



Concept Note

Measuring What Matters: How Multidimensional Poverty Indices Drive Evidence-Based Action for a Sustainable Future

Side Event to High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

14 July 2025, 1:15-2:30 pm (NY Time)

Conference Room E, United Nations Headquarters, New York

The Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations, UNDP's Regional Bureau of Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC), and the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) are hosting a high-level discussion at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2025 to discuss how Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and shape the agenda beyond 2030.

The multidimensional approach to poverty acknowledges that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon of interlinked, overlapping deprivations, including health, education, and living standards, among others including monetary poverty. The Pact for the Future has reaffirmed that poverty has many forms and dimensions, and that eradicating poverty is 'the greatest global challenge' and a vital step towards sustainable development. The upcoming Second World Summit on Social Development echoes this priority. Understanding multidimensional poverty enables policymakers to design integrated, high-impact policies that address the root causes of poverty and inequality, and promote inclusive development. An interconnected approach is pivotal for accelerating progress towards a sustainable future for all, as it facilitates more effective and comprehensive responses to the lived experiences of poverty. Former Colombian President, Nobel Laureate and co-founder of the MPPN, Juan Manuel Santos, has published Colombia's experience and commended the use of the MPI to policymakers around the world.

MPIs based on the Alkire-Foster method complement monetary poverty measures and have proven to be a comprehensive tool for mapping how people experience poverty, and informing evidence-based policies that target the most vulnerable. Forty-three countries have reported MPIs to track their progress against the SDGs (Alkire & Dirksen 2024), and around 106 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) have mentioned multidimensional poverty, making the MPI a key tool for monitoring national progress towards global goals.

Uruguay launched its [national MPI](#) in February 2025, developed under the leadership of the National Institute of Statistics (INE), in strategic technical partnership with UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford. The process began in 2022 and built upon significant progress made by the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), considering rigorous academic research, existing legislation, and national development plans. The process was highly participatory, involving consultations with public institutions and subject-matter experts on the selection of dimensions and indicators. Uruguay's official national MPI was launched with broad consensus among its future users, who endorsed both its technical robustness and the relevance of its components.

This high-level side event presents a unique opportunity to build on the commitment of Uruguay, RBLAC, OPHI and MPPN and leaders from other regions and across the UN system to consider how multidimensional poverty data can provide tangible footholds towards progress in the runup to the Second World Summit on Social Development, Beyond GDP, and throughout the final phase of Agenda 2030.

Format

This side event to the HLPF, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations, UNDP RBLAC, and the MPPN, will be a 1 hour and 15 minutes dynamic discussion with substantive interventions that chalk out the key priorities for this time

- **Welcome remarks**
 - Gabriela González, Deputy Permanent Representative Uruguay
- **Multidimensional measurement for poverty alleviation and wellbeing, global, regional and national commitments**
 - Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa
 - Khalid Abu-Ismael, Senior Economics Affairs Officer, Poverty and Development Challenges, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- **Multidimensional poverty and the Second World Summit for Social Development**
 - Sabina Alkire, OPHI Director, University of Oxford
 - Almudena Fernández, Chief Economist, RBLAC, UNDP
 - Ana Helena Chacón, former Vice President of Costa Rica, MPI Inaugural Ambassador
- **The key role of MPIs and multidimensional poverty in the current juncture**
 - Marcelo Bisogno, Director, National Institute of Statistic, Uruguay
 - Bereket Fesehatsion, Minister of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ethiopia
 - Gonzalo Hernández Licona, former Executive Secretary National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy of Mexico, MPI Inaugural Champion
 - Sola Afolayan, former MPI Coordinator Nigeria, MPI Champion
- **Closing Remarks**
 - Isabel Saint Malo, former Vice President of Panama, MPI Ambassador

Moderation: Sabina Alkire