Agenda item 5: Progress by custodian agencies & stakeholders on methodological development and other implementation activities on the global SDG indicators

Sabina Alkire, IAEG on SDG Indicators - Bahrain
13 November 2017
1. Progress in measurement
Preparatory SDG Process called for multidimensional measures:

Report by the UN Secretary General, December 2014

5.1.135. ...Poverty measures should reflect the multi-dimensional nature of poverty.
UNGA also invited Member states to develop multidimensional measures:

A resolution of the UNGA (A/RES/69/238) on 19 December 2014

5. [UNGA] Underlines the need to better reflect the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, as well as the importance of developing a common understanding among Member States and other stakeholders of that multidimensionality and reflecting it in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard invites Member States, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measurements, including methodologies and indicators for measuring human development, that better reflect that multidimensionality.
Financing for Development 2015 Addis Ababa Accord called for transparent measures of multidimensional poverty:

119. We further call on the United Nations, in consultation with the IFIs to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, building on existing initiatives. These should recognize the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of domestic output. We will also support statistical capacity building in developing countries. We agree to develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for different economic activities, including for sustainable tourism.

2. Progress in a comparable (global) multidimensional poverty index (MPI)
UNDP and OPHI’s global MPI

Covers 120 countries - nearly as many as $1.90/day
For 52 countries, MPI data are more recent; for 24, $1.90 is recent
Reported by UNICEF in MICS survey reports
Poverty measures should reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty."

Ban Ki Moon (Dec, 2014), Former UN Secretary General

An MPI offers: a Headline, Disaggregation & Interlinkages to inform integrated action
- includes child poverty disaggregations

“Poverty measures should reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty.”

Ban Ki Moon (Dec, 2014), Former UN Secretary General

www.ophi.org.uk   www.mppn.org
Atkinson Commission on Monitoring Global Poverty

Recommends a global MPI be used with $1.90/day measure:
“Complementary Indicators should include a multidimensioned poverty indicator” Recommendation 19 p xxi and p 170-174

The MPI should use the same methodology as UNDP’s MPI – “the adjusted headcount ratio” from a ‘counting’ method p 171

“It is not proposed that the [MPI] should include a monetary poverty dimension.” p 170

Dimensions to Consider
1. Nutrition
2. Health status
3. Education
4. Housing conditions
5. Access to work
6. Personal security
3. Progress in National MPIs and the SDGs
National MPIs launched as official statistics

- In 2009, **Mexico** became the first country to publish an official multidimensional poverty measure. In 2010 **Bhutan** published its MPI; in 2011 **Colombia**, followed by **Chile**. Since Sept 2015, releases include:
  - **Costa Rica** – MPI aligns allocation with national goals (2015)
  - **Ecuador** – MPI reflects political commitment to **Buen Vivir** (Feb 2016)
  - **Pakistan** – MPI reflects the Vision 2025, in detail (June 2016).
  - **Chile** – MPI-2 includes dimension of environment & networks (2016)
  - **Honduras** – MPI includes work and informs targeting (August 2016)
  - **Mozambique** – MPI shows trends from 1996-2014/15 (Oct 2016)
  - **Armenia** – MPI reflects complexity & persistence (November 2016)
  - **Panama** – annual MPI profiles high disparity subnationally (June 2017)
  - **Dominican Republic** – innovative MPI with digital divide (June 2017)
Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN --- www.mppn.org)

- 2013 launch meeting in Oxford with 16 countries present
- **Side events at UN SC and UNGA each year**
  (in 2017, 3 UNGA side events addressed multidimensional poverty)
- 2014: meeting in Germany
- 2015: meeting in Colombia
- 2016: meeting in Mexico
  - Launch of Magazine *Dimensions*
  - Launch of Policy Briefings
- 2017: meeting in China (53 countries + 15 international agencies)
- 2018: meeting in South Africa
7 March 2017: Side-Event at UN Statistics Commission

Statistical Offices presented:

• Mauricio Perfetti, Colombia
• David Vera, Ecuador
• Lisa Grace Bersales, Philippines
• Pali Lehohla, South Africa
• Ben Paul Mungyereza, Uganda
• Hedi Saidi, Tunisia
• Nesma Amer, Egypt

Reflections from the floor were offered by UNICEF, ECLAC, and OPHI.
19 Sept 2017: UNGA Shows MPI as governance tool

- H.E. Juan Orlando Hernández, President of Honduras
- H.E. Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan
- H.E. Juan Manuel Santos, President of Colombia
- H.E. Pena Nieto, President of Mexico
- H.E. Ana-Helena Chacón, Vice President of Costa Rica
- H.E. Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vice President of Panama
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP
- Mr. Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General of OECD
- H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of League of Arab States

Plus 11 speakers from South Africa, Egypt, Philippines, Bangladesh, UN-ESCWA, Sida, UN-DESA, UNICEF, World Bank, and OPHI
19 Sept 2017: UNGA Shows MPI as governance tool

H.E. Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vice President of Panama

“There is consensus that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. The Sustainable Development Goals demand that countries fight poverty in all its forms and dimensions to leave no one behind. Panama joined the group of countries that are implementing a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, which has been adapted to national priorities.”

“The main purpose of the MPI is to be able to identify and measure the incidence and intensity of the main non-monetary deprivations that are affecting the people of Panama, using this as a complement to income poverty, and, in the process, re-orienting social policy so that we can be more effective in poverty reduction in an integral way.”
High Level Political Forum

- At the HLPF to date, 17 countries included multidimensional poverty in their VNRs: Bangladesh, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Tajikistan.

- For example: Sierra Leone (2016), which is reporting MPI as an SDG indicator, indicated an intention to measure multidimensional Poverty, explaining that during its public, regional, and national engagements, one key point that emerged was the “relevance of a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement for the success of the SDGs” (p 10).

- Additional countries verbally indicated the intention to report their national MPI, the global MPI, or both, against indicator 1.2.2.
SDG Reporting
Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.¹

1.2  By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.2.1  Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

1.2.2  Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

The Multidimensional Poverty Index indicator is 1.2.2 – name is often confusing.

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/
1.2.2 is a Tier II Indicator (April 2017)

Custodian Agency = National Government

National Governments are Custodian agencies for exactly 1 of the 232 SDG indicators: 1.2.2, on multidimensional poverty.

SDG Reporting: 1.2.2 is missing – although countries wish to report it

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
In Sum:

1. Need to **open a reporting channel** for MPIs at the country level (either the national or the global one) at once.

2. Can countries **register both a national and global MPI** if they wish? (as they do for income)

3. The MPI enables countries to organize, prioritize and coordinate their SDG Agenda:
   - A. Focusing on MPI means **focusing on Goal 1**, a pivotal goal.
   - B. MPI is **changed by public policy** (the main tool for the Agenda),
   - C. MPI catalyses **integrated policies** across **interlinked** SDG goals.
   - D. Countries view MPI as an **entry point for SDGs** in terms of coordination, interlinkages, priorities and implementation.

Solving the registry of MPI and increasing it’s importance could be a great boost for the SDG Agenda. *This 3rd point comes from MPPN Network members*
www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index