

6. 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index – Reports

The 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has been jointly released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2025 – Overview

1. Background and Purpose

Developed by – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.

Launch – Introduced in 2010, with annual or biennial updates.

Objective –

1. Measure poverty beyond income-based metrics by assessing deprivations across health, education, and living standards.
2. Provide policy-relevant insights to inform SDG-aligned poverty reduction strategies.

Key Principle – People are considered “multidimensionally poor” if they are deprived in at least one-third of weighted indicators.

2. Methodology

Indicators Covered –

Health – Child mortality, nutrition.

Education – Years of schooling, school attendance.

Living Standards – Electricity, sanitation, clean cooking fuel, housing, drinking water, asset ownership.

Index Range – 0 to 1, with higher values indicating higher levels of multidimensional poverty.

2025 Edition Innovation – For the first time, maps poor populations’ exposure to climate hazards – high heat, droughts, floods, and air pollution.

3. Global Findings

a. Overall Status

Population – 6.3 billion people in developing countries analyzed.

Multidimensionally Poor – 1.1 billion people (18.3%).

Exposure to Climate Hazards – 887 million poor people live in areas affected by at least one climate hazard, highlighting climate vulnerability among the poor.

b. Demographic Profile

Children (0–17 years) – 27.8% are poor (~586 million), forming more than half of all multidimensionally poor people. Adult poverty rate is 13.5%, showing children disproportionately affected.

Rural–Urban Divide – 83.5% of poor people live in rural areas, though only 54.9% of the population resides there. Indicates the persistence of rural poverty and limited access to services.

Human Development Link – 90.5% of poor people live in low or medium Human Development Index (HDI) countries, reinforcing the link between poverty and broader human development deficits.

c. Regional Concentration

Sub-Saharan Africa – 565 million poor (~51% of the regional population).

South Asia – 390 million poor (~35%).

Combined – 83.2% of global multidimensional poverty concentrated in these two regions. Highlights the regional disparities in poverty reduction and need for targeted interventions.

4. India’s Progress and Challenges

a. Progress in Multidimensional Poverty Reduction

Decline in MPI – From 55.1% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21. Approximately 414 million people moved out of poverty over this period. Demonstrates significant success in social policies, economic growth, and public service delivery.

b. Vulnerability – Additional 18.7% of the population (~269 million) is vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, meaning they experience several deprivations but not enough to be classified as poor. Signals the risk of poverty relapse, especially under climate shocks, economic crises, or pandemics.

c. Common Deprivations in India

Clean Cooking Fuel – 970 million people still lack access.

Housing – 878 million live in inadequate or unsafe housing conditions.

Sanitation – 830 million face poor or no sanitation facilities.

Undernutrition – 635 million live in households with at least one undernourished member.

Education – 581 million live in households where no one has completed six years of schooling. Reflects that basic services, nutrition, and education remain persistent challenges, even after significant poverty reduction.

5. Policy Implications

Climate Vulnerability – Linking MPI with climate hazards underscores that poverty alleviation strategies must integrate climate resilience. Poor populations are most exposed to heatwaves, floods, droughts, and air pollution, making them highly vulnerable to climate-induced shocks.

Child-Centric Policies – Since children form over half of the poor, interventions in nutrition, education, and health are critical to break intergenerational poverty cycles.

Rural Development Focus – Majority of poor are rural; thus, improving rural infrastructure, connectivity, access to healthcare, sanitation, and education is essential.

Monitoring and Targeting – MPI provides evidence-based targeting, allowing governments and development agencies to prioritize interventions for multidimensionally poor populations.

Global SDG Linkages – MPI indicators align with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including –

SDG 1 – No Poverty

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being

SDG 4 – Quality Education

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

6. Conclusion

The 2025 Global MPI emphasizes that poverty is multidimensional, not merely income-based. India's progress demonstrates the effectiveness of targeted social programs and economic development, but significant challenges remain in nutrition, housing, sanitation, clean energy, and education. Mapping poverty against climate hazards highlights the need for integrated poverty alleviation and climate adaptation strategies. To achieve SDGs and sustainable development, policies must combine economic empowerment, social protection, climate resilience, and human development investments.

Source – <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/almost-all-poor-people-in-south-asia-exposed-to-one-or-more-climate-shocks>