



Eswatini Multidimensional Poverty Index

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

MPPN PRESENTATION

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Context

Poverty reduction is at the center of the Kingdom's development policy

- **Poverty is one of the main development challenges affecting Eswatini.**
- **Poverty reduction is at the core of all sectoral development plans and the medium-term expenditure framework of the government.**
 - The National Development Strategy (NDS) was developed
 - *articulated the government's vision and efforts to reduce and eradicate poverty.*
 - The Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP) was developed
 - *as an action and implementation plan for NDS.*
 - The programme resulted in the establishment of the: *Regional Development Fund (RDF); the Poverty Reduction Fund; the Youth Enterprise Fund, and the Elderly Grant.*
 - The National Development Plan (NDP) 2022/23–2027/28 has set a target of reducing poverty in all its forms.

Overview of multidimensional poverty measurement

A multidimensional lens to poverty in Eswatini is needed

- ❑ Official poverty measurement has predominantly been unidimensional and money-metric.
- ❑ However, monetary poverty alone does not reveal the broader picture of what life is really like for the poor.
- ❑ Multidimensional poverty is needed to complement monetary measures of poverty by highlighting the many deprivations that people can experience across different areas of their lives.
- ❑ For Eswatini, the persistence of monetary poverty underscores the need to consider the multidimensional nature of poverty as underlying factors that contribute to and are a result of monetary poverty.
- ❑ Enable Eswatini to interrogate poverty to better understand its depth and further identify solutions.
 - In this regard, the country conducted the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) funded by India through the South-South Cooperation. – to come up with effective remedial measures to deal with this plight and provide policy guidance

Overview of multidimensional poverty measurement in Eswatini

The Cabinet recognizes the policy importance of multidimensional poverty

- The Cabinet is concerned about the high monetary poverty figures in the country.
- Therefore, there is consensus that:
 - *Monetary measures of poverty are not a comprehensive measure of poverty.*
 - *Money metric poverty measures are failing to capture broader multidimensional aspects of poverty that involve services not typically transacted in markets. E.g. outcomes related to nutrition, water and sanitation, and education are crucial to people's well-being, and their intrinsic values often exceed their costs as measured in household expenditures on these items.*
 - *It is important to take into considerations assets that are at the disposal of Emaswati and the different coping strategies that are being utilized particularly in the rural areas to ensure sustainability of livelihoods.*
- Taking a broader multidimensional perspective to poverty analysis will help Eswatini improve policy-making by highlighting problem areas that income-based analyses often fail to capture.
 - *The Eswatini MPI was computed in 2017*
 - *Child poverty in 2014 and 2023 (under finalization)*

STATISTICS IN ESWATINI

Central Statistics Office

- ❑ **Empowered by the Statistics Act**

- ❑ **Collects and house economic statistics, demographic and vital statistics, agriculture and social statistics and statistical services.**

- ❑ **Developed Data Dissemination Policy and establishment of website is underway to host all data**

- ❑ **Conducts Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey –** main and official source of data that enables estimation of monetary and non-monetary indicators of well being of people of Eswatini as well as estimation of poverty and inequality indicators.
- ❑ **Is a nationally representative cross-section multipurpose survey** of households, which collects a rich array of information on household living conditions including, food and non-food expenditure, income by source, private transfers, consumption habits, employment, education, demographics, and health, among others.

Statistics for MPI

- ❑ The survey provides information that **supports evidence-based policy making in poverty and inequality reduction initiatives such as the National Development Strategy, Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.**
- ❑ It is also used to monitor progress towards international agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063
- These data also inform the construction of weights needed in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

For Computing 2017 MPI

- The survey covered 3,355 households and 14,410 household members, of which around 75 percent were living in rural areas.

Measurement design

Dimensions, indicators, deprivation cutoffs, weights, and identification of the poor for the Eswatini national MPI

Dimension	Indicator	Deprived if	Weight
Education	Years of schooling	No household member aged 10 years or older has completed six years of schooling	1/6
	School attendance	Any school-aged child is not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete class 8	1/6
Health	Nutrition	Any child under the age of 5, for whom there is nutritional information, is either underweight or stunted	1/3
Living standard	Electricity	The household has no electricity	1/18
	Sanitation	The household's sanitation facility is not improved (according to SDG guidelines) or it is improved but shared with other households	1/18
	Drinking water	The household does not have access to improved drinking water (according to SDG guidelines)	1/18
	Housing	The household has inadequate housing: the floor is made of natural materials or the roof or walls are made of rudimentary materials	1/18
	Cooking fuel	A household cooks with dung, agricultural crop, shrubs, wood, charcoal or coal	1/18
	Assets	The household does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone (cellphone or landline), computer, bicycle, motorbike, or refrigerator, and does not own a car or truck	1/18

- 3 dimensions, dimensions are equally weighted.
- 9 indicators, each indicator within a dimension is equally weighted.
- A person (or household) is identified as multidimensionally poor (or is 'MPI poor') if they are deprived in at least one third (33 percent) of the weighted indicators.

Findings and Conclusion

- ❑ Emaswati suffer multiple deprivations - **19.6% are multidimensionally poor**. Rural regions have the highest incidence.
 - ❑ The **nutrition indicator contributes the most** to the national MPI. **Rural areas, which have high deprivation levels, contribute the most to the MPI.**
 - ❑ About **5%** of Emaswati are both MPI and monetary poor.
 - ❑ About **4.8% of the MPI poor are deprived in water, nutrition, and cooking fuel**
- MPI analysis helps highlights problem areas that income-based analyses often fail to capture but are important for targeting the poor.
 - The analysis provides a bases for monitoring and evaluating the country's progress in non-monetary indicators of poverty.

Areas of Improvement and Future Plans

Data collection

- Budgetary allocation and sufficient capacity across all aspects

Minimize lag between data collection and MPI release

Enhance utilization of MPI results

- ❑ Conduct Next MPI will be computed for evidence based planning and decision making
- ❑ EHIES in finalization stage – opportunity for computing MPI
- ❑ Plans to increase engagements with policy actors to sensitize them on the importance of MPI
- ❑ Strengthen capacity building for technical staff and policy makers to instill the culture of using MPI
- ❑ Consider inclusion of environmental indicators in the MPI

THE END!

Thank you.