

The Annual Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) Meeting
The Seychelles | 1-3 July, 2019

Communiqué

Delegates from over 20 countries and six international agencies participating in the South-South Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network met in Seychelles to discuss how to link their measures of multidimensional poverty – which brings into a single high-resolution indicator, a set of interconnected SDG indicators – to the national SDG goals and SDG reporting framework. Two recommendations ensued which were affirmed by participants from 21 countries:

1) Reporting SDG Indicator 1.2.2

SDG Indicator 1.2.2, for which countries are custodian agencies, measures multidimensional poverty. Since 2017, 27 countries have mentioned multidimensional poverty or MPIs in their VNRs. However, still in 2019, there is no way for countries to report their official national MPI or a nationally designated MPI in the global database on SDG indicators.

- 1) **We urgently call for UNSD and the supporting agencies (UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank) to enable and support countries to report SDG Indicator 1.2.2 in the global database.**

Countries lack data for many SDG indicators. Indicator 1.2.2 is the only SDG indicator for which many countries have, and use, the data but lack a mechanism of reporting.

- 1a) **We ask UNDP to consider custodianship of this indicator.¹**

2) Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

Target 1.2² combines a **global target** (reduce at least by half) with a **multidimensional** emphasis (living in poverty in all its dimensions) and a **national** emphasis (according to national definitions).

It is measured by only two indicators:

Indicator 1.2.1 focuses on national monetary poverty

Indicator 1.2.2 focuses on national multidimensional poverty.

No indicator tracks the **global goal** to reduce acute multidimensional poverty at least by half.

For monetary poverty, SDG indicator 1.1.1 (\$1.90/day poverty) fills this role. The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) published by UNDP covers ten **interconnected** indicators related to the SDGs for over 100 countries and 77% of the world's population. Including the global MPI as SDG Indicator 1.2.3 would improve the SDG database by providing a global headline covering poverty in many forms and dimensions.

- 2) **We request the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators to recognise the widely-used global MPI as a third SDG Indicator for Goal 1, Target 1.2.**

¹ We also request UNICEF and World Bank to continue to support the development of national MPIs as they are already doing in many places.

² Target 1.2 states: by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

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, and Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen, and has 58 participating countries and 19 participating international agencies.

As of July 2019, ministers and senior officials from more than 50 countries participate in the Network, including: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, eSwatini, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, 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: the Federal Minister of International Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin American Countries (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank.