

Approaches to Measuring Social Exclusion

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Taskforce aims

- Look beyond poverty to the wider concept of social exclusion
- Explore how social exclusion is currently measured across a range of countries
- Develop a guide to help researchers identify relevant practices and share learning
- Recommended future directions



Social exclusion is challenging to define

- It is a broad concept for which no exact or widely accepted definition exists.
- It inherently involves the juxtaposition of those who have and those who lack; is context and culturally-specific and changes over time.
- It refers to outcomes (eg, exclusion from the labour force) and to the processes by which exclusion happens (eg, discrimination).



But policy goals often relate to inclusion/ exclusion

- Recently, 'social exclusion' seems to be less prominent in policy discourse in many countries
- But a range of policy goals inherently focus on reducing social exclusion or increasing social inclusion
- May be framed as things we'd like **to limit** (inequalities, social divisions) or things we'd like **to promote** (social justice, inclusive growth, leaving no one behind)

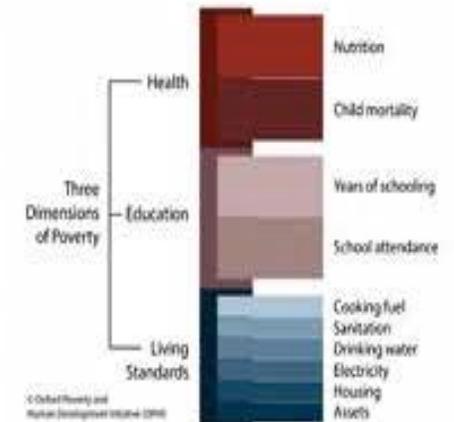


We explored common approaches to measurement

- Surveyed Taskforce members about approaches to measurement; augmented with wider literature review
- Many approaches start with poverty or material deprivation and build from there to consider exclusion in other areas of life
- Can include employment; education & skills; health & disability; access to healthcare, public services, essential infrastructure; social, political and civic engagement



What does the global MPI measure?



The UNDP social exclusion index for Europe and Central Asia



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Mihail Peleah, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Presentation at the Seminar on regional well-being indicators
(Development of the Inclusive Society Index), 19 October 2016, Brussels

And how we can be more inclusive

- In measuring social exclusion, it's imperative to include potentially marginalized groups.
- The report considers this in relation to sampling, surveys, and censuses
- And a human rights-based approach throughout the research process (eg, data collection, analysis and reporting)



We took stock of where we are now

- Survey among Taskforce members on measurement approaches, topics covered, groups included, best practice examples
- Findings showed extensive coverage of some topics (eg, economic participation, education); less on others (social, political & civic participation); limited coverage of non private household populations



And considered possible future directions

- Sharing good practices on social exclusion and linked concepts (eg, MPI)
- Using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a unifying framework
- Improving measurement of the social dimensions of social exclusion
- Using new methods and new data sources to increase inclusivity and improve coverage of hard-to-reach groups



Thank you

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