

The Third Annual Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) Meeting
 Cartagena, Colombia, June 2-3, 2015
Participants from 40 countries and international and regional agencies

Communiqué

Network Participants in Cartagena:

Endorse the Global MPI for the SDGs and Endorse National, Regional and Sub-National MPIs

The network and its participants endorse the establishment of a new MPI 2015+ measure of poverty in the SDGs.

Network participants endorse the strong inclusion of the need to measure multidimensional poverty within the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, within the indicators to be proposed by the InterAgency Expert Working Group now meeting for the first time, and within the draft agreement being discussed for the July 2015 Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa.

Poverty is now widely recognized as multidimensional. Goal One of the proposed SDGs now includes multidimensional poverty. The network and its participants strongly support the post-2015 development agenda's intention to track multidimensional poverty. Its members endorse the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to monitor progress. An improved headline indicator of multidimensional poverty – an MPI 2015+ - can reflect a set of SDG indicators and show how these are interconnected in poor people's lives. The Network has developed and revised draft survey modules to focus the discussion on data needs for the MPI 2015+ and how make it universal.

The global MPI can play a critical role in ensuring no one is left behind. This is a people-centered index that reflects poverty as poor people often describe it, and captures the multiple deprivations poor people face at the same time. It is *integrative and universal*. The MPI is easy to understand: it reflects the *percentage* of people who are poor and the average *intensity* of their poverty. It also can be *easily broken down* by indicator to show how people are poor, which provides levers for a policy response. An MPI reveals inequalities and can be disaggregated by groups (for example by gender, ethnicity, age and region), data permitting. An MPI can be *catalytic* because it provides political incentives to reduce poverty by reflecting changes swiftly. It can also be used to monitor inclusive growth and to map linkages between poverty and environmental threats. An MPI 2015+ requires light, regular and high quality surveys covering key indicators. So, the MPI calls for short-term investments in data collection and long-term investments in capacity building and in the transformation of statistical systems and their links to policy.

Based on the growing experience of its members, the network and its participants endorse the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and endorse the development of MPIs at the regional, national and subnational levels as a powerful policy tools for enhanced poverty reduction, with the ability to illuminate the state and progress of marginalized groups.

Poverty is unacceptable. It is often defined by one-dimensional measures, such as income. But no one indicator alone can capture the multiple aspects of poverty. A rapidly increasing number of policymakers and statisticians around the world are now working to establish multidimensional poverty measures. Some MPPN actors engage in national activities including measurement design and its energetic application in public policy communications, and engagement with other stakeholders. They also interchange experiences, offer trainings in policy, measurement, and communications, and organise field trips and joint events. Many are using the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology and the related set of empirical techniques developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). They find the MPI and income poverty measures complement each other. Each measure plays its own part in poverty reduction strategies. And together they make a strong pair.

The network invites other governments to join the network, take advantage of its South-South exchanges and be part of this growing number of countries exploring and adopting rigorous yet simple multidimensional poverty measures to guide policy.

The network also welcomes international, regional and sub-national bodies that are using, advocating and advancing multidimensional measures of poverty and well-being.

The network and its participants will continue to develop powerful tools of measurement, evaluation, policy design and analysis.

One of the strengths of the MPI methodology is its rigor and robustness. The network welcomes the new book, Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis written by OPHI researchers. The network will continue to facilitate academic and applied research in order to generate more tools for policy analysis and data collection. It will advance research on a number of essential areas such as the practical linkages between poverty reduction and environmental sustainability and wellbeing. It will also develop tools and processes that facilitate the communication of regional, national and/or subnational MPIs to citizens, the private sector, and policy actors.

To underlie these activities in the next year the MPPN plans to advance significantly in terms of institutionalization and financing.

The methodological research and implementation of multidimensional poverty indices and techniques has now reached a stage where a number of countries have adopted them as central measures for directing their development path. Implementation of this professional, cutting-edge methodology is being driven by this Network of countries, amongst others. The MPPN benefited from an initial grant, the time of which is coming to an end. Its work is of practical policy relevance and requires raising financial and other resources.

The MPPN

Since its launch in 2013, the MPPN has grown considerably. It now draws together Ministers and senior officials from over 35 governments and a growing number of international and regional institutions. The network connects policymakers who have already implemented such innovative measures with those considering or designing such measures.

Within governments, the network supports policymakers in proactively communicating these new poverty measures between government and statistical agencies, as well as to citizens, civil society and the private sector. It provides a forum for dialogue between data producers and data users. The network aims to support members as they strive to energise and strengthen actions that eradicate poverty in all its forms, and to reduce the promulgation of policies that invest in producing and reproducing poverty.