

Dimensions

Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)

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RETHINKING THE PATH: Challenges and progress in measuring and reducing multidimensional poverty

Featuring exclusive interviews
and insights from Colombia, Mauritania,
Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

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Editorial

In this edition of Dimensions, we spotlight transformative perspectives and strategies for addressing multidimensional poverty across diverse contexts.

In Yemen, Abdo Seif from UNDP sheds light on pathways to recovery amid conflict, underscoring the resilience and urgency required to combat poverty in the context of a long-lasting crisis. Beyond conflict-affected regions, Mauritania's MPI-M provides a data-driven lens into poverty's complexity, demonstrating the power of data-driven approaches to inform policy.

We feature exclusive interviews with global leaders driving impactful change. Obid Khakimov shares Uzbekistan's policy innovations against poverty, and former Colombian President Iván Duque Márquez emphasises the need for global leaders to prioritise multidimensional poverty reduction. Moreover, Rabia Awan discusses the steps Pakistan is making in poverty measurement.

Mónica Pinilla-Roncancio delves into the intersection of social protection systems and multidimensional measures, illustrating how data can be leveraged to design more inclusive safety nets.

Complementing these narratives, a Global MPI 2024 infographic and Nyakume's story offer tangible insights into the lives behind the numbers, reinforcing the people at the centre of multidimensional poverty metrics.

Let this edition inspire reflection and action. Tackling poverty requires not just the understanding of its complexities, but the uniting of efforts to eliminate it.



Overview of a multidimensional reality of poverty in Mauritania through the MPI-M

By **Alioune Gueye**, Head of Department of Labour and Household Living Standards, and **Latifa Mohamed Vall**, Independent Consultant, Agence Nationale de la Statistique, de l'Analyse Démographique et Economique (ANSADE)

Adopting a multidimensional poverty measure

For decades, Mauritania has been committed to reducing poverty through the development of various strategic documents including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (*Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté*, CSLP 2001-2015) and the National Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (*Stratégie Nationale de Croissance Accélérée et de Prospérité Partagée*, SCAPP-2016-2030).

These different strategies can only be effective if they are based on the accurate measurement of the phenomenon of poverty and the perfect targeting of policies in areas that are most affected by poverty.

The Permanent Survey of Household Living Conditions (*Enquête Permanente sur les Conditions de Vie des ménages - EPCV*) has been carried out every four years since 1988, aiming to update and monitor indicators on household living conditions, particularly poverty.

The various poverty analyses conducted through this survey have so far focused on the evolution and profile of income poverty. In twenty years, income poverty has fallen by 22.8 percentage points, from 51% in 2000 to 28.2% in 2019.

Studies on monetary poverty are certainly necessary, but they must be complemented by multidimensional analyses, as the monetary

measurement of poverty is not enough to capture the complexity and multidimensionality of human wellbeing and household living conditions.

In response to the need to understand the problem of poverty in all its forms, the National Agency for Statistics and Demographic and Economic Analysis (*Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Démographique et Economique*, ANSADE) developed [Mauritania's first Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI-M\)](#), which was published in March 2023.

This index, specifically designed to meet the country's poverty reduction goals, allows for better targeting of poor populations, addresses the monitoring requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1.2.2), and evaluates the economic and social strategies and programmes implemented.

Constructing Mauritania's Multidimensional Poverty Index

The process of setting up the MPI-M began with wide-ranging consultations with all the ministerial departments and the technical and financial partners, in collaboration with OPHI and UNICEF.

To ensure that the results of the MPI-M are more widely disseminated and genuinely considered in the orientation of economic and social policies, the implementation process has given priority to the

involvement of the various components of society such as the government, technical and financial partners, and civil society.

A steering committee (chaired by the Directorate General for Economic Policies of the Ministry of Economy) and a technical committee were set up to manage the entire process. These committees also ensure technical validation of the chosen methodology and the policy guidelines resulting from the analysis of the MPI-M results.





The steering and technical committees were formed by representatives from the government institutions responsible for economic policies, social policies, and programmes for the inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as donors and technical and financial partners (UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP).

The steps followed throughout this development process of the MPI-M have allowed for the approach, the Alkire-Foster method, and the analysis of multidimensional poverty to be fully owned by an array of stakeholders in the country. This facilitated the results to be disseminated at various key political and academic events, including the African Statistics Day, the workshop for the official launch of the MPI-M which allowed the results to be disseminated to a wide audience, and an United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) workshop on optimising poverty reduction policies, among others.

The MPI-M consists of four dimensions (education, health, living conditions, and employment) and 19 indicators. The choice of indicators has been guided by a thorough identification of those deprivations that figure prominently in current economic and social development programmes, and that severely hinder people's human development and exacerbating overall vulnerability, particularly among children, youth, and women.

The poverty cut-off is equal to 38%, which means that a person is identified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in more than one dimension and a half.

Structure of the MPI-M: dimensions, indicators and weights (EPCV-2019)

Dimensions	Indicators
 Education (1/4)	School attendance (1/16)
	Primary school completion (1/16)
	School lag (1/16)
	Literacy (1/16)
 Health (1/4)	Health insurance (1/20)
	Use of health services (1/20)
	Access to health services (1/20)
	Stunted growth (1/20)
	Assisted childbirth (1/20)
 Living Conditions (1/4)	Housing (1/28)
	Overcrowding (1/28)
	Drinking water (1/28)
	Cooking fuel (1/28)
	Source of lighting (1/28)
	Sanitation (1/28)
	Food insecurity (1/28)
 Employment (1/4)	Underemployment (1/12)
	Precarious employment (1/12)
	Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (1/12)

Main findings of the MPI-M

The analysis of multidimensional poverty, based on data from the EPCV (2019–2020), made it possible to provide information on the state of poverty and to outline the multidimensional profile of the poor:

- Almost six out of ten people are multidimensionally poor (56.9%), amounting to 2.3 million poor people.
- Each poor person is, on average, deprived in 56.3% of the weighted indicators.
- On average, poor people suffer almost a third of all possible deprivations (the MPI-M value is 0.320).
- Almost a quarter of the total population experience monetary and multidimensional poverty simultaneously.

Poverty is a problem that is particularly acute in rural areas and certain regions:

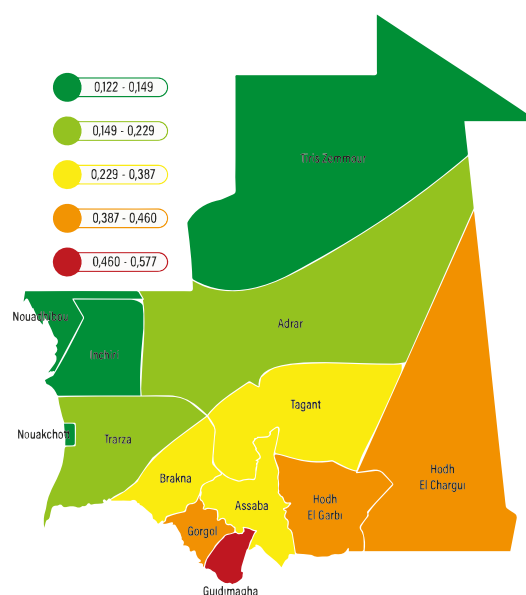
- Almost seven out of ten poor people live in rural areas.
- On average, the MPI-M value is 2.5 times higher in rural areas: 0.179 in urban areas compared with 0.453 in rural areas.
- Multidimensional poverty is highly heterogeneous across *wilayas*. The incidence of poverty ranges from 25.2% in the *wilaya* of Tirs-Zemmour to 90.2% in Guidimagha.

Policies to address children's multidimensional poverty

Mauritania's population is young: the average age is 22 and more than half of the population (50.7%) are under 18.

The design of the MPI-M considered children's deprivation and follows the recognition of several nationally and internationally rights such as education, health, nutrition, and housing.

Multidimensional Poverty Index, by *wilaya* (EPCV-2019)



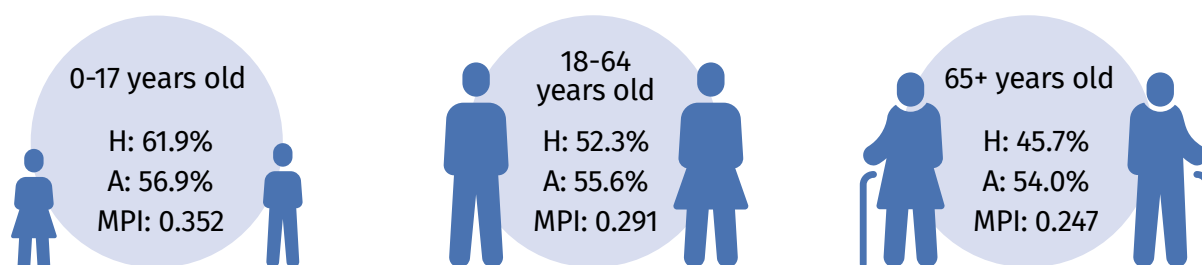
The results of the analysis of multidimensional poverty by age group show that children suffer more from multidimensional poverty than adults: among children in the 0–17 age group, 61.9% are multidimensionally poor, compared with 52.3% of adults aged 18–64.

The analysis of multidimensional poverty among children provided insights into the existing disparities between areas and regions, as well as the composition and contributions of the various indicators.

“Children suffer more from multidimensional poverty than adults.”

These various results have made it possible to direct and target policies and programmes to reduce poverty affecting children more effectively, taking into account the disparities between rural and urban areas, as well as across the *wilayas*. In this regard, several strategies and programmes are being implemented to combat multidimensional poverty among children through the National Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP 2016–2030) and the national social protection strategy.

Incidence (H) and Intensity (A) of multidimensional poverty and the Multidimensional Poverty Index of Mauritania (MPI-M) by age group



MPI-M for better planning of poverty reduction policies

A [study](#) was carried out in June 2023 by the Ministry of the Economy and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and ANSADE with technical support from ESCWA. It focuses on optimising poverty reduction policies using the MPI-M and has made it possible to prioritise effective economic and social policy guidelines to achieve poverty reduction objectives. It took into account territorial disparities in the sectors of education, health, household living conditions, and employment.

Results showed, for example, that to reduce poverty by 30% in the *wilaya* of Guidimagha, a region with the highest prevalence of monetary and multidimensional poverty in the country, it would be necessary to: (i) improve health insurance coverage for 39% of the poor and deprived population; (ii) ensure the completion of basic education for 42% of the poor and deprived population; (iii) promote employment for more than 30% of the poor and underemployed labour force, particularly women and youth under the age of 35.

MPI-M for evaluation of public policies

Integrating the MPI-M into the national poverty monitoring system (through the EPCV) will enable the monetary and multidimensional poverty

indicators to be updated in 2025, using the EPCV 2024–2025.

This should inform the latest five-year plan of the SCAPP, which is intended to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and to monitor and evaluate sectoral performance in improving household living conditions.

Having up-to-date information, less than six years away from 2030, the horizon set by several national strategies (SCAPP 2016–2030) and international agendas (SDGs 2015–2030), will make it possible to:

- Identify the poor and deprived populations that should benefit from social protection programmes, taking into account regional disparities and the specific deprivations they face.
- Target economic and social policies to reduce poverty more effectively.
- Allocate resources more effectively by directing them towards the largest deprivations faced by people living in multidimensional poverty. ■



Uzbekistan's Multidimensional Approach to Poverty: An Interview with Obid Khakimov

*Interview with **Obid Khakimov**, Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

On 28 May 2024, Obid Khakimov, [Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms \(CERR\) under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#), presented an overview of 'Poverty Reduction Policies in Uzbekistan' at a [roundtable](#) discussion of policy efforts to reduce monetary and multidimensional poverty in Uzbekistan. The roundtable, which was hosted by the Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United Kingdom and OPHI, took place in the Oxford Department of International Development at the University of Oxford.

In February 2024, CERR launched a [pilot Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\)](#) to measure poverty in the country. Uzbekistan is aiming to launch a national MPI as an official measure in due course. Building on this momentum, CERR hosted the 9th MPPN Annual Meeting in Tashkent from 27-29 August 2024. In this interview Khakimov discussed Uzbekistan's work on multidimensional poverty.

What is the recent history of poverty in Uzbekistan and why did the country decide to measure multidimensional poverty?

In 2017 in Uzbekistan, we started very important reforms as we were a developing country at that time. Our per capita income was about \$1,800 per capita. In 2020, Uzbekistan started implementing a large anti-poverty programme. At that time, we didn't have [any] kind of poverty measurements. So, the first step in this process was adopting monetary poverty measurement with the World Bank. And according to this measurement, we have reduced poverty during the last two years from 17% to 11%, which is a 6 percentage points decline in the monetary poverty rate.

But the poverty rate is not a single dimension problem. [Poverty] has lots of different dimensions. The President's policy is targeting different directions [of poverty] using different policy instruments covering,



for example, education, the health care system, the environment, entrepreneurship etc. When you fight with poverty, you have to go from the different angles with different policies.

When you are developing this kind of multidimensional policy, you must have multidimensional indicators which give you information about the efficiency of your policies. So that's why in Uzbekistan, at the CERR, we started piloting this MPI. When we started the piloting, first we asked people when they considered themselves as poor. Based on these preferences, we generated a new index, which is the MPI specifically for Uzbekistan. That's why this measure is the compass of our policy against poverty.

"I think that even developed countries should have [a national MPI], which can guide government policies in different directions efficiently."

Can you tell us about Uzbekistan's pilot MPI and the next steps for making this an official measure of poverty for Uzbekistan?

After finishing this pilot, the government has adopted this policy already. We included these [Multidimensional Poverty Index] questionnaires into

the Household Budget Survey, which is conducted by the state statistics agency. Every year Uzbekistan's state statistics agency conducts a Household Budget Survey, which is huge: 16,000 households. In the forthcoming months, we will get the first measurement of the MPI, which will give us the state of our multidimensional poverty.

In the following years, we will measure in which dimensions we are making more progress, and in which dimensions we must do more significant work. So that's why this will be very important information in the policymaking process.

If you looked at the former Soviet Union republics, Uzbekistan is one of the few countries which have this kind of instrument. So that's [also] why it is very important.

What advice would you give to other countries embarking on introducing MPIs?

I think that not only developing countries should have MPIs. I think that even developed countries should have this kind of measure, which can guide government policies in different directions efficiently. It's not only about deprivation. It's also about improvement in different directions... because [otherwise] the governments might be wasting resources in some directions where they're not very effective. ■



“Reducing multidimensional poverty must be a priority for global leaders”

Interview with Former President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez

As President of Colombia (2018–2022), Iván Duque prioritized poverty reduction, using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as a key policy tool. In this interview, he discusses lessons learned, challenges faced, and why global leaders must urgently act to combat multidimensional poverty. His efforts included successful monitoring programmes and the creation of new strategies focused on providing opportunities to those with the greatest needs.

The former president discusses the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and the region’s humanitarian crisis, as well as the key elements in prioritising multidimensional poverty reduction and implementing coordinated national policies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Colombia has been a regional leader in applying the MPI, using it as a tool to shape social programmes and drive poverty reduction. Under Duque’s administration, significant strides were made, particularly in post-pandemic recovery.

During your presidency, why was multidimensional poverty reduction so important, and why should it be a political priority?

I based my presidential campaign on the promise that my government would focus on social justice. We placed a strong emphasis on equity, which, to me, means providing opportunities to those most in need. Achieving this requires a technocratic approach combined with managerial vision to significantly reduce multidimensional poverty. At the same time, we successfully reduced extreme poverty and monetary poverty.

Equity was the backbone of the state’s social agenda, enabling us to tackle inequalities through a management framework outlined in the National Development Plan, aligned with the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

For this reason, multidimensional poverty reduction was a key factor in achieving equity. It



highlights and addresses inequalities, directs budget investments into social programmes targeting the most vulnerable populations, and provides a clear management framework.

How did you ensure that multidimensional poverty reduction remained a priority during the transition between outgoing and incoming administrations?

In Colombia, multidimensional poverty has been measured since 2010. It has been 15 years, four of which were during my term. We worked with many of the methodologies advanced by the Santos administration and improved some previously used ones.

There was a brief gap of a couple of years when indicators were recalculated at the end of the Santos administration and the beginning of ours. However, during my term, we consolidated the idea in Colombia that multidimensional poverty reduction transcends political cycles. It is and must be a state policy.

Poverty reduction must remain a priority, partly because, as Amartya Sen's theories suggest, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) offers a comprehensive perspective based on a solid analytical foundation: access to and the full exercise of individual freedoms.

Multidimensional poverty is not solely linked to income but also to access to minimum standards of social protection. That was our obsession. My administration provided all the information and indicators, establishing robust monitoring systems for budget tracking.

For multidimensional poverty, as with any policy, we must preserve what works, fix what doesn't, and innovate what doesn't exist yet. That's why

we maintained the *Familias en Acción* programme, created *Ingreso Solidario* to address the pandemic, quintupled the *Jóvenes en Acción* programme, and invested in *Colombia Mayor*. Additionally, we implemented the VAT refund programme, another critical instrument.

What advice would you give to other leaders in the region seeking to prioritise multidimensional poverty reduction?

Multidimensional poverty reduction must be a priority for heads of state. For me, it was not only a priority but an obsession. That's why I always chaired the Equity Roundtable.

I firmly believe that rigorous oversight and constant monitoring of budget execution are essential. From there, it is necessary to analyse investment costs and know precisely where the most significant efforts should be made. This requires strong coordination among all state entities and a transparent mechanism for budget tracking to monitor execution and measure its impact.

The Equity Roundtable was key because it served as a coordination space where we brought together agencies focused on poverty reduction, cross-cutting institutions, and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE in Spanish) to ensure we were heading in the right direction.

We must strengthen, correct, and innovate public policies to ensure continuity across governments. It is also crucial to prioritise government coordination through working groups and, ultimately, lead the management of the state's social policy.

In short, reducing multidimensional poverty must be a priority for global leaders to achieve the social wellbeing of their populations.

The Equity Roundtable and Multidimensional Poverty Reduction in Colombia

The Equity Roundtable was a high-level inter-ministerial coordination mechanism included in the 2018–2022 National Development Plan and institutionalised through a decree. Convened and chaired by the then-President Iván Duque, it focused on monitoring and tracking progress toward the 17 SDGs.

The Equity Roundtable implemented strategies to reduce poverty and inequality while fostering social and economic inclusion for the Colombian population. Using 500 indicators linked to the SDGs, with data sourced from a [control dashboard](#) and monitored through a traffic-light system (red, yellow, green), the [Equity Roundtable](#) tracked progress, implementation, and bottlenecks in meeting annual targets.

In Colombia, multidimensional poverty decreased by 4.1 percentage points in 2019 compared to 2018 but increased by 2.6 points in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In subsequent years,

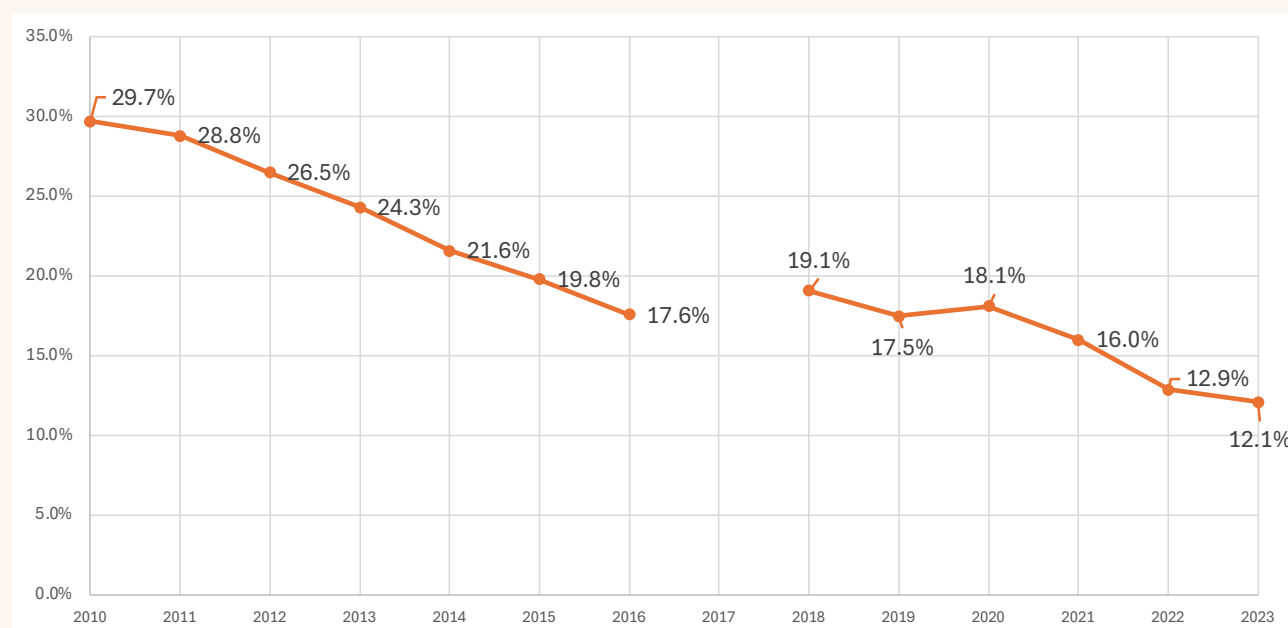
multidimensional poverty reached a historic low since its adoption as a complement to monetary poverty measures in 2010.

In 2022, the incidence of multidimensional poverty decreased to 12.9%, 3.1 percentage points lower than in 2021 (16.0%), during a period marked by post-pandemic economic recovery.

Multidimensional poverty reduction in Colombia has been the result of leadership efforts and coordination among government agencies, ministries, and departments. It has also reflected innovation in measurement methods, thanks to DANE, as well as inter-ministerial coordination and public policies informed by the national Multidimensional Poverty Index.

In recent years, Colombia has faced significant social, economic, humanitarian, and public health challenges, prompting an urgent call to strengthen coordination efforts to leave no one behind by reducing poverty in all its dimensions and ensuring the population's wellbeing. ■

Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty in Colombia (2010–2023)



Source: [DANE](#)



Pakistan's MPI Journey: Mapping progress and policy impact

Rabia Awan is the Deputy Director General at the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Over the past two decades, Pakistan has transformed its poverty reduction approach, using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to guide policy decisions and target interventions more effectively. Rabia Awan has served the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in different capacities for nearly 25 years. In this interview, she shares her insights on Pakistan's experience with the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), the challenges faced in creating and utilising data, and the lessons learned throughout the process.

Can you tell us about the MPI in Pakistan? How was it developed, and what has the process been since the first time you produced it?

Initially, Pakistan, like many other countries, focused on income-based poverty reporting using the Household Integrated Economic Survey. However, we also conducted a district-level survey called the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) survey. This survey, launched in 2004–2005, included questions on education, health, demographics, living standards, and access to facilities. Over time, we conducted six iterations of this survey.

In 2014, OPHI contacted the Ministry of Planning & Special Initiatives through UNDP with a proposal to develop an MPI. They agreed and accordingly an MPI was calculated for the first time in 2015 with back series also estimated.

This report was instrumental in identifying disparities between provinces and districts, guiding resources toward areas with the highest deprivations across multiple dimensions. It marked a milestone in directing poverty alleviation efforts.

A technical committee was then constituted for poverty estimation by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, which calculated the [next MPI](#) based on 2019–20 data.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is a department of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. The provision of data is the mandate of PBS, while the estimation of poverty is the responsibility of the Ministry. The estimation is executed through the technical committee, where PBS is also member.

How has the Census contributed to guiding poverty reduction efforts?

Recently, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics conducted a digital Census covering a population of 250 million people. This Census collected data on housing, living standards, education (enrollment, literacy, and out-of-school children), and housing conditions. Unfortunately, health—one of the MPI's three dimensions—was not included in the Census. As a result, while we cannot calculate the full MPI from Census data, we can use the methodology to analyse deprivations in education and living standards. This

partial analysis is still valuable for policymaking and targeting resources effectively.

The main challenge with data is ensuring its utilisation for informed decision-making. Policymakers often underutilise the data collected. By presenting it through heat maps and visualisations, we aim to clearly illustrate disparities and actionable insights.

What challenges have you faced in creating data for new dimensions and improving data quality?

OPHI has been a great support in building capacity for our statistical and planning departments. People are now familiar with the methodology for calculating MPI. However, as new dimensions are introduced or staff changes occur, there's an ongoing need for refresher courses and capacity building.

One key challenge we encountered was the comparability of indicators. Earlier surveys had different questions, forcing us to drop some indicators. For example, we initially calculated MPI with 15 indicators, but it now uses 14. Consistency is critical for trend analysis, and any changes can disrupt comparability.

Additionally, large-scale data collection often brings quality issues, which we are addressing. However, MPI itself is less controversial than income-based poverty measures, as it focuses on non-income dimensions like education and living standards. This

has made it easier for policymakers and the public to accept MPI results.

What efforts are being made to enhance access to data for policymakers?

Survey data is freely available on our website, but Census data is more restricted to protect individual confidentiality. To bridge the gap, we plan to create a portal where policymakers can instantly access visualised data for their districts, including maps and figures. This will empower them to make evidence-based decisions more efficiently.

What lessons would you like others to learn from Pakistan's MPI experience?

Pakistan's MPI process has been inclusive and consultative. For instance, we worked closely with Professor Sabina Alkire during the early phases. Now, however, we are self-sufficient in calculating and reporting MPI. This independence reflects the institutionalisation of MPI within the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

It is essential for every country to institutionalise MPI calculation within a dedicated organisation to ensure sustainability. While external partners like OPHI and UNDP are invaluable for technical advice, relying solely on them does not build local capacity. We are proud to say that we have transitioned from dependence to autonomy, which is a significant achievement for Pakistan. ■

Pakistan's National MPI - Indicators, Deprivation Cut-Offs, and Weights

Dimension	Indicators / Weights		
	Education	Health	Living Standards
Indicators / Weights	Years of schooling (1/6)	Immunisation (1/9)	Water (1/9)
	Child school attendance (1/8)	Antenatal care (1/9)	Sanitation (1/21)
	Educational quality (1/4)	Assisted delivery (1/9)	Walls (1/42)
			Overcrowding (1/42)
			Electricity (1/21)
			Cooking fuel (1/21)
			Assets (1/21)
			Land and livestock (only for rural areas) (1/21)

Source: [Multidimensional Poverty Index Report 2019-20, Pakistan Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, OPHI and Unicef.](#)



Social Protection and Multidimensional Poverty: How can multidimensional measures become a social protection system tool?

By **Mónica Pinilla-Roncancio**, Assistant Professor, Universidad de los Andes (UniAndes), Colombia, and Researcher, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

Countries around the globe have started establishing social protection systems, aiming to implement policies and programmes to reduce poverty. At the same time, the number of countries designing and computing multidimensional poverty measures has increased in recent years, with more than 40 countries in the five world regions having official multidimensional poverty measures and others working on designing their own national Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPI).

Social protection can be understood from a transformative perspective, where aspects related to prevention and promotion become fundamental. When social protection is defined beyond income poverty reduction policies and includes the provision of social programmes and services, the perspective of multidimensional poverty becomes relevant.

Although social protection programmes are usually associated with cash transfers, the recognition of their impact on other dimensions of poverty has increased in recent years. Indeed, in the last decade, cash-plus

programmes have become a commonly used way to implement social protection programmes, including cash transfers complemented by support programmes that aim to increase people's capability to overcome poverty.

In addition, regions such as Latin America have established conditional cash transfers since the 1990s. Their main objective is to reduce intergenerational poverty and increase access to health and education for poor children. Although the main strategy of these programmes is to provide a cash transfer, all establish conditions for continuing to receive the benefit, which are related to taking children to school and health services. Therefore, it has a direct effect on the health and education of children.

With this in mind, it becomes relevant to ask how multidimensional poverty measures can be used in social protection systems and whether national MPIs can be used to design, implement, and evaluate social protection programmes.

Four potential uses of multidimensional poverty measures exist in social protection systems:

1. Identification and targeting
2. Planning and design
3. Monitoring
4. Evaluation

Identification and targeting: Multidimensional poverty measures such as Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) and Multidimensional Vulnerability Indices (MVIs) can identify individuals with high levels of deprivation or poverty. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, [Honduras](#) designed an MVI whose main objective was to identify beneficiaries of an in-kind transference (*Bono Unico*). The MVI was intended to capture individuals at a higher risk of being negatively affected by the quarantine measures implemented in 2020. Other countries have also used national MPIs to prioritise regions or provinces so that resources can be allocated to those regions with a more significant number of poor people or who present the highest percentage of deprived individuals. Still others have included geographical targeting to prioritise territories that will receive social protection benefits.

Multidimensional poverty measures can identify individuals with high levels of deprivation or poverty.

Planning and design: Given the large amount of data produced by the MPI and the fact that it is possible to create poverty profiles for individuals, households, districts or regions using the MPI, this information can be used for planning social protection baskets, and for designing comprehensive social protection programmes. For example, a study in [Guatemala](#) analysed the main combinations of indicators at the municipal level and proposed baskets of programmes that could be implemented in order to reduce multidimensional poverty in each municipality. Programmes can also be designed to respond to the needs of persons who are living in multidimensional poverty. For example, a programme which includes

actions in different aspects of poverty can propose activities depending on the composition of poverty of individuals and households.

Monitoring: Multidimensional poverty measures can be used to monitor changes for individuals and households that are beneficiaries of social programmes. This information can provide evidence on how individuals have changed during the implementation of the programme and can define potential modifications of programmes. One example is *Red Unidos* in Colombia, a programme which aimed to reduce extreme poverty. This programme used the Colombian national MPI as a tool to design the set of programmes which a household received and to monitor the progress that individual and households made. In this context, households were assessed using the MPI structure, and once a household and all its members were not deprived, the household graduated from the programme.

Evaluation: Finally, multidimensional measures can be used to evaluate the impact of social protection programmes. Different studies have used MPIs to assess the effect of cash transfers on other dimensions of poverty. In this case, changes to deprivation or multidimensional poverty can be analysed, or a multidimensional measure can be designed to analyse changes in the incidence, intensity, and censored headcount ratios as a result of an intervention or social protection programme.

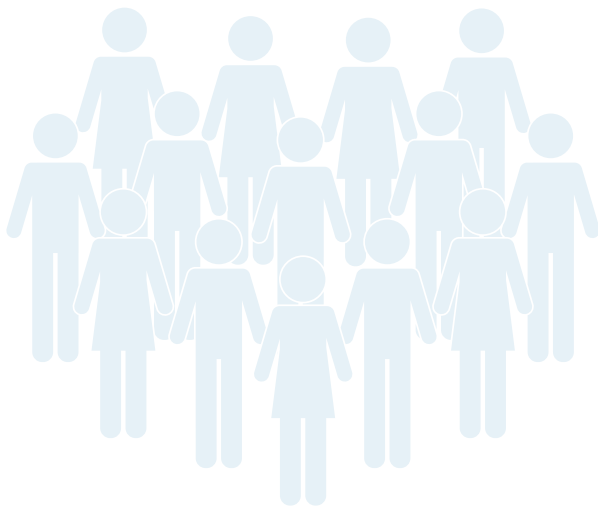
In general, multidimensional measures, including national MPIs or MVIs, can be used in different stages of the implementation of social protection programmes. When poverty is recognised as a multidimensional phenomenon, multidimensional measures can be used to inform the process of implementing comprehensive programmes to reduce poverty.

Although, to date, only a few programmes have been implemented from a multidimensional perspective, more and more programmes are complementing cash transfers with the provision of social services, an approach that moves from an income perspective on social protection to a transformative one, and where multidimensional measures can play a fundamental role. ■

Global MPI 2024 Infographics

Across 112 countries and 6.3 billion people, **1.1 billion people (18.3%) live in acute multidimensional poverty.**

Who are the poorest?



Over half of the **1.1 billion** poor people are children under the age of 18 (584 million).

83.7% of poor people live in rural areas.

Overall, **28.0%** of the global rural population are poor, compared with 6.6% of the urban population.

83.2% of the world's 1.1 billion multidimensionally poor people live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

65.2% of poor people live in middle-income countries.

What deprivations do poor people experience?

Large proportions of the 1.1 billion poor people lack:



Adequate sanitation
(828 million)



Housing
(886 million)



Cooking fuel
(998 million)



Nutrition
(637 million)

How has poverty changed?

Of 86 countries

with harmonised data,

76 significantly reduced poverty

according to the MPI value in at least one time period.

Of 17 countries

with trend data that end in 2021/22

or later, **only 9** (Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Kenya, Mozambique, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Trinidad and Tobago) **experienced significant reductions in both the MPI value and the incidence of poverty.**

Of the 1.1 billion poor people,

218 million

(19.0%) **live in war-affected countries.**

Nearly 40% of poor people

(455 million)

live in countries experiencing war, fragility and/or low peacefulness.

While national rates vary, overall, in countries affected by war (using conflict definitions from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program),

the incidence of poverty is 34.8%, much higher than the 10.9% in countries not affected by war or minor conflicts.

Multidimensional poverty is also more than twice as high in fragile and conflict-affected and low-peacefulness countries.

Poverty reduction tends to be slowest in the settings most affected by conflict — where poverty is the highest.

In **Afghanistan** the incidence of poverty rose by more than 5 percentage points from 2015/2016 to 2022/2023.

On average, **the percentage of poor people deprived** in each of the 10 global MPI indicators **is higher in conflict settings than in other countries**; deprivations in nutrition, electricity, water and sanitation are some of the most pronounced among poor people in conflict settings.

While 4.4% of the population in non-conflict affected countries are **poor and have a child who is not in school**, the proportion increases to **17.7% in war-affected countries**.

Source: OPHI (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) (2024). [Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024](#): Poverty amid conflict. United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.





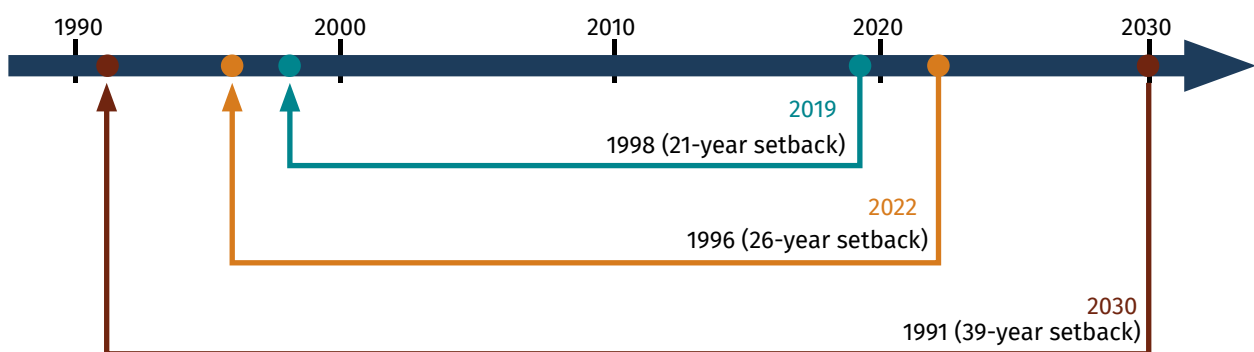
A Roadmap to Recovery: Addressing poverty in Yemen's ongoing conflict

By **Abdo Seif**, Acting Team Leader for Oversight Support Team, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Yemen

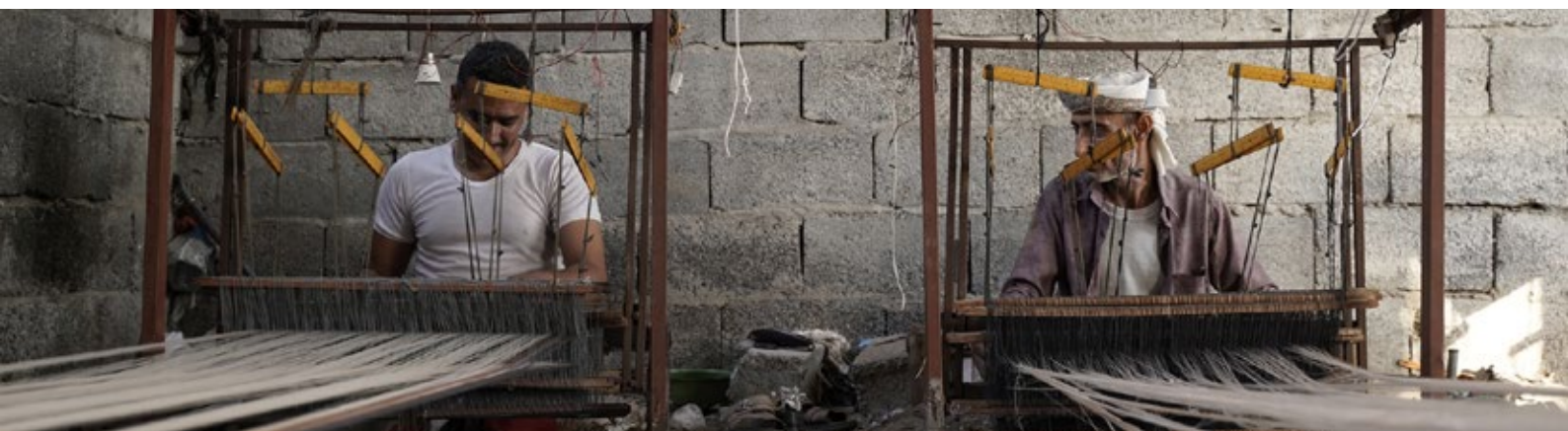
Prior to the escalation of armed conflict in 2015, development in Yemen was strained. As a country of 30 million people, it ranked 153rd on the Human Development Index (HDI), 138th in extreme poverty, 147th in life expectancy, 172nd in educational attainment, and was in the World Bank low-middle income category. Yemen did not achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals and it is likely that it will not achieve any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 due to the adverse impact of the ongoing crisis.

The ongoing conflict has further reduced the pace of development and exacerbated poverty and hunger. The impacts of conflict in Yemen are devastating – nearly 250,000 people have been killed directly by fighting and indirectly through lack of access to food, health services, and infrastructure. Of the dead, 60% are children under the age of 5. The long-term impacts of conflict are both vast and devastating, placing it among the most destructive conflicts since the end of the Cold War. The conflict has already set back human development by more than 20 years, [as measured by the HDI](#).

Projected impact of conflict duration on Yemen's HDI: scenarios for conflict ending in 2019, 2022, or 2030



Source: [Studies on Impact of War in Yemen](#), University of Denver and UNDP (2020).



Most of Yemen's population is poor. UNDP and OPHI's [report](#) on measuring multidimensional poverty in Yemen indicates that 82.7% of the population live in multidimensional poverty in Yemen. That is, more than eight in every ten people in the country (in the regions the surveys were collected) were living in multidimensional poverty. The intensity of poverty, or the average number of deprivations faced by multidimensionally poor people, is 46.7%. This means that, on average, a poor person experienced more than 45% of the possible weighted deprivations. The indicators showing the highest levels of deprivations are years of schooling and sanitation, with more than 70% of the poor population deprived in these indicators.

“82.7% of the population live in multidimensional poverty in Yemen.”

The national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) used in this study is based on the [Yemen Human Development Survey \(YHDS\) 2021](#), and is composed of six dimensions: education, health, child and maternal health, services, living standards, and employment. The national MPI includes dimensions and indicators that capture deprivations for individuals and households. The indicators are computed at the household level, assuming that all household members share achievements and deprivations equally. Statistical tests were performed to validate the measure's robustness and significance at the national level and for governorates.

The YHDS included a sample of 1,681 households. It was the first face-to-face, representative household survey collected since the onset of conflict. It aims to provide a detailed overview of welfare, food security and human development indicators in Yemen, enabling intra-household analysis. Data were collected between April and September 2021, including information on education, health, employment status, and living conditions in the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) (or Southern Yemen). The survey provides regionally representative data in Al Bayda, Ta'iz, Hadramawt, Shabwah, Aden, Lahj, Ma'rib, Al Maharah, and Ad Dali' governorates.

The national MPI, which is the product of the incidence (percentage of people living in multidimensional poverty) and intensity (average number of deprivations faced by poor people) of multidimensional poverty, was 0.386. Therefore, multidimensionally poor people faced on average 38.6% of all possible deprivations in Yemen, if all individuals were multidimensionally poor and deprived in all indicators.

Poverty tended to be higher in rural areas (89.4% of the population) than urban areas (68.9%). Ad Dali' and Al Bayda had the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty. Given the large population in the Ta'iz governorate, it is estimated that 40% of multidimensionally poor people live in this region.

Nationally, years of schooling and sanitation are the two indicators with the largest censored headcount ratios (the percentage of people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived in each

indicator), with more than 70% of multidimensionally poor people being deprived in these indicators. Of the 17 indicators measured, years of schooling (79.2%), followed by sanitation (74.8%) and cooking fuel (63.3%), have the highest percentage contribution to the national MPI and therefore to national poverty. In addition, female-headed households have a lower incidence of multidimensional poverty than male-headed households. However, these differences are not significant.

In terms of the marital status of the household, the results reveal that households where the head is divorced have a lower incidence of multidimensional poverty compared to other households. By contrast, households whose head is married with more than one wife have higher levels of people living in multidimensional poverty, and the intensity of their poverty is higher.

In addition, the incidence of poverty of people living in smaller households is 64.4%, compared to 86.4% and 91.1% for people living in households with five to nine members or more than nine members, respectively.

Finally, the results reveal that households with members with disabilities have higher levels of multidimensional poverty than households without members with disabilities (86.4% versus 81.2%).

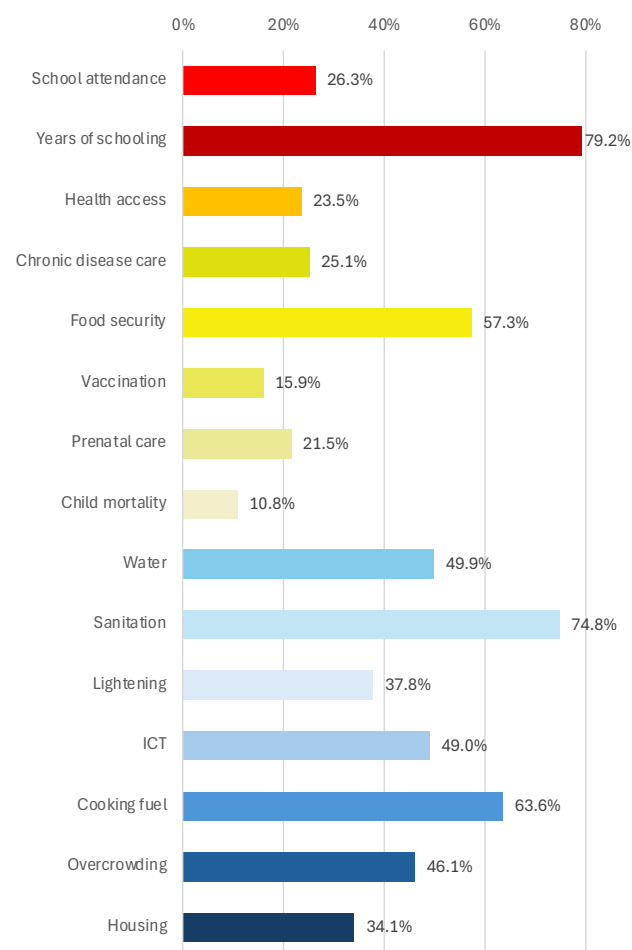
Conclusion and Recommendations

The internal conflict of Yemen has had a negative impact on the living standards of individuals and households in the country. This analysis has revealed that the country faces high levels of poverty and deprivation, and that there are several challenges to guaranteeing access to basic services and opportunities.

Deprivations in years of schooling and sanitation are two of the highest deprivations, with more than 70% of the population deprived in these indicators.

In addition, there are important differences between rural and urban areas and between governorates. This reflects that some areas are more

Censored headcount ratios, 2021



Note: Calculations based on data from the YHDS 2021.

Source: [Measuring Multidimensional Poverty in Yemen](#), OPHI and UNDP (2023)

affected by the ongoing conflict than others, and that there are areas where people face higher barriers to access services, or where services are not available.

The national MPI report recommends putting in place a poverty reduction strategy that addresses the issues of inadequate access to basic services and enhances economic opportunities. ■



1. Participants of the 9th MPPN Annual Meeting 2. Mayumi Endoh, Deputy Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD 3. Sabina Alkire, OPHI Director 4. Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva, Global Director of Poverty and Equity, World Bank 5. Obid Khakimov, Director CERR 6. Akiko Fuji, UNDP Resident Representative, Uzbekistan.

9th MPPN Annual Meeting, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

By **Ana Marín Morales**, Global Engagement and Events Manager, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

The 9th MPPN Annual Meeting took place in September 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, bringing together 160 high-level representatives from 18 countries and 11 organisations.

The [three-day event](#) was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan through the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) under the Administration of the President and was generously supported by UNDP Uzbekistan.

The Meeting provided an opportunity for countries to engage in meaningful dialogue about the insights and challenges of poverty measurement and reduction using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), while reinforcing the importance of knowledge exchange among policymakers from across the Global South.

Key topics of discussion included poverty alleviation policies, the links between MPIs (such as those focusing on children and elderly populations), the use of MPI in high- and middle-income countries, regional cooperation for poverty reduction, and the role of poverty alleviation in the international sustainable development agenda (including the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future), as well as efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty within the G20 framework.

In the opening session, Ravshan Gulyamov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Economic Development, read out the Address of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which concluded with the hope that ‘the practical proposals and recommendations developed as a result will become another step towards reducing poverty throughout



Participants listen to the sessions (left), Obid Khakimov addresses participants in Samarkand (right)

the world.’ In his opening remarks, the Director of CERR, Obid Khakimov, encouraged participants to be ambitious and said: ‘We have a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on such an important topic as multidimensional poverty. We have gathered here to work together on solutions that can change the lives of millions of people around the world.’

On the final day, the CERR, in collaboration with the Agency for Mahallabay Work and Entrepreneurship Development, arranged an informative visit to Konigil village in Samarkand. There, participants had the opportunity to view community projects that produce paper and vegetable oil under the ‘mahallabay’ system. This integral part of Uzbekistan’s poverty reduction strategy focuses on addressing poverty at the *mahalla* level, a self-governing, community-led form of local government.

The [Annual Meeting](#) concluded with the adoption of a four-point Communiqué.

1. Attendees called for the continued use of the MPI to measure poverty and for its integration into policy and planning as a tool for developing high-impact strategies.
2. The importance of prioritising the collection of multidimensional poverty data was emphasised, with a call for improvements to ensure it can better track progress and support evidence-based decision-making.
3. The Communiqué urged countries to report their progress in reducing multidimensional poverty in the Global SDG Indicators Database and through Voluntary National Reviews.
4. The Communiqué called on international actors to recognise and profile global and national Multidimensional Poverty Indices as key measures for understanding trends in poverty at both the global and national levels.

The MPPN will continue fostering peer-learning and dialogue from the South by the South. We reiterate our invitation to all countries and agencies willing to host to contact us. ■

A Day in the Life: Nyakume's story in South Sudan*

Nyakume, a 22-year-old woman living in the Mangateen internally displaced persons camp in South Sudan, exemplifies resilience amid severe hardships.

Her family, displaced by tribal conflicts and instability following South Sudan's 2013 conflict, resides in a cramped shelter shared with 13 relatives, including a disabled cousin.

Their living conditions are dire, with limited access to food, clean water, electricity, and sanitation.

Nyakume's father, once a government employee, now works as a security guard to provide for the family, but economic challenges and high inflation compound their struggles. The children have been forced to drop out of school due to unaffordable tuition, deepening the cycle of poverty.

Daily life in the camp is arduous. To fetch water, Nyakume and her sisters undertake a one-hour long round trip to a communal well, where they often have to queue. Their cooking is done using firewood or charcoal, and the family lacks basic assets apart from two mobile phones.

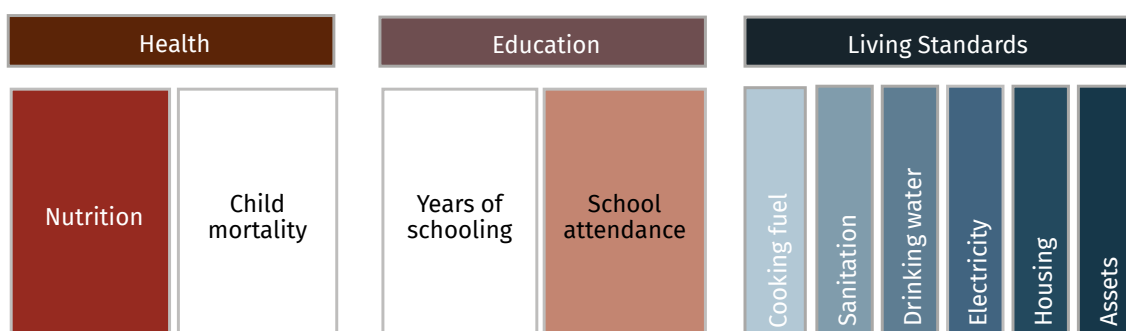


Food insecurity has led to severe nutritional deprivation within the household. Despite these challenges, Nyakume dreams of pursuing higher education to support her family and help them achieve stability, holding onto hope for a peaceful future in South Sudan.

Her story is a stark reminder of the ongoing hardships faced by displaced families and the need for targeted support.

According to the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Nyakume's household is categorised as poor, with a deprivation score of 66.7%—twice the threshold for poverty.

While the MPI does not currently account for the specific experiences of internally displaced persons like Nyakume, their difficult situation underscores the urgency of better data collection to address multidimensional poverty and develop effective solutions for vulnerable populations. ■



Note: Indicators in white refer to a nondeprivation.

* OPHI and UNDP (2024). [Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024: Poverty amid conflict](#).

National MPIs



[Somalia launches an official national MPI](#)

In 2024, the Federal Republic of Somalia joined the MPPN, hosted the MPPN Side Event at UNGA 79, and in December launched a new official measure of poverty to help point the way to achieving transformative and inclusive change.

Somalia's MPI was launched by the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) and Somalia's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA). It is based on the 2022 Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SIHBS) and is made up of 13 weighted indicators grouped within 5 dimensions: education, health, living standards, services and inclusion. According to the MPI, two thirds of people in Somalia are multidimensionally poor (67%).



[Moldova publishes first report on multidimensional poverty](#)

Statistica Moldovei, the National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova, published their first report on multidimensional poverty for Moldova in November 2024.

The report was produced in partnership with OPHI and the UNDP. The national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Moldova uses national Household Budget Survey 2022 data and analyses the way that poverty affects the Moldovan population across 11 indicators grouped within four dimensions: health, education, living standards, and employment.

The report finds that in 2022, 716,000 people (27.5% of the population) were multidimensionally poor, which means they experienced deprivations in at least 35% of the weighted indicators.



[Pakistan publishes first update of national MPI](#)

This report published in December 2024 presents the first update of Pakistan's national MPI based on the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2019-20 and was prepared by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MPDSI Pakistan) in partnership with UNICEF and OPHI. The results analysed in this report represent poverty levels just before and at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Uruguay launches official national MPI](#)

In February 2025 the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Uruguay launched the national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of Uruguay to monitor the country's progress in eradicating poverty in all its forms. The MPI is an official and permanent tool that complements the measurement of monetary poverty in Uruguay. The Uruguay MPI was developed under the leadership of the INE in a strategic technical alliance with UNDP and OPHI. According to the Uruguay MPI, 18.9% of the population lives in poverty.



[New report measures multidimensional poverty for Egypt](#)

In December 2024 a study of multidimensional poverty using the first ever analysis of Egypt's official national Multidimensional Poverty Index was published. Egypt's official national MPI was developed following a comprehensive consultation process led by the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, together with the national statistics office (CAPMAS) with support from ESCWA and OPHI.

News



[South Sudan joins the MPPN](#)

In December 2024 South Sudan joined the MPPN, a network of over 60 countries and 20 organisations committed to promoting sustainable and inclusive development in the region. The MPPN offers a two-way South-South exchange for experiences of implementing national MPIs.



[‘Peace remains the fertile soil of progress’: 2024 Global MPI Report launches in Thailand](#)

The 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index report ‘Poverty amid conflict’ was launched in a hybrid event in Bangkok in November 2024, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme in Thailand.



[Using MPIs to enhance oversight: MPPN Roundtable Discussion in South Africa](#)

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) and the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) of the Republic of South Africa co-hosted an insightful Roundtable Discussion in Cape Town between 17 and 18 October 2024.

Starting on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the purpose of the event was to foster a national dialogue among stakeholders in South Africa, to discuss best practices in using a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as an oversight tool to reduce poverty.



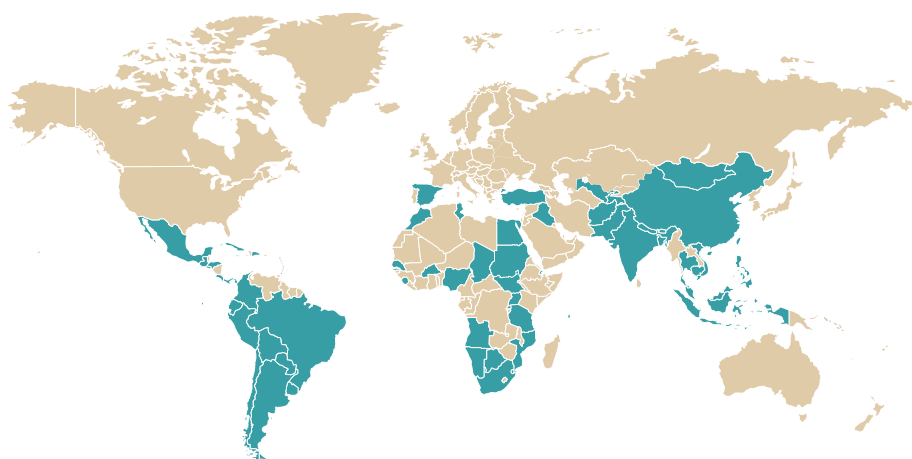
[‘Our future is not predetermined’: leaders discuss poverty reduction and MPI at UNGA 79 MPPN event](#)

On Tuesday 24 September 2024, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the MPPN co-hosted a High-Level Side Meeting on multidimensional poverty at the UN Headquarters during the 79th UN General Assembly. The event, kindly supported by UNDP Somalia, was entitled ‘Sustainable and Targeted Poverty Solutions: Using the Multidimensional Poverty Index’ and brought together 21 leaders, countries, and institutions to share insights from using Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) as sustainable and targeted poverty solutions.

MPPN

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) is a South-South initiative that supports policymakers in developing multidimensional poverty measures.

It promotes the use of such measures for more effective poverty eradication efforts at the global, national, and local levels.



Participants in the network are Ministers and senior officials from:

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- [Antigua and Barbuda](#)
- [Argentina](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
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Dimensions

