Timely and disaggregated data are essential for effective policymaking and achieving the ambitious goals outlined in the Agenda 2030. To this date, more than 35 countries have launched national Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) to monitor SDG 1.2.2 and eradicate poverty in all its forms. More than 70 countries report some kind of multidimensional poverty measure towards the SDGs. Moreover, the United Nations and OPHI annually publish internationally comparable multidimensional poverty statistics for over 100 countries with the global Multidimensional Poverty Index. However, a persistent challenge is the measurement of less acute (or: moderate) forms of multidimensional poverty as standard of living increases, and to be inclusive of high(er) income countries, e.g. in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia. The acute poverty focus of the global MPI cannot always accurately capture the deprivations experienced in these countries.

While advancements have been made in the use of alternative data sources, e.g. administrative or census data, most multidimensional poverty measures (incl. national and global MPIs) rely on household survey data to offer comprehensive and timely assessments of poverty, and trends over time.

This contribution offers an assessment of changing data needs to accurately capture multidimensional poverty around the world, with special emphasis on less acute forms of poverty, e.g. in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia. The presentation summarises up-to-date data availability for multidimensional poverty measurement around the world, focusing on multi-topic household surveys. It provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of data availability and gaps persisting in current surveys. It also discusses the proposal for a new global measure of moderate multidimensional poverty, incorporating a less restrictive set of moderate, rather than acute, deprivation indicators to include additional countries, whilst also allowing for frequent updates and subnational disaggregation and analyses. Several options for a global ‘moderate MPI’ are discussed and evaluated. Key take-away are a set of recommendations to improve the availability and quality of household survey data for multidimensional poverty measurement and reduction around the world, in line with SDG 1.