Title: Using the Individual Deprivation Measure to obtain SDG gender data

The Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) is an innovative gender-sensitive poverty measure that assesses multidimensional poverty at the individual level. It can also be an effective tool for monitoring and assessing achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, notably relating to SDG Goals 1 and 5. The IDM measures fifteen dimensions of deprivation prioritized by poor men and women through participatory research in 18 sites in 6 countries. Many of these dimensions and indicators align with key SDG indicators on poverty and the empowerment of women and girls, among them violence against women and girls, voice in decision-making, unpaid care and domestic work, access to family planning, and access to and ownership of productive assets. Two features of the IDM that enable us to obtain this rich gender-sensitive data are: the survey itself, which through its dimensions and themes is designed to incorporate issues of particular concern to women and men; and the collection of individual data within households.

This paper illustrates how the IDM is relevant for tracking the progress of SDG 1 and 5 through its dimension and indicator overlap with at least 13 indicators highlighted by UN Women’s Gender-related SDG Indicators. Second, a fuller picture of gendered poverty is revealed when views of men and women are collected at the individual level rather than at the household level. Examples will be presented of how using this innovative tool, we can not only provide sex-disaggregated data but gender-sensitive data which will provide rich insights about how men and women experience poverty differently in relation to the SDGs.

With a sufficient sample size, the IDM also enables intersectional analysis across a range of characteristics, including geographical location (e.g. urban/rural), age, disability status and gender, enabling identification of particular social groups where progress in relation to achievement of SDGs is more or less advanced, and where priority actions are needed. The paper will illustrate how use of the IDM can provide policy makers with valuable data to frame policies and programs to ‘leave no-one behind’.