



Multidimensional Poverty Indices: An SDG Indicator, an Official Statistic, and a Policy Tool

Side-Event at the 52nd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

25 February 2021, 9:00AM New York

Zoom

On **25 February, 2021 at 9:00AM New York time**, the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network \(MPPN\)](#) will host a Side Event at the [52nd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission \(UNSC\)](#) on Zoom. The Commission is the key UN statistical entity, with participation from national and international statistical leaders from across the world.

Official National Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) are widely used as official statistics to measure and fight poverty in all its dimensions. They are reported as SDG indicator 1.2.2, and are used to guide integrated design and monitoring/evaluation.

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 coordinate policies that address poverty during the pandemic. In response to pandemic, global and national multidimensional poverty indexes (MPIs) are being used to measure and forecast the effects of COVID-19, illustrate group risks and design high-impact strategies. The MPI represents a powerful tool to orient recovery policies through rigorous targeting, budgeting and coordination within governments and other sectors. In keeping with the 2021 UNSC theme of “Better Data, Better Lives”, this event will stress the importance of multidimensional poverty measurement to establish policies that improve the lives of the poor and leave no one behind.

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.

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, Nepal, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Maldives, Palestine, Ghana, and Vietnam use National Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) as an official statistic of poverty, usually complementing national monetary poverty statistics. 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 is an official poverty statistic, and considerable 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 more than 100 developing countries has been estimated by OPHI and the UNDP's Human Development Report Office since 2010 and is also disaggregated for subnational regions, as well as by variables like age and rural-urban areas.

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 former President of Colombia and Nobel Laureate Juan Manuel Santos and Professor Amartya Sen gave keynote addresses. The MPPN was established in response to demand for South-South exchange on implementing multidimensional measures, and for technical and institutional support. The Network Steering Committee includes Ministers and senior government officials from China, South Africa, and Colombia as well as from OPHI.