



## Concept Note

# “Using Multidimensional Poverty Data to Leave No One Behind”

## Side Event at the 53rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Virtual Event

Register to attend here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wIdV2HxfTT2xCjhbDZdeQQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wIdV2HxfTT2xCjhbDZdeQQ)

On the **15<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 at 9:00am New York time**, the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network \(MPPN\)](#) will host a Side Event at the 53rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on Zoom. The Commission is the key UN statistical entity, with participation from national and international statistical leaders from across the world.

This side event will bring together leading statisticians at the forefront of innovations in poverty measurement to discuss and share experiences with tailoring measures to their national context, improving existing MPIs, and, especially, how MPIs are being disaggregated and analysed to Leave No One Behind. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) continues to gain momentum as a powerful tool for tracking progress in pro-poor poverty reduction. In 2020-2021, ten countries launched official national MPIs while dozens more used or updated their MPIs. This work gains momentum by continual innovation and the frank sharing of experiences.

A special theme also this year will be incorporating MPI variables into census data – which is critical for the most perfect disaggregation, and has been used to support COVID-19 responses. Many MPI questions are ordinarily included in census schedules, so by adding just a few extra questions a census-based MPI becomes a powerful policy tool.

The event will be chaired by Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia. Other speakers will be confirmed shortly.

**About National and Global MPIs:** Governments such as Afghanistan, Armenia, Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Philippines, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, VietNam and most recently Paraguay, Namibia, Malawi, Sri Lanka and India use National Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) as an official statistic of poverty, usually complementing national monetary poverty statistics. Each National MPI is tailor-made to the national context. For example, its design may reflect the constitution, or national development plan, or a participatory exploration of what poverty means. The National MPI is an official poverty statistic, and considerable effort is made so that it is used to inform and energise policy. Yet not all governments have National MPIs. Even when they do, National MPIs cannot be compared. So, there is a value-added to having an internationally comparable global MPI across developing countries and/or universally, with extensive and disaggregated information on the composition of poverty for different groups. A global MPI for more than 100 developing countries has been estimated by OPHI and the UNDP’s Human Development Report Office since 2010 and is also disaggregated for subnational regions, as well as by

variables like age and rural-urban areas. The most recent report in 2021 included data on deprivations by gender, caste and ethnicity, unmasking disparities to show the importance of disaggregating poverty in different ways.

**About the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN):** The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network is a South-South network of policymakers from countries and institutions interested in measuring and tackling multidimensional poverty. It was launched in June 2013 at a distinguished event at the University of Oxford, at which former President of Colombia and Nobel Laureate Juan Manuel Santos and Professor Amartya Sen gave keynote addresses. The MPPN was established in response to demand for South-South exchange on implementing multidimensional measures, and for technical and institutional support. The Network Steering Committee includes Ministers and senior government officials from China, South Africa, Colombia and Bangladesh, as well as from OPHI.

### **Format**

This side event to the UN Statistics Commission, hosted by the MPPN, will be a 1.5-hour dynamic discussion with interventions from a panel of lead statisticians from national governments. The event is open for all to attend.