

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2016

2 June 2016

HIGHLIGHTS ~ LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

All results will be live on www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/ on Wednesday 2 June 2016.

At present, the Global MPI has national estimates for a total of 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 213 subnational regions in 15 of the 18 countries, and about 505 million people, which is 85% of the population of the region. Of these, over 31 million are MPI poor. On average, 6.2% of the population in the LAC countries covered are MPI poor, whereas 5.4% of people are poor according to the \$1.90/day measure. The average intensity of MPI poverty for each poor person is 49%.

In 2016, we update MPI estimations for Brazil (using PNAD survey) and Jamaica (using JSLC survey). Every updated country has disaggregated data by rural-urban areas, and by subnational regions.

Diversity within the Region (in terms of H or incidence): As a region, LAC is moderately diverse in terms of Multidimensional Poverty levels. In eight countries less than 5% of the populations are MPI poor; in Guyana and Peru, poverty rates are 8% and 10%, respectively. In Honduras and Nicaragua, around 16% of the population are poor, in Bolivia it is just over 20%, and in Haiti 49% of the population are multidimensionally poor.

We decompose 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries into 213 subnational regions. **The poorest nine regions in Latin America and Caribbean** are in Haiti (Centre, Grande-Anse, Nord-Est, Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Sud, Nord), followed by Lempira within Honduras, and regions of Nicaragua, Suriname, and Bolivia.

Our **measure of destitution** is now computed for 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries. This 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. Our results for Latin America and the Caribbean indicate that destitution ranges from a low of **0% in St. Lucia** to a troubling high of **18.1% in Haiti**. Fully 7.75 million people are destitute in the region.

There is **good news on the data**: In 2010 when we launched MPI, we used data from 2000-2006. In 2015, we cover 18 countries, and **16 countries** these have data that are **2008 or later**. For **14 countries** we use data that are **2010 or later**.

In some Latin American countries, as in some Arab States, and in 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 social protection. We look forward to the time in which Latin America will also have a regional MPI whose parameters permit more relevant regional comparisons.