Ending Child Poverty while Ending Multidimensional Poverty too:

Four Measurement Strategies

Sabina Alkire, MPPN Call

21 March 2019

Child Poverty

Poverty is disproportionately about children. They comprise nearly a third of the world's population, but half of all of the multidimensionally poor people.

Tony Lake, UNICEF

Global MPI 2018:

Half the world's poor people are children under 18.

We have more poor children on the planet than ever before

Why Measure?

- **In order to inform action to end poverty**

This is the same for **National Poverty**

and for

Child Poverty

Both use measures.   **How can we build in a synergy?**

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Implications

Measure poverty in order to inform action to end poverty

To have a high likelihood of policy uptake a poverty measure must be:

> **Accurate and Replicable**
>
> **Informative for policy design**
>
> **Useful to monitor progress**
>
> **Easy to Understand**
>
> **Complementary to existing tools**
>
> **Nationally owned and operated**

Observations and Challenges

1. A Child MPI should **not compete** with a National MPI. Rather, a child focus should synergise & activate action.

2. **Linking** Child Poverty to a National MPI may be higher impact than building a stand-alone Child MPI:
    1. National MPI is already understood, used, official

3. Strategic Analyses leads to an **Integrated approach**:
    1. Inserts a 'child' focus into standard conversations
    2. Adds gender, age, intra-household information.
    3. Sometimes: enrich the MPI with a linked in-depth Child MPI.

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Child Poverty & National MPI: 4 Strategies

1. Include key <u>Child Indicators</u> in National MPI

2. Always <u>Disaggregate</u> the National MPI by age

3. Do <u>Intrahousehold Analysis</u> of MPI (age, gender)

4. Use a Child MPI that <u>directly links to National MPI</u>

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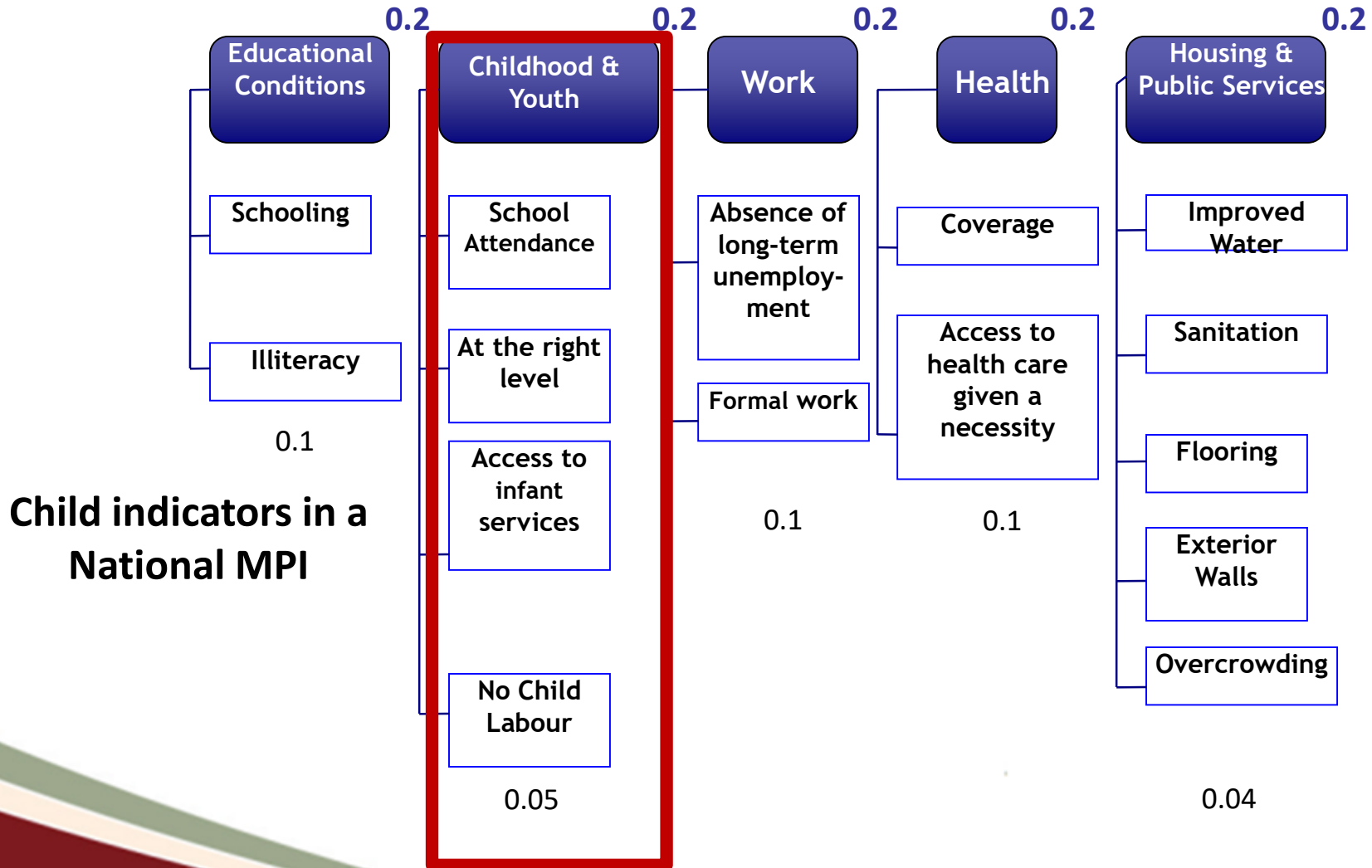# Include key **Child Indicators** in National MPI

Examples:

- School Attendance
- Correct Grade for Age (Rezago)
- Not in Education Employment or Training-NEET
- Malnutrition
- Child Labour

Can also be a **Childhood and Youth Dimension**

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0.2 **0.2** **0.2** **0.2** **0.2**

Educational Conditions	Childhood & Youth	Work	Health	Housing & Public Services

Child indicators in a National MPI

Educational Conditions:
- Schooling
- Illiteracy

0.1

Childhood & Youth:
- School Attendance
- At the right level
- Access to infant services
- No Child Labour

0.05

Work:
- Absence of long-term unemploy-ment
- Formal work

0.1

Health:
- Coverage
- Access to health care given a necessity

0.1

Housing & Public Services:
- Improved Water
- Sanitation
- Flooring
- Exterior Walls
- Overcrowding

0.04

Dimensions in National MPIs

Dimensions	Indicators	Global MPI	LAC-MPI	Arab MPI	Armenia	Bhutan	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Dominican Rep.	Ecuador	El Salvador	Honduras	Mexico	Mozambique	Nepal	Panama
Education	Years of schooling/School attainment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	School attendance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	School lag		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
	Early care for children							✓	✓	✓		✓					
	Proximity to education services				✓		✓										
	Educational quality				✓												
Health	Child mortality	✓		✓			✓				✓					✓	
	Nutrition	✓		✓			✓										
	Food security					✓											
	Early pregnancy/FGM			✓													
	Ante-natal care																✓
	Assisted delivery																
	Immunization																
	Health insurance						✓	✓	✓	✓							
	Impact of illnesses									✓							
	Access to health services				✓		✓	✓				✓		✓			✓
	Quality of health services				✓												
	Termination of usual activity				✓												

Nearly Every MPI to date includes School Attendance.

Many MPIs include something on age-for-grade, and pre-school.

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Dimensions in National MPIs

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	School attendance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	School lag		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
	Early care for children							✓	✓	✓		✓					
	Proximity to education services				✓		✓										
	Educational quality				✓												
Health	Child mortality	✓		✓			✓			✓						✓	
	Nutrition	✓		✓			✓									✓	
	Food security					✓				✓		✓		✓			
	Early pregnancy/FGM			✓													
	Ante-natal care																
	Assisted delivery																
	Immunization																
	Health insurance						✓										
	Impact of illnesses										✓						
	Access to health services				✓		✓	✓				✓		✓			✓
	Quality of health services				✓												
	Termination of usual activity				✓												

Many include child mortality and either Nutrition or Food Security

Naturally, country needs differ.

Dimensions in National MPIs

Dimensions	Indicators	Global MPI	LAC-MPI	Arab MPI	Armenia	Bhutan	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Dominican Rep.	Ecuador	El Salvador	Honduras	Mexico	Mozambique	Nepal	Panama
Housing, living standards & basic services	Electricity	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cooking fuel	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			✓	✓		✓	
	Improved water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Improved sanitation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Housing materials (floors, walls, roof)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Adequate heating				✓												
	Overcrowding		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Land and livestock					✓											
	Garbage disposal				✓				✓		✓						✓
	Access to transportation/roads				✓	✓											
	House ownership		✓														
	Asset ownership	✓	✓	✓		✓											
	Access/Use of Internet								✓	✓							✓
	Income		✓		✓						✓			✓			

Every National MPI to date includes Water and Sanitation, plus housing materials.

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Dimensions in National MPIs

Dimensions	Indicators	Global MPI	LAC-MPI	Arab MPI	Armenia	Bhutan	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Dominican Rep.	Ecuador	El Salvador	Honduras	Mexico	Mozambique	Nepal	Panama
Employment and social protection	Labor market participation				✓		✓										
	Unemployment or sub-employment		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
	Decent/Formal jobs				✓			✓	✓	✓							✓
	Child labor							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Social security & registration		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Aid/remittances dependence				✓												
Environment and social connections	Safety and crime						✓		✓		✓						
	Access to public/leisure spaces										✓						
	Exposure to environmental hazards								✓		✓						✓
	Proximity to polluted areas						✓		✓								
	Discrimination/Equal treatment						✓										
	Social networks						✓		✓								

Many MPIs include Child Labour

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Always <u>Disaggregate</u> National MPI by age

1. Usually possible to disaggregate 0-17, 18+
2. Two key points:
   1. Compare level of MPI/H for children vs adults
   2. What % of all poor people are children.

   Note: Both depends upon the structure of MPI

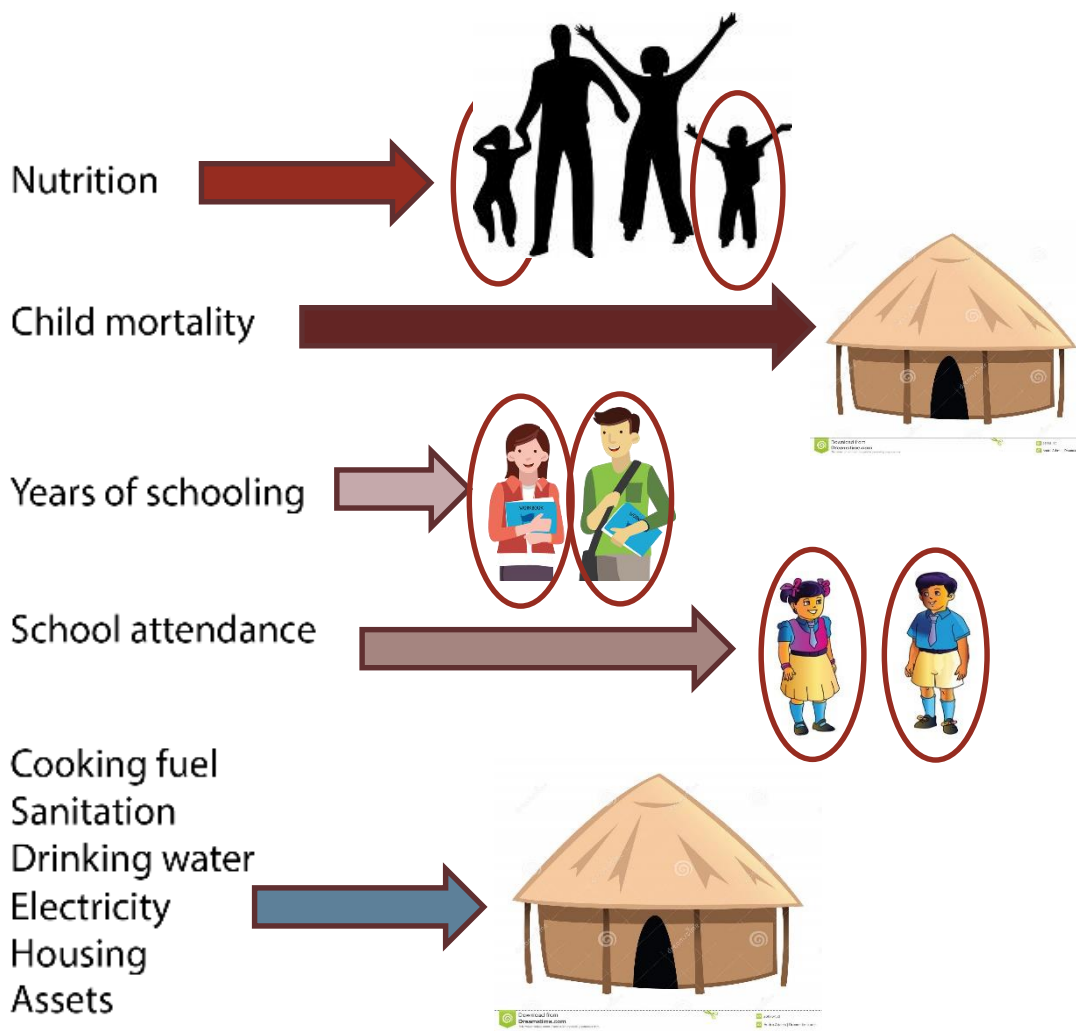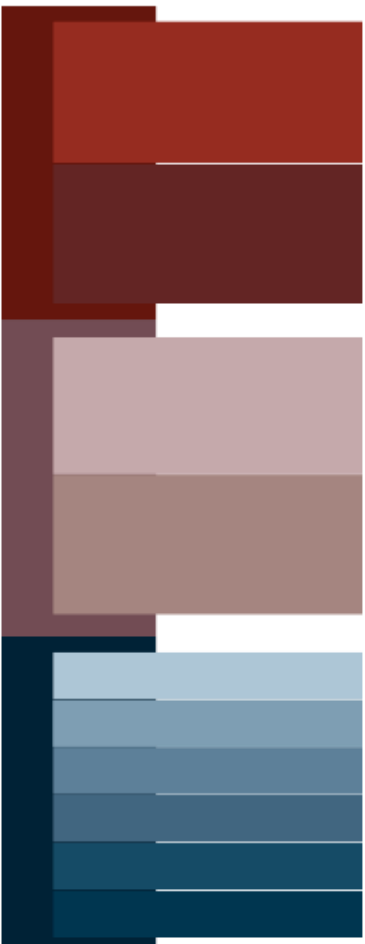UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

AGE DISAGGREGATION: GLOBAL MPI 2018:

Half of all multidimensionally poor people – 49.9% – are children. A total of 665 million children are living in multidimensional poverty.

34% of children are MPI poor, vs 18% of adults: One out of every three children – 34% – are multidimensionally poor, whereas it's 18% of adults.

Where do these children live? Eighty-five percent of poor children are growing up in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

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Do Intrahousehold Analysis of MPI

1. Which MPI variables draw on individual child data?

2. Restrict the sample to children

3. Go back to micro-data and analyse it:
   1. What % of deprived children are girls / boys?
   2. What % of deprived children are MPI poor vs non-poor?
   3. Within a household, are all children deprived, or only some – if so, what age, gender?
   4. What other household deprivations do poor children experience?

Nutrition

Child mortality

Years of schooling

School attendance

Cooking fuel
Sanitation
Drinking water
Electricity
Housing
Assets

**Children:
0-4 years**

10-17 years

6-14 years

Telescope inside the MPI households

Three Dimensions of Poverty

Health
- Nutrition
- Child mortality

Education
- Years of schooling
- School attendance

Living Standards
- Cooking fuel
- Sanitation
- Drinking water
- Electricity
- Housing
- Assets
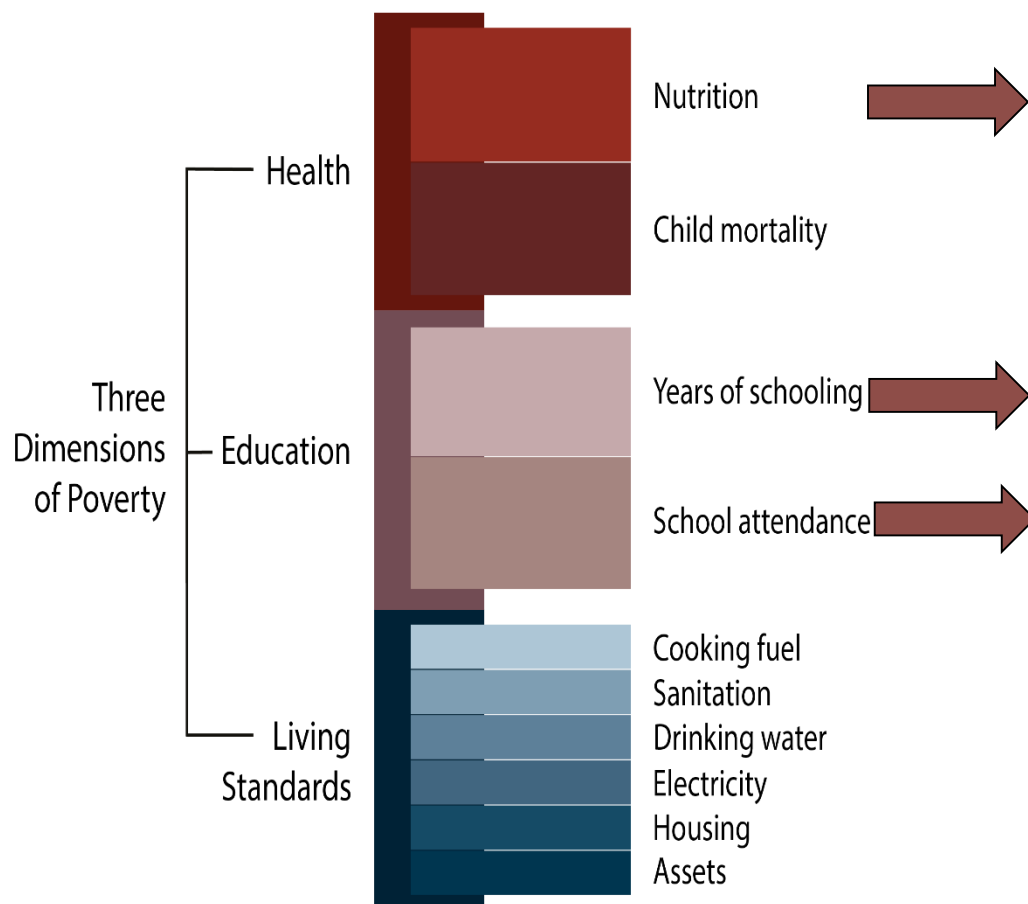
Who is malnourished – all children? More girls? What age?

Pioneer Children: Who has finished 6 years of schooling – in hh where no adults have?

Who is out of school – all children? More girls? What age?

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INTRA HOUSEHOLD ANALYSIS:

XX% of Out of School Children are MPI poor.

SS% of Out of School Children have a sibling in school.

YY% of Malnourished children are girls and ZZ%, boys

AA% of Children are the *only* household member who has completed 6 years of schooling. They are pioneers!

REGIONAL REPORT ON CHILD POVERTY IN SOUTH ASIA

AN UP-CLOSE, CONTEXTUAL AND GENDERED VIEW OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY AND CHILD LEADERSHIP

An Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia Publication

December 2018

Child MPI that <u>directly links to National MPI</u>

1. **Use the National MPI as it is.**

2. **From the survey, construct 'new' child dimension(s)**

3. **Use 2+ comparable indicators to cover children 0-17**

4. **Restrict the sample to children.**

5. **Compute the Child MPI** – it shows additional child-specific deprivations of poor children. It also identifies children who are not MPI poor but are child poor.

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Nepal C-MPI*

Dimensions	Indicators	Weight National MPI (k=1/3)	Weight C-MPI (k=1/4)
Education	Years of Schooling	1/6	1/8
	Child School Attendance	1/6	1/8
Health	Child Mortality	1/6	1/8
	Nutrition	1/6	1/8
Living Standard	Electricity	1/18	1/24
	Improved Sanitation	1/18	1/24
	Improved Drinking Water	1/18	1/24
	Housing	1/18	1/24
	Cooking Fuel	1/18	1/24
	Assets Ownership	1/18	1/24
Child	Child Development		1/8
	Childhood Conditions		1/8

* Draws on work in progress with Ana Vaz and Chris Oldiges

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Nepal C-MPI Child Dimension

Indicator	Deprivation Cutoff	Weight
Child Development	**Nutrition (0-4 years old)**: undernourished in terms of weight-for-age. **Attendance (5-13 years old)**: not attending school. **Schooling and work (14-17 years old)**: not attending school AND is working AND (has less than 8 years of schooling OR is working under dangerous conditions)	1/8
Childhood Conditions	**Early Childhood Conditions (0-4 years old)**: **0-5m**: not exclusively breastfed; **6-23m**: has no vaccination card OR has never been vaccinated was never vaccinated; **24-35m**: has no toys OR was left alone or at the care of another child for more than 1 hour in the last week; **36-59m**: an adult member of the household did not engage with the child in 4 or more activities during the last week. **Older child conditions (5-17 years old)**: engaged in child labor, OR, if girl aged15-17, is or has ever been married OR has a child OR is pregnant.	1/8

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Nepal C-MPI Child Dimension

| Indicator	Deprivation Cutoff	Wgh
Early childhood (0-4) I1	**Nutrition**: if z-score of weight-for-age is below minus two standard deviations from the median of the reference population.	12.5%
Early childhood (0-4) I2	**Early Childhood Conditions**: 0-5m: if not exclusively breastfed; 6-23m: if has no vaccination card OR has never been vaccinated was never vaccinated; 24-35m: if has no toys OR was left alone or at the care of another child for more than 1 hour in the last week; 36-59: if an adult member of the household did not engage with the child in 4 or more activities during the last week.	12.5%
School-age children (5-13) I1	**Attendance**: if not attending school.	12.5%
School-age children (5-13) I2	**Child labor**: 5-11y: if spent at least 1 hour performing economic activities during previous week; 12-13: if spent at least 14 hours performing economic activities during previous week.	12.5%
Older children (14-17) I1	**Schooling or working**: if not attending school AND is working AND (has less than 8 years of schooling OR is working under dangerous conditions)	12.5%
Older children (14-17) I2	**Child labor**: 14y: if spent at least 14 hours performing economic activities during previous week; 15-17: if spent at least 43 hours performing economic activities during previous week.	12.5%

Poverty Cutoff

- National MPI: $k = 1/3$ and   C-MPI: $k = 1/4$

  – Any child identified as poor by the National MPI is also poor by the C-MPI.

  – Any child deprived in both child indicators is identified as poor even if they have no other deprivations.

Results

Index	Children in poor HH, k = 33.33%	Poor children, k = 25%	Poor children, Comparable figures
Headcount ratio (H, %)	33.8	40.9	40.9
Intensity (A, %)	45.5	38.9	51.9
MPI	0.154	0.159	0.212

- According to national MPI, 28.6% of the population are poor and 33.8% of children (aged 0-17) live in MPI poor households.

- **The C-MPI identifies 7.1% of children who are poor but do not live in MPI poor households.**

Differences across gender?
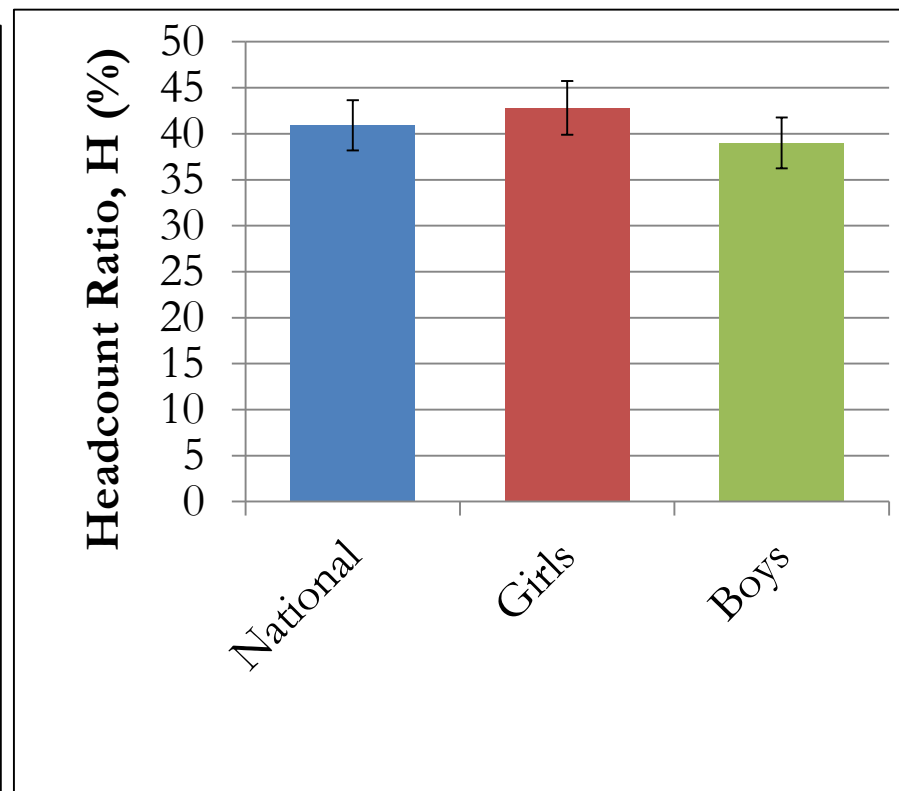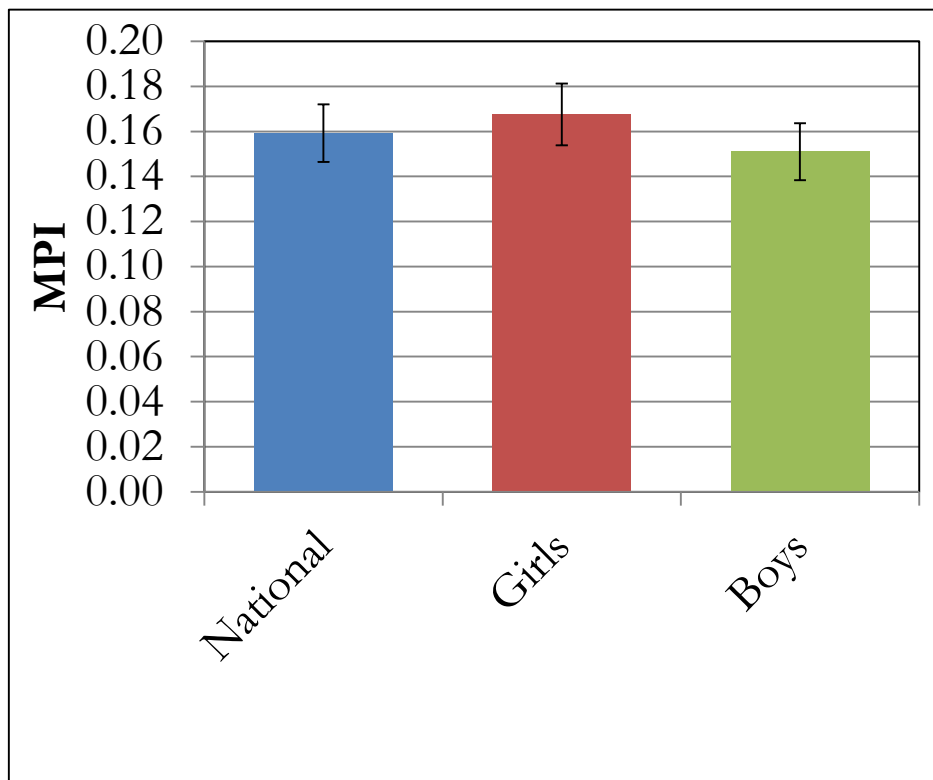
Child poverty: the urge to integrate

- **Ownership:** Most countries spend 1-3 years building political consensus and statistical skill to make a permanent official MPI

  Would this be possible for 'Child-MPI'?

- **Policy use:** Most national MPIs are used for policy design, coordination, for budget allocation, targeting and coordination.

  Would a Child-MPI be <u>used</u>? Would it conflict with Nat'l?

- **Simplicity:** There is a real concern of 'statistical overload' – having a national and child MPI could confuse so dampen action.

  Could a C-MPI be linked to Nat'l MPI?

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THANK YOU