

# MEASURING POVERTY AND GENDER DISPARITY: A JOINT APPROACH TO A NEW MEASURE

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# The Significance of Measurement

- Advocate
- Allocate
- Evaluate
- Analyze
- Resolve Key Debates
  - ▣ Ex: Is Globalization Good for The Poor? Is There a Feminization of Global Poverty?

# The World Food Summit, Rome 1996

Pledge to halve the *number* of chronically undernourished people between *1996* and 2015. This implies an annual decline by 3.58% (50% over 19 years).

“We pledge our political will and our common and national commitment to achieving food security for all and to an on-going effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate [!] view to reducing the *number* of undernourished people to half their *present* level no later than 2015.”

[www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm)

Rome Declaration on World Food Security	Number of Chronically Undernourished in Millions	Progress against Chronic Undernutrition
1996	788	
2010		
2015 target		

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<b>1996</b>	<b>788</b>	
<b>2010</b>	<b>925</b>	
<b>2015 target</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>50%</b>

Rome Declaration on World Food Security	Number of Chronically Undernourished in Millions	Progress against Chronic Undernutrition
1996	788	
2010	925	-17%
2015 target	394	50%

# The First Millennium Development Goal

Pledge to halve the *proportion* of chronically undernourished people in the population of the developing countries between *1990* and 2015. This implies an annual decline in their number by 1.37% (29% over 25 years).

**MDG-1: “Target. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people [in the developing regions] who suffer from hunger.”**

**UN: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012, p. 11;  
[www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)**

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# Main Problems With IPL Headcount

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- **1. Excessive sensitivity of trend to IPL level.**

# How IPL Level Affects the Trend

IPL at 2005 PPPs	1981-2005	1984-2005	1987-2005	1990-2005 (-17.2%)	Relative to path of diluted MDG-1	1993-2005	1996-2005	1999-2005
\$1.25	-27%	-24%	-20%	-24%	40% ahead	-23%	-17%	-19%
\$2.00	+1%	-2%	-3%	-7%	59% behind	-9%	-9%	-11%
\$2.50	+13%	+8%	+5%	+.45%	103% behind	-3%	-5%	-7%

# “Updating” the World Bank’s International Poverty Line

Used from 1990 until 1999:

1.02 1985-dollar per day, **today \$2.17** in US

1.00 1985-dollar per day, **today \$2.13** in US

Used from 2000 until 2008:

1.08 1993-dollar per day, **today \$1.72** in US

Used since August 2008:

1.25 2005-dollar per day, **today \$1.47** in US  
(or **\$10.28** per week or **\$536** annually)

[www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)

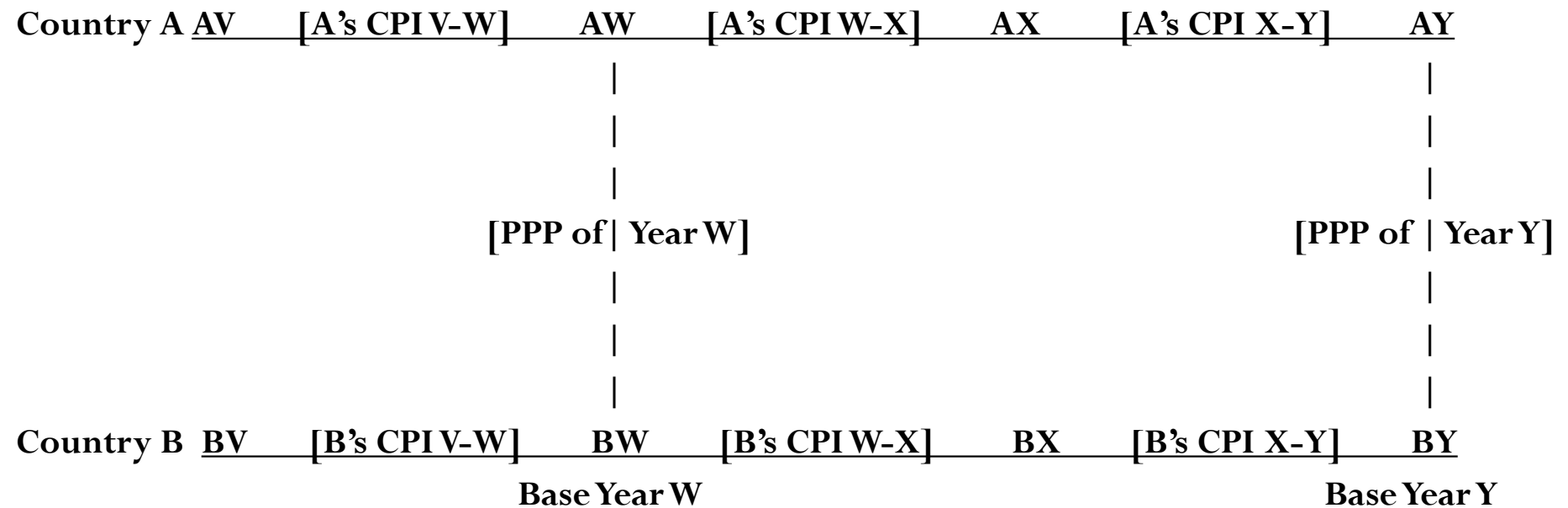
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# How International Purchasing Power Comparisons are Base-Year Dependent

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# World Bank Poverty Estimates are Not Robust w.r.t Choice of PPP Base Year

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The World Bank's switch in PPP base year — from 1985 to 1993 — produced the following changes:

For most countries, poverty lines were uniformly lowered for all years — e.g. by 20% for the US and by 61% for Mauritania.

For a few countries, poverty lines were uniformly raised for all years — e.g. by 42% for Nigeria.

As a consequence, Mauritania's poverty rate estimate (1990 survey) was lowered from 31.4% to 3.8%, while Nigeria's poverty rate estimate (1985 survey) was raised from 31.1% to 72.2%.

Likewise, the 1993 poverty rate for Latin America was lowered from 23.5% to 15.3%, while the 1993 poverty rate for Sub-Saharan Africa was raised from 39.1 to 49.7 percent.

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- 3. Distortion through use of general-consumption PPPs.**

# PPPs Don't Reflect the Cost of Meeting Basic Needs

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**The much narrower and more poverty-relevant PPPs for “food and nonalcoholic beverages” are considerably *higher* — in each and every one of 88 listed poor countries — than the broader PPPs used in the World Bank’s conversion.**

**They are, on average, *51.6 percent* higher.**

**Thus, at the Bank’s converted IPL, a typical poor person can buy about as much *food* as could be bought with *USD 0.83* in the US in 2005.**

[siteresources.worldbank.org/ICPINT/Resources/icp-final.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ICPINT/Resources/icp-final.pdf), pp. 28-37

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>ihc</sub></b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>fnb</sub></b>	<b>Ratio</b>
Angola	70.50	126.79	1.798
Argentina	1.35	1.70	1.259
Armenia	196.19	277.66	1.415
Bangladesh	25.49	34.28	1.345
Benin	275.90	495.42	1.796
Bhutan	18.46	25.39	1.375
Bolivia	2.57	3.61	1.405
Botswana	3.38	5.43	1.607
Brazil	1.57	1.69	1.076
Brunei Darussalam	1.08	1.50	1.389
Burkina Faso	242.42	388.15	1.601
Burundi	447.04	803.65	1.798
Cambodia	1615.30	2304.16	1.426
Cameroon	294.50	471.30	1.600
Cape Verde	78.17	97.06	1.242
Central African Republic	307.47	566.14	1.841
Chad	327.57	597.46	1.824
China	4.09	5.52	1.350

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>ihhc</sub></b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>fnb</sub></b>	<b>Ratio</b>
Colombia	1191.74	1738.54	1.459
Comoros	294.41	470.80	1.599
Congo, Dem. Rep.	316.23	542.69	1.716
Congo, Rep.	375.57	632.74	1.685
Cote d'Ivoire	325.81	528.52	1.622
Djibouti	107.81	185.37	1.719
Ecuador	0.50	0.66	1.320
Egypt, Arab Rep.	2.02	3.00	1.485
Equatorial Guinea	436.29	736.79	1.689
Ethiopia	2.75	4.13	1.502
Fiji	1.55	1.78	1.148
Gabon	443.75	751.51	1.694
Gambia, The	10.34	23.21	2.245
Georgia	0.78	1.04	1.333
Ghana	4475.82	8920.97	1.993
Guinea	1479.57	2947.16	1.992
Guinea-Bissau	284.28	461.33	1.623
Hong Kong, China	7.24	8.82	1.218

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>ihhc</sub></b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>fnb</sub></b>	<b>Ratio</b>
India	15.60	21.13	1.354
Indonesia	4192.83	5817.59	1.388
Iran, Islamic Rep.	2714.82	5664.83	2.087
Iraq	639.87	820.45	1.282
Kazakhstan	64.96	71.24	1.097
Kenya	32.68	54.14	1.657
Kyrgyz Republic	13.00	18.69	1.438
Lao PDR	3741.62	5999.52	1.603
Lebanon	1107.12	1149.93	1.039
Lesotho	3.43	5.66	1.650
Liberia	0.51	0.89	1.745
Madagascar	756.38	1367.97	1.809
Malawi	56.92	100.86	1.772
Malaysia	2.11	2.76	1.308
Maldives	9.74	11.30	1.160
Mali	289.68	482.74	1.666
Mauritania	125.67	223.16	1.776
Mexico	7.65	8.16	1.067

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>ihc</sub></b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>fnb</sub></b>	<b>Ratio</b>
Moldova	4.83	6.35	1.315
Mongolia	522.49	697.10	1.334
Montenegro	0.50	0.66	1.320
Morocco	5.51	7.82	1.419
Mozambique	11625.69	18411.54	1.584
Namibia	5.06	7.03	1.389
Nepal	26.47	34.09	1.288
Niger	267.33	460.78	1.724
Nigeria	78.58	159.02	2.024
Pakistan	20.71	33.45	1.615
Paraguay	2127.80	2621.79	1.232
Peru	1.65	2.28	1.382
Philippines	24.18	33.60	1.390
Rwanda	236.75	333.21	1.407
Sao Tome and Principe	6363.13	10467.10	1.645
Senegal	298.24	522.49	1.752
Serbia	34.31	48.03	1.400
Sierra Leone	1396.21	2758.54	1.976

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>ihhc</sub></b>	<b>2005 PPP<sub>fnb</sub></b>	<b>Ratio</b>
South Africa	4.57	5.53	1.210
Sri Lanka	40.04	59.95	1.497
Sudan	123.51	209.25	1.694
Swaziland	3.73	5.64	1.512
Syrian Arab Republic	24.65	28.17	1.143
Tajikistan	0.93	1.39	1.495
Tanzania	482.45	793.51	1.645
Togo	282.26	506.06	1.793
Tunisia	0.70	1.01	1.443
Turkey	1.00	1.29	1.290
Uganda	744.62	1040.09	1.397
Venezuela, RB	1251.12	1833.68	1.466
Vietnam	5919.89	8352.05	1.411
Yemen, Rep.	91.06	114.72	1.260
Zambia	2830.33	3930.78	1.389
Zimbabwe	47952.42	70339.25	1.467
Average Ratio (geometric mean)			<b>1.496</b>
Average Ratio (arithmetic mean)			<b>1.516</b>

# Six Main Problems with IPL Headcount

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- 1. Excessive sensitivity of trend to IPL level.**
- 2. Inconsistency in methodology as revealed by “round-trip” exercises.**
- 3. Distortion through use of general-consumption PPPs.**
- 4. Priority for those just below the IPL (binary measure).**
- 5. Disregard (through household surveys) of intra-household distribution and varying course-of-life needs.**
- 6. Disregard for other dimensions of poverty: leisure/labor, climate, public goods...**

# *NYTimes: Dire Poverty Falls Despite Global Slump, Report Finds*

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**WASHINGTON —** A World Bank report shows a broad reduction in extreme poverty — and indicates that the global recession, contrary to economists' expectations, did not increase poverty in the developing world.

The report shows that for the first time the proportion of people living in extreme poverty — on less than \$1.25 a day — fell in every developing region from 2005 to 2008. And the biggest recession since the Great Depression seems not to have thrown that trend off course, preliminary data from 2010 indicate.

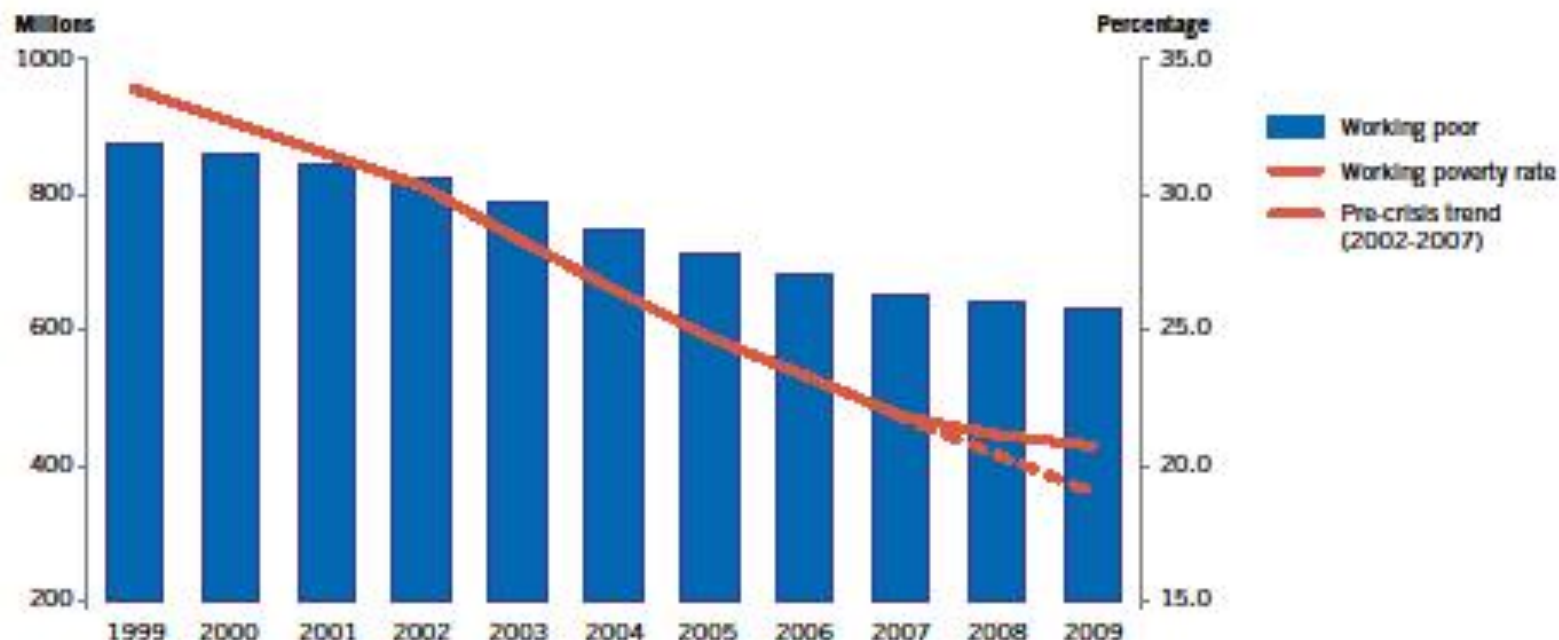
The progress is so drastic that the world has met the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals to cut extreme poverty in half five years before its 2015 deadline.

“This is very good news,” said Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the United Nations' special adviser on the Millennium Development Goals. “There has been broad-based progress in fighting poverty, and accelerating progress. There's a lot to be happy about.”

NTY

## Worldwide, one in five workers and their families are living in extreme poverty

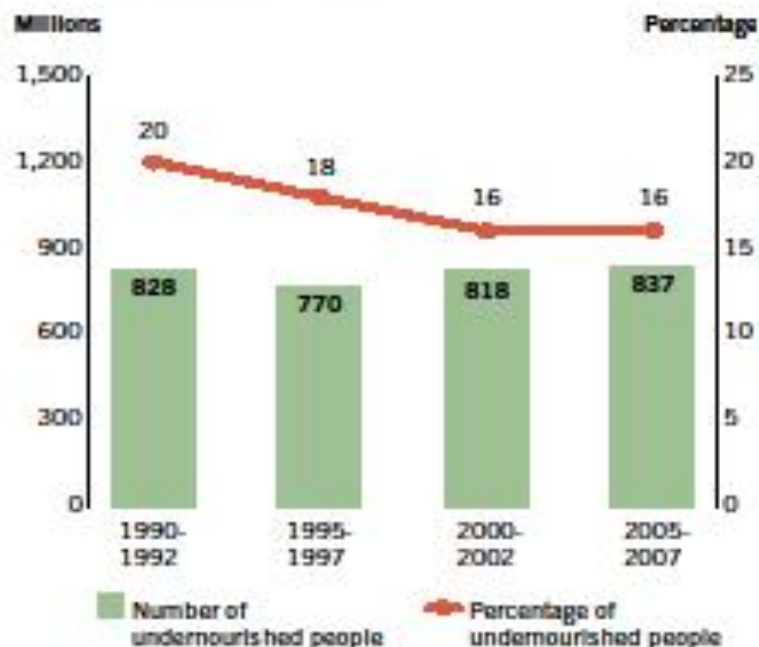
Proportion of employed people living on less than \$1.25 a day (Percentage) and number of working poor (Millions), 1999-2009



A slowdown in progress against poverty is reflected in the number of working poor. According to the International Labour Organization, one in five workers and their families worldwide were living in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.25 per person per day) in 2009. This represents a sharp decline in poverty from a decade earlier, but also a flattening of the slope

of the working poverty incidence curve beginning in 2007. The estimated rate for 2009 is 1.6 percentage points higher than the rate projected on the basis of the pre-crisis trend. While this is a crude estimate, it amounts to about 40 million more working poor at the extreme \$1.25 level in 2009 than would have been expected on the basis of pre-crisis trends.

**Number and proportion of people in the developing regions who are undernourished, 1990-1992, 1995-1997, 2000-2002 and 2005-2007**



The proportion of people in the developing world who went hungry in 2005-2007 remained stable at 16 per cent, despite significant reductions in extreme poverty. Based on this trend, and in light of the economic crisis and rising food prices, it will be difficult to meet the hunger-reduction target in many regions of the developing world.

The disconnect between poverty reduction and the persistence of hunger has brought renewed attention to the mechanisms governing access to food in the developing world. This year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will undertake a comprehensive review of the causes behind this apparent discrepancy to better inform hunger-reduction policies in the future.



<b>Year</b>	<b>Persons Living below \$1 (2005) per day</b>	<b>...as a Percentage of the Population of the Developing World</b>
<b>1981</b>	<b>1545.3</b>	<b>41.6</b>
<b>1984</b>	<b>1369.3</b>	<b>34.7</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>1258.9</b>	<b>30.1</b>
<b>1990</b>	<b>1364.7</b>	<b>30.8</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>1338.1</b>	<b>28.7</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>1150.0</b>	<b>23.5</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>1181.9</b>	<b>23.1</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>1096.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>886.1</b>	<b>16.0</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>805.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Undernourished in Millions</b>	<b>...as a Percentage of World Population</b>
<b>1969–1971</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>1979–1981</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>1990–1992</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1995–1997</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2000–2002</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2005–2007</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>1023</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>World Food Price Index</b>	<b>Nominal</b>	<b>Real (deflated)</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>92.9</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>103.3</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>126.7</b>	<b>108.2</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>158.7</b>	<b>127.7</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>199.8</b>	<b>147.6</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>156.9</b>	<b>123.9</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>185.3</b>	<b>139.4</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>227.6</b>	<b>154.0</b>
<b>2012july</b>	<b>213.1</b>	<b>142.5</b>

# UNDP/OHPI MPI

- Multidimensional Poverty Index
- Dual Cut-Off
- Household Level Analysis
- Standard of Living, Health, Education

# A Joint Approach

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- Interdisciplinary
- Academics, Practitioners, and Citizens
- Participatory research in 18 sites across Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Fiji, Philippines, Indonesia
- Local research teams familiar with country context

# Participation and Poverty Measurement

- “Social evaluations may be starved of useful information and good arguments if they are entirely based on separated and sequestered cogitation. Public discussion and deliberation can lead to a better understanding of the role, reach, and significance of particular functionings and their combinations.” Sen 2009
- Instrumental—better information
- Legitimacy—better procedure increases acceptability

# Fieldwork

- What is a justifiable and genuinely gender sensitive measure of poverty?
  - ▣ How do you conceive of poverty and related hardships?
  - ▣ To what degree are your conceptions or perceptions gender sensitive?
  - ▣ What is most important in determining whether a person's life is free from poverty and hardship?

# Phase 1 Methods

- Participatory, qualitative research
- Grouped by age and gender
- Key informant interviews, household mapping, poverty ladders, focus group discussion, brainstorming and ranking



# Phase 1 Findings

- Measurement should be multidimensional
- Measurement should be scalar
- In so far as possible, measurement should be context-sensitive
- In so far as possible, measurement should be agent-sensitive (differential needs)

# Phase 2 Method

- Quantitative ranking of top 15 dimensions (out of possible 25 derived from first phase results) that are most relevant for assessing whether a person is free from poverty and hardship

# Phase 2 Findings

- Food (97%), Water (95%), Shelter (94%), Health Care(91%), Education (88%), Sanitation (82%), Cooking Fuel (74%), Family Relationships(77%), Clothing (76%), and Electricity (68%)
- Environment (63%), Personal Care (62%), Location of Services (56%), Family Planning (55%), Access to Information and Communication (54%), Freedom from Violence (50%), Participation in Community Functions (47%), Voice in the Community (46%), Free Time (43%), Freedom of Movement (42%), Property and Inheritance Rights (37%), and Access to Assets and Financial Services and Freedom from Debt (36%)
- Freedom from the Disruptive Behaviour of Others (28%), Sexual Autonomy (26%), and Discretionary Items (11%)

# Desiderata for Dimension Selection

- Conceptual Plausibility
- Moral Importance
- Ease and Reliability of Measurement
- Suitability for Institutional Response
- Comprehensiveness (w/minimal overlap)
- Usefulness

# Selected Dimensions

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- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Health Care
- Education
- Energy/Cooking Fuel
- Sanitation
- Family Relationships

# Selected Dimensions cont.

- Clothing/Personal Care
- Freedom From Violence
- Access to Family Planning
- Environment
- Voice/Participation in the Community
- Time-Use (Labor Burden)
- Work Status (Treatment, Respect)

# Desiderata for Indicators

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- Validity
- Reliability
- Specificity
- Feasibility
- Comparability

# Achievements or Access to Resources?

- Five classes of indicators: availability, access, use, achievement, satisfaction, importance
- Our indicators will be access, use, achievement
  - ▣ Large philosophical debate regarding appropriate metric of justice
  - ▣ We are neutral, merely maintaining for practical purposes that indicators must be access, use, or achievement

# The Measure: Counting Intervals

- 1-5 scale
- Severely deprived (1) to minimally adequate (5)
- Maintains 'deprivation focus' axiom while allowing for scalar assessment within dimensions

# Example: Sanitation

- 1: No Sanitation
- 2: Community/Shared Unimproved Pit
- 3: Community/Shared Improved Pit or Latrine
- 4: Community/Shared Flushing Toilet or Private Improved Pit or Latrine
- 5: Private Flushing Toilet

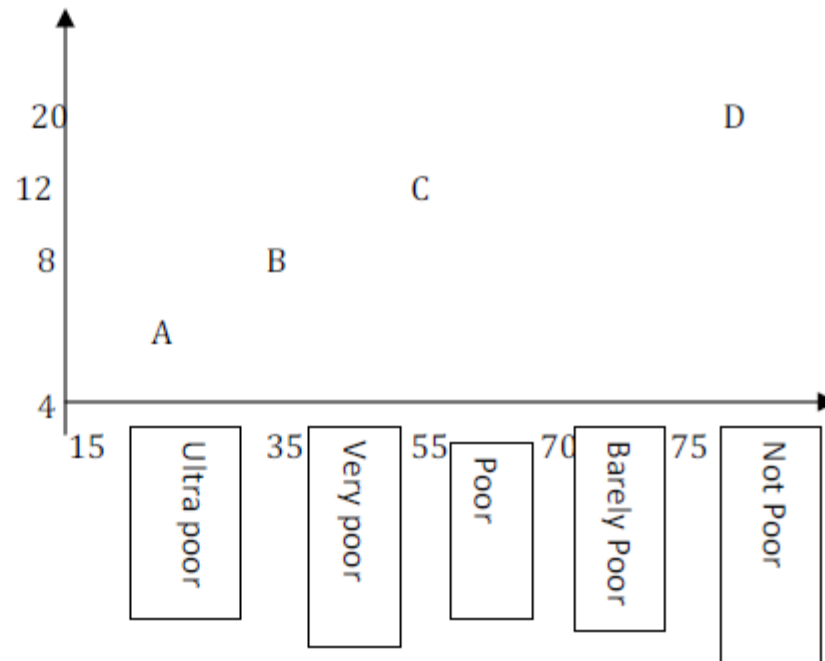
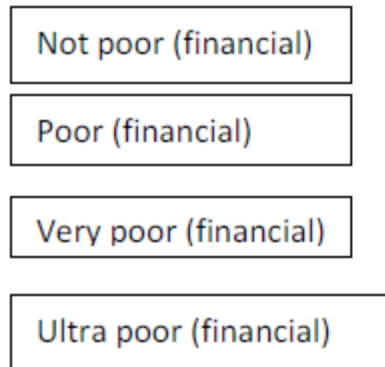
# Composite Deprivation

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- Counting Intervals Towards Composite Score
- Permits of Various Weighting Schemes

# Two Axes of Assessment

Financial Status



Composite Individual  
Achievements

# Household and Individual Measures

- Financial Status (Assets, Debts, Income, and Consumption-Expenditure), Shelter difficult to measure at individual level
- We capture at household level, but also capture indicators on control over assets and income

# Weighting Schemes

- In theory, the weight of any given score should be sensitive to a person's achievements in all other dimensions
- Weighting arguably should also be sensitive to group based preferences
- In practice, perhaps possible to conduct series of pairwise comparisons from which weighting scheme can be derived.
- Alternatively, weighting scheme can be derived from assessment of incremental gains in 'common currency' such as 'number of days with an additional meal'.

# Conceptualizing the Tool

- What is being measured? Core deprivations . . . or poverty and closely related hardships
- Perhaps best conceived of as three categories central to a minimally decent life, relevant for anti-poverty programs and policies, and the focus of institutional response.
- FINANCIAL STATUS
- MATERIAL NEEDS
- SOCIAL RELATIONS AND AGENCY

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# Thank you

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- More information will be forthcoming at [www.genderpovertymeasure.org](http://www.genderpovertymeasure.org)