MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2014
16 June 2014

HIGHLIGHTS ~ AFRICA

- We have updated estimations of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) now for 14 African countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Togo. All will be live on www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/ on Monday.

- The updates go with really good news on the data: In 2010 when we launched MPI, we covered 37 African countries, using data from 2000-2007 with one country (Tanzania) having data for 2008. In 2014, we cover 37 countries. Fully 27 of them have data that are 2008 or newer. For 23 Countries we use data that are 2010 or later. This is thanks to many new DHS and MICS surveys.


  - **Every Indicator** - Gabon, Mozambique and Rwanda reduced all 10 indicators of multidimensional poverty statistically significantly. [Nutrition, Child mortality, Years of Schooling, Child School Attendance, Water, Sanitation, Electricity, Flooring, Cooking Fuel, Assets]

  - **Every Region** - Gabon, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, and Rwanda significantly reduced MPI in every single subnational region.

  - **Poorest Region** - Looking now at Africa’s achievements for the poorest, in Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Niger, the poorest region reduced poverty the most, enhancing equity across the land.

  - **Poorest Ethnic Group** – and in Kenya the poorest ethnic group reduced multidimensional poverty the fastest – it was closing the gap.

- Across our Sub-Saharan African countries we find that **85.8% of multidimensionally (MPI) poor people live in rural areas.** If we use the national income poverty figures which are published for these countries, 73.8% of those who are poor according to the national income poverty measures live in rural areas. On average across the 38 Sub-Saharan African countries, 27.4% of people in urban areas are MPI poor, whereas its 73.8% of people in rural areas. Rural poverty rates vary from a low of 20% in South Africa to a high of 96% in Niger, Ethiopia and Mali.

- We decompose 34 Sub-Saharan African countries into 363 subnational regions. **The poorest regions in Sub-Saharan Africa** are in Burkino Faso (Est, Sahel), followed by regions within Niger, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda, Benin and Mali.

- This year we also released a new 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 practicing open defecation. Our destitution results for Africa (24 countries) are significant. Destitution ranges from a low of 1% in South Africa to a high of **68.8% in Niger.** Destitute rates are 40% in the Central African Republic; 35% in DRC; 21% in Cameroon, and 9% in Ghana. Although still 58% of Ethiopians are destitute, **Ethiopia masterfully reduced destitution by 30 percentage points** – the most of any country.