



TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

ECOSOC 2017 Session

*Beyond Gross Domestic Product:
Multidimensional Poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals*

**Key findings from the Report of the Secretary-General in support of the
2017 ECOSOC Thematic Discussion (E/2017/69)**

The SDGs and their targets offer a visionary framework for addressing poverty eradication and advancing well-being, and offer an integrated framework for reducing multidimensional poverty at the national level.

The report of the Secretary-General in support of the 2017 ECOSOC thematic discussion highlights existing national approaches to multidimensional poverty that have been developed independently and that focus on specific dimensions of poverty, reflecting national contexts and priorities. Common dimensions of poverty addressed in approaches in most countries include health, education and living standards. The report underlines that there is further scope for countries to develop, apply and adapt existing approaches to country contexts. There is also space for collective work on multidimensional poverty to build on the commonalities among national approaches and link them to national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

To advance integrated national policies for reducing multidimensional poverty, the report offers the following key findings:

1. ***Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions:*** Realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals is key to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and in promoting well-being for everyone.
2. ***Advancing multidimensional approaches:*** An increasing number of countries have introduced multidimensional poverty strategies into national development plans.
3. ***Embracing a diversity of approaches...:*** While there is broad agreement on the importance of multidimensional poverty as a development challenge, there is currently a broad diversity of views on its definition and the dimensions of poverty that should be included in approaches to address poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

4. ***...while identifying shared elements for strong results:*** While countries have developed different approaches, some commonalities can be observed, particularly the universal identification of three dimensions —health, education and living standards —as key aspects of national strategies. Several countries have also adapted poverty strategies to national legislative contexts.
5. ***Adapting to specific country contexts:*** There is further scope for countries to develop, apply and adapt existing approaches to multidimensional poverty to country contexts.
6. ***Building on commonalities through collective efforts and knowledge sharing:*** There is space and a need for collective work on multidimensional poverty, building on the commonalities in national approaches and linking the approaches to national efforts and strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda.
7. ***Promoting synergies for strong results:*** The recently revised global Sustainable Development Goal indicators and a multidimensional poverty analysis reflecting national circumstances can support each other in assessing progress.
8. ***Advancing integrated analyses:*** Further analytical work by the United Nations development system could contribute to closing gaps in the translation of multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis into concrete policy action on Goal 1 and the other Sustainable Development Goals.
9. ***Knowledge sharing and mutual learning:*** International platforms for the exchange of experiences, lessons and ideas could assist in guiding policymaking at the national level, as well as in the elaboration of best practices in multidimensional poverty measurement and data.
10. ***Applying the global SDG indicator framework:*** The global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework, recently agreed by the Statistical Commission, can provide a valuable contribution to approaches for the measurement of multidimensional poverty.
11. ***Developing statistical capacity:*** The United Nations system and other development partners should provide support to countries to strengthen the development of statistical capacity, including in improving the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data for measuring progress.
12. ***Holistic approaches and qualitative analysis:*** Existing national approaches to well-being have integrated multidimensional approaches to poverty into broader development strategies, underlining the complementarity of poverty eradication efforts with broader approaches to well-being, economic growth and sustainable development.