Analyzing Multidimensional Poverty in the Arab Region

Bilal Al-Kiswani (Ph.D.)

Economic Development and Integration Division
The Objectives and Rationale for an Arab MPI

1. Developing a multidimensional poverty measure which is tailored to the Arab region as the global indices may overlook less severe forms of poverty that characterize many middle-income Arab countries.

2. Building the foundation for an evidence-based poverty reduction strategy for the Arab region.
Milestones for Developing the Arab MPI

❖ More than three years of cooperation between League of Arab States (LAS), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNICEF

❖ Several working papers
Milestones for Developing the Arab MPI

❖ More than 200 experts and representatives from Arab countries participated in the consultations of the revision of the poverty indices
❖ Discussion of the preliminary results with regional and global experts at the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) in Mexico and at experts meetings in New York (UNDESA) and Rabat (ONDH)
❖ Endorsement of the report by the LAS ministerial council.
Arab MPI Methodology

- The departure point is the Global MPI which consists of three dimensions (Education, Health, Living Standards). The following changes were introduced to tailor the index to the context of the Arab region:
  - Addition of two new region-specific indicators to the index
  - Revision of the deprivation thresholds of the indicators
Arab MPI Methodology

❖ The education dimensions includes two indicators: school attendance and years of schooling.
❖ The health dimensions includes three indicators: nutrition, child mortality, and early pregnancy/female genital mutilation (FGM).
❖ The living standard dimensions includes seven indicators: access to electricity, improved sanitation, drinking water, cooking fuel, floor/roof, overcrowding, and assets.
40.6% of households are poor and 13.4% live in acute poverty

Cluster 1

Cluster 2

Cluster 3

Jordan
Tunisia
Egypt
Algeria
Morocco
Iraq
Sudan
Mauritania
Yemen
Comoros
44.1% of children are poor and 24.7% of children are in acute poverty

Notes: (i) Size point reflects size of population U18. (ii) Blue lines indicates weighted average of countries.
Vulnerability to MP is High

25.2% of the population are vulnerable to falling into poverty

17.5% of the population are in severe poverty

Non-Poor

Vulnerable to poverty (deprivation score 20-33.32%)

Poor excluding the severely poor (Deprivation score 33.3-50%)

Severely Poor (deprivation score >50%)

31/05/2018
Inequality is High

Poverty

Acute Poverty

Incidence of poverty (%)

Total Rural Urban FHH MHH No education Highest education Bottom quintile Top quintile Household size 8+ Household size 14

© Copyright 2014 ESCWA. All rights reserved. No part of this presentation in all its property may be used or reproduced in any form without a written permission.
Dimensions Contribution to MP

- Jordan: Cluster 1 = 64.3%, Cluster 2 = 19.9%, Cluster 3 = 15.7%
- Tunisia: Cluster 1 = 52.7%, Cluster 2 = 31.8%, Cluster 3 = 15.6%
- Algeria: Cluster 1 = 52.2%, Cluster 2 = 34.2%, Cluster 3 = 13.6%
- Egypt: Cluster 1 = 59.3%, Cluster 2 = 24.4%, Cluster 3 = 16.3%
- Iraq: Cluster 1 = 62.2%, Cluster 2 = 15.9%, Cluster 3 = 19.9%
- Morocco: Cluster 1 = 47.8%, Cluster 2 = 13.8%, Cluster 3 = 13.8%
- Comoros: Cluster 1 = 38.8%, Cluster 2 = 17.0%, Cluster 3 = 15.0%
- Yemen: Cluster 1 = 37.8%, Cluster 2 = 19.7%, Cluster 3 = 15.0%
- Sudan: Cluster 1 = 38.0%, Cluster 2 = 42.5%, Cluster 3 = 15.0%
- Mauritania: Cluster 1 = 38.2%, Cluster 2 = 46.0%, Cluster 3 = 15.8%

Cluster 1: Education, Cluster 2: Health, Cluster 3: Living Standards
Recommendations

1. Addressing gaps in Education
2. Enhancing Social Protection Systems
3. Investing in Children
4. Food Security and Rural Development
5. Protection for persons with disability
6. Establishing the Arab Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy
7. A Data Revolution: Data collection for evidence-based poverty-reduction policies
ESCWA is working to support countries in the adoption and implementation of the 2030 Agenda with focus on SDG-1, and to ensure complementarity between global and regional frameworks to accelerate National Poverty Reduction Efforts.
THANK YOU