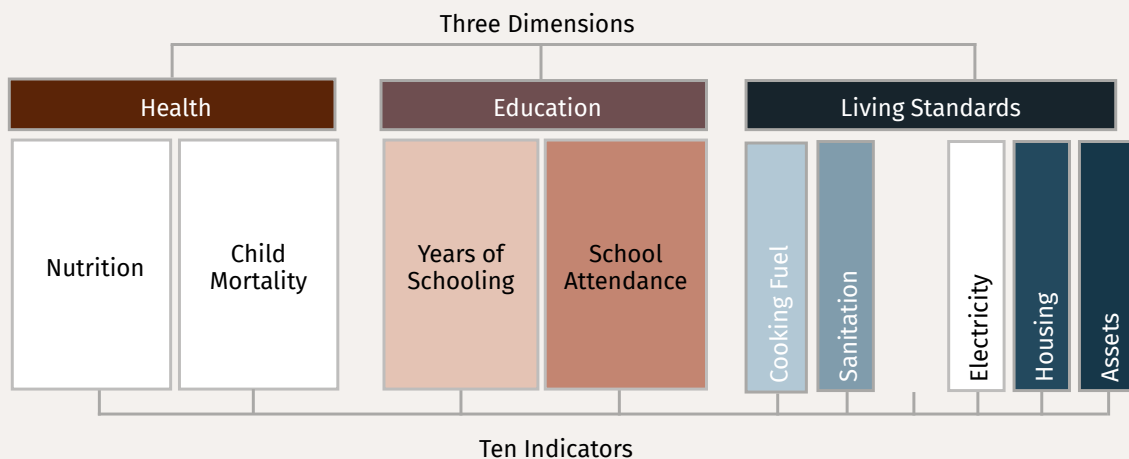
Nyawala’s granddaughter has missed several years of school because of the conflict, and Nyawala hopes to enrol her soon in the settlement’s primary school so she can catch up and achieve the education level that Nyawala was not able to complete.



Like other families in the settlement, Nyawala uses firewood to cook rice, maize meal and grains, and while they are occasionally food insecure, they are not deprived in nutrition. Nyawala and her granddaughter have few belongings, but they are proud to have the cell phone and the solar lamp—and each other.

Nyawala and her granddaughter are considered multidimensionally poor because they are deprived in seven indicators, which in this case translates into a deprivation score of 61.1%. Furthermore, they are living in severe multidimensional poverty because their deprivation score is higher than 50%. ■

Nyawala’s deprivation chart. The coloured boxes show the deprivations that her household faces across the MPI.



Source: UNDP and OPHI (2021). Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021 – *Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender*. United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

Data of the Month

Cameroon has witnessed substantial economic growth in the new millennium, but what has happened with poverty? A recent OPHI Working Paper has indicated that monetary and multidimensional poverty decreased in Cameroon between 2001 and 2018, albeit slowly and to varying degrees across the different demographic, socio-economic, and spatial groups of the population.

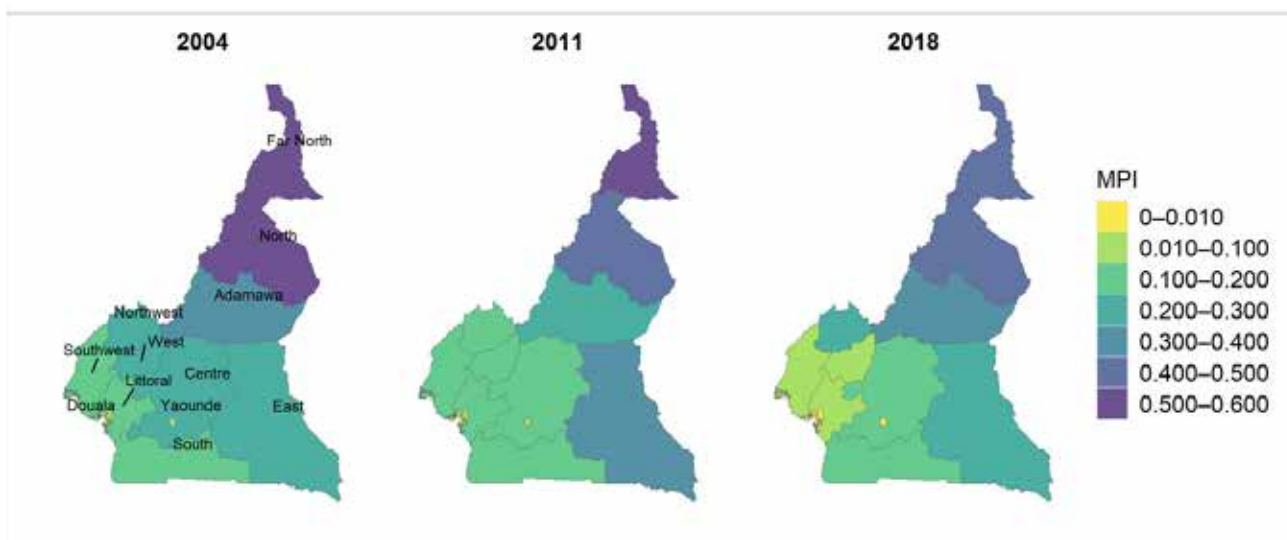
The proportion of multidimensionally poor people in Cameroon was always higher than the proportion of the monetary poor. At the same time,

multidimensional poverty has reduced much faster than monetary poverty at the national level.

Over this period, higher levels of poverty in Cameroon were strongly associated with rural livelihoods, large family size, less education, employment in agriculture, and the northern regions of the country. ■

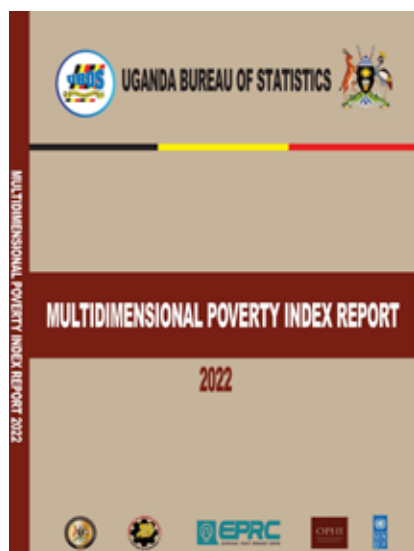
Change in the MPI at regional level in 2004, 2011, and 2018

(a) MPI



Source: Andrianarison, F., Housseini, B., and Oldiges, C. (2022). 'Dynamics and determinants of monetary and multidimensional poverty in Cameroon', OPHI Working Paper 141, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford.

New Multidimensional Poverty Index



Uganda

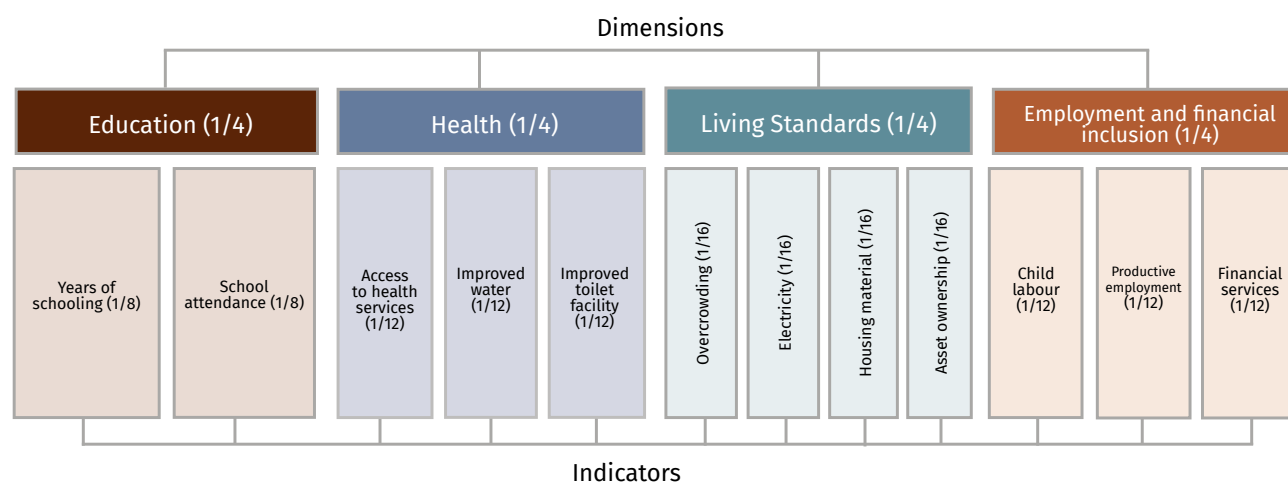
In July, the [Uganda Bureau of Statistics \(UBOS\)](#) released the first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Uganda.

The overarching objective for this [report](#) was to estimate the national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Uganda, which will be a benchmark for tracking progress in multiple deprivations that Ugandans face in the coming years, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

The Uganda MPI uses four dimensions: Education, Health, Living Standards, Employment and Financial Inclusion represented by 12 indicators, and is based on data from the 2016/17 and 2019/20 Uganda National Household Surveys.

At the national level, the incidence of multidimensional poverty was estimated at 42.1%. The average intensity of poverty was estimated at 54.5%, implying that on average, the poor are deprived in 2.2 dimensions.

Structure of Uganda Multidimensional Poverty Index



Source: [Uganda Multidimensional Poverty Index Report](#).

OPHI Summer School in Indonesia returns with hybrid offering

The Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia (FEB UI) hosted the hybrid 2022 OPHI Summer School on multidimensional poverty measurement. Twenty-three participants from eight countries attended in person in Indonesia, 21 participants from three countries attended in person in the Seychelles, and 32 participants from 14 countries joined online and in their own time zones to learn the skills required to construct, compute and analyse a Multidimensional Poverty Index and describe its policy relevance.



Participants Q&A sessions | Summer School G20 opening lecture. Prof. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Lead co-chair T20. | Balinese Ceremonial dance | Groups Photo after certificates | Group Photo After G20 Closing Ceremony.



Recommending MPI to the G20

The Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia (FEB UI) and the T20 Task Force 5 (TF5) team, in collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), hosted a culminating [Side Event](#) to act as the final and concluding forum of a series of discussions, led by the T20's Task Force 5, on solutions and policy recommendations to the challenges G20 nations are facing with

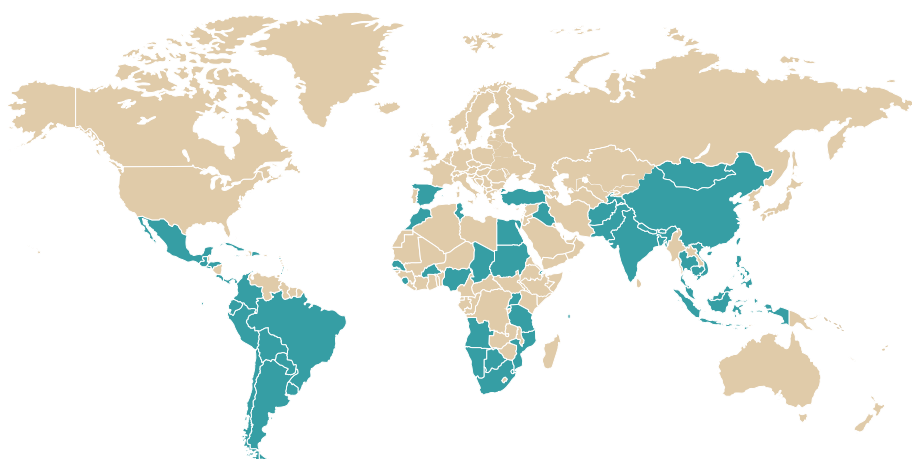
regard to poverty, inequality, human capital and wellbeing.

The potential of the MPI as a measurement tool was explored across a full day of sessions and will be incorporated into a communiqué shared with world leaders at the 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in November.

MPPN

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) is a South-South initiative that supports policymakers in developing multidimensional poverty measures.

It promotes the use of such measures for more effective poverty eradication efforts at the global, national, and local levels.



Participants in the network are Ministers and senior officials from:

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Angola](#)
- [Antigua and Barbuda](#)
- [Argentina](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
- [Bhutan](#)
- [Bolivia](#)
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- [Viet Nam](#)

Institutions

- [African Development Bank](#)
- [Commonwealth Secretariat](#)
- [Economic Commission for Latin America \(ECLAC\)](#)
- [Federal Ministry of International Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\), Government of Germany](#)
- [Inter-American Development Bank \(IDB\)](#)
- [Islamic Development Bank \(IDB\)](#)
- [Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#)
- [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\)](#)
- [Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States \(OECS\)](#)
- [Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative \(OPHI\)](#)
- [SELA – Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System](#)
- [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida](#)
- [Southern Africa Development Community \(SADC\)](#)
- [Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries \(SESRIK\)](#)
- [United Nations Development Programme](#)
- [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#)
- [Unicef](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Food Programme](#)



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Dimensions

