

## **HLPF 2024 | SDGs in Focus: SDG 1 and interlinkages with other SDGs**

Draft Talking Points

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To be poor is to be battered by different interconnected disadvantages at the same time. So the first SDG aims to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions – monetary and multidimensional.

What is multidimensional poverty? Think of the SDGs: they cover hunger, health, education, water, sanitation, energy, housing, work, safety and more. People who are deprived in several ways at the same time experience multidimensional poverty.

The first two SDG targets aim to: end extreme monetary poverty, and cut by half the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all its forms according to national definitions.

3.5 billion people living in 84 countries report on multidimensional poverty. Nearly 3 billion of these (2.97m) use a National multidimensional poverty index or MPI. The rest use Eurostat's AROPE measure. Currently one-half to two-thirds of these countries are not on track to meet SDG1. This is deeply sobering. But notice that one-third to one-half of countries are on track.

I have three suggestions. Number one: Study success. Maldives, a small island developing state, cut its MPI incidence from 70.2% to 28.4% in merely 7.5 years. Colombia, on our panel, more than halved it in 12 years from 29.7% in 2010 to 12.9% in 2022 with the largest fall in the past year. And in India, multidimensional poverty fell from about 25% to 15%, as well over a hundred million Indians exited poverty in merely 4.5 years.

Number two: Use disaggregated data on MPI to inform budgeting, targeting, and policy coordination. This is feasible. An MPI shows the interlinked deprivations that need integrated solutions. National MPIs are disaggregated by 6,876 subnational regions – as well as by gender, age, occupation, ethnicity and disability status besides. Left-behind groups can be spotted and precisely supported.

Third, Make an MPI if you don't have one: 72 of the 114 countries that do not report on multidimensional poverty have an estimate in the UNDP-OPHI global MPI database that could be used or adapted.

Last: set national targets for MPI reduction, regular updates, and a high-profile management structure led by a deeply committed leader to monitor progress. And engage private sector, CSOs and the protagonists themselves. Many hands working on a shared goal of fighting poverty in all its forms, can and will move the needle.

Multidimensional poverty disfigures lives. It is reducing – yet not enough in more than half of countries. But leadership and policy use of MPIs can be transformative. And we are right to hope. For with commitment and cunning and hard work, countries can bend the trend – and accelerate progress – with and on behalf of the most disadvantaged.