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MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN AFGHANISTAN

Policy-oriented Report using
the 2020 Afghanistan Income
Expenditure and Labour Force Survey

Islamic Development Bank Institute
Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative



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Multidimensional Poverty in Afghanistan

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IsDBI–OPHI Brief No. 7
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FOREWORD

The people of Afghanistan have witnessed several events that make history in the last few years, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic alongside the transition in government. As the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) works to empower the people of its member countries by fostering green, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable growth, tackling poverty remains at the centre of its strategic priorities and policies. As such, the IsDB is committed to its partnership with Afghanistan in achieving its socioeconomic aspirations.

With this in mind, the IsDB Board of Executive Directors has approved the establishment and operationalization of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund (AHTF), which is a trust fund that will be administered by the IsDB. Backed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Ministers, the IsDB intends the AHTF to serve as a vehicle to channel humanitarian and development assistance to Afghanistan. The Board also welcomed the OIC invitation to its member states, Islamic financial institutions, donors, and other international partners to announce pledges and contributions to the AHTF and to provide any additional humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

To further this commitment to the people of Afghanistan, together with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford, the IsDB produces data-driven research in support of evidence-based policymaking and implementation. The path toward post-pandemic recovery must start with an understanding of the lived experiences of poor people by measuring poverty using a multidimensional poverty index (MPI). Through the OPHI-IsDBI collaboration, we offer a more comprehensive story of the different deprivations faced by people living in poverty in Afghanistan.

This report introduces Afghanistan's national MPI (A-MPI) using 2020 data, before the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the government transition had been realized in the statistics. To accommodate the significant changes that have transpired since 2020, three deprivation scenarios are further analysed: a rise in food insecurity, more children out of school, and negative work-related shocks.



Moreover, this report exhibits how the A-MPI can be utilized to craft concrete policy actions in addressing multidimensional poverty. The flexibility of the A-MPI allows direct application at the subnational level, allowing for more targeted interventions in Afghanistan. This comes at an especially crucial time after the unfortunate impacts of the East European crisis and the June 2022 earthquake.

To end poverty in its many forms and dimensions, we must foreground multisectoral policies and multistakeholder poverty interventions at the heart of IsDB partnerships. These policies must be based not only on data and evidence, but also on collaborate partnerships with our member countries. Let us act together and with urgency to build a green, resilient, and inclusive post-pandemic world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the name Muhammad Al Jasser.

Muhammad Al Jasser

Chairman,
Islamic Development Bank Group

PREFACE

To end poverty, we must first measure it. The question: ‘what does it mean to be poor?’ is a fundamental question for citizens and policymakers to be able to eradicate poverty. People living in poverty are quick to describe their deprivations through a plurality of shared experiences: poor health, inadequate education, inaccessibility to basic services and utilities, social isolation, and lack of assets or resources. Ideally, measures should reflect this.

Most countries have permanent national income poverty statistics that are used to guide national policies. In the same way, many countries or regional organisations are designing national Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) as official poverty measures that aim to study poverty within a country and are reported for the SDG indicator 1.2.2.

This report profiles the 2020 Afghanistan Multidimensional Poverty Index (A-MPI), an official and permanent poverty statistic in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, based on completed but unpublished work by the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The A-MPI deploys some simple yet powerful tools to measure the level of poverty and how people are poor, as well as the key policy areas driving poverty in the country. This report publishes very concrete tables that specify immediate tangible actions needed per province to rapidly shrink multidimensional poverty in Afghanistan.

Dr Sami Al-Suwailem

Acting Director General, IsDB Institute
and Chief Economist, IsDB Group

This report aims to enhance poverty-related interventions by multilateral institutions including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. It utilises the partnership between the IsDB Institute and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) to strengthen the IsDB Group’s evidence-based policies and interventions within member countries.

This report on multidimensional poverty in the member country of Afghanistan shows that in 2020, nearly half of the population were multidimensionally poor (16.25 million), that rural and nomadic Kuchi populations and children were the poorest. For each deprivation we show the number of people affected per province and precisely what must be changed. As the 2020 data were gathered early in the COVID-19 pandemic and before the 2021 change of government, the report simulates scenarios of increases in food insecurity, children out of school, and job loss, and analyses the policy implications of these scenarios by province.

Tracking and highlighting the poverty situation in Afghanistan provides a benchmark for citizens, policymakers and development institutions to continue working to fulfil the sustainable development pledge to Leave No One Behind. We hope this report offers tangible insights for immediate use to powerfully and swiftly end poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

Dr Sabina Alkire

Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development
Initiative (OPHI)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2021, based on completed but unpublished work, the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) presented the results of the 2020 Afghanistan Multidimensional Poverty Index (A-MPI), an official and permanent poverty statistic in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, at the United Nations Statistics Commission, and also discussed the trends in the A-MPI since 2016/17.

Aim of this Report – Actionable policy insights: This policy report presents the 2020 Afghanistan Multidimensional Poverty Index in a way that is designed to inform policy priorities and immediate tangible responses to multidimensional poverty in Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan MPI is made up of 18 indicators in total. Chapter 3 identifies the four top indicator priorities for each province and the next four indicators that contribute the most to multidimensional poverty in each province. This Chapter then provides further details of the deprivations of the poor to inform policy solutions. For example, in the case of maternal health, of the 2.1 million poor and eligible women, 635 thousand women lacked all three measured aspects of assisted delivery: sufficient antenatal visits, delivery inside a designated health facility, and delivery by a health professional. An additional 661 thousand only lacked adequate antenatal visits. Policy responses need to vary depending on which precise deprivations are experienced. To take another example, of the 5.5 million poor children aged 7–16 whose school attendance is reflected in the A-MPI, 291 thousand dropped out and almost 3.8 million have never attended school. Reaching children who have never enrolled in school is a key priority whose details vary by province. The situation is similar for women, where 4.1 of the 4.7 million poor women who could have gone to school have never attended school, whereas in both cases roughly 200 thousand either attended, but dropped out, or finished but cannot read or write.

Turning to water, of the 4 million poor people who lack clean water, 1.3 million obtain water from an unprotected spring or kariz, whereas 2 million people source it from surface

water. Similar details are shown for sanitation employment indicators and for each of the shock components. Province-level data is provided in the extensive tables.

The hope is that readers of this report will look up the provinces of interest and use the information to better understand the current configuration of deprivations and plan results. Naturally, all data from a household survey have a margin of error, and are also dated from 2020, but this analysis at least provides a concrete starting point for understanding deprivation profiles and planning high-impact exit strategies.

Simulated shocks: Many circumstances have changed within Afghanistan in the past two years. This report simulates scenarios involving shocks in food insecurity, school attendance and employment on the 2020 dataset. It highlights strategic priorities at the national and provincial levels to guide interventions.

It finds that these cumulative shocks would raise the level of multidimensional poverty from 49.4% in the base scenario to 67.6%, 75.8%, and 88% in the low-, moderate- and high-impact scenarios, respectively. This is equivalent to up to 11.8 million people entering multidimensional poverty.

The A-MPI would double in the high-impact scenario from 0.26 to 0.52. Poverty among children 0–17 in the high-impact scenario rises to 90.8%. This translates into 6.1 million newly poor children joining 8.8 million multidimensionally poor children.

The impacts of each indicator to the cumulative shock vary; shocks to school attendance and food security push the most number of people into poverty.

HOW ARE PEOPLE POOR? FINDINGS BY INDICATOR AND DISAGGREGATION BY AGE, PROVINCE, AND AREA

The 2020 A-MPI finds that 49.4% of the population (16.25 million people) are multidimensionally poor; the A-MPI takes a value of 0.265. The deprivations that affect the largest percentage of the population in the A-MPI are

female schooling (40.1% of Afghans are MPI poor and deprived in this indicator), school attendance (40%), assisted delivery (36.4%), and dependency (35.8%). The school attendance and assisted delivery indicators are the largest contributors to the A-MPI as they also have high weights.

Children aged 0–17 have the highest levels of multidimensional poverty in Afghanistan (53.8% of children are poor). Children have higher levels of deprivation in every indicator in the A-MPI.

The levels of MPI vary greatly between provinces. Uruzgan has the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty (93.4%) and Panjsher has the lowest (9.7%). Provinces also differ in terms of population, so the poorest provinces may not have the highest number of multidimensionally poor people. Nangarhar has the highest number of poor people, while Panjsher has the lowest. The contribution of each indicator to the MPI varies considerably by province, which means that provincial strategies need to be different. A later section of this report focuses on how each provincial strategy can be made.

There are also striking differences between urban, rural and the nomadic Kuchi population. Fewer than 5% of the population are designated as nomadic Kuchi. But among the Kuchi, 87.9% of people are multidimensionally poor. In rural areas, 56.5% of people are multidimensionally poor, while in urban areas this is much lower at 21.8%. As expected, deprivations in every indicator are highest in Kuchi areas. For example, 86% of people are poor and deprived in female schooling, 84% are poor and deprived in housing, and 79.6% are poor and deprived in sanitation.

BACKGROUND OF THIS REPORT

This report presents the results and policy implications of the A-MPI using the 2020 Income and Expenditure and Labour Force Survey. Computations of the A-MPI are the product of a UNICEF-funded collaboration between NSIA and OPHI (the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at the University of Oxford), which produced three outputs: a report on the level and pattern of deprivations in 2020; a report on the trends of the MPI from 2016/17 to 2020; and a report that simulated early COVID-19 impacts in Afghanistan on the 2016/17 A-MPI (this report builds scenarios using 2020 data instead). These technical reports were completed but not formally launched. The first report's contents are reanalysed and reframed here for a policy audience.

INTRODUCTION

The main reason to measure poverty is to reduce it. This report presents the Afghanistan Multidimensional Poverty Index (A-MPI) and its associated 'information platform' – some simple yet powerful figures showing the level of poverty and how people are poor, indicator by indicator. The next section briefly introduces the A-MPI structure, based on the 2020 Income and Expenditure and Labour Force Survey, and presents the national results. Findings are then broken down by province, age group, and urban, rural and Kuchi areas. Each shows the level of multidimensional poverty, its composition by indicator, and the number of people who are poor. Turning to policy the report then shows how data from the A-MPI point to concrete policy steps that could have a large impact on poverty. Because many actors work at provincial levels, it highlights the top priorities for each province. And as children are the poorest, the top priorities for children are also shared.

The 2020 data were gathered during the earlier phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and before the 2021 change of government. The report therefore also simulates scenarios of increases in food insecurity, children out of school, and job loss, and analyses the policy implications of these scenarios. The concluding section brings together both the 2020 data and the simulations to discuss which priorities may have shifted in 2022, and which priorities would be the same whether the 2020 data or simulations were considered.

WHAT IS THE A-MPI?

The A-MPI is the official statistic of multidimensional poverty in Afghanistan, and is reported as SDG indicator 1.2.2.

Structure: The A-MPI measures overlapping deprivations each poor person experiences in **18 indicators**. These indicators are grouped into **five equally weighted dimensions**: education, health, living standards, work, and shocks.

Who is poor? To make the A-MPI we create a deprivation score for each person showing the share of weighted deprivations they experience. A person or household is identified as poor if their deprivation score is 40% or higher.

Computing A-MPI: The A-MPI shows the share of possible deprivations that poor people actually experience. It is equal to the percentage of people who are poor (Incidence or Headcount Ratio, H) multiplied by the average deprivation score of poor people (Intensity, A). **A-MPI = H x A**

1. DIMENSIONS, INDICATORS, AND DEPRIVATION CUTOFFS

The A-MPI has five dimensions and 18 indicators (Table 1). These are the same as in the 2019 report on the A-MPI that drew on 2016/17 data.

Table 1. Dimensions, indicators, and weights of the Afghanistan MPI

Dimensions of poverty	Indicator	Household is deprived if...	Weight
Education	School attendance	At least one child aged 7–16 is not attending school or never has attended	1/10
	Female schooling	No woman aged 10+ has completed primary schooling or knows how to read and write	1/20
	Male schooling	No man aged 10+ has completed primary schooling or knows how to read and write	1/20
Health	Food security	There is no borderline or acceptable food consumption (NSIA's definition)	1/10
	Assisted delivery	Any woman who was pregnant in the last five years preceding the interview received fewer than four antenatal visits, or the delivery did not take place at a health facility, or was not attended by a doctor or nurse	1/10
Living standards	Access to water	They lack access to improved water sources ¹	1/40
	Sanitation	They lack access to improved sanitation facilities ²	1/40
	Electricity	There is no adequate lighting source (i.e. there is no lighting, or it comes from candles or solid fuel)	1/40
	Cooking fuel	There are no clean cooking fuel sources (i.e. they use animal dung, crop residue, or cooking is done in the dwelling using bushes, twigs, firewood or charcoal) ³	1/40
	Housing	Dwelling has inadequate roof, floor or wall materials ⁴	1/40
	Asset ownership and agriculture	They own fewer than three assets or agricultural items (refrigerator, washing machine, vacuum cleaner, gas cylinder, iron, television, mobile, satellite dish, bicycle, motorbike, land, livestock)	1/40
Work	Dependency	There is less than one household member who works, for every six people	1/20
	Unemployment	Any household member is unemployed, and is looking for work and able to work	1/20
	Underemployment	One or more people in the household are working fewer than 40 hours a week, and wish to and can work more	1/20
	Youth NEET	There are one or more people aged 17–24 who are not employed, and do not attend school or a training programme	1/20
Shock	Production	They have experienced one or more of the following shocks, with a strong negative effect on household members: i) reduced drinking or agriculture water; ii) unusually high crop pest or disease; iii) severe loss of opium production; iv) unusually high livestock disease; v) reduced availability of grazing area, or reduced availability of Kuchi migration route	1/20
	Income	They have experienced one or more of the following shocks, with a strong negative effect on household members: i) increased food prices; ii) a reduction of household income; iii) a decrease of farm food prices	1/20
	Security	One or more of the following situations apply: i) they have suffered violence or theft; ii) they live in a district rated very insecure; iii) they are displaced; iv) they respond that the government's first priority should be to disarm local militia or to increase local security	1/10

1. Improved sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction. These include piped supplies and non-piped supplies (such as boreholes, protected wells and springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water, e.g. by tanker trucks). Unimproved drinking water sources that do not protect against contamination are unprotected springs and wells. The 'no service' category identifies surface water, such as rivers, streams, irrigation channels and lakes.

2. An improved sanitation facility is defined as one that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact. These facilities include wet sanitation technologies (flush and pour flush toilets connecting to sewers, septic tanks or pit latrines) and dry sanitation technologies (ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with slabs and composting toilets).

3. The use of inadequate (solid) cooking fuels is a direct cause of household air pollution, and thus directly associated with respiratory diseases, disabilities and death.

4. Adequacy is related to durability, so housing of which the outer walls, roof and floor are made of durable materials that protect its inhabitants from the extremes of climatic conditions, such as rain, heat, cold and humidity. Fired brick, concrete, mud bricks and stone are considered durable materials. For roofs, wood is regarded as durable.

2. AFGHANISTAN A-MPI RESULTS FROM 2020

The A-MPI results from 2020 indicate that 49.4% of the population of Afghanistan (16.25 million people) are multidimensionally poor (Table 2). The average intensity of poverty, which reflects the average share of deprivations each poor person experiences, is 53.6%. So on average, poor people are deprived in over half of the weighted indicators. The A-MPI, which is the official statistic of multidimensional poverty, has the value of 0.265. This means that multidimensionally poor people in Afghanistan experience 26.5% of all possible deprivations (if everyone was poor and was deprived in each indicator, it would be 100%).

Table 2. MPI, incidence and intensity, 2020

Poverty cutoff (k)	Index	Value	Confidence Interval (95%)	
	MPI	0.265	0.263	0.267
k value=40%	Incidence (H, %)	49.4	49.1	49.8
	Intensity (A, %)	53.6	53.5	53.7

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

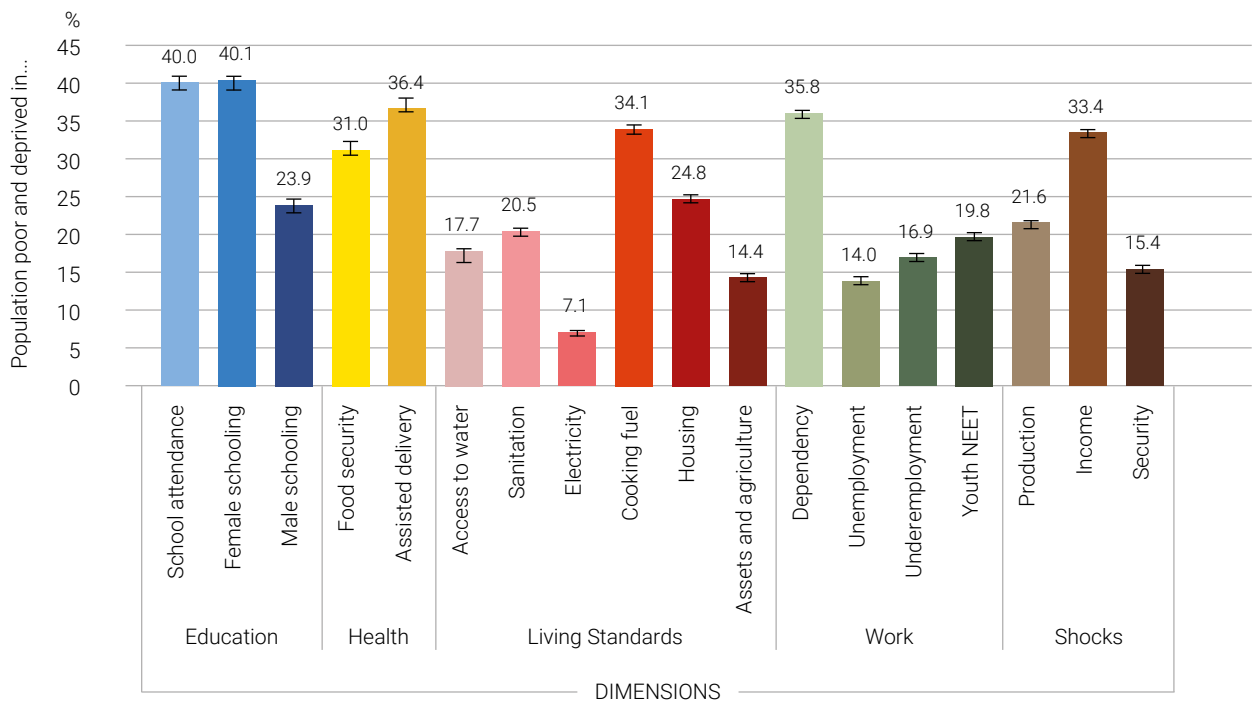
2.1 PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND DEPRIVED IN EACH INDICATOR (CENSORED HEADCOUNT RATIOS)

But how are people poor? We could look at all the deprivations that are experienced across Afghanistan. But if deprivations are extensive, how could we further prioritise? One very powerful analysis is to study the percentage of the population who have two issues: 1) they are *deprived* in that particular indicator; and 2) they are also *multidimensionally poor* because they are deprived in at least 40% of the dimensions (the technical term for this is censored headcount ratio). For example, the *censored headcount ratio* for food security is 31%. That means that 31% of the population, or 10.2 million people – each of whom is multidimensionally poor – are food insecure. It is important to note the powerful insight that the

MPI can equivalently be computed as the sum of these weighted censored headcount ratios. This is crucial because reducing any deprivation of any poor person will reduce the A-MPI. That is what makes the A-MPI such a powerful policy tool.

Figure 1 shows that the highest deprivations are in female schooling (with 40% of the population being poor and not having a female in the household who has completed primary school), alongside school attendance (also 40%), assisted delivery, and dependency (both about 36%). The next highest deprivations are in cooking fuel (34%), income shocks (33%), and food security (31%). Deprivations are the lowest for unemployment and asset ownership (both about 14%) and electricity (7%).

Figure 1. National censored headcount ratios, 2020



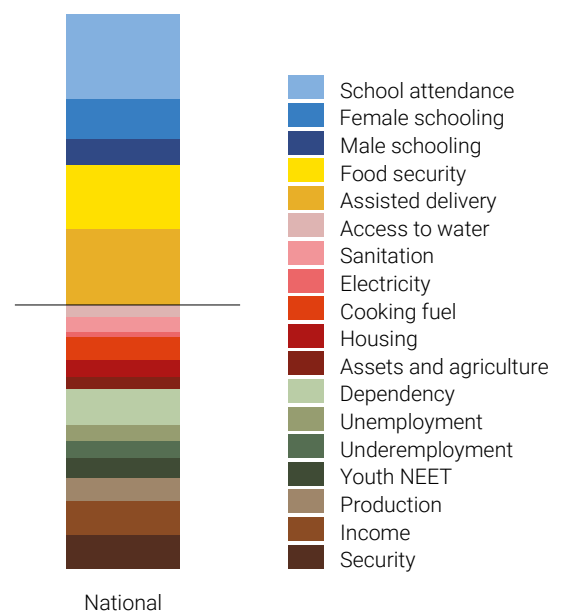
Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

2.2 WEIGHTED CONTRIBUTION OF EACH INDICATOR TO THE A-MPI

The A-MPI structure (Table 1) transparently shows the *weight* of each indicator. Indicators that have both a higher weight and higher deprivation (*censored headcount ratio*) will contribute more to A-MPI. Reducing these indicators will reduce A-MPI the fastest. For example, each dimension is equally weighted. Health has two indicators, each is weighted 1/10; work has four indicators, so each is weighted 1/20. The A-MPI is made up of the weighted deprivations of poor people. So the fastest way to reduce it is to address the deprivations with the largest contributions. We return to this in the section on policy priorities.

As Figure 2 shows, the two health indicators and the three education indicators at the bottom of the graphic (below the line) make up about half of the height (or value) of the A-MPI. Reducing these deprivations will reduce the A-MPI quickly. Other high-contributing indicators nationally are dependency, shocks, and cooking fuel. These priorities change according to province.

Figure 2. Indicator contributions to the A-MPI, 2020



Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

2.3 DISAGGREGATION BY PROVINCES

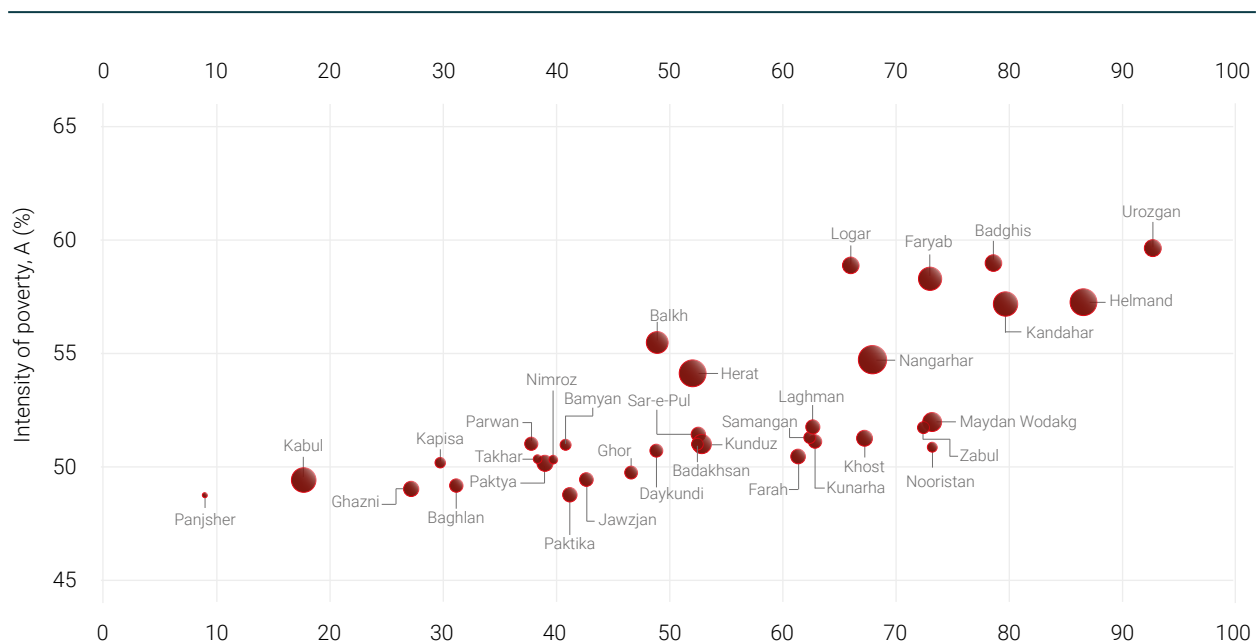
Table 3 presents the level of the A-MPI, incidence and intensity by province. There is a large range, with 9.7% of people being poor in Panjsher, rising to 93.4% in Urozgan. Note that in some regions – Paktya, Helmand, Baghlan, Kandahar and Badghis – over 10% of the values are missing, so care must be exercised in interpreting the results.

The incidence of poverty is above 70% in 8 of the 34 provinces. In Urozgan, 93% of people are poor, followed by Helmand (86%), Kandahar (80%), Badghis (79%), Nangarhar (73%), Faryab (73%), Maydan Wodkag (73%), and Zabul (72%). Together these provinces are home to 5.4 million poor people, one-third of all the poor people in Afghanistan. As such large proportions of their population live in multidimensional poverty, policy responses might be close to universal.

Conversely, in 2020 the incidence of poverty was below 20% in the capital, Kabul (17%), which is home to nearly 1 million poor people, and in Panjsher, which has 19,222 poor people.

The MPI also uncovers a troubling finding about the poorest people: those who live in areas where the incidence of poverty is high, tend to have a higher deprivation score. The intensity of poverty is 53.6% nationally, but ranges from 47.9% in Paktika to 59.7% in Urozgan. Put simply, high incidence regions are also regions that have higher intensity of poverty – as the upward trend in Figure 3 shows. This is why the MPI is important: it makes visible both the incidence and intensity of poverty.

Figure 3. Incidence and intensity of the A-MPI in provinces



Notes: The size of bubble is a proportional to the number of poor people.

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 3. Multidimensional poverty by province, 2020, sorted from least poor to poorest

Province	MPI	Headcount ratio (H, %)	Intensity (A, %)	Population share (%)	Number of poor people
Panjsher	0.047	9.7	48.4	0.6	19,222
Kabul	0.084	17.0	49.4	16.7	933,965
Ghazni	0.131	26.9	48.6	4.6	406,351
Kapisa	0.148	29.4	50.1	1.5	149,133
Baghlan*	0.152	30.9	49.0	2.8	303,652
Parwan	0.191	37.1	51.4	2.5	328,470
Paktika	0.195	40.8	47.9	2.5	439,978
Takhar	0.196	38.7	50.6	3.5	439,978
Paktya*	0.197	38.9	50.5	1.1	134,469
Nimroz	0.203	39.9	50.9	0.6	73,518
Jawzjan	0.209	42.8	48.9	1.9	268,681
Bamyan	0.210	40.8	51.5	1.5	202,619
Ghor	0.231	46.3	49.9	2.5	384,989
Daykundi	0.250	49.0	51.0	1.7	267,397
Sar-e-Pul	0.271	52.2	52.0	2.0	348,326
Balkh	0.272	49.1	55.3	4.9	782,984
Kunduz	0.274	53.4	51.2	3.5	607,488
Herat	0.282	52.1	54.2	7.0	11,96,722
Badakhshan	0.307	58.1	52.8	3.5	673,208
Farah	0.311	61.4	50.7	1.9	373,517
Samangan	0.320	61.9	51.8	1.3	264,469
Kunarha	0.326	63.0	51.8	1.6	327,436
Laghman	0.332	62.4	53.3	1.6	336,365
Khost	0.350	66.9	52.2	1.9	418,270
Nangarhar	0.373	68.0	54.9	5.9	1,322,413
Nooristan	0.375	73.2	51.2	0.5	122,854
Zabul	0.379	71.8	52.8	1.3	309,279
Maydan Wodakg	0.387	72.7	53.2	2.4	571,691
Logar	0.388	66.1	58.7	2.1	458,824
Faryab	0.420	73.1	57.4	3.7	882,806
Kandahar*	0.456	79.6	57.3	4.0	1,036,657
Badghis*	0.460	78.5	58.6	1.7	449,357
Helmand*	0.497	86.2	57.6	3.9	1,117,628
Urozgan	0.557	93.4	59.7	1.5	457,882

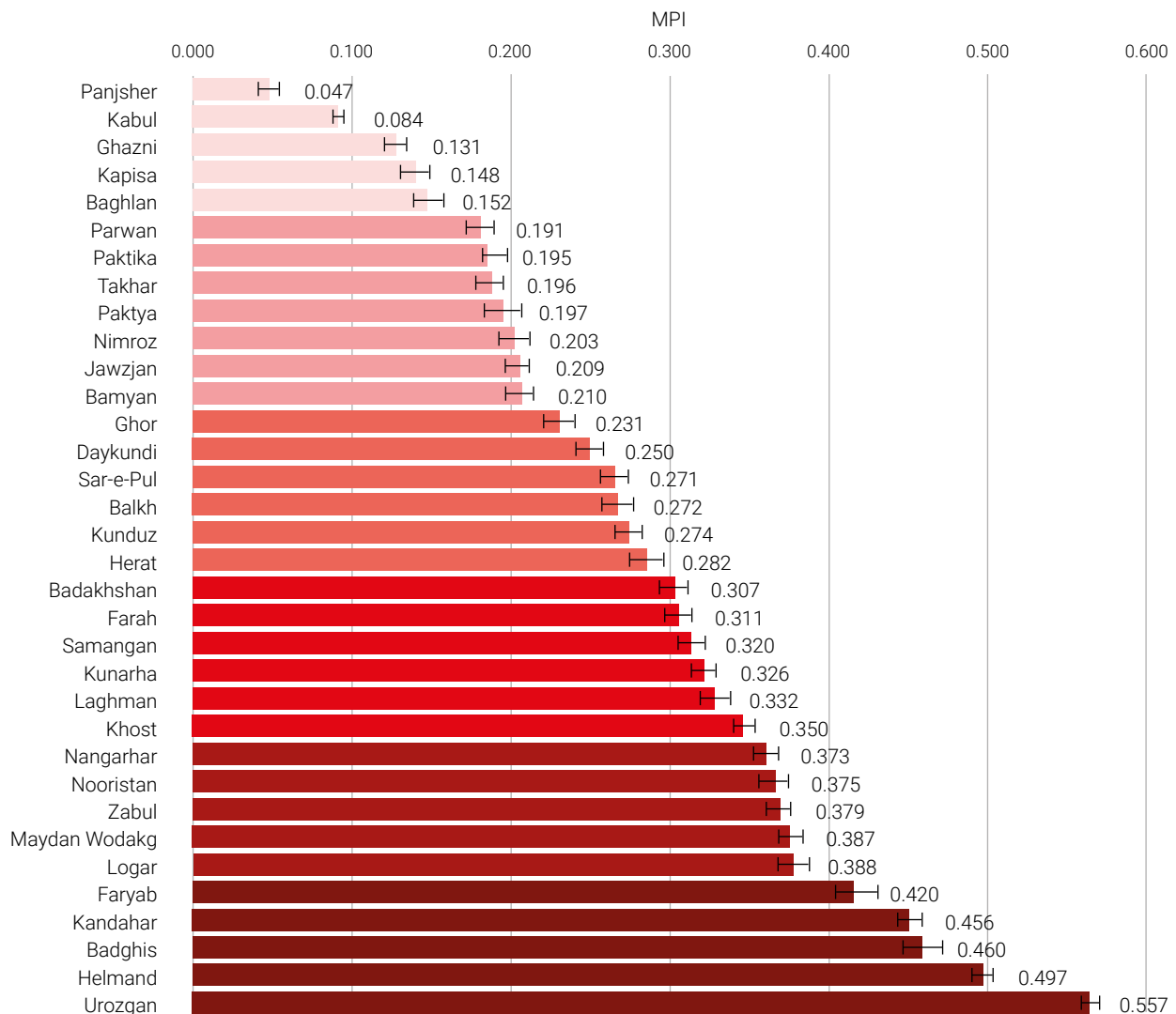
Notes: *Given the high percentage of missing values in these regions (more than 10%), the results for these provinces should be read with caution.

Source: Authors' calculations based on data from 2020 Afghanistan IE&LFS and NSIA 2020 population data (32,890,171).

The MPI for each province and its corresponding 95% confidence intervals is shown in Figure 4. A province is poorer than another if the confidence intervals for their A-MPIs do not overlap – so the coloured groupings of provinces differ significantly. Data show that multidimensional poverty is highest in Urozgan (0.557), followed by Helmand (0.497). The capital, Kabul, has an MPI of 0.084. This is significantly lower than every other province, except Panjsher.

Provinces also differ in terms of population, so the poorest provinces may not have the highest number of multidimensionally poor people. Figure 5 shows where the MPI poor people live. The labels show the approximate number of multidimensionally poor people in each province, according to the 2020 data. This pie chart is important for policy, budgeting and planning purposes because it is crucial to consider both the level of MPI (and which are the poorest provinces) and the number

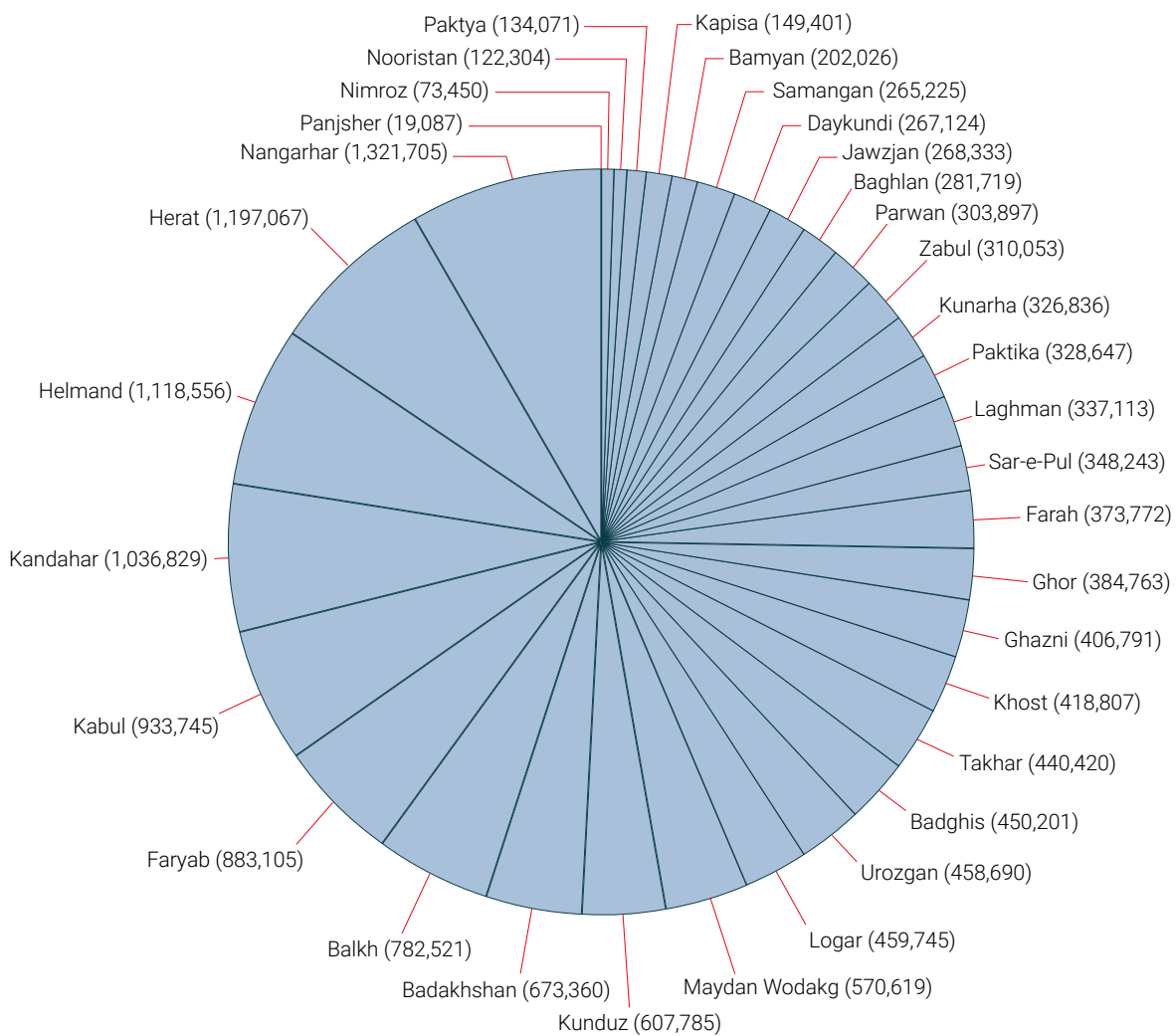
Figure 4. The A-MPI by province, 2020, sorted by value



Notes: Deeper colours signify higher levels of poverty.

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Figure 5. Distribution of MPI-poor people by province, 2020



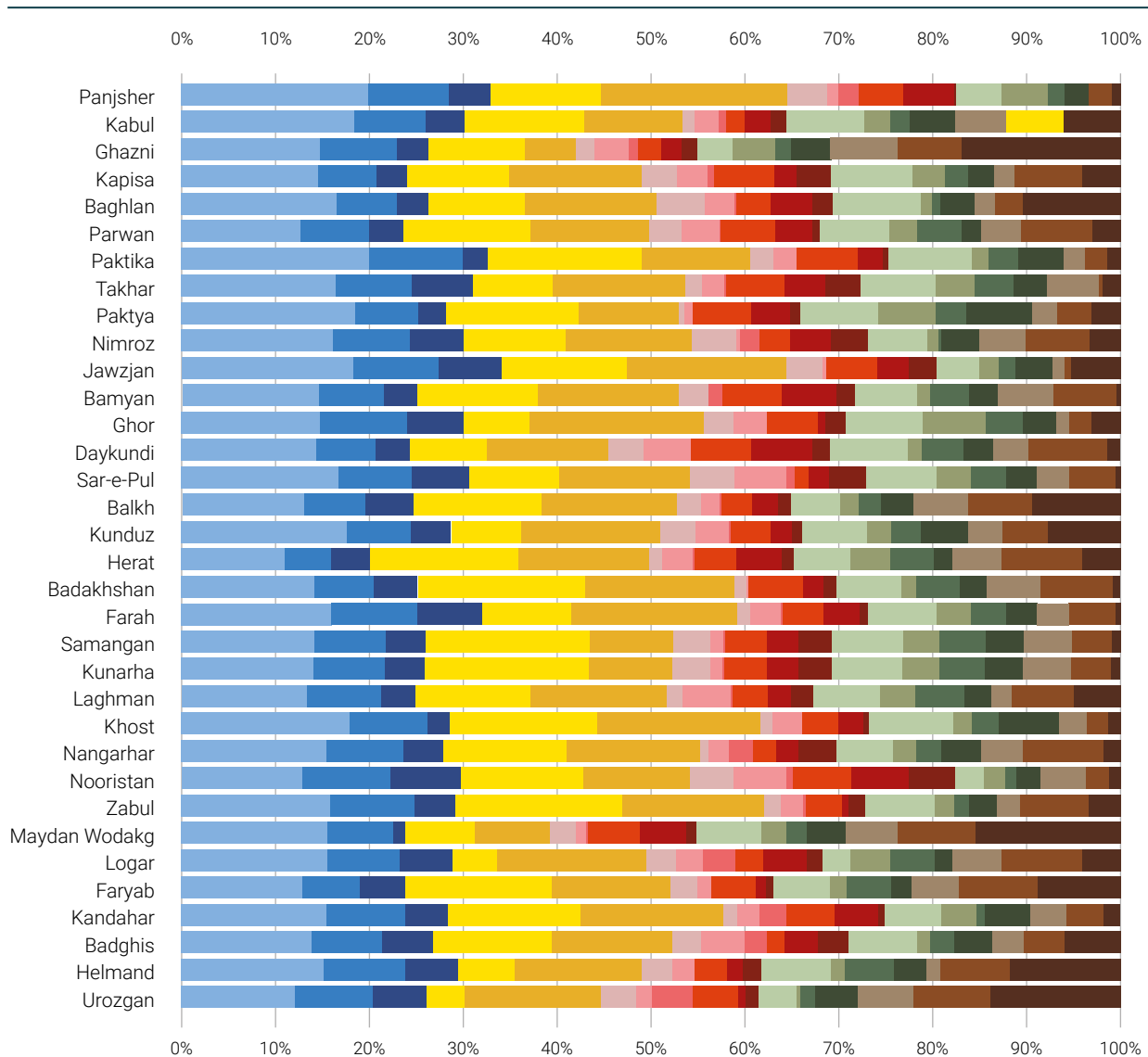
Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

of poor people. Nangarhar is home to 8% of poor people in the country – 1.32 million – followed by Herat (7%), Helmand (7%), and Kandahar (6%). Together, these four regions are home to more than a quarter of all poor people in Afghanistan.

How then should provincial actors reduce the A-MPI? To answer this, Figure 6 gives the indicator composition of MPI by province. There is wide variation across provinces. For example, the contribution of deprivation in **food security** to the MPI is highest in Badakhshan, Zabul, Samangan, Paktika, Herat, Khost, and Faryab, and is low in Kunarha. Deprivation in **assisted delivery** is

highest in Panjsher, Ghor, Farah, Khost, Jawzjan, Kunarha, Badakhshan, Logar, Kandahar, Zabul, and Bamyan. Deprivation in **school attendance** is high across a large number of provinces: Panjsher, Paktika, Paktya, Kabul, Jawzjan, Khost, Kunduz, Kunarha, Sar-e-Pul, Baghlan, Takhar, Nimroz, Farah, Zabul, Logar, Kandahar, Maydan Wodakg, Nangarhar, and Helmand. In fact, the only province where the contribution is below 12% is Herat. These three indicators make up more than half of the value of the MPI in Panjsher and Khost, and nearly half in Paktika, Jawzjan, Zabul, Kandahar, and Badakhshan.

Figure 6. Percentage contributions of each indicator to provinces' MPI, 2020



Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Security shocks is a particularly important indicator. The contribution of deprivation in security shocks to the MPI is highest in two provinces, Ghazni and Maydan Wodakg, and quite high in an additional three provinces: Urozgan, Helmand, and Baghlan. Meanwhile, in four provinces, the contribution was very low: Panjsher, Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, and Bamyan. Other than in food security, assisted delivery, school attendance, and security shocks, all the other indicators (recall this shows both their level and weight) contribute less than one-tenth of the MPI in every region.

- School attendance
- Female schooling
- Male schooling
- Food security
- Assisted delivery
- Access to water
- Sanitation
- Electricity
- Cooking fuel
- Housing
- Assets and agriculture
- Dependency
- Unemployment
- Underemployment
- Youth NEET
- Production
- Income
- Security

2.4 DISAGGREGATION BY RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, AND KUCHI POPULATION

Table 4 outlines the MPI, incidence, and intensity of poverty for urban, rural, and the nomadic Kuchi populations. Seventy one percent of the population lives in rural areas, which are much poorer than urban areas. More than 56% of the rural population are multidimensionally poor, in stark contrast to 21.9% in urban areas. Intensity is also higher in rural areas (54% versus 51%). Overall, the MPI in rural areas is 0.304, whereas in urban areas it is 0.112. Kuchi people represent 5% of the Afghan population, but require particular attention due to their high levels of poverty. The vast majority of this population (88.8%) live in multidimensional poverty, and on average, they are deprived in more than 59.3% of the weighted indicators. The MPI for the Kuchi population (0.526) is higher than rural areas, and thus they should be prioritised as nomadic pockets of poverty.

So how should rural and urban poverty strategies differ?

Figure 7 shows the composition of the MPI across the different areas. The red bands for living standards clearly show that these deprivations are lowest in urban areas

and highest in Kuchi areas. Looking at the blue education indicators towards the top, the contribution also increases in rural and Kuchi areas. In contrast, the yellow and orange health care indicators are highest in urban areas and lowest in Kuchi areas. Interestingly, the contributions of work deprivations are also lowest for Kuchi areas, but production shocks are highest. Comparing the relative height of the indicator bands, school attendance (the topmost indicator) contributes the most to multidimensional poverty in all three areas, followed by either food insecurity or lack of access to assisted delivery. These patterns vary intricately and highlight the need for different policy priorities to improve the health and educational conditions of people in Afghanistan.

Table 4. Multidimensional poverty by rural/urban areas, and Kuchi population, 2020

	Urban			Rural			Kuchi		
	Value	Confidence Interval (95%)		Value	Confidence Interval (95%)		Value	Confidence Interval (95%)	
A-MPI	0.112	0.109	0.115	0.304	0.302	0.306	0.526	0.519	0.533
Headcount ratio (H, %)	21.9	21.4	22.5	56.7	56.3	57.1	88.8	87.8	89.8
Intensity (A, %)	50.8	50.6	51.1	53.6	53.5	53.7	59.3	58.9	59.7
			24.5%			70.9%			4.6%

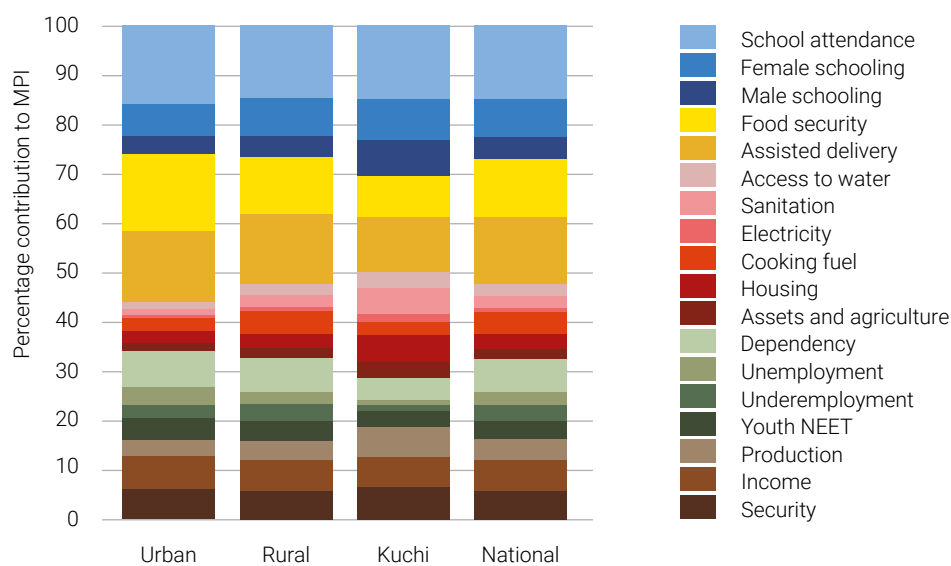
Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

2.5 MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY AMONG CHILDREN

Looking at poverty across age cohorts, multidimensional poverty is highest among children aged 0–17 (Table 5). Considering the confidence intervals of all the relevant figures, the MPI for the youngest people in Afghanistan is higher than all the other age groups. So children therefore need special attention to reduce their poverty.

The high MPI for children is driven by significant differences in the poverty headcount ratios compared to the other age groups: 54% of children aged 0–17 live in multidimensional poverty, compared to 44% of adults. Children also have a slightly higher intensity of poverty than adults.

Figure 7. Percentage contribution of each indicator to urban, rural, and Kuchi MPI, 2020



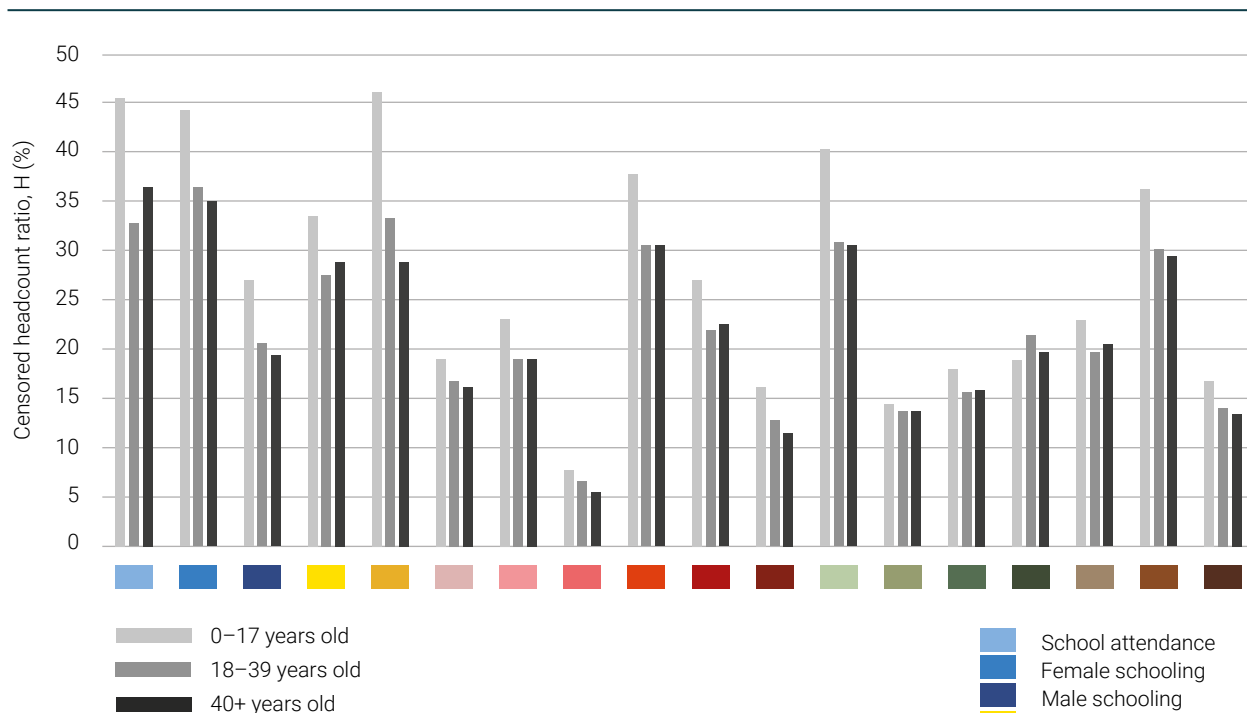
Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 5. Multidimensional poverty indices by age group, 2020

Age Group	A-MPI	Confidence Interval (95%)		H (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		A (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		Population Share (%)
Age 0–17	0.292	0.294	0.289	54.0	54.5	53.6	54.0	54.1	53.9	54.6
Age 18–39	0.238	0.242	0.235	44.6	45.2	44.0	53.4	53.6	53.3	30.0
Age 40+	0.236	0.240	0.231	44.1	45.0	43.3	53.4	53.7	53.2	15.4

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Figure 8. Censored headcount ratios by age group, 2020



Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Figure 8 presents the censored headcount ratios by age group. The censored headcount ratios for children are particularly high in school attendance (45.2%), female schooling (43.8%), and cooking fuel (37.0%). Around 40% of children are poor and deprived in dependency, which is almost 10 percentage points higher than adults. Sadly, these results clearly show how children’s deprivations and health risks are not only affecting them now, but may also affect their futures. The only indicators for which the censored headcount ratios of deprived children are statistically similar to the rest of the population are unemployment (14.3%) and youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (18.9%).

- School attendance
- Female schooling
- Male schooling
- Food security
- Assisted delivery
- Access to water
- Sanitation
- Electricity
- Cooking fuel
- Housing
- Assets and agriculture
- Dependency
- Unemployment
- Underemployment
- Youth NEET
- Production
- Income
- Security

3. USING THE A-MPI TO SHAPE POLICY RESPONSES

So how can poverty be reduced? The previous sections presented the profile of poverty broken down by province and rural/urban/Kuchi areas, and for children. This section shows how to use this information to shape policy responses to reduce poverty.

3.1 SETTING PRIORITIES

Naturally, priorities will be context dependent – and sometimes combinations of indicators are more important to consider than single indicators, if a multisectoral programme addresses that particular combination. To start the process of prioritisation, Table 6 provides an at-a-glance prioritisation of indicators for each province. Each cell shows the number of poor people living in households affected by each deprivation.¹ The darker coloured cells represent the four indicators that contribute most to poverty in that province.² These tend to be higher weighted indicators – so removing one deprivation reduces poverty more than removing one deprivation of a lower weighted indicator. The lighter shaded cells represent the four indicators with the next-highest contributions in that province.

Provincial priorities clearly vary. School attendance is among the top four contributors in every province, followed by assisted delivery (in all but one province). Other common priorities are food security, female schooling (through primary school), income shocks, and security shocks, and dependency. Only two indicators are never among the top eight contributors to the provincial A-MPI: electricity and assets.

Table 6 can therefore be used as a provincial priority-setting aid. The column for each province shows at-a-glance the number of people who were affected by that deprivation in 2020. That province's top eight indicator priorities appear in the shaded boxes, with the darker shades for the top four priorities (because they contribute most to MPI).

For example, in Badakhshan, 166.1 thousand people live in households where a school-aged child is not attending school; 207.6 thousand live in food-insecure households; 182.6 thousand in households where the woman had not had an assisted delivery; and 90.2 thousand experienced income shocks. These four indicators constitute the top

priorities for reducing MPI. In fact, these four deprivations contribute to over half of the MPI in Badakhshan, so reducing them in a focused way will cause the A-MPI to reduce sharply.

3.2 CRAFTING INDICATOR RESPONSES

Having established the indicator priorities, it is necessary to focus on more detailed data in order to create tangible and tailored policy responses for reducing multi-dimensional poverty. For example, for school attendance, we want to know the number of multidimensionally poor children who are out of school. For assisted delivery, we need to know if the multidimensionally poor women mainly lack antenatal visits, or a safe delivery location, or trained personnel assisting the birth, or all three. For male and female schooling, it could be useful to know if the females and males never enrolled at all, or if they stopped one year short of completing primary school, whilst simultaneously suffering other overlapping deprivations. Similarly, for income, security or production shocks we need to know precisely which shocks were most prevalent among the poor. The next section provides an overview of salient patterns, and tables which outline the provincial information required to formulate policies in that context.

While this information is precise and tangible, and can and should guide action, it is necessary to bear two caveats in mind. First, the data are from 2020, the current situation will have changed significantly in some provinces, and so modifications may be required. The section on simulations quantifies three scenarios and shows possible directions of change, but other data sources and local knowledge should also be considered.

Second, while the tables share a point estimate of numbers, there is always a margin of sampling error, as well as non-sampling measurement error. Furthermore, in five provinces there has been sample loss. Thus, the point estimates from the datasets are over precise, and care must be taken to try to revalidate the information during implementation. Still, they provide a great deal of pertinent information.

Table 6. Number of affected people and policy priorities, by province

Number of people living in households affected by each deprivation. Dark shade show the 4 deprivations that contribute most to MPI; light shades have next-highest contribution

	Badakhshan	Badkhis	Baghlan	Balkh	Bamyan	Daykundi	Farah	Faryab	Ghazni	Ghor	Helmand	Herat	Jawzjan	Kabul	Kandahar	Kapisa	Khost
MPI	0.307	0.460	0.152	0.272	0.210	0.250	0.311	0.420	0.131	0.231	0.497	0.282	0.209	0.084	0.456	0.148	0.350
School attendance	166,102	79,522	151,903	209,596	72,817	79,565	97,842	156,648	223,289	122,692	198,432	255,087	115,655	1,015,506	202,817	74,506	112,737
Female schooling	71,760	43,556	86,915	104,223	34,565	33,366	55,129	74,029	125,067	78,456	111,258	114,011	56,882	415,729	108,040	31,311	51,387
Male schooling	53,545	31,030	39,678	80,868	18,047	20,632	41,137	58,769	49,982	49,402	71,803	90,199	42,449	227,549	57,988	16,135	15,082
Food security	207,576	71,730	55,720	217,527	63,378	44,422	59,063	187,395	155,145	58,320	78,778	367,508	83,336	704,509	185,389	54,951	97,744
Assisted delivery	182,570	73,329	126,852	229,690	74,685	70,681	107,017	151,813	81,605	154,294	174,640	318,521	106,183	568,745	198,384	71,428	108,650
Access to water	9,562	18,177	47,162	42,211	15,842	20,818	8,395	36,223	30,474	27,104	11,033	31,994	24,676	73,248	18,236	18,917	8,323
Sanitation	5,896	25,705	27,595	31,840	7,285	26,851	20,433	16,004	54,230	27,974	32,436	76,809	1,658	141,440	31,582	16,478	18,834
Electricity	1,617	13,685	2,484	471	-	263	519	243	14,644	-	-	1,601	8,507	49,815	37,377	3,917	-
Cooking fuel	68,514	11,002	33,458	53,244	31,311	35,165	26,490	57,902	38,520	46,978	74,792	102,162	26,797	91,667	66,035	32,398	23,912
Housing	24,288	20,131	41,513	43,535	28,938	35,450	22,904	13,220	32,513	6,020	22,177	112,754	20,986	162,883	61,969	12,136	17,530
Assets	15,492	17,985	18,806	23,118	9,460	10,354	5,474	8,505	24,278	17,654	24,789	26,875	17,337	94,213	7,363	17,536	3,311
Dependency	80,257	42,783	85,697	83,962	32,842	45,245	34,251	73,372	57,740	68,652	97,089	140,277	28,959	453,619	78,615	44,916	55,944
Unemployment	18,221	7,979	10,409	31,224	7,198	7,799	15,935	21,618	68,247	55,585	18,827	98,597	13,407	153,876	49,356	17,230	12,664
Underemployment	55,034	14,724	8,802	37,213	20,525	24,482	24,210	56,828	25,397	32,890	67,521	108,024	11,614	116,301	11,150	12,273	17,877
Youth NEET	33,169	23,479	31,835	55,811	15,295	17,012	16,389	26,409	60,701	28,320	45,083	43,780	24,378	263,933	62,376	14,016	39,561
Production	64,652	18,525	20,094	92,950	28,727	20,665	9,963	59,525	110,537	11,733	18,797	117,849	8,233	296,810	50,373	11,113	18,743
Income	90,241	24,665	27,260	107,231	34,130	45,969	16,480	101,879	101,146	19,981	95,744	199,107	4,097	333,426	53,237	36,620	14,799
Security	9,238	34,334	94,876	150,458	1,805	7,239	46,837	106,688	256,144	26,067	152,676	93,868	33,050	335,968	22,165	20,528	7,814

Table 6. Number of affected people and policy priorities, by province

Number of people living in households affected by each deprivation. Dark shades show the 4 deprivations that contribute most to MPI; light shades have next-highest contribution

	Kunarha	Kunduz	Laghman	Logar	Maydan Wodak	Nangarhar	Nimoz	Nooristan	Paktika	Paktya	Panisher	Parwan	Samangan	Sare-Pul	Takhar	Urozgan	Zabul
MPI	0.326	0.274	0.332	0.388	0.387	0.373	0.203	0.375	0.195	0.197	0.047	0.191	0.320	0.271	0.196	0.557	0.379
School attendance	88,884	200,813	72,750	108,951	122,380	301,243	29,863	21,759	162,422	64,500	40,011	105,979	60,910	111,952	187,636	60,084	68,388
Female schooling	37,854	79,017	42,471	54,019	54,880	158,408	15,137	15,780	80,075	22,877	16,430	60,033	33,025	53,125	91,404	40,158	39,070
Male schooling	11,862	47,019	19,847	38,608	11,126	84,656	10,440	12,558	21,332	10,349	8,668	27,399	17,522	39,657	74,277	28,132	18,355
Food security	20,513	85,145	65,631	33,304	57,034	253,922	19,931	21,759	132,392	48,796	23,363	111,593	74,725	64,555	96,856	19,870	76,551
Assisted delivery	86,393	168,679	78,168	109,240	63,254	276,215	24,977	19,189	92,493	36,819	391,339	103,776	37,481	92,764	160,214	70,722	65,302
Access to water	11,013	43,087	9,413	21,972	21,725	17,189	8,570	7,716	19,839	1,415	8,221	27,727	17,535	30,890	20,317	19,509	7,580
Sanitation	10,645	39,806	28,195	19,048	9,480	41,808	744	9,242	19,138	3,083	2,323	33,661	5,589	37,256	28,565	6,276	10,501
Electricity	86	2,186	204	24,280	87	48,373	3,762	1,015	- ^o	49	4,386	963	493	4,804	300	21,840	838
Cooking fuel	15,133	49,202	19,983	20,648	44,635	49,115	6,249	10,873	53,143	21,956	9,154	47,563	19,950	10,852	72,294	24,497	16,367
Housing	28,482	25,519	13,961	32,797	38,658	48,448	7,854	10,209	21,446	14,509	10,750	31,856	13,785	14,963	48,926	3,171	3,491
Assets	9,036	11,333	12,381	10,814	7,725	76,122	6,934	8,109	4,427	3,232	233	5,977	15,195	25,552	42,266	6,961	7,195
Dependency	46,038	79,195	38,716	41,999	55,085	117,200	12,034	4,984	71,941	28,774	9,942	60,717	32,758	50,763	90,618	19,994	32,014
Unemployment	13,653	29,554	19,524	11,110	19,914	48,475	2,225	4,051	14,300	21,189	9,855	24,571	16,592	23,983	48,977	2,625	9,269
Underemployment	27,601	35,663	28,784	5,297	17,670	52,471	301	1,751	25,607	10,868	3,052	38,371	20,917	25,990	45,997	6,878	6,457
Youth NEET	27,296	58,136	15,500	28,438	33,251	81,591	7,431	4,497	38,396	24,582	5,145	17,502	17,156	21,425	40,160	22,744	13,078
Production	30,277	40,348	11,350	18,587	42,749	86,159	9,090	7,989	18,099	9,003	-	34,445	21,556	22,076	63,573	28,225	10,453
Income	45,224	55,605	35,783	58,807	65,150	168,176	12,771	4,393	19,502	12,447	4,840	62,672	17,920	38,523	3,686	40,601	31,296
Security	9,725	87,692	26,741	56,065	121,272	34,229	5,872	1,865	11,254	10,898	1,831	24,219	4,465	3,542	21,935	67,777	14,659

Source: Authors' computations based on the IELFS.

Note also that the A-MPI includes 18 indicators, but there may be wider policies that, if implemented, will affect these indicators and also have broad benefits. For example, improving health clinics will clearly improve assisted delivery and will also improve health outcomes for men, children, and for women facing other health challenges – which is highly desirable even if these are not included in the A-MPI due to parsimony and data constraints. It is important to use the A-MPI information platform to inspire concrete and swift actions, yet not to be so narrow as to lose the wider aims of reducing poverty in all its forms.

The following sections analyse the household or individual characteristics associated with the assisted delivery, school attendance, female and male schooling, and shocks dimensions of the A-MPI. This analysis harnesses the rich information underlying the construction of the A-MPI along with Afghanistan's most recent population estimates, published by NSIA in 2020. The goal is to provide the information required to build granular policy interventions at the level of each province to reduce multidimensional poverty in Afghanistan.

3.2.1 Assisted delivery

Our measurement of the health dimension looks at food security and at women's access to maternal health services. The assisted delivery indicator considers a woman to be deprived if any one of three conditions apply: insufficient antenatal visits, delivery outside a designated health facility, or delivery not assisted by qualified health workers. But policy actors will naturally wish to know how many women are deprived (as opposed to people living in households where a woman is deprived, as shown in Table 6). Do all deprived women lack all three components of maternal health services? Or if not, which deprivations predominate, and do these vary by province?

Table 7 presents data for the 2.1 million women aged 13–49 who were pregnant in the five years before the survey and were living in multidimensional poverty. Columns 1 to 3 count the number of women living in multidimensional poverty who did not receive at least four antenatal care visits (Column 1), were not assisted by a doctor or nurse during delivery (Column 2), or delivered away from a health centre or hospital (Column 3). Column 4 counts the number of people deprived in any 2 out of columns 1 to 3. Column 5 counts the number of multidimensionally poor women who received none of

these services, while Column 6 counts the number who received all three out of columns 1 to 3. At the national level, of the 2.1 million women aged 13–49 living in multidimensional poverty that gave birth in the 5 years prior to the survey, 675.9 thousand were non-deprived in the A-MPI indicator of assisted delivery. These women received at least four antenatal visits and assistance by a doctor or nurse during delivery, and delivered at a hospital. Conversely, around 635.3 thousand women received none of these services, raising the risk of infant and maternal mortality. Women between 18–49 are the majority (632.3 thousand) of the multidimensionally poor people facing all three risks to their maternal health. Women living in multidimensional poverty face a particular challenge in accessing adequate antenatal visits. Some 661 thousand multidimensionally poor women received fewer than four visits as their only risk. In contrast, 14.8 thousand only lacked a trained professional during delivery and 23.6 thousand delivered outside of a hospital or clinic as their only deprivation. While all three are important, without addressing antenatal care the deprivations will not be solved.

At the sub-national level, in four provinces over 50 thousand multidimensionally poor women received fewer than four antenatal visits, the recommended number for sufficient antenatal care. These include Herat (69.7 thousand), Nangarhar (67.0 thousand) Kandahar (58.8 thousand), and Helmand (53.2 thousand). Among the 635.3 thousand women without access to any of: sufficient antenatal care, access to doctors or nurses, or hospitals or health centres for delivery, half reside in seven provinces: Herat (52.6 thousand), Nangarhar (46.4 thousand), Ghor (44.8 thousand) Urozgan (42.5 thousand), Faryab (42.3 thousand), Badghis (39.7 thousand), and Kandahar (34.4 thousand). In these regions, women with the least capacity to absorb health shocks face unmitigated maternal health risks and require urgent intervention. Measures to increase the coverage of antenatal care would have the biggest impact on multidimensional poverty.

3.2.2 School attendance

Table 8 counts the number of children aged 7–16 who are MPI poor and currently not attending school. It goes beyond the information set out in Table 6 to show the number of individual children who are deprived in the A-MPI indicator of school attendance. It distinguishes

Table 7. Access to antenatal care services for women aged 13–49 who are MPI poor, disaggregated by age and province (thousands)

	Received fewer than 4 antenatal visits only	Not assisted by doctor/nurse only	Delivered away from a hospital/health centre only	Deprived in any two from columns 1-3	Fewer than 4 antenatal visits AND not assisted by doctor/nurse AND delivered away from a hospital/health centre	Non-deprived: Received more than 4 antenatal visits AND assisted by doctor/nurse AND delivered in a hospital health centre	Eligible and valid: Number of MPI poor women eligible with valid responses for maternal health questions
National	661.6	14.7	23.6	132.3	635.3	675.9	2,143.5
13-17 years	1.6	–	–	–	3.0	18.5	23.1
18-49 years	660.0	14.7	23.6	132.3	632.3	657.4	2,120.4
Badakhshan	22.7	–	–	3.5	40.7	28.1	95.0
Badghis	5.6	–	1.1	2.6	39.7	22.4	71.4
Baghlan	10.8	–	0.4	2.9	13.2	7.0	34.4
Balkh	26.8	4.2	–	15.9	31.8	28.7	107.5
Bamyan	10.6	–	0.2	1.7	6.7	9.5	28.8
Daykundi	8.7	0.2	1.4	4.4	9.1	13.6	37.3
Farah	14.5	3.2	–	8.8	16.2	9.0	51.8
Faryab	32.4	1.8	–	5.3	42.3	49.9	131.6
Ghazni	9.2	–	–	1.5	2.9	37.3	50.9
Ghor	0.9	0.8	0.8	5.7	44.8	8.6	61.6
Helmand	53.2	0.9	5.1	14.1	21.5	34.9	129.7
Herat	69.7	–	–	8.1	52.6	54.4	184.8
Jawzjan	13.1	–	2.3	0.8	11.9	10.0	38.2
Kabul	48.1	–	1.5	0.6	6.2	49.4	105.8
Kandahar	58.8	–	0.2	6.1	34.4	28.5	128.1
Kapisa	8.4	–	–	1.2	4.4	9.2	23.2
Khost	29.7	–	–	3.9	4.6	17.0	55.3
Kunarha	16.9	–	0.5	1.3	11.7	13.3	43.6
Kunduz	26.8	0.5	–	5.5	13.8	22.3	69.0
Laghman	16.2	–	–	1.8	15.1	10.5	43.6
Logar	23.0	–	0.4	0.2	22.4	8.6	54.5
Maydan Wodakg	11.6	0.6	3.1	2.9	7.5	32.6	58.3
Nangarhar	67.0	0.3	–	5.3	46.4	46.9	166.0
Nimroz	4.0	0.1	0.3	1.3	2.1	3.2	10.9
Nooristan	1.4	–	1.2	1.1	9.2	4.1	17.0
Paktika	14.6	–	0.2	1.3	3.8	11.7	31.7
Paktya	4.0	0.2	–	0.6	1.7	10.3	16.8
Panjsher	1.5	0.1	–	0.0	1.3	0.3	3.2
Parwan	12.2	–	0.4	2.5	10.5	16.2	41.8
Samangan	4.6	0.4	0.5	5.5	6.3	21.3	38.7
Sar-e-Pul	9.8	1.2	0.2	6.0	17.0	16.6	50.8
Takhar	17.9	–	–	4.6	19.8	20.3	62.6
Urozgan	5.2	–	–	0.6	42.5	16.8	65.1
Zabul	1.6	–	3.9	4.5	21.2	3.4	34.5

Note: This table includes 2.1 million people in the reference population (women aged 13–49 that gave birth in the 5 years prior) and belong to households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are eligible but missing (7.3 thousand) non-reference population poor (13.3 million), reference and non-reference nonpoor (15.8 million and non retained sample (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' calculations based on data from 2020 Afghanistan IE&LFS and NSIA 2020 population data.

Table 8. School attendance among multidimensionally poor children by age, sex, province, and poverty (thousands)

	Not attending, never attended	Not attending, previously attended	Non-deprived: attending school	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	3,753.9	291.3	1,484.9	5,530.1
6–12 Years	2,739.2	105.4	994.1	3,838.6
13–17 Years	1,014.8	185.9	490.8	1,691.5
Girls	2,101.3	128.1	456.7	2,686.1
Boys	1,652.6	163.2	1,028.3	2,844.0
Badakhshan	124.8	19.1	97.8	241.6
Badghis	119.3	4.2	25.7	149.3
Baghlan	69.1	11.7	11.7	92.5
Balkh	156.6	9.2	90.8	256.6
Bamyan	31.5	6.6	28.5	66.6
Daykundi	47.5	3.9	40.3	91.7
Farah	108.5	1.2	21.9	131.6
Faryab	175.4	31.8	81.0	288.2
Ghazni	80.6	7.6	46.3	134.5
Ghor	72.4	6.2	40.8	119.4
Helmand	342.1	2.5	21.9	366.6
Herat	167.5	48.0	198.5	414.0
Jawzjan	73.9	4.0	18.7	96.7
Kabul	226.9	56.2	60.1	343.3
Kandahar	289.5	4.1	51.9	345.5
Kapisa	26.6	2.0	27.8	56.3
Khost	99.8	0.8	41.9	142.5
Kunarha	71.2	5.9	40.3	117.4
Kunduz	142.5	12.2	48.5	203.3
Laghman	64.3	5.4	49.7	119.4
Logar	128.5	2.5	28.8	159.8
Maydan Wodakg	126.2	4.8	58.5	189.5
Nangarhar	317.2	15.8	141.2	474.3
Nimroz	21.6	0.4	3.7	25.8
Nooristan	25.6	1.8	3.4	30.7
Paktika	90.3	0.4	36.7	127.4
Paktya	33.4	0.8	15.6	49.8
Panjsher	5.8	0.8	3.0	9.5
Parwan	61.0	3.5	49.9	114.3
Samangan	57.8	4.0	23.9	85.7
Sar-e-Pul	97.1	6.2	18.5	121.8
Takhar	116.8	5.0	36.7	158.4
Urozgan	109.8	1.3	3.7	114.8
Zabul	72.9	1.3	17.2	91.4

Note: This table includes 5.5 million people in the reference population (persons aged 7–16) and belong to households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non reference population with missing values (43.3 thousand), non reference population (20.7 million) non-multidimensionally poor (5.0 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

children not attending school because they never enrolled (column 1) from those previously enrolled but out of school by the time of the survey (column 2). Column 3 counts the number of children attending school and therefore not deprived in school attendance. It is clear that, in 2020, most multidimensionally poor children who are not attending school had never attended. At the national level, almost 3.8 million children aged 7–16 who were multidimensionally poor report never having attended school, leaving them deprived in the A-MPI indicator of school attendance. The provinces with the highest number of MPI-poor children that never enrolled in school are Helmand (342.1 thousand), Nangarhar (317.2 thousand), Kandahar (289.5 thousand), Kabul (226.9 thousand) and Faryab (175.4 thousand). In all provinces, most out-of-school children had never attended school.

Looking at the gender disparities, in 2020 we find that girls account for a disproportionate number of multidimensionally poor out-of-school children who were never enrolled in school (2.1 million out of 3.8 million). By contrast, 291.2 thousand multidimensionally poor children had previously attended school but dropped out, and of these more were boys than girls.

3.2.3 Male schooling and female schooling

Table 9 and Table 10 respectively count the number of women and men aged 10 and above living in MPI-poor households who did not complete primary school, or who completed primary school but still lack basic literacy. Once again, we distinguish people who never enrolled in primary school (column 1) from those who enrolled but never completed (column 2), and those who completed primary school yet still lack basic literacy (column 3). Column 4 in both tables counts the number of people that finished primary school with basic literacy and are thus not deprived in the A-MPI indicators of female and male schooling.

From these tables it is clear that, once again, initial enrolment is the main explanation for why Afghan people living in multidimensional poverty are deprived in schooling. This result is consistent across genders, age groups, and provinces. Tables 9 and 10 show that 4.1 million poor females and 3 million poor males never enrolled in school. By contrast, 294 thousand multidimensionally poor children had previously attended school but dropped out, and of these more were boys than girls (table 9 column 2, and table 10 column 2). The results also shed light on intra-provincial inequality in access to schooling. The provinces of Nangarhar, Kabul, Herat, and Balkh, with the large populations of multidimensionally poor men and women who never enrolled school, are also home to the largest population of men and women who completed primary school and enjoy sufficient literacy. These results point to barriers to schooling operating at the micro and macro levels. While a nationwide education intervention is urgently needed, a pro-poor education policy should also account for the societal obstacles that generate inequality in access to schooling.

Table 9. School completion for females aged 10 and above and multidimensionally poor, by age group and province (thousands)

	Never attended school	Attended but did not complete	Finished but cannot read and write	Non-deprived: finished and can read and write	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	4,100.7	215.5	190.3	221.7	4,728.2
10–17 years	1,149.1	161.1	158.6	96.5	1,565.4
18+ years	2,951.6	54.4	31.7	125.2	3,162.8
Badakhshan	138.6	9.9	27.7	30.9	207.1
Badghis	125.6	2.2	5.0	2.0	134.8
Baghlan	71.1	0.3	–	1.3	72.8
Balkh	186.0	12.5	15.8	20.7	235.0
Bamyan	45.3	2.1	6.4	7.5	61.3
Daykundi	58.4	6.4	7.5	9.2	81.6
Farah	95.6	3.5	–	0.7	99.8
Faryab	234.2	14.3	30.2	15.8	294.4
Ghazni	112.5	5.8	0.7	8.0	127.0
Ghor	96.1	0.6	7.0	1.5	105.2
Helmand	270.9	–	0.3	1.0	272.2
Herat	223.7	66.7	34.2	38.7	363.2
Jawzjan	70.1	2.3	3.5	1.9	77.7
Kabul	237.7	16.7	5.9	21.1	281.4
Kandahar	296.6	2.5	–	1.2	300.2
Kapisa	38.5	3.4	3.4	7.2	52.5
Khost	116.8	2.6	0.3	1.6	121.4
Kunarha	78.6	6.3	2.4	3.8	91.2
Kunduz	150.0	9.5	5.0	7.9	172.5
Laghman	81.1	4.2	5.9	3.6	94.7
Logar	114.8	2.8	2.1	1.5	121.3
Maydan Wodakg	159.6	5.6	0.8	3.8	169.8
Nangarhar	347.0	9.6	11.2	7.6	375.4
Nimroz	19.3	1.1	0.1	0.6	21.2
Nooristan	34.2	0.4	0.1	0.5	35.3
Paktika	82.5	0.2	0.2	0.8	83.7
Paktya	42.4	3.7	–	1.4	47.5
Panjsher	5.4	0.2	0.8	0.3	6.6
Parwan	76.8	6.8	3.5	6.6	93.6
Samangan	75.4	3.9	1.4	2.1	82.9
Sar-e-Pul	91.5	5.0	1.2	2.6	100.4
Takhar	118.6	3.8	6.3	7.7	136.4
Urozgan	134.2	0.5	1.1	0.6	136.5
Zabul	71.5	0.2	0.3	–	71.9

Note: This table includes 4.7 million people in the reference population (girls aged 10+) and belong to households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: reference population with missing values (24.1 thousand), non-reference population (21.1 million) non-multidimensionally poor (5.5 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 10. School completion for males aged 10 and above and multidimensionally poor, by age group and province (thousands)

	Never attended school	Attended but did not complete	Finished but cannot read and write	Non-deprived: finished and can read and write	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	2,936.4	608.4	306.1	839.2	4,690.1
10–17 years	182.5	694.5	174.9	615.7	1,667.5
18+ years	1,681.8	319.3	68.3	1,911.3	3,980.6
Badakhshan	104.3	16.8	38.4	40.9	200.4
Badghis	111.9	7.1	7.1	10.3	136.4
Baghlan	48.2	12.4	–	15.4	76.1
Balkh	134.1	19.5	28.9	44.4	226.9
Bamyan	35.1	5.0	8.7	14.3	63.0
Daykundi	41.1	10.0	7.2	18.6	76.9
Farah	78.6	13.6	–	8.5	100.8
Faryab	162.4	27.4	22.4	27.3	239.5
Ghazni	63.8	35.8	4.0	33.6	137.2
Ghor	72.9	10.3	11.7	11.7	106.6
Helmand	246.9	12.0	0.6	22.7	282.1
Herat	166.6	108.8	47.0	49.7	372.1
Jawzjan	64.8	7.1	7.4	7.9	87.2
Kabul	162.0	37.6	9.7	75.6	284.8
Kandahar	244.8	38.5	0.4	18.6	302.3
Kapisa	19.5	6.0	4.4	20.3	50.3
Khost	63.4	27.4	3.1	28.9	122.8
Kunarha	43.6	17.5	4.4	29.4	95.0
Kunduz	107.0	15.4	10.5	37.2	170.0
Laghman	40.3	16.1	7.9	29.7	94.0
Logar	89.1	6.2	9.9	20.4	125.5
Maydan Wodakg	77.3	30.9	2.1	69.8	180.1
Nangarhar	214.8	41.2	29.2	75.9	361.1
Nimroz	16.8	1.8	0.4	1.9	20.8
Nooristan	31.9	1.3	0.7	3.2	37.0
Paktika	37.4	16.9	2.1	32.6	89.0
Paktya	24.1	6.0	0.2	11.1	41.4
Panjsher	3.3	0.5	0.6	2.0	6.4
Parwan	35.0	18.7	10.3	27.2	91.1
Samangan	59.3	12.3	7.0	9.2	87.8
Sar-e-Pul	85.7	9.3	3.8	7.6	106.3
Takhar	93.4	5.6	10.7	17.9	127.5
Urozgan	106.4	4.8	1.2	7.2	119.6
Zabul	50.6	8.5	4.2	8.5	71.8

Note: This table includes 4.7 million people in the reference population (boys aged 10+) and belong households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: reference population with missing values (19.3 thousand), non reference population (20,921,453) non multidimensionally poor (5.7 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Explaining joint distributions linked to school attendance and assisted delivery

Figures 9a and 9b show that people living in multidimensional poverty are significantly more likely to be deprived in school attendance and assisted delivery if they are also deprived in male or female schooling. If no male or female older than 10 years has completed primary school and the household is deprived in at least 40% of the weighted indicators, the likelihood of being deprived in school attendance is 52.4% if a female did not complete primary and 57.8% if a male did not. Under the same conditions, the likelihood of being deprived in assisted delivery is 47% if a female did not complete primary and 55% if a male did not. By contrast, the likelihood that a household is deprived in school attendance falls to 19.1% if, despite being multidimensionally poor, a female completed primary and 31.3% if a male did so.

These results suggest that the most basic school achievement of primary education can shape attitudes towards public services such as education and health. Indeed, even in multidimensionally poor households of comparable capabilities, having a primary graduate nearly doubles the chance that at least one child attends school and at least one woman receives assisted delivery. This benefit is significantly stronger on average if women complete primary than men – which is to be expected mathematically as fewer men have not completed primary school. But it also shows that educating men – as well as women – is key for household achievements in school attendance and assisted delivery.

When looking at whether households recognise that there are problems in health or schooling and view these as the first-order policy priority for government, Figures 9c and 9d show that multidimensionally poor people are more likely than people who are not poor to view local school facilities and local hospital facilities as a first-order policy priority. However, in 2020, fewer than 5% and 10% of people overall viewed local school facilities and hospital facilities, respectively, as first-order policy priorities, perhaps because other policy priorities were very pressing at that time.

One important caveat when interpreting the relationship between male and female schooling, assisted delivery, and school attendance is that correlation does not equal causation. Nevertheless, the results strongly support the conclusion that local social infrastructure investment requires concomitant information campaigns to steer social norms towards valuing education and modern health services. Moreover, these campaigns must target boys and men as well as girls and women.

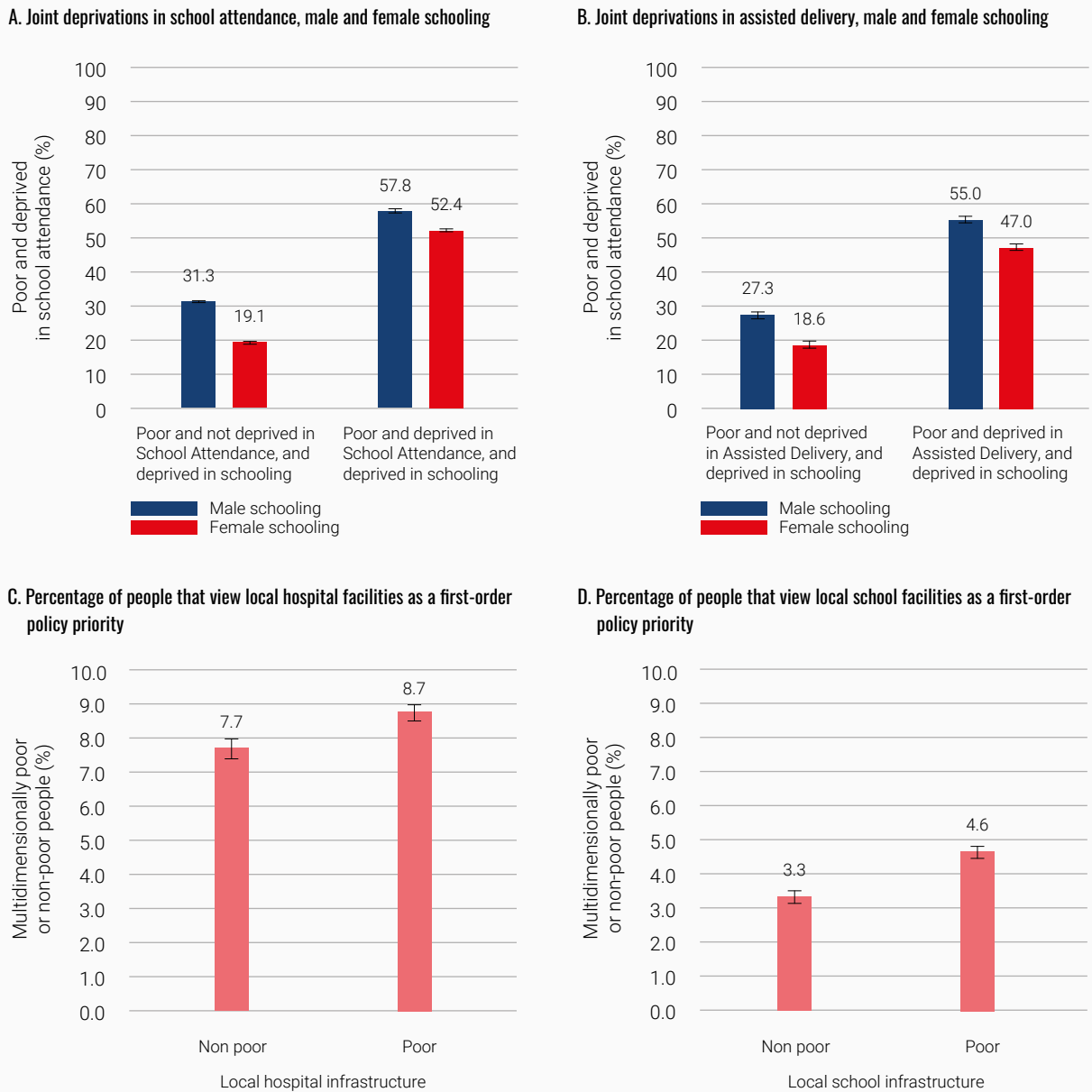
3.2.4 Water

Table 11 shows the water sources used by multidimensionally poor people. At the national level, multidimensionally poor people generally access drinking water from protected sources (11.5 million people). The minority that source drinking water from unprotected sources

use unprotected wells or springs (1.3 million) and surface water (2 million).

At the sub-national level, over half of the multidimensionally poor people whose drinking water comes from surface water reside in seven provinces: Balkh (224.8 thousand), Faryab (165.2 thousand), Jawzjan (142.7

Figure 9. Explaining the factors linked to assisted delivery and school attendance



Source: Authors computations based on the IE&LFS.

thousand), Sar-e-Pul (129.2 thousand), Helmand (125.3 thousand) and Samangan (122.3 thousand). By contrast, the largest populations using unprotected springs reside in Ghor (126.0 thousand) Faryab (123.8 thousand) Logar (81.0 thousand) Daykundi (81.2 thousand) Herat (71.3 thousand) and Nooristan (61.2 thousand). Table 11 also

points to intra-provincial inequality in access to water in Helmand and Herat provinces. In both provinces, large populations using unprotected sources reside alongside large populations using protected sources. Arguably, the infrastructure already exists to improve access to water for poor people within these provinces.

Table 11. Water sources used by multidimensionally poor people, by province (thousands)

	Spring or kariz – unprotected	Surface water (river, stream, irrigation channel, lake, pond, lake, kanda)	Tanker-truck	Others	Non-deprived: Safe water	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	1,329.7	2,022.1	405.0	220.7	11,462.3	15,439.7
Badakhshan	22.2	58.1	–	–	560.1	640.4
Badghis	50.0	120.0	5.1	2.2	250.9	428.1
Baghlan	40.0	68.8	3.3	–	147.1	259.3
Balkh	33.6	224.9	3.6	18.5	464.9	745.6
Bamyan	32.8	61.1	–	0.1	98.6	192.6
Daykundi	81.2	34.4	–	–	130.0	245.6
Farah	21.3	4.0	–	–	325.1	350.5
Faryab	123.8	165.2	33.1	1.4	516.4	839.8
Ghazni	18.3	38.6	–	–	323.1	380.0
Ghor	126.0	28.1	–	–	208.6	362.7
Helmand	18.7	125.3	–	–	938.6	1,082.6
Herat	71.3	29.5	–	27.3	1,010.3	1,138.4
Jawzjan	1.6	142.7	2.3	0.5	108.0	255.2
Kabul	20.4	3.3	93.9	51.1	717.4	886.1
Kandahar	–	–	189.0	42.8	757.7	989.5
Kapisa	12.4	66.5	–	–	80.9	159.9
Khost	50.2	13.9	17.1	–	317.1	398.3
Kunarha	50.2	46.1	–	5.0	209.5	310.8
Kunduz	33.1	2.5	10.4	–	495.2	541.1
Laghman	51.8	10.9	–	1.2	254.4	318.4
Logar	81.0	17.5	–	22.9	320.2	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	56.9	110.2	–	2.4	365.8	535.3
Nangarhar	27.5	29.6	–	5.6	1,186.1	1,248.7
Nimroz	0.3	5.4	24.3	0.7	37.8	68.4
Nooristan	61.2	3.6	–	2.2	46.7	113.7
Paktika	38.6	39.3	–	–	248.2	326.0
Paktya	–	–	–	0.5	138.6	139.1
Panjsher	3.6	12.8	–	–	7.5	23.9
Parwan	36.7	76.0	19.9	2.7	148.7	284.0
Samangan	15.8	122.3	1.0	5.7	106.3	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	35.6	129.2	–	27.2	137.7	329.6
Takhar	28.1	71.0	2.0	–	313.7	414.8
Urozgan	41.0	130.5	–	–	262.1	433.7
Zabul	44.3	30.9	–	0.7	229.1	305.0

Note: This table includes 15.5 million individuals that belong to households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-multidimensionally poor (15.8 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

3.2.5 Sanitation

Table 12 outlines the sanitation facilities that multidimensionally poor people use. Nearly half of multidimensionally poor people lack access to proper sanitation, with separate disposal for waste materials. Among the poor people residing in households without adequate sanitation, the most commonly used sanitation facility is pit latrine without a slab. Some 2.6 million multidimensionally poor people live in a household without a sanitation facility, placing them at high risk of infectious disease.

Half of the multidimensionally poor people using a pit latrine without a slab reside in six provinces: Herat (501.2 thousand), Helmand (379.7 thousand), Kabul (304.5 thousand), Sar-e-Pul (273.5 thousand), Kunduz (240.5 thousand) and Nangarhar (249.5 thousand). Similarly, half of the people without any facilities reside in seven provinces: Kandahar (222.9 thousand), Logar (205.8 thousand), Nangarhar (195.5 thousand), Khost (184.6 thousand), Ghor (159.8 thousand), Daykundi (132.0 thousand) and Farah (115.6 thousand).

3.2.6 Work dimension

Table 13 outlines the working-age population living in multidimensional poverty by employment status. It shows that 4 million multidimensionally poor people are outside the labour force, while 1.7 million are employed, equivalent to less than a quarter of the labour force. Among working multidimensionally poor people, a disproportionate fraction are underemployed. Roughly three-quarters of the multidimensionally poor people who are underemployed are women. Women also account for a small fraction of the people that are employed.

At the sub-national level, Herat stands out with the highest number of multidimensionally poor people who are underemployed (129.0 thousand), and unemployed (95.9 thousand), and is also among the highest number outside the labour force (197.9 thousand). Nangarhar hosts the highest number of multidimensionally poor people outside the labour force (323.7 thousand) as well as the largest population of multidimensionally poor and underemployed people (44.5 thousand) and has among the highest number of unemployed (42.5 thousand).

Table 12. Sanitation facilities used by the multidimensionally poor people, by province (thousands)

	Pit latrine – without slab/open pit	Single/double vault – without urine diversion	No facility – open field, bush	Other sources	Non-deprived: adequate sanitation	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	3,661.4	1,464.4	2,577.6	97.8	7,638.6	15,439.7
Badakhshan	2.5	2.5	49.1	–	586.2	640.4
Badghis	198.3	3.1	103.6	36.1	87.0	428.1
Baghlan	52.1	32.0	65.4	1.1	108.7	259.3
Balkh	191.5	28.9	34.1	17.7	473.3	745.6
Bamyan	20.9	10.7	21.3	1.3	138.4	192.6
Daykundi	45.6	38.0	132.0	1.3	28.7	245.6
Farah	60.2	–	115.6	2.1	172.6	350.5
Faryab	135.4	–	56.3	–	648.2	839.8
Ghazni	120.0	2.9	75.1	3.4	178.6	380.0
Ghor	22.7	1.9	159.8	–	178.3	362.7
Helmand	379.9	211.5	73.2	3.4	414.6	1,082.6
Herat	501.2	–	117.2	–	519.9	1,138.4
Jawzjan	4.9	–	5.0	–	245.3	255.2
Kabul	304.5	44.7	25.6	–	511.3	886.1
Kandahar	188.3	6.9	222.9	–	571.3	989.5
Kapisa	40.5	79.0	–	29.1	11.4	159.9
Khost	3.5	18.4	184.6	–	191.7	398.3
Kunarha	37.7	–	61.1	–	212.0	310.8
Kunduz	240.5	88.5	57.2	–	154.9	541.1
Laghman	209.0	2.5	55.1	1.5	50.3	318.4
Logar	–	176.6	205.8	–	59.1	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	4.3	95.1	97.4	–	338.5	535.3
Nangarhar	249.4	1.3	195.5	–	802.5	1,248.7
Nimroz	3.8	–	0.5	–	64.1	68.4
Nooristan	2.1	18.6	91.9	–	1.2	113.7
Paktika	6.5	136.1	99.1	–	84.3	326.0
Paktya	15.1	48.6	2.2	–	73.3	139.1
Panjsher	0.4	11.9	2.7	–	8.9	23.9
Parwan	143.1	–	37.0	–	103.9	284.0
Samangan	33.4	0.7	16.7	–	200.3	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	273.5	–	13.3	–	42.8	329.6
Takhar	152.6	–	7.0	–	255.2	414.8
Urozgan	15.0	263.5	85.0	–	70.2	433.7
Zabul	2.9	140.4	109.0	0.8	52.0	305.0

Note: This table includes 15.4 million individuals that belong to households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-multidimensionally poor (15.8 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 13. Employment status for people aged 14 years and above and multidimensionally poor, by sex and province (thousands)

	Underemployed	Unemployed	Non-deprived: Employed	Non-deprived: Outside the labour force	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	849.1	717.6	1,724.4	4,048.0	7,338.9
Female	179.5	241.8	268.6	3,112.2	3,802.1
Male	669.5	475.8	1,455.8	935.7	3,536.8
Badakhshan	45.6	15.6	66.7	188.6	316.5
Badghis	18.9	10.6	26.1	146.4	202.1
Baghlan	3.6	4.9	9.2	98.1	115.8
Balkh	28.3	23.8	111.5	208.9	372.5
Bamyan	13.5	4.5	19.7	63.5	101.2
Daykundi	20.0	6.1	15.2	77.5	118.7
Farah	23.8	14.2	51.9	59.9	149.7
Faryab	97.3	27.2	101.1	199.6	425.1
Ghazni	9.5	34.0	88.6	78.0	210.0
Ghor	23.1	67.8	22.5	54.7	168.1
Helmand	94.7	24.2	69.3	233.3	421.4
Herat	129.0	95.9	134.2	197.8	556.8
Jawzjan	6.6	6.8	53.0	58.9	125.2
Kabul	24.9	37.8	89.0	287.2	438.9
Kandahar	13.3	64.1	119.3	288.5	485.2
Kapisa	5.4	8.2	10.8	55.8	80.2
Khost	11.9	7.4	26.7	148.7	194.7
Kunarha	21.0	12.3	19.1	90.1	142.4
Kunduz	21.9	20.3	63.8	155.8	261.7
Laghman	28.4	29.7	33.3	51.6	143.0
Logar	4.7	9.2	58.0	119.4	191.3
Maydan Wodakg	16.6	20.4	63.6	170.7	271.4
Nangarhar	44.5	42.5	167.6	323.7	578.3
Nimroz	0.2	1.4	8.6	21.4	31.6
Nooristan	2.4	6.3	26.0	26.4	61.2
Paktika	10.9	6.3	28.6	85.6	131.4
Paktya	3.4	12.2	14.5	39.7	69.8
Panjsher	0.2	1.0	5.3	3.2	9.8
Parwan	34.7	16.1	29.9	58.9	139.6
Samangan	22.1	19.1	19.8	76.2	137.3
Sar-e-Pul	22.2	23.6	26.4	77.1	149.3
Takhar	28.6	29.3	30.9	116.4	205.1
Urozgan	11.6	3.8	80.6	125.0	221.0
Zabul	6.4	10.9	33.6	61.5	112.5

Note: This table includes 7.3 million people in the reference population (persons aged 14+) who belong to households identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: reference population with missing values (287.9 thousand), non-reference population (14.4 million) non-multidimensionally poor (9.4 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 14. Average dependency ratio at national and province level (thousands)

	Multidimensionally poor	Non-poor	National
National	0.7	1	0.8
Badakhshan	0.6	1.2	0.8
Badghis	0.4	1.1	0.5
Baghlan	0.2	0.7	0.5
Balkh	0.9	1.2	1
Bamyan	0.6	1	0.9
Daykundi	0.4	0.7	0.5
Farah	0.9	1.2	1
Faryab	0.7	1	0.8
Ghazni	1.4	1.6	1.5
Ghor	0.4	0.7	0.6
Helmand	0.4	1	0.5
Herat	0.7	1.1	0.9
Jawzjan	1.2	1.4	1.3
Kabul	0.6	0.9	0.8
Kandahar	0.7	1	0.8
Kapisa	0.4	0.8	0.7
Khost	0.4	0.6	0.5
Kunarha	0.4	0.7	0.5
Kunduz	0.7	1.1	0.9
Laghman	0.6	1.2	0.9
Logar	0.8	1.1	0.9
Maydan Wodakg	0.7	1.3	0.9
Nangarhar	0.8	1.1	0.9
Nimroz	0.8	1.1	1
Nooristan	1.4	1.9	1.5
Paktika	0.5	0.9	0.8
Paktya	0.6	0.8	0.7
Panjsher	1.3	1.5	1.5
Parwan	0.6	1.3	1
Samangan	0.5	0.9	0.6
Sar-e-Pul	0.5	1	0.7
Takhar	0.4	1	0.8
Urozgan	1.1	1.2	1.1
Zabul	0.7	1.3	0.8

The high dependency rate in Afghanistan hinders the effectiveness of employment as an instrument for reducing multidimensional poverty. Table 14 summarises the dependency rate, calculated as the number of employed divided by household size and multiplied by six. Recall that a household is deprived in the MPI indicator of dependency if there is less than one person working for every six household members. Turning to the results, the table shows that the average dependency rate is comparable between poor and non-poor people (0.7 versus 1), suggesting that dependency is high across the whole population, due to the joint family system.

The results show that the transformational potential of employment in Afghanistan is limited by too few opportunities, low participation rates, and high dependency rates. While promoting more inclusivity in the labour market is urgently needed, the high dependency rate suggests that employment programmes must be accompanied by social programmes that alleviate other overlapping deprivations that Afghans face.

Table 13 outlined the working-age population living in multidimensional poverty by employment status; table 15 summarizes the number of people aged between 17 and 24 years who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). Table 13 shows that 4 million multidimensionally poor people are outside the labour force, while 1.7 million are employed, equivalent to less than a quarter of the labour force. Among working multidimensionally poor people, many are underemployed. Roughly three-quarters of the multidimensionally poor people who are underemployed are women. Only a small fraction of women are employed. Table 15 shows that 951.0 thousand youth aged 17–24 years were poor and deprived in Youth NEET in 2020. Regarding youth NEET in Table 13, in six provinces the number of youth that are poor and deprived exceeds 50,000. These include Badakhshan (52.3

Note: A household is deprived in dependency if there is less than one person working for every six people. Therefore provinces with an average dependency rate of less than 1 indicate a high share of people living in households deprived in dependency.

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 15. Number of people aged 17 – 24 MPI poor and deprived in Youth NEET by gender and region (thousands)

thousand), Balkh (55.8 thousand), Faryab (57.1 thousand), Herat (113.7 thousand), Kabul (59.7 thousand) and Nangarhar (79.3 thousand).

3.2.7 Security shocks

Tables 16a to 16d show the number of multidimensionally poor people whose households suffered security shocks. A household is deprived in the A-MPI indicator of security if they experience one or more of the following shocks: i) violence, and theft; ii) reside in insecure provinces, iii) they are displaced, iv) responded that the government's priority should be to disarm local militia to promote security. Tables 16a and 16b show that multidimensionally poor people suffer theft and violence at an alarmingly high rate. From Table 16a, out of 15.4 million multidimensionally poor people, 14.7 million had suffered theft, and 13.4 million had suffered violence (Table 16c). Insecurity is less widespread among multidimensionally poor people at the national level, but is concentrated in a few provinces. For example, Table 16d shows that the only provinces where people cited disarmament as the priority for local security in 2020 were Baghlan, Balkh, Ghazni, Ghor, Kandahar, Logar, Nangarhar, Urozgan, and Zabul. Likewise, Table 16b shows that six provinces had over 200,000 people who rate their district as very insecure: Helmand (594.4 thousand), Maydan Wodakg (427.8 thousand), Balkh (326.4 thousand) Urozgan (283.1 thousand), Faryab (273.6 thousand), and Ghazni (197.7 thousand). Together these provinces account for one-third of those who are both multidimensionally poor and deprived in the security indicator nationwide.

	Poor and Deprived in NEET	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
Total	951.1	945.8	1,896.9
Female	258.0	772.0	1,030.0
Male	693.1	173.8	866.9
Badakhshan	52.3	26.0	78.2
Badghis	15.2	44.2	59.5
Baghlan	7.4	16.3	23.7
Balkh	55.8	43.4	99.2
Bamyan	14.0	11.9	25.9
Daykundi	19.5	12.8	32.3
Farah	16.9	16.3	33.2
Faryab	57.1	32.6	89.6
Ghazni	33.8	23.4	57.3
Ghor	14.4	29.5	43.9
Helmand	37.7	55.4	93.1
Herat	113.7	40.9	154.6
Jawzjan	19.4	13.5	32.9
Kabul	59.7	71.0	130.7
Kandahar	41.0	77.8	118.8
Kapisa	11.8	9.8	21.5
Khost	22.2	32.3	54.4
Kunarha	19.5	22.2	41.6
Kunduz	35.4	41.5	76.9
Laghman	21.8	14.5	36.4
Logar	17.5	26.6	44.1
Maydan Wodakg	39.4	32.5	72.0
Nangarhar	79.3	79.1	158.4
Nimroz	3.3	6.0	9.3
Nooristan	8.1	8.0	16.1
Paktika	16.5	15.7	32.2
Paktya	8.7	13.0	21.7
Panjsher	0.9	0.5	1.3
Parwan	27.2	10.0	37.2
Samangan	15.1	20.6	35.7
Sar-e-Pul	14.1	18.5	32.6
Takhar	21.3	26.1	47.4
Urozgan	24.0	40.5	64.5
Zabul	7.3	13.5	20.8

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 16 A. Number of multidimensionally poor facing theft shocks, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in theft	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	14,683.0	756.7	15,439.7
Badakhshan	629.6	10.8	640.4
Badghis	384.1	44.1	428.1
Baghlan	259.3	–	259.3
Balkh	741.8	3.8	745.6
Bamyan	192.6	–	192.6
Daykundi	238.9	6.7	245.6
Farah	299.0	51.5	350.5
Faryab	839.8	–	839.8
Ghazni	357.6	22.4	380.0
Ghor	346.5	16.2	362.7
Helmand	726.5	356.1	1,082.6
Herat	1,049.0	89.5	1,138.4
Jawzjan	252.9	2.3	255.2
Kabul	861.7	24.4	886.1
Kandahar	963.8	25.7	989.5
Kapisa	157.9	2.0	159.9
Khost	397.1	1.2	398.3
Kunarha	309.9	0.9	310.8
Kunduz	529.8	11.3	541.1
Laghman	314.0	4.3	318.4
Logar	440.8	0.7	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	535.3	–	535.3
Nangarhar	1,234.9	13.8	1,248.7
Nimroz	67.5	0.9	68.4
Nooristan	112.3	1.5	113.7
Paktika	323.7	2.3	326.0
Paktya	137.6	1.5	139.1
Panjsher	23.9	–	23.9
Parwan	240.5	43.5	284.0
Samangan	244.6	6.6	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	328.4	1.2	329.6
Takhar	414.8	–	414.8
Urozgan	429.8	3.8	433.7
Zabul	297.3	7.7	305.0

Table 16 B. Number of multidimensionally poor people in insecure region, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in insecurity	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	3,020.3	12,419.5	15,439.7
Badakhshan	–	640.4	640.4
Badghis	–	428.1	428.1
Baghlan	25.2	234.1	259.3
Balkh	326.4	419.2	745.6
Bamyan	–	192.6	192.6
Daykundi	10.8	234.8	245.6
Farah	47.7	302.8	350.5
Faryab	273.7	566.2	839.8
Ghazni	197.7	182.3	380.0
Ghor	15.0	347.7	362.7
Helmand	594.4	488.2	1,082.6
Herat	118.9	1,019.5	1,138.4
Jawzjan	36.1	219.1	255.2
Kabul	92.7	793.4	886.1
Kandahar	26.2	963.2	989.5
Kapisa	26.7	133.2	159.9
Khost	16.6	381.7	398.3
Kunarha	5.6	305.2	310.8
Kunduz	107.7	433.4	541.1
Laghman	41.4	276.9	318.4
Logar	196.2	245.4	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	427.8	107.6	535.3
Nangarhar	31.2	1,217.5	1,248.7
Nimroz	8.9	59.5	68.4
Nooristan	3.1	110.7	113.7
Paktika	13.2	312.7	326.0
Paktya	18.6	120.5	139.1
Panjsher	–	23.9	23.9
Parwan	–	284.0	284.0
Samangan	2.7	248.4	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	1.6	327.9	329.6
Takhar	28.8	386.0	414.8
Urozgan	283.1	150.6	433.7
Zabul	42.2	262.8	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 16 C. Number of multidimensionally poor people facing violence shocks, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in violence	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	13,358.2	2,081.5	15,439.7
Badakhshan	624.2	16.2	640.4
Badghis	292.1	136.1	428.1
Baghlan	146.5	112.8	259.3
Balkh	663.6	82.1	745.6
Bamyan	189.0	3.6	192.6
Daykundi	244.8	0.8	245.6
Farah	294.7	55.7	350.5
Faryab	649.6	190.2	839.8
Ghazni	132.4	247.6	380.0
Ghor	336.7	26.0	362.7
Helmand	892.0	190.6	1,082.6
Herat	1,084.9	53.6	1,138.4
Jawzjan	228.0	27.2	255.2
Kabul	712.7	173.4	886.1
Kandahar	944.6	44.9	989.5
Kapisa	157.5	2.4	159.9
Khost	390.1	8.2	398.3
Kunarha	287.2	23.6	310.8
Kunduz	370.7	170.5	541.1
Laghman	265.9	52.5	318.4
Logar	356.8	84.8	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	491.4	43.9	535.3
Nangarhar	1,181.1	67.6	1,248.7
Nimroz	66.8	1.6	68.4
Nooristan	111.2	2.5	113.7
Paktika	319.1	6.9	326.0
Paktya	138.9	0.2	139.1
Panjsher	23.0	0.8	23.9
Parwan	283.5	0.5	284.0
Samangan	246.8	4.4	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	323.2	6.4	329.6
Takhar	400.8	14.1	414.8
Urozgan	207.5	226.2	433.7
Zabul	4.0	301.0	305.0

Table 16 D. Number of multidimensionally poor reporting disarmament as a priority, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in disarmament	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	51.7	15,359.3	15,439.7
Badakhshan	–	640.4	640.4
Badghis	–	428.1	428.1
Baghlan	8.5	250.3	259.3
Balkh	5.4	730.0	745.6
Bamyan	–	192.6	192.6
Daykundi	–	245.6	245.6
Farah	–	350.5	350.5
Faryab	–	839.8	839.8
Ghazni	3.3	376.7	380.0
Ghor	11.1	351.6	362.7
Helmand	–	1,082.6	1,082.6
Herat	–	1,135.8	1,138.4
Jawzjan	–	252.1	255.2
Kabul	–	886.1	886.1
Kandahar	3.5	986.0	989.5
Kapisa	–	158.5	159.9
Khost	–	398.1	398.3
Kunarha	–	310.8	310.8
Kunduz	–	541.1	541.1
Laghman	–	318.4	318.4
Logar	9.2	425.9	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	–	535.3	535.3
Nangarhar	8.8	1,240.0	1,248.7
Nimroz	–	67.9	68.4
Nooristan	–	113.7	113.7
Paktika	–	326.0	326.0
Paktya	–	139.1	139.1
Panjsher	–	23.9	23.9
Parwan	–	284.0	284.0
Samangan	–	250.3	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	–	327.5	329.6
Takhar	–	414.8	414.8
Urozgan	0.3	433.4	433.7
Zabul	1.8	302.3	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 17 A. Number of multidimensionally poor people experiencing agriculture water shocks, by province (thousands)

3.2.8 Production shocks

Tables 17a to 17e report the number of people who are multidimensionally poor who suffered production shocks. A household is deprived in production if they experience one or more of the following: i) reduced drinking or agricultural water; ii) unusually high crop pest or disease; iii) severe loss of opium production; iv) unusually high livestock disease; v) reduced availability of grazing area or reduced availability of Kuchi migration route. It is immediately clear that multidimensionally poor people face systemic risks to agricultural production. Out of 15.4 million multidimensionally poor people, over 14 million experienced at least one of the shocks to their agricultural production. Three provinces are experiencing the biggest brunt of production shocks at the national level: Nangarhar, Herat, and Helmand. In each of these, over 1 million people report experiencing each of the shocks that constitute the A-MPI production shocks indicator.

	Poor and Deprived in agricultural shocks	Total reference and MPI Poor population
National	3,377.3	15,439.7
Badakhshan	204.4	640.4
Badghis	73.3	428.1
Baghlan	8.5	259.3
Balkh	278.9	745.6
Bamyan	126.6	192.6
Daykundi	65.5	245.6
Farah	55.3	350.5
Faryab	236.3	839.8
Ghazni	178.6	380.0
Ghor	18.7	362.7
Helmand	236.8	1,082.6
Herat	182.5	1,138.4
Jawzjan	13.6	255.2
Kabul	32.1	886.1
Kandahar	288.1	989.5
Kapisa	28.5	159.9
Khost	39.0	398.3
Kunarha	125.3	310.8
Kunduz	60.7	541.1
Laghman	12.1	318.4
Logar	56.3	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	208.6	535.3
Nangarhar	143.4	1,248.7
Nimroz	14.8	68.4
Nooristan	53.1	113.7
Paktika	24.8	326.0
Paktya	27.9	139.1
Panjsher	–	23.9
Parwan	47.6	284.0
Samangan	20.1	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	30.2	329.6
Takhar	148.1	414.8
Urozgan	275.1	433.7
Zabul	62.8	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 17 B. Number of multidimensionally poor people experiencing pest shocks, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in pest shocks	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	14,526.2	913.5	15,439.7
Badakhshan	628.0	12.4	640.4
Badghis	425.4	2.8	428.1
Baghlan	255.3	3.9	259.3
Balkh	585.3	160.4	745.6
Bamyan	149.0	43.6	192.6
Daykundi	189.0	56.6	245.6
Farah	336.6	13.8	350.5
Faryab	731.7	108.1	839.8
Ghazni	374.6	5.4	380.0
Ghor	344.7	18.0	362.7
Helmand	1,062.0	20.6	1,082.6
Herat	1,082.2	56.2	1,138.4
Jawzjan	252.9	2.3	255.2
Kabul	858.8	27.3	886.1
Kandahar	971.7	17.8	989.5
Kapisa	159.9	–	159.9
Khost	382.1	16.1	398.3
Kunarha	266.5	44.3	310.8
Kunduz	450.8	90.3	541.1
Laghman	307.6	10.7	318.4
Logar	427.3	14.3	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	512.6	22.8	535.3
Nangarhar	1,195.5	53.3	1,248.7
Nimroz	65.7	2.6	68.4
Nooristan	96.8	16.9	113.7
Paktika	317.9	8.1	326.0
Paktya	135.2	3.9	139.1
Panjsher	23.9	–	23.9
Parwan	261.4	22.7	284.0
Samangan	237.9	13.3	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	320.6	8.9	329.6
Takhar	412.1	2.7	414.8
Urozgan	402.1	31.5	433.7
Zabul	303.1	1.9	305.0

Table 17 C. Number of Multidimensionally poor people experiencing opium loss shocks, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in opium loss	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	215.8	15,224.0	15,439.7
Badakhshan	2.5	637.8	640.4
Badghis	2.8	425.4	428.1
Baghlan	–	259.3	259.3
Balkh	10.9	734.7	745.6
Bamyan	–	192.6	192.6
Daykundi	–	245.6	245.6
Farah	–	350.5	350.5
Faryab	–	839.8	839.8
Ghazni	82.8	297.2	380.0
Ghor	–	362.7	362.7
Helmand	30.9	1,051.7	1,082.6
Herat	–	1,138.4	1,138.4
Jawzjan	–	255.2	255.2
Kabul	–	886.1	886.1
Kandahar	3.7	985.7	989.5
Kapisa	–	159.9	159.9
Khost	–	398.3	398.3
Kunarha	2.4	308.4	310.8
Kunduz	–	541.1	541.1
Laghman	–	318.4	318.4
Logar	–	441.5	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	22.6	512.7	535.3
Nangarhar	5.9	1,242.8	1,248.7
Nimroz	0.4	68.0	68.4
Nooristan	4.0	109.8	113.7
Paktika	–	326.0	326.0
Paktya	2.0	137.1	139.1
Panjsher	–	23.9	23.9
Parwan	–	284.0	284.0
Samangan	–	251.1	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	1.8	327.7	329.6
Takhar	–	414.8	414.8
Urozgan	14.1	419.6	433.7
Zabul	28.9	276.1	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 17 D. Number of Multidimensionally poor people facing livestock disease shocks, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in livestock disease	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	14,821.6	618.1	15,439.7
Badakhshan	615.0	25.4	640.4
Badghis	425.4	2.8	428.1
Baghlan	249.9	9.4	259.3
Balkh	638.4	107.3	745.6
Bamyan	174.0	18.6	192.6
Daykundi	223.9	21.7	245.6
Farah	338.8	11.6	350.5
Faryab	728.0	111.9	839.8
Ghazni	376.4	3.6	380.0
Ghor	359.0	3.7	362.7
Helmand	1,081.2	1.4	1,082.6
Herat	1,133.8	4.6	1,138.4
Jawzjan	255.2	–	255.2
Kabul	839.8	46.3	886.1
Kandahar	989.5	–	989.5
Kapisa	159.9	–	159.9
Khost	397.3	1.0	398.3
Kunarha	300.5	10.3	310.8
Kunduz	516.2	24.9	541.1
Laghman	308.3	10.0	318.4
Logar	440.3	1.3	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	528.5	6.8	535.3
Nangarhar	1,079.1	169.6	1,248.7
Nimroz	66.3	2.0	68.4
Nooristan	108.6	5.1	113.7
Paktika	326.0	–	326.0
Paktya	139.1	–	139.1
Panjsher	23.9	–	23.9
Parwan	282.4	1.6	284.0
Samangan	249.3	1.9	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	327.1	2.4	329.6
Takhar	404.4	10.4	414.8
Urozgan	432.5	1.1	433.7
Zabul	303.5	1.5	305.0

Table 17 E. Number of Multidimensionally poor people facing shocks in pasture loss, by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in pasture loss	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	14,068.3	1,371.4	15,439.7
Badakhshan	625.7	14.6	640.4
Badghis	407.3	20.8	428.1
Baghlan	259.3	–	259.3
Balkh	676.5	69.1	745.6
Bamyan	190.9	1.7	192.6
Daykundi	225.4	20.2	245.6
Farah	325.5	25.0	350.5
Faryab	792.7	47.1	839.8
Ghazni	203.9	176.1	380.0
Ghor	350.8	11.9	362.7
Helmand	1,051.3	31.3	1,082.6
Herat	1,094.5	43.9	1,138.4
Jawzjan	252.5	2.7	255.2
Kabul	720.2	165.9	886.1
Kandahar	980.3	9.1	989.5
Kapisa	158.3	1.6	159.9
Khost	394.8	3.5	398.3
Kunarha	309.2	1.6	310.8
Kunduz	525.8	15.3	541.1
Laghman	301.2	17.2	318.4
Logar	363.4	78.2	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	347.3	188.1	535.3
Nangarhar	953.1	295.6	1,248.7
Nimroz	60.5	7.9	68.4
Nooristan	112.5	1.3	113.7
Paktika	294.4	31.6	326.0
Paktya	139.1	–	139.1
Panjsher	23.9	–	23.9
Parwan	269.8	14.2	284.0
Samangan	248.9	2.2	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	314.8	14.8	329.6
Takhar	412.5	2.3	414.8
Urozgan	427.9	5.7	433.7
Zabul	254.2	50.9	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 18 A. Number of multidimensionally poor people facing increased food prices (thousands)

3.2.9 Income shocks

Tables 18a to 18c count the number of people that experienced income shocks. A household is deprived in the A-MPI indicator of income shocks if they experienced one or more of: i) increased food prices; ii) a reduction in household income; iii) a decrease in farm food prices. We observe that risks facing income from agriculture are systemic among multidimensionally poor people. At least 8 in 10 multidimensionally poor people (over 12 million) experienced reduced income or reduced producer prices, and just under half experienced increased food prices. At the sub-national level, the two shocks directly related to agricultural profits correlate strongly. In other words, the provinces with the highest populations of people experiencing reduced farm incomes are the same ones experiencing reduced farm food prices. Over 700 000 multidimensionally poor people experienced reduced agriculture producer prices and lower household incomes in each of the following provinces: Herat, Kandahar, Kabul, and Helmand. In Nangarhar, over 1 million people experienced reduced farm produce prices, raising the risk of food insecurity. By contrast, the provinces bearing the highest brunt of increased food prices are Kandahar (731.7 thousand), Takhar (404.8 thousand), Kabul (376.0 thousand) and Helmand (305.4 thousand). Together, these provinces account for one-third of the people that are multidimensionally poor and deprived in the A-MPI indicator of income shocks.

In summary, multidimensionally poor people face multiple systemic risks to their living standards, including security, income, and production. Whereas there is some heterogeneity in experiences across provinces, four provinces are highly susceptible to all three shocks: Nangarhar, Helmand, Kandahar and Herat. These regions need strong safety nets to prevent measures to prevent living standards from sinking deeper into poverty among people facing multiple overlapping deprivations.

	Poor and Deprived in food prices	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	6,094.3	9,345.5	15,439.7
Badakhshan	270.8	369.6	640.4
Badghis	272.4	155.7	428.1
Baghlan	190.2	69.1	259.3
Balkh	231.4	514.2	745.6
Bamyan	58.1	134.5	192.6
Daykundi	32.7	212.9	245.6
Farah	260.2	90.2	350.5
Faryab	43.7	796.1	839.8
Ghazni	144.1	235.9	380.0
Ghor	300.2	62.5	362.7
Helmand	305.4	777.2	1,082.6
Herat	97.5	1,040.9	1,138.4
Jawzjan	241.0	14.1	255.2
Kabul	376.0	510.1	886.1
Kandahar	731.7	257.7	989.5
Kapisa	67.6	92.3	159.9
Khost	303.0	95.3	398.3
Kunarha	33.5	277.4	310.8
Kunduz	322.4	218.7	541.1
Laghman	98.2	220.2	318.4
Logar	8.2	433.3	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	89.6	445.8	535.3
Nangarhar	200.8	1,047.9	1,248.7
Nimroz	20.3	48.1	68.4
Nooristan	82.1	31.6	113.7
Paktika	256.7	69.3	326.0
Paktya	107.4	31.7	139.1
Panjsher	19.6	4.3	23.9
Parwan	72.0	212.0	284.0
Samangan	205.2	45.9	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	169.1	160.4	329.6
Takhar	404.8	10.0	414.8
Urozgan	5.9	427.8	433.7
Zabul	72.5	232.5	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.7 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 18 B. Number of Multidimensionally poor people facing shocks to reduced household income by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in reduced income	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	3,206.5	12,233.2	15,439.7
Badakhshan	351.4	289.0	640.4
Badghis	79.9	348.2	428.1
Baghlan	5.4	253.8	259.3
Balkh	252.3	493.4	745.6
Bamyan	6.5	186.1	192.6
Daykundi	9.2	236.4	245.6
Farah	–	350.5	350.5
Faryab	18.3	821.6	839.8
Ghazni	228.7	151.3	380.0
Ghor	39.4	323.3	362.7
Helmand	217.7	864.9	1,082.6
Herat	235.8	902.6	1,138.4
Jawzjan	6.6	248.6	255.2
Kabul	187.9	698.2	886.1
Kandahar	207.4	782.1	989.5
Kapisa	58.4	101.4	159.9
Khost	10.2	388.1	398.3
Kunarha	4.5	306.4	310.8
Kunduz	62.7	478.5	541.1
Laghman	2.3	316.0	318.4
Logar	73.7	367.9	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	38.1	497.3	535.3
Nangarhar	790.7	458.0	1,248.7
Nimroz	2.8	65.6	68.4
Nooristan	0.7	113.1	113.7
Paktika	2.9	323.1	326.0
Paktya	15.9	123.2	139.1
Panjsher	0.7	23.1	23.9
Parwan	13.1	271.0	284.0
Samangan	67.0	184.1	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	106.3	223.3	329.6
Takhar	3.7	411.1	414.8
Urozgan	82.0	351.6	433.7
Zabul	24.6	280.4	305.0

Table 18 C. Number of Multidimensionally poor people facing reduced producer prices by province (thousands)

	Poor and Deprived in reduced producer prices	Poor and Non-deprived	Eligible: total reference and MPI Poor population
National	13,400.9	2,038.9	15,439.7
Badakhshan	628.3	12.1	640.4
Badghis	368.4	59.7	428.1
Baghlan	253.7	5.5	259.3
Balkh	550.8	194.8	745.6
Bamyan	162.7	29.9	192.6
Daykundi	224.7	20.9	245.6
Farah	325.2	25.3	350.5
Faryab	729.0	110.9	839.8
Ghazni	380.0	–	380.0
Ghor	362.7	–	362.7
Helmand	804.2	278.4	1,082.6
Herat	942.1	196.4	1,138.4
Jawzjan	254.3	0.9	255.2
Kabul	860.3	25.8	886.1
Kandahar	902.9	86.6	989.5
Kapisa	137.4	22.5	159.9
Khost	397.1	1.2	398.3
Kunarha	298.4	12.5	310.8
Kunduz	522.2	18.9	541.1
Laghman	314.2	4.2	318.4
Logar	276.5	165.0	441.5
Maydan Wodakg	196.7	338.7	535.3
Nangarhar	1,245.1	3.6	1,248.7
Nimroz	63.4	5.0	68.4
Nooristan	105.9	7.9	113.7
Paktika	318.7	7.3	326.0
Paktya	139.1	–	139.1
Panjsher	23.9	–	23.9
Parwan	248.2	35.8	284.0
Samangan	249.8	1.4	251.1
Sar-e-Pul	279.6	50.0	329.6
Takhar	414.8	–	414.8
Urozgan	138.2	295.5	433.7
Zabul	282.7	22.3	305.0

Note: This table includes 1.9 million people in the reference population persons aged 17–24 years identified as multidimensionally poor. Excluded are: non-reference population (26.8 million), non-multidimensionally poor (2.6 million), and individuals in sample dropped from MPI estimation (1.6 million). Adding all these gives the official population projection for 2020 (32.9 million).

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

4. SIMULATING SHOCKS SINCE 2020

In the previous sections, we focused on the poverty profiles as observed in 2020 when the data were collected. What could the picture look like in 2022, post COVID-19 and post-change in government? Both events will have affected the poverty statistics. This section uses microsimulation to simulate the potential impact of the change of conditions in Afghanistan on multidimensional poverty.

We anticipate that the shock would have definitely affected three indicators in the A-MPI, and sadly anticipate that in 2022 there is a situation of:

- intensified food insecurity;
- interruption of school attendance; and
- job losses and increases in underemployment, youth NEET, and dependency.

This exercise is illustrative. It draws, where possible, on expert assessments of the magnitude of change since 2020. However, without primary data, it is not possible to assess the depth and breadth of the situation precisely. Nevertheless, this section conveys the probable implications for multidimensionally poor people and outlines priority areas for assistance and protecting living standards.

4.1 METHODOLOGY: CALIBRATING THE MICROSIMULATION SHOCKS

We simulate shocks to six A-MPI indicators: food insecurity, school attendance, and four work-related indicators: dependency, unemployment, underemployment, and youth NEET.

For each indicator, we identify the **sub-population at risk of becoming deprived**. This is defined as all people living in households who were non-deprived in that indicator in 2020 and have at least one household member in the **reference population** who could become deprived. The reference population is defined as individuals who could be deprived in each indicator. For example, a child who had been attending school may now be out of school; a person who was fully employed may now be unemployed or underemployed.

For the indicators constructed using age-specific reference populations (school attendance, youth NEET, unemployment, underemployment) we consider the reference population as all individuals that would be of age if the data were observed in 2022.

The choice of the indicators is grounded in assessments of the post-2021 crises in Afghanistan by UN institutions and other organisations active on the ground. Where available, quantitative assessments also guide our calibration of the potential severity of the shock to each indicator. As the situation is fast-moving, most sources are UN reports or grey literature. The sources that underlie the upper bound of our assumption of the magnitude of each shock are presented below for each of the six indicators. In most cases, they express shocks in terms of numbers of people. We apply these numbers to the previously non-deprived people in our reference population to derive the percentages enumerated below.

1. **Up to 95% of people previously non-deprived in food security – defined as at least borderline secure food consumption – become deprived.** The assumed increase is informed by several estimates of food insecurity, including an increase of 4 million children under the age of 5 (UNICEF, 2021)³, 22.8 million people facing life-threatening levels of food insecurity, and 3.2 million children facing acute malnutrition (FAO, 2021)⁴; and 95% facing acute hunger, rising to almost 100% among women-headed households (UNAMA, 2022).⁵
2. **Up to 80% of people in households with at least one member aged 6–17 and previously deprived of school attendance, become deprived.** The shock to school attendance is informed by the earlier COVID-related school closures, and then the temporary suspension of girls' education followed by the indefinite suspension of higher education for girls announced on 23 March 2022 (MPRNews, 2022).⁶ It is also informed by the United Nations Transitional Engagement Framework estimate of 8.8 million children (roughly half of the age cohort) facing indefinite disruption to schooling due to unpaid teachers' salaries (UN, 2022).⁷

3. **Up to 80% of people in households with at least one person above the age of 12 and previously non-deprived in employment – defined as an economic activity conducted for more than 80 hours – become deprived.** This assumption is informed by the projected 900,000 jobs lost by 2022 and a higher incidence affecting women workers (ILO, 2022)⁸. It is also informed by further disruptions to economic activity from displacement. UNHCR estimates that some are informed by a projected estimate of 3.5 million Afghans who are currently internally displaced (UNHCR, 2022).⁹
4. **Up to 80% of people in households with at least one person above the age of 12 and non-deprived in underemployment – defined as working fewer than 40 hours per week and willing to work more – become deprived.** Our assumptions here are informed by the shock to employment and economic activity discussed above.
5. **Up to 80% of people in households with at least one youth-age member and previously deprived in youth NEET – defined as people aged 17–24 who are not employed and do not attend a school or any training programme – become deprived.** Our assumptions here are informed by the shock to employment and economic activity discussed above.
6. **Up to 80% of people in households with at least one youth-age member and previously deprived in dependency – defined as having less than one household member who works, for every six people– become deprived.** Our assumptions here are informed by the shock to employment and economic activity discussed above.

4.1.2 Implementing the microsimulations

This section presents the technical steps involved in the microsimulation. Our microsimulation strategy entails selecting the respective sub-populations eligible for simulated deprivations targeting the six indicators described above. Next, we stratify the six sub-populations by the 38 provinces and then randomly select a fraction of households with equal probability. Stratification ensures that the probability of selection is proportional to the size of the stratum from which an individual is drawn. To implement the selection, we assign a random number between 0 and 1 to all individuals in the non-deprived reference

population within a given province. The assignment process is automatically repeated 123,456 times to ensure that a comparable random number is assigned each time. Finally, we divide the assigned random numbers into quantiles from 0 to 100 and set three thresholds such that all individuals in the quantile between 0 and a given threshold will be recoded to deprived, together with all the individuals residing in the same households. The three thresholds correspond to three scenarios of increasing severity of the microsimulation shocks, hereafter referred to as the post-2021 *low-, moderate- and high-impact scenarios*.

We then use the simulated indicators to recalculate the simulated weighted deprivation score deriving from each of the six shocks individually. Next, we calculate a cumulative deprivation score that combines the additional deprivations resulting from the six shocks. Finally, from the cumulative deprivation score, we recalculate the simulated MPI, H, and A which we compare with the pre-simulation indicators, hereafter the *2020 base scenario*. This analysis reasonably assumes that without the pandemic and the change of government in August 2021, multidimensional poverty in 2020 and 2022 would be comparable. We also assume that individuals deprived in the base scenario remain deprived in the post-2021 amplified impact scenario. We do not account for out-migration, which may have disproportionately affected people who are not poor. Our approach entails the following steps:

1. Identify reference populations for each indicator and calibrate the potential shocks corresponding to the designated fraction to become deprived in each indicator.
2. Randomly assign everyone a random number between 0 and 1 (repeated 123,456 times).
3. Set a fraction such that all individuals with a random number in a percentile less than or equal to the fraction become deprived in that indicator, together with all other members of the household.
4. Calculate the weighted deprivation scores, including the simulated shock.
5. Recalculate MPI, H, and A in the simulated scenario to compare with the baseline scenario. The simulations are repeated 123,456 times and the outcomes averaged.

4.2 SIMULATION RESULTS

The simulation results are presented in two stages. First, we present the impacts of the simulated increase in each indicator, finding the biggest increase from shocks in food security and school attendance. Second, we present the situation in Afghanistan if all of the simulated shocks increase – a situation we refer to as ‘cumulative shocks’ – finding that poverty could reach a shocking 88% nationally, and 97% or higher in eight provinces.

4.2.1 Individual indicator shocks

The magnitude of the change in multidimensional poverty in the high-impact scenario relative to the base scenario varies by indicator. Tables 19 to 24 show what would happen to multidimensional poverty, assuming high-impact shocks to food security (Table 19), school attendance (Table 20), unemployment (Table 21), underemployment (Table 22), dependency (Table 23), and youth NEET (Table 24). The tables show that shocks to food security and school attendance would push more people into multidimensional poverty in the post-2021 high-impact scenario than the work-related shocks, and that these differences are statistically significant higher. This is in part due to the weights on those indicators, and to their higher levels of deprivation in food security and school attendance.

We estimate that under the high impact scenario, a shock to food security would push 7.1 million people into poverty who were previously not poor. An isolated shock to school attendance would push 5.8 million people into poverty who were previously not poor. In addition, each shock among unemployment, underemployment, dependence, and youth NEET would push 2–3 million people into poverty who were not poor in the 2020 base scenario. The results are expected, given the higher weight on the food security and school attendance indicators. That being said, note that the four employment indicators, taken together, are equal to half the weight of school attendance and food security, respectively.

At the sub-national level, under the post-2021 high impact scenario we observe substantial increases in absolute poverty, but the poorest provinces remain so. For example, in Urozgan and Helmand multidimensional poverty would become universal, with roughly 100% people classified as multidimensionally poor. Likewise, across all shocks under the high-impact scenario, the provinces with the highest number of multidimensionally poor people remain Nangarhar, Herat, Helmand, Kandahar, and Kabul. Compared to other indicators, shocks to school attendance would result in a narrower disparity in the poverty headcount, but a poorer society overall. The sensitivity of multidimensional poverty to education and food security suggests that the less-poor provinces have a lot of people with joint deprivations clustered around the poverty line and who are vulnerable to falling into poverty in the face of shocks to school attendance and food security.

Table 19. A-MPI headcount ratio nationally, by age group and province in the 2020 and post-2021 high impact to food security scenarios

	2020 base scenario			Post-2021 high-impact Food Security scenario			Population share (%)
	H – 2020 (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		H – Food Shock (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		
National	49.4	49.0	49.7	72.4	72.1	72.7	100
0–17 years	53.8	53.3	54.2	76.5	76.1	76.9	54.6
18 years+	44.1	43.6	44.6	67.5	67.0	68.0	45.4
Badakhshan	58.1	56.5	59.8	82.7	81.4	83.9	3.5
Badghis	78.5	76.5	80.5	90.9	89.5	92.2	1.7
Baghlan	29.9	28.1	31.8	62.7	60.7	64.6	2.8
Balkh	49.2	47.6	50.7	70.7	69.4	72.1	4.8
Bamyan	40.9	39.2	42.6	74.2	72.7	75.8	1.5
Daykundi	47.3	45.7	49.0	81.3	79.9	82.6	1.7
Farah	60.5	58.9	62.1	82.6	81.4	83.9	1.9
Faryab	73.1	70.9	75.4	91.8	90.5	93.0	3.7
Ghazni	26.4	25.1	27.8	51.2	49.6	52.8	4.6
Ghor	45.9	44.0	47.7	77.5	76.0	79.1	2.5
Helmand	87.8	86.7	88.8	97.5	97.1	98.0	3.9
Herat	52.1	50.2	53.9	76.7	75.2	78.1	7.0
Jawzjan	42.8	41.2	44.4	70.4	69.0	71.9	1.9
Kabul	16.9	16.2	17.7	41.1	40.1	42.1	16.7
Kandahar	79.9	78.6	81.1	93.8	93.1	94.5	4.0
Kapisa	33.1	31.3	35.0	67.5	65.7	69.4	1.5
Khost	66.9	65.6	68.2	88.6	87.7	89.5	1.9
Kunarha	63.0	61.6	64.4	85.2	84.1	86.2	1.6
Kunduz	50.0	48.5	51.5	75.6	74.4	76.9	3.5
Laghman	61.9	60.2	63.6	83.5	82.3	84.8	1.6
Logar	66.8	65.3	68.2	86.1	85.2	86.9	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	71.7	70.4	73.1	89.4	88.5	90.3	2.4
Nangarhar	67.6	66.4	68.8	86.7	85.8	87.5	5.9
Nimroz	39.1	37.2	40.9	66.6	64.9	68.4	0.6
Nooristan	71.6	69.7	73.5	94.1	93.1	95.1	0.5
Paktika	42.5	40.9	44.1	74.6	73.2	75.9	2.5
Paktya	42.5	40.1	44.8	76.7	74.8	78.6	1.0
Panjsher	12.8	10.9	14.8	31.1	29.0	33.3	0.6
Parwan	36.4	34.8	38.1	63.7	62.1	65.3	2.5
Samangan	61.6	59.9	63.3	85.0	83.7	86.2	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	51.9	50.1	53.7	73.9	72.4	75.5	2.0
Takhar	38.3	36.6	39.9	65.7	64.1	67.3	3.5
Urozgan	92.9	92.1	93.7	98.1	97.6	98.5	1.5
Zabul	74.3	72.8	75.7	92.9	92.1	93.7	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 20. A-MPI headcount ratio nationally, by age group and province in the 2020 and post-2021 high impact to school attendance

	2020 base scenario			Post-2021 high-impact School Attendance scenario			Population share (%)
	H – 2020 (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		H – School Shock (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		
National	49.4	49.0	49.7	68.4	68.1	68.7	100
0–17 years	53.8	53.3	54.2	73.9	73.5	74.3	54.6
18 years+	44.1	43.6	44.6	61.7	61.2	62.2	45.4
Badakhshan	58.1	56.5	59.8	77.2	75.8	78.6	3.5
Badghis	78.5	76.5	80.5	87.0	85.4	88.6	1.7
Baghlan	29.9	28.1	31.8	53.8	51.8	55.9	2.8
Balkh	49.2	47.6	50.7	66.3	64.8	67.7	4.8
Bamyan	40.9	39.2	42.6	67.4	65.8	69.0	1.5
Daykundi	47.3	45.7	49.0	75.9	74.5	77.4	1.7
Farah	60.5	58.9	62.1	79.6	78.2	80.9	1.9
Faryab	73.1	70.9	75.4	86.5	84.9	88.1	3.7
Ghazni	26.4	25.1	27.8	47.7	46.1	49.2	4.6
Ghor	45.9	44.0	47.7	69.1	67.5	70.8	2.5
Helmand	87.8	86.7	88.8	95.9	95.3	96.5	3.9
Herat	52.1	50.2	53.9	69.8	68.2	71.4	7.0
Jawzjan	42.8	41.2	44.4	66.9	65.4	68.4	1.9
Kabul	16.9	16.2	17.7	38.8	37.8	39.7	16.7
Kandahar	79.9	78.6	81.1	91.7	90.9	92.5	4.0
Kapisa	33.1	31.3	35.0	59.9	57.9	61.8	1.5
Khost	66.9	65.6	68.2	87.9	87.0	88.8	1.9
Kunarha	63.0	61.6	64.4	83.4	82.3	84.5	1.6
Kunduz	50.0	48.5	51.5	72.0	70.7	73.3	3.5
Laghman	61.9	60.2	63.6	76.5	75.1	78.0	1.6
Logar	66.8	65.3	68.2	84.1	83.1	85.0	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	71.7	70.4	73.1	84.3	83.2	85.4	2.4
Nangarhar	67.6	66.4	68.8	83.1	82.1	84.1	5.9
Nimroz	39.1	37.2	40.9	61.2	59.4	63.0	0.6
Nooristan	71.6	69.7	73.5	82.5	80.9	84.1	0.5
Paktika	42.5	40.9	44.1	73.1	71.7	74.5	2.5
Paktya	42.5	40.1	44.8	74.7	72.7	76.7	1.0
Panjsher	12.8	10.9	14.8	28.9	26.7	31.0	0.6
Parwan	36.4	34.8	38.1	57.4	55.8	59.0	2.5
Samangan	61.6	59.9	63.3	79.2	77.8	80.6	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	51.9	50.1	53.7	70.0	68.4	71.7	2.0
Takhar	38.3	36.6	39.9	61.5	59.8	63.1	3.5
Urozgan	92.9	92.1	93.7	97.7	97.2	98.2	1.5
Zabul	74.3	72.8	75.7	89.5	88.5	90.4	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 21. A-MPI headcount ratio nationally, by age group and province in the 2020 and post-2021 high impact to unemployment scenario

	2020 base scenario			Post-2021 high-impact Unemployment scenario			Population share (%)
	H – 2020 (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		H – Unemployment Shock (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		
National	49.4	49.0	49.7	58.1	57.7	58.4	100
0–17 years	53.8	53.3	54.2	62.5	62.1	62.9	54.6
18 years+	44.1	43.6	44.6	52.7	52.2	53.2	45.4
Badakhshan	58.1	56.5	59.8	68.3	66.7	69.8	3.5
Badghis	78.5	76.5	80.5	83.3	81.5	85.1	1.7
Baghlan	29.9	28.1	31.8	41.4	39.4	43.4	2.8
Balkh	49.2	47.6	50.7	56.2	54.7	57.7	4.8
Bamyan	40.9	39.2	42.6	53.3	51.6	55.1	1.5
Daykundi	47.3	45.7	49.0	59.4	57.8	61.1	1.7
Farah	60.5	58.9	62.1	70.9	69.4	72.4	1.9
Faryab	73.1	70.9	75.4	82.7	80.8	84.5	3.7
Ghazni	26.4	25.1	27.8	35.2	33.7	36.7	4.6
Ghor	45.9	44.0	47.7	60.2	58.4	62.0	2.5
Helmand	87.8	86.7	88.8	91.6	90.7	92.5	3.9
Herat	52.1	50.2	53.9	61.9	60.1	63.6	7.0
Jawzjan	42.8	41.2	44.4	53.8	52.2	55.4	1.9
Kabul	16.9	16.2	17.7	22.2	21.4	23.0	16.7
Kandahar	79.9	78.6	81.1	86.0	85.0	87.0	4.0
Kapisa	33.1	31.3	35.0	44.4	42.5	46.4	1.5
Khost	66.9	65.6	68.2	77.7	76.5	78.8	1.9
Kunarha	63.0	61.6	64.4	74.3	73.0	75.6	1.6
Kunduz	50.0	48.5	51.5	61.2	59.7	62.6	3.5
Laghman	61.9	60.2	63.6	70.7	69.1	72.3	1.6
Logar	66.8	65.3	68.2	75.3	74.2	76.5	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	71.7	70.4	73.1	79.5	78.3	80.7	2.4
Nangarhar	67.6	66.4	68.8	74.9	73.8	76.1	5.9
Nimroz	39.1	37.2	40.9	47.3	45.5	49.2	0.6
Nooristan	71.6	69.7	73.5	83.5	82.0	85.1	0.5
Paktika	42.5	40.9	44.1	53.8	52.2	55.4	2.5
Paktya	42.5	40.1	44.8	58.0	55.7	60.4	1.0
Panjsher	12.8	10.9	14.8	19.1	17.1	21.2	0.6
Parwan	36.4	34.8	38.1	49.9	48.2	51.5	2.5
Samangan	61.6	59.9	63.3	74.1	72.5	75.6	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	51.9	50.1	53.7	62.0	60.3	63.8	2.0
Takhar	38.3	36.6	39.9	49.9	48.2	51.6	3.5
Urozgan	92.9	92.1	93.7	95.6	94.9	96.3	1.5
Zabul	74.3	72.8	75.7	84.1	82.9	85.4	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 22. A-MPI headcount ratio nationally, by age group and province in the 2020 and post-2021 high impact to underemployment scenario

	2020 base scenario			Post-2021 high-impact Underemployment scenario			Population share (%)
	H – 2020 (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		H – Underemployment Shock (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		
National	49.4	49.0	49.7	58.3	58.0	58.7	100
0–17 years	53.8	53.3	54.2	62.8	62.4	63.3	54.6
18 years+	44.1	43.6	44.6	52.9	52.4	53.4	45.4
Badakhshan	58.1	56.5	59.8	70.3	68.8	71.8	3.5%
Badghis	78.5	76.5	80.5	84.4	82.7	86.2	1.7
Baghlan	29.9	28.1	31.8	40.9	38.9	42.9	2.8
Balkh	49.2	47.6	50.7	56.3	54.8	57.9	4.8
Bamyan	40.9	39.2	42.6	54.0	52.2	55.7	1.5
Daykundi	47.3	45.7	49.0	60.5	58.8	62.1	1.7
Farah	60.5	58.9	62.1	71.5	70.0	73.0	1.9
Faryab	73.1	70.9	75.4	83.1	81.3	84.9	3.7
Ghazni	26.4	25.1	27.8	34.0	32.5	35.5	4.6
Ghor	45.9	44.0	47.7	60.3	58.5	62.1	2.5
Helmand	87.8	86.7	88.8	92.5	91.7	93.4	3.9
Herat	52.1	50.2	53.9	64.9	63.2	66.6	7.0
Jawzjan	42.8	41.2	44.4	53.2	51.6	54.8	1.9
Kabul	16.9	16.2	17.7	21.7	20.9	22.5	16.7
Kandahar	79.9	78.6	81.1	85.7	84.7	86.7	4.0
Kapisa	33.1	31.3	35.0	44.8	42.8	46.7	1.5
Khost	66.9	65.6	68.2	78.4	77.3	79.5	1.9
Kunarha	63.0	61.6	64.4	75.8	74.6	77.1	1.6
Kunduz	50.0	48.5	51.5	61.2	59.7	62.7	3.5
Laghman	61.9	60.2	63.6	71.7	70.1	73.2	1.6
Logar	66.8	65.3	68.2	73.6	72.4	74.9	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	71.7	70.4	73.1	79.4	78.2	80.6	2.4
Nangarhar	67.6	66.4	68.8	74.8	73.6	75.9	5.9
Nimroz	39.1	37.2	40.9	48.5	46.6	50.3	0.6
Nooristan	71.6	69.7	73.5	82.8	81.2	84.4	0.5
Paktika	42.5	40.9	44.1	54.9	53.3	56.5	2.5
Paktya	42.5	40.1	44.8	58.0	55.6	60.3	1.0
Panjsher	12.8	10.9	14.8	18.7	16.6	20.8	0.6
Parwan	36.4	34.8	38.1	49.8	48.2	51.5	2.5
Samangan	61.6	59.9	63.3	72.5	70.9	74.0	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	51.9	50.1	53.7	62.8	61.1	64.5	2.0
Takhar	38.3	36.6	39.9	49.5	47.8	51.2	3.5
Urozgan	92.9	92.1	93.7	95.1	94.4	95.8	1.5
Zabul	74.3	72.8	75.7	85.7	84.7	86.8	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 23. A-MPI headcount ratio nationally, by age group and province in the 2020 and post-2021 high impact to dependency scenario

	2020 base scenario			Post-2021 high impact Dependency scenario			Population share (%)
	H – 2020 (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		H – Dependency Shock (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		
National	49.4	49.0	49.7	59.0	58.7	59.4	100
0–17 years	53.8	53.3	54.2	63.6	63.2	64.0	54.6
18 years+	44.1	43.6	44.6	53.5	53.0	54.0	45.4
Badakhshan	58.1	56.5	59.8	69.9	68.4	71.4	3.5
Badghis	78.5	76.5	80.5	85.1	83.4	86.8	1.7
Baghlan	29.9	28.1	31.8	43.2	41.2	45.2	2.8
Balkh	49.2	47.6	50.7	57.1	55.6	58.6	4.8
Bamyan	40.9	39.2	42.6	55.4	53.6	57.1	1.5
Daykundi	47.3	45.7	49.0	62.7	61.0	64.3	1.7
Farah	60.5	58.9	62.1	71.6	70.1	73.0	1.9
Faryab	73.1	70.9	75.4	84.0	82.2	85.7	3.7
Ghazni	26.4	25.1	27.8	34.4	32.9	35.9	4.6
Ghor	45.9	44.0	47.7	61.4	59.7	63.2	2.5
Helmand	87.8	86.7	88.8	92.2	91.4	93.1	3.9
Herat	52.1	50.2	53.9	64.6	62.9	66.3	7.0
Jawzjan	42.8	41.2	44.4	53.9	52.3	55.5	1.9
Kabul	16.9	16.2	17.7	22.6	21.8	23.4	16.7
Kandahar	79.9	78.6	81.1	86.5	85.5	87.5	4.0
Kapisa	33.1	31.3	35.0	46.4	44.4	48.4	1.5
Khost	66.9	65.6	68.2	79.3	78.2	80.4	1.9
Kunarha	63.0	61.6	64.4	77.2	76.0	78.4	1.6
Kunduz	50.0	48.5	51.5	62.3	60.8	63.8	3.5
Laghman	61.9	60.2	63.6	71.6	70.1	73.2	1.6
Logar	66.8	65.3	68.2	76.0	74.8	77.2	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	71.7	70.4	73.1	80.0	78.9	81.2	2.4
Nangarhar	67.6	66.4	68.8	74.9	73.8	76.0	5.9
Nimroz	39.1	37.2	40.9	48.9	47.1	50.8	0.6
Nooristan	71.6	69.7	73.5	82.6	81.0	84.2	0.5
Paktika	42.5	40.9	44.1	56.3	54.7	57.9	2.5
Paktya	42.5	40.1	44.8	58.3	56.0	60.7	1.0
Panjsher	12.8	10.9	14.8	19.1	17.0	21.1	0.6
Parwan	36.4	34.8	38.1	50.5	48.8	52.1	2.5
Samangan	61.6	59.9	63.3	74.0	72.5	75.5	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	51.9	50.1	53.7	62.7	61.0	64.4	2.0
Takhar	38.3	36.6	39.9	50.3	48.6	52.0	3.5
Urozgan	92.9	92.1	93.7	95.8	95.1	96.4	1.5
Zabul	74.3	72.8	75.7	86.9	85.8	87.9	1.3%

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 24. Poverty headcount ratio at the national level, by age group and province in the 2020 base scenario and post-2021 high impact to youth NEET scenario

	2020 base scenario			Post-2021 high-impact youth NEET scenario			Population share (%)
	H – 2020 (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		H – NEET (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		
National	49.4	49.0	49.7	55.4	55.1	55.7	100
0–17 years	53.8	53.3	54.2	59.4	58.9	59.8	54.6
18 years	44.1	43.6	44.6	50.6	50.1	51.1	45.4
Badakhshan	58.1	56.5	59.8	66.9	65.4	68.5	3.5
Badghis	78.5	76.5	80.5	82.4	80.5	84.2	1.7
Baghlan	29.9	28.1	31.8	38.2	36.2	40.1	2.8
Balkh	49.2	47.6	50.7	54.0	52.5	55.6	4.8
Bamyan	40.9	39.2	42.6	49.9	48.1	51.7	1.5
Daykundi	47.3	45.7	49.0	57.7	56.1	59.4	1.7
Farah	60.5	58.9	62.1	66.3	64.8	67.9	1.9
Faryab	73.1	70.9	75.4	80.6	78.7	82.5	3.7
Ghazni	26.4	25.1	27.8	32.0	30.5	33.5	4.6
Ghor	45.9	44.0	47.7	54.4	52.5	56.2	2.5
Helmand	87.8	86.7	88.8	90.2	89.2	91.2	3.9
Herat	52.1	50.2	53.9	58.6	56.8	60.4	7.0
Jawzjan	42.8	41.2	44.4	49.5	47.9	51.1	1.9
Kabul	16.9	16.2	17.7	20.8	20.0	21.6	16.7
Kandahar	79.9	78.6	81.1	84.6	83.5	85.7	4.0
Kapisa	33.1	31.3	35.0	40.2	38.3	42.2	1.5
Khost	66.9	65.6	68.2	75.3	74.1	76.4	1.9
Kunarha	63.0	61.6	64.4	71.9	70.5	73.2	1.6
Kunduz	50.0	48.5	51.5	58.1	56.6	59.6	3.5
Laghman	61.9	60.2	63.6	68.1	66.5	69.7	1.6
Logar	66.8	65.3	68.2	73.0	71.7	74.3	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	71.7	70.4	73.1	77.3	76.0	78.5	2.4
Nangarhar	67.6	66.4	68.8	72.3	71.1	73.4	5.9
Nimroz	39.1	37.2	40.9	44.3	42.4	46.1	0.6
Nooristan	71.6	69.7	73.5	79.1	77.4	80.8	0.5
Paktika	42.5	40.9	44.1	50.5	48.9	52.1	2.5
Paktya	42.5	40.1	44.8	54.3	52.0	56.7	1.0
Panjsher	12.8	10.9	14.8	18.6	16.5	20.8	0.6
Parwan	36.4	34.8	38.1	44.5	42.8	46.2	2.5
Samangan	61.6	59.9	63.3	68.3	66.7	69.9	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	51.9	50.1	53.7	57.9	56.2	59.7	2.0
Takhar	38.3	36.6	39.9	46.8	45.1	48.5	3.5
Urozgan	92.9	92.1	93.7	94.0	93.2	94.8	1.5
Zabul	74.3	72.8	75.7	78.7	77.3	80.0	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

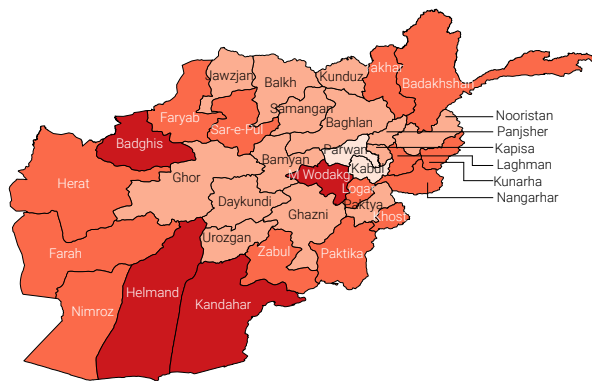
4.2.2 Cumulative shocks

Our results in table 25, 26 and 27 show that under the post-2021 high-impact scenario, the cumulative shock would raise the level of multidimensional poverty from 49.4% in the base scenario to 67.6%, 75.8%, and 88% in the low-, moderate- and high-impact scenarios, respectively. This is equivalent to up to 11.8 million people entering multidimensional poverty who were not poor before August 2021. Likewise, the intensity would increase from 53.6% in the base scenario to 56.0%, 57.5%, and 59.3% in the low-, moderate- and high-impact scenarios, respectively. A higher intensity of poverty would increase

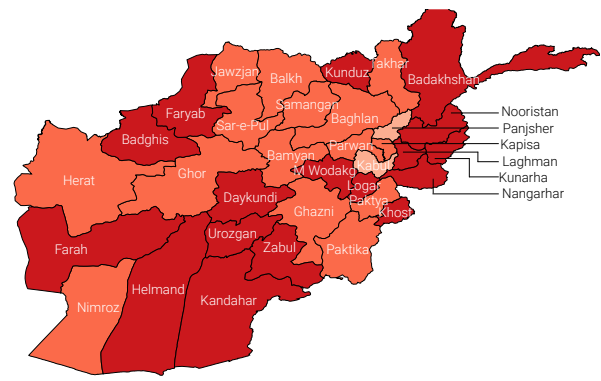
the effort needed to lift people out of multidimensional poverty. The A-MPI would increase from 0.26 in the base scenario to 0.38, 0.44, and 0.52 in the low-, moderate-, and high-impact scenarios, respectively. Children under 18 would be the most affected age cohort across all three simulated scenarios. Poverty among children in the high-impact scenario rises to 90.8% – significantly higher than the change at the national level under the same scenario. This translates into 6.1 million children sinking into multidimensional poverty and 8.8 million already multidimensionally poor.

Figure 10. Poverty headcount ratio in the high-impact cumulative shocks scenario

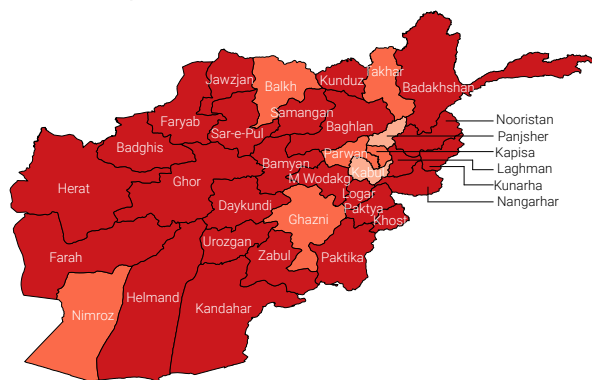
A. Base scenario



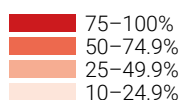
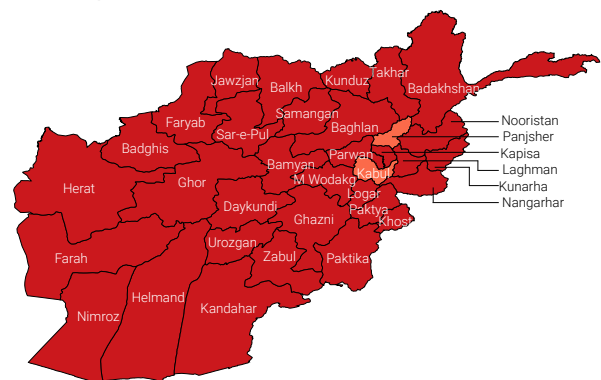
B. Low-impact scenario



C. Moderate-impact scenario



D. High-impact scenario



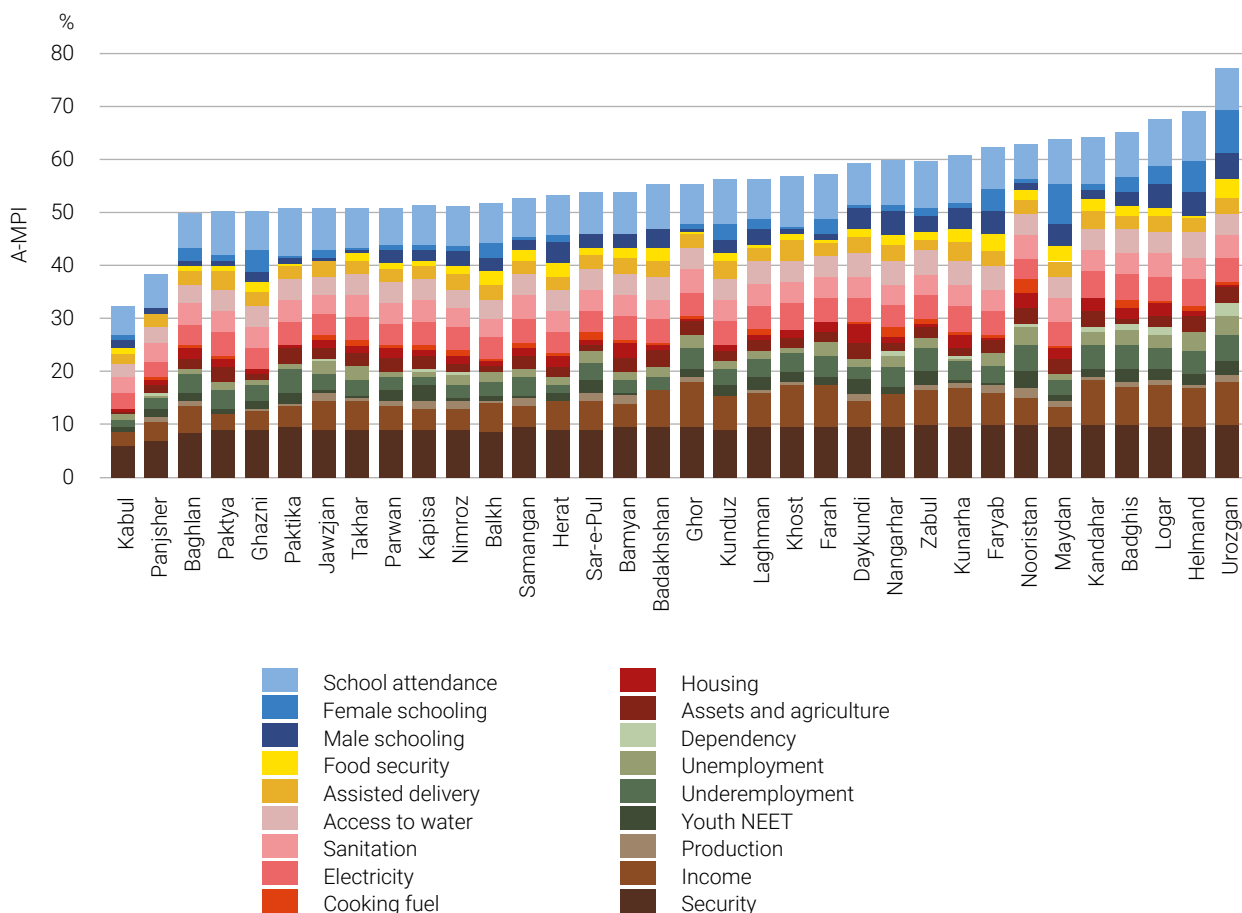
Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Disaggregating these results by province in Figure 11 and Tables 25 to 27 reveals that in provinces with high rates of poverty, the poorest provinces sink deeper, but previously less-poor provinces sink faster into poverty. In four provinces, the A-MPI would rise to 0.65 or more assuming the amplified impact scenario: Urozgan (0.76 or 99.6%), Helmand (0.69 or 99.5%), Logar (0.67 or 98.6%), and Badghis (0.65 and 98.3%). These provinces are the poorest in both the simulated and base scenarios. The provinces that would see the highest magnitude of impoverishment as a result of the shock are not necessarily the poorest. Comparing the MPI in the base scenario (Table 24) with the high impact scenario (Table 25) shows that five provinces would see a three-fold increase in their A-MPI as a result of the shock: Panjsher (0.06 to

0.39), Ghazni (0.13 to 0.50), Kabul (0.08 to 0.32), Baghlan (0.15 to 0.49), and Kapisa (0.17 to 0.51). Similarly, the five provinces with the lowest levels of multidimensional poverty in 2020 would see the fastest rise in the level of poverty in the high-impact cumulative shock scenario. These include Ghazni, from 26.4% to up to 89.9%; Panjsher, 12.8% to up to 74.8%; Baghlan, 29.9% to up to 88.3%; Kapisa, 33.1% to up to 89.8%; and Parwan, 36.4% to up to 89.8%.

These results are in line with the assessments provided by international agencies. However, beyond measuring the number of people that would fall into poverty, our analysis highlights the priorities for intervention in order to alleviate the worst effects of the post-2021 crisis.

Figure 11. Composition of the A-MPI by province, high-impact cumulative shock scenario



Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 25. A-MPI statistics at the national level, by age group and province in the post-2021 high-impact scenario, cumulating all shocks

	A-MPI	Confidence Interval (95%)		H (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		A (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		Population share (%)
National	0.523	0.521	0.524	88.0	87.8	88.2	59.4	59.3	59.5	100
0–17 years	0.546	0.544	0.548	90.8	90.5	91.0	60.2	60.1	60.3	54.6
18 years+	0.494	0.492	0.497	84.7	84.3	85.0	58.4	58.3	58.5	45.4
Badakhshan	0.546	0.540	0.551	93.3	92.5	94.1	58.5	58.2	58.8	3.5
Badghis	0.646	0.640	0.653	98.3	97.7	98.9	65.8	65.2	66.3	1.7
Baghlan	0.494	0.486	0.502	88.3	87.0	89.5	56.0	55.6	56.4	2.8
Balkh	0.512	0.504	0.520	84.6	83.5	85.7	60.5	60.1	61.0	4.8
Bamyan	0.535	0.529	0.541	93.2	92.4	94.1	57.4	57.0	57.7	1.5
Daykundi	0.589	0.584	0.593	97.0	96.4	97.6	60.7	60.3	61.0	1.7
Farah	0.568	0.562	0.573	94.4	93.7	95.2	60.1	59.8	60.4	1.9
Faryab	0.620	0.613	0.627	97.1	96.4	97.8	63.8	63.3	64.4	3.7
Ghazni	0.500	0.494	0.506	89.9	88.9	90.8	55.7	55.4	56.0	4.6
Ghor	0.549	0.544	0.555	95.4	94.7	96.2	57.6	57.2	57.9	2.5
Helmand	0.685	0.681	0.688	99.5	99.3	99.7	68.8	68.5	69.1	3.9
Herat	0.527	0.520	0.534	89.9	89.0	90.9	58.6	58.2	59.0	7.0
Jawzjan	0.502	0.496	0.508	88.2	87.2	89.1	56.9	56.6	57.2	1.9
Kabul	0.320	0.315	0.326	62.2	61.2	63.2	51.5	51.3	51.7	16.7
Kandahar	0.637	0.633	0.641	98.1	97.8	98.5	64.9	64.6	65.2	4.0
Kapisa	0.508	0.500	0.516	89.8	88.6	91.0	56.5	56.1	56.9	1.5
Khost	0.562	0.558	0.566	96.4	95.8	96.9	58.3	58.1	58.6	1.9
Kunarha	0.602	0.598	0.606	97.1	96.7	97.6	62.0	61.7	62.3	1.6
Kunduz	0.556	0.551	0.561	93.9	93.2	94.6	59.2	58.9	59.5	3.5
Laghman	0.557	0.551	0.563	92.9	92.0	93.7	60.0	59.6	60.3	1.6
Logar	0.674	0.668	0.680	98.6	98.3	98.8	68.4	67.9	68.9	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	0.630	0.626	0.635	97.7	97.3	98.1	64.5	64.2	64.8	2.4
Nangarhar	0.592	0.587	0.596	94.7	94.1	95.3	62.5	62.2	62.7	5.9
Nimroz	0.511	0.504	0.518	89.6	88.5	90.7	57.0	56.6	57.4	0.6
Nooristan	0.624	0.620	0.629	99.2	98.8	99.6	62.9	62.5	63.3	0.5
Paktika	0.501	0.497	0.506	93.4	92.6	94.1	53.7	53.5	54.0	2.5
Paktya	0.499	0.491	0.507	91.0	89.7	92.3	54.8	54.4	55.2	1.0
Panjsher	0.386	0.377	0.396	74.8	73.4	76.2	51.7	51.1	52.2	0.6
Parwan	0.505	0.499	0.512	89.8	88.8	90.7	56.3	55.9	56.7	2.5
Samangan	0.524	0.518	0.529	93.2	92.4	94.0	56.2	55.9	56.5	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	0.534	0.528	0.541	91.7	90.7	92.6	58.3	57.9	58.7	2.0
Takhar	0.503	0.497	0.510	89.1	88.1	90.1	56.5	56.2	56.8	3.5
Urozgan	0.765	0.761	0.769	99.6	99.4	99.8	76.8	76.4	77.2	1.5
Zabul	0.592	0.588	0.596	97.8	97.4	98.2	60.5	60.2	60.8	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 26. A-MPI statistics at the national level, by age group and province in the post-2021 low-impact scenario, cumulating all shocks

	A-MPI	Confidence Interval (95%)		H (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)			A (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		Population share (%)
National	0.379	0.377	0.381	67.6	67.3	68.0	56.0	55.9	56.1	100	
0–17 years	0.405	0.403	0.408	71.7	71.3	72.1	56.5	56.4	56.6	54.6	
18 years+	0.347	0.344	0.350	62.8	62.3	63.3	55.3	55.2	55.5	45.4	
Badakhshan	0.410	0.402	0.418	75.5	74.1	76.9	54.3	54.0	54.7	3.5	
Badghis	0.550	0.540	0.561	89.9	88.5	91.4	61.2	60.6	61.8	1.7	
Baghlan	0.322	0.311	0.332	62.3	60.4	64.3	51.6	51.2	52.0	2.8	
Balkh	0.365	0.356	0.374	63.3	61.8	64.7	57.6	57.2	58.1	4.8	
Bamyan	0.346	0.337	0.356	64.4	62.7	66.0	53.8	53.4	54.2	1.5	
Daykundi	0.421	0.413	0.430	75.8	74.4	77.3	55.6	55.2	55.9	1.7	
Farah	0.436	0.428	0.444	79.5	78.2	80.9	54.8	54.5	55.1	1.9	
Faryab	0.517	0.506	0.528	87.1	85.5	88.7	59.4	58.8	59.9	3.7	
Ghazni	0.283	0.274	0.291	54.8	53.3	56.4	51.5	51.2	51.9	4.6	
Ghor	0.398	0.389	0.407	75.0	73.4	76.5	53.1	52.8	53.5	2.5	
Helmand	0.609	0.604	0.614	96.4	95.8	97.0	63.2	62.9	63.6	3.9	
Herat	0.383	0.373	0.392	69.5	67.9	71.1	55.0	54.6	55.5	7.0	
Jawzjan	0.347	0.339	0.355	66.5	65.0	68.0	52.1	51.8	52.4	1.9	
Kabul	0.158	0.154	0.163	31.1	30.2	32.0	50.9	50.6	51.2	16.7	
Kandahar	0.543	0.537	0.549	90.1	89.2	91.0	60.3	60.0	60.6	4.0	
Kapisa	0.312	0.301	0.323	58.7	56.7	60.6	53.2	52.7	53.7	1.5	
Khost	0.453	0.447	0.459	83.4	82.3	84.4	54.4	54.1	54.6	1.9	
Kunarha	0.486	0.479	0.492	86.1	85.1	87.1	56.4	56.1	56.7	1.6	
Kunduz	0.409	0.402	0.417	75.3	74.0	76.6	54.4	54.1	54.7	3.5	
Laghman	0.439	0.431	0.448	78.6	77.2	80.0	55.9	55.5	56.2	1.6	
LOGAR	0.548	0.541	0.556	88.5	87.7	89.3	62.0	61.4	62.6	2.1	
Maydan Wodakg	0.508	0.501	0.514	86.7	85.7	87.6	58.6	58.2	58.9	2.4	
Nangarhar	0.473	0.467	0.479	82.1	81.1	83.1	57.6	57.3	57.9	5.9	
Nimroz	0.327	0.317	0.337	61.0	59.2	62.8	53.6	53.2	54.1	0.6	
Nooristan	0.502	0.494	0.510	89.7	88.4	91.0	55.9	55.6	56.3	0.5	
Paktika	0.340	0.333	0.348	67.7	66.2	69.1	50.3	50.1	50.6	2.5	
Paktya	0.356	0.345	0.368	69.7	67.5	71.8	51.2	50.8	51.6	1.0	
Pahjsher	0.173	0.161	0.184	35.2	33.0	37.3	49.1	48.5	49.7	0.6	
Parwan	0.321	0.312	0.330	60.1	58.5	61.7	53.4	53.0	53.8	2.5	
Samangan	0.400	0.392	0.409	74.7	73.3	76.2	53.5	53.2	53.9	1.3	
Sar-e-Pul	0.391	0.382	0.400	71.9	70.3	73.4	54.5	54.1	54.9	2.0	
Takhar	0.335	0.326	0.344	63.0	61.4	64.6	53.1	52.7	53.5	3.5	
Urozgan	0.669	0.664	0.674	97.6	97.1	98.1	68.6	68.2	69.0	1.5	
Zabul	0.481	0.474	0.489	85.4	84.2	86.6	56.4	56.0	56.7	1.3	

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Table 27. A-MPI statistics at the national level, by age group and province in the post-2021 moderate-impact scenario, cumulating all shocks

	A-MPI	Confidence Interval (95%)		H (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		A (%)	Confidence Interval (95%)		Population share (%)
National	0.436	0.434	0.438	75.8	75.5	76.1	57.5	57.4	57.6	100
0–17 years	0.462	0.459	0.464	79.5	79.1	79.8	58.1	58.0	58.2	54.6
18 years+	0.404	0.402	0.407	71.3	70.8	71.8	56.7	56.6	56.8	45.4
Badakhshan	0.468	0.461	0.475	84.0	82.9	85.2	55.7	55.4	56.0	3.5
Badghis	0.587	0.578	0.597	93.5	92.4	94.7	62.8	62.2	63.4	1.7
Baghlan	0.402	0.392	0.411	75.6	73.9	77.3	53.1	52.7	53.5	2.8
Balkh	0.416	0.407	0.425	69.8	68.4	71.2	59.6	59.2	60.0	4.8
Bamyan	0.422	0.414	0.431	77.0	75.5	78.5	54.8	54.5	55.2	1.5
Daykundi	0.493	0.486	0.501	85.3	84.1	86.5	57.8	57.5	58.2	1.7
Farah	0.495	0.488	0.502	87.0	85.9	88.2	56.9	56.6	57.2	1.9
Faryab	0.562	0.553	0.571	91.1	89.8	92.4	61.7	61.1	62.2	3.7
Ghazni	0.370	0.362	0.378	69.9	68.5	71.4	52.9	52.6	53.2	4.6
Ghor	0.462	0.454	0.470	84.4	83.1	85.7	54.7	54.4	55.1	2.5
Helmand	0.641	0.636	0.646	97.5	97.0	98.0	65.7	65.4	66.1	3.9
Herat	0.437	0.428	0.446	76.8	75.4	78.3	56.8	56.4	57.3	7.0
Jawzjan	0.413	0.406	0.421	76.5	75.2	77.9	54.0	53.7	54.3	1.9
Kabul	0.210	0.205	0.215	40.7	39.7	41.7	51.6	51.3	51.8	16.7
Kandahar	0.580	0.575	0.586	93.1	92.4	93.8	62.4	62.1	62.7	4.0
Kapisa	0.388	0.377	0.398	71.4	69.6	73.2	54.3	53.8	54.7	1.5
Khost	0.499	0.493	0.504	88.6	87.7	89.5	56.3	56.0	56.5	1.9
Kunarha	0.538	0.532	0.543	91.7	90.9	92.5	58.7	58.4	58.9	1.6
Kunduz	0.470	0.463	0.477	83.2	82.1	84.3	56.5	56.2	56.8	3.5
Laghman	0.491	0.483	0.498	85.4	84.2	86.6	57.5	57.1	57.8	1.6
Logar	0.611	0.604	0.617	95.4	94.9	95.9	64.0	63.5	64.6	2.1
Maydan Wodakg	0.562	0.557	0.568	92.6	91.9	93.4	60.7	60.4	61.1	2.4
Nangarhar	0.522	0.516	0.527	87.4	86.6	88.3	59.6	59.4	59.9	5.9
Nimroz	0.400	0.390	0.409	72.8	71.2	74.4	54.9	54.5	55.3	0.6
Nooristan	0.556	0.549	0.562	94.8	93.8	95.7	58.7	58.3	59.0	0.5
Paktika	0.407	0.400	0.414	78.7	77.4	80.0	51.7	51.4	51.9	2.5
Paktya	0.430	0.420	0.440	81.3	79.6	83.1	52.8	52.4	53.2	1.0
Panjsher	0.248	0.237	0.260	49.2	47.2	51.1	50.5	49.8	51.1	0.6
Parwan	0.397	0.389	0.406	72.9	71.5	74.4	54.5	54.0	54.9	2.5
Samangan	0.451	0.443	0.458	82.6	81.3	83.9	54.6	54.3	54.9	1.3
Sar-e-Pul	0.451	0.442	0.459	80.4	79.0	81.8	56.0	55.7	56.4	2.0
Takhar	0.407	0.399	0.416	74.3	72.9	75.8	54.8	54.4	55.1	3.5
Urozgan	0.711	0.706	0.715	99.0	98.7	99.3	71.8	71.4	72.2	1.5
Zabul	0.532	0.526	0.538	91.9	91.1	92.8	57.9	57.5	58.2	1.3

Source: Authors' computations based on the IE&LFS.

Specifically, the results highlight the need for urgent social assistance for population sub-groups whose living standards would fall further below the poverty line due to the shocks, including children under 18 and people living in the provinces of Urozgan, Helmand, Logar and Badghis. We also call attention to less-poor provinces at risk of falling below the poverty line, particularly people living in the provinces of Panjsher, Ghazni, Kabul, and Baghlan Kapisa. These regions would require social protection buffers to avert permanent losses in living standards resulting from the shocks. Finally, our analysis reinforces the importance of food security, school attendance, and maternal health as key components of any pro-poor strategy for Afghanistan.

4.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE MICROSIMULATIONS

First, the simulations do not consider the potential endogenous changes to indicators deriving from a shock to another indicator. Second, we assume that all households in the sub-populations are equally likely to become deprived in the face of shocks. Relaxing both assumptions would require accurate knowledge of the underlying data-generating process for each indicator, which could be the subject of future research. Third, the microsimulations do not fully capture all the channels through which the post-2021 crisis may affect multidimensional poverty, including disruptions to maternal health services and interruption of public services including utilities, and increased prevalence of shocks. Fourth, we presume the population is fixed and given, when in fact out-migration of people who are not poor may have effectively increased poverty. Due to these limitations, our analysis is likely to underestimate the potential impact of the post-2021 crisis in Afghanistan.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This report aimed to provide actionable policy insights geared toward reducing multidimensional poverty within the prevailing context in Afghanistan. Our analysis included unpublished 2020 multidimensional poverty statistics and the A-MPI information platform together with a microsimulation analysis showing how multidimensional poverty would change under the current conditions. The main results are summarised below.

- **As of 2020, 16.25 million people or 49.4% of the population are multidimensionally poor. The average intensity of poverty is 53.6%.**
 - The **Kuchi population** have the highest incidence of poverty (87.9%), although fewer than 5% of the population are Kuchi. Rates of deprivation in every indicator are highest in Kuchi areas.
 - The incidence of poverty is above 70% in 8 of the 34 provinces: **Urozgan** (93.4%) **Helmand** (86%), **Kandahar** (80%), **Badghis** (79%), **Nooristan** (73%), **Faryab** (73%), **Maydan Wodkag** (73%), and **Zabul** (72%). Together these provinces are home to 5.4 million poor people, one-third of all the poor people in Afghanistan.
 - People living in provinces with the highest poverty incidence are likely to have a high intensity of poverty, above the poverty cutoff of 40% and a national average of 53.6%.
 - Children aged 0–17 have the highest levels of multidimensional poverty in Afghanistan (53.8% of children are poor), and have higher levels of deprivation in every indicator in the A-MPI.
- **Assisted delivery, food security, school attendance, and female and male schooling make up about half of the value of the A-MPI at the national level.**
 - **Female schooling and school attendance** affect the largest percentage of the population (40.1%).
 - Children have the highest censored headcount in female schooling (43.8%).
 - School attendance contributes the most to the MPI in all three areas (urban, rural, and Kuchi) and contributes the most in 20 out of 34 provinces.
 - In **Badakhshan**, 166.1 thousand people live in households where a school-aged child is not attending school.
 - Initial enrolment is the main explanation for why people living in multidimensional poverty are deprived in female and male schooling and school attendance.
 - ~ Girls account for a disproportionate number of multidimensionally poor out-of-school children who were never enrolled in school (2.1 million out of 3.8 million).
 - ~ In provinces such as **Nangarhar, Kabul, Herat, and Balkh**, large populations of multidimensionally poor children not deprived in the three education indicators live alongside large populations of people who are deprived in the same indicators.
- **Assisted delivery and food security** affect 36.5% and 31% of multidimensionally poor people, respectively.
 - Some 635,000 multidimensionally poor women did not have access to doctors or nurses and hospitals or health centres for delivery,
 - Half of these women reside in seven provinces: **Herat** (52.6 thousand), **Nangarhar** (46.4 thousand), **Ghor** (44.8 thousand), **Urozgan** (42.5 thousand), **Faryab** (42.3 thousand), **Badghis** (39.7 thousand), and **Kandahar** (34.4 thousand).
 - Women aged 18–49 are the majority (632.3 thousand) of the multidimensionally poor people without access to antenatal care, doctors, nurses, and hospitals or health centres for delivery, exposing them to high risks to their maternal health.

- Women living in multidimensional poverty face a particular challenge accessing adequate antenatal visits. Some 661,000 multidimensionally poor women received fewer than four visits.
- **Food insecurity** affects 31% of multidimensionally poor people (10.2 million).
 - The highest contributions of **food security** to the provincial MPI are in **Badakhshan, Zabul, Samangan, Paktika, Herat, Khost, and Faryab.**
- **Some 6.1 million children, and 11.8 million people in total, could become multidimensionally poor as a result of combined shocks to food security, school attendance, dependency, unemployment, underemployment, and youth NEET, simulations suggest.**
 - Compared to other indicators, shocks to school attendance and food security would each result in the highest incidence of poverty
 - In **Urozgan** and **Helmand** multidimensional poverty would become universal, with roughly 100% people classified as multidimensionally poor.
 - The provinces with the highest number of multidimensionally poor people remain **Nangarhar, Herat, Helmand, Kandahar, and Kabul.**
 - In four provinces, the A-MPI would rise above 0.65: **Urozgan** (0.76), **Helmand** (0.68), **Logar** (0.67) and **Badghis** (0.65).
 - Less-poor provinces would see the highest magnitude of impoverishment due to the simulated shocks, while five provinces would see a three-fold increase in their MPI: **Panjsher** (0.06 to 0.39), **Ghazni** (0.13 to 0.50), **Kabul** (0.08 to 0.32), **Baghlan** (0.15 to 0.49), and **Kapisa** (0.17 to 0.51).

were previously poor face the prospect of more people falling into more pernicious levels of poverty, while in previously less-poor provinces previously non-poor people face falling into poverty due to the multiple shocks in Afghanistan.

The MPI analysis augments the work being done by other organisations active on the ground in two crucial ways. First, it highlights the priority sectors and population sub-groups for policy intervention at the macro level. Second, it highlights in detail what the priorities should be for each province. These differ in rural and urban areas, as well as according to the level of poverty prior to the changed circumstances since 2020. Provinces that

APPENDIX 1

Table A1: Indicator contributions to the A-MPI by province, 2020

Province	Population share	Food security	Assisted delivery	Water	Sanitation	School attendance
Kabul	16.7%	12.8	10.3	1.3	2.6	18.5
Kapisa	1.5%	10.8	14.1	3.7	3.3	14.7
Parwan	2.5%	13.6	12.7	3.4	4.1	12.9
Maydan Wodakg	2.4%	7.3	8.0	2.8	1.2	15.6
Logar	2.1%	4.8	15.7	3.2	2.7	15.7
Nangarhar	5.9%	13.1	14.2	0.9	2.2	15.5
Laghman	1.6%	12.2	14.5	1.7	5.2	13.5
Panjsher	0.6%	11.8	19.8	4.2	1.2	20.3
Baghlan	2.8%	6.1	13.9	5.2	3.0	16.7
Bamyan	1.5%	12.8	15.0	3.2	1.5	14.7
Ghazni	4.6%	10.3	5.4	2.0	3.6	14.8
Paktika	2.5%	16.4	11.5	2.5	2.4	20.2
Paktya	1.0%	14.1	10.7	0.4	0.9	18.7
Khost	1.9%	15.6	17.4	1.3	3.0	18.0
Kunarha	1.6%	3.9	16.6	2.1	2.0	17.1
Nooristan	0.5%	13.0	11.4	4.6	5.5	13.0
Badakhshan	3.5%	17.9	15.8	0.8	0.5	14.3
Takhar	3.5%	8.5	14.1	1.8	2.5	16.5
Kunduz	3.5%	7.5	14.8	3.8	3.5	17.6
Samangan	1.3%	17.5	8.8	4.1	1.3	14.2
Balkh	4.8%	13.6	14.4	2.6	2.0	13.1
Sar-e-pul	2.0%	9.7	13.9	4.6	5.6	16.8
Ghor	2.5%	7.0	18.5	3.3	3.4	14.7
Daykundi	1.7%	8.1	12.9	3.8	4.9	14.6
Urozgan	1.5%	4.1	14.4	4.0	1.3	12.3
Zabul	1.3%	17.8	15.2	1.8	2.4	15.9
Kanddahar	4.0%	14.2	15.2	1.4	2.4	15.6
Jawzjan	1.9%	13.3	16.9	3.9	0.3	18.4
Faryab	3.7%	15.5	12.6	3.0	1.3	13.0
Helmand	3.9%	6.1	13.5	0.9	2.5	15.3
Badghis	1.7%	12.5	12.8	3.2	4.5	13.9
Herat	7.0%	16.0	13.9	1.4	3.3	11.1
Farah	1.9%	9.7	17.6	1.4	3.4	16.1
Nimroz	0.6%	10.8	13.6	4.7	0.4	16.2

Table A1: Indicator contributions to the A-MPI by province, 2020, cont.

Province	Population share	Female schooling	Male schooling	Electricity	Cooking fuel	Housing
Kabul	16.7%	7.6	4.1	0.9	1.7	3.0
Kapisa	1.5%	6.2	3.2	0.8	6.4	2.4
Parwan	2.5%	7.3	3.3	0.1	5.8	3.9
Maydan Wodakg	2.4%	7.0	1.4	0.0	5.7	4.9
Logar	2.1%	7.8	5.6	3.5	3.0	4.7
Nangarhar	5.9%	8.1	4.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Laghman	1.6%	7.9	3.7	0.0	3.7	2.6
Panjsher	0.6%	8.3	4.4	2.2	4.6	5.4
Baghlan	2.8%	9.5	4.4	0.3	3.7	4.6
Bamyan	1.5%	6.9	3.6	0.0	6.3	5.8
Ghazni	4.6%	8.3	3.3	1.0	2.6	2.2
Paktika	2.5%	9.9	2.6	0.0	6.6	2.7
Paktya	1.0%	6.6	3.0	0.0	6.4	4.2
Khost	1.9%	8.2	2.4	0.0	3.8	2.8
Kunarha	1.6%	7.3	2.3	0.0	2.9	5.5
Nooristan	0.5%	9.4	7.5	0.6	6.5	6.1
Badakhshan	3.5%	6.2	4.6	0.1	5.9	2.1
Takhar	3.5%	8.0	6.5	0.0	6.4	4.3
Kunduz	3.5%	6.9	4.1	0.2	4.3	2.2
Samangan	1.3%	7.7	4.1	0.1	4.7	3.2
Balkh	4.8%	6.5	5.1	0.0	3.3	2.7
Sar-e-pul	2.0%	8.0	5.9	0.7	1.6	2.2
Ghor	2.5%	9.4	5.9	0.0	5.6	0.7
Daykundi	1.7%	6.1	3.8	0.0	6.4	6.5
Urozgan	1.5%	8.2	5.7	4.5	5.0	0.6
Zabul	1.3%	9.1	4.3	0.2	3.8	0.8
Kanddahar	4.0%	8.3	4.5	2.9	5.1	4.8
Jawzjan	1.9%	9.1	6.8	1.4	4.3	3.3
Faryab	3.7%	6.1	4.9	0.0	4.8	1.1
Helmand	3.9%	8.6	5.5	0.0	5.8	1.7
Badghis	1.7%	7.6	5.4	2.4	1.9	3.5
Herat	7.0%	5.0	3.9	0.1	4.4	4.9
Farah	1.9%	9.1	6.8	0.1	4.4	3.8
Nimroz	0.6%	8.2	5.7	2.0	3.4	4.3

Table A1: Indicator contributions to the A-MPI by province, 2020, cont.

Province	Population share	Agriculture and assets	Dependence	Unemployment	Underemployment
Kabul	16.7%	1.7	8.2	2.8	2.1
Kapisa	1.5%	3.5	8.9	3.4	2.4
Parwan	2.5%	0.7	7.4	3.0	4.7
Maydan Wodakg	2.4%	1.0	7.0	2.5	2.2
Logar	2.1%	1.6	6.1	1.6	0.8
Nangarhar	5.9%	3.9	6.0	2.5	2.7
Laghman	1.6%	2.3	7.2	3.6	5.3
Panjsher	0.6%	0.1	5.0	5.0	1.5
Baghlan	2.8%	2.1	9.4	1.1	1.0
Bamyan	1.5%	1.9	6.6	1.4	4.1
Ghazni	4.6%	1.6	3.8	4.5	1.7
Paktika	2.5%	0.5	8.9	1.8	3.2
Paktya	1.0%	0.9	8.3	6.1	3.1
Khost	1.9%	0.5	9.0	2.0	2.9
Kunarha	1.6%	1.7	8.9	2.6	5.3
Nooristan	0.5%	4.8	3.0	2.4	1.0
Badakhshan	3.5%	1.3	6.9	1.6	4.8
Takhar	3.5%	3.7	8.0	4.3	4.0
Kunduz	3.5%	1.0	7.0	2.6	3.1
Samangan	1.3%	3.6	7.7	3.9	4.9
Balkh	4.8%	1.4	5.3	2.0	2.3
Sar-e-pul	2.0%	3.8	7.6	3.6	3.9
Ghor	2.5%	2.1	8.3	6.7	4.0
Daykundi	1.7%	1.9	8.3	1.4	4.5
Urozgan	1.5%	1.4	4.1	0.5	1.4
Zabul	1.3%	1.7	7.4	2.2	1.5
Kanddahar	4.0%	0.6	6.0	3.8	0.9
Jawzjan	1.9%	2.8	4.6	2.1	1.8
Faryab	3.7%	0.7	6.1	1.8	4.7
Helmand	3.9%	1.9	7.5	1.5	5.2
Badghis	1.7%	3.1	7.5	1.4	2.6
Herat	7.0%	1.2	6.1	4.3	4.7
Farah	1.9%	0.9	5.6	2.6	4.0
Nimroz	0.6%	3.8	6.5	1.2	0.2

Table A1: Indicator contributions to the A-MPI by province, 2020, cont.

Province	Population share	Youth NEET	Production shocks	Income shocks	Security shocks
Kabul	16.7%	4.8	5.4	6.1	6.1
Kapisa	1.5%	2.8	2.2	7.2	4.1
Parwan	2.5%	2.1	4.2	7.7	3.0
Maydan Wodakg	2.4%	4.2	5.4	8.3	15.4
Logar	2.1%	4.1	2.7	8.5	8.1
Nangarhar	5.9%	4.2	4.4	8.7	1.8
Laghman	1.6%	2.9	2.1	6.6	5.0
Panjsher	0.6%	2.6	0.0	2.5	0.9
Baghlan	2.8%	3.5	2.2	3.0	10.4
Bamyan	1.5%	3.1	5.8	6.9	0.4
Ghazni	4.6%	4.0	7.3	6.7	17.0
Paktika	2.5%	4.8	2.2	2.4	1.4
Paktya	1.0%	7.1	2.6	3.6	3.2
Khost	1.9%	6.3	3.0	2.4	1.3
Kunarha	1.6%	5.3	5.8	8.7	1.9
Nooristan	0.5%	2.7	4.8	2.6	1.1
Badakhshan	3.5%	2.9	5.6	7.8	0.8
Takhar	3.5%	3.5	5.6	0.3	1.9
Kunduz	3.5%	5.1	3.5	4.9	7.7
Samangan	1.3%	4.0	5.0	4.2	1.0
Balkh	4.8%	3.5	5.8	6.7	9.4
Sar-e-pul	2.0%	3.2	3.3	5.0	0.5
Ghor	2.5%	3.4	1.4	2.4	3.1
Daykundi	1.7%	3.1	3.8	8.4	1.3
Urozgan	1.5%	4.6	5.8	8.3	13.8
Zabul	1.3%	3.0	2.4	7.3	3.4
Kandahar	4.0%	4.8	3.9	4.1	1.7
Jawzjan	1.9%	3.9	1.3	0.7	5.3
Faryab	3.7%	2.2	4.9	8.4	8.8
Helmand	3.9%	3.5	1.5	7.4	11.8
Badghis	1.7%	4.1	3.2	4.3	6.0
Herat	7.0%	1.9	5.1	8.7	4.1
Farah	1.9%	2.7	1.6	2.7	7.7
Nimroz	0.6%	4.0	4.9	6.9	3.2

APPENDIX 2

CONSTRUCTING THE A-MPI

The A-MPI is calculated using the Alkire-Foster (AF) method, which consists of counting the deprivations that affect the same household at the same time. The method first constructs each person's deprivation profile, then uses these to identify who is multidimensionally poor. The percentage of people living in multidimensional poverty and the intensity of their poverty are combined in the value of the MPI. By applying this method, the A-MPI reflects overlapping deprivations in its 18 indicators.

In order to identify whether or not a person in Afghanistan is deprived in an indicator, a deprivation cutoff is set for each indicator, which identifies a person as deprived or non-deprived in each of the 18 indicators based on their own and household members' achievements. Each person is coded as deprived or non-deprived in each indicator.

Each person's deprivations are then added up to make a deprivation score that shows the percentage of weighted deprivations that person experiences. The deprivation score is calculated by adding up the weights of each indicator in which that person is deprived. A deprivation score ranges from 0% (if a person does not experience any deprivations) to 100% (if they are deprived in all indicators).

In order to identify who is poor in Afghanistan, the deprivation score is compared to a poverty cutoff of 40%. All people who have a deprivation score of 40% or higher are identified as multidimensionally poor according to the A-MPI. Note that members of the same household will all be poor, or all non-poor, because of the data used.

Once the poor people are identified, an MPI is computed by multiplying together two numbers: the **incidence** or headcount ratio and the **intensity** of multidimensional poverty.

- The **incidence** or headcount ratio, H, is the proportion of people who are multidimensionally poor, because their deprivation scores are 40% or higher.
- The **intensity** of poverty, A, is the average deprivation score among poor people.

The MPI is calculated by multiplying incidence with intensity:

$$\text{MPI} = H \times A$$

The MPI can be equivalently computed as the weighted sum of what we call censored headcount ratios. Censored headcount ratios are the percentage of the population who are identified as poor and are also themselves deprived in a particular indicator. Multiplying the censored headcount ratio of an indicator by that indicator's weight, and adding up this product for all the indicators, will give the exact same value of MPI. Because of this structure, the MPI is always broken down by indicator to show the composition of multidimensional poverty. This feature of indicator detail gives policy relevance to the analysis, that this report profiles.

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ENDNOTES

- 1 This is the censored headcount for that indicator in that province, multiplied by the population of the province.
- 2 This is in terms of the percentage contribution, because contribution considers the weights on the indicators. Removing one deprivation in food security reduces the A-MPI more than reducing one deprivation in assets, because the food security weight is 1/10 whereas assets is 1/40. Contribution accounts for both the censored headcount ratios and the indicator weights. For a table of the contributions see the Table A1 in the Appendix 1.
- 3 UNICEF. (2021). 'Half of Afghanistan's children under five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition as hunger takes root for millions', [press release, 5 October](#) (last accessed: 5 May 2022).
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