Multidimensional poverty around the world
A comprehensive survey

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS
Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics
27 November 2024

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*Contributions of Azul Fourcade and Aastha Mohapatra are gratefully acknowledged*

"Poverty statistics matter because they motivate people to tackle a key challenge. Learning about the extent of poverty is important, but it is the link to action that marks out poverty statistics from many others."

Atkinson, A.B. (2019). *Measuring Poverty Around the World*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, p. 1.

The past quarter century has seen a radically new approach to measuring poverty in official statistics

❑ *Why?*

   ❑ We've all for a long time agreed that poverty (and well-being) is multidimensional (human rights, basic needs, capability approach, etc.)

   ❑ <u>But</u>: We didn't have data or methods to measure it this way.
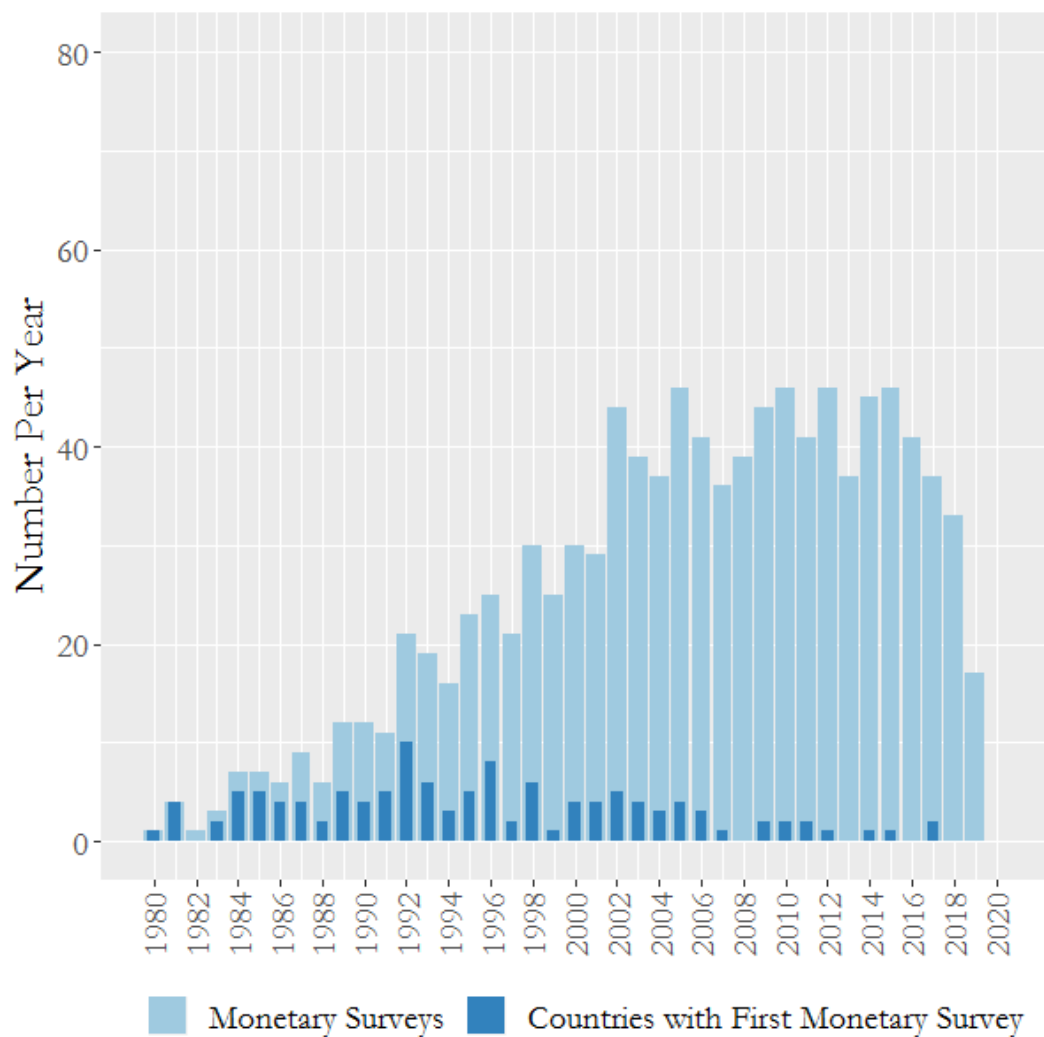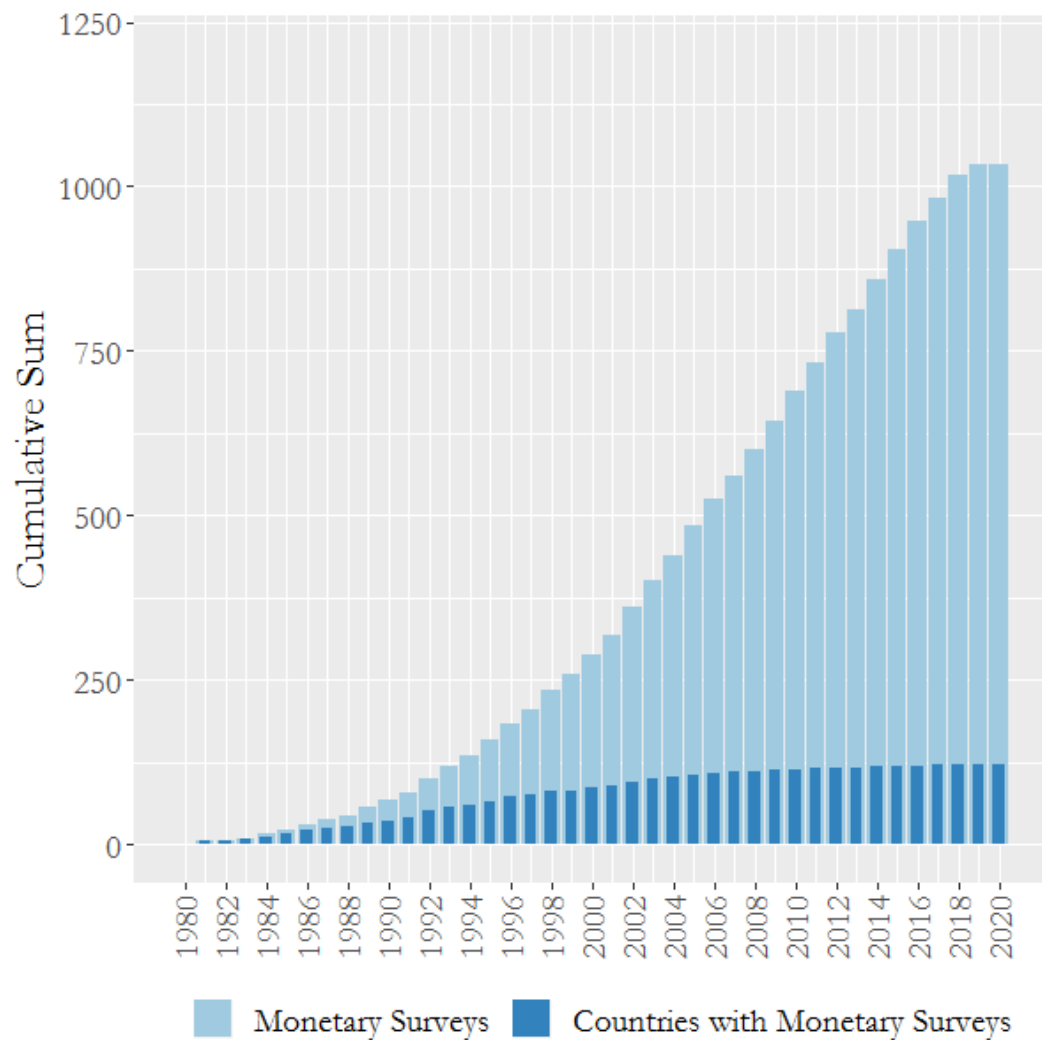
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Alkire & Robson 'On international household survey data availability for assessing pre-pandemic monetary and multidimensional poverty in developing countries' DSR 2022
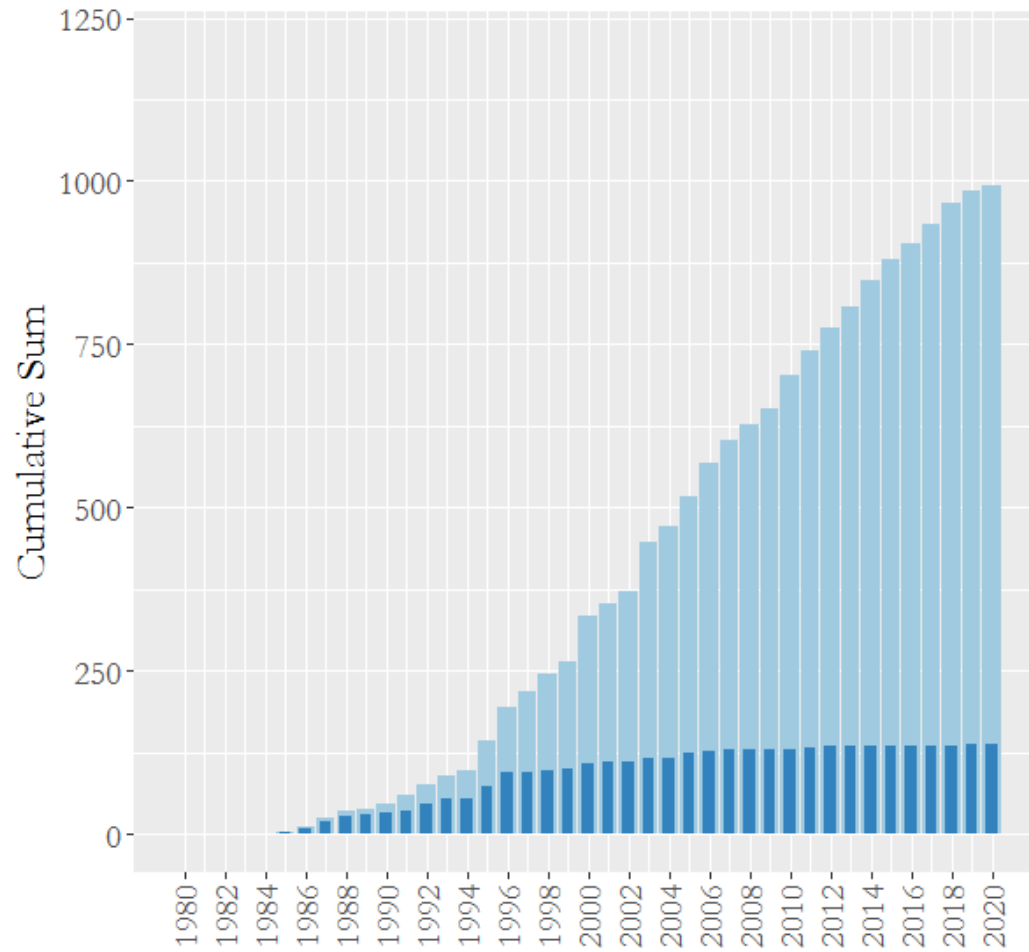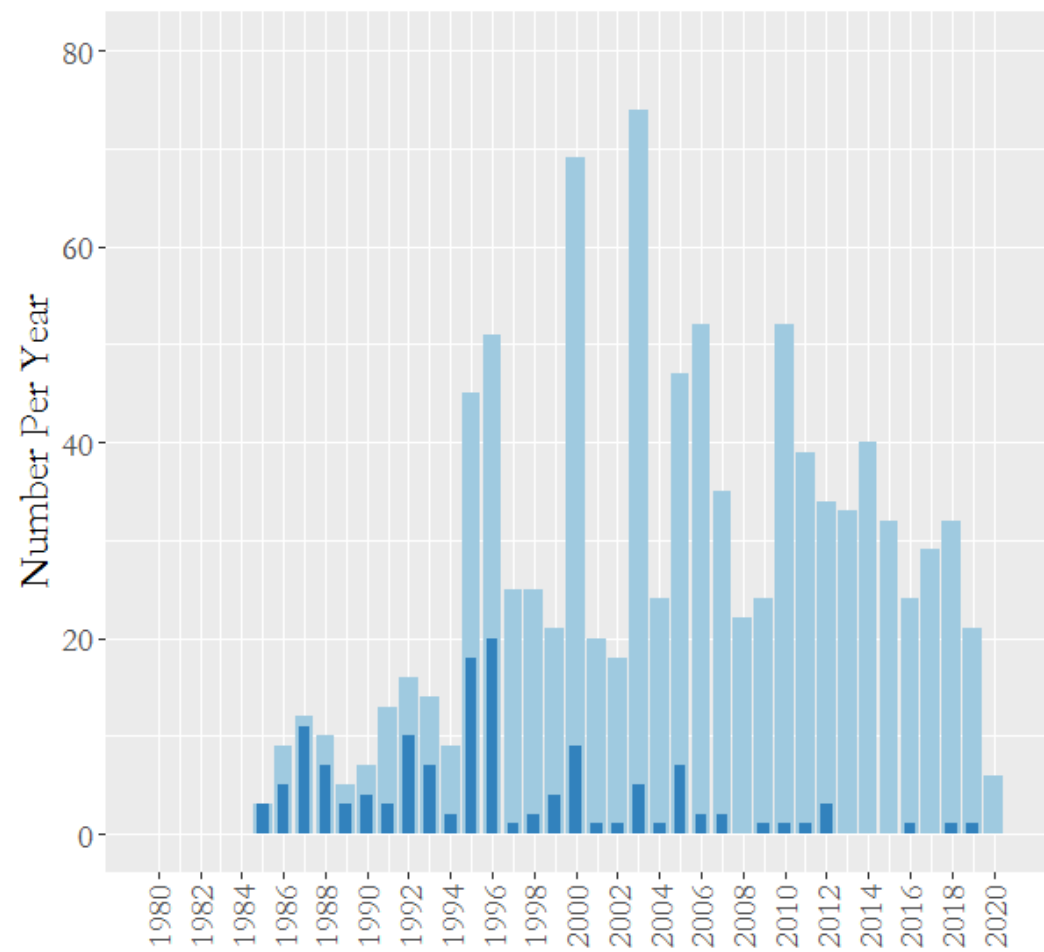
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- **1999-2003**: First papers on multidimensional poverty
- **2007**: OPHI Working Paper proposing the Alkire-Foster Method

- **2010**: first global MPI release by OPHI and UNDP

- **2015**: SDGs include Multidimensional Poverty (SDG 1.2)

- *Various UN MPIs (FAO, WHO, UNDP, World Bank, UNHCR, WFP, etc.)*
- *Regional MPIs (UN ESCWA, ECLAC, UNECA, etc.)*
- *Thousands of academic studies (and counting)*

2024- : **50+ (!)** more in development

Post-2030: **?**

✔ 2009: Mexico

✔ 2010: Bhutan

✔ 2011: Colombia

✔ 2014: Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam)

✔ 2015: Chile, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Viet Nam

✔ 2016: Ecuador, Pakistan, Honduras, Mozambique and Armenia

✔ 2017: Panama, Dominican Republic, and Nepal

✔ 2018: Nigeria, Philippines (initial methodology), and Rwanda

✔ 2019: Guatemala, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Angola (municipal level) and Thailand

✔ 2020: Seychelles, Maldives, Palestine, Ghana and Angola (national level)

✔ 2021: Paraguay, Namibia, Malawi, Sri Lanka and India

✔ 2022: Uganda and Samoa

✔ 2023: Mauritania, Belize, Sri Lanka and Bhutan

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SDG 1.2.2

HOW TO REPORT SDG 1.2.2. IN THE GLOBAL SDG INDICATORS DATABASE

Countries are invited to report results from 2010 to the present for:

1. The percentage of the population who are poor;
2. The percentage of households who are poor;
3. Average proportion of deprivations for people multidimensionally poor (%);
4. Average share of weighted deprivations of total households (%);
5. Sex disaggregation;
6. Rural /Urban disaggregation;
7. Age disaggregation (<18; <16; <15; <10; <6 years of age);
8. Individual child poverty measures.

❖ **WB colleagues reach out to SDG Focal Points for updates annually in April**

❖ **Not all MPIs reported to SDG Database yet**

❖ **Many more disaggregations performed/results reported**

Table 1. Countries reporting poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Measure	Arab States	East Asia and Pacific	Europe and Central Asia	Latin America and Caribbean	South Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa
AROPE 544 million*			Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montene-gro, Netherlands, N. Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey			
MPI 2.97 billion*	Lebanon, Morocco, State of Palestine	Malaysia, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Viet Nam	Armenia	Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gua-temala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname	Afghanistan Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	Angola, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sey-chelles, South Africa, Uganda
MODA 155 million*	Egypt					Lesotho, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Zam-bia, Zimbabwe
Other 14 million*		Tonga				Burundi

* Population estimates, including medium fertility variant projections, are derived from: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, online edition.

Note: 43 countries, home to 2.97 billion people, report a national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). An additional 34 countries with 544 million people report the At Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion (AROPE) measure by Eurostat.

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THIS Study:

❑ Contributes a comprehensive, living Database and Archive of **ALL** official multidimensional poverty measures
❑ *All structures:* Dimensions, Indicators, Cutoffs
❑ *All disaggregations*
❑ *All key results over time*
❑ Extensive Analyses of all results
   ❑ With the important disclaimer that results cannot usually be compared across countries due to different measurement structures

❑ **51 countries** have reported official subnationally disaggregated results

   ❑ **Disaggregated for more than 5000 subnational regions**

+330 unique disaggregations e.g. by:

❑ Various age cohorts (28+)

❑ Various household head characteristics

❑ Gender (28+)

❑ Disability status (7+)

❑ Household composition (17+)

❑ Monetary poverty (10+)

❑ Wealth quantile (9+)

❑ Migration status

❑ Ethnicity (7+)

❑ Language

❑ Education (14+)

❑ Employment (9+)

❑ Care duties

❑ Housing tenure/ownership

❑ Marital status

❑ Etc.

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3-7 Dimensions
❑ (Almost) all w/ health, education, and material living standards

Other frequently ones:
❑ employment &/ social protection
❑ livelihood shocks
❑ social inclusion
❑ quality of the environment

7-24 Indicators (average around 14)
❑ school attendance &/ educational attainment
❑ water & sanitation
❑ housing materials (roof, floor, walls),
❑ electricity, overcrowding, and main source of cooking fuel.
❑ unemployment, underemployment, and child labour

➢ Analysis of prevalence, contribution to overall MPI value, and interlinkages/deprivation profiles at the household level.

- Fast absolute annualised reduction took place in the Maldives, which reduced national MPI incidence from 70.2% in 2009 down to 28.4% in 2016–17.

- Fast relative annualised reduction took place in Bhutan, which reduced MPI incidence from 12.1% in 2012 to 2.1% in 2022 (average annual reduction of 20%).

- Large reduction of number of poor took place in India, where multidimensional poverty fell from a headcount ratio of 24.9% 2015–16 to 15.0% in 2019–21.

Database/Archive & Paper as a Public Resource

❑ **Who has an MPI?**
  ❑ Since when? How many points in time? Based on what data?

❑ **Which dimensions/indicators are included?**
  ❑ Globally/in my region/neighbouring or similar countries
  ❑ How are the deprivations defined?

  ➤ Information useful when designing and computing an MPIs

❑ **Which countries/regions groups have reduced MPI, H, A, deprivations number of poor/deprived fastest?**
  ❑ Which deprivations drove results?
  ❑ How was this achieved?
  ❑ Are groups being left behind?

  ➤ Information useful for strategies to reduce poverty in all forms and dimensions

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Alkire, S. and Dirksen, J. (forthcoming). 'Multidimensional poverty around the world: A comprehensive survey', Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.

See also:
Alkire, S. and Dirksen, J. (2024). 'Poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions: A briefing on SDG indicator 1.2.2', OPHI Briefing 58, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.