

ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
 CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

17 November 2021

Online meetings on measuring poverty and inequality, 30 November - 2 December 2021
I. ABSTRACT

Title	<i>The importance of disaggregated data in addressing poverty and inequalities</i>
Author Name	<i>Fanni KOVESDI, Sophie SCHARLIN-PETTEE</i>
Author Organization	<i>Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD</i>
Author email address	Fanni.kovesdi@geh.ox.ac.uk ; Sophie.scharlin-pettee@geh.ox.ac.uk
Topic	<i>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: SDG 1 and SDG 10; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and going beyond averages</i>

This presentation examines the advantages of disaggregated poverty data, gender and trends analysis in addressing inequalities and reducing poverty, using the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). We also present a new trial moderate poverty measure to capture higher ambitions outlined in the SDGs. As countries look to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and fulfil their commitment towards Agenda 2030, it is vital that measurement tools developed for the SDG framework are able to capture vulnerabilities, inequalities, and offer clear pathways for poverty reduction. In the following, we synthesize evidence from the most recent release of the global MPI to illuminate the challenges faced by vulnerable or disadvantaged groups such as children, women and girls, or ethnic minorities. In line with the goal to 'Leave No One Behind', the global MPI is disaggregated by population subgroups to reveal disparities among the poor, and between poor and non-poor households, providing valuable information to decision-makers across the world. To highlight gender-based differences within households, the new release provides estimates on the share of MPI poor people living in households without an educated women or girl, which in the case of Europe and Central Asia is nearly 13 percent. Poverty estimates are also presented by gender of the household head, and in an effort to address missing data disaggregation for key variables, by ethnicity, race, and caste groups at the household level in selected countries, revealing stark inequalities. And while great effort is required to reach the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda, it is important to acknowledge the progress made by many countries prior to the pandemic. Harmonised trends in the MPI offer information on poverty reduction, and whether such progress benefitted the poorest. Overall, the MPI offers useful tools for tracking progress on the SDGs in the form of trends analysis, subgroup decomposition, and gendered analysis, all of which underline the importance of granular data to inform policies aimed to reduce poverty and inequalities, and identify the repercussions of the pandemic.