

How is the MPI useful?

The MPI can be used in several ways:

- The MPI is a high resolution lens on poverty – it shows the nature of poverty better than income alone.
- The MPI shows the deprivations that batter someone's life at the same time, so can inform a holistic response.
- The MPI serves as a tool for tracking progress towards achieving some key Millennium Development Goals.
- The MPI can show progress over time in a detailed way.
- The MPI shows the intensity of each person's poverty, and can be used to identify and target the poorest of the poor.

Who can use the MPI?

- Governments
- Non-Governmental Organisations such as Oxfam
- Private Sector institutions
- Civil Society groups and Advocacy groups

All of the data of the MPI for each country are available online. We also have detailed country briefs, and more poverty profiles, online.

What next?

- **National measures:** Governments can tailor the MPI to the indicators and cutoffs that are most appropriate in their country and use it to complement income poverty.
- **More and better data:** The MPI is restricted because we do not have internationally comparable data from the same surveys for other dimensions that might be useful such as safety from violence, work, the environment, empowerment, social relationships, and culture.

“....shouldn't only be theoretical but shall be translated into social policy.” Dr Felipe Kast, Minister of Planning, Chile



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OPHI

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illuminating People's Lives

Human Experiences of Multidimensional Poverty

2010

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), released in 2010, identifies poor people whose lives are battered by several deprivations at the same time. Starting from their lives, it builds a national poverty measure that reflects the experiences of poverty by citizens across the country.

The MPI has been constructed for 104 countries, and reports acute human poverty for 78% of the world's people.

But who are these people? To answer this question we spoke with people who were poor according to the MPI in their country. We learned about their lives – their hopes and strengths, and their challenges. Naturally their lives are far richer than any measure can capture. Here are some of their stories.



Joking about her life....

Jiyem, who lives in Indonesia is identified as poor according to OPHI's MPI. The household that she lives in is deprived in 8 of the 10 indicators. Although she can joke about her life, the situation is precarious, and troubling. "I cannot picture what wellbeing means," says Jiyem. "This," she said, pointing to her present surrounds, "is illbeing." Jiyem shares her home with her blind husband (who is unable to work), her son, who is mentally handicapped, her daughter in law, and their three-year-old grandson, who is malnourished. No one in their family has ever completed primary school. Jiyem grew up in that same village, working in the fields.

Now, at about 70 (she does not remember exactly her age), Jiyem typically rises at 4-5 am. She boils water and cooks with wood some rice, cassava, eggplant or other garden vegetables, in the traditional chili sauce. The family eat fish or meat only on special occasions such as Islamic religious days. From around 6 until 9 am, she collects some fallen rice for their own meal, then spends an hour collecting firewood. Jiyem does not earn any money, nor does she have savings. Her son goes with her and works in the rice field, or in a sugarcane field, about four hours per day. He earns about Rp.10,000.00 per day and around Rp200,000.00 to Rp 300,000.00 per month.(USD 85-127)



Cooking

When she comes home, she takes a shower and rests, or sits out in front of the house until around 3 pm when they take their afternoon meal. Jiyem's house is sparse. There is no electricity or clean drinking water, nor TV, radio, telephone, fridge, car or motorcycle. Their toilet is a traditional toilet in which a big hole is dug on the ground.



Jiyem only socializes once every 35 days – when she gathers with the other housewives in the village. Jiyem's loneliness runs deep. No one in the family can speak on her behalf, She said she has neither hopes nor dreams, but just accepts whatever comes. She does not pray like other Muslims, because she thinks she is too old. "But I still remember God and this is another form of prayer,"

Dalma and her husband, Jomo, live in Lunga Lunga slum, after leaving their village in central Kenya in search of a better life. Dalma is 30 years old and has seven children. There would have been eight children, but sadly one of them passed away a few years ago at 4 months of age.



Dalma's husband can only work when there are jobs available in the surrounding industry park. Unfortunately this isn't that often. Dalma has to stay at home to take care of the children so she can't work. Despite this, Dalma tries to earn a little from other households by delivering water for them. The overall household income is inadequate to support the

One of Dalma's daughters, who is 6 years old should already be enrolled in preschool but Dalma and Jomo cannot afford the registration fee of 300 Ksh (USD 9.87).



School meals

On top of this, the family sometimes has to go without meals and so other community members have to help. "I am worried about not being able to feed my kids," she says.

On a typical day, Dalma gets up at 5.30am and prepares breakfast for the family and gets her daughters ready for school, which is not far from their home. Although Dalma's family is not malnourished, they are food insecure, sometimes having to skip meals because of lack of food.

She encourages her children to go to school because she believes that the children would be depressed if they had to just stay at home and because the school has a feeding programme that will provide them with meals sometimes.

Dalma hopes that in the future her family will be able to renovate their current old-iron sheeted house and enlarge it. In the meantime she hopes to find well wishers who will fund her girls to attend secondary school. Dalma believes this will help them have a better future.

Dalma says she feels hopeful when there is no sickness in the home. Although they at times go without food, the family is close knit which she is grateful for.



Collecting water