

Individual Deprivation Measure



Poverty data is incomplete



Right now, the world measures the poverty of households. This means that we can't see the circumstances of individuals within households.

Poverty measurement also focusses mainly on money, as well as other limited aspects like health and education. Whilst important, people experiencing poverty say there are many other dimensions of life keeping them poor.

What don't we know?



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 for gender-sensitive measurement of multidimensional poverty.

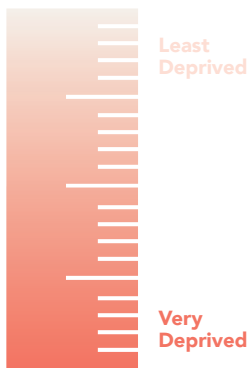
- The IDM collects primary data
- It assesses 15 dimensions of life, including dimensions important for revealing gender disparity such as family planning and time-use
- Individual-level measurement enables disaggregation by sex, age and disability
- IDM data can be analysed to reveal intersections of disadvantage



Why is the IDM important?

By measuring the poverty of individuals inside households, the IDM can show differences by gender, age and disability, within and between households.

Leading experts estimate that around 1/3 of all inequality is within households, and 2/3 between households. **By revealing inequality within households**, the IDM can contribute to a more complete understanding of inequality.



The IDM is scalar, it moves beyond categorising people as poor or not poor, providing insight into the intensity of an individual's poverty, on a scale from Very Deprived to Least Deprived.

We can see which factors make people poor, and the extent of their poverty in each of the 15 dimensions and overall.

How does the IDM work?

The IDM comprises three main technical elements:

1. A well-validated survey tool assessing 15 economic and social dimensions, enabling measurement of gendered experiences of multidimensional poverty;
2. A data collection method in which every adult in a household is asked the same questions, enabling intra-household analysis;
3. A standardised system of indicator coding, dimension scoring, and composite index construction, enabling comparative analysis.

Implementation of these core components produce the IDM: a gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty.

The IDM can help governments and organisations target poverty more effectively and assess their impact, revealing what aspects of poverty are changing, by how much and for whom.

individualdeprivationmeasure.org