

Individual Deprivation Measure

Knowing who is poor, in what way and to what extent



Overview of the IDM

More than 20 years after the UN Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action stressed the importance of sex disaggregated data, poverty is still measured globally at the household level. This makes it impossible to accurately assess how the nature of poverty varies by sex, age, disability and other factors.

Recent adoption of the indicators for the **Global Goals** has highlighted the inadequacy of existing disaggregated data collection relevant to these indicators. It has also underlined the importance of **individual-level data** to support targeting of policy and programming towards achieving the Global Goals, and identifying who is being left behind. Both the World Bank's International Poverty Line and the Multidimensional Poverty Index use data collected at the household level. This data cannot show **who in the household is poor, in what ways, to what extent**; or whether household deprivation is concentrated in one person or shared equally among household members. While these approaches are widely used and can provide poverty data about a large number of countries, these data also have important limitations.

The Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) is a new, **gender-sensitive** and **multidimensional** measure of poverty developed to overcome the limitations of current approaches. It was a key output of a four-year, multidisciplinary international research collaboration involving thousands of participants across 18 sites in six countries. Ground-breaking conceptual work and participatory methods have delivered a new measure that is feasible and internationally comparable. The Australian Government is now investing in further development of the measure, with the goal that **by 2020 the IDM is ready for global use as an individual measure of deprivation and a tool for tracking how development is changing the lives of the most deprived**. The program will involve collecting additional IDM data, IT development to facilitate useability and accessibility, curriculum development, and outreach and communications to build knowledge about the IDM as a new tool for global poverty measurement.

Key Features of the IDM

The IDM offers new insights into poverty and gender equity.

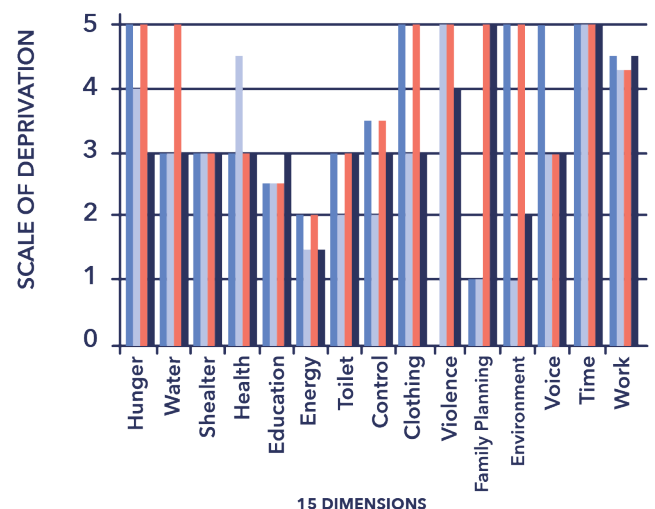
1. It assesses poverty at the **individual level**, enabling accurate disaggregation of data by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, geographic location and more.
2. It considers a wider range of factors as relevant to measuring poverty, assessing **15 key economic and social dimensions** including some especially important for revealing gender disparity (voice in the community, time-use, family planning, personal relationships).
3. The IDM can be sex-disaggregated across 15 dimensions of life relevant to women and men experiencing poverty, generating a **poverty-relevant gender equity measure**.
4. Because the IDM collects data on 15 dimensions from each individual (as opposed to using existing cross-sectional data) it can **reveal the impact of intersecting deprivations** and inform targeting of deprivations impacting particular populations.
5. The IDM is scalar, overcoming the loss of detail and assumptions associated with categorising people as either 'poor' or 'not poor.' Knowing how poor individuals are, in what dimensions, matters for policy and programming, and assessing the effectiveness of action.
6. The IDM is **grounded in the views of people with lived experience of poverty** about how it should be defined and measured, and what is required to be not poor, while also being comparable across contexts and over time.
7. The IDM is policy relevant. It can help governments and organisations **target poverty more effectively** as well as help them measure success or failure, revealing what aspects of poverty are changing, by how much and for whom.

An Illustration of the IDM – Fiji

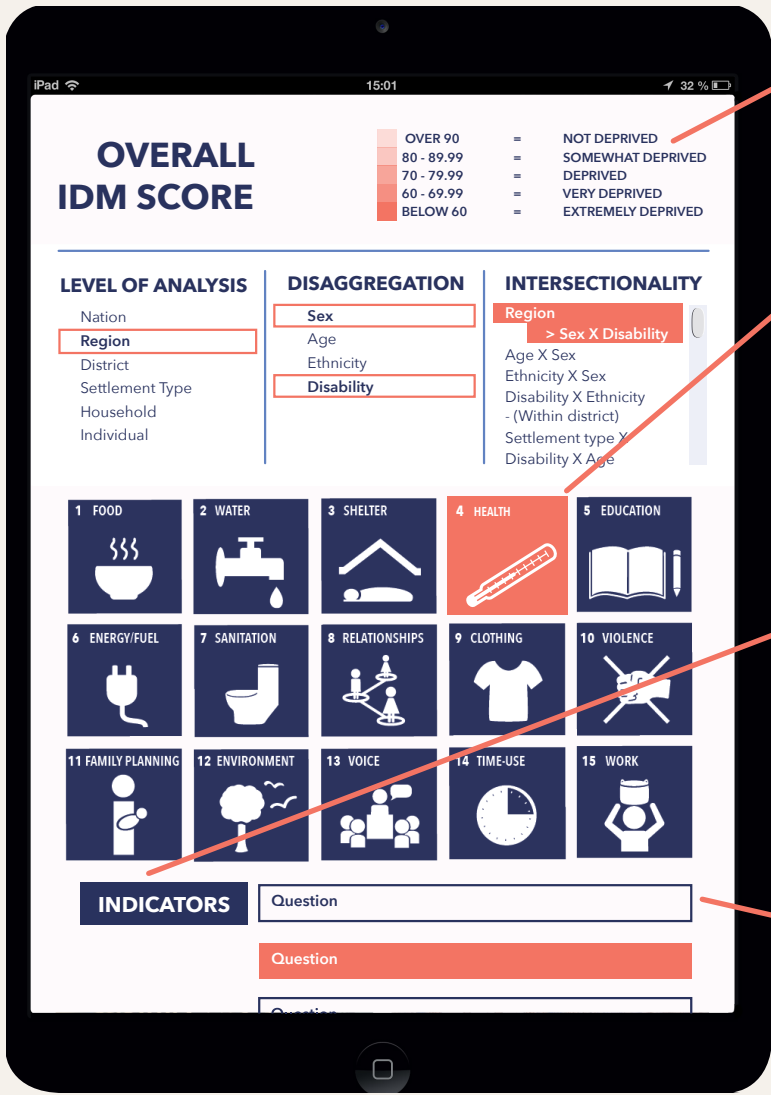
The IDM uses an innovative sampling approach that shows intra-household variation, randomly selecting households and then seeking to interview all household members over 18 years of age.

The importance of intra-household measurement can be seen in the graph below, representing a household in the Tavua Tikina of Fiji. The household comprises four individuals: two men and two women, some of whom have some functional difficulties.

Each individual has a different overall IDM score, and differences in their profile of deprivation. The women are significantly more deprived than the men – a difference that would be obscured by household-level measurement.



■ IDM 68.75: Male/ 45/ 2nd Yr High School/ Some difficulties
■ IDM 60.42: Female/ 49/ 3rd Yr High School/ Some difficulties
■ IDM 76.92: Male/ 22/ 2nd Yr High School/ No difficulties
■ IDM 63.00: Female/ 23/ Some university/ No difficulties



Overall IDM Score

Each participant receives an overall score out of 100, which is the sum of their dimension scores. The score determines their level of deprivation based on trialled thresholds

Dimensions

- The 15 dimensions reflect the priorities of people with lived experience of poverty
- Dimension scores are weighted and aggregated to produce the overall IDM score
- Dimensions in the middle and bottom rows are given less weighting than those in the first row, to reflect the relative priorities of women and men experiencing poverty

Indicators

- Indicators selected are based on information easily and readily collected
- Indicators draw on the best current thinking, and are already well validated wherever possible
- Indicators capture access and achievement, e.g. the Health Dimension indicators are Health Status, Health Care Access and Health Care Quality

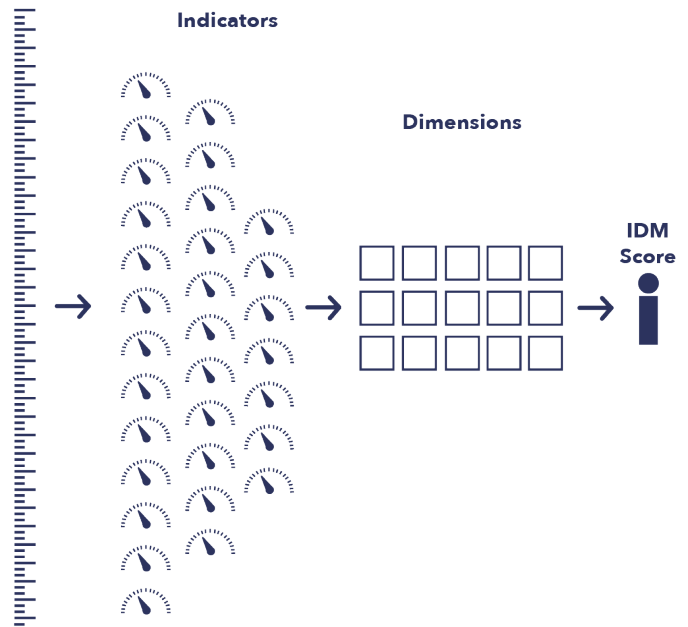
Questions

- Data for each indicator is generated by questions. For example, the Health Status indicator asks about the last injury or illness, whether this caused a work absence or affected usual duties, and the length of this interruption

Power of the IDM

- Level of analysis includes geographic information and can be tailored to specifically defined regions of the country in question
- Information is available for all dimensions – for individuals and whole households
- Disaggregation is possible by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, household size, and any other demographic characteristics relevant to the sample population
- Disaggregation can be applied to overall score, dimensions, indicators, and questions
- Intersections of any disaggregation factors can be analysed provided the sample size is large enough, and intersectionality can be examined within any levels of analysis (e.g. disability by ethnicity within settlement type)

Questions



The 15 IDM Dimensions – Examples from Nepal



1 FOOD



2 WATER



3 SHELTER



4 HEALTH



5 EDUCATION



6 ENERGY/FUEL



7 SANITATION



8 RELATIONSHIPS




9 CLOTHING



10 VIOLENCE



11 FAMILY PLANNING



12 ENVIRONMENT



13 VOICE



14 TIME-USE



15 WORK



IDM Nepal Study

Fast Facts about Nepal

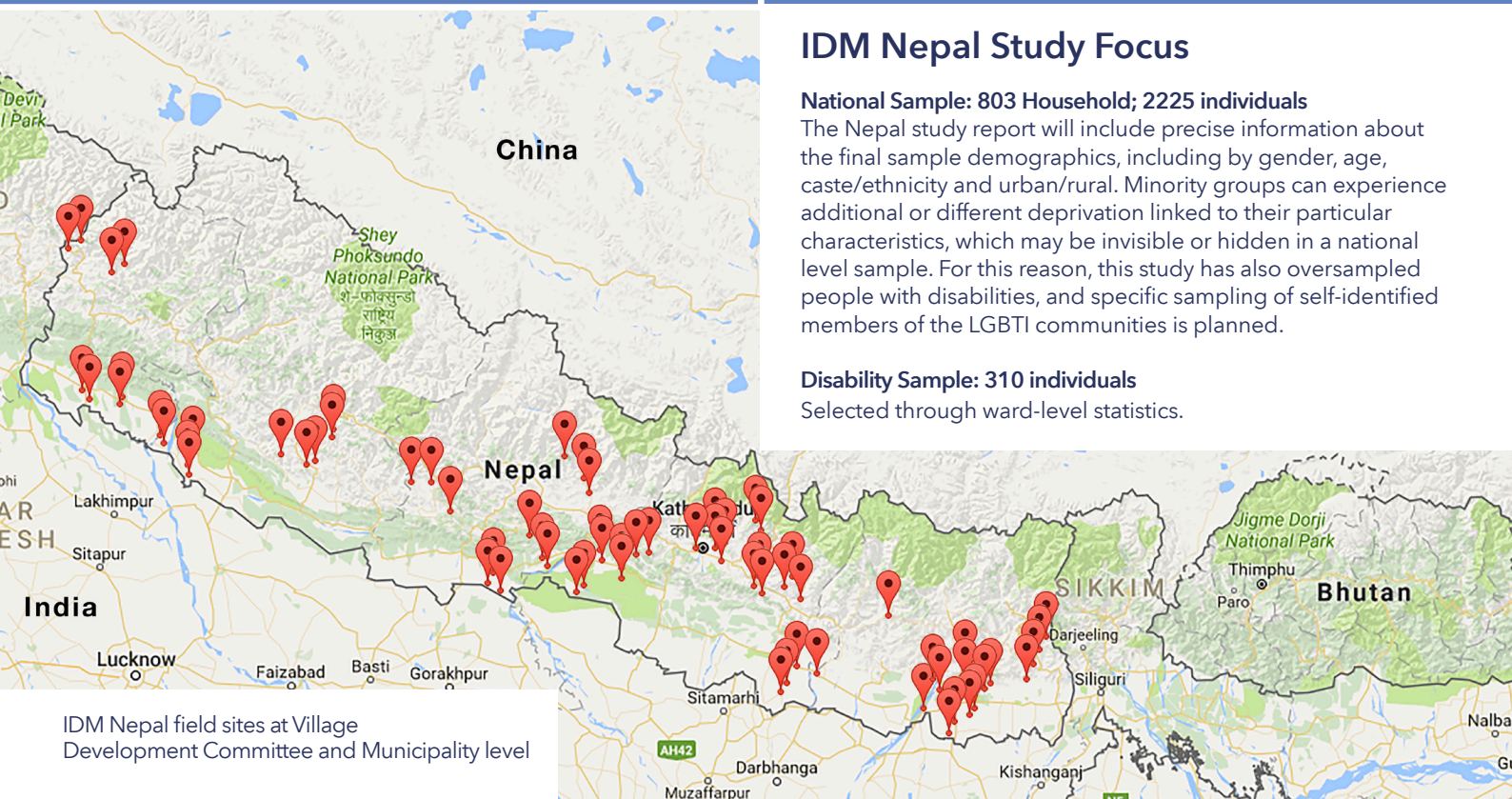
- **Level of Population: 28.51 million**
(World Bank 2015)
- **Gross National Income per capita: USD730**
(World Bank 2015)
- **International Poverty Line headcount ratio: 15%**
(World Bank 2016)
- **Human Development Index: 0.548**
(ranked 145/188 countries; 'Low Human Development') (UNDP 2014)
- **Multidimensional Poverty Index (population in multidimensional poverty): 41.4%**
(UNDP 2014)
- **Global Gender Gap Index: 0.605**
(ranked 110/145 countries) (World Economic Forum 2015)
- **Infant mortality rate (per 1,000): 29**
(World Bank 2015)
- **Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births): 258**
(World Bank 2015)

Nepal Background

Nepal is a post-conflict state and a relatively new democracy. The transition towards democracy has been characterised by the ongoing impact of population displacement, and political instability as regional, ethnic, and caste groups jostle for power in the emerging governance system. Nepal is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world, with over 300 different caste and ethnic groups, and significant inequality based on positioning in the caste system. Gender inequality is also pronounced, with Nepal ranked 110 out of 145 economies on the Global Gender Gap Index based on women's access and participation relative to men in the economy, education, health and politics.

Nepal is geographically divided into 16 Eco-development regions. Geographical differences, including severity of terrain and extreme climates, impact susceptibility to natural disasters, population density, food production, access to services, and quality of local governance. These differences combined with poor infrastructure, a difficult regulatory environment, instability in the financial sector, reliance on agriculture as one-third of GDP, and lack of education. Daily life is shaped by long power shortages, fuel scarcity, and insecurity.

National deprivation was exacerbated by an earthquake in April 2015, in which 9000 people were killed, 22,000 injured, and widespread destruction to property and infrastructure left 3.5 million people homeless. International aid following the earthquake is broadly considered not to have reached the majority of Nepalis. Following the promulgation of a new Constitution in September 2015, political agitation led to a blockade at the Indian border until December of 2015, halting the transport of gas, oil, petrol, and medicine into Nepal, and heavily affecting agricultural production.



IDM Nepal Study Focus

National Sample: 803 Household; 2225 individuals

The Nepal study report will include precise information about the final sample demographics, including by gender, age, caste/ethnicity and urban/rural. Minority groups can experience additional or different deprivation linked to their particular characteristics, which may be invisible or hidden in a national level sample. For this reason, this study has also oversampled people with disabilities, and specific sampling of self-identified members of the LGBTI communities is planned.

Disability Sample: 310 individuals

Selected through ward-level statistics.

IDM Nepal field sites at Village Development Committee and Municipality level

IDM Nepal Methodology

The IDM program is a partnership between the Australian National University, International Women's Development Agency and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. IWDA engaged a research consultancy organisation based in Kathmandu, Inter Disciplinary Analysts (IDA), to implement the IDM Nepal study. IDA worked with IWDA staff to contextualise and translate IDM study documentation including questionnaires and provide enumerator training and data collection. IDM surveys were pre-tested with 50 participants, and adjustments made based on this pilot. The survey was programmed onto tablets using Open Data Kit and pre-tested again.

Forty-seven local enumerators including six field supervisors were trained in the aims of the research, ethical requirements including informed consent, sampling strategies and administration of the survey including tablet administration. Enumerators and participants were matched on gender and caste/ethnicity to the extent practically possible and data collection took place during September 2016.

An IDM survey is implemented via a short household questionnaire, completed by one knowledgeable household member, which includes listing all household members, present or absent, and an individual questionnaire, to be completed by all adults currently present in the household. The Nepal study included a specific question about migration status: internal, external, and non-migrant. The information about absentee household members includes age, gender, and whether the household receives remittances from these individuals.

1692 individual participants from 803 households completed the IDM survey in Nepal. A stratified random sampling design was used, to ensure representation of all sub-groups within the population. Sampling included 13 of the 16 Eco-development regions and 16 districts within these regions. Within the districts, 10 municipalities and 37 Village Development Committees were randomly selected. Households were randomly selected from 93 wards. The individual IDM survey was undertaken with as many adult members of each household as possible.

An additional 310 people with disabilities were also surveyed to allow further insights into the relationship between functional difficulties and poverty. The IDM incorporates the Washington Group Short Questions to assess disability and enable analysis of IDM scores by extent of disabilities. These six questions were developed by a specialist international disability statistics group for use in general surveys when only a small number of specific questions on disability can be included.

The Nepal IDM study also incorporated a short set of questions to assess mental distress and health, potentially extremely important in a nation that has recently experienced multiple traumas. The Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10) is a 10-item questionnaire intended to yield a globally comparable measure of distress based on questions about anxiety and depressive symptoms that a person has experienced in the last four weeks.

Harnessing Technology

The IDM program recognises the importance of harnessing technology to improve data collection speed and accuracy, and provide rapid access to the collected data. The Nepal study was the first IDM study to use a digitised survey running on Android tablets. This provided an opportunity to evaluate the use of a digital survey tool for undertaking an IDM study. This will inform our approach to incorporating technology to support IDM uptake and use. Our goal is for the IDM to be globally available, with technology facilitating data collection, storage and security, and data analysis and display.

What's Next

Data collection for this study was completed early October 2016 and analysis is underway with initial findings to be released in 2017. These findings will provide insights into multidimensional deprivation in Nepal and inform work on the Individual Deprivation Measure, which is currently under refinement. A minimum of six country studies will enable us to assess the performance of the IDM in a range of contexts and further refine the measure, including the survey and method of analysis. This is to ensure that we can meet our goal that by 2020, a robust measure is ready for global use.

Please stay connected and learn more about this exciting program by visiting our website at

individualdeprivationmeasure.org



Nepal Case Study: Radhika, Earthquake Camp, Kathmandu

Radhika*, 58, is originally from Trisuli in Nepal's Central district, where she ran a small store. The 2015 earthquake destroyed the building where she rented her store, killing 11 people, including the landlord and his family. She found it too difficult to return afterwards, and has lived in an earthquake camp in Kathmandu for 18 months. She earned money as a babysitter for a short time, but currently has no work.

She sees the condition of the camp deteriorating, with increasing amounts of theft.

“There used to be support in the camp like water, toilets, and health care, but now it is not as it used to be.”

“Life is hard here... If someone brings something to the camp, people who are stronger claim it first.”

The previous day, an older man who lived in the tent next to her died suddenly, falling over in the toilet. Six small outdoor toilets are shared by the entire camp.

Obtaining water has become difficult, as it has to be carried in buckets from a public tap located outside of the campgrounds, used communally by the hundreds of people still living in the camp.

Radhika has rigged a water collecting system (pictured left) consisting of a gutter attached to the roof of her tent. The gutter is made from a bamboo stick split down the middle, which funnels rain water through a series of plastic bottles into a small tank on the ground. Between two nearby tents, she has grown a patch of corn, coriander, chilli and marigolds, which are used as offerings in her Hindu faith. She proudly poses for a photo next to her tallest marigold plant.

Water, food, shelter, health, sanitation, work, relationships and violence are eight of the IDM's 15 dimensions.

*Radhika is not a participant in the study.



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Photography: Alice Floyd, Nepal, 2016

The IDM Program is a partnership between the Australian National University, the International Women's Development Agency and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The original research that developed the IDM was a four-year, international, interdisciplinary research collaboration, led by the Australian National University, in partnership with the International Women's Development Agency and the Philippine Health and Social Science Association, University of Colorado at Boulder, 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. Subsequent IDM research undertaken in Fiji was led by IWDA in partnership with the Fiji Bureau of Statistics with contributions from the State, Society and Governance Program at the ANU. It was funded by the Australian Government's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.