

East Asia and Pacific



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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

China

October 2021

In early 2021, China announced that it had reached its goal of eliminating rural extreme poverty. Over the past 40 years, China has lifted 770 million people out of poverty, according to the national poverty line. To a great extent, this was driven by decades of sustained high economic growth, complemented by targeted poverty reduction policies in recent years. Using the Upper Middle-Income Class poverty line, typical of a country of China's level of development, poverty reduction has been equally strong. Yet, the most recent estimates indicate that in 2016, 24 percent of the population were still below the \$5.50/day line. Preliminary estimates for 2018 (latest available information to the World Bank), suggest that 19 percent of people may be considered poor under this threshold, with a third residing in urban areas.

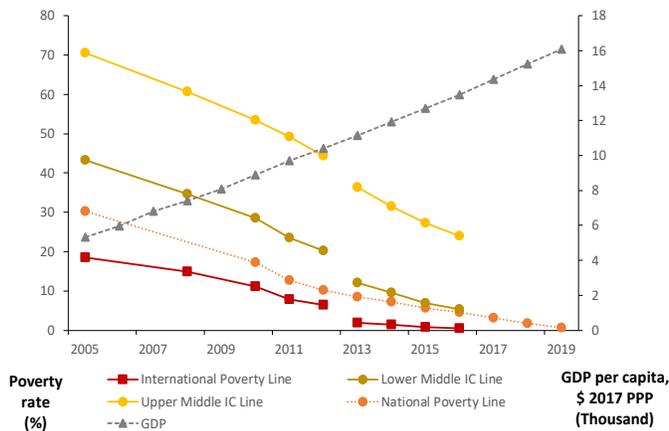
The social agenda has now turned to a focus on achieving "common prosperity". Between 2013 and 2016, the bottom 40 saw their per capita expenditure grow at 8.4 percent per year, one of the highest rates in the world and 1.3 percentage points faster rate than the total population. Yet, income inequality remains high, with an official income-based Gini index for 2019 at 46.5, 8 points higher than the consumption-based Gini for 2016. Furthermore, the share of people living under 50 percent of the median is almost three times as high as the average in OECD countries and higher even than South Africa, one of the most unequal countries among non-OECD countries.

The slowdown in 2020 and fast recovery in 2021 may narrow the urban-rural gaps, as rural households saw their disposable income and expenditure grow faster than urban households. Yet, tackling income inequality will call for considering further relaxation of the hukou system, as well as more progressive taxation and a strengthened social protection system, that would help boost private consumption as a driver of growth.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (million) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 5.5 | 0.6 | 2019 |
| International Poverty Line 7.5 in Chinese yuan (2016) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 7.2 | 0.5 | 2016 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 12.6 in Chinese yuan (2016) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 74.4 | 5.4 | 2016 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 21.7 in Chinese yuan (2016) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 330.4 | 24.0 | 2016 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | N/A | N/A |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 8.38 | 2013-2016 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 38.5 | 2016 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 1.26 | 2013-2016 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 6.55 | 2013-2016 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 7.12 | 2013-2016 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 7.86 | 2013-2016 |

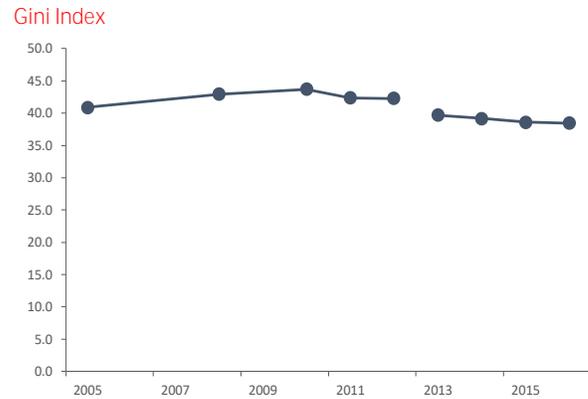
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2005-2019



Source: National Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2005-2016



Source: National Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

KEY INDICATORS

| | Upper Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | | | | N/A | Monetary poverty |
| Rural population | | | | N/A | Daily income/consumption less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | | | | N/A | |
| Females | | | | N/A | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | | | | N/A | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | | | | N/A | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | | | | N/A | |
| Without education (16+) | | | | N/A | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | | | | N/A | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | | | | N/A | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | | | | N/A | No access to electricity |

Source: National Bureau of Statistics and World Bank

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The series for poverty and inequality experience a break in 2013, associated with a change of the sampling frame of the household survey and the inclusion of home ownership imputation in the consumption aggregate. World Bank (WB) poverty and inequality estimates differ from official estimates because of four methodological reasons:

First, due to the lack of access to individual data from the household surveys, the World Bank's estimates of poverty and inequality in China are based on household consumption from grouped data, shared by China National Bureau of Statistics. These are often not as precise as direct estimates based on the full distribution of household consumption from microdata. The last year for which the grouped data were shared with the WB was 2018, which is used for preliminary estimates, cited here and included in reports. Yet, 2017 and 2018 estimates will only be included in the PovcalNet dataset in April 2022, following the calendar of updates established by the World Bank.

Second, the official poverty line (at 2,300 renminbi for the rural population in 2010) is higher than the international poverty line (2011 PPP), spatially adjusted for urban/rural price differences (around 1,990 renminbi for rural areas for the same year).

Third, the official poverty estimates refer to a rural population, whereas the WB estimates refer to the total population.

Fourth, WB Gini inequality estimate is based on per capita consumption whereas official Gini is calculated using per capita disposable income.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPSTD). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Fiji

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in Fiji was conducted in 2019-20. Official estimates for the national poverty rates have been produced and published by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, but estimates of poverty rates using the International Poverty Lines are expected by 2022. By World Bank definitions of data deprivation, Fiji is classified as vulnerable to data deprivation. In the past 10 years, Fiji has conducted a HIES on two occasions, with over five years between them (2013-14 and 2019-20).

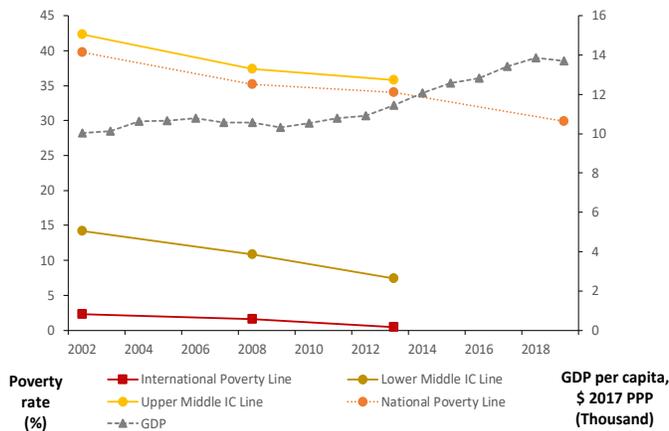
The national cost-of-basic-needs poverty rate was 29.9 percent for 2019-20. Methodology changes (see "Poverty Data and Methodology" section) prevent direct comparisons between the 2019-20 data and previous HIES rounds. Poverty is higher in rural areas than urban areas (41.5 percent and 20.4 percent, respectively). The poverty rate is also higher in the outer islands compared to the main island of Viti Levu (36.8 percent and 28.1 percent, respectively), but three-quarters of Fiji's poor are located in Viti Levu. Inequality, as measured by the Gini Index using per capita consumption, was estimated at 30.1, which is among the lowest in Pacific Island Countries as well as in the East Asia Pacific region.

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have increased poverty in Fiji. During the first year of the pandemic, the resulting economic shock to tourism, which is linked to nearly one-fifth of households, sharply increased unemployment. The Government of Fiji estimated that 115,000 Fijians became unemployed or suffered reduced work hours as a direct result of COVID-19. Another channel of impact is a reduction of remittances from abroad, which affected one-third of Fijian households at all points of the welfare distribution. More recently, an outbreak of COVID-19 that started in June 2021 has led to a high number of cases and hospitalization, as well as strict lockdown measures, all of which are likely to hurt the poor to a greater extent. The government of Fiji has attempted to mitigate the socio-economic impacts through a number of cash transfer programs channeled through existing social assistance programs as well as the national provident fund.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 258.0 | 29.9 | 2019 |
| International Poverty Line 2.1 in Fiji dollar (2013) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 4.2 | 0.5 | 2013 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 3.5 in Fiji dollar (2013) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 64.5 | 7.5 | 2013 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 6 in Fiji dollar (2013) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 310.0 | 35.8 | 2013 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 0.7 | 2013 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 1.17 | 2008-2013 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 36.7 | 2013 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 1.68 | 2008-2013 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 1.58 | 2008-2013 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | -0.51 | 2008-2013 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 0.73 | 2008-2013 |

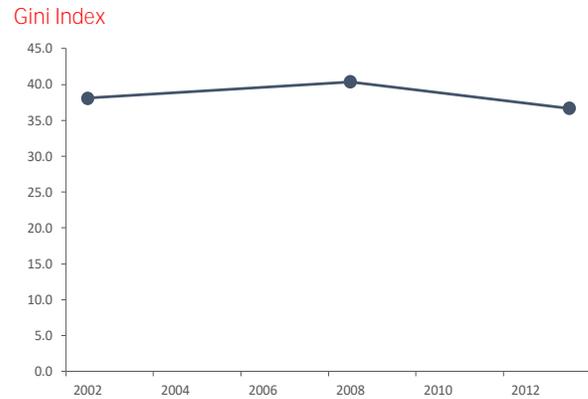
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2019



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2013



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2013 | International Poverty Line (%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2013 (% of population) |
|---|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 100 | 0 | 33 | 67 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 0.5 |
| Rural population | 99 | 1 | 47 | 53 | |
| Males | 100 | 0 | 40 | 60 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 1.4 No adult has completed primary education 0.8 |
| Females | 99 | 1 | 40 | 60 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 99 | 1 | 52 | 48 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 7.8 No access to limited-standard sanitation 3.2 No access to electricity 10.0 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 100 | 0 | 35 | 65 | |
| 65 and older | 100 | N/A* | 33 | 67 | |
| Without education (16+) | 100 | N/A* | 38 | 62 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 43 | 57 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 100 | 0 | 36 | 64 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | 0 | 11 | 89 | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Between the 2002-03 and 2013-14 HIES rounds, Fiji measured poverty using income aggregates. However, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics switched to a consumption-based measure starting with the 2019-20 HIES. The new method has the following features: 1) an adult equivalence scale with children aged 0-14 counted as half an adult; 2) a Food Poverty Line based on a calorie threshold of 2,228 calories per adult equivalent, as determined by the Fiji Food and Nutrition Centre in 2019; and 3) a single national poverty line, with spatial and temporal deflation applied to the consumption aggregates. To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes consumption-based estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), and two other poverty lines at US\$3.20 and US\$5.50. For Fiji, per capita consumption aggregates were spatially deflated by survey strata (which covers the urban/rural split for each of the four geographical divisions) and temporally deflated by survey quarter.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Indonesia

October 2021

Indonesia's official statistics reported a poverty rate of 10.1 percent in March 2021, remaining elevated relative to the record-low level of 9.4 percent in September 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy has been slowly recovering in 2021 and the poverty rate is still nearly 0.4 percentage points (p.p.) higher than in March 2020. BPS reports show that the unemployment rate remained elevated at 6.3 percent in February 2021, higher by 1.3 p.p. compared to the year before. Not all workers have returned to work and some continue to earn less than before. A World Bank survey showed that 10 percent of primary breadwinners were not working in March 2021, whilst 43 percent of those working were still earning less than before the pandemic.

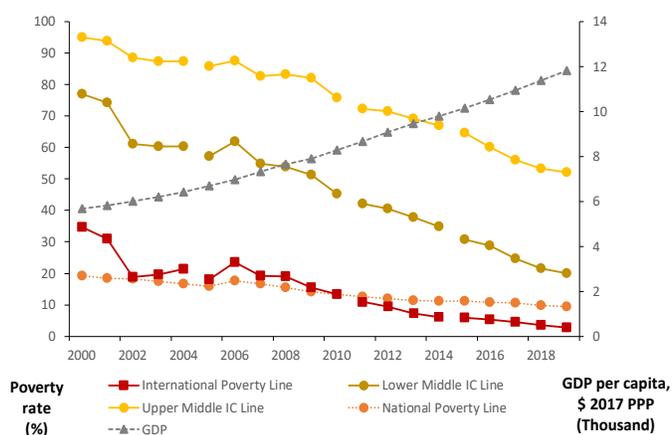
The July 2021 surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the Delta variant may contribute to keeping the poverty rate higher than the pre-pandemic level. In response to the surge, the government expanded the COVID-19 response and relief budget from 4.5 percent of the 2020 GDP in January 2021 to 4.8 percent in July, of which 24 percent was allocated to the social assistance (SA) package. A World Bank survey found that most SA programs had reached their target coverage by March 2021; still one in five households in the bottom 40 percent had not received any SA since July 2020, potentially due to exclusion errors and implementation challenges. World Bank modelling of ex-ante poverty impacts of the pandemic showed that the poverty rate could fall to 9.5 percent in 2021, provided that the size of the SA package and level of efficiency of its distribution were maintained at the year 2020 levels.

Inequality was relatively stagnant between September 2020 and March 2021 and remained higher than before the pandemic. The Gini index stood at 38.4 in March 2021, slightly higher than in March 2020 when it was estimated at 38.1. Inequality increased in both urban and rural areas. Overall, this suggests that a prolonged pandemic may threaten progress in reducing inequality in the long term. How inequality continues to evolve will likely depend on growth prospects and effectiveness of the SA package in mitigating the adverse socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (million) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 25.1 | 9.4 | 2019 |
| International Poverty Line 10282.4 in Indonesian rupiah (2019) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 7.3 | 2.7 | 2019 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 17317.7 in Indonesian rupiah (2019) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 54.0 | 19.9 | 2019 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 29764.7 in Indonesian rupiah (2019) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 141.3 | 52.2 | 2019 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 5.0 | 2018 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 4.61 | 2015-2019 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 37.0 | 2019 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 0.81 | 2015-2019 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 3.86 | 2015-2019 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 3.80 | 2015-2019 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 5.15 | 2015-2019 |

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

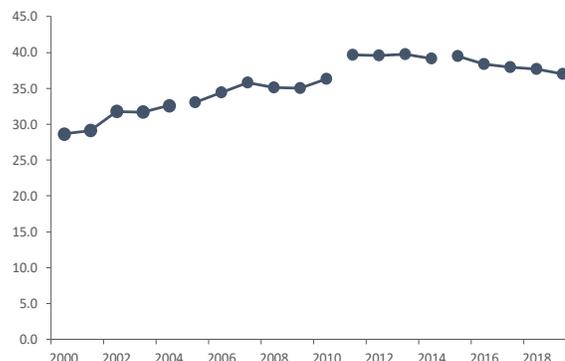
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2000-2019



Source: World Bank using SUSENAS/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2000-2019

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using SUSENAS/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2018 | Lower Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 81 | 19 | 36 | 64 | Monetary poverty |
| Rural population | 76 | 24 | 45 | 55 | Daily income/consumption less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | 79 | 21 | 40 | 60 | |
| Females | 78 | 22 | 40 | 60 | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | 74 | 26 | 46 | 54 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | 81 | 19 | 37 | 63 | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | 71 | 29 | 47 | 53 | |
| Without education (16+) | 64 | 36 | 58 | 42 | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | 73 | 27 | 48 | 52 | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | 78 | 22 | 42 | 58 | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 89 | 11 | 25 | 75 | No access to electricity |

Source: World Bank using SUSENAS/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The poverty line in Indonesia is defined by Indonesia's national statistics office (Badan Pusat Statistik, BPS) as the amount of money required to obtain 2,100 calories per day, along with a small amount for other basic non-food items. There are 67 poverty lines in Indonesia, one for each of the urban and rural areas of the provinces outside of Jakarta; and the national poverty line is calculated as the weighted average of the 67 local poverty lines. Unlike in some countries, and in the calculation of international poverty lines, where the basket of goods used in calculating the poverty line is fixed and simply inflated by CPI, in Indonesia, the basket of goods is allowed to change every year in the calculation of each of the 67 local poverty lines. The basket of goods for each of the 67 local poverty lines is recalculated each year for a reference group of 'near poor' households, where 'near poor' households are defined as households that fall between the poverty line and 20th percentile of the consumption distribution above the poverty line. In the face of high food prices, the inflation factors applied to the national poverty lines tend to be larger than the CPI. Also, because the basket of goods used in calculating the national poverty line may change, the price per calorie changes.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Kiribati

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in Kiribati was conducted from April 2019 to March 2020, with the national poverty figures presented below. International poverty estimates are expected by 2022. By World Bank definitions of data deprivation, Kiribati is classified as moderately deprived, as it has only completed one HIES in the last 10 years, with the previous round conducted in 2006.

Using the national measures (see "Poverty Data and Methodology" section for details), 21.9 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line in 2019-20. Poverty rates were lowest in the Central division (9.6 percent), followed by the main island of South Tarawa (19.5 percent), the Line Islands (24.6 percent), and Northern division (25.8 percent), with poverty highest in the Southern division (31.5 percent). However, South Tarawa accounts for nearly half of the poor in Kiribati. Households whose heads had higher levels of education were less likely to be poor, though this relationship was much stronger in South Tarawa than elsewhere.

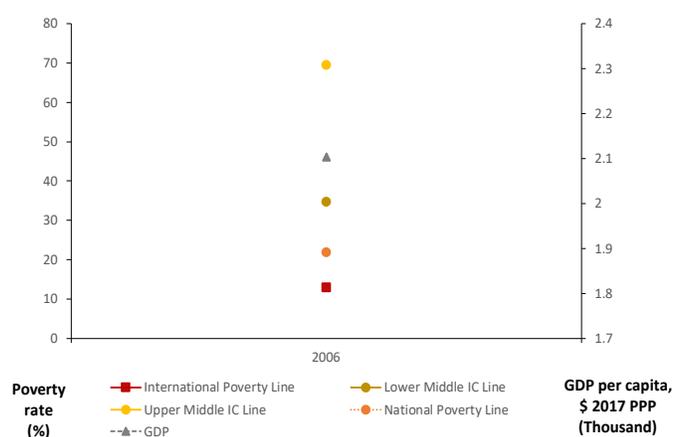
In 2006, using the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the headcount poverty rate was estimated at 12.9 percent. Measured against the \$3.20 poverty line, which reflects living standards across all lower middle income countries, the incidence of poverty was at 34.6 percent, which was lower than the lower-middle income countries global average of 60.8 percent in 2006. Inequality, as measured by the Gini index, was estimated at 37.0.

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have increased poverty in Kiribati, though not to the same extent as other Pacific Island Countries that are more reliant on tourism. Nonetheless, disruptions to the fisheries and construction sectors and cargo imports led to increased unemployment and income losses. The COVID-19 impact on poverty is likely to be mitigated by a new unemployment benefit that was rolled out in 2021 with a broad coverage of eligible adults.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 20.5 | 21.8 | 2006 |
| International Poverty Line 1.6 in Australian dollar (2006) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 12.1 | 12.9 | 2006 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 2.7 in Australian dollar (2006) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 32.6 | 34.6 | 2006 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 4.6 in Australian dollar (2006) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 65.5 | 69.4 | 2006 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 38.7 | 2006 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 37.0 | 2006 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | -0.12 | 2001-2006 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

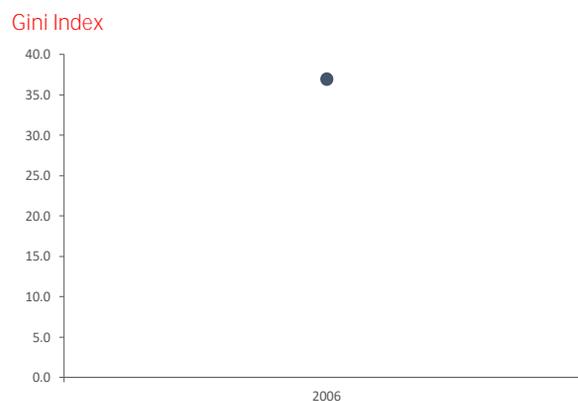
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2006



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2006



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2006 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2006 | (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|-------------------|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | | |
| Urban population | 87 | 13 | 46 | 54 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) | |
| Rural population | 87 | 13 | 35 | 65 | Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person | 12.9 |
| Males | 87 | 13 | 40 | 60 | Education | |
| Females | 87 | 13 | 40 | 60 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school | 10.9 |
| 0 to 14 years old | 86 | 14 | 43 | 57 | No adult has completed primary education | 2.5 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 88 | 12 | 38 | 62 | Access to basic infrastructure | |
| 65 and older | 85 | 15 | 41 | 59 | No access to limited-standard drinking water | N/A |
| Without education (16+) | 86 | 14 | 41 | 59 | No access to limited-standard sanitation | N/A |
| Primary education (16+) | 85 | 15 | 39 | 61 | No access to electricity | 31.2 |
| Secondary education (16+) | 90 | 10 | 38 | 62 | | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 89 | N/A* | N/A* | 73 | | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Kiribati National Statistics Office used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line in 2019-20. The methods followed the guidance of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board on poverty measurement. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2500 calories of consumption per adult-equivalent (with children aged 0-14 counting as half of an adult), using a reference population of percentiles 11-35, as determined through an iterative calculation. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL) was estimated using the Ravallion Lower method. A single national poverty line was calculated, with consumption aggregates deflated to account for price differences by season and geography.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$3.20) and the Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$5.50). In Kiribati, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the three regional poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living. These estimates also differ from the national poverty measures because they assess welfare needs on a per capita rather than an adult-equivalent basis.

HARMONIZATION

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East Asia & Pacific

Lao People's Democratic Republic

October 2021

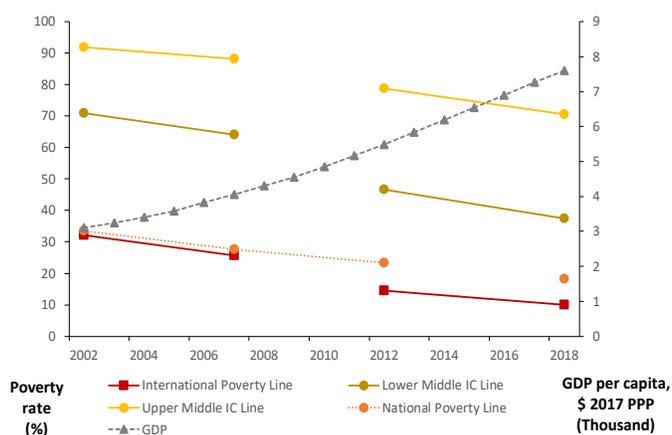
The new COVID-19 wave that is sweeping across Southeast Asia is expected to stall progress in poverty reduction in Lao PDR. Despite successful efforts to contain the pandemic, the outbreak and subsequent containment measures have resulted in temporary but widespread losses in employment and household income. Inflation remains elevated, fueled by currency depreciation, as a large portion of consumer goods are imported. Household purchasing power has eroded, with low-income groups in urban areas experiencing rising vulnerability. Meanwhile, the implementation of relief measures for vulnerable households and businesses has been limited, constrained by the country's tight fiscal space.

Before the onset of the pandemic, significant progress had been made in reducing poverty in Lao PDR. The national poverty rate declined by 6.3 percentage points between 2012 and 2018, from 24.6 percent to 18.3 percent. However, the decline was driven primarily by rising farm incomes and remittances in the absence of robust non-farm job creation. Social protection had limited coverage and played a minimal role in poverty reduction. Inequality continued to rise. The Gini index, a measure of inequality, increased from 36 in 2012 to 38.8 percent in 2018. COVID-19 has exposed these weaknesses and strengths. The pandemic has led to a widespread decline in non-farm income and remittances. While the social protection system has not been fully responsive to shocks, agriculture has acted as a buffer, absorbing workers laid off from the non-farm sector and return migrants.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 1,273.9 | 18.3 | 2018 |
| International Poverty Line 7650.3 in Lao kip (2018) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 705.0 | 10.0 | 2018 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 12884.6 in Lao kip (2018) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 2,643.4 | 37.4 | 2018 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 22145.5 in Lao kip (2018) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 4,974.1 | 70.4 | 2018 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 12.8 | 2018 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 1.91 | 2012-2018 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 38.8 | 2018 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | -1.17 | 2012-2018 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 5.56 | 2012-2018 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 3.07 | 2012-2018 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 2.19 | 2012-2018 |

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

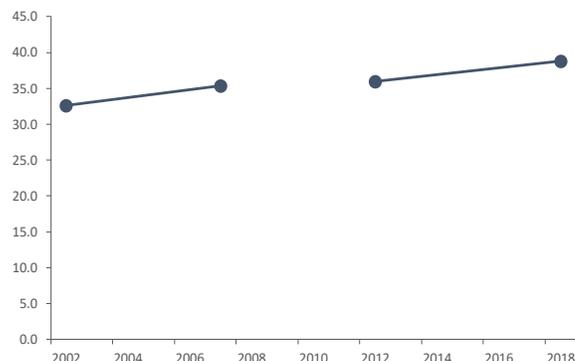
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2018



Source: World Bank using LECS/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2018

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using LECS/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2018 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2018 (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 97 | 3 | 19 | 81 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 10.0 |
| Rural population | 87 | 13 | 50 | 50 | |
| Males | 90 | 10 | 40 | 60 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 5.7 No adult has completed primary education 12.8 |
| Females | 90 | 10 | 40 | 60 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 87 | 13 | 48 | 52 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 7.8 No access to limited-standard sanitation 23.7 No access to electricity 1.7 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 91 | 9 | 36 | 64 | |
| 65 and older | 92 | 8 | 36 | 64 | |
| Without education (16+) | 83 | 17 | 56 | 44 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 92 | 8 | 39 | 61 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 97 | 3 | 20 | 80 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 99 | N/A* | 5 | 95 | |

Source: World Bank using LECS/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using LECS/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS) is the primary source of poverty data. The survey is conducted at five-year intervals since 1992/93. The most recent round was completed in June 2019, a year later than scheduled due to government financing delays. The quality of the data is relatively good, but access is highly restricted. Public groups including government agencies only acquire at most 60 percent of the dataset. Often data must be purchased. National poverty is estimated with per capita consumption as the welfare aggregate. Per capita consumption is estimated using the "cost-of-basic needs" methodology including both food and non-food consumption. The poverty methodology was revised in 2019 to update the poverty line and standardize the consumption aggregate. Previously, non-food consumption assumed a single-year lifespan for durables and excluded most lumpy durables and housing rent. The poverty line reflects a minimum threshold of 2,100 Kcal per person per day. The new national poverty line is 10 percent lower than the lower middle-income class poverty line (US\$3.2 (2011 PPP) per day per capita). The 2018 national poverty estimates are therefore not comparable with the rates estimated in the previous years. The 2012 and 2018 international poverty estimates were revised based on the new poverty methodology.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPSTD). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Malaysia

October 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has had substantial adverse impacts on poverty and income inequality in Malaysia. Official statistics reported an increase in the share of Malaysian households living below the national poverty line from 5.6 percent in 2019 to 8.4 percent in 2020 (based on the new national poverty line of approximately US\$ 10 per person per day, at 2011 Purchasing Power Parity). Over the same period, median monthly household income declined by 11.3 percent. As in previous years, income inequality has continued to increase. According to government statistics, the Gini index for income increased from 40.7 percent in 2019 to 41.1 percent in 2020.

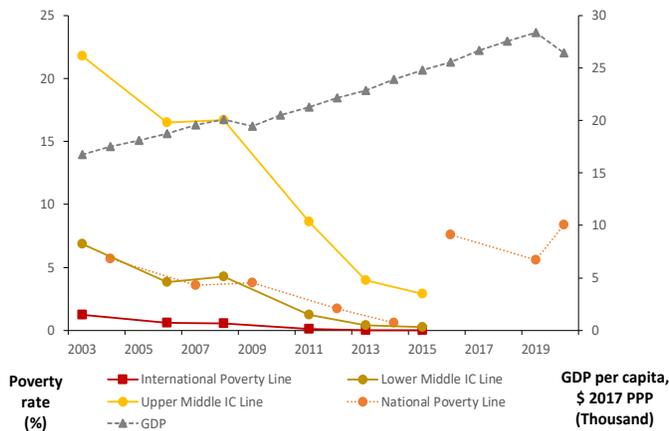
In addition to increasing poverty and inequality, COVID-19 has also affected the broader socioeconomic status and wellbeing of many Malaysians. Findings from the World Bank COVID-19 household survey show that while there was a general increase in employment across subgroups by mid-June 2021, as compared to pre-pandemic levels, employment fluctuations persist. A third of Malaysian adults who were working in March 2020 experienced work disruptions and 27 percent of those who continued working faced income reduction over the course of the pandemic. Low-skilled workers, informal workers, and those with lower incomes were more likely to be exposed to employment and income shocks. As a result, one in four households from low-income groups experienced food shortages between mid-April and mid-June 2021. The pandemic is also taking its toll on education. While the vast majority of students remain engaged in learning from home, nearly a third of children from low-income households have not been able to access online classes or mobile learning.

Households have adopted several strategies to cope with shocks, with many households reported withdrawing personal savings and reliance on government assistance. Despite the massive coverage of government assistance programs, more than one-third of lower-income households reported that they were still not receiving any government assistance. Overall, the survey reveals that COVID-19 has impacted unequally on the welfare of Malaysian households, pushing existing inequalities to the forefront. With concerns that the recovery may also be uneven, it is imperative that immediate, appropriate policies are put in place to avoid exacerbating the situation further and to protect the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 2,743.2 | 8.4 | 2020 |
| International Poverty Line 3.4 in Malaysian ringgit (2015) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 3.6 | 0.0 | 2015 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 5.7 in Malaysian ringgit (2015) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 79.9 | 0.3 | 2015 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 9.7 in Malaysian ringgit (2015) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 870.6 | 2.9 | 2015 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 0.2 | 2015 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 7.01 | 2011-2015 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 41.1 | 2015 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 2.04 | 2011-2015 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 3.88 | 2011-2015 |
| Annualized Income Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 4.97 | 2011-2015 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 6.02 | 2011-2015 |

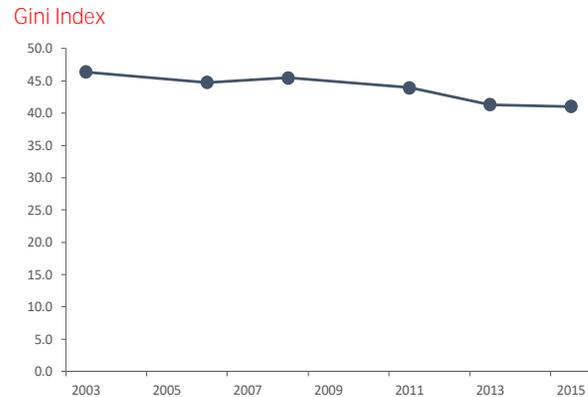
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2003-2020



Source: World Bank using HIS/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2003-2015



Source: World Bank using HIS/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2015 | Upper Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2015 (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 98 | 2 | 33 | 67 | Monetary poverty (Income) |
| Rural population | 92 | 8 | 64 | 36 | Daily income less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | 97 | 3 | 40 | 60 | |
| Females | 97 | 3 | 40 | 60 | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | 95 | 5 | 52 | 48 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | 98 | 2 | 36 | 64 | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | 99 | 1 | 33 | 67 | |
| Without education (16+) | 95 | 5 | 54 | 46 | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | 97 | 3 | 47 | 53 | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | 98 | 2 | 39 | 61 | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 18 | 82 | No access to electricity |

Source: World Bank using HIS/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIS/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) produces national poverty estimates. The estimates are income-based, using data from household surveys conducted every 2.5 years. The national poverty line was more than doubled in 2020, leading to an increase in the reported poverty incidence. The national poverty line series in the poverty headcount chart above shows DOSM's estimates for 2015 and 2018 using the new national poverty standard and estimates for earlier years using the old poverty standard. DOSM's poverty measurement roughly follows the Cost of Basic Needs approach, with some significant deviations. These include the calculation of tens of thousands of household-specific poverty lines, each tailored to the location (state and rural/urban) and detailed age and gender composition of each surveyed household. Also, DOSM's published poverty rates refer to the proportion of households—not the more conventional proportion of the population—living below the poverty line. Similarly, the official published Gini index uses total household income as the welfare aggregate, without normalization for household size or composition, and calculates inequality across households. DOSM's resulting Gini index estimates are 2.0 to 2.5 percentage points lower than those calculated by the more common approach that uses household income per capita and population weights.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Federated States of Micronesia

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was conducted in 2013-2014. Using the national measures, 41.2 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line. Poverty levels were highest in Chuuk (45.5 percent), the most populated state. Poverty is slightly lower in the States of Yap (39.4 percent) and Pohnpei (39.2 percent), and lowest in Kosrae (21.0 percent). Characteristics associated with poverty include households with more children and household heads that are female, lower-educated, and working outside the public sector.

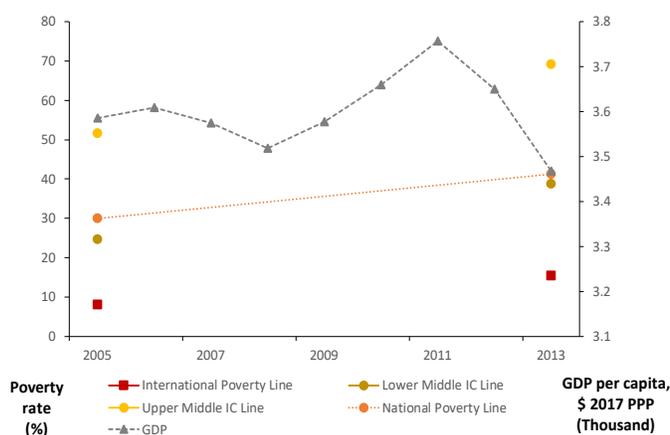
Using the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the headcount poverty rate was estimated at 15.4 percent. According to the multi-dimensional poverty measure, the rate of poverty was 21.4 percent. Contributing factors are that 28.0 percent of households have at least one school aged child not enrolled in school and 23.6 percent of the population have no access to electricity. According to the \$3.20 Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line, which reflects living standards across all lower middle income countries, the incidence of poverty is 38.7 percent. Inequality, as measured by the Gini index, was estimated at 40.1.

Like many countries in the Pacific region, FSM suffers from infrequent collection of data and a lack of comparability between rounds. Using the World Bank's definitions for data deprivation, FSM is classified as moderately deprived. In the past 10 years, FSM has only conducted one HIES in 2013-2014, with the previous one being in 2005. Methodological changes between the 2013-2014 HIES and the previous HIES in 2005-2006 mean that the resulting estimates of poverty are not comparable. However, it can be noted that the period 2005-2013 saw a fall in GDP per capita, which grew at an annualized rate of -0.29 percent. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has driven FSM into recession in FY20, with a fall in formal employment and a likely drop in remittance income. The recession is projected to continue in FY21. For these reasons, poverty is expected to rise relative to pre-crises levels.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 42.7 | 41.2 | 2013 |
| International Poverty Line 2 in U.S. dollar (2013) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 16.3 | 15.4 | 2013 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 3.4 in U.S. dollar (2013) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 41.0 | 38.7 | 2013 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 5.9 in U.S. dollar (2013) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 73.1 | 69.1 | 2013 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 21.4 | 2013 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 40.1 | 2013 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | -0.29 | 2008-2013 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

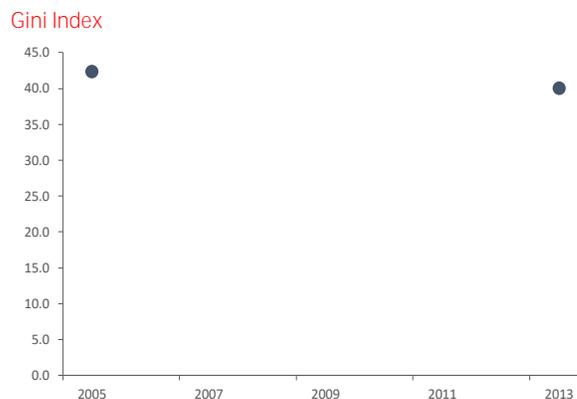
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2005-2013



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2005-2013



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2013 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2013 (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | | | | N/A | Monetary poverty (Consumption) |
| Rural population | | | | N/A | Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | 84 | 16 | 40 | 60 | |
| Females | 85 | 15 | 40 | 60 | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | 83 | 17 | 44 | 56 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | 86 | 14 | 38 | 62 | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | 83 | 17 | 41 | 59 | |
| Without education (16+) | 89 | 11 | 39 | 61 | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | 85 | 15 | 43 | 57 | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | 91 | 9 | 28 | 72 | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 97 | N/A* | N/A* | 93 | No access to electricity |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The national poverty statistics of FSM for 2013-14 used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2565 calories of consumption per adult-equivalent (with children aged 0-14 counting as half of an adult), using a basket of goods based on the actual consumption of the bottom four deciles in the distribution. Separate FPLs were estimated for each state. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL) was estimated using the average non-food consumption of households whose food consumption was near or around the FPL.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$3.20) and the Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$5.50). In FSM, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the state poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living. These estimates also differ from the national poverty measures because they assess welfare needs on a per capita rather than an adult-equivalent basis.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Mongolia

October 2021

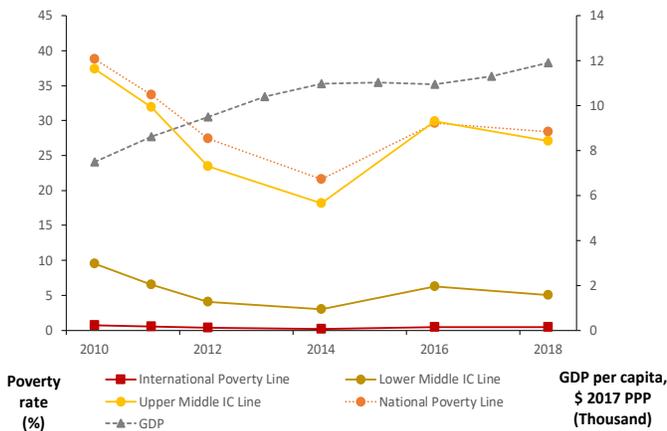
Mongolia's national poverty headcount rate decreased moderately from 29.6 percent in 2016 to 28.4 percent in 2018. Between 2016 and 2018, poverty reduction was uneven, declining in rural but not in urban areas. Growth in rural areas was faster and favorable to the poor, contributing to reducing rural poverty by 4 percentage points from 34.9 percent in 2016 to 30.8 percent in 2018. By contrast, less-inclusive consumption growth in urban areas was accompanied by stagnation in poverty, leaving the poverty rate unchanged at 27 percent from 2016 to 2018. Overall, economic growth has been broadly shared over the decade, and inequality has remained stable. Between 2011 and 2018, the bottom 40 percent achieved 1.1 percent annual growth in real consumption per capita, which is 0.33 percentage points higher than the average per capita consumption growth. These shared prosperity patterns have also been accompanied by a stable Gini index remaining between 32-34 over this period.

The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant disruptions in employment, income, and food insecurity, raising concerns of potential long-term impacts on household wellbeing. According to the latest household phone survey conducted by the National Statistics Office of Mongolia and the World Bank, 37 percent of workers who had been working pre-pandemic were out of work by June 2021. Particularly, women were more likely than men to experience long-term or permanent job losses, which is consistent with a report from the labor force survey that recorded the lowest female labor participation rate in H1 2021 for the past 15 years. Poorer workers were also more likely to stop working, signaling possible setbacks for equal recovery across income classes. While signs of recovery in incomes were seen as business started reopening after the April 2021 lockdown, nearly 30 percent of households still earned less than pre-pandemic levels. In addition, as food prices have risen to above 10 percent (yoy) since April 2021, food insecurity remains an issue for the poor and those affected by the pandemic. These pandemic-induced adverse shocks were partially mitigated by the government's one-time cash transfer in April 2021 as well as social protection benefits mainly through the Child Money Program.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 900.3 | 28.4 | 2018 |
| International Poverty Line 1856.5 in Mongolian togrog (2018) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 15.7 | 0.5 | 2018 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 3126.7 in Mongolian togrog (2018) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 159.6 | 5.0 | 2018 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 5374.1 in Mongolian togrog (2018) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 857.8 | 27.1 | 2018 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 1.7 | 2018 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 1.11 | 2011-2018 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 32.7 | 2018 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 0.33 | 2011-2018 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 4.75 | 2011-2018 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 0.77 | 2011-2018 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 1.12 | 2011-2018 |

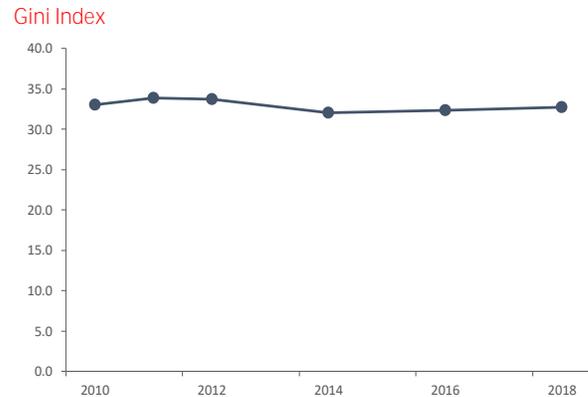
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2010-2018



Source: World Bank using HSES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2010-2018



Source: World Bank using HSES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2018 | Lower Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2018 (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 94 | 6 | 38 | 62 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) |
| Rural population | 96 | 4 | 44 | 56 | Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | 95 | 5 | 40 | 60 | |
| Females | 95 | 5 | 40 | 60 | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | 93 | 7 | 50 | 50 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | 96 | 4 | 36 | 64 | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | 98 | 2 | 22 | 78 | |
| Without education (16+) | 92 | 8 | 58 | 42 | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | 94 | 6 | 47 | 53 | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | 95 | 5 | 40 | 60 | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 18 | 82 | No access to electricity |

Source: World Bank using HSES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HSES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The National Statistical Office (NSO) and the World Bank have been collaborating in developing poverty measurement and estimating poverty rates since 2002. The Household Socio-Economic Survey (HSES) is the main survey used for estimating official poverty estimates. HSES data is collected over 12 months and the survey has been implemented biennially since 2012. Official poverty rates were estimated at an aimag (province) level for the first time in 2016.

The current national poverty line in Mongolia is derived from the 2010 HSES using the cost of basic needs approach. The poverty line is set at the cost of acquiring a consumption bundle that provides 2100 calories per person per day as well as the cost of other non-food essential goods and services. The national poverty line was updated only for changes in price levels between surveys and the 2018 national poverty line is estimated at 166,580 MNT per person per month.

The international poverty lines are set by the World Bank for global poverty monitoring. Purchasing Power Parity exchange rates (PPPs) are used to put consumption estimates into internationally comparable terms.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Myanmar

October 2021

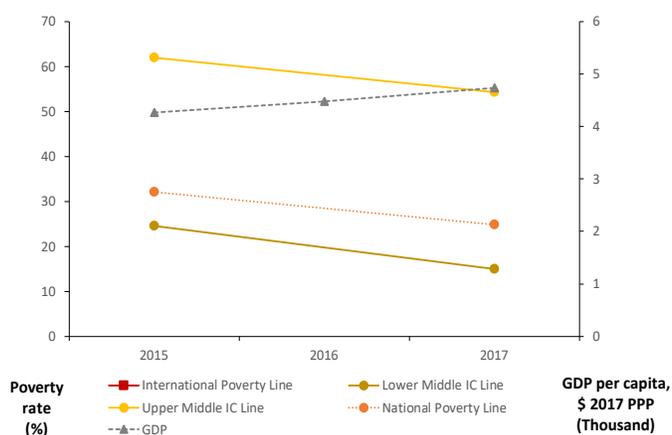
In a context of fast growth, Myanmar successfully reduced poverty by 5.4 percent every year in the last decade from 48 percent in 2005 to 25 percent in 2017 using the national poverty line. Over that period, rapid growth in the manufacturing and services sectors was associated with poverty declining more rapidly in urban than in rural areas. Despite the progress, welfare varies greatly across states and regions, and some population groups remain at a greater disadvantage in accessing basic services and earning opportunities. With about a third of the population living just above the poverty line in 2017, many are vulnerable to falling into poverty following negative shocks.

Developments since February 2021 have caused severe disruptions to economic activities, which compound the negative welfare impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to increase and deepen poverty. For fiscal year 2020, which ended in September 2020, economic growth was estimated at 3.2 percent due to the COVID-19 pandemic which pushed several firms and businesses to close. According to high-frequency household phone surveys, about 24 percent of households' main workers were out of a job in January 2021 and 9 percent of households were suffering severe to moderate food insecurity. Government cash assistance to support the poor and vulnerable had reached half of the households by January 2021, helping to partially mitigate impacts. However, the halt to assistance programs and disruption to economic activity since the military assumed power on February 1st has heightened risks, especially for the poorest. The share of Myanmar's population living in poverty could more than double by the beginning of 2022, compared to levels before COVID-19 hit. Impacts of the dual shocks could persist for many years into the future.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (N/A) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | N/A | 24.8 | 2017 |
| International Poverty Line 766.2 in Myanmar kyat (2017) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | N/A | N/A | 2017 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1290.4 in Myanmar kyat (2017) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | N/A | 15.0 | 2017 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 2217.9 in Myanmar kyat (2017) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | N/A | 54.3 | 2017 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | N/A | N/A |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 30.7 | 2017 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 6.31 | 2012-2017 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

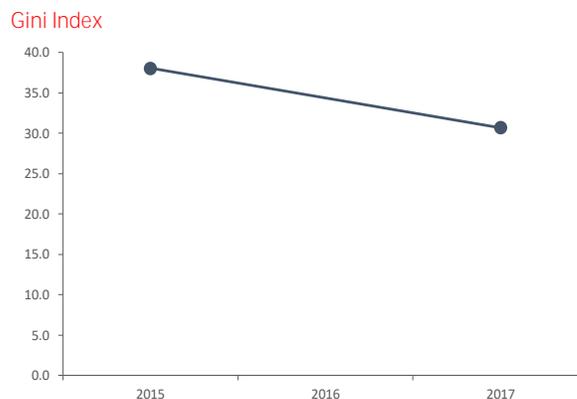
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2015-2017



Source: World Bank using MLCS/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2015-2017



Source: World Bank using MLCS/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2017 | Lower Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 93 | 7 | 22 | 78 | Monetary poverty |
| Rural population | 82 | 18 | 47 | 53 | Daily income/consumption less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | 85 | 15 | 40 | 60 | |
| Females | 85 | 15 | 40 | 60 | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | 78 | 22 | 51 | 49 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | 87 | 13 | 36 | 64 | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | 88 | 12 | 34 | 66 | |
| Without education (16+) | 74 | 26 | 55 | 45 | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | 85 | 15 | 42 | 58 | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | 93 | 7 | 27 | 73 | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 8 | 92 | No access to electricity |

Source: World Bank using MLCS/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The key indicators presented in the table come from the 2015 Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey (2015) and the trends analysis is based on the 2017 Myanmar Living Conditions Survey (MLCS), while the narrative relies on Myanmar high-frequency survey of households undertaken between May 2020 and January 2021. The 2017 MLCS has some coverage limitations, as it was not possible to interview in northern parts of Rakhine State (Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships) and the Wa Self-Administered Division. Limitations in coverage are fully documented in the MLCS 2017 Technical Report (CSO, UNDP and WB, 2018). There are substantial differences in the methodologies used to calculate the national and international poverty rates. The national poverty line is derived from household living conditions surveys using the Cost of Basic Needs approach and is valued in 2017 Myanmar kyat. The international poverty line was estimated from a collection of national poverty lines among poor countries and is in 2011 PPP-adjusted USD. Finally, the national poverty line is based on per adult equivalent household size, while the international poverty line uses a per capita measure. The number of poor is calculated using WDI population data.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPTS). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Papua New Guinea

October 2021

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has not conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) over the past ten years, with the last one being completed in 2009-10. Using the World Bank's definitions for data deprivation, PNG is currently classified as extremely data deprived, with uncertainty as to when another HIES will take place.

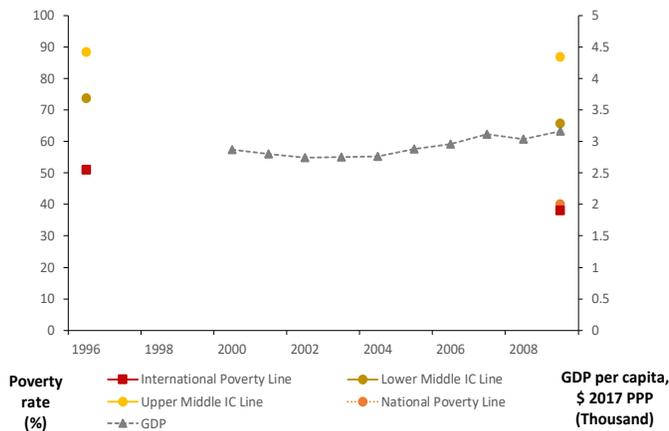
Using the national measure (see "Poverty Data and Methodology" section below for details), 39.9 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line. Using the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the poverty rate was estimated at 38.0 percent. Applying the international poverty line to rural areas, the poverty rate is 40 percent, higher than for urban areas where it is 27 percent. The incidence of poverty is also very high (65.6 percent) measured against the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line of \$3.20 and is high in the context of the East Asia Pacific region. According to the multi-dimensional poverty measure, 74.2 percent of the population is living in poverty. This is due to the high rate of monetary poverty, low educational achievement, and most of the population (82.1 percent) having no access to electricity. The Gini index, which measures inequality, was estimated to be 41.9.

There has been a substantial impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods, according to three rounds of a World Bank mobile phone survey conducted in June 2020, December 2020, and May 2021. More than one-quarter of those working in January 2020 were estimated to have stopped working by December 2020. The largest employment losses were in the agricultural sector, where most of the poor work. Despite some recovery in the second half of 2020, there remained a 28 percent loss in total employment between January and December 2020. Preliminary analysis from the May 2021 survey shows that employment did not change significantly since the beginning of 2021. While most households in the May 2021 survey reported no change in income since January 2021, more than a quarter reported that their income had either reduced or stopped entirely. Overall, the survey results suggest an increase in poverty from pre-crisis levels.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (million) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 2.8 | 39.9 | 2009 |
| International Poverty Line 3.8 in Papua New Guinea kina (2009) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 2.7 | 38.0 | 2009 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 6.4 in Papua New Guinea kina (2009) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 4.7 | 65.6 | 2009 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 11 in Papua New Guinea kina (2009) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 6.2 | 86.9 | 2009 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 74.2 | 2009 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 41.9 | 2009 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 2.74 | 2004-2009 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

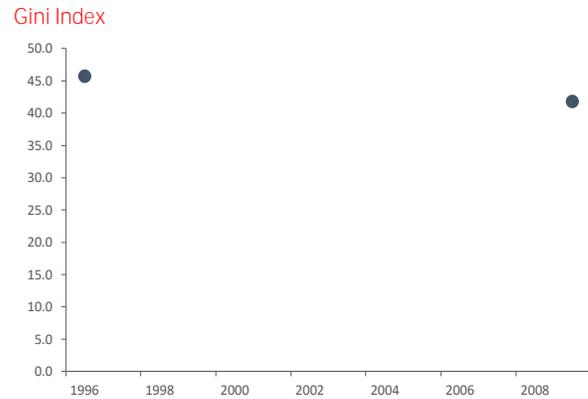
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 1996-2009



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 1996-2009



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2009 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2009 (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 73 | 27 | 29 | 71 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 38.0 |
| Rural population | 60 | 40 | 42 | 58 | |
| Males | 62 | 38 | 40 | 60 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 9.0 No adult has completed primary education 22.2 |
| Females | 62 | 38 | 40 | 60 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 57 | 43 | 45 | 55 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 69.2 No access to limited-standard sanitation 79.8 No access to electricity 82.6 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 66 | 34 | 36 | 64 | |
| 65 and older | 55 | 45 | 47 | 53 | |
| Without education (16+) | 44 | 56 | 56 | 44 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 64 | 36 | 38 | 62 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 74 | 26 | 28 | 72 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 79 | 21 | 22 | 78 | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The national poverty statistics of Papua New Guinea for 2009 used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2200 calories of consumption per adult-equivalent (with children aged 0-6 counting as half of an adult). Separate FPLs were estimated for each of six sub-regions: National Capital District, the South Coast, the Highlands, Urban Momase, Rural Momase, and the New Guinea Islands. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL) was estimated by scaling the FPL using the non-food consumption shares of households living exactly at the FPL. Methodological changes between the 2009-2010 HIES and the previous HIES in 1996 mean that the resulting estimates are not comparable. For example, while the 2009-2010 HIES used a 2-week diary to record consumption, the 1996 HIES used a recall method.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the \$3.20 line and the \$5.50 line. In PNG, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the six regional poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPTS). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Philippines

October 2021

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the pace of poverty reduction in the Philippines was improving. The national poverty rate declined by 6.8 percentage points during 2015-18 (from 23.5 percent in 2015 to 16.7 percent in 2018), compared to a 1.7 percentage points decline during **2012–15**. This faster pace of poverty reduction is due to the transition of workers from agriculture to better paying jobs, principally in the services sector; to increases in government spending on social programs, most notably through expanded coverage of the conditional cash transfer program, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program; and to improvements in nonfarm enterprises revenues.

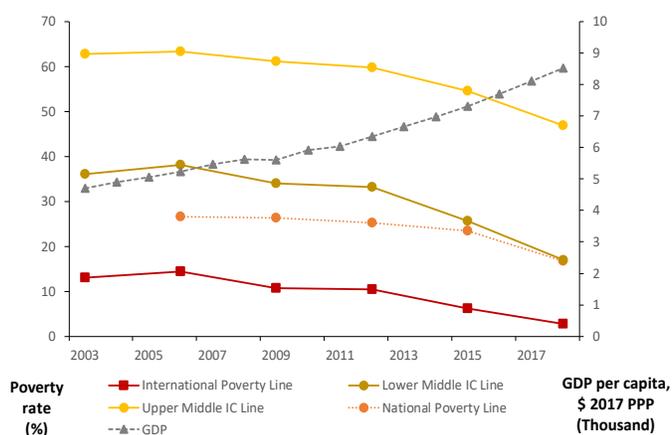
Growth has become more inclusive. In 2015-18, average incomes of households in the bottom 40 percent grew at an annualized rate of 6.1 percent, about 2.7 percentage points faster than the growth rate of average incomes of all households. During the same period, the income-based Gini index dropped from 44.6 to 42.3.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed part of the gains achieved in poverty reduction and shared prosperity. With the economic recession, upsurge of unemployment, and fall of remittance inflows, poverty is likely to have increased. Results from three rounds of a World Bank High Frequency Household Survey (HFS) recorded the fluctuations in employment and decline in incomes as the country experienced prolonged lockdown measures running to 18 months. In the recent round conducted in May 2021, employment has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, with a significant increase of female employment to 78.6 percent from 71.4 percent in March 2020. However, households continued to report lower incomes compared to their pre-pandemic incomes, more so among poorest households where 3 in 5 were still reporting income losses. The government rolled out the Social Amelioration Program in 2020. The HFS confirmed that 4 in 5 households received assistance from government. In May 2021, fewer households reported receiving assistance from the government in the first half of 2021 as assistance was limited to those affected by containment measures in selected areas.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (million) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 17.8 | 16.7 | 2018 |
| International Poverty Line 43.1 in Philippine peso (2018) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2018 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 72.6 in Philippine peso (2018) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 18.2 | 17.0 | 2018 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 124.7 in Philippine peso (2018) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 50.0 | 46.9 | 2018 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 7.9 | 2015 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 6.07 | 2015-2018 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 42.3 | 2018 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 2.72 | 2015-2018 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 5.27 | 2015-2018 |
| Annualized Income Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 3.35 | 2015-2018 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 4.78 | 2015-2018 |

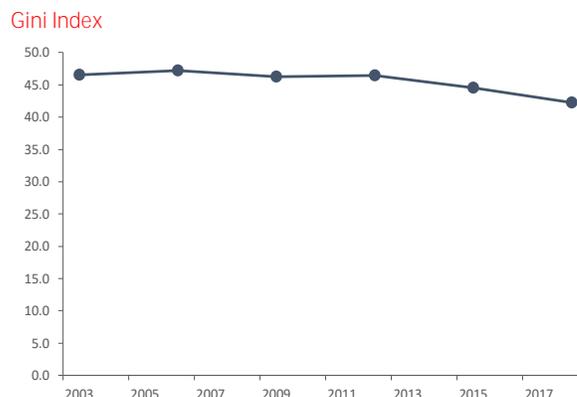
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2003-2018



Source: World Bank using FIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2003-2018



Source: World Bank using FIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2015 | International Poverty Line (%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2015 | (% of population) |
|---|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|-------------------|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | | |
| Urban population | 97 | 3 | 25 | 75 | Monetary poverty (Income) | |
| Rural population | 91 | 9 | 54 | 46 | Daily income less than US\$1.90 per person | 6.1 |
| Males | 93 | 7 | 43 | 57 | Education | |
| Females | 96 | 4 | 28 | 72 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school | 0.0 |
| 0 to 14 years old | N/A* | 0 | N/A* | N/A* | No adult has completed primary education | 7.0 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 94 | 6 | 42 | 58 | Access to basic infrastructure | |
| 65 and older | 96 | 4 | 32 | 68 | No access to limited-standard drinking water | 9.7 |
| Without education (16+) | 87 | 13 | 59 | 41 | No access to limited-standard sanitation | 16.4 |
| Primary education (16+) | 90 | 10 | 54 | 46 | No access to electricity | 9.1 |
| Secondary education (16+) | 96 | 4 | 37 | 63 | | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 18 | 82 | | |

Source: World Bank using FIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using FIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

National official poverty estimates in the Philippines are produced by the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA). These are derived using income welfare aggregates evaluated against per capita poverty lines that are set broadly following the cost of basic needs (CBN) approach. Using a national reference food bundle based on expert opinion of what constitutes a nutritionally adequate bundle, province-specific bundles are set separately for urban and rural areas and reflect locally consumed commodities. These locally priced bundles that constitute food poverty lines are scaled up by a constant food-to-non-food ratio to calculate total poverty lines. There are 163 poverty lines set corresponding to urban and rural areas of the 81 provinces and the National Capital Region in the country, and these were benchmarked to 2009, when this methodology was developed. The 2015 and 2018 official poverty lines were revised/updated based on the following: a) rebasing of the CPI basket from 2006 to 2012; and b) adoption of the 2015 Population Census for the weights in the FIES. Unlike the international poverty line that is fixed and updated by CPI, the national poverty lines are updated by re-estimating the food poverty lines at current prices. The fixed food to non-food ratio used to derive the poverty lines assumes that the non-food price inflation is the same as food price inflation.

Poverty estimates are calculated from the triennial Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES). The two rounds of information for each FIES, one for the first semester and one for the full year, are not strictly comparable. The poverty estimates reported draw from the full year information if not otherwise specified.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Samoa

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey used to estimate poverty in Samoa was conducted in 2018. However, data presented in this brief refer to the previous HIES done in 2013 as the 2018 data is still under processing. By World Bank definitions for data deprivation, Samoa is classified as meeting the minimum data needs. In the past 10 years, Samoa has conducted a HIES on two occasions, with a maximum of five years separating the two (2013 and 2018).

Using the national measures (see "Poverty Data and Methodology" section below for details), 20.3 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line in 2013, down from 26.7 percent in 2008. While there was little variation in poverty rates across regions in 2008, the 2013 data show much higher rates in Apia Urban Area and North-West Upolu (25-26 percent) than in the Rest of Upolu and Savai'i regions (around 14 percent).

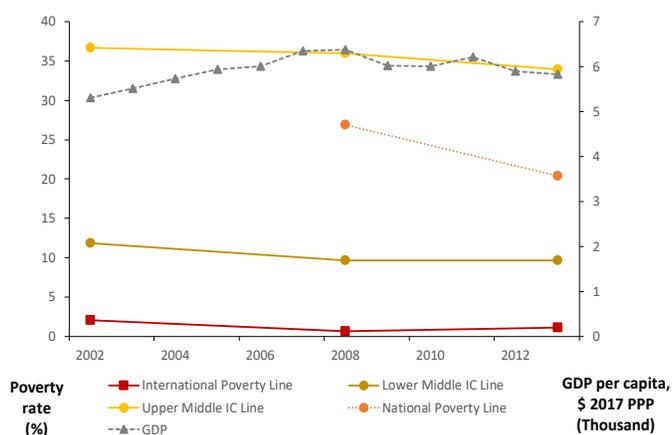
Measured against the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the headcount poverty rate for 2013 was estimated at 1.1 percent. Measured against the \$5.50 poverty line, which reflects living standards across all upper middle-income countries, the incidence of poverty was at 33.9 percent, higher than the global upper middle-income country average of 29.7 percent in 2013. Inequality, as measured by the Gini index, was estimated at 38.7.

The economic fallout of COVID-19 has severely affected the welfare of Samoan households. Samoa's tourism sector, and other linked sectors such as handicrafts and retail, have taken heavy losses due to the closure of international borders. In addition, the 80 percent of Samoan households who receive remittances have also experienced drops in remittance incomes. As such, although Samoa is free from the virus, these economic impacts may lead to an increase in both the incidence and depth of poverty.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 38.8 | 20.3 | 2013 |
| International Poverty Line 3.7 in Samoa tala (2013) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 2.2 | 1.1 | 2013 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 6.2 in Samoa tala (2013) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 18.4 | 9.6 | 2013 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 10.7 in Samoa tala (2013) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 64.7 | 33.9 | 2013 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 1.3 | 2013 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 38.7 | 2013 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | -1.77 | 2008-2013 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

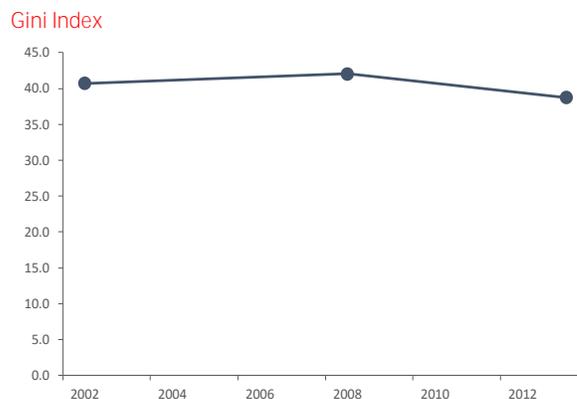
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2013



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2013



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2013 | International Poverty Line (%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2013 (% of population) |
|---|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|---|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 97 | 3 | 43 | 57 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 1.1 |
| Rural population | 99 | 1 | 39 | 61 | |
| Males | 99 | 1 | 39 | 61 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 13.0 No adult has completed primary education 0.4 |
| Females | 99 | 1 | 41 | 59 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 99 | 1 | 45 | 55 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 1.5 No access to limited-standard sanitation 3.0 No access to electricity 0.0 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 99 | 1 | 38 | 62 | |
| 65 and older | 100 | N/A* | 31 | 69 | |
| Without education (16+) | 98 | N/A* | 50 | 50 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 99 | N/A* | 37 | 63 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 40 | 60 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | 0 | 18 | 82 | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line in 2013. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2100 calories of consumption per capita, using a basket of the top 25 goods consumed by the bottom three deciles. Separate FPLs were estimated for each of four sub-regions: Apia Urban Area, Northwest Upolu, Rest of Upolu, and Savai'i. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL) was estimated using the average non-food consumption of the bottom three deciles in the distribution. The poverty estimates produced by the World Bank for 2013 differ from the Samoa Hardship and Poverty Report produced by the UNDP, due to differences in the consumption aggregate calculation. The UNDP report includes gifts given away and other disbursements in the aggregates, while the World Bank aggregates do not; this results in World Bank estimates producing slightly higher rates of poverty due to lower consumption aggregates. The national figures reported above are the World Bank estimates.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the \$3.20 line and the \$5.50 line. In Samoa, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the four regional poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Solomon Islands

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in the Solomon Islands was conducted in 2012-2013. Using the national measures, 12.7 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line. Using the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the headcount poverty rate was estimated at 24.7 percent. According to the \$3.20 Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line, which reflects living standards across all lower middle income countries, the incidence of poverty was 58.1 percent. Inequality, as measured by the Gini index, was estimated at 37.1.

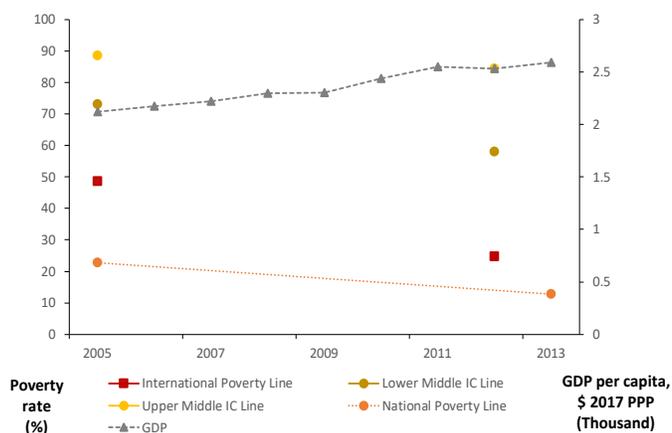
The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a decline in logging exports, government revenues, and growth, likely impacting the poor and vulnerable. According to a mobile phone survey collected from December 2020 to January 2021, there was a partial employment recovery since the beginning of the pandemic, driven largely by the formal sector, which particularly benefited urban and/or wealthier households. In contrast, the recovery has been slow in rural areas and in the informal sector, where poorer people tend to work. Around two out of five households reported lower than usual income in the past week. While reducing consumption has been a common coping strategy, half of households purchased items on credit, and the majority spent from savings, reducing financial security and resilience to falling into poverty.

There is no recent data to measure poverty in Solomon Islands. Using the World Bank's definitions for data deprivation, the Solomon Islands is classified as moderately deprived. In the past 10 years, the Solomon Islands only conducted one HIES (2012-13), with the previous one being in 2005-06.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 71.6 | 12.7 | 2013 |
| International Poverty Line 15 in Solomon Islands dollar (2012) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 137.1 | 24.7 | 2012 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 25.2 in Solomon Islands dollar (2012) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 322.9 | 58.1 | 2012 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 43.3 in Solomon Islands dollar (2012) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 469.7 | 84.5 | 2012 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 37.3 | 2012 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 37.1 | 2012 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 2.65 | 2007-2012 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

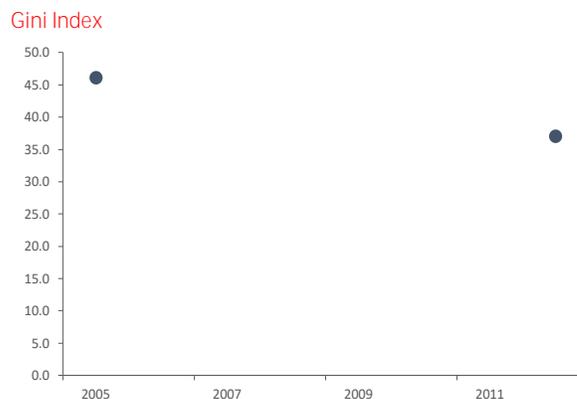
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2005-2013



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2005-2012



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2012 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2012 (% of population) | |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|------|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | | |
| Urban population | 96 | 4 | 9 | 91 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) | |
| Rural population | 71 | 29 | 47 | 53 | Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person | 24.7 |
| Males | 76 | 24 | 40 | 60 | Education | |
| Females | 75 | 25 | 40 | 60 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school | 13.5 |
| 0 to 14 years old | 71 | 29 | 45 | 55 | No adult has completed primary education | 11.4 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 79 | 21 | 36 | 64 | Access to basic infrastructure | |
| 65 and older | 77 | 23 | 42 | 58 | No access to limited-standard drinking water | 25.5 |
| Without education (16+) | 70 | 30 | 47 | 53 | No access to limited-standard sanitation | 58.5 |
| Primary education (16+) | 75 | 25 | 42 | 58 | No access to electricity | 53.8 |
| Secondary education (16+) | 86 | 14 | 26 | 74 | | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 95 | N/A* | 11 | 89 | | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The national poverty statistics of the Solomon Islands for 2012-13 used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2200 calories of consumption per adult-equivalent (with children aged 0-6 counting as half of an adult), using a basket of goods based on the actual consumption of the bottom two deciles in the distribution. Separate FPLs were estimated for each of the nine provinces: Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Isabel, Makira, Malaita, Temotu, and Western. The Non-Food Poverty Lines (NFPL) for the nine provinces were estimated using the average non-food expenditures of households whose spending on food is equal to the FPL.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$3.20) and the Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$5.50). The international poverty estimates for the Solomon Islands do not reflect any implicit spatial price deflation. These estimates also differ from the national poverty measures because they assess welfare needs on a per capita rather than an adult-equivalent basis.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPSTD). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Thailand

October 2021

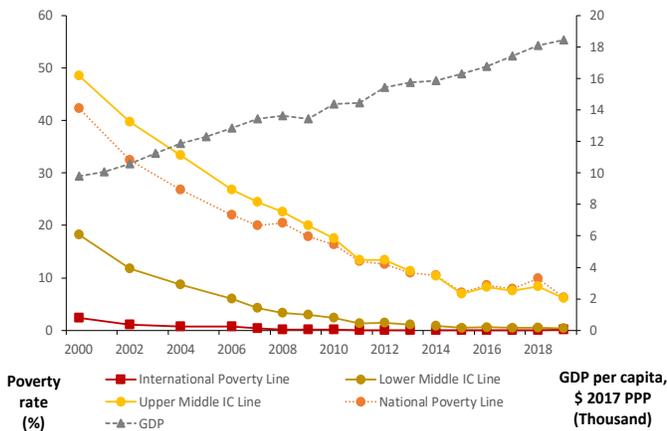
Over the past two decades, Thailand has made significant social and economic progress, reducing its poverty rate from 48.6 percent in 2000 to 6.2 percent in 2019. However, the progress slowed considerably from 2015 onwards, with poverty increasing in 2016 and 2018. The engine that delivered most of the productivity gains in the **past**— the transition from low-productivity agriculture into higher-productivity **jobs**—**began** to lose steam by the 2010s. While initially cushioned by high global demand for primary commodities, the fall in agricultural prices negatively impacted farmers and has contributed to worsening rural households' welfare since 2015. In 2019, poverty reduction started to regain momentum thanks to the expansion of social assistance programs. The national poverty rate significantly declined from 9.9 to 6.2 percent between 2018 and 2019 and based on the upper middle-income poverty line (US\$ 5.5 a day, 2011 PPP), the decline was from 8.4 to 6.2 percent. The consumption-based Gini index also fell from 36.5 to 35.

As COVID-19 struck an economy already suffering from several structural weaknesses, poverty rose again in 2020 by 0.2 percentage points to 6.4 percent. The small increase was owing to massive social transfers as the Thai government quickly responded to the arrival of COVID-19 by passing a 1-trillion Baht Borrowing Decree in April 2020 to address health needs, relief, and economic recovery. In the absence of the compensation package, poverty would have increased to 7.4 percent. A fourth wave of COVID-19 in 2021 and slow vaccination rates could hamper economic recovery and disrupt progress in poverty reduction. Vulnerable groups have experienced a disproportionate burden of COVID-19's economic fallout. Recent data shows that between March 2020 and June 2021, 50 percent of the population were affected by job loss, temporary work stoppage, or reduced hours or pay, while over 70 percent of households experienced a decline in income, with rates increasing to around 80 percent of households in rural areas and low-income groups.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|--|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 4,344.6 | 6.2 | 2019 |
| International Poverty Line 26.4 in Thai baht (2019) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 54.9 | 0.1 | 2019 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 44.5 in Thai baht (2019) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 242.8 | 0.3 | 2019 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 76.6 in Thai baht (2019) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 4,292.5 | 6.2 | 2019 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 0.2 | 2019 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 0.66 | 2015-2019 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 34.9 | 2019 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 0.58 | 2015-2019 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 3.17 | 2015-2019 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 0.08 | 2015-2019 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 0.40 | 2015-2019 |

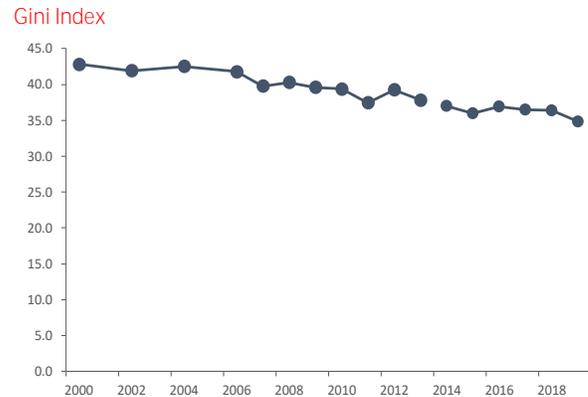
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2000-2019



Source: World Bank using SES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2000-2019



Source: World Bank using SES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2019 | Upper Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2019 | (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|-------------------|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | | |
| Urban population | | | | | Monetary poverty (Consumption) | |
| Rural population | | | | | Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person | 0.1 |
| Males | 94 | 6 | 41 | 59 | Education | |
| Females | 94 | 6 | 39 | 61 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school | 0.5 |
| 0 to 14 years old | 89 | 11 | 56 | 44 | No adult has completed primary education | 15.0 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 95 | 5 | 35 | 65 | Access to basic infrastructure | |
| 65 and older | 93 | 7 | 46 | 54 | No access to limited-standard drinking water | 0.9 |
| Without education (16+) | 85 | 15 | 60 | 40 | No access to limited-standard sanitation | 0.2 |
| Primary education (16+) | 93 | 7 | 48 | 52 | No access to electricity | 0.1 |
| Secondary education (16+) | 96 | 4 | 30 | 70 | | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | 0 | 7 | 93 | | |

Source: World Bank using SES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using SES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Poverty and inequality statistics are calculated using data from the Thailand Socio-Economic Survey (SES), which is conducted annually by the National Statistical Office of Thailand.

National and international trends in poverty are aligned but do not match exactly due to differences in methodology. A welfare aggregate based on nominal consumption per capita is used for both national and international measurement. The main differences between the national and World Bank international measures are due to the different poverty lines that are used. Thailand produces national poverty estimates which are based on household-level poverty lines, with variation by household composition in age and gender, and which also incorporate regional price differences. The WBG measure is based on a singular poverty line, which allows for ease of comparability across countries.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Timor-Leste

October 2021

Timor-Leste has made progress in reducing poverty and improving access to basic infrastructure. The poverty rate, measured by the national poverty line, decreased by 8.6 percentage points from 50.4 percent in 2007 to 41.8 percent in 2014. With a Gini index of 28.7 in 2014, inequality in Timor-Leste is relatively low by international standards. The share of the population without access to safe drinking water decreased significantly from about 80 percent in 2007 to 22.1 percent in 2014. The share of the population without access to electricity dropped from 64.2 percent in 2007 to 27.4 percent in 2014.

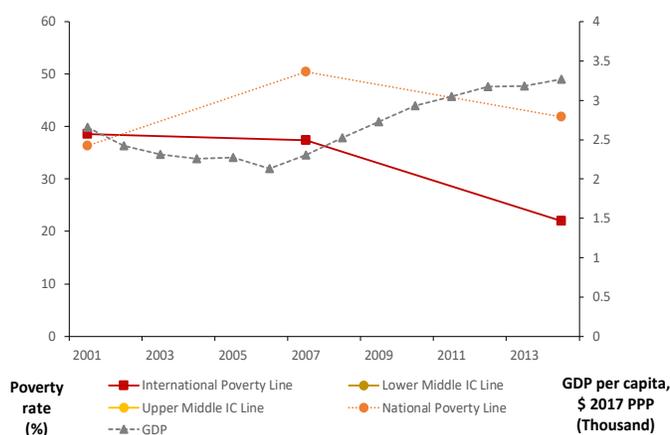
The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented surge of COVID-19 cases in the first half of 2021 is likely to set back poverty reduction efforts. Approximately 16,400 cases and 62 deaths were reported by the end of August 2021, which is much higher than the less-than-30 cases reported back in August 2020. Recent estimates suggest that the economy contracted by 7.8 percent in 2020 and hit the agricultural sector, the source of livelihood for nearly three quarters of poor households. A small-scale UN socio-economic survey conducted in June-July 2020 indicates that almost 60 percent of people lost their income during the state of emergency period from end of March until end of June 2020 when mobility was strictly restricted to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts are exacerbated by severe floods and landslides in April 2021 that severely damaged basic infrastructure.

The Government has increased the budget to address impacts of the pandemic and natural disaster from about 12.3 percent of non-oil GDP in 2020 to around 17.7 percent of non-oil GDP in 2021. The response package focuses on health-related measures and economic measures such as employment support and food assistance. Due to limited recent data, however, it is difficult to monitor the efficacy of these measures.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 507.0 | 41.8 | 2014 |
| International Poverty Line 1.2 in U.S. dollar (2014) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 257.9 | 22.0 | 2014 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 2 in U.S. dollar (2014) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 3.5 in U.S. dollar (2014) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 34.1 | 2014 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 28.7 | 2014 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 3.68 | 2009-2014 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

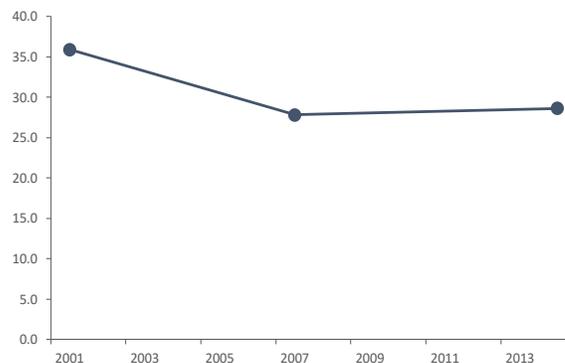
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2001-2014



Source: World Bank using TLSLS/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2001-2014

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using TLSLS/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2014 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2014 (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 87 | 13 | 26 | 74 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 22.0 |
| Rural population | 74 | 26 | 46 | 54 | |
| Males | 78 | 22 | 40 | 60 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 16.4 No adult has completed primary education 21.1 |
| Females | 79 | 21 | 39 | 61 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 73 | 27 | 47 | 53 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 22.1 No access to limited-standard sanitation 39.6 No access to electricity 27.4 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 81 | 19 | 36 | 64 | |
| 65 and older | 87 | 13 | 26 | 74 | |
| Without education (16+) | 77 | 23 | 40 | 60 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 81 | 19 | 39 | 61 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 84 | 16 | 32 | 68 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 95 | 5 | 15 | 85 | |

Source: World Bank using TLSLS/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using TLSLS/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Poverty in Timor-Leste is estimated based on per capita consumption expenditure and a poverty line which is determined using the cost-of-basic-needs approach. This method calculates the poverty line as the cost of a consumption bundle that is (1) consistent with the consumption pattern of the poor; and (2) deemed adequate for meeting basic needs. The poverty line has three main components: food, rent, and non-food. The food poverty line is constructed based on representative food bundles to meet the recommended nutritional need of 2,100 calories per person per day. The rent poverty line represents the average imputed rental cost per person of a reference dwelling. The non-food (excluding rent) poverty line is estimated in terms of what the poor generally spend on non-food items.

In 2014, poverty lines were estimated for the 13 districts using the Timor-Leste Surveys of Living Standards (TLSLS-3). For 2007, poverty lines were constructed for six domains (the rural and urban segments of three regions), as the TLSLS-2 sample size permitted only this degree of spatial disaggregation. Yet, both years present comparable estimates of poverty.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Tonga

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in Tonga was conducted in 2015-16. A new HIES was launched in December 2020 and is due to be completed in December 2021, with poverty estimates expected in mid-2022. Following the completion of the new HIES, by World Bank definitions of data deprivation, Tonga will be classified as meeting the minimum requirements, with two HIES datasets in the past 10 years that are 5 years apart (2015-16 and 2020-21).

Using national measures for 2009-10, 22.5 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line. The incidence of poverty was lowest in the capital, Nuku'alofa, at 21.4 percent, while it was estimated at 23.5 percent in the Rest of Tongatapu and 22.9 percent for Other Islands.

Measuring the 2015-16 HIES consumption expenditure data against the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the poverty rate was estimated at 1 percent. At the \$5.50 poverty line, which reflects living standards across all upper middle-income countries, the incidence of poverty was 27.5 percent, slightly higher than the global upper middle-income country average of 24.4 percent in 2015.

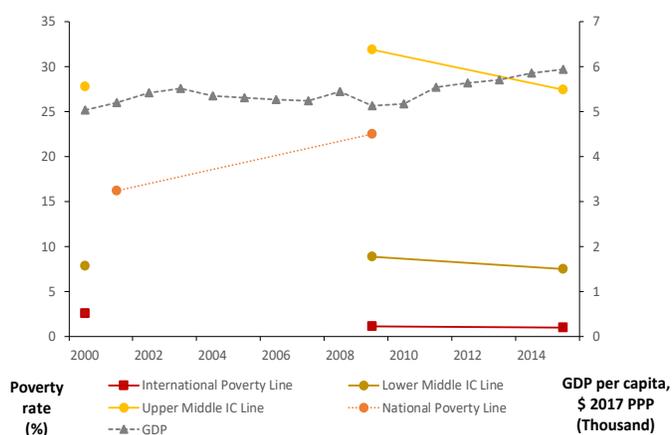
Inequality in 2015-16, as measured by a consumption-based Gini index, was estimated at 37.6. Consumption growth in the Bottom 40 between 2009-10 and 2015-16 exceeded the average growth rate (1.03 percent per year compared to 0.60 percent). The annual median income growth rate during the same time was lower than the reported consumption growth, at only 0.16 percent.

The COVID-19 pandemic may increase poverty in Tonga. Although Tonga is free of the virus, the global halt in international travel has crippled tourism and other linked sectors, leading to a surge in unemployment. It has also reduced remittance incomes from abroad, which are vital to most Tongan households.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|--|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 23.3 | 22.5 | 2009 |
| International Poverty Line 3.2 in Tongan pa'anga (2015) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2015 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 5.4 in Tongan pa'anga (2015) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 7.5 | 7.5 | 2015 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 9.3 in Tongan pa'anga (2015) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 27.7 | 27.5 | 2015 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 1.0 | 2015 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 1.03 | 2009-2015 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 37.6 | 2015 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 0.43 | 2009-2015 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 2.49 | 2009-2015 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 0.60 | 2009-2015 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 0.16 | 2009-2015 |

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

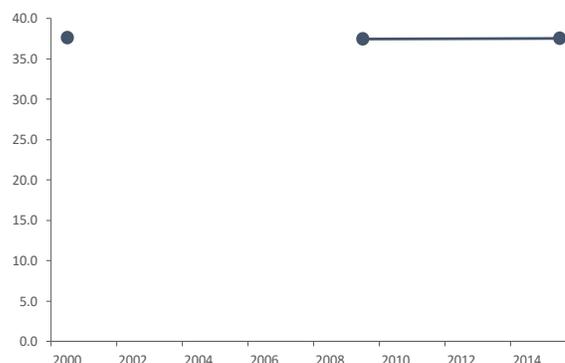
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2000-2015



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2000-2015

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2015 | International Poverty Line (%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2015 (% of population) |
|---|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 100 | N/A* | 35 | 65 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) |
| Rural population | 99 | 1 | 41 | 59 | Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person |
| Males | 99 | 1 | 41 | 59 | |
| Females | 99 | 1 | 39 | 61 | Education |
| 0 to 14 years old | 99 | 1 | 54 | 46 | At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school |
| 15 to 64 years old | 99 | 1 | 36 | 64 | No adult has completed primary education |
| 65 and older | 100 | N/A* | 25 | 75 | |
| Without education (16+) | 97 | N/A* | 60 | N/A* | Access to basic infrastructure |
| Primary education (16+) | 98 | N/A* | 38 | 62 | No access to limited-standard drinking water |
| Secondary education (16+) | 99 | 1 | 37 | 63 | No access to limited-standard sanitation |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | N/A* | 16 | 84 | No access to electricity |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Tonga Statistics Department used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line in 2009. A single food poverty line was used nationally, using a per capita basis rather than applying the adult equivalence scale commonly used across the Pacific. Separate non-food poverty lines were constructed for each of three sub-regions: Nuku'alofa, the Rest of Tongaputu, and Other Islands. National consumption-based poverty measures were not officially produced by the Tonga Statistics Department for 2015-16.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$3.20) and the Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$5.50). For Tonga, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the three regional poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPSTD). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Tuvalu

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in Tuvalu was conducted in 2015-16. However, the data presented in this brief refer to the previous HIES in 2010, as substantial issues with the 2015-16 data prevent the reliable estimation of poverty indicators. By World Bank definitions for data deprivation, Tuvalu is classified as moderately data deprived. In the past 10 years, Tuvalu has conducted a HIES on one occasion, in 2015-16.

Using the national measures (see "Poverty Data and Methodology" section below for details), 26.3 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line in 2010. The incidence of poverty was higher in the capital Funafuti (27.5 percent) than in the Outer Islands (24.8 percent), although separate poverty lines were estimated for the two areas. Households headed by an elderly person were more likely to be poor.

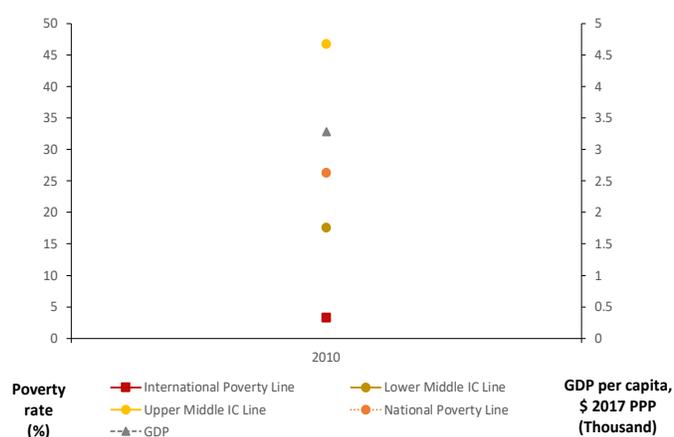
Measured against the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day), the poverty rate in 2010 was estimated at 3.3 percent. However, measured against the \$5.50 poverty line, which reflects living standards across all upper middle-income countries, the incidence of poverty was at 46.7 percent, higher than the global upper middle-income country average of 40.8 percent in 2010. Multidimensional poverty indicators for education and access to sanitation and electricity all exceed the \$1.90 monetary poverty measure, implying that some Tuvaluans who are not poor by monetary measures are still deprived of basic services. Inequality, as measured by the Gini index, was estimated at 39.1.

COVID-19 has not affected Tuvalu to the same extent as its tourism-dependent neighbors, but the pandemic has disrupted fisheries and construction activities, which may also lead to an uptick in unemployment. Disruptions in imports may also affect accessibility and affordability of staple goods, which would also disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 2.8 | 26.3 | 2010 |
| International Poverty Line 2.2 in Australian dollar (2010) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 0.3 | 3.3 | 2010 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 3.7 in Australian dollar (2010) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 1.8 | 17.6 | 2010 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 6.4 in Australian dollar (2010) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 4.9 | 46.7 | 2010 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 3.9 | 2010 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 39.1 | 2010 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 0.71 | 2005-2010 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

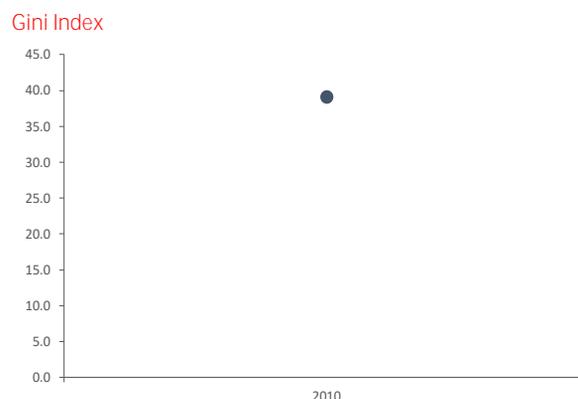
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2010



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2010



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2010 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2010 (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 97 | 3 | 42 | 58 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 3.3 |
| Rural population | 97 | 3 | 39 | 61 | |
| Males | 97 | 3 | 39 | 61 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 6.1 No adult has completed primary education 4.5 |
| Females | 97 | 3 | 41 | 59 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 96 | 4 | 44 | 56 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 0.0 No access to limited-standard sanitation 11.5 No access to electricity 9.2 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 97 | 3 | 38 | 62 | |
| 65 and older | 96 | N/A* | 42 | 58 | |
| Without education (16+) | 93 | N/A* | 54 | N/A* | |
| Primary education (16+) | 96 | 4 | 41 | 59 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 97 | N/A* | 38 | 62 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | 0 | N/A* | 85 | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Tuvalu Central Statistics Division used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line in 2010. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2100 calories of consumption per adult-equivalent (with children aged 0-14 counting as half of an adult), using a basket of goods comprising the top 30 goods consumed by the bottom three deciles in the distribution. Separate FPLs were estimated for each of two sub-regions: Funafuti and the Outer Islands. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL) was estimated using the average non-food consumption of the bottom three deciles in the distribution.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$3.20) and the Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$5.50). For Tuvalu, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the two regional poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living. These estimates also differ from the national poverty measures because they assess welfare needs on a per capita rather than an adult-equivalent basis.

HARMONIZATION

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Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Vanuatu

October 2021

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in Vanuatu was conducted in 2019/2020, with a HIES prior to that occurring in 2010. Using the World Bank's definitions for data deprivation, Vanuatu is classified as moderately deprived (one HIES in the past ten years).

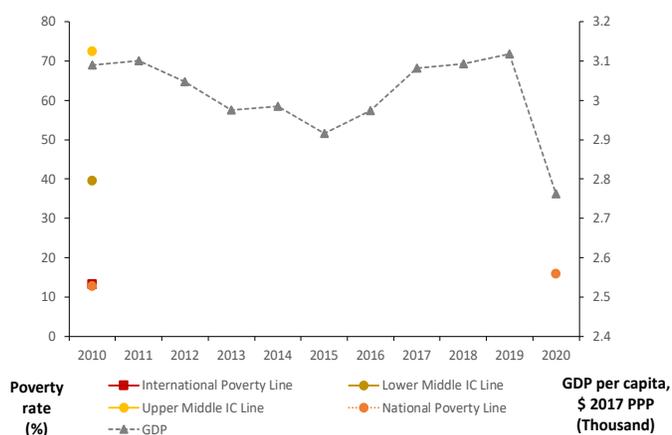
The poverty headcount rate was estimated to be 13.2 percent in 2010, based on the international poverty line of \$1.90 (2011 PPP USD per person per day). Using the latest national measures, 15.9 percent of the **population—or** approximately 47,000 **individuals—lived** below the basic-needs poverty line in 2019/20. There is a stark difference in poverty rates between urban and rural areas: 2.0 percent and 20.8 percent, respectively. As a result, nearly 97 percent of the country's poor population live in rural areas. The urban-rural gap in poverty reflects their employment **conditions—the** majority of working poor adults engage with agricultural jobs, while urban residents have more access to non-agricultural and/or wage jobs. In addition, the low level of educational attainment is clearly associated with poverty.

In 2020 Vanuatu was hit by Tropical Cyclone Harold while being severely affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19. TC Harold caused significant damage to homes, schools, medical facilities, and other infrastructure. Crops and livestock were destroyed, putting livelihoods and food security at risk across the northern islands. Households directly linked to the tourism industry (estimated at 12 percent) have experienced job and income losses because of the pandemic, and other households may suffer from a slowdown in activity in linked sectors such as agriculture. Overall, these shocks must have increased poverty.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (thousand) | Rate (%) | Period |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 47.2 | 15.9 | 2020 |
| International Poverty Line 218.2 in Vanuatu vatu (2010) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 31.1 | 13.2 | 2010 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 367.4 in Vanuatu vatu (2010) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 93.2 | 39.4 | 2010 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 631.5 in Vanuatu vatu (2010) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 170.9 | 72.4 | 2010 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 33.1 | 2010 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | N/A | N/A |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 37.6 | 2010 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | N/A | N/A |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 1.72 | 2005-2010 |
| Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | N/A | N/A |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | N/A | N/A |

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

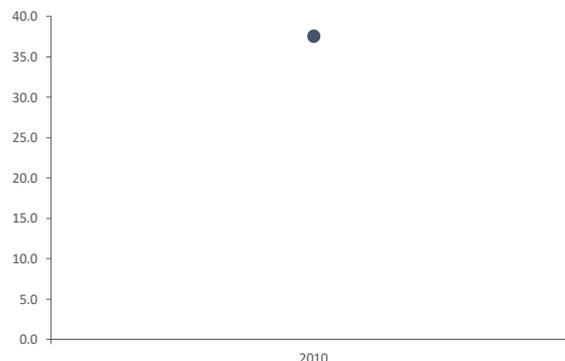
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2010-2020



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2010

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2010 | International Poverty Line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2010 (% of population) |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 81 | 19 | 53 | 47 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 13.2 |
| Rural population | 89 | 11 | 36 | 64 | |
| Males | 87 | 13 | 39 | 61 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 14.6 No adult has completed primary education 18.5 |
| Females | 87 | 13 | 41 | 59 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 84 | 16 | 47 | 53 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 19.1 No access to limited-standard sanitation 45.6 No access to electricity 55.9 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 89 | 11 | 36 | 64 | |
| 65 and older | 90 | 10 | 31 | 69 | |
| Without education (16+) | 86 | 14 | 39 | 61 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 89 | 11 | 35 | 65 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 89 | 11 | 36 | 64 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 92 | N/A* | 24 | 76 | |

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The national poverty statistics of Vanuatu for 2019/20 used a "cost of basic needs" approach to establish a welfare benchmark for the poverty line. A Food Poverty Line (FPL) estimated the required expenditure to achieve 2100 calories of consumption per adult-equivalent (with children aged 0-14 counting as half of an adult), using a basket of 40 goods. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL) was estimated using the average non-food consumption of the bottom three deciles in the distribution.

To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US\$1.90), the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$3.20) and the Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$5.50). For Vanuatu, the consumption aggregates were deflated using the three regional poverty lines to account for spatial differences in the cost of living. These estimates differ from the national poverty measures because they assess welfare needs on a per capita rather than an adult-equivalent basis.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPTS). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

Poverty & Equity Brief

East Asia & Pacific

Vietnam

October 2021

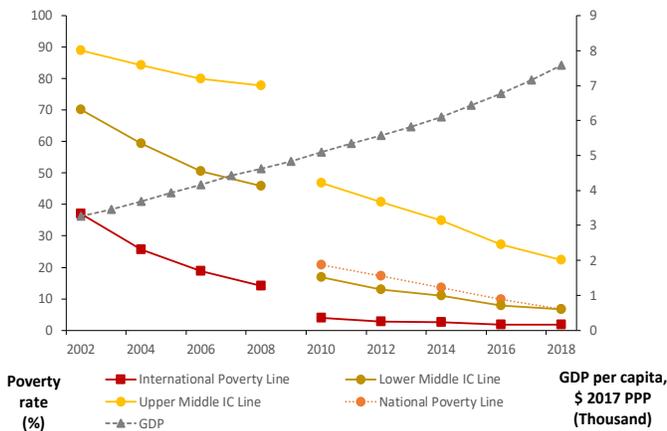
Poverty estimates based on the GSO-WB poverty line for 2018 show that the incidence of poverty declined by 3 percentage points from 2016 to 6.7 percent. Significant poverty reduction has been observed among ethnic minorities, with a 7.5 percentage points decline in poverty during 2016-18 or by more than 20 percentage points since 2014. But with a poverty rate of 37 percent in 2018, they remain significantly poorer than the rest of the population. Poverty reduction was driven by strong wage job growth. About 2.8 million more non-agriculture jobs, including 1.8 million wage jobs, were added between 2016 and 2018. Most of the new opportunities were in urban areas, resulting in a reallocation of labor from agriculture to the manufacturing, construction, and service sectors. This, combined with rising rural wages in all sectors, significantly raised wage incomes. Being labor intensive, growth in Vietnam has been both high and broad based. Median incomes grew by an average of 6.25 percent per year during 2014-18. However, the shared prosperity premium has vanished, now estimated at -0.7 percent during 2014-18. While welfare is improving, gaps remain between the poor and non-poor. The Gini index was 35.7 in 2018, a marginal increase compared to 2014, suggesting that inequality is beginning to rise again or at best, has not improved. Gaps are also emerging in access to tertiary education. Enrollment or graduation rates in tertiary education among 19-24 year olds in the top 60 percent of households are twice that of the bottom 40 percent, for example.

COVID-19 halted an era of high income and wage growth. In late April 2021, Vietnam entered its largest outbreak to date (the 4th wave). Only a month into the outbreak, the number of cases was as many as over the entire past year, linked to a more transmissible Delta variant. Before the emergence of the latest outbreak in April 2021, Vietnam was the only country other than China in the region projected to enjoy a "V-shaped" economic recovery, with GDP projected to bounce back to pre-COVID levels by the third quarter of 2021. A rapid recovery is now less certain. The 4th outbreak occurred when households still had not fully recovered from smaller COVID-19 shocks experienced since the initial onset of the pandemic in March 2020. Based on responses from the World Bank monitoring surveys, about 30 percent of households self-reported still having lower incomes in March 2021 than a year before. Official statistics reported 9.1 million workers (12.8 percent of all workers) had either lost their jobs or had reduced wages in Q1-2021 and average labor incomes were 2.3 percent lower compared to the previous year.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (million) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 6.4 | 6.7 | 2018 |
| International Poverty Line 18872 in Vietnamese dong (2018) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2018 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 31784.4 in Vietnamese dong (2018) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 6.3 | 6.6 | 2018 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 54629.4 in Vietnamese dong (2018) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita | 21.4 | 22.4 | 2018 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 3.0 | 2018 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 5.75 | 2014-2018 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 35.7 | 2018 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | -0.71 | 2014-2018 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 5.61 | 2014-2018 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | 6.46 | 2014-2018 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 6.25 | 2014-2018 |

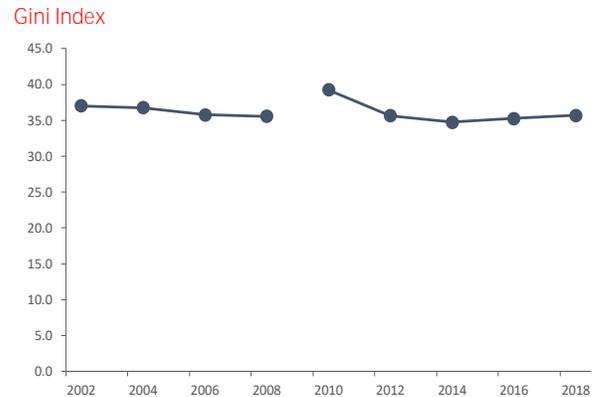
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2018



Source: World Bank using VHLSS/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2018



Source: World Bank using VHLSS/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2018 | Lower Middle Income line(%) | | Relative group (%) | | Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2018 (% of population) |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 | |
| Urban population | 99 | 1 | 18 | 82 | Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 1.8 |
| Rural population | 91 | 9 | 51 | 49 | |
| Males | 93 | 7 | 40 | 60 | Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 1.7 No adult has completed primary education 11.8 |
| Females | 93 | 7 | 40 | 60 | |
| 0 to 14 years old | 90 | 10 | 50 | 50 | Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water 4.7 No access to limited-standard sanitation 11.1 No access to electricity 0.4 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 94 | 6 | 36 | 64 | |
| 65 and older | 95 | 5 | 40 | 60 | |
| Without education (16+) | 71 | 29 | 74 | 26 | |
| Primary education (16+) | 93 | 7 | 48 | 52 | |
| Secondary education (16+) | 97 | 3 | 29 | 71 | |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | N/A* | 11 | 89 | |

Source: World Bank using VHLSS/EAPPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using VHLSS/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The primary source of poverty data is the Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS). Expenditure is collected every two years. The GSO-WB poverty line is estimated using a consumption-based cost-of-basic-needs approach, which includes imputations for housing rent and durables. The current GSO-WB poverty line methodology was significantly revised in 2010 and has since been updated only for cost-of-living changes. The international poverty line estimates are generated from the same consumption aggregate as national estimates, with the CPI used to inflate (deflate) the 2011 PPP-based poverty line into the survey-year prices. Poverty trends using both the national and international poverty lines are consistent. The point estimates for the lower middle income poverty line of 2011 PPP \$3.20 per person per day and the national GSO-World Bank poverty line are also similar, since the implied poverty lines are similar.

HARMONIZATION

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