



# **A Brief History of multidimensional poverty measurement: a global perspective**

**David Gordon**

Director

Bristol Poverty Institute &  
Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research  
University of Bristol, UK

Advanced Poverty Research Methods Course  
online

22<sup>nd</sup> November – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

# The Problem

There are currently no global measure of poverty that could be used to compare the extent and depth of poverty in Mexico, South Africa and the UK.

Poverty in low income countries and OECD countries is measured in different and non-comparable ways and the measures are not very good.

Poverty measures in middle income countries are usually even worse (i.e. less valid and reliable) than in poorer and richer countries – this is highly problematic as most of the Worlds' poor people live in Middle Income countries

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015 to 2030



**17 Goals, 169 targets, 232 Indicators**

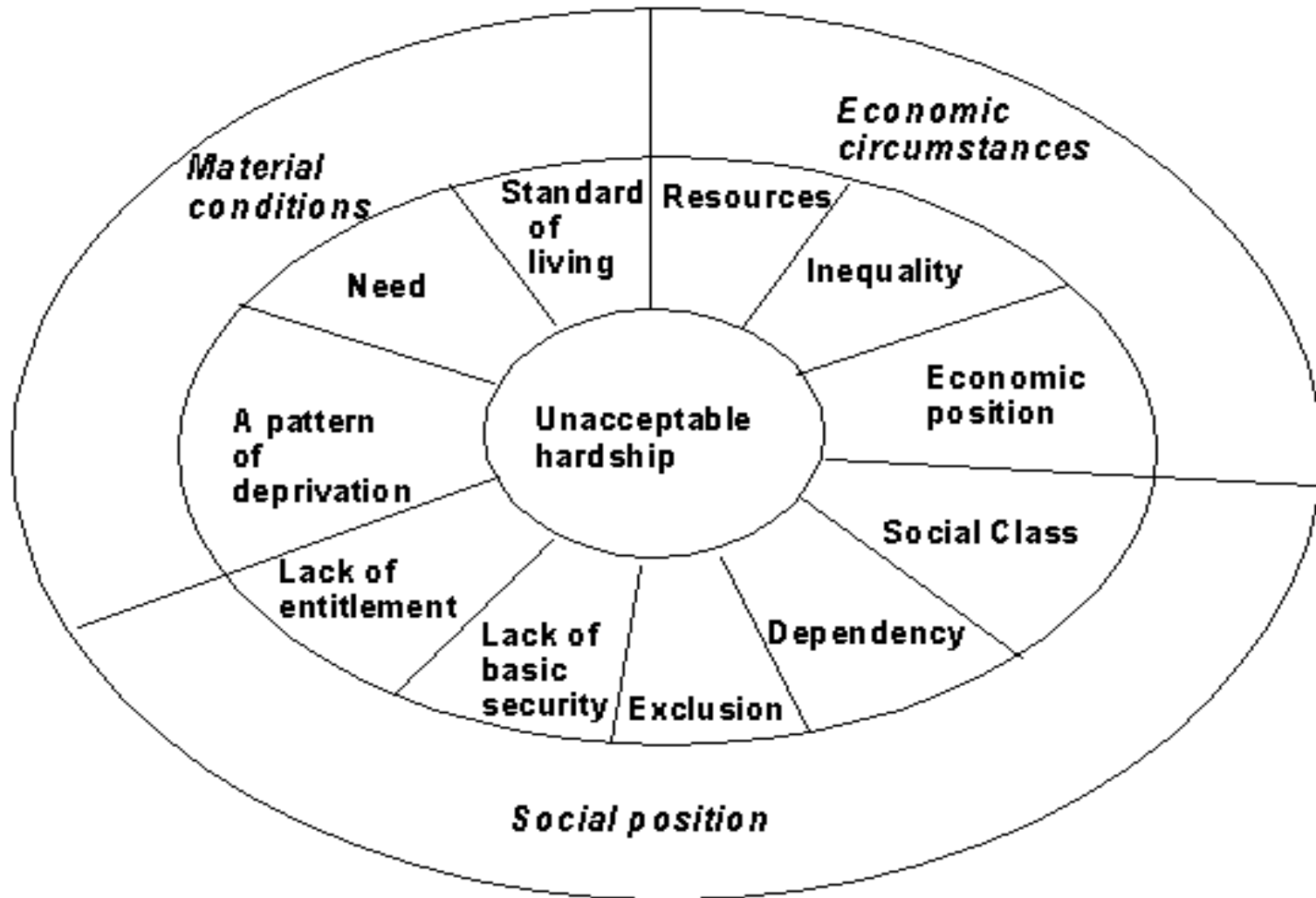
## **SDG Goal 1 Targets. End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

1.1 by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1.2 by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

# Different Concepts of Poverty



## Comparable & Meaningful Poverty Measures

Is it possible to produce comparable and meaningful poverty measures which can be used in all countries given the huge differences in culture and living standards e.g. in Luxembourg a poor person may be someone who cannot afford access to the internet, whereas in Liberia a poor person maybe someone who cannot afford soap and basic toiletries. How can their poverty be measured and compared in a valid, reliable and meaningful way?

### Perquisites

- 1) A theory and definition of poverty which is universally applicable in all societies
- 2) A method which automatically adapts to measure the realities of the lives of poor people in the country/society where they live.
- 3) A method which can produce comparable estimates of the extent and depth of poverty even when the different questions/indicators are used in different countries and/or for different age groups e.g. children, working age adults, older people.
- 4) A method which produces demonstrably valid/accurate and reliable/precise poverty measurement.

## 1) A theory and definition of poverty which is universally applicable in all societies

Townsend's theory of poverty as relative deprivation is applicable in all countries/societies

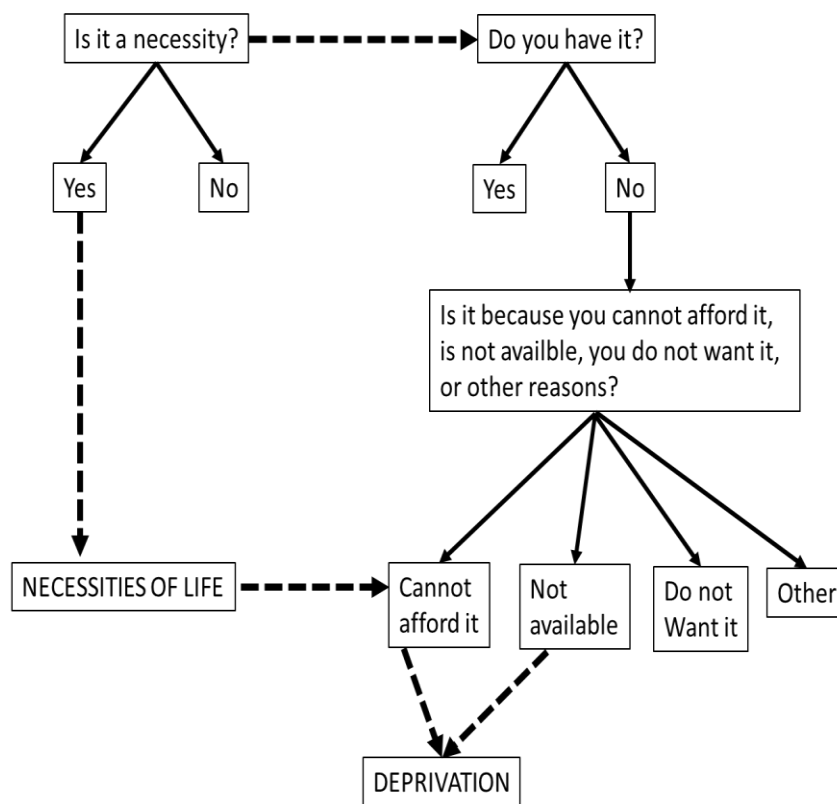
*“Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they **lack the resources** to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved, in the society to which they belong” (Townsend, 1979, p 31)*

It is based upon the sociological idea that people in all societies have a range of both material and social needs which are universal e.g. food, water, shelter, education, meeting required social obligations, etc. and which require some resources e.g. income, credit, etc.

Although these needs are universal the way they are met will vary according to the society/culture.

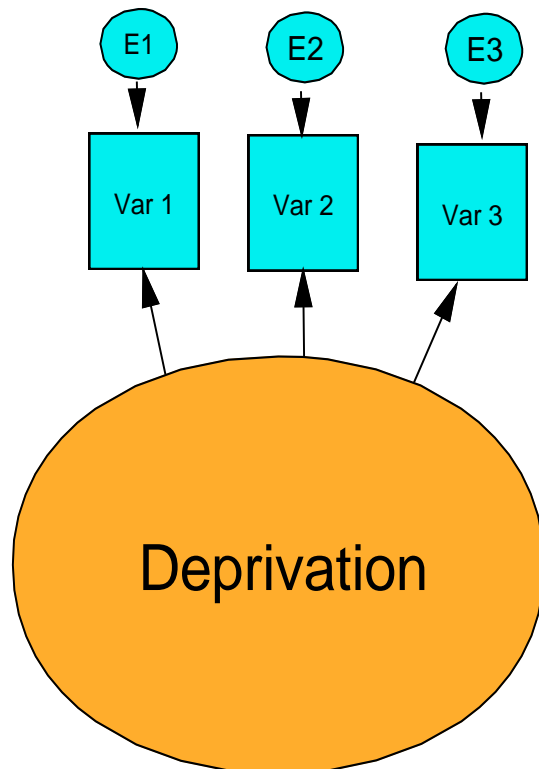
## 2) A method which automatically adapts to measure the realities of the lives of poor people in the country/society where they live.

The consensual deprivation method only defines a person as deprived if they cannot afford a possession/activity/service because they cannot afford it and the majority of the population in that society believe that these possessions and activities are necessities which everyone should be able to afford/have in their society. Thus the consensual deprivation method automatically adapts to cultural/social norms.





**3) A method which can produce comparable estimates of the extent and depth of poverty even when the different questions/indicators are used in different countries and/or for different age groups e.g. children, working age adults, older people**



Deprivation and poverty are concepts (i.e. an idea). The statistical term for a concept is a Latent Variable, i.e. a concept/construct which cannot be measured directly but can be measured/estimated indirectly using indicators - data we can collect/observe on related variables.

This is a Reflective Measurement Model where the indicators are causally related to the latent variable, i.e. when the latent variable changes (e.g. poverty gets better or worse) then the indicators will change.

This approach has many useful properties, for example, the indicators are substitutable, it is not necessary to include all possible indicators to achieve a good measure of poverty and you do not need to use an identical set of indicators in each country/context, i.e. you can use the most appropriate set of indicators in each country and still achieve a comparable measurement of poverty

**A method which can produce comparable estimates of the extent and depth of poverty even when the different questions/indicators are used in different countries and/or for different age groups e.g. children, working age adults, older people**

Scale equating methods are used routinely by Exam Boards to ensure that grade boundaries are the same every year i.e. a student getting an 'A' in 2020 has a similar level of knowledge/competence to a student getting an 'A' grade in 2019 – even though the questions asked in the two exams were largely different.

Scale equating methods are also routinely used by international organisations to compare results across many countries – such as the OECD's PISA study, FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

#### 4) A method which produces demonstrably valid/accurate and reliable/precise poverty measurement.

An analytical framework to produce suitable, valid and reliable deprivation index results has been discussed and endorsed by the European Statistical Office, the UN ECE, European Conference of Statisticians, UN Expert Group on Poverty Statistics (Rio Group) and the Pacific Methods Board.

The Consensual Method to measure poverty has been formally adopted by the European Union (28 Countries) and the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) – 22 countries and territories - and has been used in many other countries across the

	% Children deprived		
	Tonga	Tuvalu	Solomon Islands
Outdoor leisure equipment	23	17	51
Tutorial lessons once a week	22	16	-
Books suitable for their age	22	18	-
Fruit and vegetables daily	13	13	-
Celebrations on special occasions	13	7	27
Some new, not second hand clothes	11	9	31
Participate in school trips	10	7	37
Suitable place to study	9	20	31
Enough beds for every child over 10	9	13	17
Three meals a day	8	0	9
Daily meal with protein	5	7	43
School uniform and equipment	4	5	20
New properly fitting shoes	3	7	44

Items for children	Uganda	Tonga	UK
	Percentage who can't afford item		
Three meals a day	48%	8%	1%
One meal with meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent daily		8%	3%
Enough beds for every child in the household	74%	11%	-
A suitable place to study or do homework <sup>2</sup>	45%	10%	5%
New properly fitting shoes <sup>1</sup>	71%	12%	4%
Some new not second-hand clothes	63%	15%	4%
All school uniform and equipment required <sup>3</sup>	38%	6%	-
Participate in school trips and school events that costs money	34%	11%	8%
Celebration on special occasions	70%	17%	1%

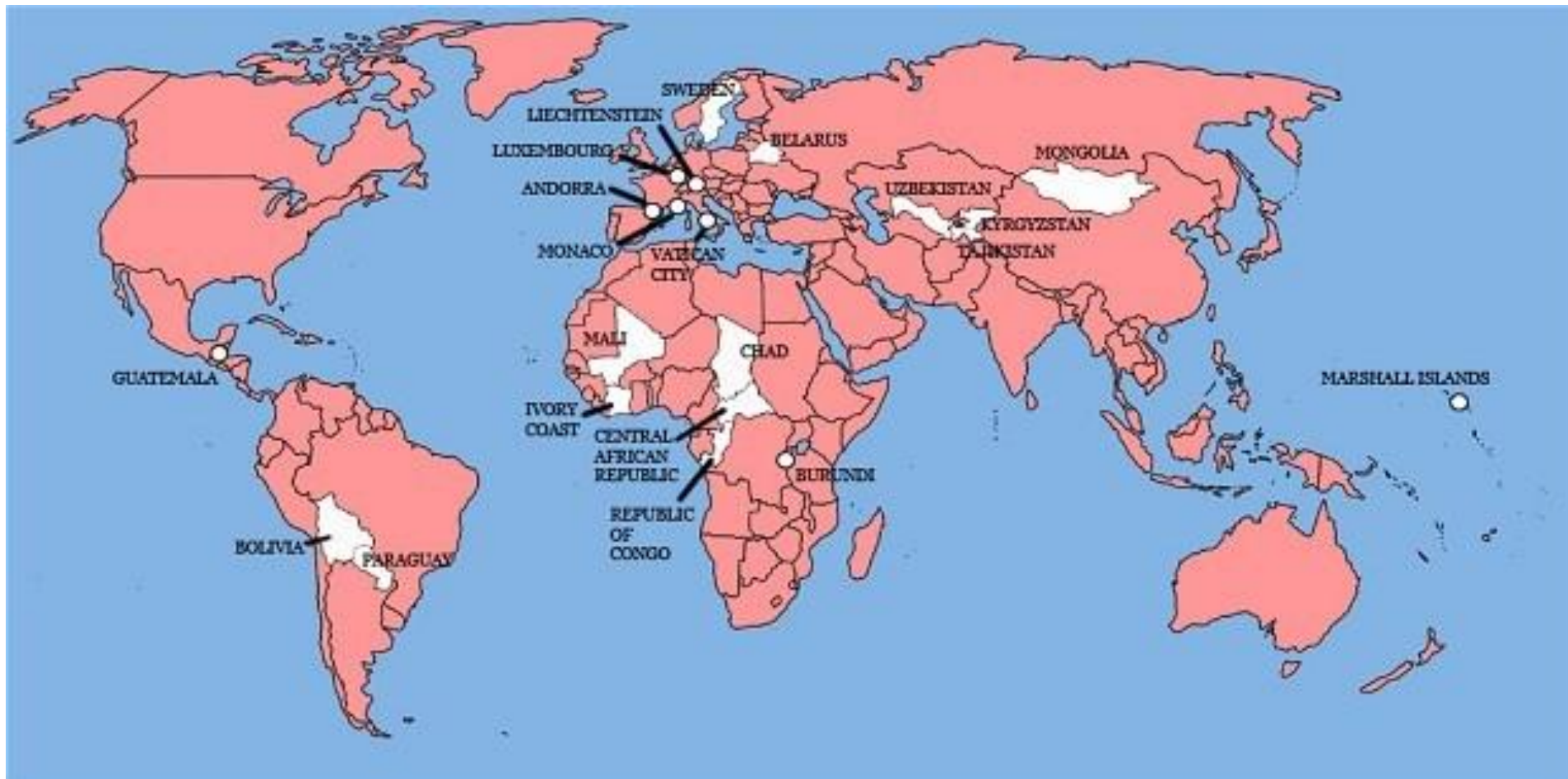
# The 'best' measures of 'poverty' depend on the policy purpose of the measurement

*“The definition of the poverty indicator, of the poverty level, and of the unit of analysis are not purely technical matters. They involve judgements about the objectives of policy.”*

(Atkinson, 1990)

# **A Brief History of UK Anti-Poverty Policy**

# The Countries that Britain has Invaded



Source: Laycock, S. (2012) *All the Countries We've Ever Invaded: And the Few We Never Got Round To* London, The History Press.

## Charter of the Forest: The Beginnings of UK Anti-poverty Policy

**Charter of the Forest** of 6<sup>th</sup> November 1217 – the companion charter to Magna Carta. At that time Royal Forest covered about a third of England

Magna Carta was primarily concerned with the rights of Barons, but the Charter of the Forest was primarily concerned with the rights of ordinary people – the commoners.

The Charter guaranteed the rights of free men and widows to use the Royal Forests for herbage (gathering berries and herbs), pannage (pasture for pigs), estover (wood to build homes, make tools and for firewood), agistment (grazing), turbary (cutting of turf for fuel), collecting of honey, digging marl and ponds, etc. – thus it provided a degree of economic protection to use the forest to forage for food & fuel, farm and graze animals.

The Charter of the Forest was read out in a special service in every church, four times per year. It was eventually repealed, after 745 years, by the Conservative Government in 1971

The Conservative Government refused to officially celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter of the Forest in 2017 as it '*was unimportant, without international significance*'

## Levellers, Diggers, commoners rights and the 'Problem of Riches'

The victory of the New Model Army in the English Civil War provided an opportunity for radical change and thought.

The Agitators, with the help of the Levellers, presented a range of constitutional demands to Oliver Cromwell at the Putney Debates (1647) – their demands set out in *An Agreement of the Free People of England* include the right to vote for all men over the age of 21 (excepting servants, beggars and Royalists), progressive taxation and the abolition of tithes and imprisonment for debt.

The Diggers argued that *'No man can be rich, but he must be rich either by his own labours, or by the labours of other men helping him. If other men help him to work, then are those riches . . . the fruit of other men's labours as well as his own.'*

*'all rich men live at ease, feeding and clothing themselves by the labours of other men, not by their own; which is their shame, not their nobility'*. And when the rich give charity *'they give away other men's labours, not their own'*.



## **The idea that poverty can be ended is over 200 year old**

The French enlightenment philosopher Marie Jean Antonine Nicolas de Caritat, Maquis de Condorcet argued in *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* (published posthumously in 1794 by the government of the new French Republic) that poverty was not a result of natural laws or divine will but was caused by ‘*the present imperfections of the social arts*’

He argued that poverty could be ended by the universal provision of pensions, grants to the young, sickness benefits and state education

# Historic changes in the primary purpose of anti-poverty policy

<b>Century</b>	<b>Purpose of Anti-poverty Policy</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Relief of Indigence
19 <sup>th</sup> & early 20 <sup>th</sup>	Relief of Destitution
20 <sup>th</sup>	Alleviation of Poverty
21 <sup>st</sup>	Eradication of Poverty

# Policy Context

**17th & 18th Century:** Poverty was perceived as a regrettable but necessary evil that was required to make the ‘lower classes’ work. Young (1771) argued that “*Everyone but an idiot knows that the lower classes must be kept poor or they will never be industrious*”. It was widely believed that without the fear of poverty people would not work and there would be no prosperity or civilisation.

**19th Century:** The able-bodied pauper and his family were denied their liberty, civil rights and basic human dignity order to compel behavioural change. Poverty was perceived to purely result from ‘fraud, indolence and improvidence’ and not from any structural factors such as the unavailability of work.

**20th Century:** Welfare State - Poverty mainly seen to be caused by structural factors e.g. unemployment, sickness, etc. Benefits and services to provide safety nets in the short term to alleviate poverty. Full employment for long term economic well-being.

**21st Century:** The concept of freedom from poverty and hunger as a human basic right. Sufficient resources to participate fully as a citizen

# **A Brief Pre- History of Multidimensional Poverty**

## Paupers incomes 1688-1812

	Population		Income		Income of a poor family as a % of average income
	Families	People	Total Income £'000	Income per family £	
<b>1688 – England</b>					
Cottagers and Paupers	400,000	1,300,000	1,950	5	<b>16</b>
All People	1,360,586	5,500,520	43,506	32	
<b>1803 – England and Wales</b>					
Paupers	260,179	1,040,716	6,868	26	<b>23</b>
All People	1,905,823	9,343,561	216,944	114	
<b>1812 – Britain and Ireland</b>					
Paupers	387,100	1,548,400	9,871	25	<b>21</b>
All People	3,501,781	17,096,803	425,310	121	

Incomes and expenditure analyses of both the 'poor' and other groups in English society based on the analyses of tax records were first published by Gregory King in 1696 and 1697 in *Natural and Political Observations Upon the State and Conditions of England*

## The State of the Poor 1797: The Invention of the Questionnaire

In 1795, Sir Frederick Morton Eden undertook the first questionnaire survey (21 questions) of 181 English and Welsh Parishes. He collected information about population, housing, rent, taxes, prices, wages, food consumption, etc.

The results were published in 1797 in *The State of the Poor; Or, An History of the Labouring Classes in England, from the Conquest to the Present Period* – a 900 page history of the Poor Laws.

Morton Eden undertook this research because of:

*“The difficulties, which the labouring classes experienced, from the high price of grain, and of provisions in general, as well as of cloathing (sic!) and fuel, during the years 1794 and 1795, induced me, from motives both of benevolence and personal curiosity, to investigate their conditions in various parts of the kingdom.”*

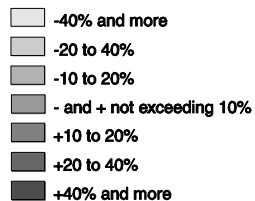
Karl Marx in *Capital* argued that Morton Eden was:

*“the only disciple of Adam Smith throughout the eighteenth century that produced any work of importance”*

# The First 'Poverty' Maps of England & Wales 1845

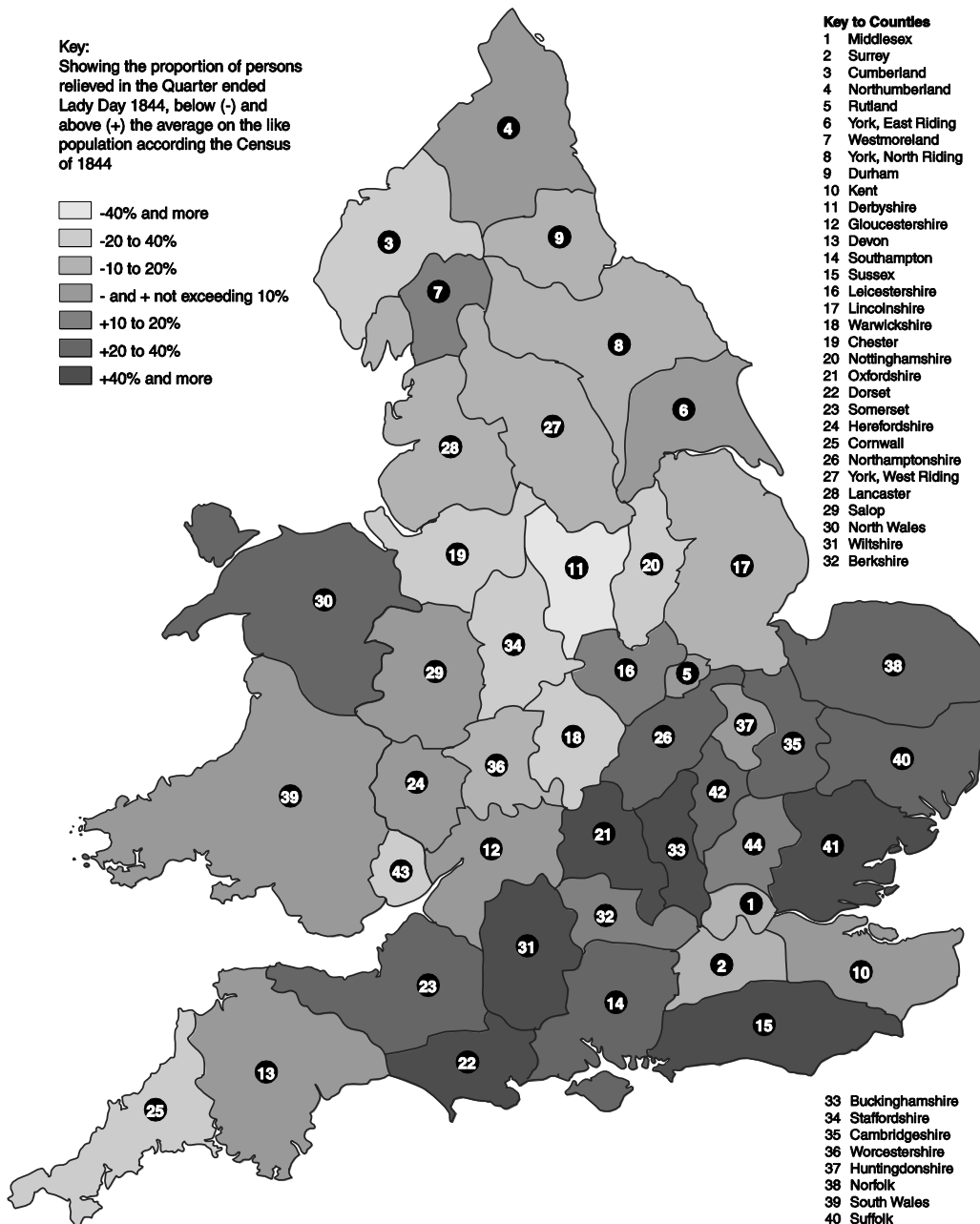
Pauperism in England and Wales as indicated by the proportion to the whole population of the persons relieved in the Quarter ended Lady Day (1844)

Key:  
 Showing the proportion of persons relieved in the Quarter ended Lady Day 1844, below (-) and above (+) the average on the like population according the Census of 1844










## Key to Counties

- 1 Middlesex
- 2 Surrey
- 3 Cumberland
- 4 Northumberland
- 5 Rutland
- 6 York, East Riding
- 7 Westmoreland
- 8 York, North Riding
- 9 Durham
- 10 Kent
- 11 Derbyshire
- 12 Gloucestershire
- 13 Devon
- 14 Southampton
- 15 Sussex
- 16 Leicestershire
- 17 Lincolnshire
- 18 Warwickshire
- 19 Chester
- 20 Nottinghamshire
- 21 Oxfordshire
- 22 Dorset
- 23 Somerset
- 24 Herefordshire
- 25 Cornwall
- 26 Northamptonshire
- 27 York, West Riding
- 28 Lancaster
- 29 Salop
- 30 North Wales
- 31 Wiltshire
- 32 Berkshire
- 33 Buckinghamshire
- 34 Staffordshire
- 35 Cambridgeshire
- 36 Worcestershire
- 37 Huntingdonshire
- 38 Norfolk
- 39 South Wales
- 40 Suffolk
- 41 Essex
- 42 Bedfordshire
- 43 Monmouthshire
- 44 Hertfordshire



# Charles Booth's Class Classification

-  **BLACK:** Lowest class. Vicious, semi-criminal.
-  **DARK BLUE:** Very poor, casual. Chronic want.
-  **LIGHT BLUE:** Poor. 18s. to 21s. a week for a moderate family
-  **PURPLE:** Mixed. Some comfortable others poor
-  **PINK:** Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings.
-  **RED:** Middle class. Well-to-do.
-  **YELLOW:** Upper-middle and Upper classes. Wealthy.

A combination of colours - as dark blue or black, or pink and red - indicates that the street contains a fair proportion of each of the classes represented by the respective colours.



# Charles Booth's Map of St George's Street 1898-1899



# The Poverty Line

The idea of the poverty line was popularised by Charles Booth, although he did not invent this concept (Gillie, 1996). In his influential study of Life and Labour in London Booth identified four classes of 'poor' people;

- A. The lowest class of occasional labourers, loafers and semi-criminals – 'very poor'
- B. Casual earnings 'very poor'
- C. Intermittent earnings – 'Poor'
- D. Small regular earnings – 'Poor'

Booth (1887) stated that "*The divisions indicated here by "poor" and "very poor" are necessarily arbitrary. By the word 'poor' I mean to describe those who have a fairly regular though bare income, such as 18s. to 21s.. per week for a moderate family, and by 'very poor' those who fall below this standard,... The "poor" are those whose means may be sufficient, but are barely sufficient, for decent independent life; the "very poor" those whose means are insufficient for this according to the usual standard of life in this country. My "poor" may be described as living under a struggle to obtain the necessaries of life and make both ends meet; while the "very poor" live in a state of chronic want.*"

# Poverty Line Vs Want/Destress

Booth collected and published the budgets of 30 families, including 10 from the 'poor' and six from the 'very poor' (Stone, 1997).

However, it is unknown how Booth arrived at his 'line of poverty', which was considerably greater than the average poor relief of 9s 4d (£0.47p) for a family of five in London in 1888 (Glennerster, 2004).

It is important to realise that the Poor Law was not primarily concerned with the 'poor' but with relieving 'destitution' i.e. the purpose of Poor Relief was for '**keeping a fellow-creature from perishing**' -thus Booth's 'Line of Poverty' was at least twice as high as that required to relieve '**absolute want of the bare necessities of life**' (Gillie, 2008).

It is possible that Booth adopted the London School Board's assessment of the income below which school fees should be remitted – the 1870 Elementary Education Act and subsequent legislation made it compulsory for all children aged between five and thirteen to attend school and fees were charged until they were abolished in 1891 (Gillie, 1996). A family of four would have had their school fees remitted in London if their income was less than 18s per week and would have had to pay only 1d per child if their income was less than 21s per week -assuming a 5s per week rent for two rooms (Gillie, 1996)

## Both Booth and Rowntree's 'Poverty Lines' were very similar to the School Boards Poverty Lines used to determine school fee benefit eligibility



# Identifying the Poor: Multidimensional Poverty Measures

Both Booth and Rowntree used these income poverty lines purely as a heuristic device, the poor were identified in both studies as those in obvious want and squalor i.e. based on the opinions of the survey enumerators and School Board Visitors about the families living conditions (Stone, 1997; Gillie. 2000).

Discriminant Analyses of a sub-set of the data in Booth's notebooks demonstrated that the **number of rooms (over-crowding)** and the **subjective assessment of the School Board Visitors** about the family (e.g. 'poor but honest') were of significantly importance for classifying a family as poor or otherwise than the estimate of the family's income (Bales, 1994).

In Booth's later work he responding to criticisms of the use of 'appearances' to identify the 'poor' (for example see Bosanquet, 1903) by adopting overcrowding rather than income as his 'poverty line'. Booth's (1893) analyses of the 1891 Census found that around 5% of the 4.2 million people in London were living in **very crowded conditions of four or more people per room** and that a third were living in **crowded conditions (defined as two or more people per room)**.



# Booth: The Causes of Poverty

Booth expected to find that the primary causes of poverty were drunkenness and 'bad' behaviour (thriftlessness, loafing, etc.). He found to his surprise that the primary cause were low wages, irregular work and unemployment.

He tried to explain these findings away.

*Analysis of Causes of "Great Poverty" (Classes A and B).*

		Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Loafers .....	—	—	60	4
2. Casual work .....	697	43	878	55 { Questions of employment
3. Irregular work, low pay ...	141	9		
4. Small profits.....	40	3		
5. Drink (husband, or both } husband and wife)..... }	152	9	231	14 { Questions of habit
6. Drunken or thriftless wife	79	5		
7. Illness or infirmity .....	170	10	441	27 { Questions of circumstance
8. Large family .....	124	8		
9. Illness or large family, } combined with irregu- } lar work..... }	147	9		
	—	—	1,610	100

*Analysis of Causes of "Poverty" (Classes C and D).*

		Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Loafers .....	—	—	—	—
2. Low pay (regular earnings)	503	20	1,668	68 { Questions of employment
3. Irregular earnings .....	1,052	43		
4. Small profits.....	113	5		
5. Drink (husband, or both } husband and wife)..... }	167	7	322	13 { Questions of habit
6. Drunken or thriftless wife	155	6		
7. Illness or infirmity .....	123	5	476	19 { Questions of circumstance
8. Large family.....	223	9		
9. Illness or large family, } combined with irregu- } lar work .....	130	5		
	—	—	2,466	100

# Budget Standards Poverty Lines

One of the first food budget income 'poverty' lines was published by Samuel Barnett in 1886 based on Henrietta Barnett's (1886) budget standards calculations.

the necessary weekly expenditure of a family of eight persons, of whom six are children. It allows for each day no cheering luxuries, but only the bare amount of nitrogenous and carbonaceous foods which are absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the body.

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
Food, <i>i.e.</i> oatmeal, 1¼ lbs. of meat a day between eight persons, cocoa and bread	0 14 0
Rent for two small rooms	0 5 0
Schooling for four children	0 0 4
Washing	0 1 0
Firing and light	0 2 6
Total	<u>1 2 10</u>

An arguably cruder version of Barnett's 19<sup>th</sup> Century budget standards method is used by the World Bank to measure 'Basic Needs' poverty in many developing countries.

# Research into the 'problem' of pauperism resulted in significant statistical and methodological innovation in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

NOTES on the HISTORY of PAUPERISM in ENGLAND and WALES from  
1850, TREATED by the METHOD of FREQUENCY-CURVES; with an  
INTRODUCTION on the METHOD.

By G. UDNY YULE, Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics,  
University College, London.

[Read before the Royal Statistical Society, 21st April, 1896.  
The Right Hon. the EARL OF VERULAM, Vice-President, in the Chair.]

## CONTENTS :

	PAGE
I.—Introduction: on the Methods used.....	318
Sec. 1. Introductory .....	318
„ 2. Artificial Chance; Frequency-Polygons .....	319
„ 3. Point-Binomial .....	320
„ 4. Method of Fitting; Moment Coefficients.....	321
„ 5. Continuous and Discontinuous Variation; Frequency- Curves; Normal Curve; Generalised Binomial Curve; Hypergeometrical Series and Derived Curves .....	323
„ 6. Criterion .....	326
„ 7. Mode, Median, and Mean .....	327
„ 8. Standard Deviation .....	328
„ 9. Skewness .....	329
„ 10. Probable Errors .....	330
„ 11. Contributory Causes and Component Cause-Groups.....	331
„ 12. Homogeneity of Material .....	331
„ 13. Test of Fit .....	332
II.—On Pauperism in England and Wales, 1850-91 .....	332
Sec. 14. Material; Arrangement of Tables and Plates .....	332
„ 15. Table I; Plates I—V .....	334
„ 16. Means and Modes.....	335
„ 17. Standard Deviations .....	336
„ 18. Criteria .....	337
„ 19. Ranges .....	337
„ 20. Indices $m$ , and Ratio $m/a$ .....	338
„ 21. Skewness .....	338
„ 22. Point-Binomials .....	339
„ 23. Fit of Curves .....	340
„ 24. Concluding Remarks.....	341
Supplementary Note on approximate Methods of Determining the Mode	343



## History of Approaches to the Definition and Measurement of Poverty that are used by most official poverty measures

- **Subsistence** – Income of a household or family is “insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency” (Rowntree, 1901, p.86)
- **Basic needs** – Income is insufficient for both subsistence and “essential services provided by and for the community at large, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, public transport and health, education and cultural facilities” (ILO, 1976, pp,24-25)
- **Relative deprivation** – Income is “insufficient” to “obtain the conditions of life, that is, the diets, amenities, standards, and services, which allow people to play the roles, participate in the relationships, and follow the customary behaviour which is expected of them by virtue of their membership of society” (Townsend, 1993, p.36)

# **Latin American and European Origins of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement**

Latin America and Europe developed independent traditions of multidimensional poverty measurement during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

In Latin America, following the work of Altimir (1979), Unmet Basic Needs (UBN) indicators were developed to compliment low income measures (alimentary) of poverty. In Argentina, Beccaria and Minujin (1985) developed a combined low income and UBN multidimensional poverty measure using a **UNION approach i.e. the poor were those who suffered from Low Income and/or UBN deprivation.**

In Europe, following the work of Townsend (1964, 1979), multidimensional poverty measures were developed by both academics and governments which combined low income and deprivation measures using an **Intersection approach i.e. the poor were those who suffered from Low Income AND Deprivation.**

More recently, Boltvinik in Latin America and Alkire in Europe have developed intermediate approaches (partial union) using weights, but the arbitrary nature of these weights results in multidimensional poverty measures which have low reliability (i.e. they suffer from significant amounts of systematic and random error)

Yedith Guillén Fernández (2017) has discussed the political economy of these traditions and argued that in Europe the existence of comprehensive welfare states with universal services meant that the primary policy goal of poverty measurement was better targeting, hence an INTERSECTION approach (the 'truly poor'). In Latin America, in the absence of universal services the policy goals were the expansion of service coverage and income supplementation, hence the UNION approach to poverty measurement.

## Unmet Basic Needs (UBN) measures in Latin America

	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Colombia</b>	<b>Peru</b>	<b>Venezuela</b>
<b>Housing</b>	Precarious; rooms in cheap “hotel”; rooms in slum buildings	main cities: dwellings with no flooring other cities: dwelling with no flooring and inadequate walls materials	Dwellings with out flooring and inadequate walls materials	“Rustic” dwellings in shanty towns housing
<b>Overcrowding</b>	More than three persons per room	More than three persons per room	More than three persons per room	More than three persons per room
<b>Services</b>	No toilets	main cities: without public water supply and non sewage disposal facilities; other cities: water from nearby streams or wells, with no toilets	Simultaneously: no running water supply no water from wells, no sewage disposal facilities and no electricity	urban: no water pipes inside or outside the dwelling rural: no water pipes nor toilets
<b>Education</b>	Households with children in primary school age not attending school	Household with children in primary school age not attending school	Households with children in primary school age not attending school	Households with children in primary school age not attending school
<b>Subsistence capacity</b>	Head of household with 3 or less years of education in households with 4 or more people per employed person		Head of household with 3 or less years of education in households with 3 or more people per employed person	Head of household with 3 or less years of education in households with 3 or more people per employed person

**Table 4.4.1.a – Dimensions in different models of objective multidimensional individual welfare**

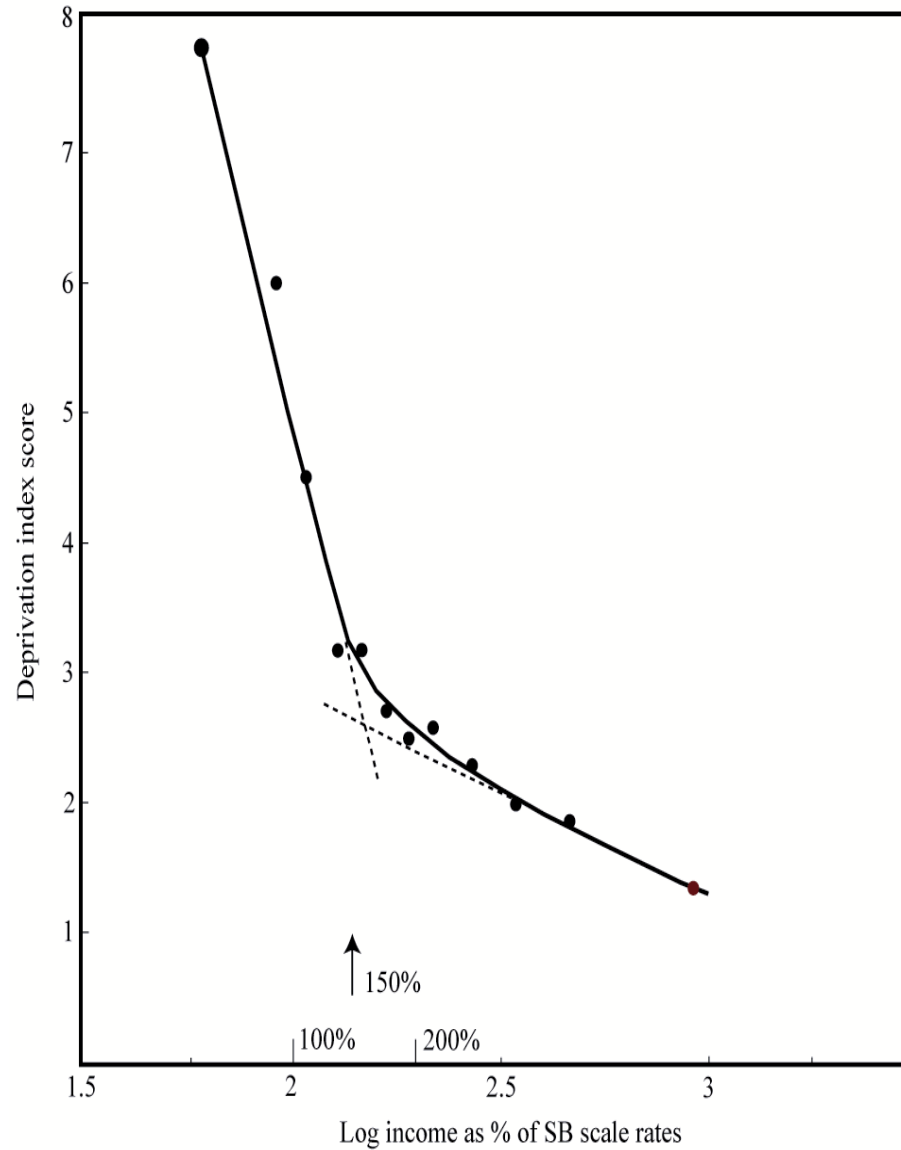
Welfare Outcomes		Welfare Resources (in terms of their empirical focus)				Human Needs	
Generic categories	NL Social & Cultural Planning Office	Habich's 'Lebenslagen' index	Hradil's theoretical 'Soziale Lagen' model	Schwenk's empirical 'Soziale Lagen' model	Swedish Level of Living surveys (ULF system)	Allardt's 'Having, Loving, Being' model	Max-Neef's basic human needs
Social Integration	Social participation (social isolation)	<u>Social</u> & political participation	Social relations Social roles	Social integration	Family & social integration	Family attachment Friendship patterns	Affection Identity
Economic resources	Purchasing Power	Social situation of household Consumption	Money Poverty risks Social security	Income	Economic resources	Income	Subsistence
Housing	Housing	Housing conditions	Housing environment	Housing amenities & space	Housing	Housing	Subsistence
Neighbourhood	Housing (neighbourhood quality)	---	Housing environment (neighbourhood quality)	(natural) Environment	Housing (neighbourhood quality)	---	---
Physical Health	Health	Health	Social security (= access to health care)	*	Health & access to health care	Health	Subsistence
Psychological Health	Health (psychosomatic conditions)	SWB in separate index	'negative conditions' (poor SWB)	Anomie (or 'anomic' depression)	Health (psychosomatic conditions)	Alienation	<i>possibly</i> <i>Affection/Identity</i>
Work and productive activity	*	Elements of the social structure (employment)	Formal power Working conditions	*	Employment & working conditions	Employment Doing interesting things	Creation
Community	Social participation	Social & <u>political</u> participation	Democratic institutions Prestige	Participation	Political resources	Political resources Community attachment Personal prestige	Participation
Personal safety	Housing (neighbourhood quality)	---	Housing environment (neighbourhood quality)	---	Security of life & property	Community attachment	Protection
Education	*	Elements of the social structure (Education)	Education	Education	Education & skills	Education	Understanding
Leisure	Leisure activities Sport activity Holiday	---	Leisure conditions	Leisure conditions	Recreation & culture	Doing interesting things	Idleness
Extra	Mobility	---	Discrimination/ Privileges	Discrimination/ Privileges	---	---	Freedom

\* specific theoretical reasons for omission cited or implied

# Townsend's Deprivation Indicators, 1968-9

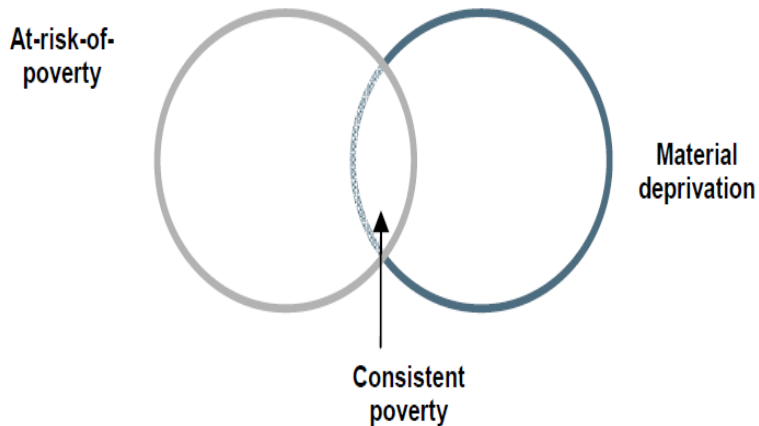
Indicators	% of lacking
Has not had a cooked breakfast most days of the week	<b>67</b>
Did not have a party on the last birthday (under 15 only)	<b>57</b>
Has not had a week's holiday away from home in last 12 months	<b>54</b>
Had not had an afternoon/evening out for entertainment in last 2 weeks	<b>47</b>
Had not been out in the last 4 weeks to a relative or friend for a snack or meal (adults only)	<b>45</b>
Household does not have a refrigerator	<b>45</b>
Had not had a friend to play or a friend to tea in the last 4 weeks (under 15 only)	<b>36</b>
Has not had a relative or friend to the home for a meal or snack in the last 4 weeks (adults only)	<b>33</b>
Household does not usually give a Sunday roast (3 in 4 times)	<b>26</b>
Household does not have sole use of 4 amenities indoors (WC, sink, bath/shower, cooker)	<b>21</b>
Does not have fresh meat (including meals out) at least four days a week	<b>19</b>
Has gone through one or more days in the past fortnight without cooked meal	<b>7</b>

# Modal Deprivation by Logarithm of Income as a Percentage of Supplementary Benefit Scale Rates (Townsend, 1979)



# Ireland Consistent Poverty Measure

The poor are individuals who live in a low income household (<60% national median equivalised household income) and who also lack two or more items from an 11 item deprivation index;



The Consistent Poverty measure use the intersection approach i.e. the poor are those who suffer from both a low income and multiple deprivation. It was adopted in 1997 as a part of the National Anti-poverty Strategy and revised and updated in 2006

1. two pairs of strong shoes
2. a warm waterproof overcoat,
3. buy new not second-hand clothes,
4. eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day,
5. have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week,
6. had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money,
7. keep the home adequately warm,
8. buy presents for family or friends at least once a year,
9. replace any worn out furniture,
10. have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month
11. have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment.



# UK Child Poverty Act 2010 targets

- **Low income and material deprivation:** proportion of children who experience material deprivation and live in households where income is less than 70% of median household income before housing costs for the financial year. *Target: less than 5% by 2020-21*
- **Severe low income & deprivation** In 2009/10 the government published a new severe income and deprivation measure (income less than 50% of the median and deprived).
- **Relative low income:** proportion of children living in households where income is less than 60% of median household income before housing costs for the financial year. *Target: less than 10% by 2020-21.*
- **Absolute low income:** proportion of children living in households where income is less than 60% of median household income before housing costs in 2010-11 adjusted for prices. *Target: less than 5% by 2020-21.*
- **Persistent poverty** - proportion of children living in households where income is less than 60% of median household income before housing costs for the financial year in at least 3 out of the previous 4 years. *The target is to be defined in regulations by 2015.*

The Low Income and Deprivation measure was first published by the government in 2004, became law in 2010 and was revised in 2012. The law was repealed for England in 2016, but not for Scotland or Wales. It is still published every year for the UK

# **Child and adult deprivation items used in the combined low income and deprivation poverty measure in the UK**

## **Child Deprivation Items**

1. Outdoor space or facilities nearby to play safely
2. Enough bedrooms for every child of 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom
3. Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas or other religious festivals
4. Leisure equipment such as sports equipment or a bicycle
5. A family holiday away from home for at least one week a year
6. A hobby or leisure activity
7. Friends around for tea or a snack once a fortnight
8. Go on school trips
9. Toddler group/nursery/playgroup at least once a week
10. Fresh fruit and vegetables eaten by children every day
11. Warm winter coat for each child
12. Friends around for tea or a snack once a fortnight

## **Adult & Household Deprivation Items**

13. Enough money to keep home in a decent state of decoration
14. A holiday away from home for at least one week a year, whilst not staying with relatives at their home
15. Household contents insurance
16. Regular savings of £10 a month or more for rainy days or retirement
17. A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family
18. In winter, able to keep accommodation warm enough
19. Replace any worn out furniture
20. Replace or repair major electrical goods such as a refrigerator or a washing machine, when broken
21. Celebrations on special occasions
22. Keep up with bills and regular debt payments

# Europe 2020 Multidimensional Poverty Measure- 3 indicators

## Risk of poverty

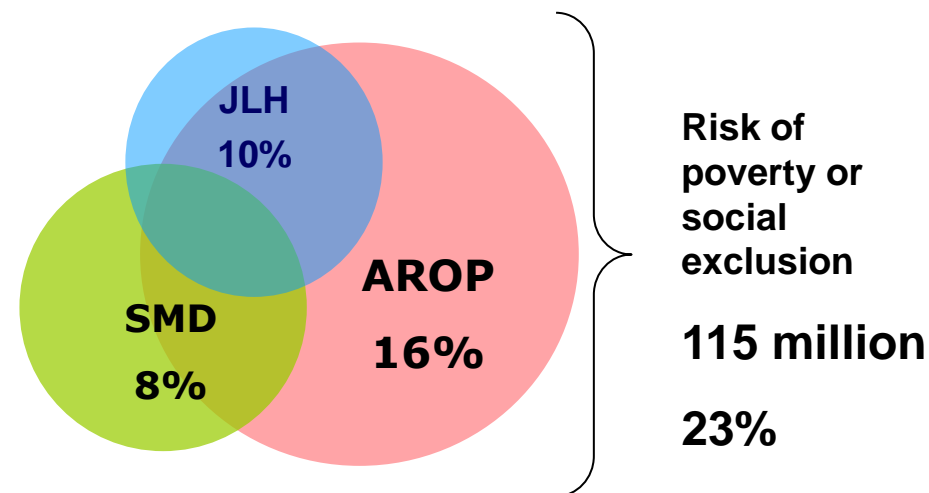
- People living with less than 60% of the national median income
- Poverty lines vary from 200€/month to more than 3,000€
- « resources so low as to exclude them from the way of life of the MS »

## Severe material deprivation

- A **non monetary** measure of living conditions
- at least 4 out of 9 deprivations: pay the rent, keep home warm, eat meat or protein every second day, enforced lack of a car, a washing machine...
- Single European threshold, reflecting different living standards across the EU

## People living in households with very low work intensity (“jobless households”)

- **long-term exclusion** from the labour market for workers and dependant family members
- Households where people aged 18-59, not students have no work or worked less than 1 day / week on average during the year



Source: Eurostat EU SILC 2010

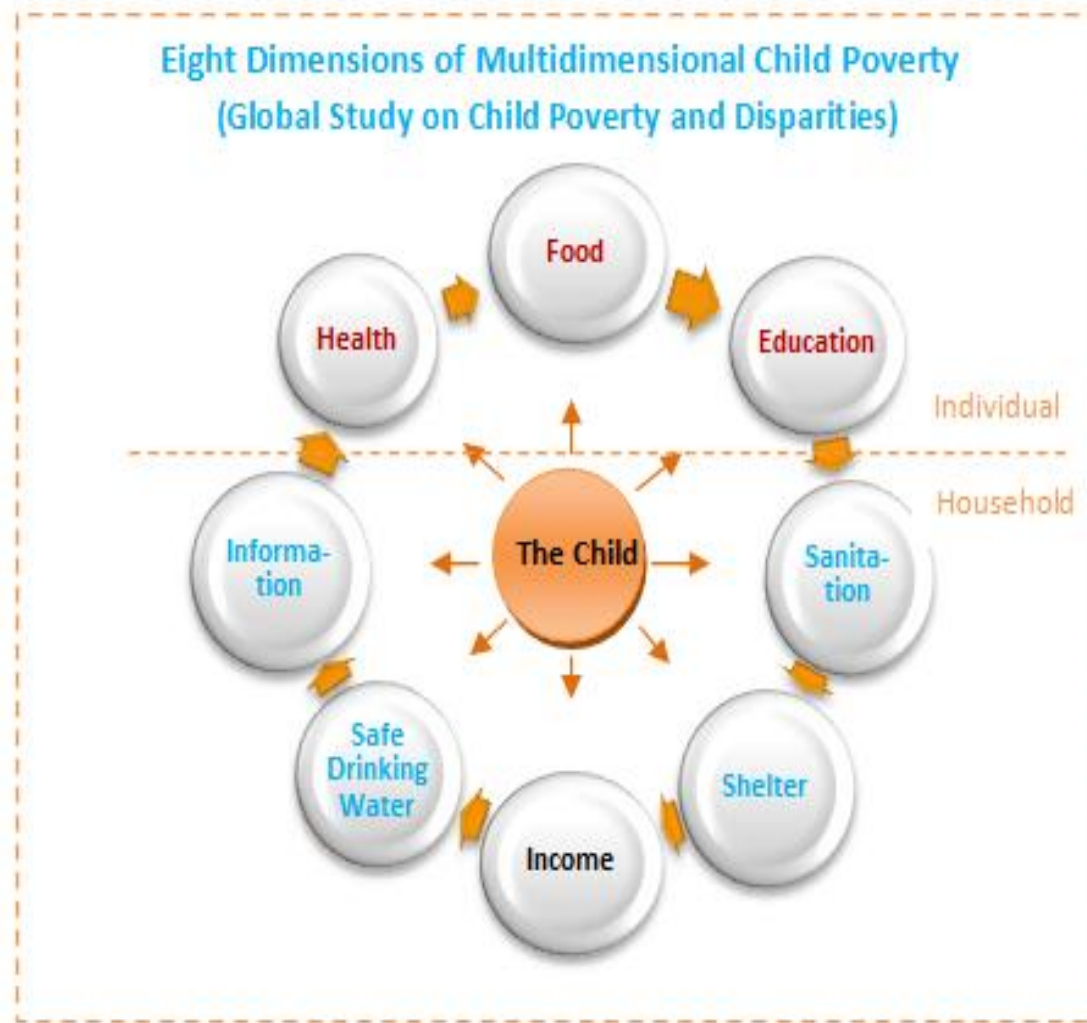
# Human Rights

## The Minimum Core Obligations

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

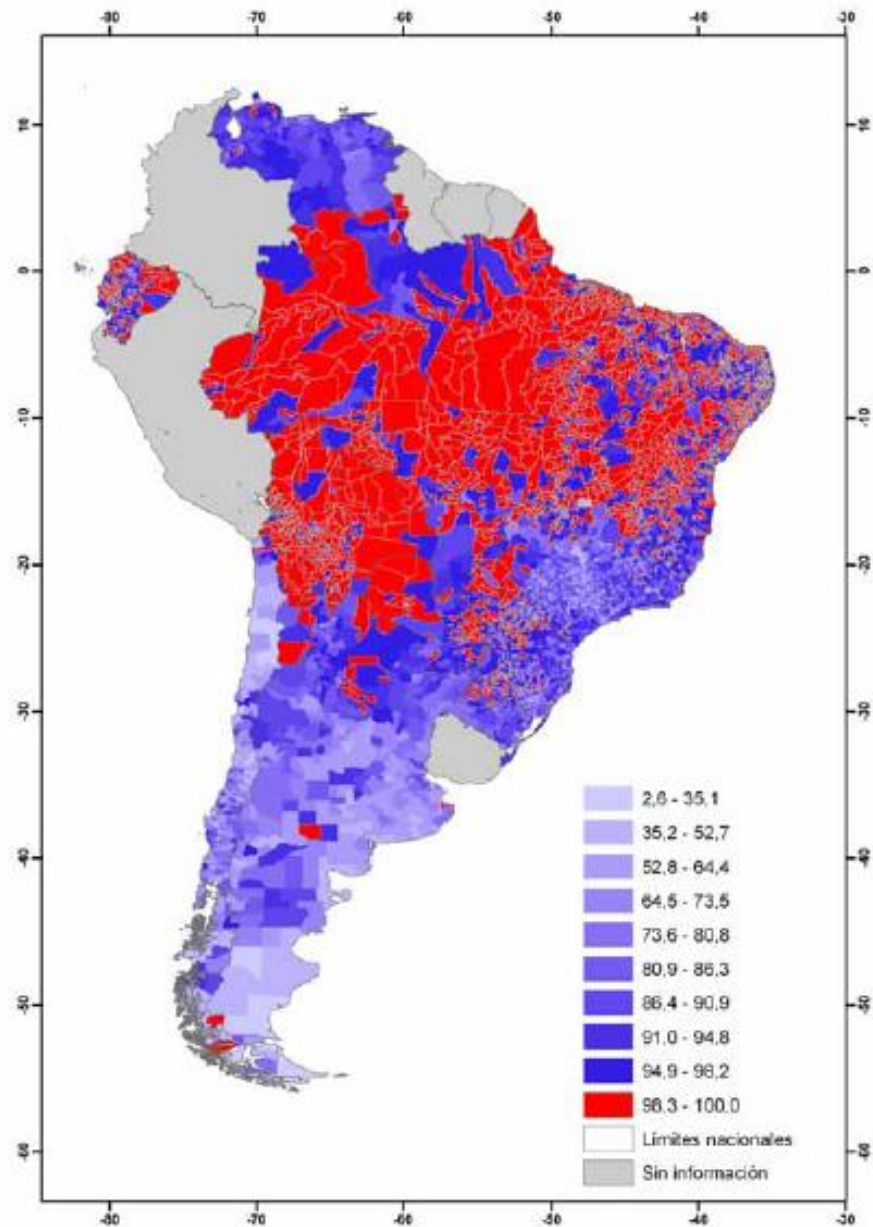
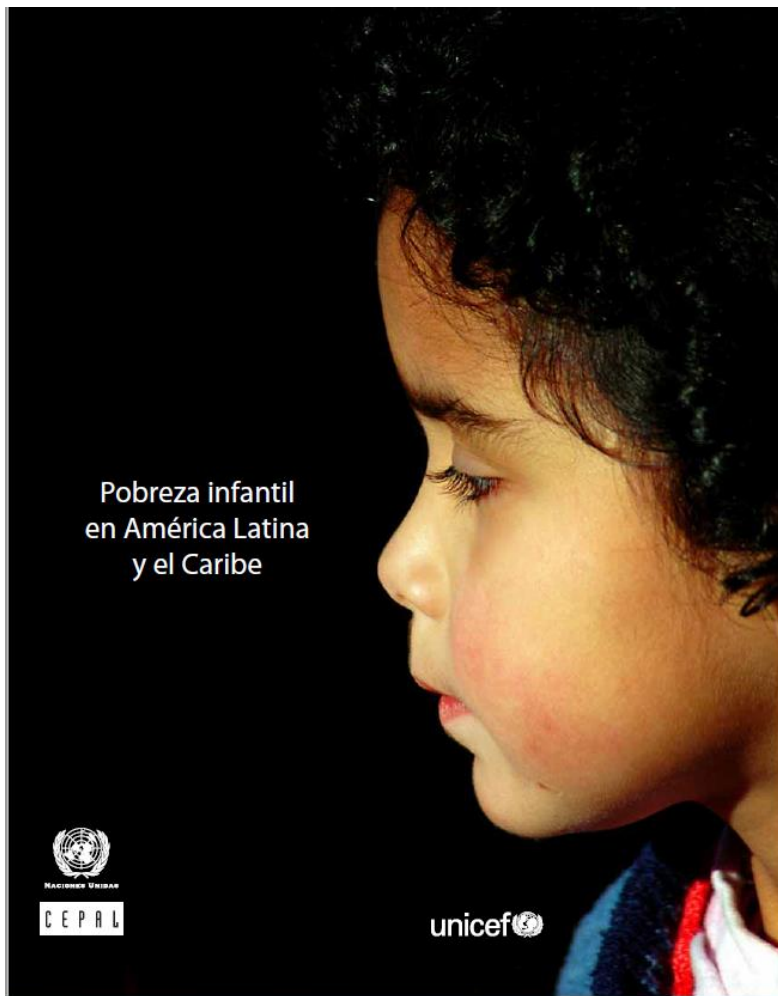
*“is of the view that a minimum core obligation to ensure the satisfaction of, at least, minimum essential levels of each of the rights is incumbent upon every member state party. Thus, for example, a state party in which any significant number of individuals is deprived of essential foodstuffs, of essential primary health care, of basic shelter and housing, or of the most basic form of education is, prima facie, failing to discharge its obligations under the convention”*

# Dimensions of Child Poverty: 'Bristol' Method



Researchers at UNICEF Office of Research (Innocenti) and at the University of Oxford (OPHI) drew upon this deprivation approach and similar data sources to produce multidimensional poverty measures i.e. Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analyses (MODA) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

**Mapa V.4**  
**AMÉRICA DEL SUR: POBLACIÓN MENOR DE 18 AÑOS EN SITUACIÓN DE POBREZA INFANTIL<sup>a</sup>**  
**POR DIVISIONES ADMINISTRATIVAS MENORES, ALREDEDOR DE 2000**  
*(En porcentajes)*



# Rights to social development

“..to guarantee the full exercise of the social rights set forth in the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, ensuring access to social development to the population as a whole ”

•The Law was **approved unanimously** by the Chambers of Deputies and Senators

•This Law can be seen as the social **consensus** Mexico has achieved through Congress

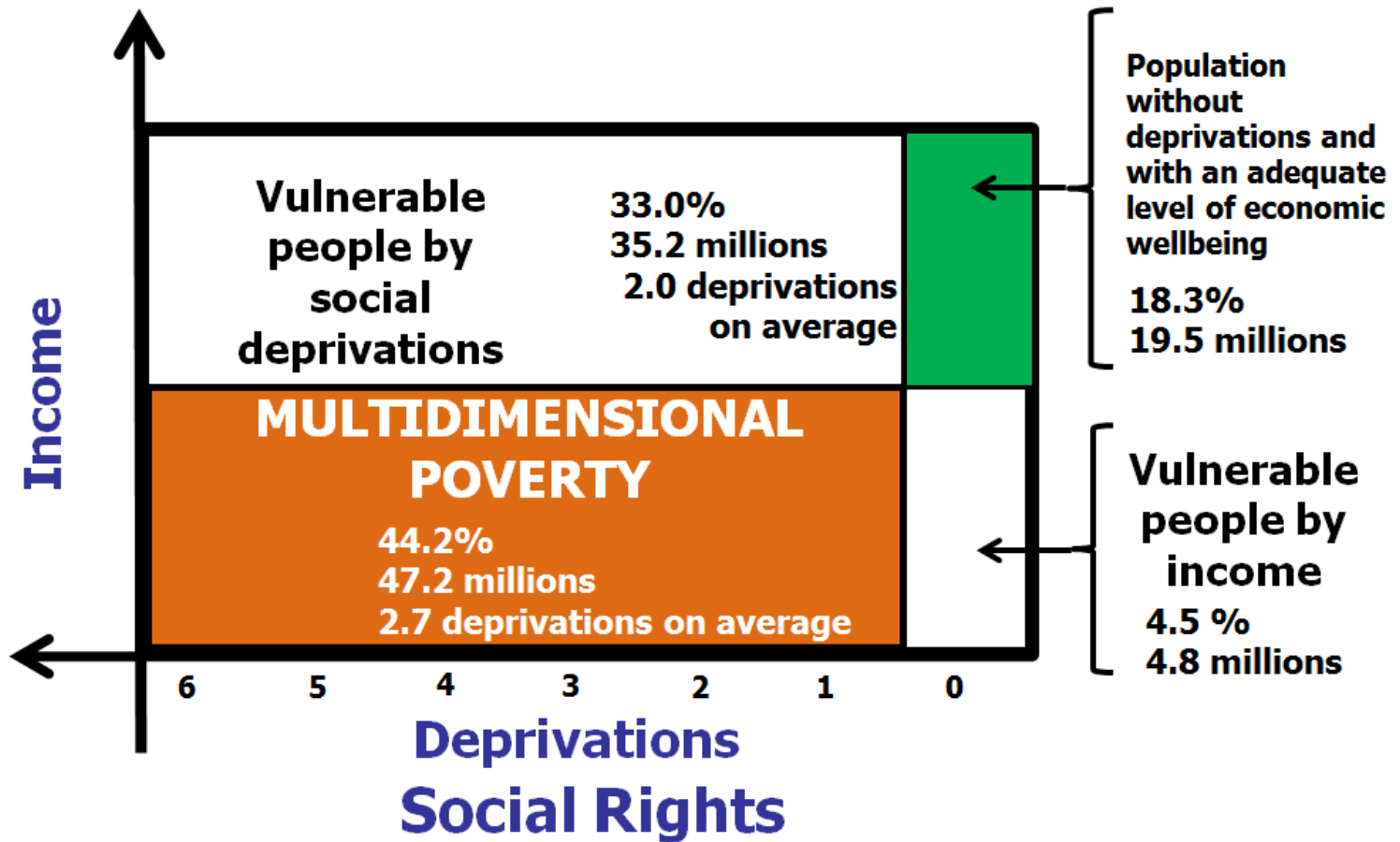
Health

Education

Housing

# Mexico's Multidimensional Poverty Measure

**Total population 2008 (106,680,526)**





## Multidimensional poverty rates in Mexico, 2012, by different poverty measures

Multidimensional poverty measures	Poverty rates
The consensual method (intersection approach) (Gordon, 2006a; Gordon and Nandy, 2012)	47
CONEVAL's (2013a) MMPM method (intersection approach)	46
EU2020 poverty measure (union approach)	29
Boltvinik's (1992) IPMM index (partial intersection approach)	82

Yedith Guillén Fernández (2017) **MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY MEASUREMENT FROM A RELATIVE DEPRIVATION APPROACH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND MEXICO**. PhD Thesis.

estimates obtained from the application of multidimensional poverty measures to the UK. And information taken from the CONEVAL's (2010; 2013a) poverty measurement criteria and EVALUA (2011a; 2014).

# The Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Human Development Report 2000, argued that:

*"Poverty eradication is a major human rights challenge of the 21st Century. A decent standard of living, adequate nutrition, health care, education decent work and protection against calamities, are not just development goals- they are also human rights"*