



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

ERADICATING POVERTY AND PROMOTING PROSPERITY IN A CHANGING WORLD: ADDRESSING MULTI-DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES - Q&A

10 JULY 2017, United Nations, New York, USA

QA Response Delivered by Joanne Crawford, International Women's Development Agency

Thank you Chair and panel members and discussants for highlighting the critical importance of measuring the multiple dimensions of poverty.

In its call to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, the wording of Goal 1 implicitly recognises the need to end multidimensional poverty. The MPI has made a very significant contribution to our understanding of poverty beyond money, generating a Multidimensional Poverty Index from existing data.

But use of existing data also brings limitations. In particular, the data that is drawn on to measure multidimensional poverty has been collected at the household level. This makes it impossible to accurately see the situation of individuals within households. As UN Women highlighted in its 2015-16 flagship *Progress of Women* report, without sex disaggregated data 'it is difficult to establish if women are, across the board, more likely to live in poverty than men.'

Addressing this data limitation must be a core priority.

To end poverty everywhere, we need to know who is poor, in what way, to what extent, and then use this information to drive action. This requires data about **individuals**. We also need to measure a wider range of factors, including dimensions that are gender-sensitive.

There is work underway on complementary measures to enable us to better see the relationship between gender and poverty. The Individual Deprivation Measure is a new multidimensional measure of poverty that is gender sensitive and assesses the situation of individuals in 15 key economic and social dimensions of life, including some that are fundamental to women's rights and gender equality, such as family planning, voice, time use and freedom from violence.

The IDM makes it possible to see who in a household is poor, in what ways and to what extent. It can guide policy makers with information that supports targeting of dimensions and populations.

The Australian Government is investing in readying the IDM for global use by 2020, working with the Australian National University and my organisation, International Women's Development Agency, as part of its support for closing gender data gaps.

The IDM can contribute to tracking progress on the SDGs, including covering 25% of the 53 gender-related indicators.

In this context, the Women's Major Group is keen to hear the panel's views about pathways to individual multidimensional poverty measurement so that accurate disaggregation is possible.