

UNDP's projections on multidimensional poverty across the world reflect a dark phase ahead

1.1 billion people from a total of 6 billion live under severe multidimensionally poor conditions across 110 nations. The Sub-Saharan and South Asian nations form a core majority of the poor with every 5 out of 6 households falling in these regions. This alone amounts to 923 million (83% of the global poor). Over 67% of the poor communities reside in moderate-income nations, thereby stressing the need for robust poverty reduction programs. Limited-income nations constitute almost one-third of the poor.

Children below 18 years of age form the most vulnerable group under the MPI. The present total stands at 566 million (52%) which is quite alarming in itself. Gross poverty rates stand at 28% for children, and, among grown-ups, it accounts for 14%. The rural regions still remain widely poor when compared to their urban counterparts with 85% of gross poor people concentrated in rural regions. China, Indonesia, and Cambodia made the most massive changes on the global front while tackling their respective poverty gaps.

China and Indonesia improved the economic and living prospects of 70 million and 9 million people respectively. Cambodia has been widely praised for its unrelenting attitude aimed at eradicating poverty levels even during the Covid pandemic. It managed to reduce the frequency of poverty from 37% to 17% and the total number of poor people fell by 48.3% from 6 million to 2.9 million over a span of 8 years (2014 – 2021).

