UNECE Guide on poverty measurement

Task Force members:

Chile, Colombia, Italy, Georgia, Germany, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom, CIS-STAT, Eurostat, OECD, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

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What are the objectives of the Guide?

- The **main objectives** are:
  
  (a) raise awareness on the importance of poverty statistics
  
  (b) provide guidance to countries in applying various measurement approaches
  
  (c) improve the international comparability.
Content of the Guide

- Executive summary (including recommendations)
- Introduction
- Chapter 1. Conceptual background
- Chapter 2. Monetary poverty
- Chapter 3. Subjective poverty
- Chapter 4. Multidimensional poverty, including material deprivation
- Chapter 5. Challenges for the future

(Recommendations at the end of each chapter)
Chapter 1: Conceptual background

- Overview of poverty and related concepts
- Importance of poverty measurement
- Advantages and disadvantages of different approaches
- Methodological choices
- Measurement challenges in our contemporary world
Chapter 2: Monetary poverty

- Traditional income and consumption expenditure measures
- Concepts and definitions/Data sources/Advantages and disadvantages
- Measurement issues: self-employment income, goods and services produced for own consumption, transfers between households, social transfers and transfers in kind
Chapter 2: Monetary poverty
(Tentative recommendations)

• Internationally agreed criteria for poverty thresholds for the cost of basic food or non-food needs or when using certain percentage of the median income.

• Publish all the necessary metadata.

• Disaggregate data whenever possible, especially with regard to the distinction between urban and rural areas, age and sex. Differences in results may be extremely large, independent of the threshold adopted.
Chapter 3: Subjective poverty

- Importance of a person’s own subjective perceptions of his or her well-being

- How subjective poverty measures can be used to improve other poverty measures?
Chapter 4: Multidimensional poverty, including material deprivation

- Why multidimensional poverty measures are gaining importance?

- Measurement challenges

- Guidance to countries interested in developing multidimensional poverty measures
Next steps and milestones

Next steps

– Finishing work on particular chapters of the Guide
– Working out the recommendations
– Providing coherence of the content

02/2017 meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
03-04/2017 formal consultation with countries
06/2017 expected adoption of the Guide by CES plenary
12/2017 Guide on measuring poverty published