

Inside the Household

An Individual-Level Measure
of Multidimensional Poverty
for an Inclusive Future



THE PROBLEM

Global poverty is measured at a household-level, rather than an individual level.

This assumes that people living in the same house experience poverty in the same way.

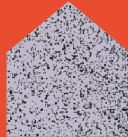
But we know that gender, age, disability and other characteristics shape how people experience poverty.

When we only measure at the Household-level, individual needs, circumstances and lived realities are hidden.





We cannot address
problems that we
cannot see.



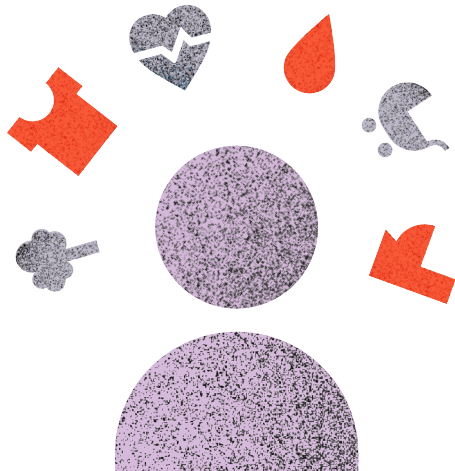


HOW DO WE FIX THIS?

Individual-level Measurement

The solution is to collect, analyse and use data from individuals. By recognising the differences between people, an individual approach provides insights that accurately reflect the realities of people's lives.

An individual approach asks every adult in a household about their circumstances, enabling the design of more effective and inclusive policies and programs.



THE SOLUTION

Introducing Equality Insights

A measure of poverty and inequality that provides inclusive, individual and intersectional insights.



**EQUALITY
INSIGHTS**

Understand Poverty.
Inspire Change.



Within Household



Intersectional



Gender-sensitive



Scalar



Multidimensional

EQUALITY INSIGHTS IS...

Within Household

By collecting data at an individual-level, *Equality Insights* provides inclusive and accurate insights that capture inequalities between people living inside the same home.

This further allows us to disaggregate data meaningfully.



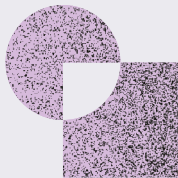


EQUALITY INSIGHTS IS...

Intersectional

An individual approach allows for analysis by gender, age, disability, socio-cultural background, marital status, number of children and rural/urban among other characteristics.

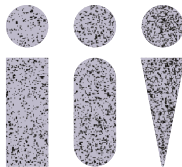
It reveals the implications of overlapping barriers and the ways they intersect to influence experiences of poverty.



EQUALITY INSIGHTS IS...

Gender Sensitive

Equality Insights assesses areas of life that are shaped by gender. We ask questions that show how gender influences experiences of poverty and inequality.

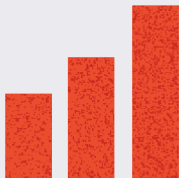




EQUALITY INSIGHTS IS...

Scalar

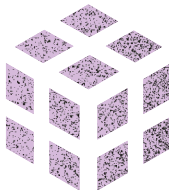
Equality Insights uses a scale to understand the severity or depth of poverty that is being experienced. This is important for understanding levels of hardship, allocating resources effectively, and tracking progress over time.



EQUALITY INSIGHTS IS...

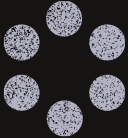
Multidimensional

Equality Insights collects data across 15 dimensions of life that were identified by people with lived experience of poverty. It further assesses financial deprivation by collecting data about assets, to provide insights into both multidimensional and financial poverty.



Introducing Equality Insights' Dimensions

The *Equality Insights* survey collects information about 15 key areas of life including social, economic and environmental dimensions, as well as assets. These were developed through participatory research with more than 3000 people in six countries putting the views and concerns of people with lived experience of poverty at the centre.





Clothing



Education



Energy



Environment



Family Planning



Food



Health



Relationships



Safety



Sanitation



Shelter



Time Use



Voice



Water



Work



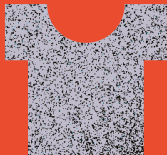
Assets



DIMENSION

Clothing

A lack of adequate clothing can be a marker of poverty. It influences a person's physical appearance and social circumstances. A lack of protective clothing can also lead to injury.



25%

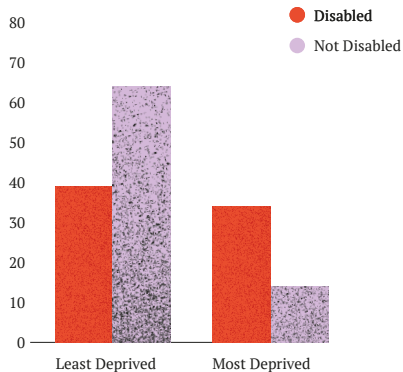
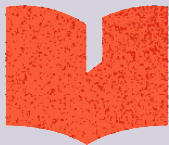
Nearly 25 percent of people in our Solomon Islands study reported that they did not have at least two pairs of shoes that were the right size and appropriate for their needs.



DIMENSION

Education

Quality education is key to moving out of poverty. But poverty is a major barrier to education.



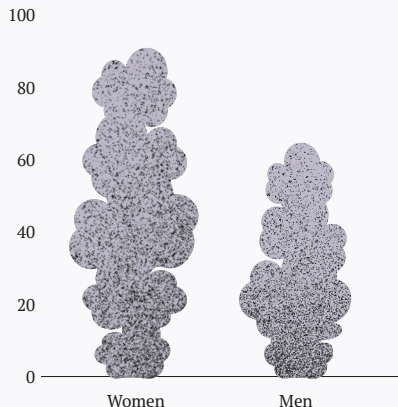
34%

In South Africa, 34 percent of people living with disabilities are considered most-deprived in Education, across educational completion and functional literacy and numeracy.

DIMENSION

Energy

Access to reliable and affordable energy raises living standards. By contrast, unaffordable and unclean energy can have adverse consequences for both individuals and communities.



91%

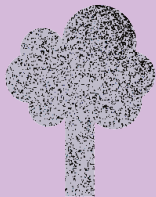
In Fiji, 91 percent of women reported exposure to fumes related to cooking and heating, compared to 65 percent of men.



DIMENSION

Environment

Those living in poverty are more likely to experience environmental harms, such as the impacts of pollution or climate change.



82%

Our data revealed the daily activities of 82 percent of people in Tonga had been impacted by natural hazards in the past 12 months.

DIMENSION

Family Planning

The ability to control fertility impacts women's education and employment opportunities, and can often lead to improvement in their economic security and overall wellbeing of the household.



48%

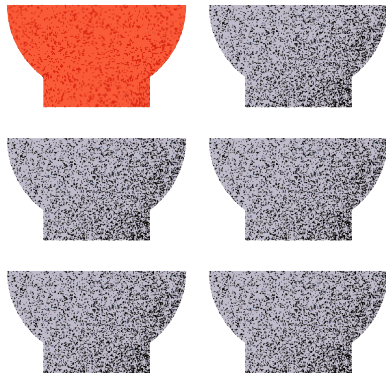
In Solomon Islands, 48 percent of respondents experienced some level of deprivation in Family Planning. Deprivation was more common for people aged between 18-29 compared to people aged between 30-59 years.



DIMENSION

Food

Food security is a core dimension of living free from poverty and shapes many other dimensions of life.



1/6

In Solomon Islands in 2020, 1 in 6 respondents said they went a full day and night without food in the past month.



DIMENSION

Health

People living in poverty are more likely to suffer worse health outcomes and die earlier than people who are not living in poverty.



Under 25



25-64



65 and above



65%

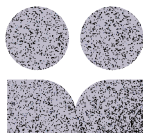
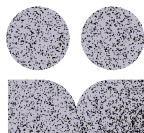
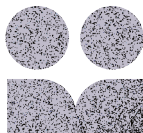
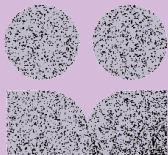
In South Africa, the data revealed 65 percent of people aged under 25 were least deprived in the Health dimension compared with only 42 percent of people aged 65 and older.



DIMENSION

Relationships

Someone with a strong support network that they can draw on routinely and in emergencies is likely to be better off than someone without such support, all other things being equal.



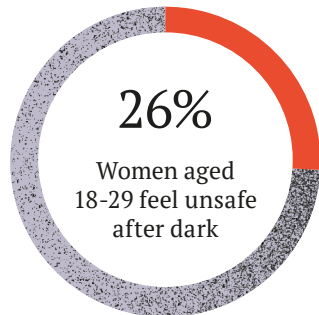
1/4

In Solomon Islands in 2020, a quarter of people surveyed depended on someone outside of their household for basic survival necessities because they could not provide them alone.

DIMENSION

Safety

Threats to an individual's safety and physical integrity are a substantial deprivation. People's experiences and sense of safety can differ widely, often on the basis of gender. Access to family planning can improve women's economic security and the overall wellbeing of their households.



OVER
 $\frac{1}{4}$

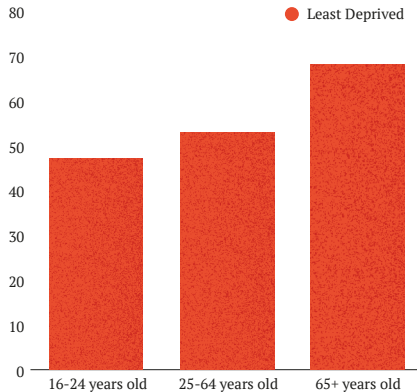
In Tonga, women experienced unwanted behaviours in public and felt unsafe after dark more often than men. This was more likely for younger women. Over a quarter of women aged 18-29 experienced unwanted behaviours in public compared to 6 percent aged 60 and over.



DIMENSION

Sanitation

Access to sanitation facilities is a human right. It is a core goal of sustainable development and poverty eradication.



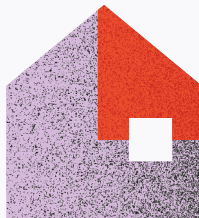
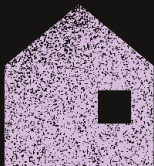
In South Africa, people aged 65 and over experience lower levels of deprivation in the Sanitation dimension, compared to other age groups.



DIMENSION

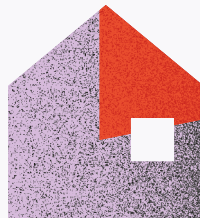
Shelter

Access to housing is important for survival, providing security, protection and dignity. While shelter may be a shared resource for household members, control over that resource is not always shared.



25%

Urban
Respondants



21%

Rural
Respondants

Unsafe housing structures were a prominent issue in Solomon Islands in 2020. The data revealed 25 percent of urban respondents and 21 percent of rural respondents lived in dwellings considered unsafe.



DIMENSION

Time Use

Time use refers to the hours spent on different activities such as paid work, unpaid and care work or leisure. Access to infrastructure or technology can reduce time spent on subsistence or income-related activities, leaving more hours for other vital or valued tasks.



Females doing
care work

Males doing
care work

In 2022 in Solomon Islands, 70 percent of women compared to 55 percent of men assumed caring responsibilities for people older than 15 years, people with a disability, or older people.



DIMENSION

Voice

The capability to influence decisions shapes current and future circumstances. When someone's voice goes unheard, it restricts their ability to improve their circumstances or influence the decisions that affect their life.



Men



Rural
Women



Urban
Women

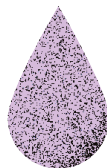
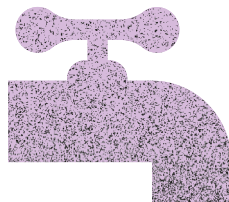
In Tonga, both women in rural areas and men in any location were almost twice as likely to go to leaders with a problem than women in urban locations.



DIMENSION

Water

Access to water is a human right. Insufficient, unaffordable, unsafe and inaccessible water can have negative health impacts and worsen social constraints.



63%

Women

70%

Men

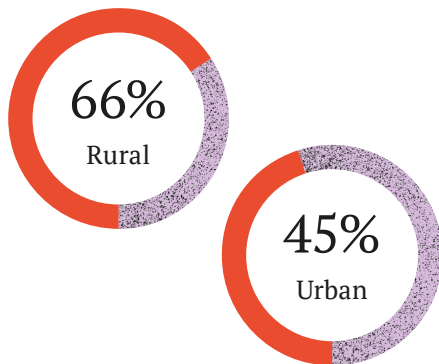
In Fiji, 63 percent of women and 70 percent of men reported that they had enough water to meet their needs.



DIMENSION

Work

Both paid and unpaid work are linked with poverty. But the focus of traditional poverty measures on assessing income and expenditure ignores both the contributions and constraints of unpaid work.

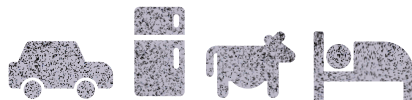
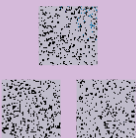


Rural areas of Tonga had higher levels of work deprivation compared to urban areas, with 66 percent of people in rural areas meeting the threshold of deprivation compared to 45 percent of people in urban areas.



Assets

Equality Insights measures financial deprivation by assessing assets as a proxy, to show where multidimensional and financial circumstances are related, and where they are not.



By measuring financial circumstance and multidimensional deprivation separately, it recognises that not all aspects of poverty can be address by improving an individual's financial circumstances.



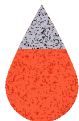
Uncovering 'Hidden' Poverty

An individual measurement approach further reveals poverty experienced by individuals living in households that are not considered poor.

For example, in Solomon Islands in 2020, a proportion of individuals were experiencing poverty across certain dimensions living in households not classified as poor.



86%



71%



18%



85%



92%



94%



48%



77%



Looking Inside the Household

An individual measurement approach provides granular insights into lived experiences. For example, findings from Fiji showed a relationship between gender, energy, and health. On average, women were exposed to fumes for 105 minutes per day compared to 24 minutes for men.

Women were twice as likely as men to suffer health problems linked to unclean cooking and heating fuel.



Women
105 Minutes



Men
24 Minutes

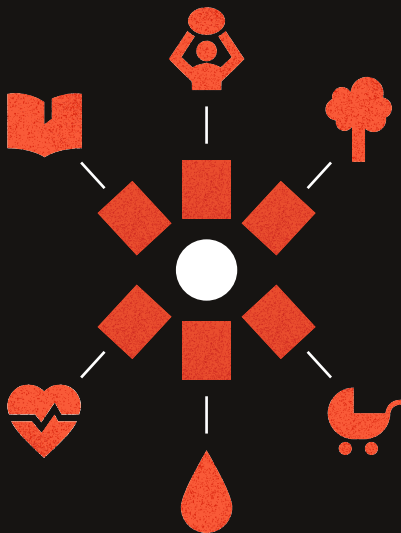
DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

Individual-level data enables practitioners and policy makers to respond effectively and efficiently to people's needs and circumstances.

By shining a light on lived experiences – including the barriers and opportunities facing individuals – individual measurement supports the design of targeted and robust solutions that ensure no one is left behind.

This is the power of inclusive poverty measurement.

This is the power of *Equality Insights*.





THE ICOUNT COALITION

Together with our partners and collaborators, we are working to transform the development data landscape and make inclusive data the norm.

Formed by *Equality Insights*, iCount is an inclusive data coalition with members from government, civil society, academia, and other networks that are driving data innovations and working to increase visibility and inclusion of marginalised groups in global development data.

The aim of iCount is to ensure an ambitious global data framework that measures what matters for the inclusive realisation of the right to development for all.

Learn more and join us!



iCOUNT!



Inclusive data for
gender equality,
reducing poverty and
leaving no one behind.

