



# Multidimensional Poverty in Arab Countries



التقرير العربي حول الفقر  
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## Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report



## Outline

1. Regional MPI
2. Key Findings
3. Current and future plans

## Why build a regional MPI?

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1. Developing a measure which is tailored to the Arab region as the global indices may overlook less severe forms of poverty that characterize many middle-income Arab countries.
2. Engage with countries in technical and policy discussions on multidimensional poverty.
3. A foundation for an evidence-based for regional interventions.

# Milestones of the report

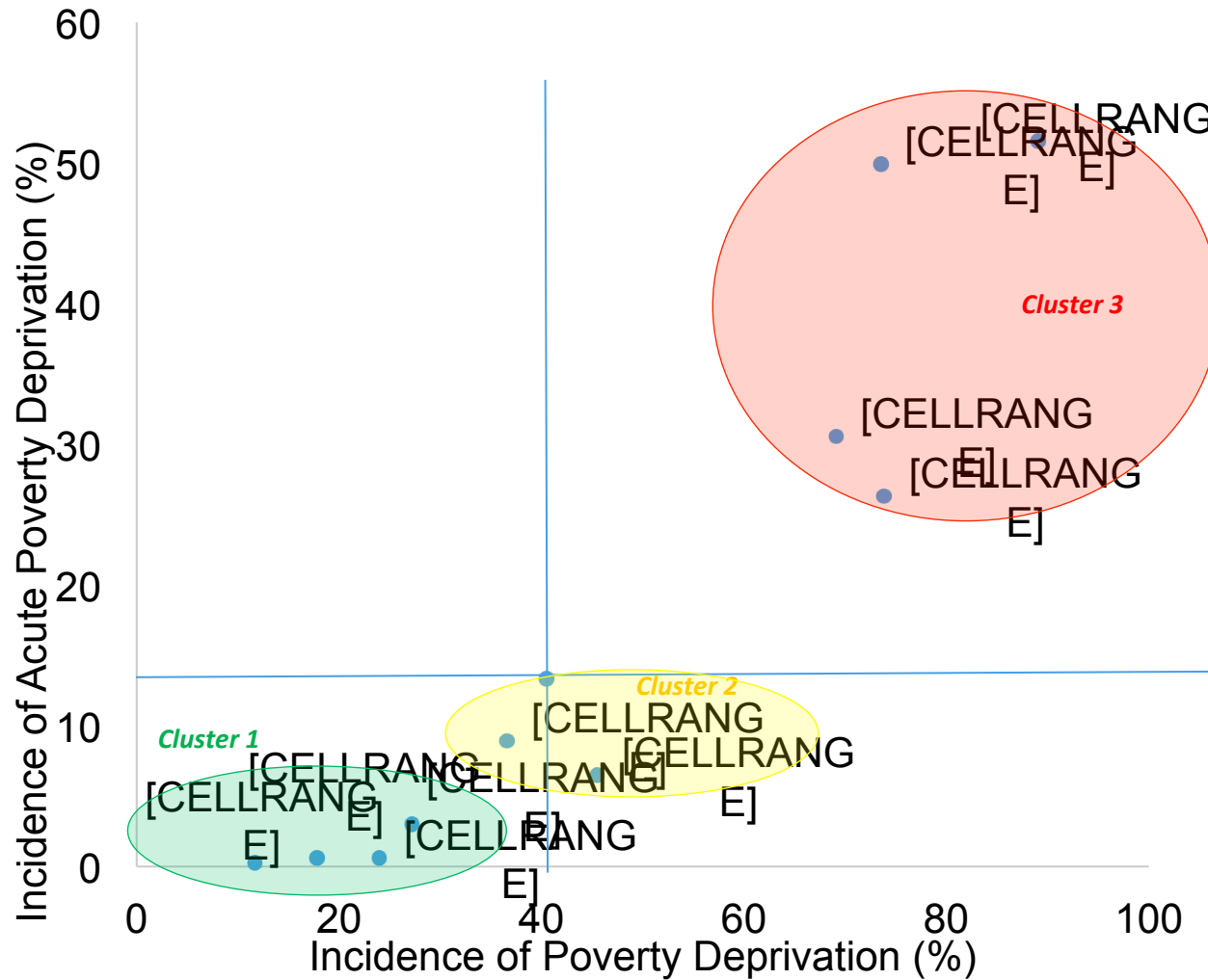


- More than three years of cooperation between League of Arab States (LAS), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNICEF
- Several working papers
- More than 200 experts and representatives from Arab countries participated in the consultations of the revision of the poverty indices
- Discussion of the preliminary results with regional and global experts at the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) in Mexico and at experts meetings in New York (UNDESA) and Rabat (ONDH)
- Endorsement of the report by the LAS ministerial council.

# Tailoring the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Index

- ❖ The Arab MPI is based on the Global MPI which consists of three dimensions (Education, Health, Living Standards). The following changes were introduced to tailor the index to the context of the Arab region:
  - ❑ Addition of two new region-specific indicators to the global index (FGM/early pregnancy and overcrowding)
  - ❑ Revision of the deprivation thresholds of the indicators

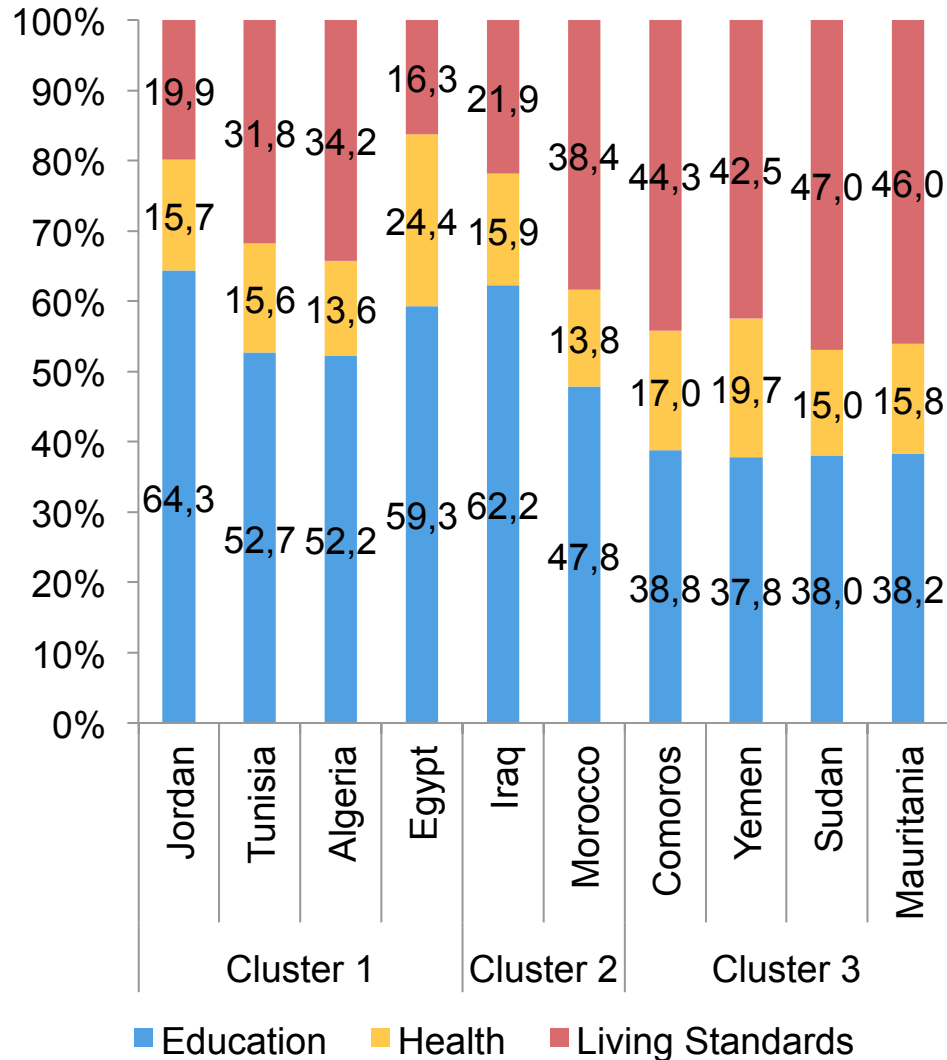
# Key finding: 40.6% of households are poor and 13.4% live in acute poverty



*Disclaimer:  
As the survey data  
dates back to  
2011-2014, the  
poverty rates of  
some countries are  
expected to have  
increased  
significantly (e.g.  
Yemen)*

# Other key findings

## Contribution of Dimensions



- 1. One quarter of the population of the countries surveyed is are vulnerable to poverty.*
- 2. High disparities between spatial areas(rural/ urban), between socio-economic characteristics (gender and education of head of household), between the country clusters and within the states of one country*
- 3. Education contributes most to household poverty*

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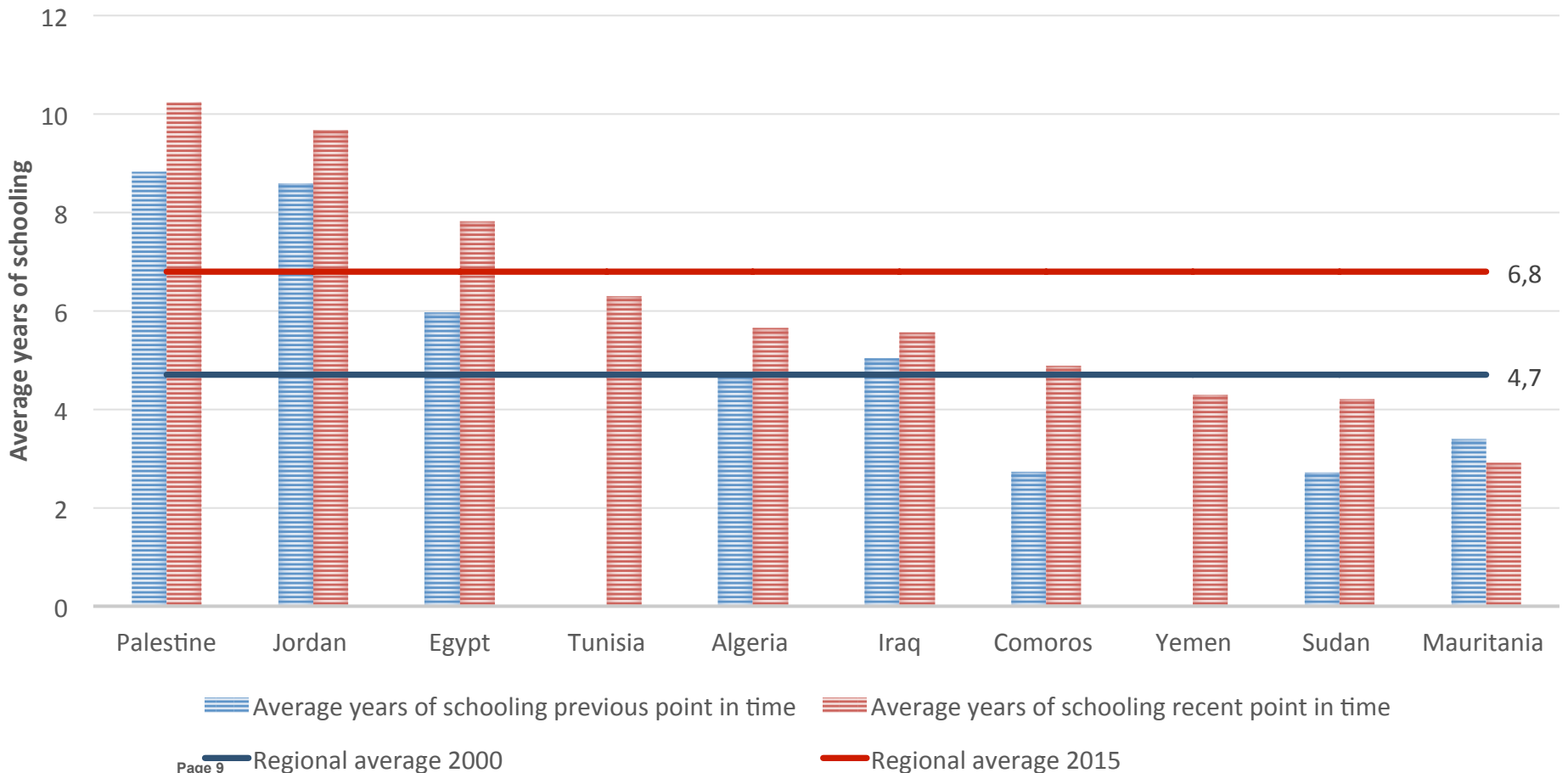
# What next?

1. *Rethinking inequality from a multidimensional perspective*  
(*ESCWA and ERF*)



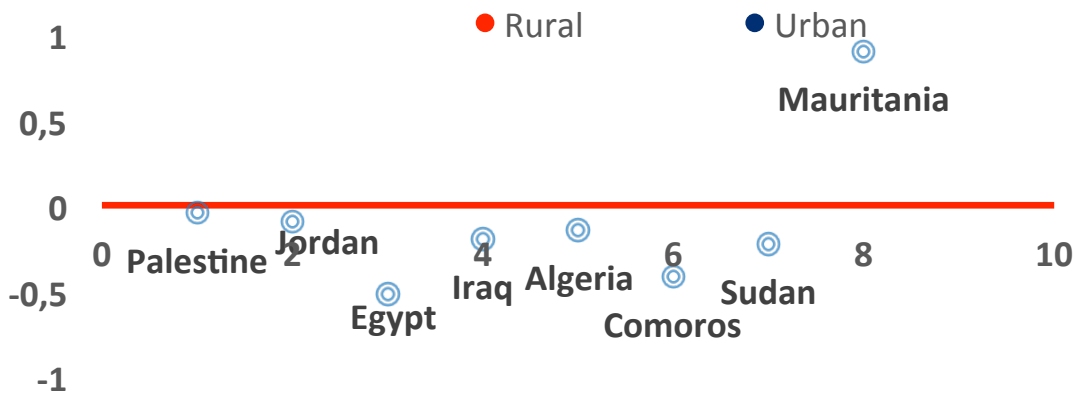
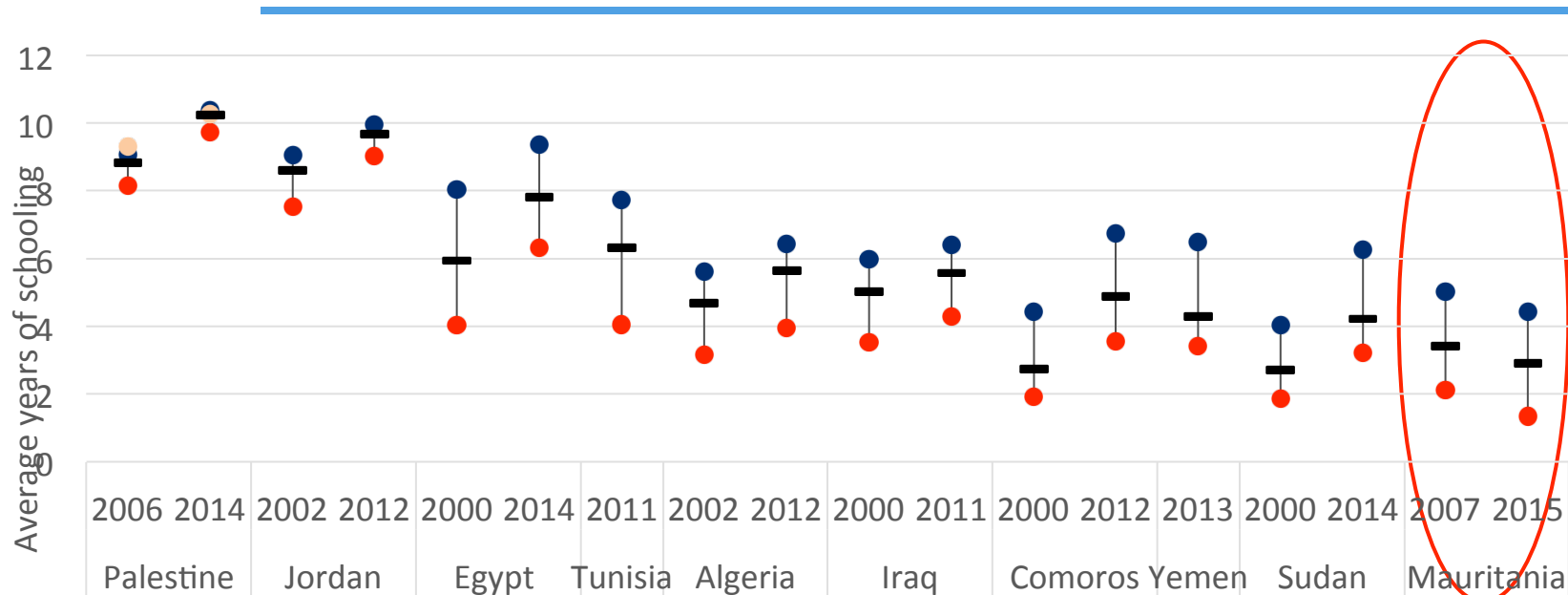
# Indicator: Years of Education

For 8 countries, the years of education by each person age 25 and older could be constructed from the level of education attended and the highest grade attended for each level across two points in time.



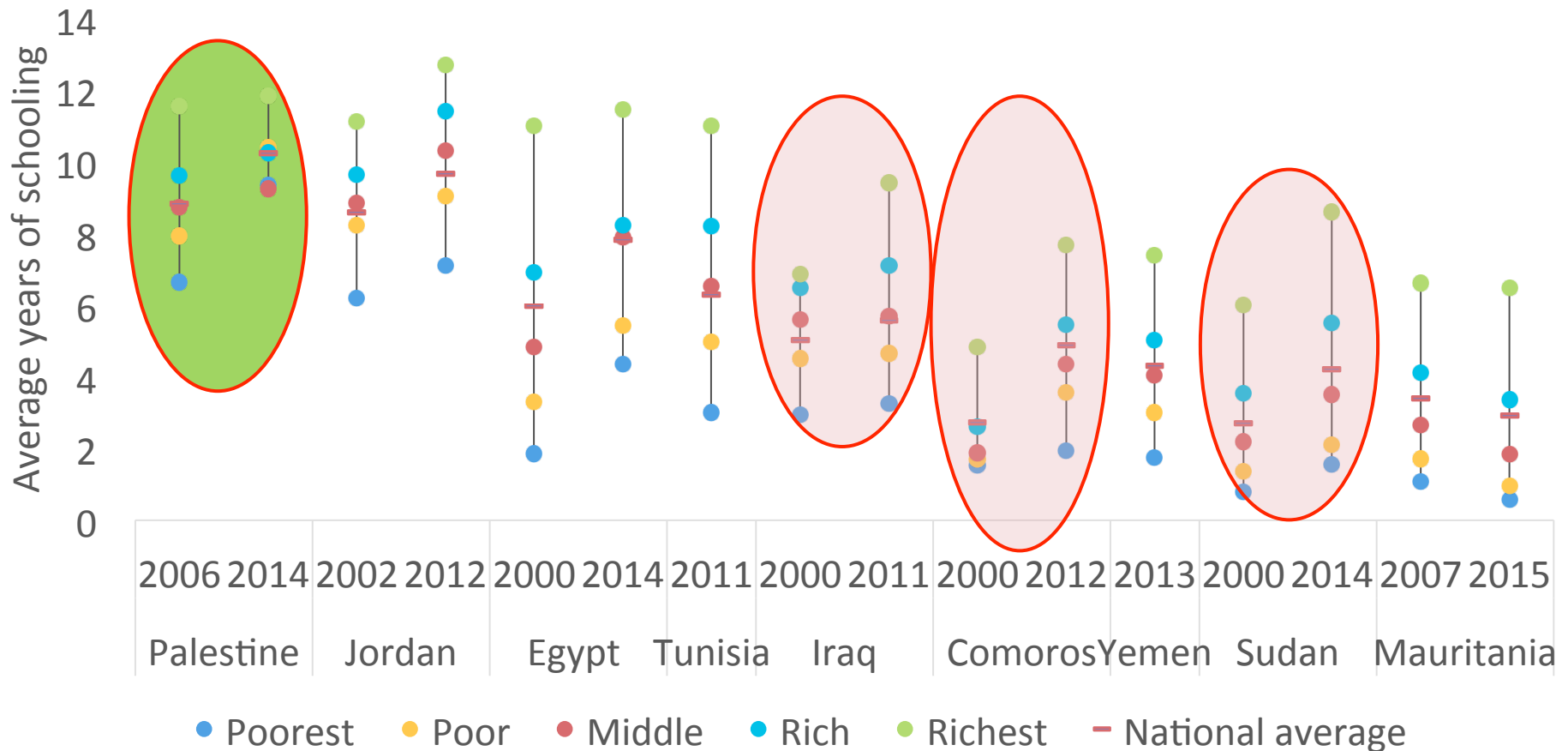
# Indicator: Years of Education

*Gaps between rural and urban areas*



Changes in the Urban/Rural ratios

# Indicator Years of Education: Gaps by wealth



# What next?

*Other key areas to support Arab countries achieve SGD1*

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1. Working with OPHI, LAS and UNICEF in advising several Arab countries on how to design national MPI and integrating child poverty.
2. Multidimensional Poverty Survey: Using the Arab MPI to examine subnational disparities in MP.
3. Working with the LAS, OPHI and regional and global experts on the next Arab Poverty Report.
4. Contributing to the global debate on poverty measurement.

Thank you

