

# 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 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.

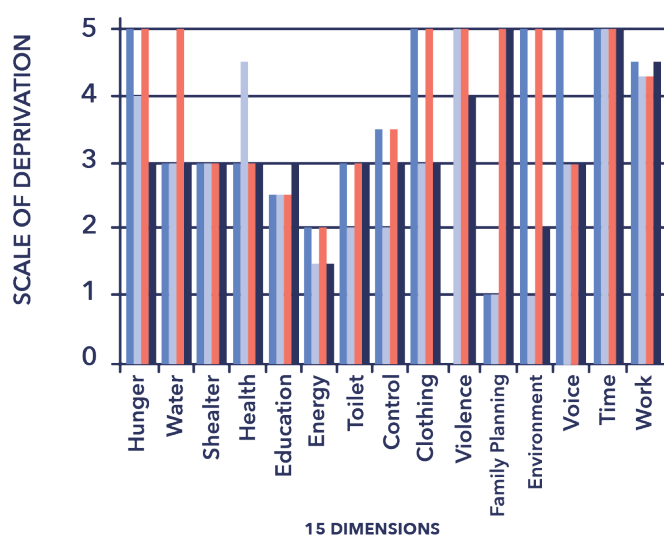
1. It assesses poverty at the **individual level**, enabling accurate disaggregation of data by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, geographic location and more.
2. It considers a wider range of factors as relevant to measuring poverty, assessing **15 key economic and social dimensions** including 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. It 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

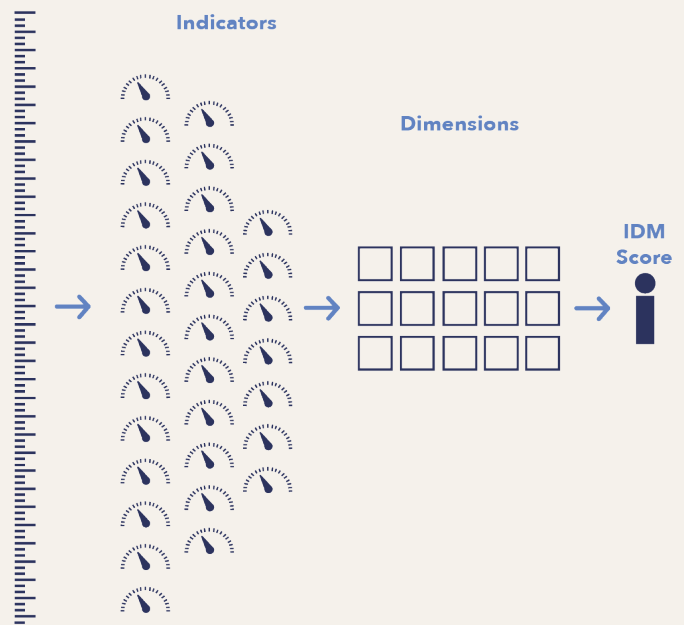
## QUESTIONS

- 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



[individualdeprivationmeasure.org](http://individualdeprivationmeasure.org)

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 ANU. It was funded by the Australian Government's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.