Multidimensional Poverty in the Sustainable Development Goals

Special Side-Event at the 69th UN General Assembly

25 September 2014
Dr. Sabina Alkire, University of Oxford
“Positive changes have often occurred and yielded some liberation when the remedying of ailments has been sought actively and pursued with vigour”

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen  *India: An Uncertain Glory* 2013
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day

1.2 by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
Select Indicators, Cutoffs, Values
Global (comparable) or National. Example: Global

Published in UNDP *Human Development Reports* since 2010 for over 100 countries.
Build a deprivation score for each person

Nathalie faces multiple deprivations in health and living standards
Identify who is poor

Example: A person is multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in 33% or more of the dimensions.

Nathalie’s deprivation score is 67%
Compute the MPI (Alkire-Foster)

The MPI is the product of two components:

\[ MPI = H \times A \]

1) *Incidence* ~ the percentage of people who are poor, *H*.

2) *Intensity* ~ the average percentage of dimensions in which poor people are deprived *A*.

Alkire and Foster *Journal of Public Economics* 2011
Headline results
Headline results
Disaggregated Data
How people are poor
Both
Breakdown by Indicator

The MPI is like a high resolution lens…
The MPI is like a high resolution lens…

You can zoom in
The MPI is like a high resolution lens…

You can zoom in

and see more
Why Multidimensional Poverty?
It is different from $1.25/day poverty
And different policies reduce it.
MPPN has 30 countries plus 10 international agencies in 2014

Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
MPI: Two kinds ~ both useful

Internationally comparable:
- Like $1.25/day poverty measures
- We propose an MPI 2015+, that reflects the SDGs
- A better measure will use better data
- MPPN developed SDG-related survey modules
MPI: Two kinds ~ both useful

National MPIs:
- Presented by speakers today
- Vital for policy
- Reflect National Definitions
Our proposal to advance Multidimensional Poverty Reduction under the SDG on extreme poverty

- Support National MPIs that inform powerful policies

- Construct an improved Global MPI 2015+ that reflects the SDGs

- Strengthen the data sources for the Global MPI 2015+