



CRRC  
Armenia



# POLICY BRIEF

## ● for Municipality of Vanadzor

### 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.

.....  
This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of CRRC-Armenia and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



## KEY RESEARCH INSIGHTS

### MPI Dimensions by Indicators

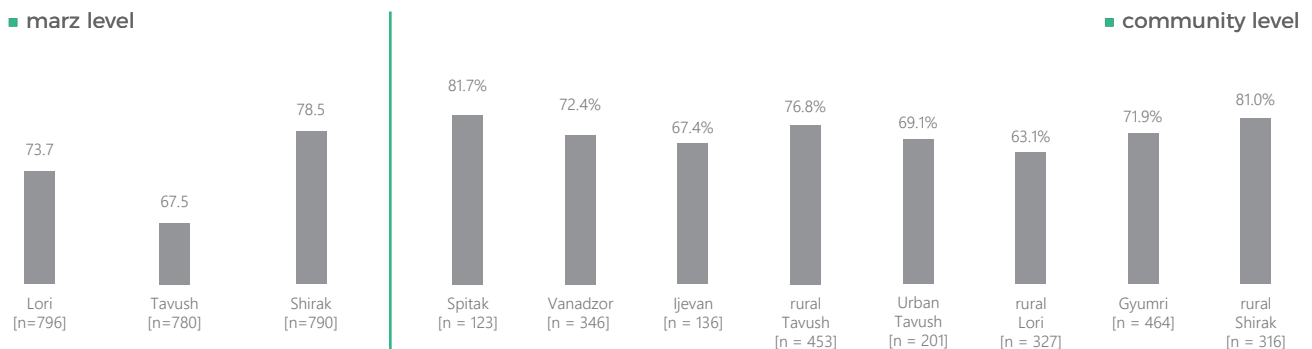
Among the 24 indicators, deprivation is highest in life in dignity, healthy heating, labor market participation and decent jobs. *Share of deprived households on marz level is as follows:*



### 1. Healthy Food Consumption

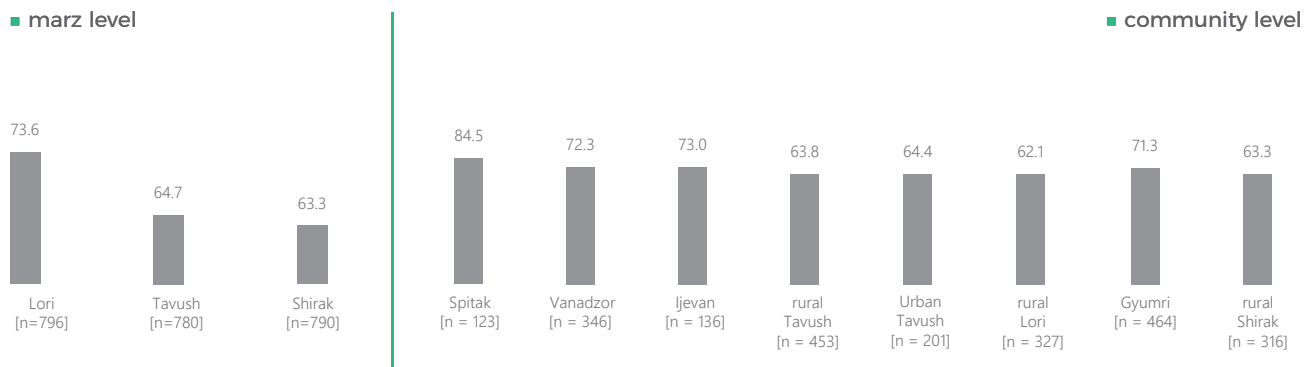
Following our analysis of poverty in Lori, Shirak, and Tavush marzes, we noted a deprivation in terms of healthy food consumption exceeding 50%. Surveyed respondents were asked "In the past 12 months, was there a time when you or others in your household experienced any of the following due to lack of money or other resources?". If a person answered **YES** to at least one of the items ("worried about not having enough food to eat", "were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food", "ate only a few kinds of foods", "had to skip a meal", "ate less than you wanted", "ran out of food", "were hungry but did not eat", "went without eating for a whole day"), then the household was considered deprived.

The highest level of deprivation in terms of healthy eating is observed in Shirak at marz level, as well as Spitak and rural Shirak at community level.



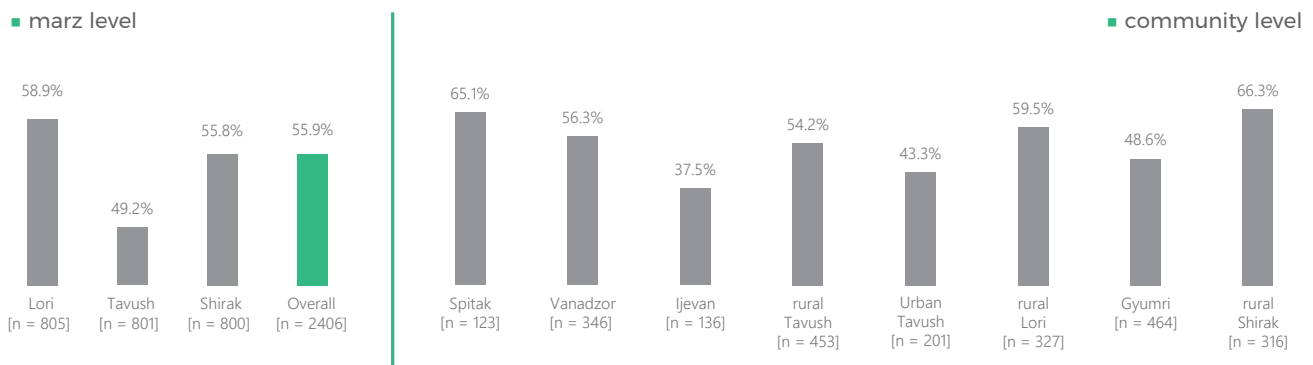
## 2. Affordability of Food

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:*



## 3. 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:*



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Recommended actions towards addressing the problem of healthy food consumption

**What** (short- & mid-term):

1. Subsidize food access at kindergartens and provide a budget for schools to ensure that children are receiving nutritious food. This also allows communities to be aware of healthy eating habits.
2. Initiate community gardening in schools/kindergartens coupled with awareness campaigns on the importance of gardening in the community. This can be a good way to diversify community-based projects (through e.g., public-private partnerships).

**What** (long-term):

1. Educate communities on healthy eating habits through strengthening and expanding on already existing healthy eating programs.
2. Implement targeted measures to make a healthy lifestyle affordable for those in need.
3. Address these two points into specific social and economic strategic plans and implement the (locally) appropriate measures.

## **2. Recommended action towards addressing the problem of affordability of food**

**What** (short- & mid-term):

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.

## **3. Recommended actions towards addressing the problem of labor market participation**

What (long-term):

1. Develop a community strategy on economic development to set targeted goals and attract various investments (this is international best practice; however, Armenian communities have failed to implement this so far).
2. Raise awareness of the importance of community strategic plans to increase their usage by LSG's.
3. Prioritize advancing the community's economic development plan.
4. Develop educational frameworks for technologies and skills for the communities (e.g., IT, remote work).