

Summary points – Corinne Mitchell (OPHI)

- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) that OPHI developed looks at a concept of poverty that goes beyond lack of income to capture overlapping deprivations in areas such as education, health, housing, etc.
- The methodology behind the MPI analyzes both the breadth and depth of poverty in a society and allows us to easily look at differences in the levels and patterns of poverty across different groups, which is useful for policymakers to make more targeted interventions.
- The global MPI, which we compute with UNDP, covers more than 100 countries and is updated annually and disaggregated by age group, rural/urban areas, subnational region, and gender of the household head. Some colleagues have also looked at disaggregations by ethnicity or disability for the surveys for which that information was available. These analyses enable us to understand where poverty has successfully reduced, as well as which groups are being left behind.
- National MPIs, which are official government statistics used as policy tools in more than 40 countries around the world and report to the SDGs, but are not internationally comparable, often go beyond the global MPI to include other dimensions and analysis that is relevant for the particular country context.
- The topic of gender is a challenging one for poverty, since most metrics - either monetary or multidimensional - measure poverty at the household level. However, we have started to pick apart the individual-level microdata to see what findings we can see about the differing experiences of poverty by gender.
- For instance, we can look at whether girls or boys in poor households are more likely to be malnourished or whether men or women are more likely to be lacking six years of schooling. Our first report on this topic focused on children in South Asia and found higher gender inequality in education than in nutrition for children living in poor households in the region. We are now working to expand this analysis globally and hope to share the results of that work in the coming year. This analysis has also been taken up at the national level by the Government of Nigeria, among others.
- Across all our work at OPHI, we aim to better understand the lived experiences of people in poverty to inform more effective and efficient poverty reduction policies.