

# Multidimensional Poverty Index

## CASE STUDY



## MARIA, Ecuador

Maria, a 45-year-old single mother from Ecuador who completed primary education, lives with her two children, one who is 4 years old and another who is 9 years old. Maria had a third pregnancy but sadly her last child died during birth because she did not receive proper medical care. Maria and her kids live in a small apartment with finished materials (floor, roof and wall), electricity, improved sanitation and drinking water; she also cooks with gas and has a refrigerator. But she does not own a television, radio, bicycle, motorcycle, car, telephone, computer or animal cart.

“Her older child had just started 3rd grade before the COVID-19 crisis emerged and schools closed.”



Maria has been working daily in a nail salon for the past 8 years and her income has relied on customer’s tips. With this money she has been able to afford nutritious food for her and her children and pay the bills on time. Her older child had just started 3rd grade before the COVID-19 crisis emerged and schools closed. At the same time, the nail salon closed, and her resources immediately shrank. Also, because she does not own a computer or tablet her child could not continue her education and it is likely that she will lose the school year. In addition, the youngest kid became undernourished because food is now scarce. Before the COVID-19 crisis, Maria was not considered multidimensionally poor, but she and her family were vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (see figure 1); they were deprived

in 22.2 percent of weighted indicators. Currently, they are considered multidimensionally poor because of the additional deprivations, they are now deprived in 55.6 percent of the weighted indicators (see figure 2).

Source: *Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs.*

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Figure 1: Maria’s deprivation chart before COVID-19 crisis

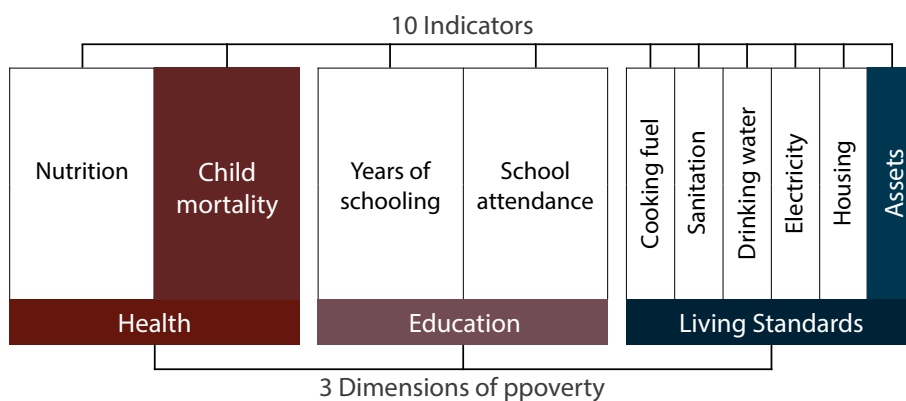
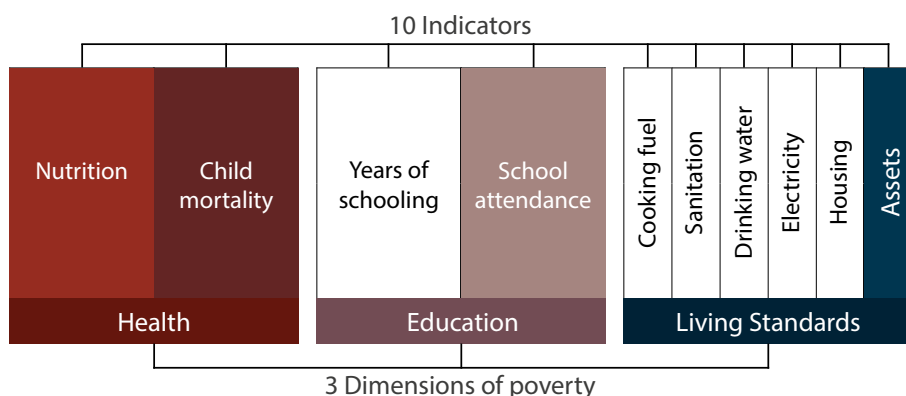


Figure 2: Maria’s deprivation chart after the start of COVID-19 crisis



The coloured boxes show the deprivations that her household faced across the MPI.