Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender

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Building back with equity: Where are we now?
Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021

- 5.9 billion people
- 77% of the world’s population
- 92% of the population in developing countries

109 developing countries

Surveys are dated:
- 2009 (Syrian Arab Republic)
- 2019/2020 (Guyana, Liberia, State of Palestine)
Multidimensional Poverty Index

109 countries

13 (out of 17 countries in Europe and Central Asia)

22 (out of 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean)

13 (out of 26 in East Asia and the Pacific)

8 (out of 9 countries in South Asia)

11 (out of 20 countries in the Arab States)

42 (out of 46 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa)
Where do multidimensionally poor people live?

Percentage of people who are multidimensionally poor, by region

- Europe and Central Asia: 1.0
- East Asia and the Pacific: 5.4
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 6.9
- Arab States: 14.5
- Developing countries: 21.7
- South Asia: 29.0
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 53.4
Multidimensional poverty, ethnicity, caste and gender: Revealing disparities
Multidimensional poverty, ethnicity and caste

- Among the 109 countries covered by the global MPI, results can be disaggregated
  - by ethnic or racial categories in 40 countries
  - by caste in India
  - covering 291 ethno-racial categories and five caste categories

- These 41 countries belong to five regions:
  - East Asia and the Pacific (4 countries),
  - Europe and Central Asia (6 countries),
  - Latin America and the Caribbean (11 countries),
  - South Asia (3 countries) and
  - Sub-Saharan Africa (17 countries).

- They are home to more than 2.4 billion people
  - almost 690 million (28.2%) of whom live in multidimensional poverty.
Multidimensional poverty and ethnic groups in Europe and Central Asia

• In the Republic of Moldova, the Roma (Gypsy) group shows the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty.

• Though this group represents less than 4% of Moldova’s population.

• Based on 2012 MICS data.
Ethnic minorities in East Asia and the Pacific show higher levels of multidimensional poverty

- In Viet Nam MPI values differ starkly between:
  - the majority Kinh/Hoa group (0.011) and
  - ethnic minorities (0.071).

- While ethnic minorities account for only about one-sixth of the population, they account for nearly half of people living in multidimensional poverty.

- Based on 2014 MICS data.
Indigenous peoples in Bolivia

- Indigenous peoples account for 44% of Bolivia’s population but 75% of those who live in multidimensional poverty.
- Based on 2016 DHS data.
Multidimensional poverty by caste in India

- Castes and tribes are a more prevalent line of social stratification in India.
- Five out of six multidimensionally poor people are from lower tribes or castes.

The Scheduled Tribe is the poorest (highest incidence and intensity):
- more than half live in multidimensional poverty (65 million of 129 million people).

The Scheduled Caste group follows with 33.3% of people living in multidimensional poverty (94 million of 283 million people).

And 27.2% of the Other Backward Class group lives in multidimensional poverty (160 million of 588 million people)
- lower incidence but a similar intensity compared with the Scheduled Caste group.
Future work on the MPI

We are continuously working on improving the MPI methodology:

• to better measure the multidimensional aspect of human’s deprivations,
• to reflect the needs of policy makers, and
• to refine and incorporate new indicators or components.
## Multidimensional Poverty Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Deprived if…</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Any adult under 70 years of age or any child for whom there is nutritional information is undernourished.*</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child mortality</td>
<td>Any child under the age of 18 has died in the family in the five-year period preceding the survey.</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of schooling</td>
<td>No eligible household member has completed six years of schooling.</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School attendance</td>
<td>Any school-aged child+ is not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete class 8.</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking fuel</td>
<td>The household cooks with dung, wood, charcoal or coal.</td>
<td>1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>The household’s sanitation facility is not improved (according to SDG guidelines) or it is improved but shared with other households.**</td>
<td>1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>The household does not have access to improved drinking water (according to SDG guidelines) or safe drinking water is at least a 30-minute walk from home, round trip.***</td>
<td>1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>The household has no electricity.</td>
<td>1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>At least one of the three housing materials for roof, walls and floor are inadequate: the floor is of natural materials and/or the roof and/or walls are of natural or rudimentary materials.****</td>
<td>1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>The household does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone, computer, animal cart, bicycle, motorbike or refrigerator, and does not own a car or truck.</td>
<td>1/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Undernourished defined as having a Body Mass Index (BMI) below 18.5
+ School-aged defined as aged 5-14 years
+ At least one of the three materials defined as: roof made of thatched, grass, or straw; walls made of mud, adobe, or natural materials; and floor made of natural materials or stone

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** Standard of living

### Health

- Nutrition
- Child mortality
- Years of schooling

### Education

- School attendance
- Cooking fuel
- Sanitation
- Drinking water
- Electricity

### Housing

- Housing

#### Assets

- At least one of the three materials
- The household does not own more than one of these assets,
Poverty in all its dimensions

The **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** complements monetary-based measures of poverty, expressing deprivations that are manifested in people’s daily lives in ways that go beyond the ability to purchase goods and services.

- It assesses the incidence and intensity of poverty at the individual level, by directly measuring the overlapping deprivations people experience.
- It provides a picture of how and where people are poor, within and across countries, enabling policymakers to better target their resources and tackle the many different aspects of poverty together.
Where do multidimensionally poor people live?

1.3 billion poor people in the 109 countries covered

About 84.5% of multidimensionally poor people live in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

Number of multidimensionally poor people (thousands), by region

- Europe and Central Asia: 1,101
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 37,463
- Arab States: 49,666
- East Asia and the Pacific: 111,232
- South Asia: 531,715
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 556,351
Multidimensional poverty, ethnicity and caste

- When disaggregated by ethnic group, MPI values range from 0.000 to 0.700, wider than across all 109 countries and all other disaggregations.

- In the nine poorest ethnic groups -all in Burkina Faso and Chad- more than 90% of the population is multidimensionally poor.

- The smallest differences between the ethnic groups with the highest and lowest incidence are in Cuba, Kazakhstan, and Trinidad and Tobago (less than 1 percentage point).

- The largest differences (more than 70 percentage points) are in Gabon and Nigeria.
Indigenous peoples are the poorest in most Latin American countries covered

- In 7 of the 11 Latin American countries covered indigenous groups are the poorest
  - Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, and Paraguay
- But in Peru and Suriname some indigenous groups fare better.

- In the Plurinational State of Bolivia indigenous peoples account for about 44% of the population but 75% of people living in multidimensional poverty.
  - The incidence of multidimensional poverty varies across indigenous groups:
  - 10% among the Aymara, the least poor
  - 19.5% among the Quechua
  - 20.5% among the Other Indigenous group.
  - The incidence of multidimensional poverty among the Aymara and Quechua groups in Peru is lower.

- Plurinational State of Bolivia: Regression analysis shows that, on average, each indigenous group has a larger deprivation score than the nonindigenous group
  - even after geographic region and urban or rural area is controlled for.
  - the Aymara have the lowest average deprivation score among indigenous groups.