



CRRC
Armenia



POLICY BRIEF

● for Civil Society Organisations of the Republic of Armenia

NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a country-specific poverty measure tailored to each country's unique situation, building upon the methodology of "Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative". This index alters the conventional approach of measuring poverty solely through monetary means. Instead, exploring poverty through 5 dimensions, including (1) basic needs, (2) housing, (3) education, (4) labor, and (5) health, allows a more comprehensive and locally context-specific understanding of poverty. This policy brief summarizes some highlights

from the descriptive analysis of indicators where deprivation level of at least 50% was observed in Lori, Shirak, and Tavush marzes. This is then followed by short- & mid-term and long-term policy recommendations.

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KEY RESEARCH INSIGHTS

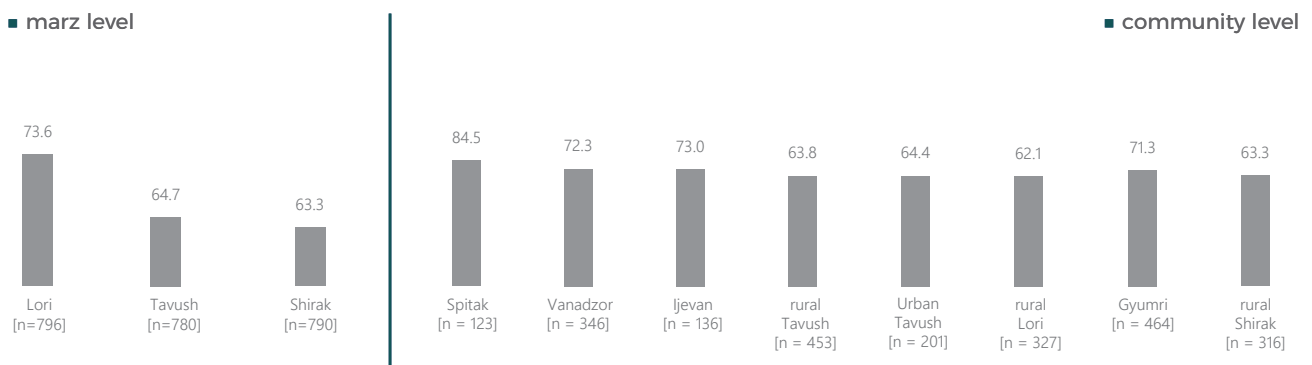
MPI Dimensions by Indicators

Among the 24 indicators, deprivation is highest in life in dignity, healthy heating, labor market participation and decent jobs. *Share of deprived households on marz level is as follows:*



1. Affordability of Food

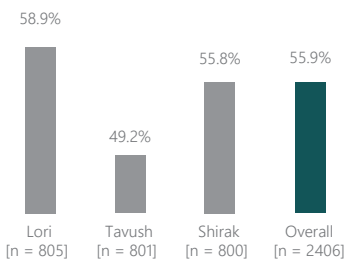
A specific issue is the affordability of food. More than 50% of respondents could not afford having a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day in all communities surveyed. The highest percentage of such people is observed in Lori. The community with the highest level of deprived people in this regard is Spitak. *Share of deprived households on marz and community levels is as follows:*



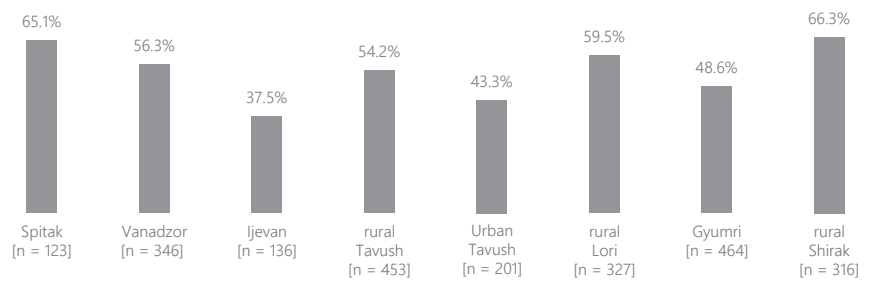
2. Labor market participation

The survey also identified an issue with labor market participation. This indicator identifies households in which more than half of working age individuals (15-75) are not in the labor force. Households that do not have any person of working age are considered not deprived. More than 50% of households are deprived in this indicator in Lori and Shirak. At community level, there is a more than 50% deprivation in Spitak (highest level among all), Vanadzor and rural areas of all three marzes. *Share of deprived households on marz and community levels is as follows:*

marz level

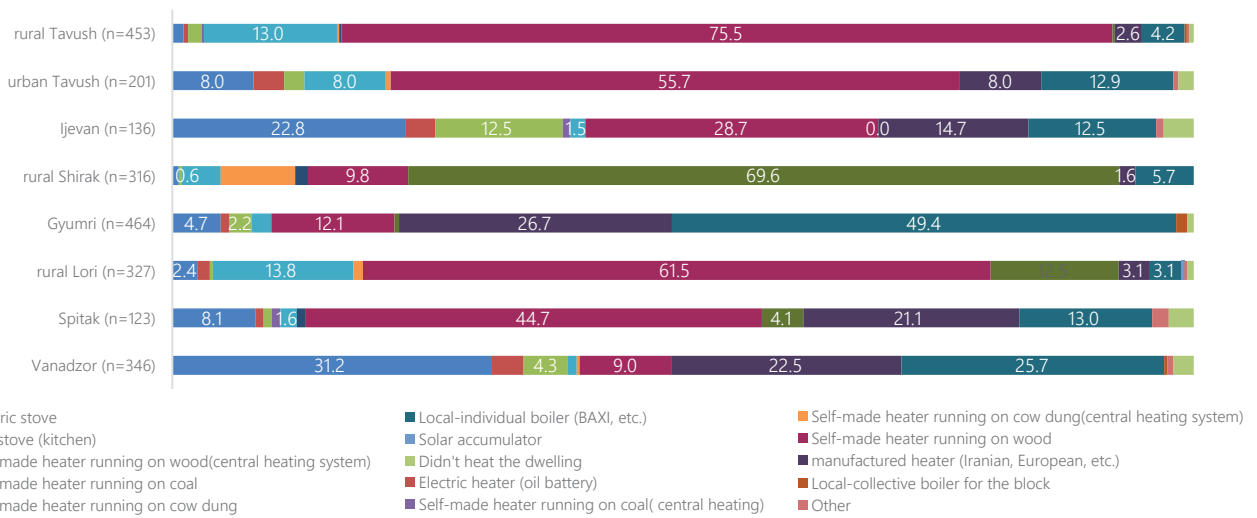


community level

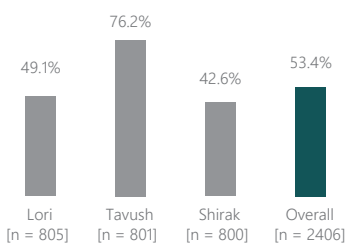


3. Healthy Heating

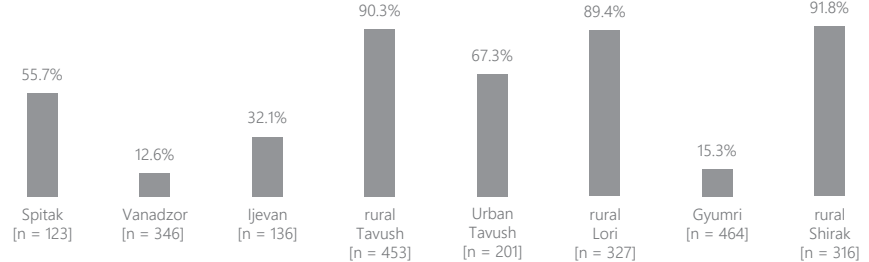
This indicator identifies households whose main source of heating is considered to be detrimental to health. Households heating with any source other than central heating, electricity, natural gas, or liquefied gas were considered deprived. Those who did not heat their household were also considered deprived in that indicator. *Share of deprived households on marz and community levels is as follows:*



marz level



community level



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommended actions towards addressing the problem of affordability of food

Where:

Rural Shirak, Rural Lori, Urban Tavush, Rural Tavush, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Spitak, ljevan

What (short & mid-term):

1. Campaign to promote corporate social responsibility for the Hotel, Restaurants, Cafes (HORECA) sector, supermarkets, and small shops to provide healthier food with lower price for the selected target vulnerable groups in the communities.

2. Information campaign on Nutrient healthy lifestyle for ensuring that nutritious food can be achieved most affordably with small quantities of animal source foods, including dairy, eggs, and small fish that complement nutrient-rich plant-based foods.

What (long-term):

Promote food bank initiatives to make food available for deprived people.

2. Recommended actions towards addressing the problem of labor market participation

Where:

Rural Shirak, Rural Lori, Rural Tavush, Vanadzor, Spitak

What (short- & mid-term):

1. Conduct needs assessment for each community to enter the labor market. Provide training for people accordingly, based on needs assessment.
2. Improve the competitiveness of local small and medium-sized (SMEs) enterprises by developing competencies and skills of local producers and farmers as well as of SMEs staff members in the field of quality management, agricultural, and food processing technologies to improve the labor market environment.

3. Recommended action towards addressing the problem of healthy heating

Where:

Rural Shirak, Rural Lori, Urban Tavush, Rural Tavush, Spitak

What (short- & mid-term):

The Ministry of Environment in cooperation with international organizations has analyzed the approaches of reducing the use of cow dung. Promote the safe use of dung as a resource for heating in rural Shirak.