

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN ARAB COUNTRIES: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



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Table of Content

- Review of national and Regional processes
- Closer Look at the proposed regional MPI and MODA
- Our plans and how all this could be relevant to MPPN

Three countries finalized their MPIs and Eight are in process

- National MPIs in Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and expressions of interest and or national consultations ongoing in Egypt and State of Palestine, KSA, Sudan, Mauritania, Iraq, Qatar and Somalia.
- Regional MPI (led by ESCWA) and MODA (led by UNICEF) to be launched at UN, September (2017)

National Process: Technical and political bodies independent (but interacting)

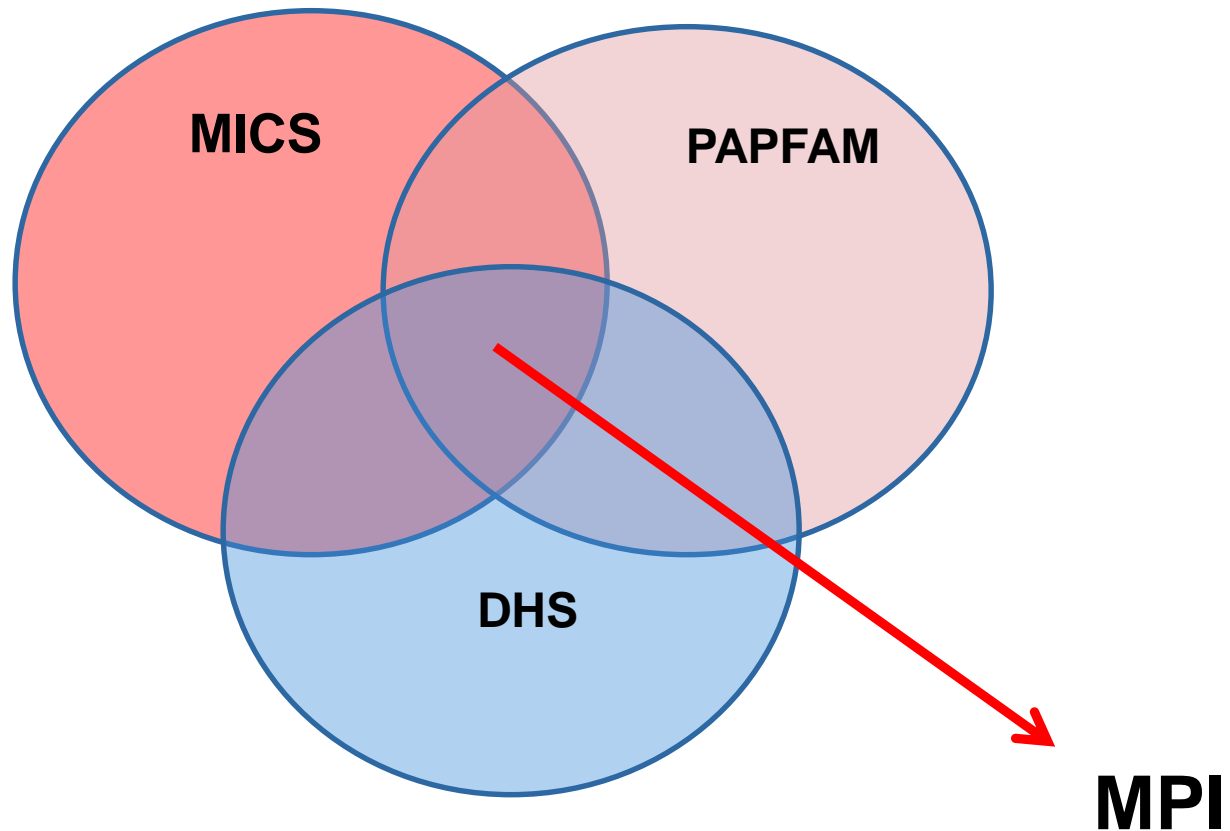
- **Technical process:** (Statistical offices, social and economic planning experts, academics, etc) with UN and/or OPHI backstopping.
- **Political process:** steering committee made up of line ministries and reporting to the PM and/or Senior Cabinet Members

Similar but more complex process at regional level

- 4 regional consultations which led to the publication of a methodology paper by ESCWA in 2014 on the MPI.
- Final consultation last week with member countries LAS, regional experts, UN agencies and OPHI endorsed the proposed MPI/MODA and submitted recommendation to the political body of the LAS.
- LAS Ministerial Council kept informed of the process by their technical secretariat which is our direct counterpart.
- Technical committee from MCs will be formed to review first draft.

The Data Challenge:

3 surveys, 14 countries and 2 points in time



Main Theme: building on the global MPI

Same dimensions and poverty cut-off so a household is 'poor' if the sum of the weighted indicators in which they are deprived is 0.33 or above.

But there are three important differences

- 1. New indicators: Overcrowding, early pregnancy, FGM.**
- 2. New deprivation thresholds.**
- 3. Combined some indicators.**

Indicators

MPI 1

MPI 2

Education (1/3)

Years of schooling Achieved - adults

1/6

Deprived if no **ADULT** (18 yrs or more) household member has completed **6 years** of schooling

Deprived if no **ADULT** (18 yrs or more) household member has completed **12 years** of schooling

School Attendance and School Gap

1/6

Deprived if any child does not attend school in the following age group : [Entry age + 1 (to allow late enrollment) ; Entry age +7 (equivalent to end of **elementary** cycle)]

Deprived if any child does not attend school in the following age group : [Entry age + 1 (to allow late enrollment) ; Entry age +11 (equivalent to end of **high-school**)] **OR** is **two years or more behind the right school grade**

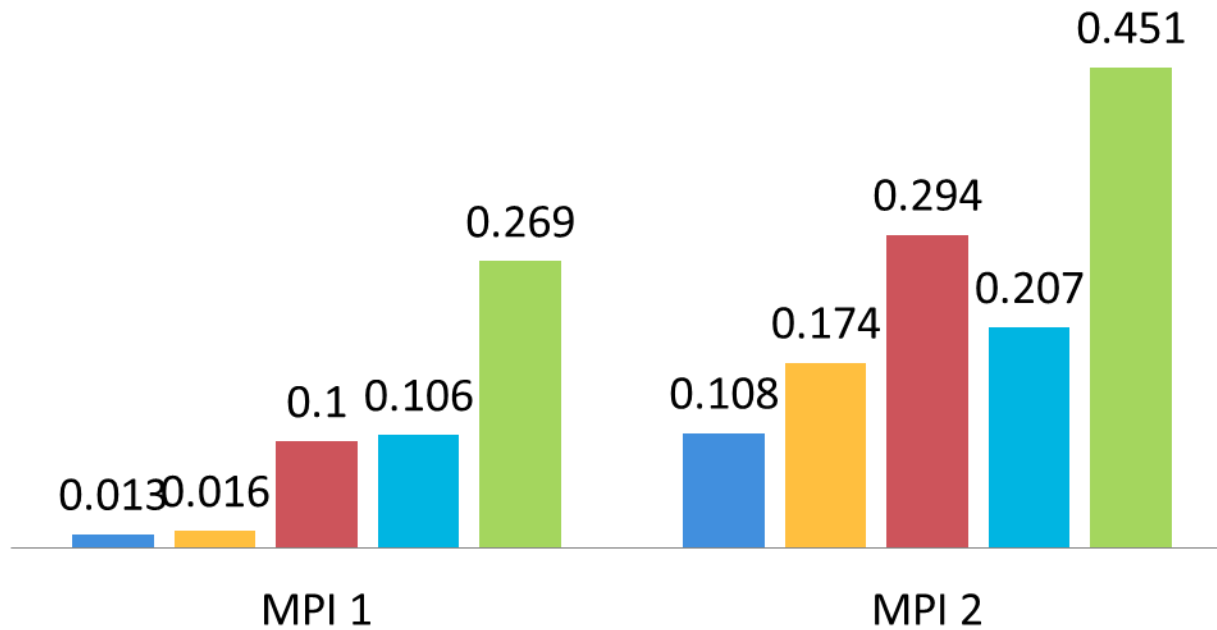
Indicators		MPI 1	MPI 2
Living Standards (1/3)	Floor, roof**	1/21	Deprived if Floor is earth, sand, dung OR if roof is not available, thatch, palm leaf or sod Deprived if floor is earth, sand, dung, rudimentary flooring (wood planks/bamboo/reeds/grass/canes), cement floor (not slab or tiles/ asphalt strips) OR Deprived if no roof, thatch/palm leaf, sod, rustic mat, palm, bamboo, wood plank, cardboard
	Overcrowding *	1/21	Deprived if 5 or more per room (<i>UN habitat Urban indicators guidelines 2009</i>) deprived if 3 or more per room (ECLAC study #79)
	Cooking Fuel, Separate space for cooking	1/21	Deprived if HH cooks with wood, charcoal or dung Deprived if HH cooks with wood, charcoal or dung OR Does not have a separate room for cooking
	Electricity	1/21	Deprived in no electricity Same cut-off
	Drinking Water	1/21	Deprived if HH does not have access to clean drinking water (MDG definition) OR if the source of clean drinking water is located 30 min away or more by walking round trip Deprived if HH does not have piped water into dwelling or yard.

Preliminary Results

(Prior to Latest Adjustment)

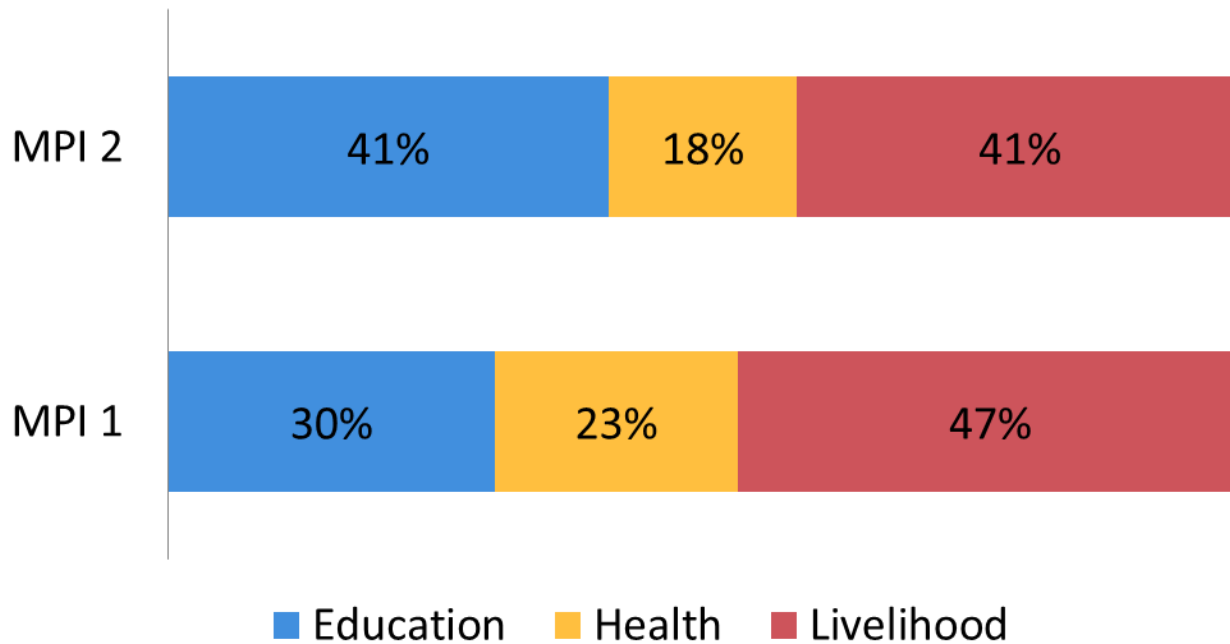
Arab MPI – Prior to Latest Adjustment

■ Palestine ■ Jordan ■ Iraq ■ Morocco ■ Sudan



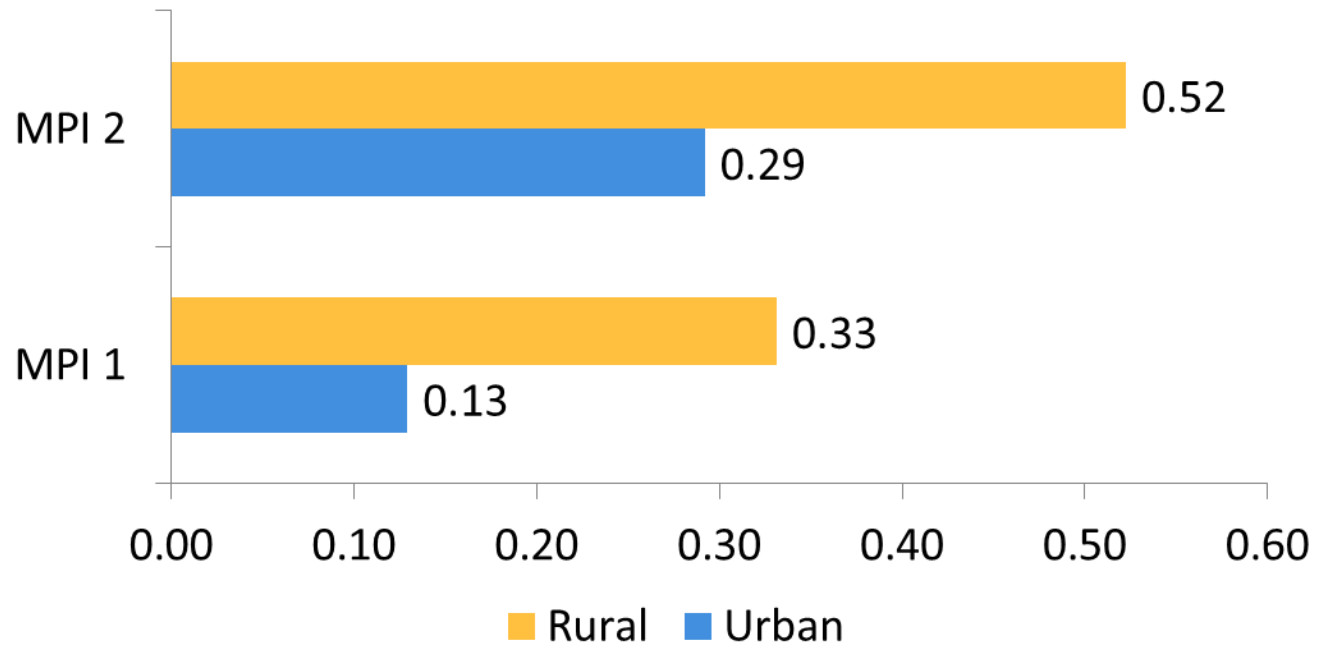
Dimensions Contributions - Sudan

(Prior to Latest Adjustment)



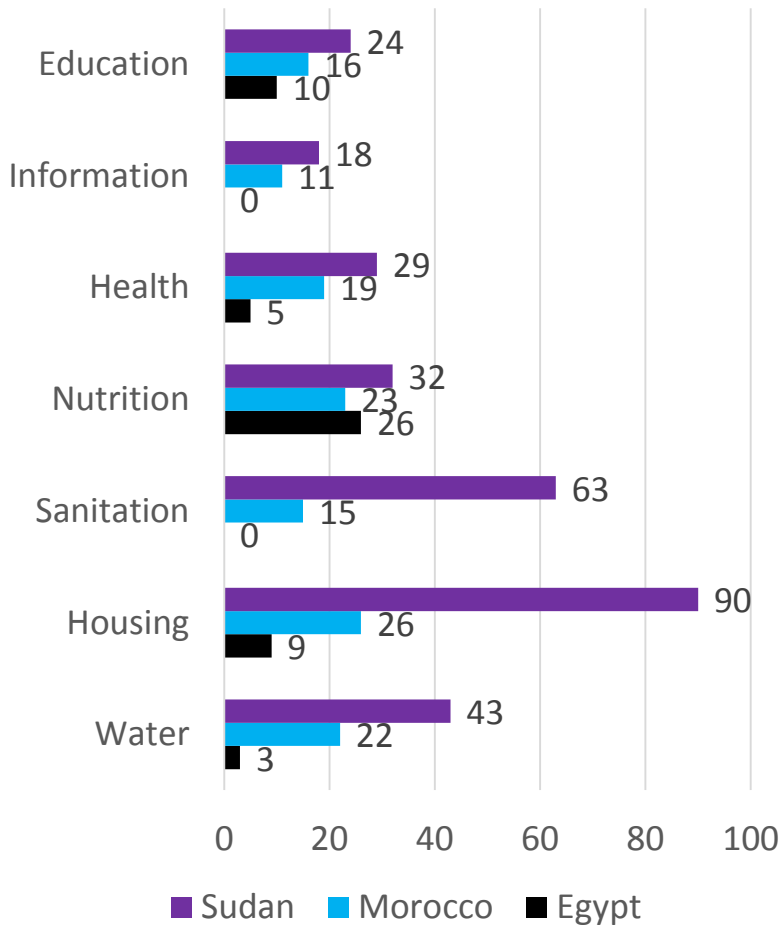
Decomposition by Region - Sudan

(Prior to Latest Adjustment)

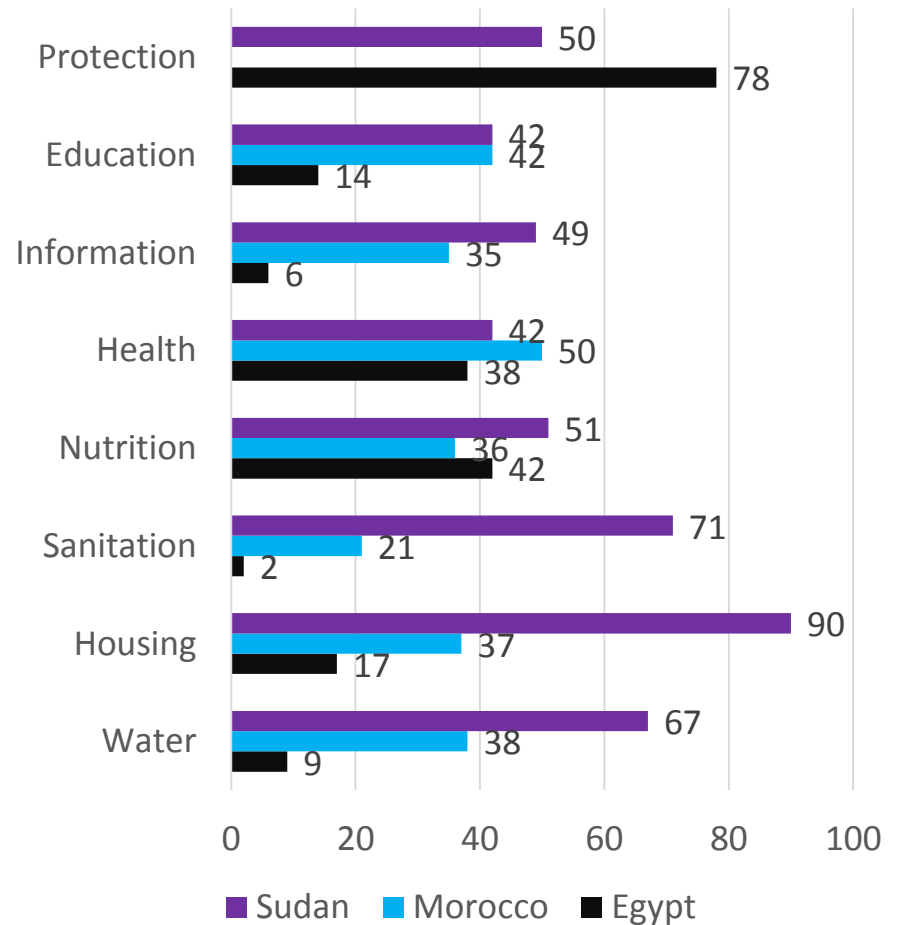


Regional MODA initial results

Deprivation rates by dimension at Severe Deprivation

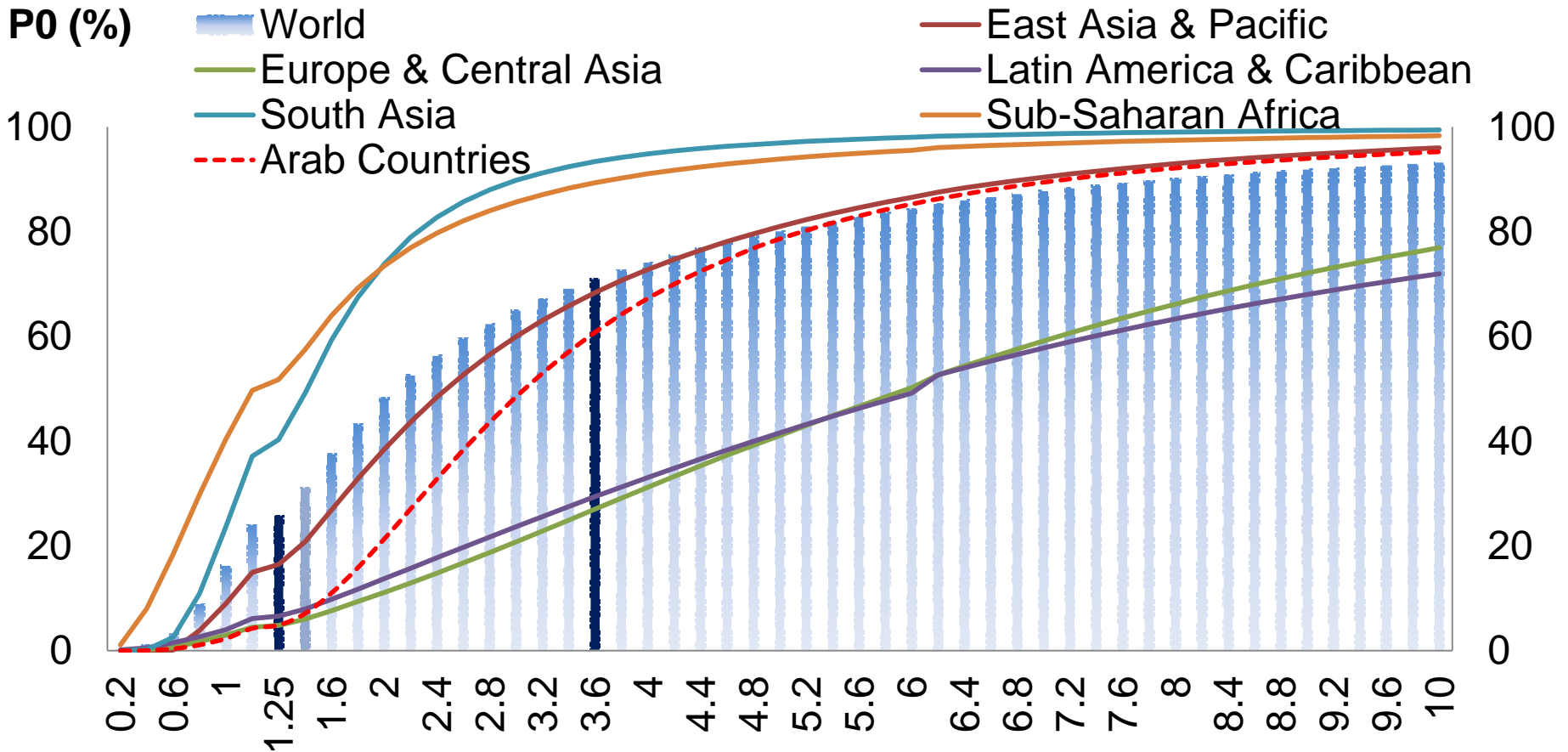


Deprivation rates by dimension at Moderate Deprivation



Conclusion: MP may be low but vulnerability is high

Poverty rates for Arab countries and developing regions across a range of poverty lines, in 2005 PPP based on recent surveys



What is the significance of all this?

1. Contribution to SDG monitoring process in a region that is rapidly changing and where extreme poverty has already risen significantly in many countries.
2. Building capacity at national and regional levels.
3. Regional Poverty Reduction Strategy: Case for Arab Poverty Initiative and inter-regional policy framework

Our plan in 2017

- Political body of the LAS to convene in December to review and hopefully approve the recommendation.
- Technical team from Member Countries reviews our first draft.
- The LAS political body (Social Affairs Ministries) to approve the final report in July and adopt regional MPI/MODA
- Arab Poverty Report launched in September (co-publication between LAS, ESCWA, OPHI and UNICEF).
- Active participation in the MPPN.

Our plan for 2018/19

- Important to create a regional platform to disseminate results and discuss policy options (Arab MPPN)
- Arab Poverty Reduction strategy

Final remark for MPPN to consider: MPI2 can be produced at the global level.

THANK YOU

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