

Deprivation in the Islands: Findings from the IDM Country Study in Indonesia



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The Individual Deprivation Measure provides individual measurement of multidimensional poverty, across fifteen dimensions. It is designed to be sensitive to gender and to provide information for decision-making on poverty eradication policies and programs.

In 2018, a research team from the Australian National University undertook an Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) study of multidimensional poverty in South Sulawesi in Indonesia.

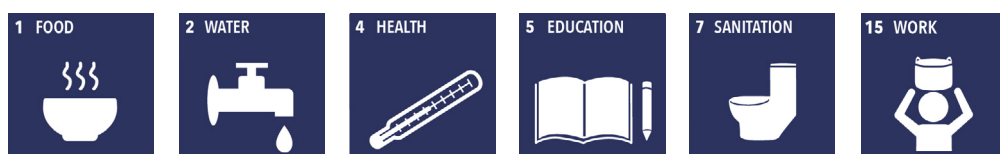


The findings of the IDM study in Indonesia demonstrate that:

Poverty is experienced more deeply by men and women living in the Islands.

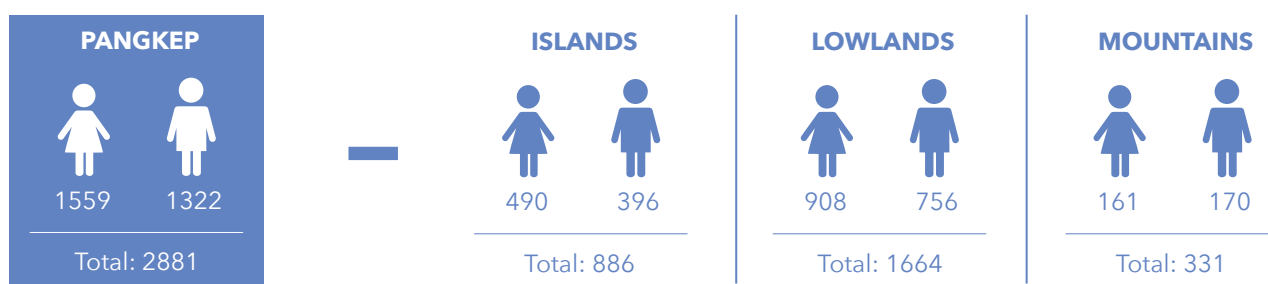
The nature of poverty is different for women and men living on the Islands.

This briefing paper provides an overview of the results from the IDM study, focusing on the multidimensional poverty experienced by men and women living in the island region of Pangkep. It then uses descriptive analysis to outline the nature of poverty for women and men living on the Islands in relation to education, health, food, water, work, and menstruation.



THE INDONESIA IDM STUDY

Following extensive consultation with stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels in Indonesia, two districts in South Sulawesi were selected for the IDM Indonesia Study: Pangkajene and Islands Regency (Pangkep) and Jeneponto Regency. A total of 2,881 individuals were interviewed across the island, lowland and mountain region of Pangkep.



THE IDM STUDY LOCATIONS

In selecting the sites for the study, the IDM responded to the priorities of local policy makers who recognise the dearth of data in the Islands. Policy makers need evidence on which to base policies to improve the lives of those living in the most isolated areas.

THE ISLANDS IN INDONESIA

Pangkep represents a common archipelagic region of Indonesia, where Islands, lowlands and mountains constitute one regency. The Island regions throughout Indonesia remain among the most difficult to reach and therefore lack accurate data on the condition of multidimensional poverty.

The results of the IDM country study reveal that multidimensional poverty plays out in complex ways according to gender, age, geographic location and region. Poverty is deepest in the Islands, and is experienced by women and men in different ways.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN PANGKEP AND THE ISLANDS

Women and men living in the Islands experience deprivation within all aspects of the IDM, and significant deprivation within many. The findings reveal that intersections of geographic location and gender compound the experience of poverty. While men in the Islands were often more deprived than those living in other regions, women in the Islands were consistently most deprived in their responses to questions about education, food and unpaid domestic work and care. Women in the Islands were also more likely than women living elsewhere to experience deprivation in regards to menstruation.



EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPRIVATION

Women and men living in the Islands were extremely deprived in all aspects of health and education measured. Respondents in the Islands were the most likely to have had no formal schooling, with almost 10 percent reporting this. Respondents in the Islands were also by far the least likely to have attended secondary school, high school and university. Achievement on simple tasks of writing, and multiplication and division competency reveal gender gaps in the Islands where women are more deprived than men.

Similarly, with health, women and men in the Islands were significantly worse off than others. Almost 40 percent of respondents in the Islands reported having one or more health problem, compared to 26.3 percent of respondents in both the lowlands and mountains. Despite higher reporting of health problems, women and men were the least likely to have accessed health care in the past 12 months. Problems included the location of health care facilities accessed, the cleanliness of health care facilities and the availability of prescribed drugs.



FOOD AND WATER DEPRIVATION

From the data on food, women and men in the Islands showed high levels of food insecurity across all eight variables. The research showed that women in the Islands were worse off than men across six of these variables. Over half (50.8 percent) of men and women in the Islands were worried about running out of food because of lack of money or other resources, compared to 36 percent of those in the lowlands and 33.2 percent of those in the mountains. Men in the Islands were more likely to skip meals and to go a whole day without eating. This is most likely due to men working outside of the home during the day and returning home to eat.

Similarly with water, women and men in the Islands were more deprived than other groups. They were more likely to report using water from untreated sources for drinking water and household use. Collecting water for the household was far more common in the Islands, with 45.7 percent of men and women responsible for this, compared to 19.6 percent of those in the lowlands and 17.8 percent of those in the mountains. Slightly more women in the Islands were responsible for water collection, and were the most likely to experience threats or hazards while performing this task.



WORK AND DEPRIVATION

Seasonal fishing constitutes the main form of work in the Islands. Respondents in the Islands were the most likely to have experienced physical injury, illness or mental harm while working and most likely to report hazardous work as the reason they wanted to work fewer hours. Women and men in the Islands were the most likely to feel that their paid work was humiliating. More men than women felt this to be the case.

Respondents in the Islands performed the greatest number of hours of unpaid work and contribution to obligatory activities. Over 55 percent of women in the Islands performed 21 hours or more of unpaid work, compared to 2.4 percent of men. Just under 90 percent of women in the Islands were also more than twice as likely to report an injury doing unpaid work, compared to just under 42 percent of men.



MENSTRUATION DEPRIVATION

Women in the Islands reported deeper deprivation on all variables relating to menstruation, including access to sanitary products and having a private place to wash and change. Over 15 percent of women from the Islands did not use any sanitary products during their last menstrual period, compared to 2.8 percent of those from the lowlands and 3.1 percent of those from the mountains. Women in the Islands were also the most likely to feel shame in relation to menstruation. Over 10 percent of women in the Islands, compared to 8.5 percent of women in the lowlands and 2.1 percent of women in the mountains, did not attend social activities, school or work due to shame, stigma, or cultural taboo around menstruation. Furthermore, 14 percent of women in the Islands did not have a place to wash and change in privacy during menstruation. This was compared to 2.1 percent of women from the lowlands and 1 percent of women from the mountains.

THE IMPACT OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

When taken together, these IDM findings reveal that women and men living in the Islands experience deep multidimensional poverty. The intersections of geographic location and gender compound the impact of multidimensional poverty. Education and health outcomes are worse than for other geographic locations in terms of access and quality, as are outcomes relating to food security and water. Employment in the Islands is heavily focused around seasonal fishing, work that is often hazardous and leads to injury and illness. The experience of poverty for women in the Islands is compounded by deeper deprivation in relation to menstruation.

The IDM provides valuable disaggregated information for policy makers to better understand the experience of poverty for different groups of people, and enables them to better respond to the urgent situation of people living in remote areas. The information is particularly valuable for Indonesia's Unified Database that aims to inform the government's social protection programs.

SDG1: ENDING POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Sustainable Development Goal 1.2 aims to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions. SDG indicators for ending poverty and ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment call for data that are disaggregated by sex, age, disability, and geographic location. SDG 10 aims to reduce inequalities within and between countries.

The findings of the IDM study in Indonesia demonstrate the importance of assessing multidimensional poverty at the individual level, and in ways that are sensitive to gender.

The results provide evidence to inform efforts to achieve both SDG1 and national poverty eradication objectives. Crucially, the results provide information to better support people living in poverty, and to improve the lives of women and men.



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From June 2020, the research reported here will be taken forward under the name Individual Measure of Multidimensional Poverty (IMMP). The IMMP Program will be housed in the Poverty and Inequality Research Centre at the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University. Information at immp.crawford.anu.edu.au

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