

Use of MPI for National Poverty Alleviation Policies in Maldives – Challenges and road ahead

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Introduction

- In Maldives - poverty has been measured using an income approach in the past
- The need to move beyond income poverty- to address the inequalities that exist in services, and within country
- And to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to leave no one behind



Maldives National MPI




- Maldives launched the first national multidimensional poverty report in 2020
- MPI was endorsed by the President in Feb 2020 as a complementary measure to income poverty in the country.
- The national MPI helped the country to report for SDG Goal 1.

Target 1.2: 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

- **Indicator 1.2.1:** Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

See Metadata :  

- **Indicator 1.2.2:** Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

See Metadata :  



National MPI key findings

Poverty Cutoff	Index	Republic
K-value=34%	MPI	0.145
	Headcount ratio (H, %)	28.4
	Intensity (A, %)	51.1

- **28 percent** of the population is multidimensionally poor (close to 3 in every 10 person is multidimensionally poor), which is more than income poverty (where 8.2% of the population is poor)



MPI for policy making



- **Government Adoption of the MPI**
- Government adoption of the MPI is a daring decision that reflects political will to acknowledge multidimensional poverty a national challenges to address.
- Commitment to address inequality between Male' and Atolls



MPI for policy making



- **The use of MPI for poverty targeting in Maldives**
- The current subsidies and government social benefits are based on income poverty.
- MPI was incorporated into the targeting mechanism to reform the social benefits given by the government – to address the leakages in the social benefit system. Initial testing and model building included the use of MPI indicators



MPI for policy making



- **Immediate response to COVID-19**
- The overall vulnerability exacerbated through the pandemic was felt by the government and it proposed to measure the joint vulnerability of households using a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).
- This measure identifies the vulnerable population who faces more than three vulnerabilities to COVID-19 and to deprivations related to the current context in the country, as well as shows where vulnerable groups live and which characteristics increase vulnerability.
- The MVI is, thus, a policy tool to direct action towards the most needed groups in times of COVID-19



Challenges ahead

- More concerted effort needs to be carried out across sectors to integrate MPI into resource allocation, budget allocation, etc.
- Integration of MPI into long-term national development planning- to draw insights based on MPI trends, inequalities among regions
- Monitoring and evaluation- MPI can be used as a tool to evaluate policy interventions.

Opportunities



- Census provides an opportunity to formulate a measure to delve into the inequalities that exist at island level. And compare and rank the performance of one island to other, identify islands who are more deprived
- Maldives is in the process of formulating a Happiness Index at island- an opportunity to better understand the deprivation that exist among island and rank performance of islands, use as a tool to monitor the administrative performance of Councils as well and bring targeted interventions



- Thank you

