



**Multidimensional Poverty: Measurement for Action**  
Side-Event at the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

**5 March 2019, 1:15pm-2:30pm**

UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room TBC

On 5 March, 2019 at 1:15pm, the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network \(MPPN\)](#) will host a Side Event at the [50<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission \(UNSC\)](#) in New York at the UN Headquarters (Conference Room TBC). The Commission is the key UN statistical entity, with participation from national and international statistical leaders from across the world.

Official multidimensional poverty indices (MPIs) are becoming widely used to measure and fight poverty in all its dimensions. In some countries, MPIs are mature policy tools, but innovation is still very evident.

This side event will bring together leading statisticians at the forefront of innovations in poverty measurement to discuss and share experiences with tailoring measures to their national context, improving existing MPIs, and, especially, how MPIs are being used to set priorities and design integrated multisectoral policies. In keeping with the 2019 UNSC theme of “Better Data, Better Lives”, this event will stress the significance of poverty measurement and the actions it inspires to improve the lives of the poor.

The event will be chaired by the Statistician General of South Africa, Mr. Risenga Maluleke, an MPPN Steering Committee member. Other speakers will be confirmed shortly.

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*About National and Global MPIs:*

Governments such as Mexico, Colombia, Bhutan, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Pakistan, Armenia, Mozambique, Panama, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Malaysia, Philippines, and Nepal use National Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) as an official statistic of poverty. Each National MPI is tailor-made to the national context. For example, its design may reflect the constitution, or national development plan, or a participatory exploration of what poverty means. The National MPI may be computed using the same survey as income poverty metrics or a different survey. It may be updated annually or every 2 years. Each National MPI is an official poverty statistic, but an effort is made so that it is used to inform and energise policy.

Yet not all governments have National MPIs. Even when they do, National MPIs cannot be compared. So, there is a value-added to having a comparable Global MPI across developing countries and/or universally, with extensive and disaggregated information on the composition of poverty for different groups. A Global MPI for developing countries has been estimated by OPHI and the UNDP's Human Development Report Office, and disaggregated for 1,300 subnational regions, as well as by variables like age and rural-urban areas. The Global MPI might be particularly useful for SDG target 1.2 of halving multidimensional poverty, and potentially by countries without tailor-made National MPIs at the present time.

*About the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN):*

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network is a South-South network of policymakers from countries and institutions interested in measuring and tackling multidimensional poverty. It was launched in June 2013 at a distinguished event at the University of Oxford, at which President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia and Professor Amartya Sen gave keynote addresses. The MPPN was established in response to demand for information on implementing multidimensional measures, and for technical and institutional support. The Network Steering Committee includes Ministers and senior government officials from China, South Africa, Mexico, and Colombia as well as from OPHI.