

The Fifth Annual Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) Meeting
Beijing, China | October 9-11, 2017

Communiqué

Network Participants in Beijing

Call for Channels of SDG reporting for National and Global MPIs and Endorse MPIs as a tool to meet Poverty-related SDGs and Use Research to Innovate in response to Demand

The network and its participants recognize the alignment between MPIs and the SDGs. The understanding that poverty is multidimensional is embedded throughout the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is now widely accepted. Target 1.2 calls for halving poverty in all its forms by 2030. It also calls for leaving no one behind, and for employing multisectoral integrated policies that reflect interlinkages across dimensions.

Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) continue to gain ground as a leading governance tool for measuring, planning, priority-setting, policy design, and monitoring of multidimensional poverty. In the 2017 UN Statistics Commission meetings, 10 countries shared their experiences using MPIs to energize policy. In the High Level Political Forum 2017, one panel focused on multidimensional poverty with 16 panelists and discussants discussing MPIs. 17 countries mentioned MPIs and multidimensional poverty in their Voluntary National Reports tracking progress in the SDGs. At the 2017 United Nations General Assembly, three side events focused on multidimensional poverty. During these, the Presidents of Chile, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico as well as the Vice Presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, and the Heads of the UNDP, the OECD, the League of Arab States, UNESCWA, Sida and ministers or vice-ministers from 6 countries affirmed the value-added of AF Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs)

As the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN), founded in 2013, we are a platform of South-South Peer Support among countries developing and using national and global MPIs to advance national priorities. In this era in which governments are also aligning data, measures and policies with the SDGs, we enthusiastically affirm that MPIs are critically important tools.

The MPPN now calls for clear reporting channels in the SDG indicator framework for National MPIs (which reflect national definitions) and the Global MPI (which can be halved), under Target 1.2 so that indicator 1.2.2 – for which countries are custodian agencies – is included in the SDG reporting framework and progress in its reduction is tracked.

To accelerate progress towards the SDGs, the network and its participants endorse the development and adoption of MPIs at the regional, national and subnational levels.

The MPPN's core work is to offer peer support to a rapidly increasing number of policymakers and statisticians around the world who are working to establish multidimensional poverty measures and use them to powerfully fight human disadvantage and misery. Some MPPN members are designing their first official permanent MPIs; others are energetically using official

MPIs in public policy, communications, and engagement with the private sector. A regional Arab Poverty Measure has been launched; other regional MPIs are underway. The global MPI still measures acute multidimensional poverty for over 100 developing countries in a comparable way. National, Regional, and Global MPIs are all disaggregated to identify the poorest by location, age, and other relevant variables so as to leave no one behind.

MPPN members also interchange experiences, offer trainings in policy, measurement, and communications, and organise field trips and joint events. Many involve vulnerable groups in MPI design, because as the protagonists of poverty, their expertise is invaluable and their agency is essential to poverty eradication. Nearly all use the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology and the related set of empirical techniques developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The process of MPI design is both technical and political, and relevant political institutions, including ministries of finance and planning, need to be included in the process, as do civil society, academics, and the private sector. As official permanent poverty measures, the MPI and monetary poverty measures complement each other. Each plays its own part in poverty reduction strategies. And together they make a strong pair.

National MPIs are being used for planning, for targeting, for evaluation, for the coordination of policies, for more effective budgeting, for improved communication and governance. Countries are using MPIs to plan integrated and multi-sectoral policies that prioritise the poor. By showing how different poverty-related SDGs overlap and interconnect, the MPI helps to break apart policy silos. And because it shows which groups or regions are experiencing poverty most acutely, it draws attention to the poorest groups and places, helping to ensure that no one is left behind. By framing a shared objective, it provides political incentives to reduce the many different aspects of poverty together, because effective interventions can be easily monitored and celebrated. By bringing a number of programs handled by different ministries into a single agenda, the MPI offers a powerful incentive for coordination, as well as a governance tool. For all these reasons, the MPI is used by countries to prioritize countries' SDG agenda and processes. It covers many goals, and addresses the core of the 2030 Agenda: "eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development".

Through sound research the network and its participants will continue to develop MPI-related tools to meet demands for evaluation, policy design and analysis, and to design measures for specific populations

One of the strengths of the MPI methodology is its rigor and accuracy. The MPPN will continue to facilitate academic and applied research in order to generate more tools for policy design as well as MPI design. It will advance research on a number of essential areas such as the practical linkages between poverty reduction and environmental sustainability and wellbeing, child poverty, and multidimensional impact evaluation. It will share lessons of how members appropriately involve stakeholders (including poor people and communities) in MPI design and analysis. It will also develop tools and processes that facilitate the communication of regional, national and/or subnational MPIs to citizens, the private sector, and policy actors.

The MPPN is still in a phase of rapid expansion and development

The MPPN invites other governments to join the Network, take advantage of its South-South exchanges and be part of this growing number of countries exploring and adopting rigorous yet simple multidimensional poverty measures to guide policy.

The Network also welcomes international, regional and sub-national bodies that are using, advocating and advancing multidimensional measures of poverty and well-being.

The MPPN requires funding and further institutionalization to expand and sustain its work.

Background Note: The MPPN

The MPPN was established in response to overwhelming demand from such policymakers for support in exploring, developing and implementing multidimensional poverty measures as tools of management and governance. Since its launch in 2013, the MPPN has grown considerably. It now draws together Ministers and senior officials from over 50 governments and 15 international and regional institutions.

The Network enables early adopters to share their experiences with newcomers to multidimensional poverty measurement. It provides peer-to-peer technical and policy support, as well as input into the design and institutional arrangements for successful multidimensional poverty eradication. Until the MPPN was established, policymakers had no such community of peers to turn to for advice, support and ‘South-South’ knowledge exchange. The Network supports policymakers to develop more effective poverty eradication efforts, grounded in multidimensional measures of poverty. Its vision is a world in which poverty in all its forms is measured, tracked over time – and eventually eliminated.

As of October 2017, ministers and senior officials from more than 50 countries participate in the Network, including: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, and Vietnam. Representatives from 15 international institutions also participate in the network, including: the Federal Minister of International Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, the Economic Commission for Latin American Countries (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank.