

I would like to give one birdseye view of persistent gaps and challenges, and offer two lessons for improvement. First, a birdseye view: The Doha Declaration recognises the over one billion people whose poverty takes many forms and dimensions according to the global Multidimensional Poverty Index or MPI. This global MPI identifies each person as poor if they are deprived in at least one-third of the 3 dimensions and 10 weighted indicators. Of the 1.1 billion people who are poor, close to one billion cook with wood, charcoal or dung. 878M lack waterproof windproof housing; 830 million lack adequate sanitation; and 635 million live with someone who is undernourished. Over half of the 1.1 billion multidimensionally poor people have no electricity (far more – no internet), and for over half, no one at home has completed 6 years of schooling. 517 million lack safe drinking water within a 30 minute walk and 487M have an out of school child at home. And by definition, nearly all of these 1.1 billion poor people are deprived in multiple indicators – usually 5 or more. Huge strides have been made, but such gaps persist – and are solvable.

Now for two lessons. The first is: Use Multidimensional Data to shape Integrated policies. The Copenhagen Commitment #2 aimed to address poverty using a “multidimensional and integrated approach” and the Doha Declaration seeks “bold and effective social policies that are woven into a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, people-centred and integrated approaches... [that avoid] policy silos across sectors.”

Yet integrated policies can be bureaucratic, slow and expensive – or they can be synergistic, catalytic, and cost-efficient. While synergy can happen for several reasons, a key ingredient is data to manage the intersectionality of deprivations for each household. An MPI provides this, so is used for targeting social protection, for budgeting, and for evaluating the impact and cost effectiveness of interventions.

The second is: Keep score using a few headline numbers not a thunderstorm. The Doha Declaration recognises 800M in monetary poverty and 1.1 billion in multidimensional poverty. This is clear. It means we can compare poverty across place and time – we can compare Argentina to Armenia to Algeria to Angola to Afghanistan; and we can cheer when 1.1 billion falls to 1 billion and below. Similarly the Doha Declaration advocates national multidimensional poverty measures that reflect each country’s priorities and drive policy. Having headlines helps us focus and coordinate. Technicians can dig deeper.

Two closing clarifications. Poverty headlines must be **disaggregated** to illuminate inequalities by age, location, disability status and so on, so no one is left behind. And second, we have to recognise different kinds of success, by **tracking poverty trends in 3 ways**: the absolute reduction – where poorest contexts can shine. The relative change, like the SDG target of cutting poverty by half, where low poverty contexts can shine. And third, the number of poor people who left poverty, as this coheres with a human rights-based and people-centred emphasis.

[Friends, this Summit has convened committed people with top skills in leadership, politics, management and research. And your collective Olympiad energies are laser-focused on solving the great burdens that the poorest are carrying, while walking alongside. This is how breakthroughs can happen.]

