

Analyzing Multidimensional Poverty in the Arab Region

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



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The Objectives and Rationale for an Arab MPI

1. Developing a multidimensional poverty measure which is tailored to the Arab region as the global indices may overlook less severe forms of poverty that characterize many middle-income Arab countries.
2. Building the foundation for an evidence-based poverty reduction strategy for the Arab region.

Milestones for Developing the Arab MPI

- ❖ More than three years of cooperation between League of Arab States (LAS), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNICEF
- ❖ Several working papers

Milestones for Developing the Arab MPI

- ❖ More than 200 experts and representatives from Arab countries participated in the consultations of the revision of the poverty indices
- ❖ Discussion of the preliminary results with regional and global experts at the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) in Mexico and at experts meetings in New York (UNDESA) and Rabat (ONDH)
- ❖ Endorsement of the report by the LAS ministerial council.



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Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report LAS-ESCWA-OPHI-UNICEF



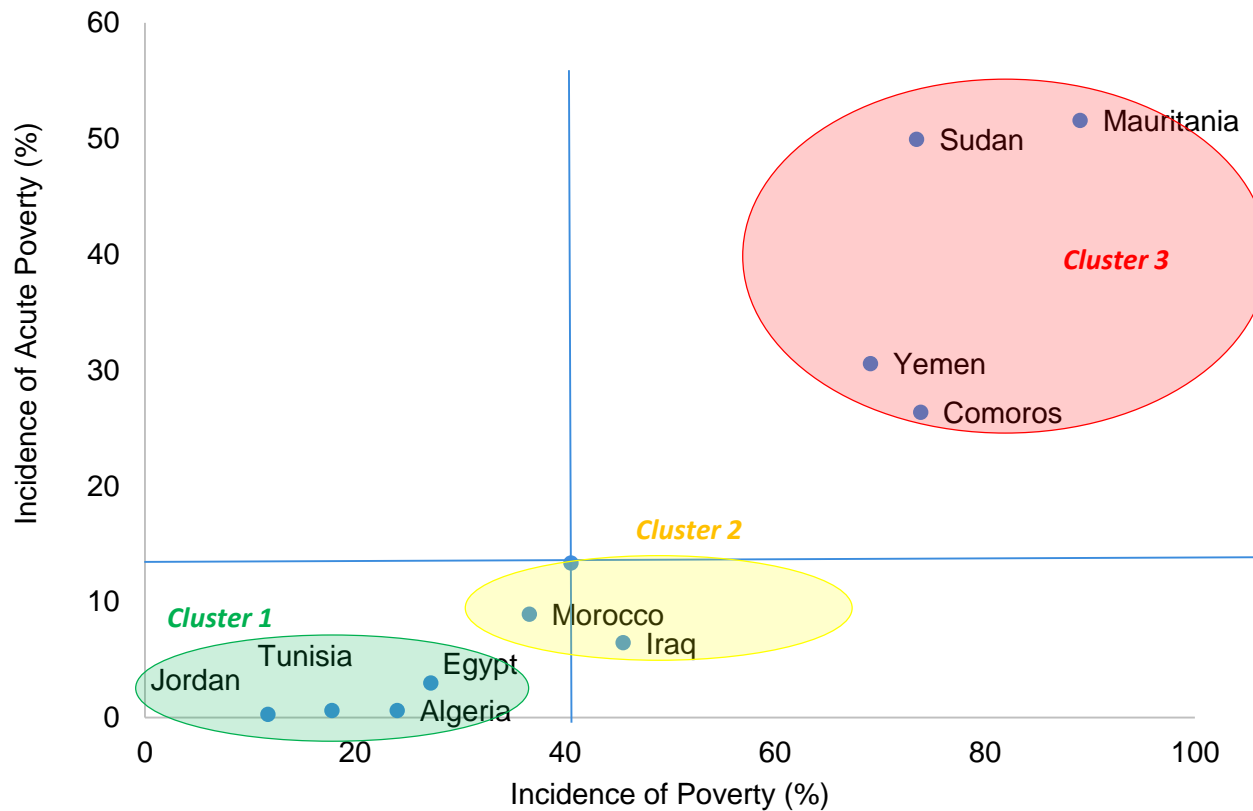
Arab MPI Methodology

- ❖ The departure point is the Global MPI which consists of three dimensions (Education, Health, Living Standards). The following changes were introduced to tailor the index to the context of the Arab region:
 - ❑ Addition of two new region-specific indicators to the index
 - ❑ Revision of the deprivation thresholds of the indicators

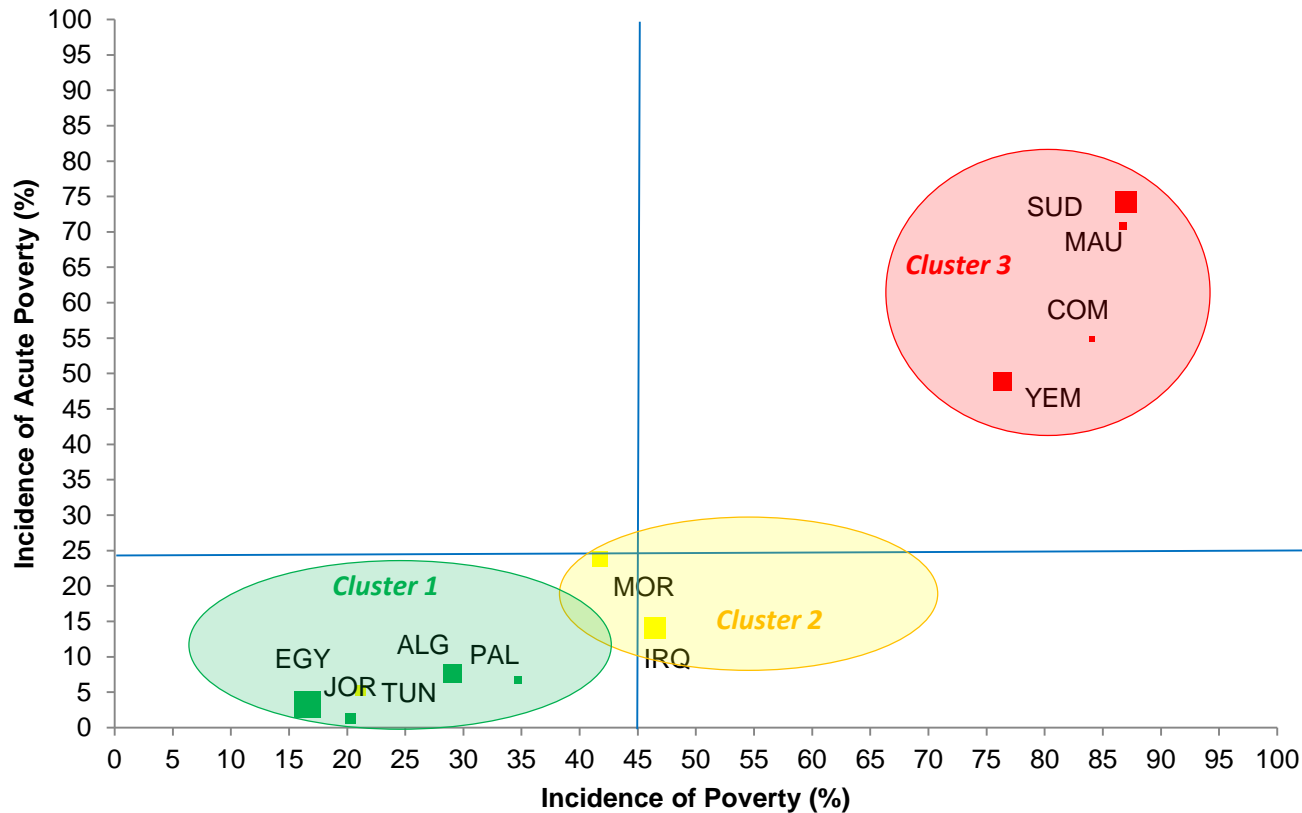
Arab MPI Methodology

- ❖ The education dimensions includes two indicators: school attendance and years of schooling.
- ❖ The health dimensions includes three indicators: nutrition, child mortality, and early pregnancy/female genital mutilation (FGM).
- ❖ The living standard dimensions includes seven indicators: access to electricity, improved sanitation, drinking water, cooking fuel, floor/roof, overcrowding, and assets.

40.6% of households are poor and 13.4% live in acute poverty



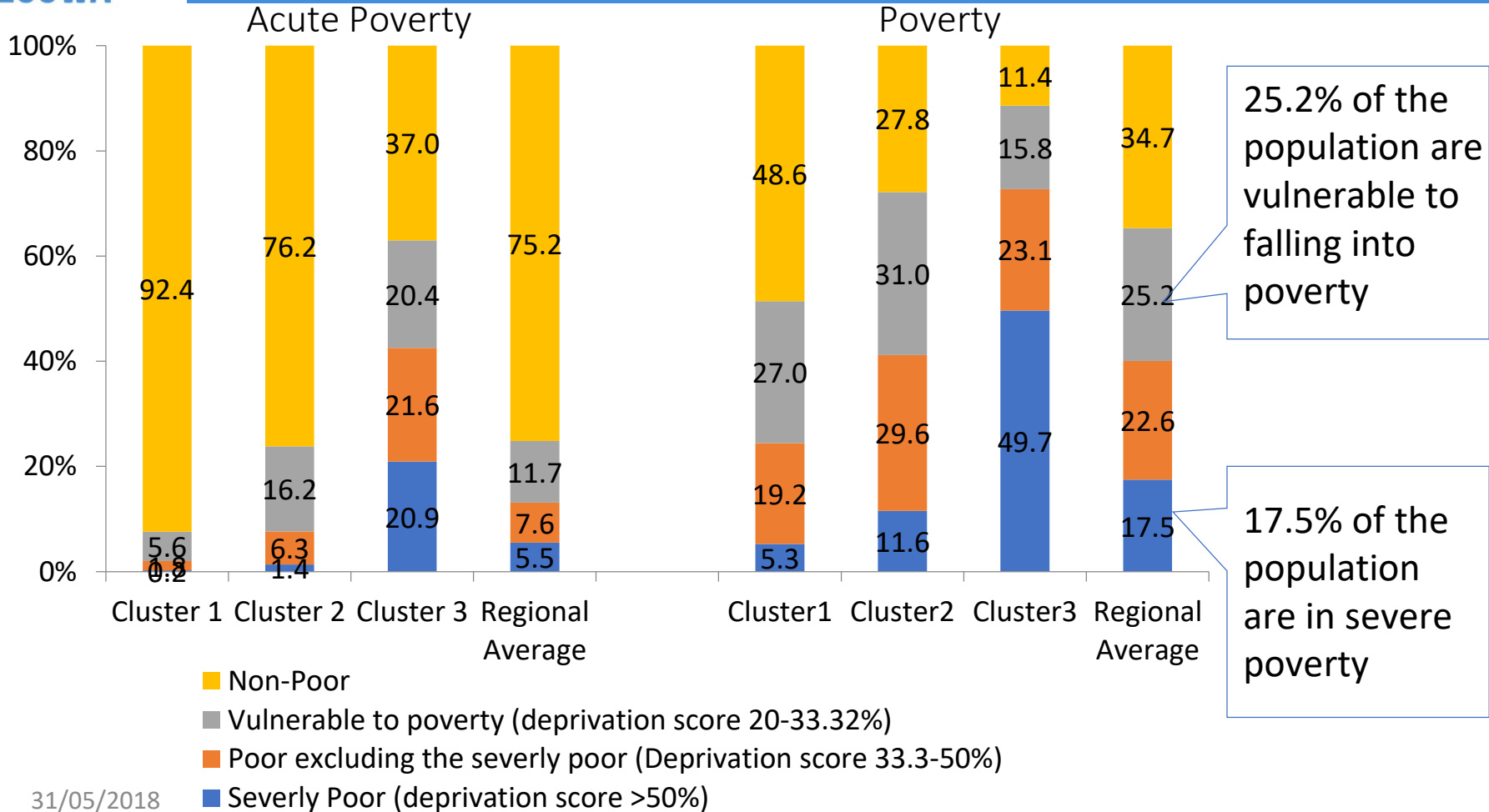
44.1% of children are poor and 24.7% of children are in acute poverty



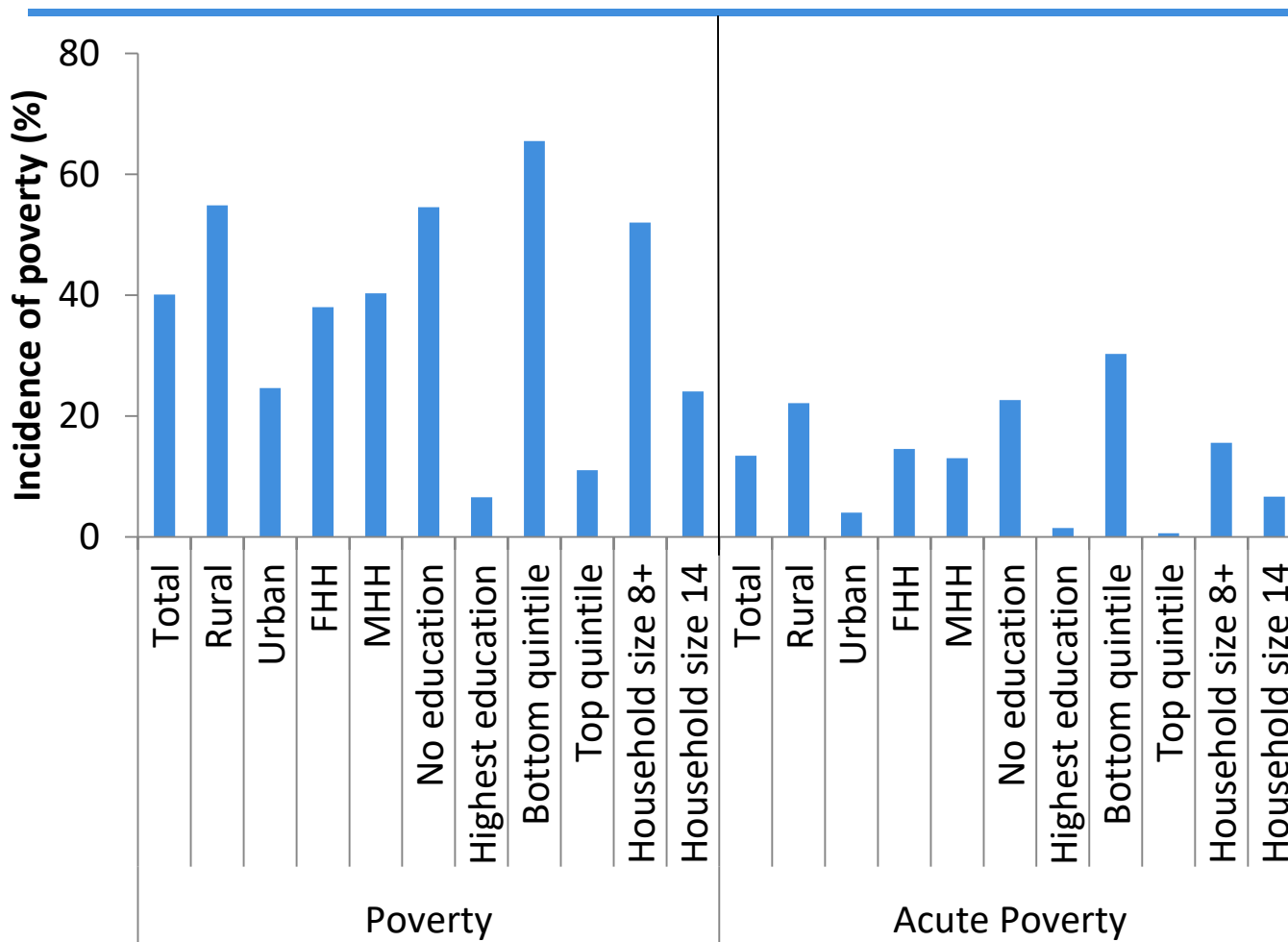
Notes: (i) Size point reflects size of population U18. (ii) Blue lines indicates weighted average of countries.



Vulnerability to MP is High



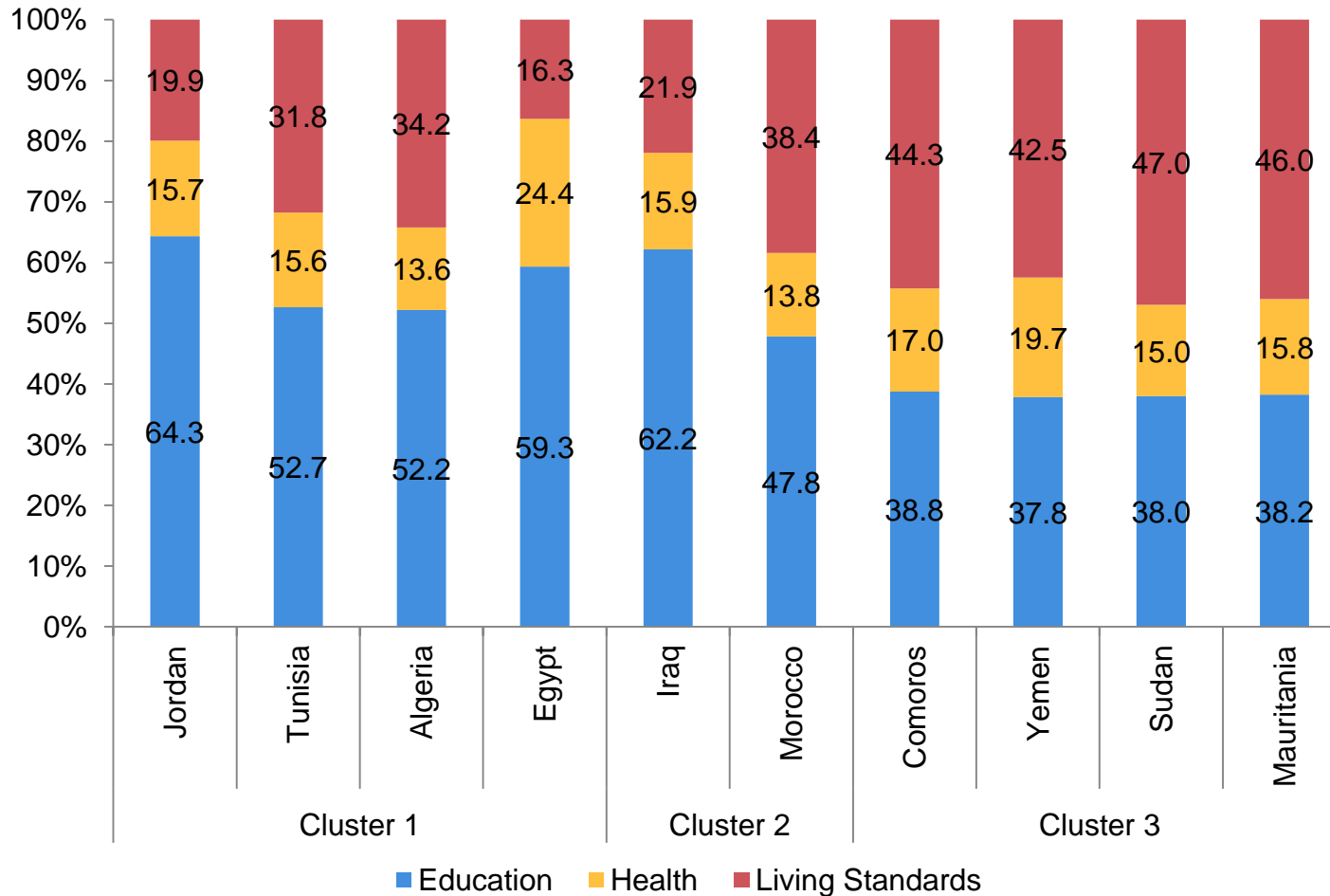
Inequality is High





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Dimensions Contribution to MP



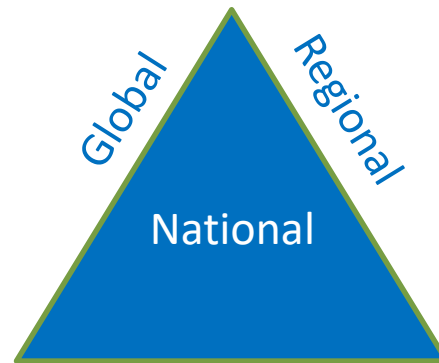
Recommendations

1. Addressing gaps in Education
2. Enhancing Social Protection Systems
3. Investing in Children
4. Food Security and Rural Development
5. Protection for persons with disability
6. Establishing the Arab Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy
7. A Data Revolution: Data collection for evidence-based poverty-reduction policies

Regional Architecture to Accelerate Poverty Reduction

Global

- SDG Advocacy and Implementation Mechanisms (including HPLF)
- SWAP 3rd Decade Poverty Reduction
- SDG Reporting Mechanism



National

- Planning – National Development Plans and PRSs
- Social Policies – social protection schemes
- Macro-fiscal policies
- Monitoring and analyzing poverty
- UN – Government Development Assistance Frameworks

Regional

- Inter-Governmental Partnerships and Resolutions (LAS Ministerial Council for Social Affairs and Arab League Summit)
- Arab Forum for Sustainable Development
- UN Regional Coordination Meeting
- Monitoring and Analysis - (Analysis and Baseline)
- Regional Poverty Reduction Framework and Strategy
- Regional Poverty Research Centre
- Regional Capacity Building Workshops
- Regional Poverty Network

ESCWA is working to support countries in the adoption and implementation of the 2030 Agenda with focus on SDG-1, and to ensure complementarity between global and regional frameworks to accelerate National Poverty Reduction Efforts

THANK YOU

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