

**A case study in innovative research methods to produce gender data using
the Individual Deprivation Measure**

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One consequence of sustained inattention to gender inequality is gender-blind or gender biased measurement. Given the extent of reliance on existing gender-blind data to measure progress on the SDGs, complementary and innovative measures will remain important for producing the insights necessary to leave no one behind.

A new individual level, gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty, the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM)¹, can provide detailed information about how overall progress is translating into outcomes through the disaggregation enabled by data collection at the individual-level. As a measure, the IDM comprises three main technical elements: a) a survey tool assessing 15 economic and social dimensions, measuring gendered experiences of multidimensional poverty (using questions from other well-validated surveys where possible); b) sampling of every adult in a household (who are then asked the same questions) enabling intra-household analyses; and c) a standardised system of indicator coding, dimension scoring, and composite index construction, enabling both gender-sensitive and intersectional comparative analyses. The fifteen IDM dimensions identified from an initial phase of feminist participatory research² include: food, water, shelter, health, education, energy/fuel, sanitation, relationships, clothing, violence, family planning, environment, voice, time use and work.

This presentation will focus on two highlights from IDM research to date that have been enabled by the combination of a feminist approach and emergent program design. First, by interviewing all household members over 16, the IDM enables insights into variation and inequality within households, and therefore, a new perspective on gender inequality. Early analysis from IDM pilot countries demonstrates that considerable variation and inequality is occurring within households, and that this within-household disparity varies considerably across dimensions, from sanitation and education to violence and voice. The combination of sampling method and gender-sensitive measurement can produce data that illuminate the detail of gender disparity, within the household and at larger scales.

The presentation will also outline an innovation in the operationalisation of the IDM with respect to capturing time use data in a multi-topic survey tool. IDM data collection methods have shifted iteratively, moving from paper surveys invoking participants' memories of the previous 24 hours, to tablet-based 24-hour recall diaries, to an adapted participatory method, collecting data on the broad International Classification of Activities for Time Use categories for the previous working day and on 'on-call' time (having responsibility for care of a child under 13) and multitasking. This most recent method is a promising means to improve the broad understanding of the gendered dynamics of time use and labour burden and their implications for multidimensional deprivation. By collecting data about multiple dimensions from each individual, the IDM makes it possible to see how deprivations across the 15 different dimensions are related, and can help to improve the targeting of action including policy responses.

¹ The IDM is a partnership between the Australian National University (ANU) and the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) with strategic support and funding from the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

² The was developed through a four-year (2009-2013), three-phase multidisciplinary international research collaboration involving thousands of participants across 18 sites in six countries: Angola, Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique and the Philippines. The research was led by the Australian National University, in partnership with the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA, the industry linkage partner), the Philippine Health and Social Science Association, University of Colorado and Oxfam Great Britain (Southern Africa), with additional support from Oxfam America and Oslo University. It was funded by the Australian Research Council and partner organisations.