The Annual Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) Meeting
Chile, online | 4-5 October 2021

Communiqué

Delegates from over 35 countries and 8 international agencies participating in the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) 8th Annual Meeting, hosted by Government of Chile, met virtually to exchange experiences and ideas on multidimensional poverty measurement design, on how the MPI has been useful to address COVID-19, how it has been used it to speed recovery and it has been institutionalized and link it to national goals and the SDGs.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our plans and reshaped individual and public priorities, affecting budgets and technical process for data collection. At the same time, the rise in poverty and visible toll of 'co-morbidities' mean that it is now more important than ever to use MPI. It illuminates people's recent and more longstanding clustered vulnerabilities – including those of the poorest and the new poor. It is disaggregated to show disparities by region, by age (especially for children), disability status, gender, ethnicity, as data permit. Intrahousehold and gendered analyses can extend the eyes of policy in key ways. The MPI is used as a vitally important and efficient recovery tool.

1) We call on countries and international institutions to measure and use Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) for policy planning & monitoring during the pandemic and recovery

We call on countries and institutions to prioritize and use the MPI as they work with determination to end acute multidimensional poverty. Countries are increasingly using their MPIs for budgeting, targeting, coordination and policy design. But to shift poverty globally we need additional actors to use this important tool, including international institutions, countries whose MPIs have been already launched, and those who are preparing to launch them. Examples of what prioritization might mean in different contexts include (but are not limited to):

Data – for National MPIs or global/regional MPIs
- Including MPI questions in upcoming surveys including rapid remote surveys. Many questions are already included: just a few more make multidimensional analysis feasible.
- Including most MPI questions in upcoming census rounds to give non-pixelated maps
- Analysing MPI innovatively alongside environmental, administrative and other data.

Technical work and communication
- Estimating MPIs from multiple data sources promptly, with disaggregation, precision & transparency
- Communicating MPIs proactively to policymakers and the public, with indicator and disaggregated detail, in multiple languages, via all media, with gripping visualizations. In times multiple information sources, working on good visualization and communication strategies is important.
- Working out narratives to make MPIs widely visible. Poverty is mentioned by many. We need to have creative narratives on its multidimensionality, so the usefulness of MPIs 'direct' information is grasped by governments, businesses, NGOs and communities.

Policy and Peer to Peer support
- Training policy actors to confidently interpret MPIs to shape policy and speed change
- Sharing examples of how polices based on MPI created change and went to scale
- Enabling leaders & teams use their powers to lead historic actions to end abject poverty

2) We call on countries and institutions to mainstream MPIs into data collection, and to integrate its use into poverty assessments, poverty and social protection policies, in planning, and in SDG reporting.

Now more than ever, poverty reduction is one of the greatest global challenges. Going beyond a dashboard, the MPI adds value by showing how deprivations congregate in the lives of real people. This information creates a potential efficiency gain for policy – which is vital at a time of scarce fiscal resources.

➢ During the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, collective agreements to improve public policy should use the MPI to accelerate progress. And similarly, countries should make an important effort to update their

MPIs in times of COVID-19 and during the recovery. Improving development requires good information to guide all the efforts and resources.

➢ On the international stage, the MPI addresses SDG 1, Target 1.2 and Indicator 1.2.2, for which countries are custodian agencies. Since 2016, 52 countries have mentioned multidimensional poverty or MPIs in their VNRs, often disaggregated by vulnerable groups including children, and this is a good way to share information and build momentum.

➢ We thank the World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF for launching the reporting platform for MPIs. All countries should report & update their MPIs as SDG indicator 1.2.2. We hope the database will be extended to profile countries' metadata, disaggregation and standard errors.

➢ We encourage all to mainstream the MPI into their governance processes, including by articulating how MPI complies with UNCEPA principles of good governance and by engaging associated processes.

➢ We encourage international institutions to also use MPIs when crafting social protection and poverty eradication strategies, and monitoring change. In real life, multiple deprivations cluster on the same person. The MPI shines a light on these clusters, so they can be swiftly dismantled.

About the MPPN:

The MPPN's core work is to offer peer support to a rapidly increasing number of policymakers and statisticians around the world who are working to establish technically rigorous national multidimensional poverty indices (MPIs) and use them powerfully to fight human disadvantage and misery. Some MPPN members are designing their first official permanent national MPIs; others are energetically using official MPIs in public policy, communications, and stakeholder engagement. The MPPN was launched in 2013 by co-founder Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Juan Manuel Santos, at a meeting addressed by Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen.

As of October 2021, ministers and senior officials from 62 countries participate in the Network, including: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, eSwatini, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, and VietNam.

Representatives from 19 international institutions also participate in the network, including: African Development Bank, Commonwealth of Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), Federal Ministry of International Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Organization of American States (OAS), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), SELA - Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Unicef, World Bank, and the World Food Programme.