

# Individual Deprivation Measure



We've been measuring poverty wrong



Right now, the world only measures the poverty of households. This means that we are blind to the circumstances of individuals within households.

Furthermore, poverty measurement also focusses mainly on money when there are other factors that also matter to poor women and men.

What's wrong with that?



We don't understand poverty as well as we could

We don't take the views of poor women and men into account

We can't tell how gender, age, disability and ethnicity affect the poverty of an individual

which means we're not doing everything we can to fix it

What's the solution?



The Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) is a new tool that measures:

- The poverty of individuals, not just households
- Differences in how women and men experience poverty

The IDM recognises that escaping poverty requires more than just money. This is why it assesses **15 key areas of life** for each individual:



Why is the IDM important?

It is the first poverty measure in the world based on the views of poor women and men.



We can see which factors make them poor, and the extent of their poverty.

By measuring the poverty of individuals instead of households, the IDM can show differences by gender, age, disability and ethnicity, **including within households.**

Any differences between women and men in each area of life can also be added up to generate a new gender equity measure that is relevant to poor people.

How does the IDM work?



The IDM is cost effective and practical. **An individual survey takes 60 minutes.** It requires no special equipment for data collectors.

Not only will the IDM help governments and organisations target poverty more effectively, it will also help them measure success or failure, revealing what aspects of poverty are changing, by how much—and for whom.

For more information please visit the International Women's Development Agency website [www.iwda.org.au](http://www.iwda.org.au)



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