



2021 Nigeria's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Statistical Snapshots





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Introduction

In 2018 Nigeria published a National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) constructed by the NBS in the Human Development Report, which was built from a bespoke survey that had been previously designed by NBS. Nigeria first MPI contained all the dimensions and indicators of the global MPI, plus a work dimension that contained one indicator of unemployment.

State-level disaggregation of the National MPI 2018 showed strong disparities. Ordinarily, a national MPI would not be changed within a decade. However, Nigeria MPI was designed prior to 2018, as its structure was based on the global MPI 2010. Five of the ten indicators in the global MPI were adjusted in 2018 to better align with the SDGs.

Furthermore, consultations with stakeholder groups clearly concluded that additional indicators were needed to accurately reflect poverty post-pandemic—including among children.

The National MPI 2022 survey questionnaire was therefore expanded to include additional variables that were relevant given the new context and national priorities—such as food security, water reliability, underemployment, security shocks and school lag, plus child deprivations. The new survey design was based on multiple consultations across government, civil society, academia and development partners.

The overall objective of the 2021/22 MPI Survey was to provide essential data to compute the MPI for Nigeria with sufficient disaggregation to guide local poverty actions. The information collected through this survey is intended to assist policymakers and programme managers to set targets and track trends over time on multidimensional poverty, as well as to identify the need for new interventions in specific areas.

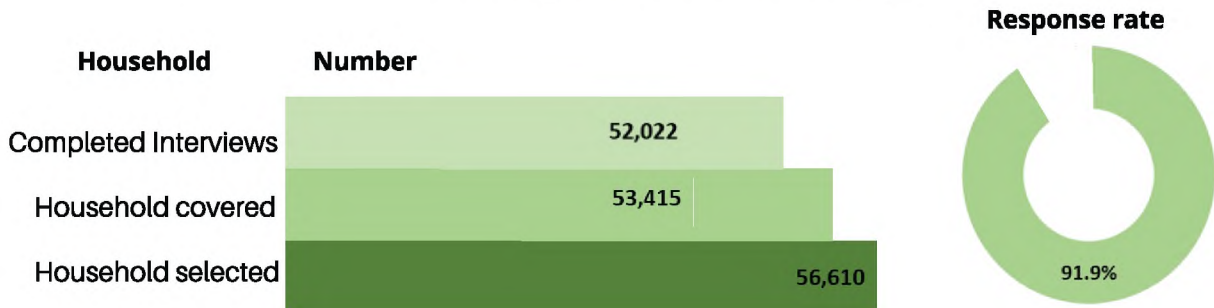
Key Definitions

Incidence of MPI: The percentage of the population who are multidimensionally poor. Value ranges from 0 to 100%. Sometimes called the headcount ratio.

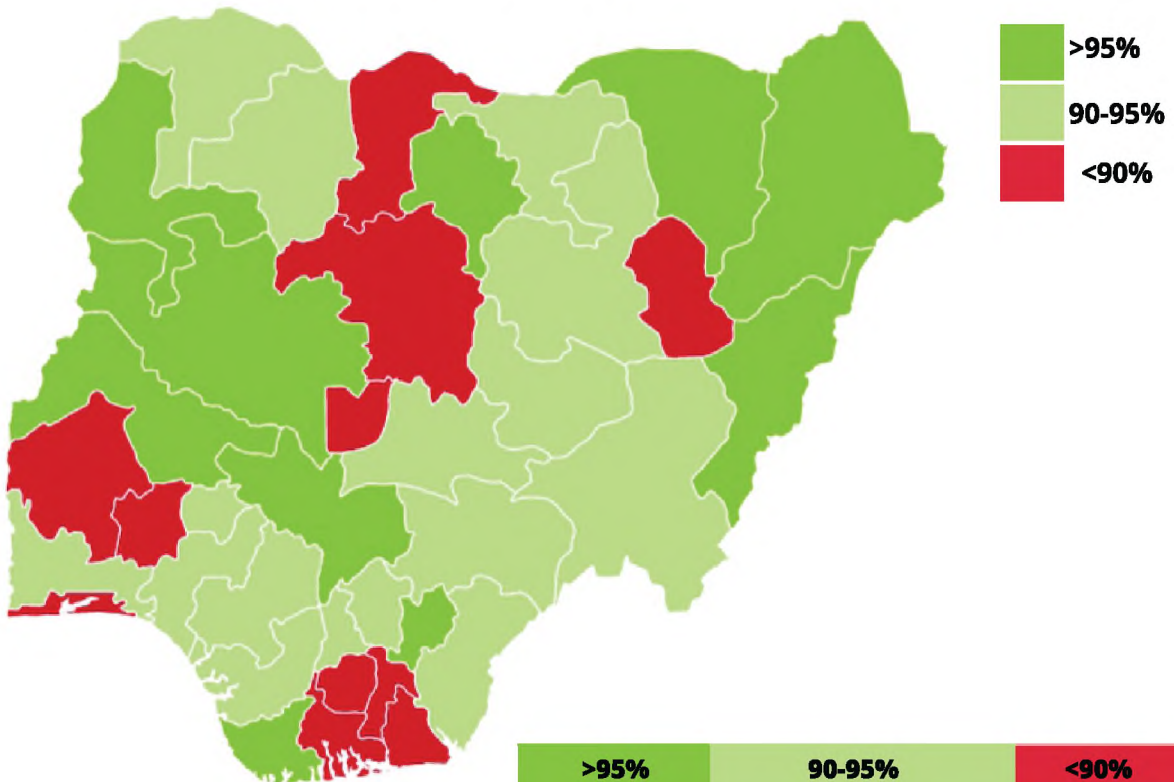
Intensity: The average percentage of Weighted indicators in which poor people are deprived or, equivalently, the average deprivation score of poor people (ranges up to 100%).

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), the share of possible deprivations that poor people experience. Value ranges from 0 to 1, with 1 showing higher poverty.

Sample Summary



Response rate by State



Sample Design

The sample was designed to be representative across 109 senatorial districts, 36 states and FCT Abuja. 34 enumeration areas (EAs) were selected per senatorial district, giving a total of 3,774 EAs.

The design was a two-stage stratification process:

- The first stage involved the selection of 3,774 EAs.
- The second stage was the selection of the household. 15 households per EA. This resulted in the selection of 1,530 households per state, giving a total of 56,610 households nationally.

• Pre-test/training of field staff

A pre-test and training of field staff took place in September 2021. Piloting occurred in a total of four states– two states from the northern part (Kano and Plateau) and 2 states from the southern part (Akwa Ibom & Lagos) of Nigeria. Two teams were constituted per state, comprising a supervisor and four enumerators per team, resulting in a total of 40 enumerators for the pre-test.

• Main survey

For the main survey, the training of field staff took place in November 2021 in each of the 36 states and FCT Abuja. Four teams were constituted per state comprising a supervisor, three enumerators and one measurer per team, resulting in 740 enumerators nationally.

56,610 households were selected for face-to-face interviews, of which 53,415 interviews were covered and 52,022 were completed, giving a response rate of 91.9%.

• Ensuring data quality

The face-to-face interview was conducted using the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPRO) and computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) data entry. In addition to the field supervision of the enumeration teams, a team of data quality protocols were established for real time online data checks comprising:

- A Data Administrator who ensured the connectivity of the CAPI devices to the server and monitored downloading and uploading of data to and from enumerators in the field.
- 18 Data Editors, each responsible for two states each, who checked for any errors in the data downloaded from the server and communicated to the enumerators if any corrections or clarifications were required.
- A data cleaning team who cleaned the data in CSPRO and Stata prior to its analysis.

Finally, all COVID-19 protocols were duly observed by enumerators, with face masks and hand sanitizers used at all times during and after each interview in the field.

MPI Dimensions & Indicators

Dimension	Indicator	Deprivation Cutoff: A household is deprived if...	SDG Goal, Target or Indicator	Weight
Health	Nutrition	A household is deprived if any child under the age of 5 is undernourished, i.e. stunted or underweight OR if there is any adult household member with a body mass index lower than 18.5	2.2.1/2	1/12
	Food insecurity	The household is severely food insecure according to FIES (the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, ≥ 7 answers affirmatively)	2.1.2	1/12
	Time to healthcare	A household is deprived if it takes them 30 minutes or more to reach the nearest functional health facility or primary health care centre on foot	3.8	1/12
Education	School attendance	A household is deprived if any child between age 6 and 15 years is not attending school	4.1	3/32
	Years of schooling	A household is deprived if no member 15 years and above has completed primary school	4.6	1/8
	School lag	A household is deprived if any child aged school age + 2 years (8-17 years of age) is educationally lagging at least two years (grades) behind	4.1.1	1/32
Living Standards	Water	The household does not have access to safe drinking water (according to SDG guidelines)	3.9.2	1/24
	Water reliability	A household is deprived if they have drinking water available for less than 20 days per month OR for less than 4 hours per day	6.1	1/24
	Sanitation	The household's sanitation facility is not improved (according to SDG guidelines), or it is improved but shared with other households	3.9.2	1/24
	Housing materials	The household has natural/rudimentary floor, roof or wall	11.1.1	1/24
	Cooking fuel	The household cooks with dung, wood or charcoal etc	3.9.1	1/24
	Assets	The household has less than two assets and does not own a car	1	1/24
Work & Shocks	Un-employment	The household is deprived if any member 15 years and above is unemployed - not in employment, but looking for work and available for work	8.5.2	1/10
	Under-employment	A household is deprived if at least one household member 15 years and above is working for less than 40 hours per week but is available and willing to do extra hours of work	8.5	1/20
	Security shock	A household is deprived if it experienced at least one shock, Over the past 12 months	16.1.1/3/4	1/10

Nigeria National MPI - Key Results



Sixty-three percent of people—133 million— are multidimensionally poor.



The National MPI is 0.257, showing that poor people in Nigeria experience just over one quarter of all possible deprivations.



Over half of the population are multidimensionally poor and deprived in cooking fuel. High deprivations are also apparent in sanitation, time to healthcare, food insecurity and housing.



Multidimensional poverty is higher in rural areas, where 72% of people are poor, compared to 42% of people in urban areas. Approximately 70% of Nigeria's population live in rural areas, yet rural areas are home to 80% of poor people, and their intensity of poverty is also higher: 42% in rural areas compared to 37% in urban areas.



Sixty-five percent of poor people—86 million—live in the North, while 35%—nearly 47 million - live in the South.



Poverty levels across States vary significantly, with the incidence of multidimensional poverty ranging from a low of 27% in Ondo to a high of 91% in Sokoto.



Seventy-one percent of people living in households with at least one person living with a disability (PLWD) are poor, compared to 62% of people who live in households where no one is living with a disability.



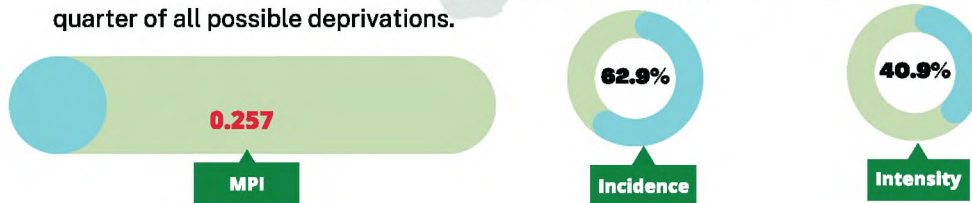
In total, 29% of all school-aged children are not attending school, and 94% of all out of-school children are poor. Thus, 27% of all school-aged children are both poor and out of school (with no significant gender disparities)



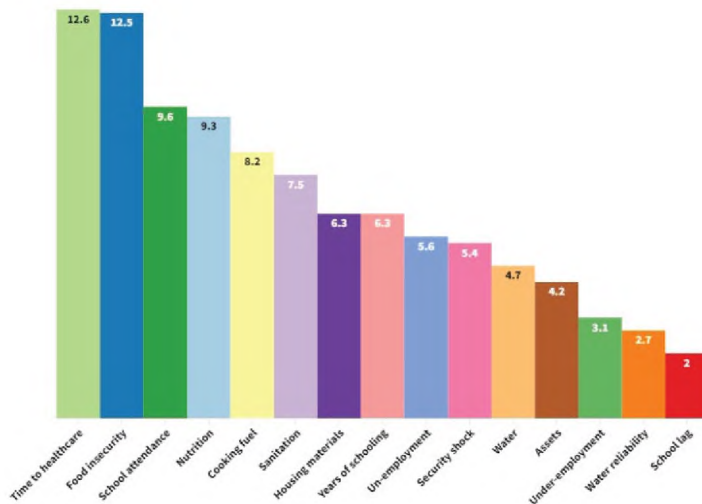
According to the 2018/19 national monetary poverty line, 40.1% of Nigerians are poor, while 63% are multidimensionally poor according to the National MPI 2022.

NATIONAL

According to the 2022 MPI, 62.9% of people – just under 133 million people – are multidimensionally poor, meaning that they experience deprivations in more than one dimension, or in at least 26% of weighted indicators. The average deprivation score among poor people, which shows the intensity of poverty, is 40.9%. Nigeria National MPI is 0.257, showing that poor people in Nigeria experience just over one-quarter of all possible deprivations.



% Contribution of indicators to National MPI



Policy Implications

The purpose of Nigeria national MPI is to be used as a policy tool. The MPI by itself does not reduce poverty. Leadership and a strong commitment to this purpose is needed to go further than measurement.

Policy lessons emerging from the 2022 MPI results include
The composition of poverty across states and senatorial districts varies, so there is a need for diverse policy (and intervention) priorities at state and local levels.

Potential policy uses of MPI





Nigeria National MPI by Area

Multidimensional poverty is higher in rural areas, where 72% of people are poor, compared to 42% of people living in urban areas. Approximately 70% of Nigeria's population live in rural areas, and 30% in urban areas. Yet rural areas are home to 80% of people living in poverty, and their intensity of poverty is also higher, at 42% in rural areas compared to 37% in urban areas

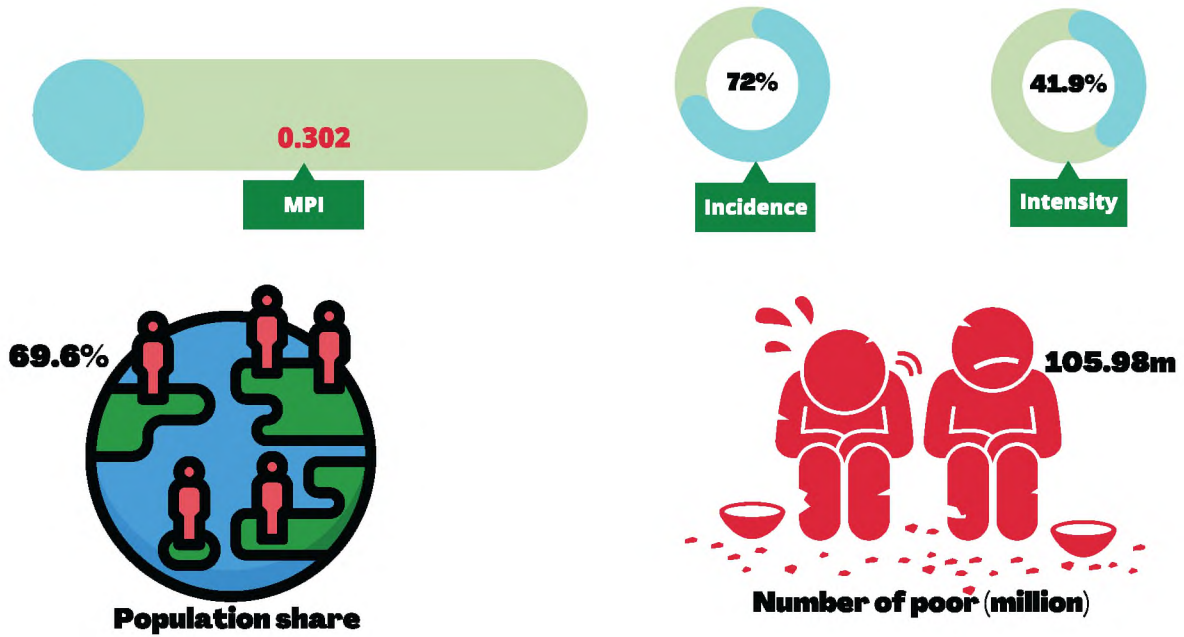
Area	MPI	Incidence (H,%)	Intensity (A,%)	Population Share (%)	Number of poor (million)
National	0.257	62.9	40.9	100.0	132.92
Rural	0.302	72.0	41.9	69.6	105.98
Urban	0.155	42.0	36.9	30.4	26.94

Strategies to reduce MPI in rural areas are slightly different from urban strategies. In urban areas, security shocks and unemployment contribute more to multidimensional poverty than in rural areas. While health deprivations contribute strongly in both areas, food, Insecurity is contributing more in urban areas. Other priorities which would move the needle on poverty the most include getting children into school, and addressing need for sanitation, clean energy and safe reliable water sources. Rural priorities would also include skill training and lifelong learning opportunities for adults who never completed primary schooling and good quality housing materials. Overall poverty is clearly higher in rural areas.

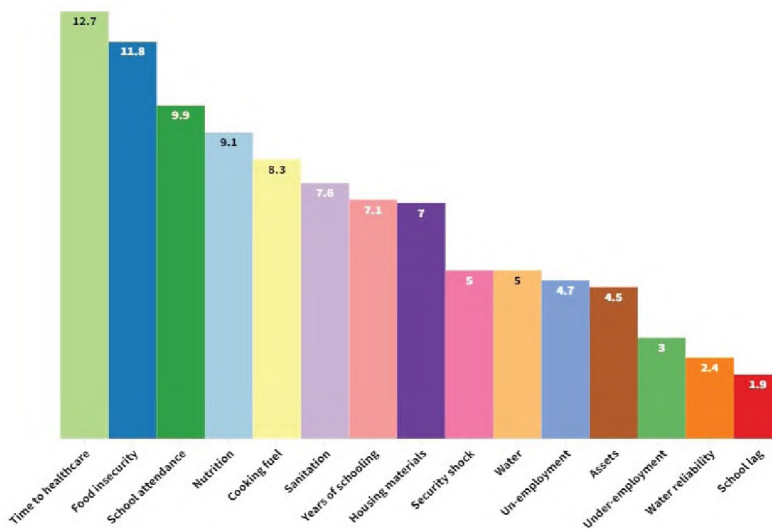


Nigeria National MPI by Area (Rural)

Multidimensional poverty is higher in rural areas, where 72% of people are poor. Approximately 70% of the population live in rural areas in Nigeria, Yet rural areas are home to 80% of the poor. Investing in rural areas is essential to reducing multidimensional poverty.

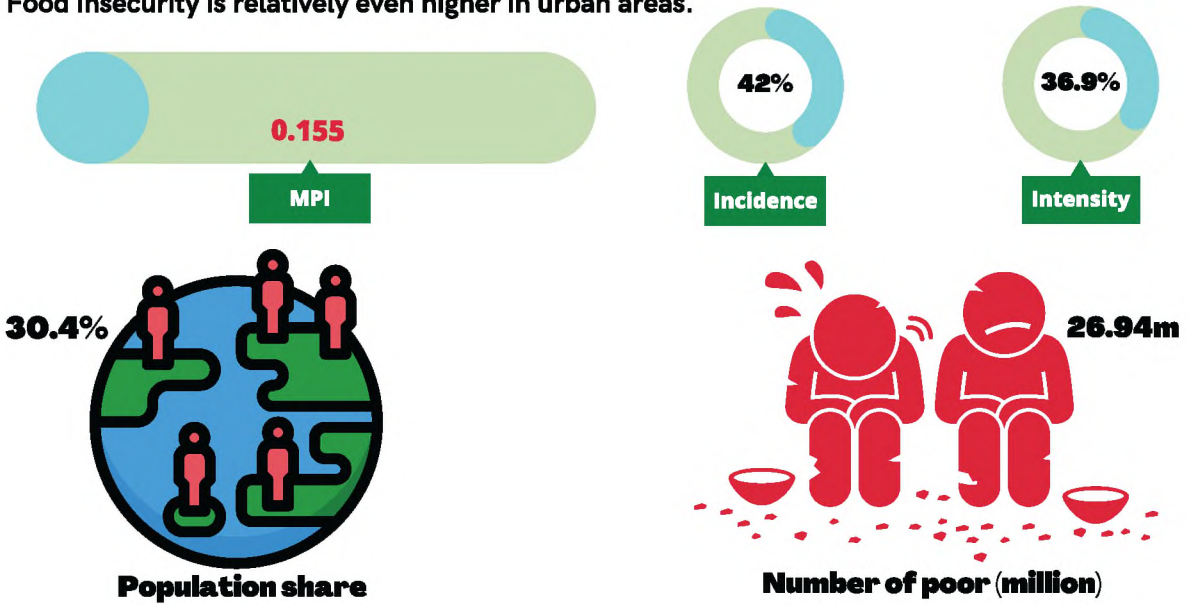


% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Area (Rural)

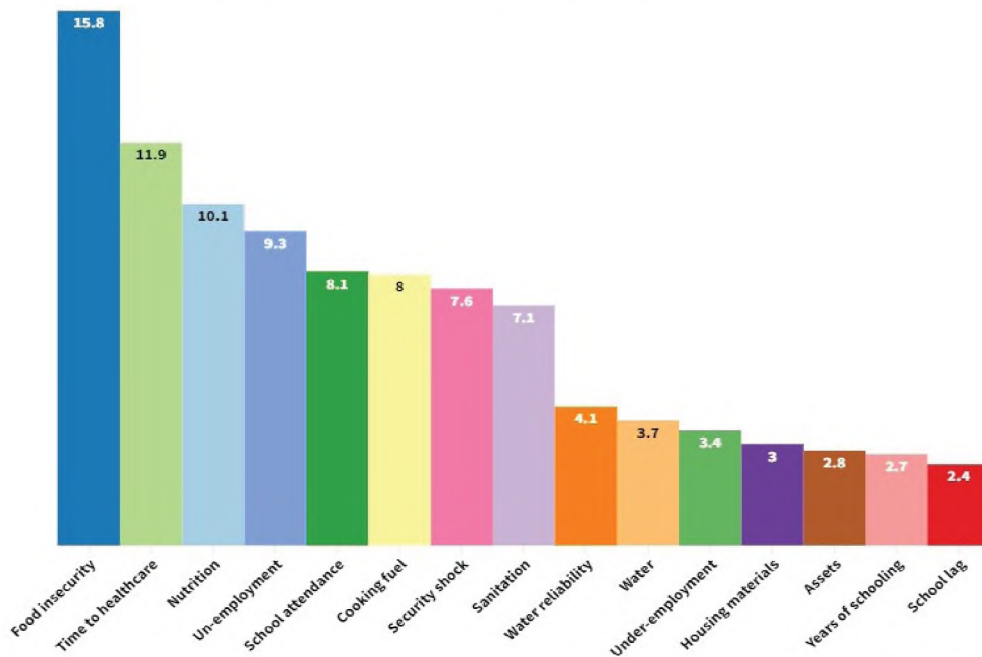


Nigeria National MPI by Area (Urban)

Multidimensional poverty is lower in urban areas, 42% of people living in urban areas are poor. Urban areas have relatively higher security shocks and unemployment than rural areas. Food insecurity is relatively even higher in urban areas.



% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Area (Urban)





Nigeria National MPI by Zone

Sixty-five percent of poor people—86 million—live in the North, while 35%—nearly 47 million – live in the South.

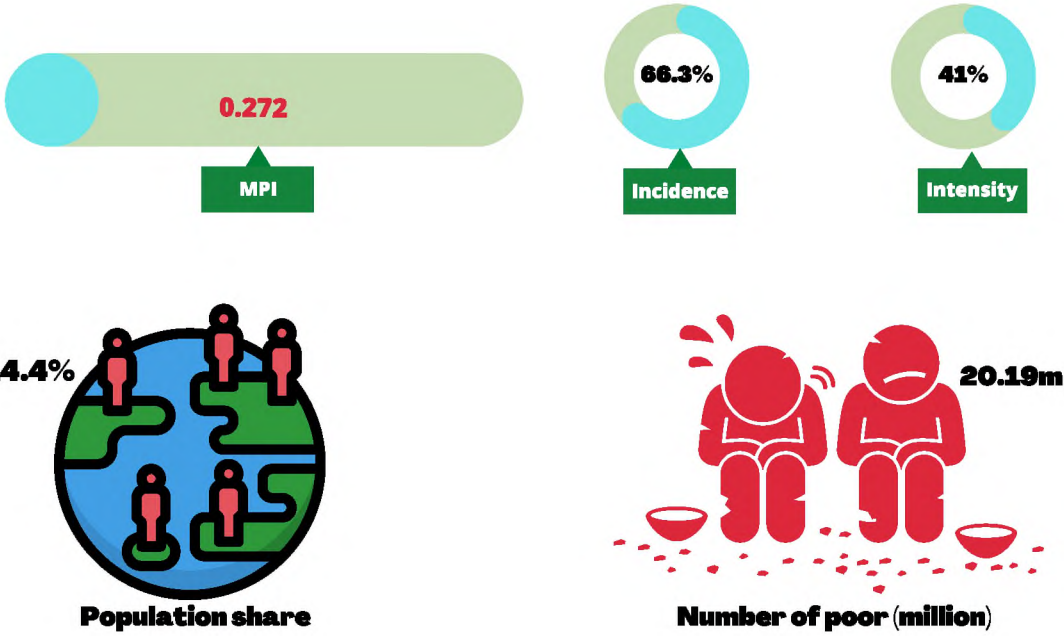
Disparities between zones are greater than those between rural and urban areas. In the least-poor zone, the South West, the MPI of 0.151 shows that poor people experience 15% of possible deprivations, while in North East and North West, the MPI of 0.324 shows they experience over 32% of possible deprivations. Overall, 65% of poor people—86 million people—live in the North, while 35%—nearly 47 million—live in the South. In general, a disparity between North and South is evident in both the incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty, with the North being poorer. However, the level and number of poor people needs to be addressed in all zones—each of which are home to between 11 and 20 million poor people except North West, which has 45 million poor people due to its larger population and higher level of poverty.

Zone	MPI	Incidence (H,%)	Intensity (A,%)	Population Share (%)	Number of poor (million)
National	0.257	62.9	40.9	100.0	132.92
North-Central	0.272	66.3	41.0	14.4	20.19
North-East	0.324	76.5	42.4	12.7	20.47
North-West	0.324	75.8	42.7	28.4	45.49
South-East	0.183	49.0	37.3	10.5	10.85
South-South	0.250	62.6	39.8	14.8	19.66
South-West	0.151	40.0	37.7	19.2	16.27

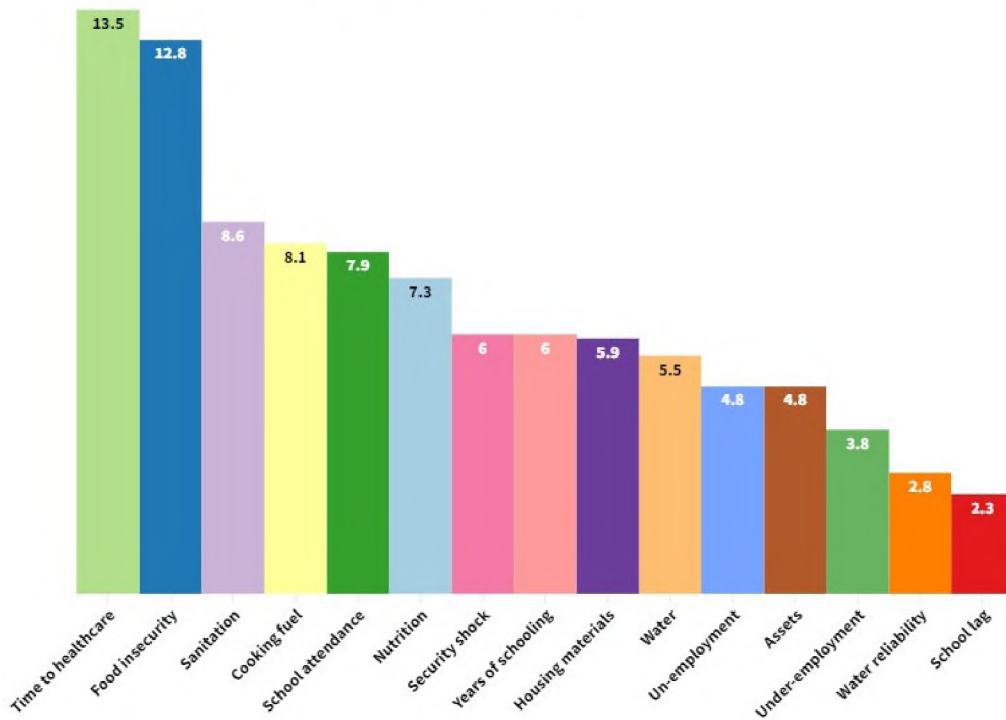
the composition of MPI varies across zones. Nutritional deprivations Contribute highest in the North West, but food insecurity Contributes more strongly across the South. Unemployment contributes more to MPI in South-South than in other zones, whereas security shocks contribute more in South-South, North Central and North East. Housing deprivations Contribute highest across the North, and School attendance is particularly problematic in North East and North West. Recall that, because overall poverty is higher in the North, the share of the population who may be affected may be higher in the poorer regions even though it appears smaller.



Nigeria National MPI by Zone (North-Central)

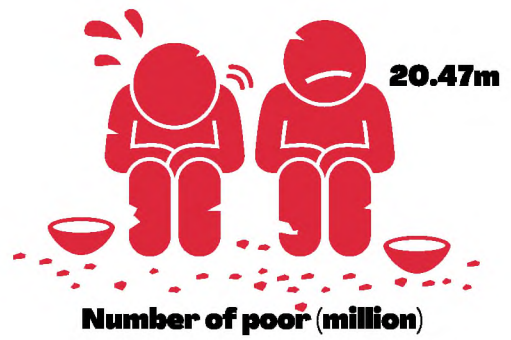
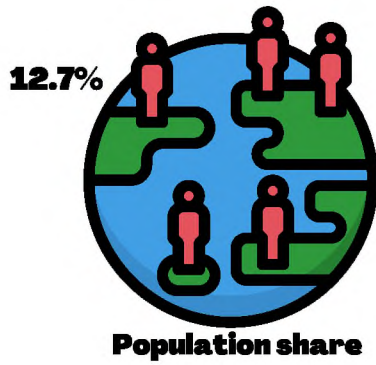
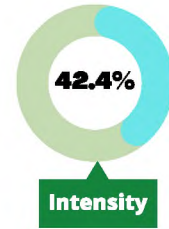
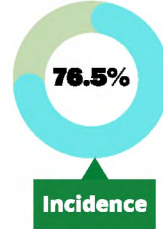
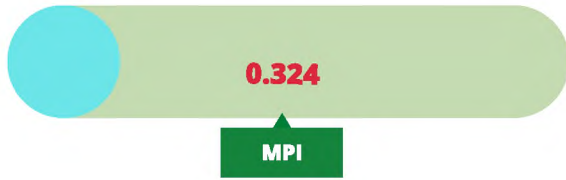


% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Zone (North-Central)

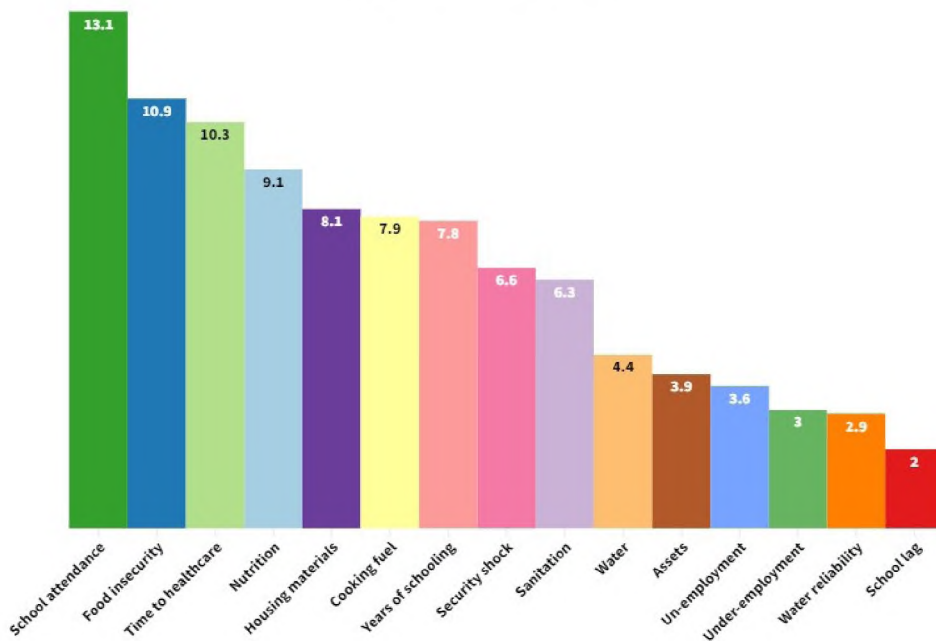




Nigeria National MPI by Zone (North-East)



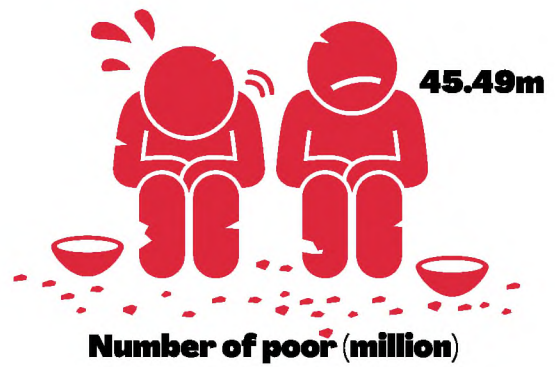
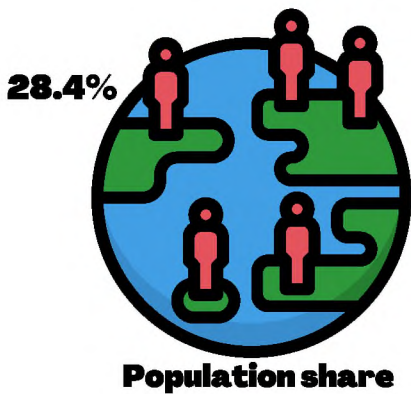
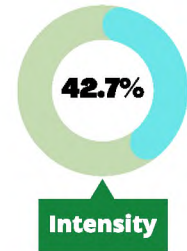
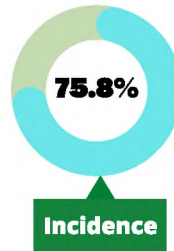
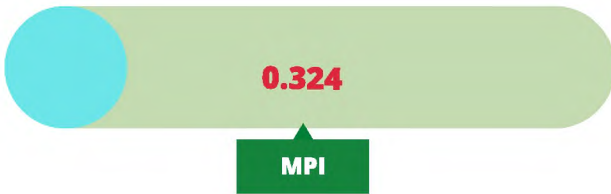
% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Zone (North-East)



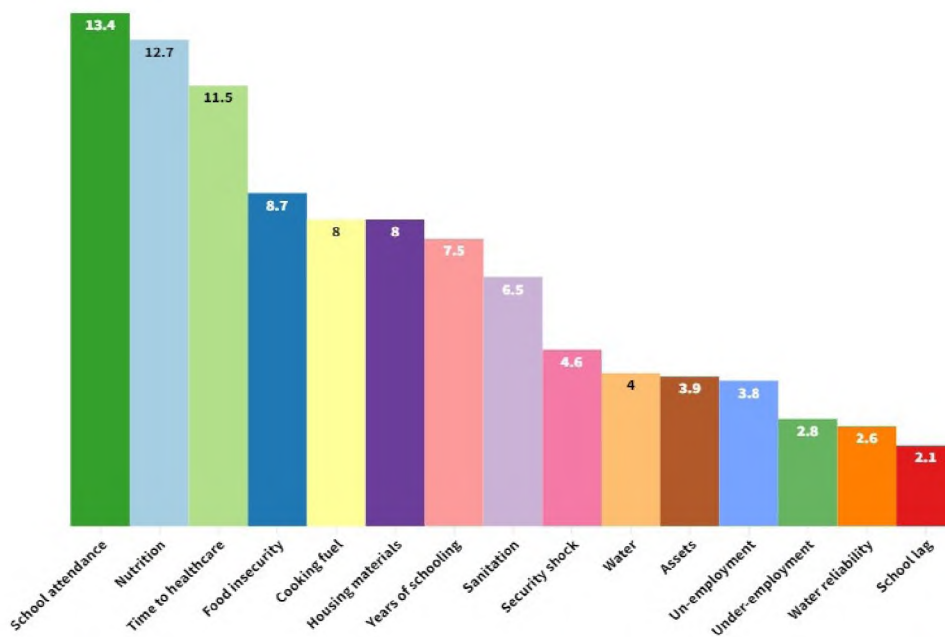


Nigeria National MPI by Zone (North-West)

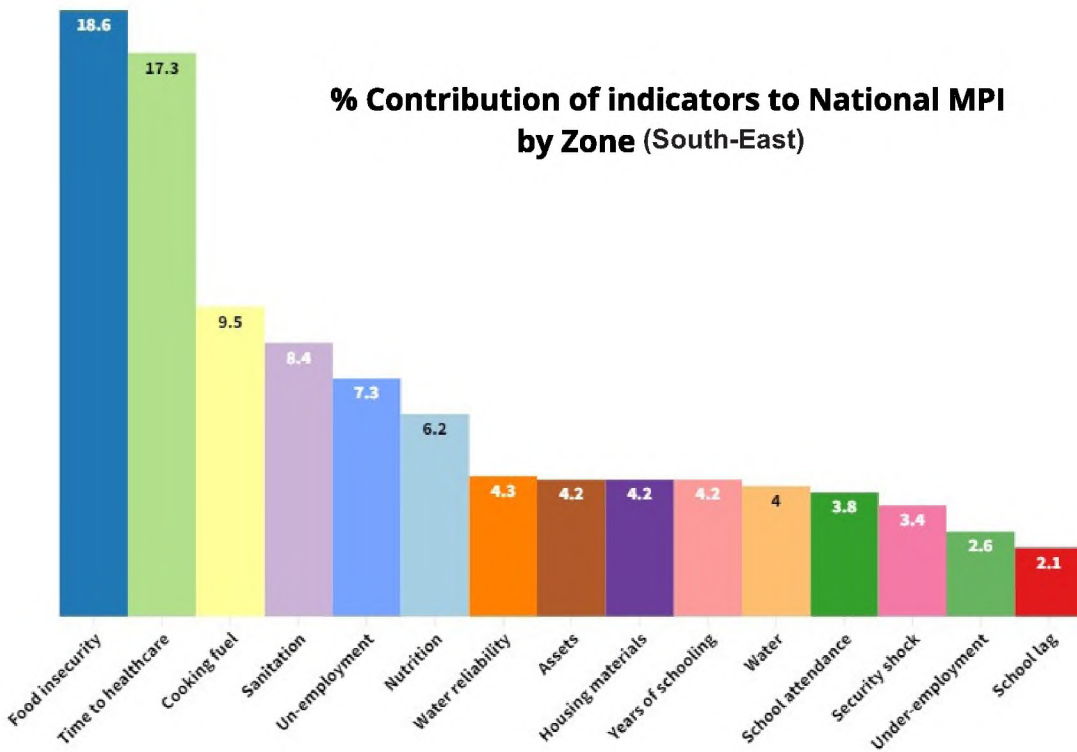
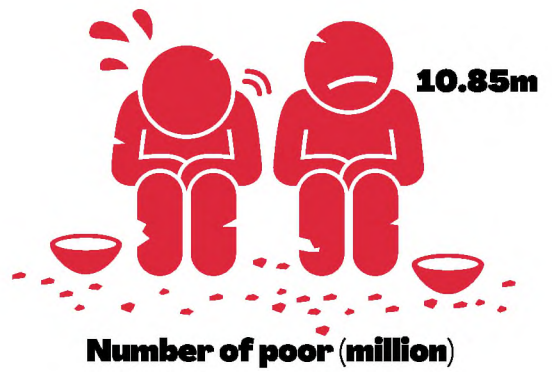
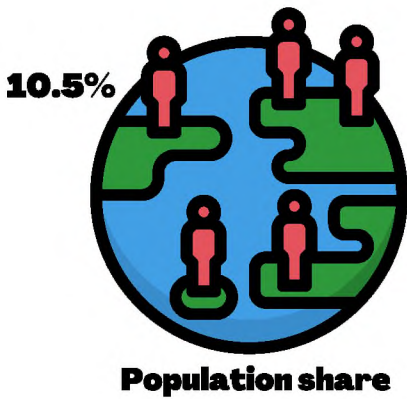
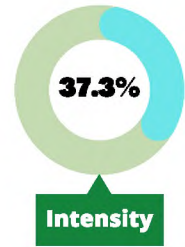
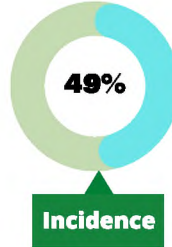
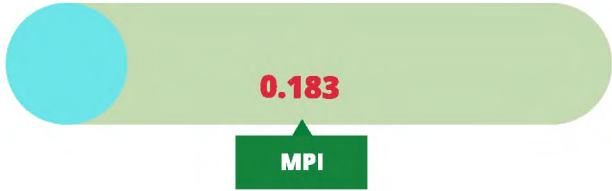
MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX IN NIGERIA (2022)



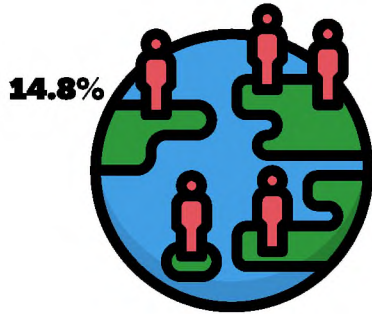
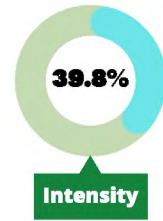
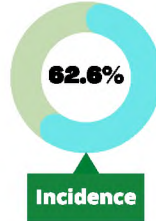
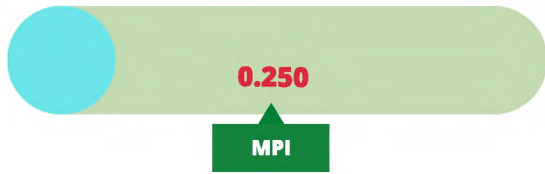
% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Zone (North-West)



Nigeria National MPI by Zone (South-East)



Nigeria National MPI by Zone (South-South)

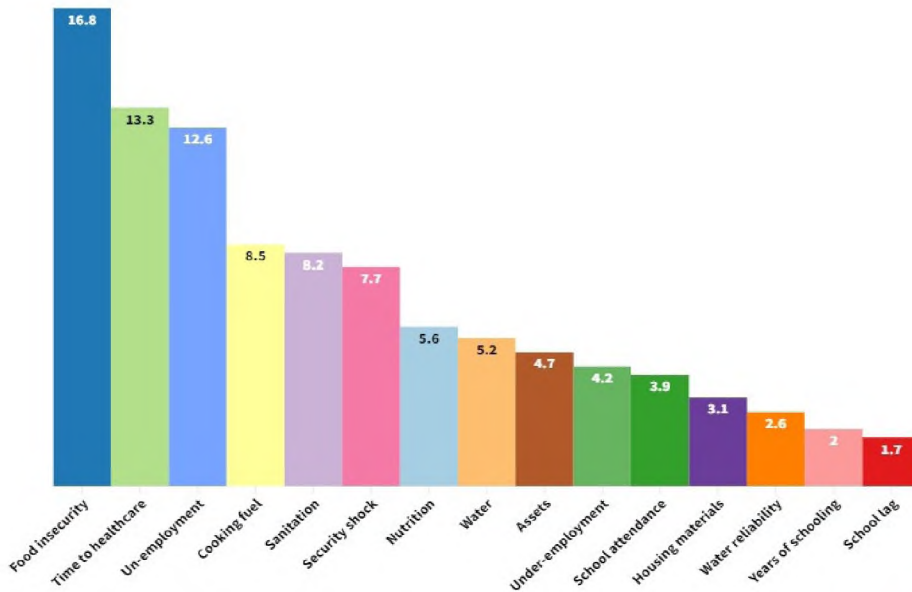


Population share

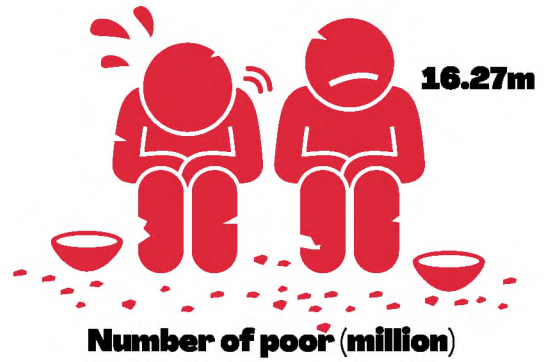
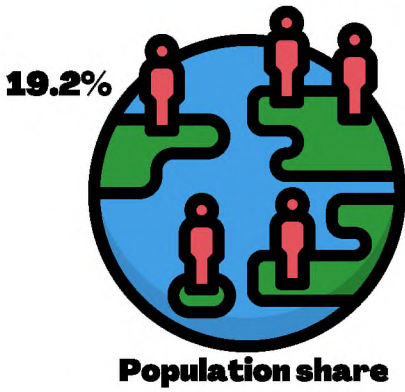
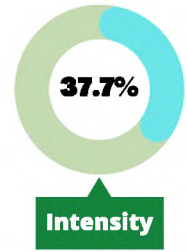
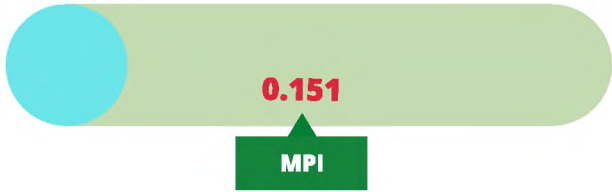


Number of poor (million)

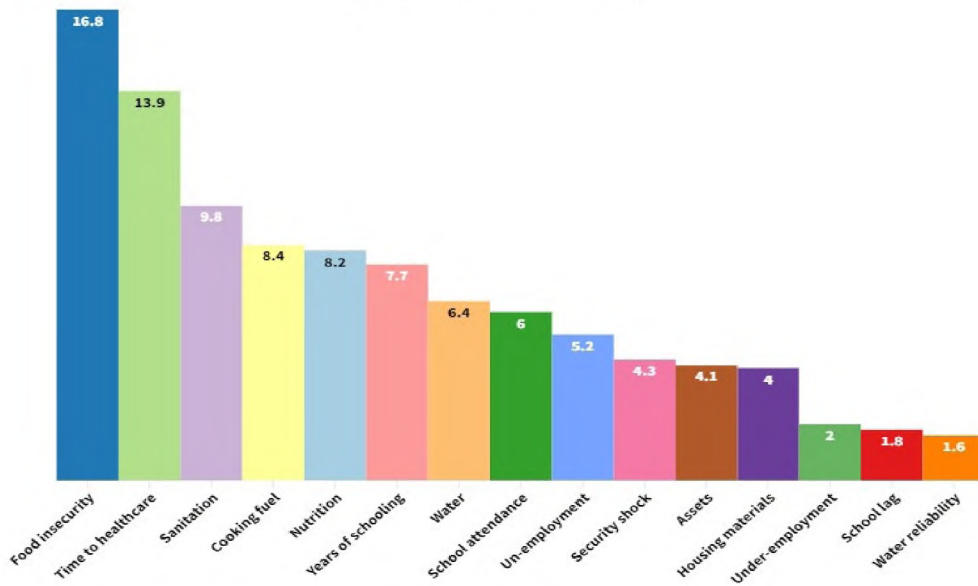
% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Zone (South-South)



Nigeria National MPI by Zone (South-West)



% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Zone (South -West)





Nigeria National MPI by Disability status

A person living with a disability is someone aged 5 and older who has some/a lot/complete difficulty with seeing; hearing; walking or climbing a hill/step even when using equipment or being assisted; understanding when being spoken to; being understood when they speak; in self-care activities such as feeding or dressing; remembering or concentrating; raising a 2-litre bottle of water from waist to eye level; using hands and fingers such as picking up small objects; or with skin conditions such as albinism or vitiligo

Area	MPI	Incidence (H, %)	Intensity (A, %)	Population share (%)	Number of poor people (million)
National	0.257	62.9	40.9	100.0	132.92
No PLWDs	0.252	61.8	40.7	89.0	116.24
With PLWDs	0.302	71.4	42.3	11.0	16.68

Source: Calculations using MPIS 2021/22

Eleven percent of the population—one person in nine—share their household with at least one person living with a disability (PLWD). Such households are significantly poorer than households in which no one is living with a disability. Seventy-one percent of people living in households with at least one PLWD are poor, compared to 62% of people who live in a household where no one has a disability. Furthermore, deprivation rates are clearly higher for people living in households with a PLWD in ten out of the fifteen poverty indicators.



Nigeria National MPI by Age-Group

Two thirds of children aged 0-17 are poor, and half of all poor people are children. Children are significantly poorer than adults. Overall, 58.7% of adults aged 18 and above are MPI poor, as compared to 67.5% of children. The MPI of children aged 0-17 is 0.282 compared to 0.235 for adults, and intensity for children is higher at 41.8% compared to 40.0% for adults. Hence a larger percentage of children are poor, and on average, each poor child is deprived in a larger share of indicators than each poor adult.

Age group	MPI	Incidence (H,%)	Intensity (A,%)	Population Share (%)	Number of poor (million)
National	0.257	62.9	40.9	100.0	132.92
0-17	0.282	67.5	41.8	47.2	67.28
18+	0.235	58.7	40.0	52.8	65.64
U-5	0.295	70.1	42.1	12.9	19.16

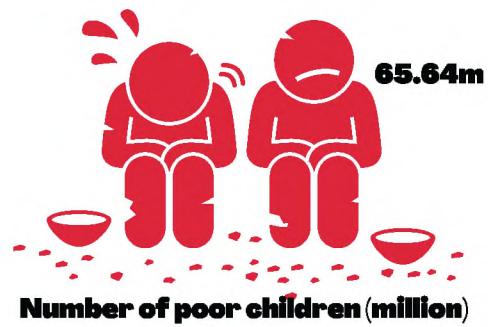
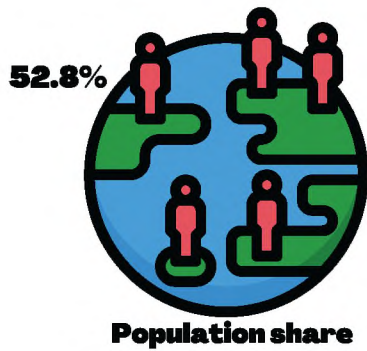
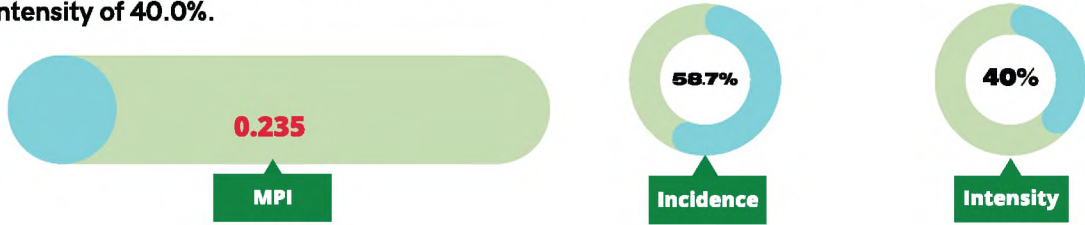
Source: Calculations using MPIS 2021/22

Looking now at the numbers of poor children and adults, out of the 99.6 million children in Nigeria, about 67.5 million are multidimensionally poor. In comparison, of the 111.4 million adults in Nigeria, 65.6 million are poor. So there are more poor children than poor adults. Children make up 47% of the population, but 51% of all poor people.

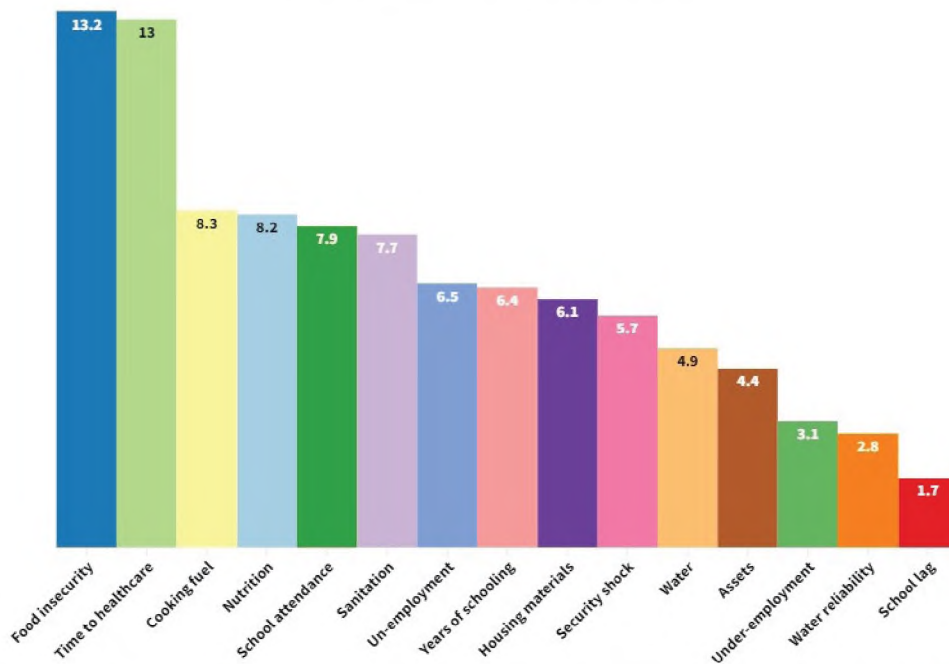


Nigeria National MPI by Age-Group (18 years and above)

Overall, 58.7% of adults aged 18 and above are MPI poor. The MPI of adults is 0.235, with intensity of 40.0%.



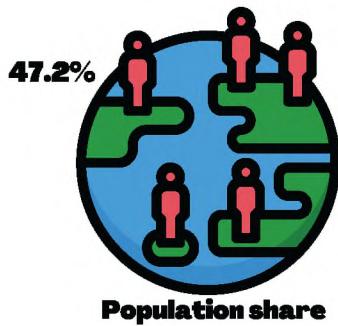
% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Age group (18years and above)



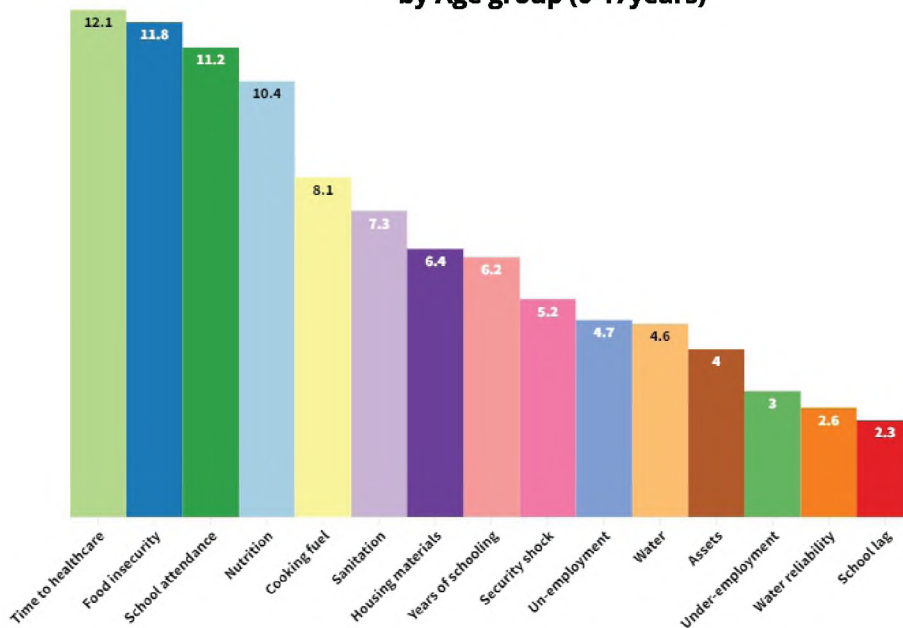


Nigeria National MPI by Age-Group (0-17 years)

Children are significantly poorer than adults. Overall, 67.5% of children are MPI poor, The MPI of children aged 0-17 is 0.282, and intensity for children is 41.8%. Hence a larger percentage of children are poor, and on average, each poor child is deprived in a larger share of indicators than each poor adult.



% Contribution of indicators to National MPI by Age group (0-17years)



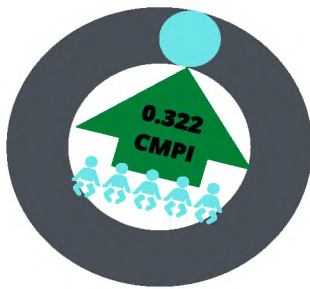
Nigeria Child MPI – Key Results

- Children are a strategic population of concern in Nigeria for several reasons. First, nearly half of all Nigerians are children under the age of 18 (47.2%).
- This report builds a linked Child MPI for children aged 0-4. This has the same 4 dimensions as the national MPI, plus a fifth dimension with eight child-focused indicators. All children who are poor by the National MPI are poor, plus additional children.
- According to the Child MPI, 83.5% of children under 5 are poor. Incidence of Child MPI is above 50% in all states and rises to almost 100% in some states.
- The highest deprivations are in the indicator of child engagement – showing that over half of poor children lack the intellectual stimulation that is pivotal to early childhood development.
- Child poverty is prevalent in rural areas with almost 90% of rural children experiencing poverty.
- While six out of ten girls aged 12-17 were poor, among those in child marriage, approximately eight of ten of them were poor. The MPI among married girls was also higher at 0.338 compared to 0.256 for the other girls. While the numbers are small, the differences in poverty are shockingly high, emphasising the need to address child marriage and multidimensional poverty jointly.

NATIONAL

According to the Child MPI disaggregated for children under 5, 83.5% of children are multidimensionally poor, compared to 70.1% of children under 5 according to the National MPI; this is an additional 3.7 million children, bringing the total to 22.85 million.

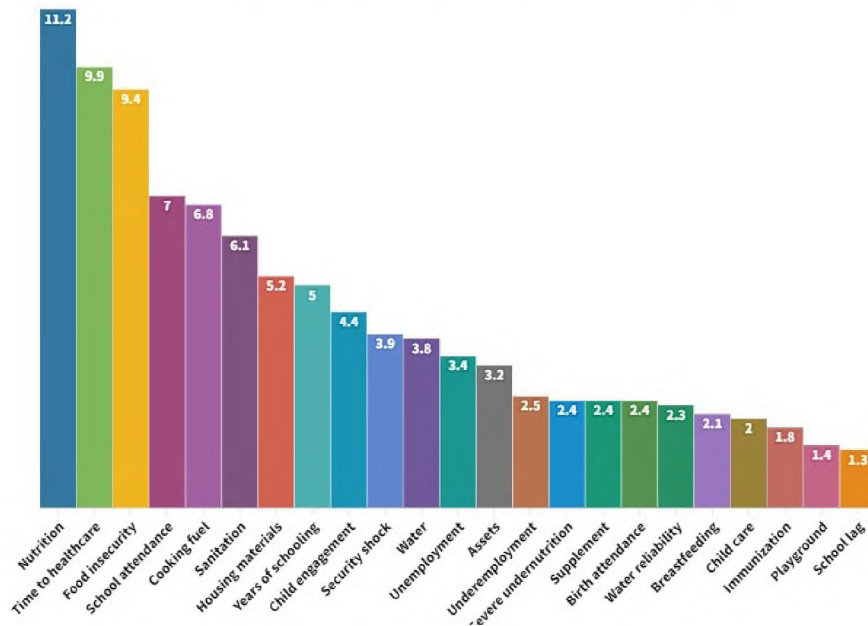
The same 70.1% of children are poor, and an additional 13.4% of children aged 0–4 are newly identified as poor, due to the deprivations in the eight child indicators. This is equivalent to an additional 3.7 million children identified as poor by the Child MPI, meaning that a total of 22.85 million children under the age of 5 are multidimensionally poor. Furthermore, the intensity of the Child MPI is 38.5%. A comparable intensity for the National MPI of children under 5 would be 33.7%.²⁸ Hence the intensity of the Child MPI is also higher, as some children who were already poor according to the National MPI are exposed to additional child deprivations that are captured in the Child MPI.



Child Incidence
83.5%

Child Intensity
38.5%

% Contribution of indicators to Child MPI





By Area

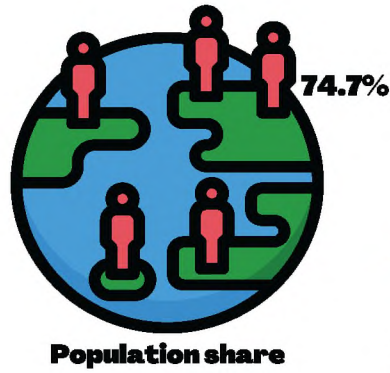
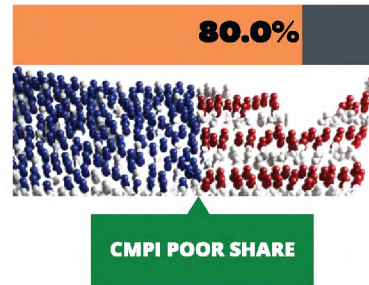
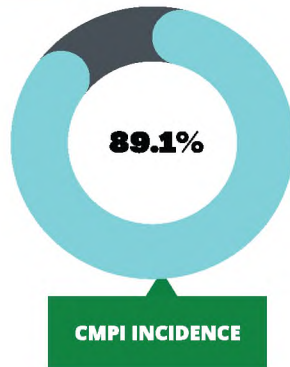
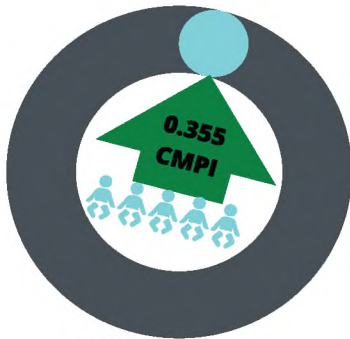
Child poverty is prevalent in rural areas, with almost 90% of rural children experiencing poverty. Furthermore, the disparity between rural and urban areas is less than in the National MPI because a high proportion of children living in urban areas—two thirds—are also poor according to the child MPI. Overall, 80% of poor children live in rural areas.

Area	CMPI	Incidence (H, %)	Intensity (A, %)	Population Share (%)	Number of poor (million)
National	0.322	83.5	38.5	100.0	22.85
Rural	0.355	89.1	39.8	74.7	18.20
Urban	0.225	67.1	33.5	25.3	4.65

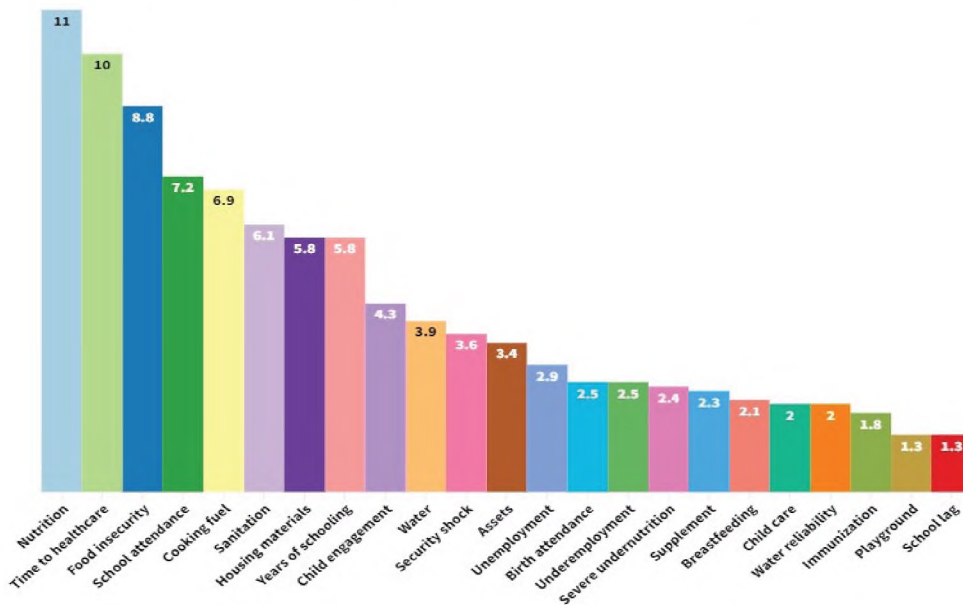
Across all area, the living standard and health dimensions contribute most to child poverty. Living standards and education contribute less to child poverty in urban areas, and the health and work and shocks dimensions contribute relatively more, so different strategies are also required for children in rural areas.



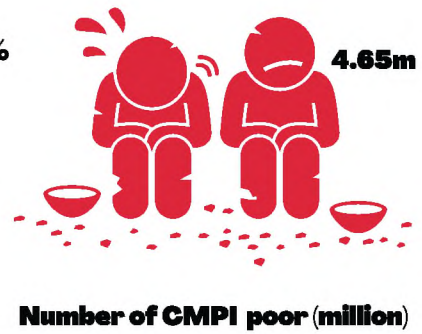
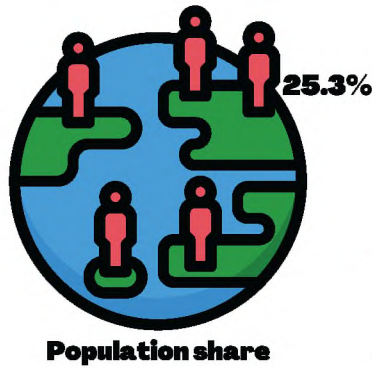
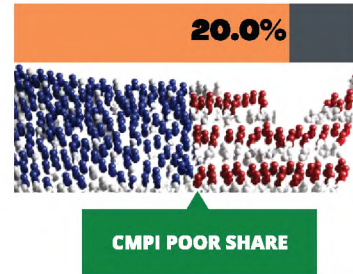
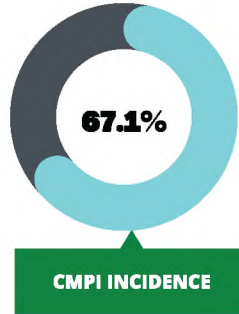
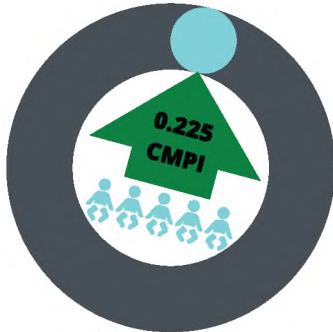
By Area - Rural



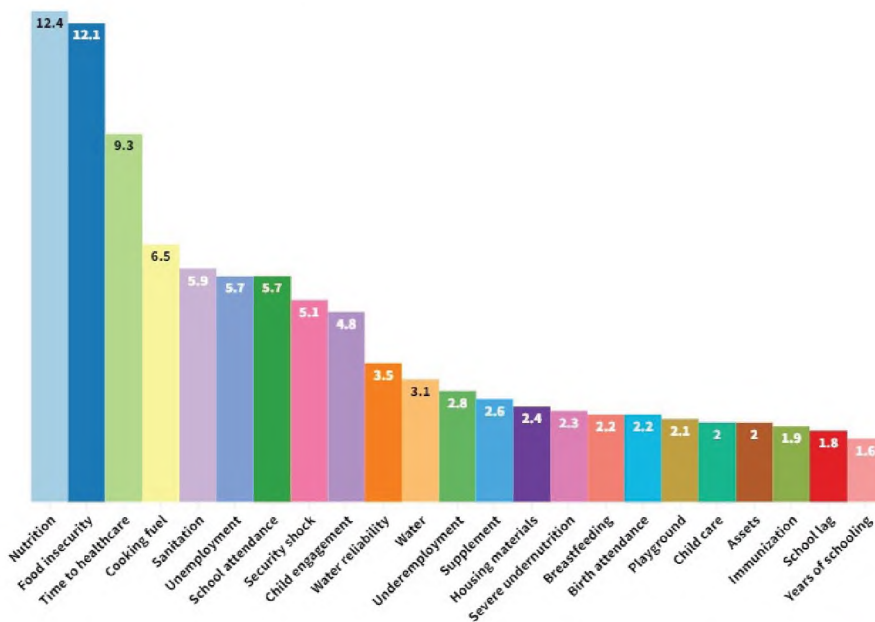
% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Area-Rural



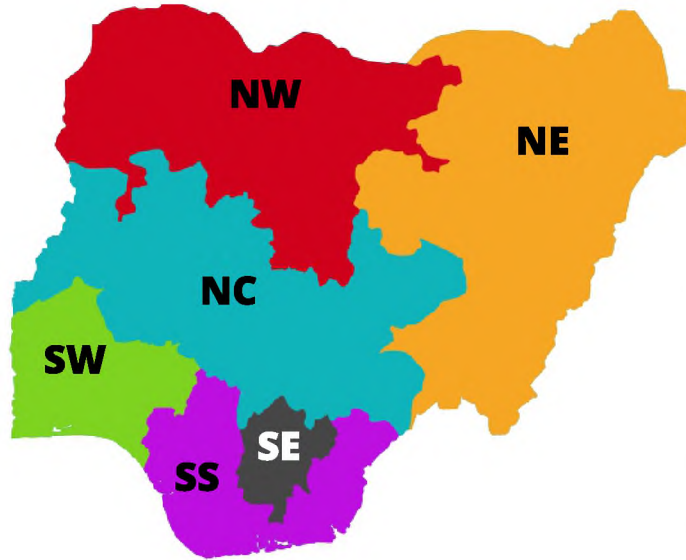
By Area - Urban



% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Area-Rural



By Zone



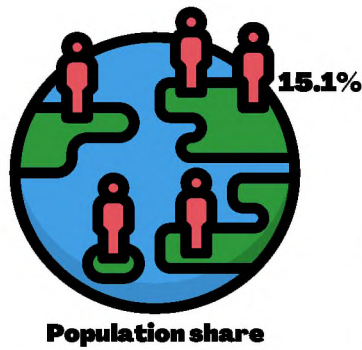
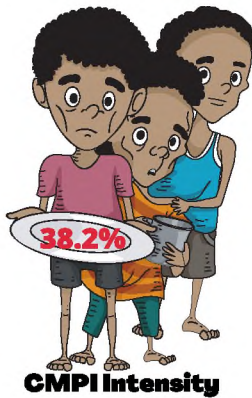
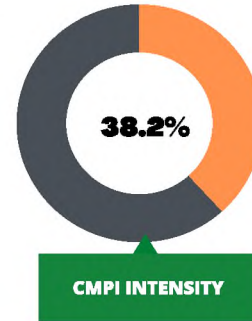
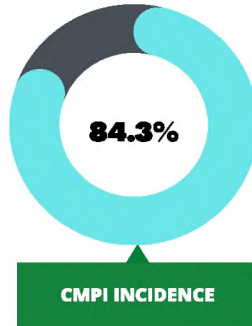
Across zones, the Child MPI shows higher poverty in North East and North West, where over 90% of children are poor, and lower poverty in South East and South West, where its 74.0% and 65.1%, respectively.

Zone	CMPI	Incidence (H, %)	Intensity (A, %)	Population share (%)	Number of CMPI poor (million)
National	0.322	83.5	38.5	100	22.85
North Central	0.322	84.3	38.2	15.1	3.49
North East	0.358	91.2	39.2	14.6	3.64
North West	0.37	90.7	40.8	35	8.68
South East	0.254	74	34.4	8.6	1.74
South South	0.302	81.2	37.1	12.4	2.76
South West	0.225	65.1	34.6	14.3	2.55

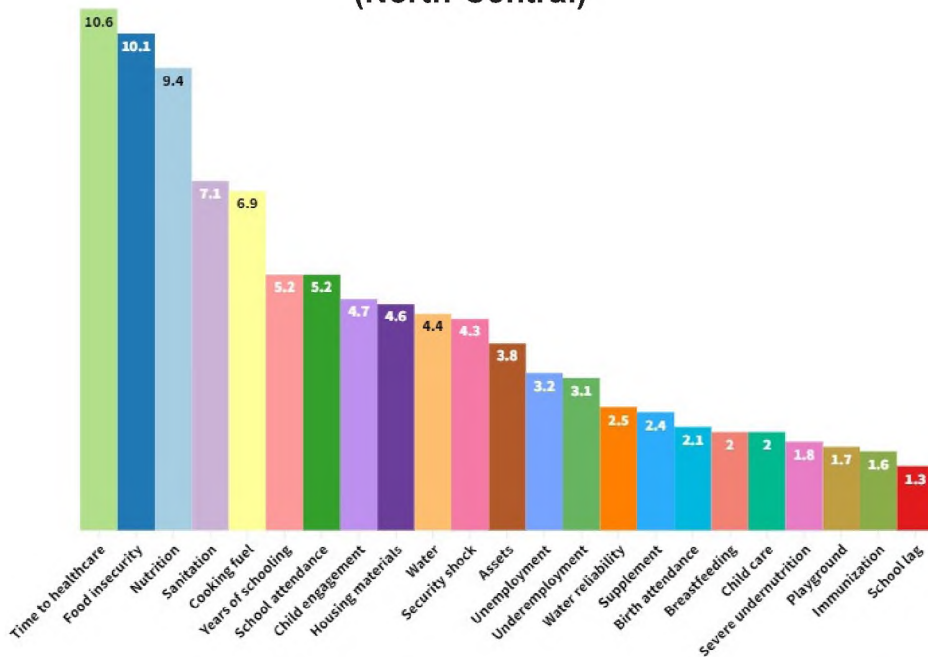
The indicator composition of poverty varies greatly across zones, with the lowest educational deprivations in South South and South East, but the highest health deprivations in South East. Deprivations in child survival and development vary less than other dimensions, but by a small margin contribute the most to poverty in North West



By Zones - (North-Central)

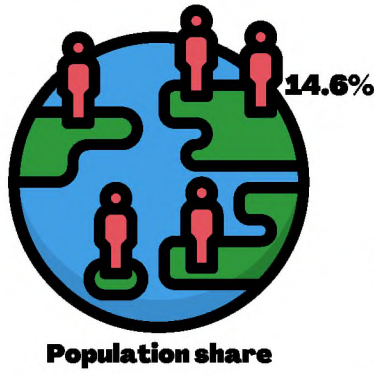
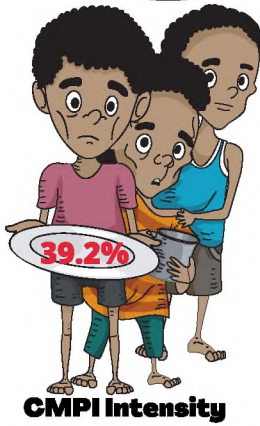
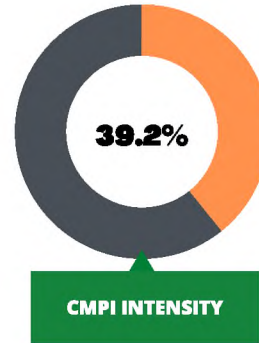
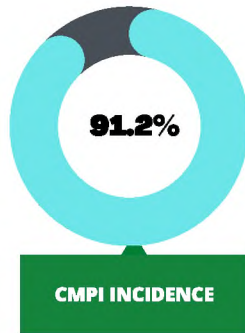


% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Zone (North-Central)

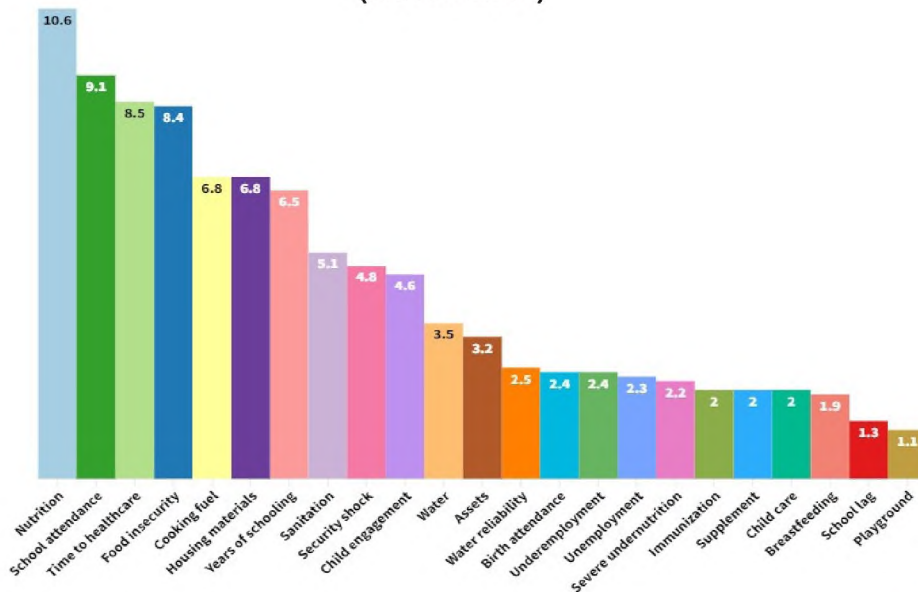




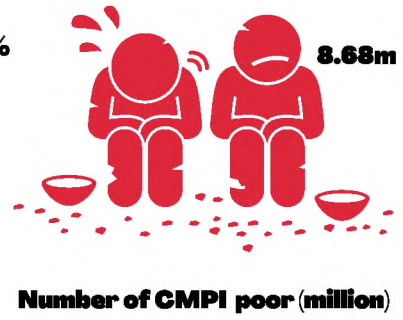
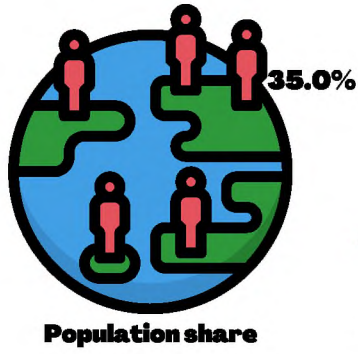
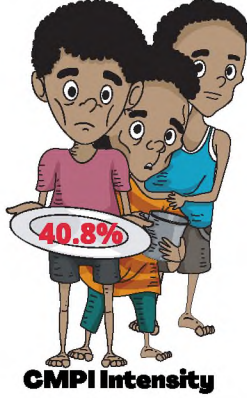
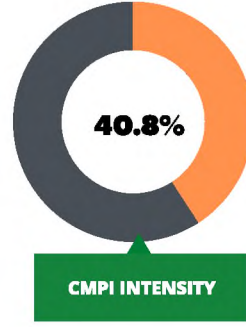
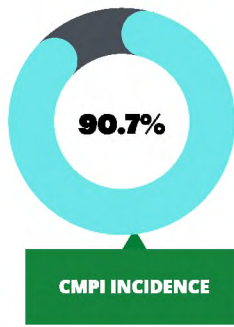
By Zones - (North-East)



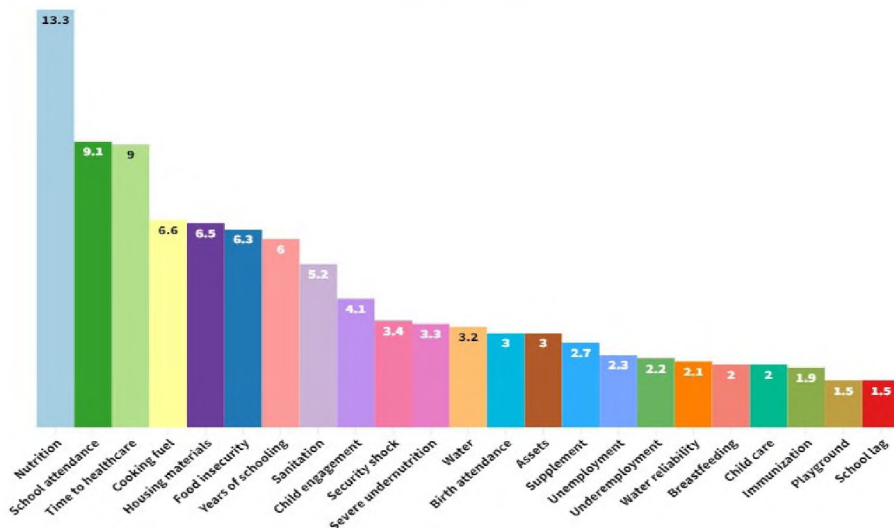
% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Zone (North-East)



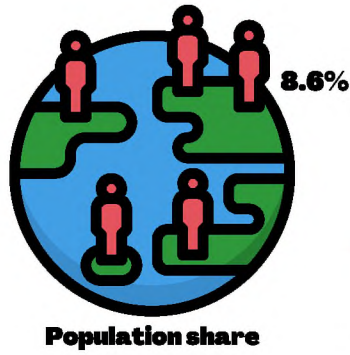
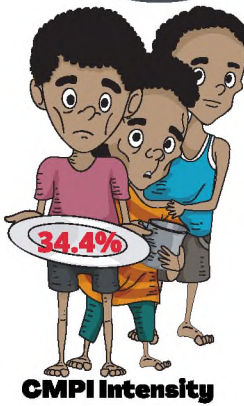
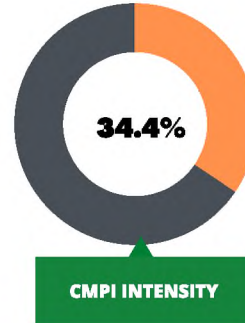
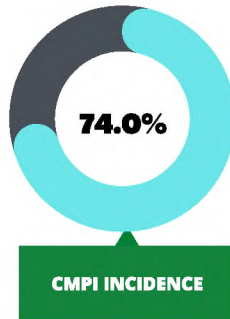
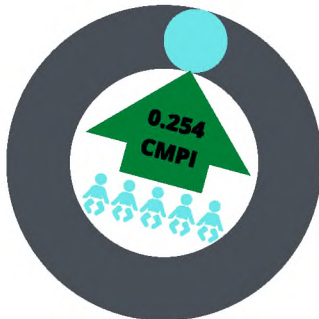
By Zones - (North-West)



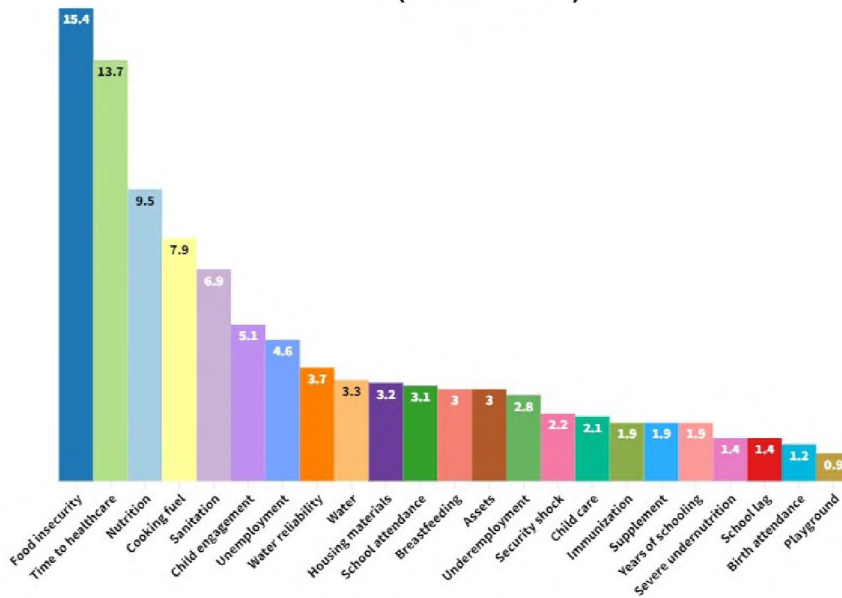
% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Zone (North-West)



By Zones-(South-East)

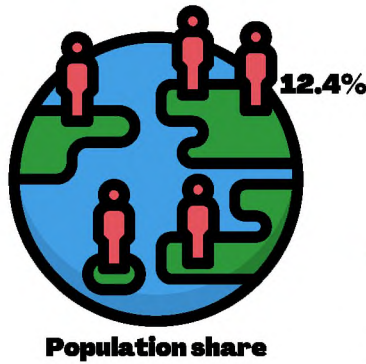
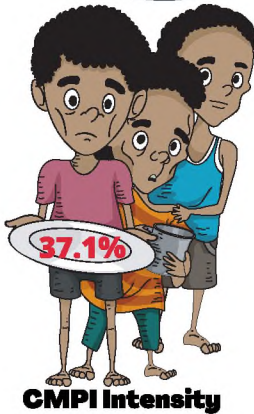
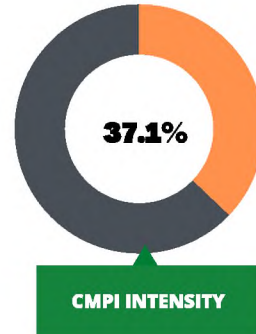
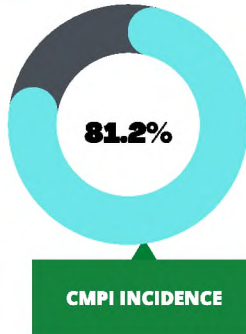
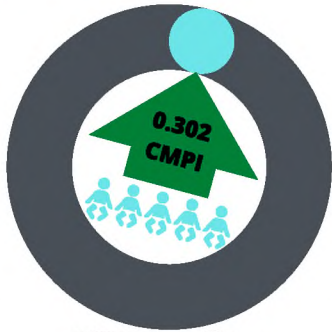


% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Zone (South-East)

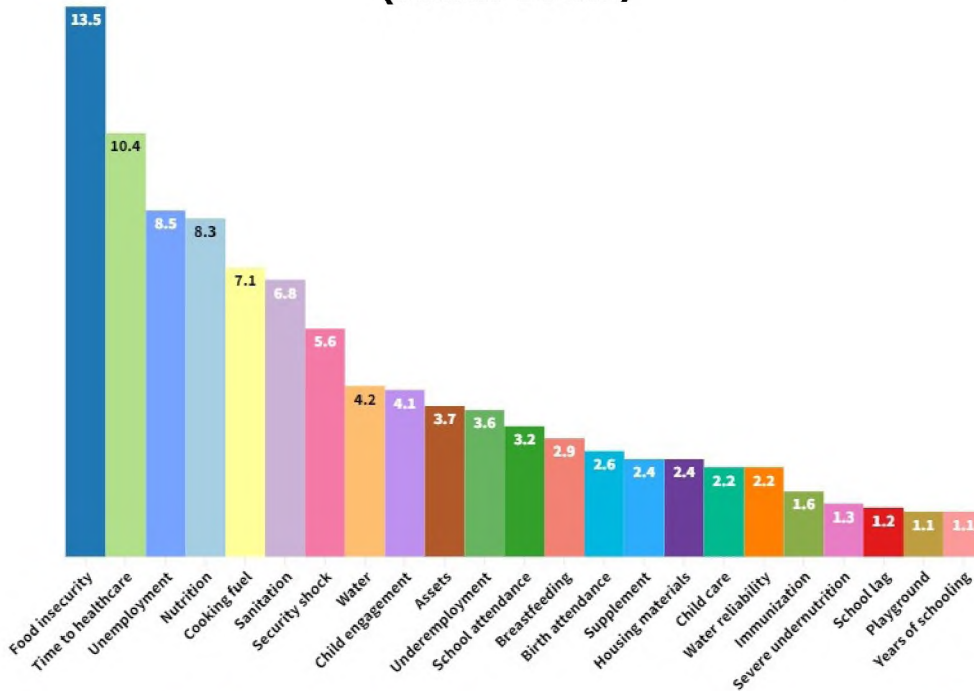




By Zones-(South-South)

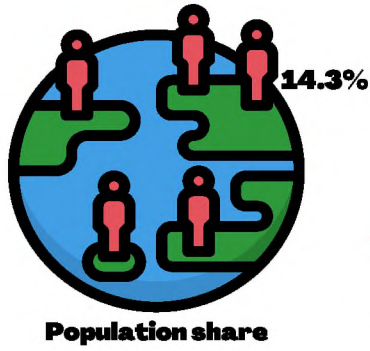
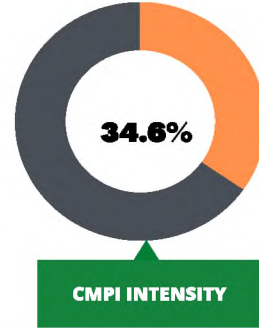
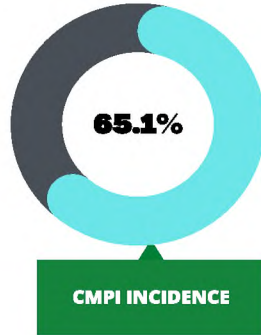
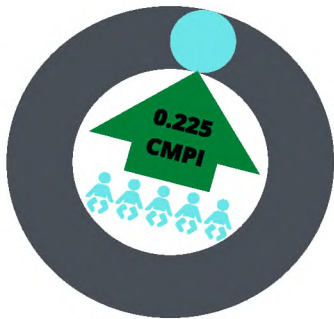


% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Zone (South-South)

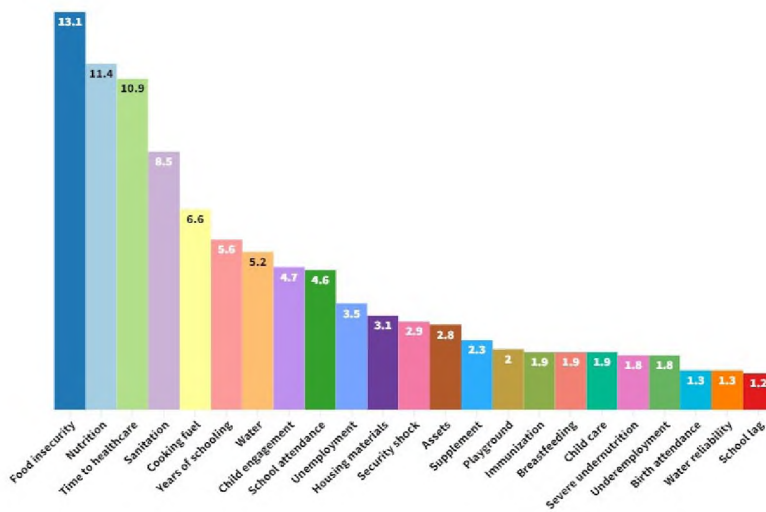




By Zones-(South-West)



% Contribution of indicator to Child MPI by Zone (South-West)





FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE,
BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING
(Budget and National Planning Arm)



United Nations

