

# 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

