

To an increasing extent, Sida's development cooperation is taking place in contexts characterised by fragility, conflicts and recurrent crisis.¹ These aspects shape the reality of people living in or near poverty and multidimensional poverty is often both deep and broad. In 2022, eight out of Sida's ten largest partner countries are affected by conflict and crisis and receive both humanitarian and development funds².

Development, peace and humanitarian actors are increasingly all active in these contexts. To support the efforts of national and local actors towards sustainable development and poverty reduction, a shared analysis is key, that includes both chronic and humanitarian needs, risk and vulnerability as well as resilience and root causes of crisis and conflicts. The purpose of this brief is to give guidance on aspects that are especially important to consider when analysing multidimensional poverty in such contexts to support a shared analysis.

BACKGROUND

While the world has seen a global decline in extreme poverty over the last decades, people living in poverty are more often found in contexts characterised by fragility, violent conflict and recurrent crisis, often complex and protracted³. In these contexts, progress towards the sustainable development goals is lagging most behind and the situation is characterised by deep grievances and/or high levels of exclusion, lack of capacity, and limited provision of basic services to the population. Multidimensional poverty is often both deep and broad with geographical differences across the country.

All around the globe, conflict and climate-related shocks and disasters are becoming more frequent and intense. The negative effects of these crises often include forced displacement, economic shocks, epidemics, rising poverty and inequality, high levels of discrimination and exclusion, and limited provision of basic social services. When shocks overlap, it adds to the complexity, severity and length of crises. In addition to directly affecting large number of people and drastically increasing humanitarian needs, such recurrent or protracted crises erode the gains made in the fight against poverty and undermine prospects for future progress. Moreover, they increase the vulnerability of both people and communities to shocks and crises, and erode their resilience.

BOX 1: EXPLAINING CENTRAL CONCEPTS

A **crisis** is a singular event or a series of events that threaten the health, safety or well-being of a community or large group of people. It includes natural disasters, often climate-related, and man-made disasters, like armed conflicts or a financial crisis. (Adapted from i.a. OHCHR)

Crises become **protracted** when they involve more than one crisis happening at once (such as conflict, displacement and natural disasters) over an extended period of time. They combine acute and long-term needs, requiring strategic support to meet immediate needs and to address structural causes and reduce vulnerabilities to new shocks. (Adapted from Global Humanitarian Assistance report 2020)

A **conflict** is a disagreement between two or more individuals or groups. Conflicts are a natural part of every society and can be positive as long as they are managed constructively. A conflict becomes violent when one or several parties seek to attain their goals with destructive means and resort to violence or threat of violence in one form or another. An armed conflict is a form of violent conflict with the use of armed force (weapons). (See more details in Sida's Peace and Conflict Toolbox)

Fragile situations tend to be characterized by deep grievances and/or high levels of exclusion, lack of capacity, and limited provision of basic services to the population. Fragile situations tend also to be characterized by the inability or unwillingness of the state to manage or mitigate risks, including those linked to social, economic, political, security, or environmental and climatic factors. Fragile countries often have deep governance issues and state institutional weakness. (World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence, 2020)

1 For simplicity, we will sometimes refer to them as "crisis contexts" or "FCC contexts".

2 Afghanistan, Somalia, DRC, Ethiopia, Palestine, Uganda, Bangladesh, South Sudan, Sudan, Mali, Iraq, Colombia, Yemen, Syria.

3 The share of the world's poor residing in these contexts is usually estimated to between half and three quarters, depending on the definition of fragility.

The remainder of this brief is structured as follows: An introduction of Sida's approaches to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus (HDP nexus) and to multidimensional poverty followed by the main section with guidance on how to adapt the multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA) in crisis contexts – both in terms of process and focus. The brief ends with a section on helpful internal as well as external tools and analytical frameworks.

SIDA'S APPROACH TO THE HDP NEXUS

In contexts characterised by fragility, conflicts and crisis (crisis contexts, or FCC contexts), often development, peace and humanitarian actors are present simultaneously. Historically, lack of coordination between them has reduced the impact of their efforts to support national and local stakeholders in their strife towards alleviating humanitarian needs, and achieve sustainable poverty reduction and lasting peace. Coordination and complementarity between these three pillars is therefore key. In 2019, the DAC recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus⁴ was approved. Based on this, Sida developed its own approach to the HDP Nexus⁵. The guidance note describes why a nexus approach is necessary, the goals of it, and its main principles.

BOX 2: SIDA'S APPROACH TO THE HDP NEXUS

The HDP nexus refers to the interlinkages between Humanitarian, Development and Peace efforts in terms of improved coordination, coherence and complementarity within three themes: Coordination (analysis and dialogue), Programming and Financing.

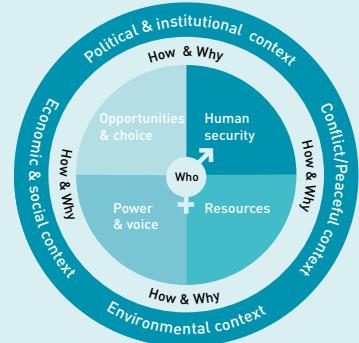
The point of departure for an HDP-approach is a shared analysis of people's needs (both humanitarian and development needs) and rights, their vulnerabilities, the risks they face, capacities for resilience and the underlying causes of crises and conflicts. Built on this shared understanding, shared targets and goals are developed, allowing for joined-up planning and programming between humanitarian, development and peace efforts.

Engagement across the HDP nexus should be context-specific, based on respective mandates, comparative advantage and respect of humanitarian principles.

SIDA'S APPROACH TO MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

Sida has a multidimensional approach to poverty, captured in Dimensions of Poverty: Sida's Conceptual Framework⁶.

BOX 3: SIDA'S APPROACH TO MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY



Sida sees poverty as deprivations within the four dimensions of the inner circle – resources, power and voice, human security and opportunities and choice. Poverty has many faces and different groups living in poverty experience different deprivations. Someone deprived in the resource dimension and one or more of the other dimensions is considered to be living in multidimensional poverty. The causes of poverty are found in the four aspects of the development context in the outer circle. A Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis (MDPA) provides in-depth insights into, and conclusions about, groups living in poverty (who), main deprivations (how), structural causes to poverty (why), as well as risks for increased poverty and who is at risk.

The remainder of this brief provides suggestions on how to adapt the MDPA process in FCC contexts, and aspects that are especially relevant to include and emphasise in an MDPA in such contexts. These include aspects related to poverty like risks, resilience and vulnerability, as well as the underlying causes of crises and conflicts and how crisis and conflict impacts poverty. An MDPA that provides a shared analysis of these aspects will contribute to increased complementarity and coordination across the HDP nexus.

ADAPTING THE MDPA PROCESS

The MDPA as a joined up analysis

The HDP nexus guidance emphasises that humanitarian, development and peace actors need a shared analysis of the situation. Sida's main analytical tool that informs its long-term development cooperation is the Multidimensional Poverty Analysis, the MDPA. Sida's humanitarian aid on the other hand is informed by the HCA, Humanitarian Crisis Analysis.

Analysing multidimensional poverty always benefits from a broad team approach, to make use of as much knowledge and integrate as many perspectives as possible. In a context where crisis and conflict affects poverty, it is particularly important that Sida's humanitarian and conflict experts participate in the MDPA. This creates preconditions for a joined-up analysis.

⁴ [DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#), OECD, 2019

⁵ [Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: Guidance Note for Sida](#), 2020
⁶ [Dimensions of Poverty: Sida's Conceptual Framework](#), 2017

A way to promote a joined-up analysis within Sida is when Sida's HCA informs the MDPA, and vice versa. Moreover, using humanitarian analyses and data and reports from humanitarian partners⁷ to inform the MDPA contributes to a joined-up analysis. One advantage of humanitarian data is that it is updated regularly and covers aspects relevant to these contexts.

Addressing lack of data

One experience that Sida's teams making MDPAs in Somalia and Syria have in common is the lack of updated official statistics. In crisis contexts where updated data can be difficult to access, in addition to using humanitarian data as described above, humanitarian partners and especially local partners working close to people living in poverty will have invaluable information about the situation and realities that these people face. Qualitative information is also useful to include. Various maps are key to understand geographic aspects of poverty, and can e.g. be found in many humanitarian reports.

Moreover, groups that are important to include in these contexts like refugees, vulnerable migrants, internally displaced people and stateless persons are often missing in official data. Data challenges can be exacerbated by difficulties in accessing people in conflict-affected areas. National counterparts and official sources may also be politically motivated to downplay or deny the existence of needs among specific groups. Making use of partners' knowledge of these groups is one way of overcoming or working around this data challenge.

Adapt the process and revisit the MDPA

The general guidance is "make the MDPA work for you" which means that both the process and format can be adapted to the needs and resources of the team. If the team is small, or divided between Stockholm and an embassy, and data is scarce – plan for an MDPA that is adapted to the preconditions and needs of your team, and make the MDPA work for your team. However, the analysis should not divert from answering the questions on who, how and why in relation to multidimensional poverty.

The MDPA should be kept alive, up to date, and it should be used to inform strategic and operational decisions. In contexts characterised by fragility, conflict and crisis, where change is frequent, it is

especially important to revisit and update conclusions regularly to ensure a relevant analysis.

ADAPTING THE FOCUS OF THE MDPA

The answers to the questions "who, how, and why" in relation to multidimensional poverty in an FCC context – be it violent conflict, and/or natural disasters like drought or flooding – likely differ from a context that is not. Deprivations within all four dimensions of poverty are likely impacted, a person's poverty can be both broader and deeper, and risks likely matter more (see Box 4 for further details). Both causes to – and consequences of – a conflict or crisis can be found in the different aspects of the development context. Analysing multidimensional poverty in contexts characterised by fragility, conflicts and crisis therefore requires an emphasis on such aspects, that are included in existing MDPA guidance but highlighted here to give further guidance.

Understanding risks, shocks and trends in relation to multidimensional poverty

People living in or near poverty are more often exposed to risks and hit by shocks than non-poor. Living in or near poverty increases people's vulnerability to different types of risks that can push them into poverty, or deeper into poverty. The impact of those risks is also often more devastating than for the less poor.

BOX 4: EXPLAINING CENTRAL CONCEPTS

In relation to multidimensional poverty, **risks** are future uncertainties that impact poverty outcomes. Risks can be at individual or household level (sometimes referred to as idiosyncratic risks), such as the risk of loss of life, injury, getting sick or losing one's employment. Risks like destroyed or damaged assets, droughts or conflicts can be local, affecting the local community, or national, affecting the whole society (sometimes referred to as covariate or systemic risks).

If the risk materialises, it is referred to as a **shock** – to an individual, a household, a local community, or a country. Such shocks can erode development progress, deepen deprivations and thus poverty and/or lead to humanitarian crisis.

Vulnerability is the characteristics and circumstances of individual persons, households or communities that make them particularly susceptible to the damaging effects of a shock or stress. (Adapted from UNICEF)

Resilience is the ability (of households, people, and communities at local or national level) to absorb and recover from shocks, whilst positively adapting and transforming structures and means for living in the face of long-term stresses, change and uncertainty. (OECD-DAC)

Trends refer to a general, already more or less known direction into which the development context is changing. This could be climate change, demographic trends like urbanisation, democratisation or autocratisation. (Sida's Poverty Toolbox)

⁷ Examples of humanitarian tools that can inform the MDPA are listed in the next section on Tools and Methods.

Risks and shocks can have different origins, such as environment and climate crises, economic crises, epidemics and conflicts. They are often interrelated, mutually reinforcing and multidimensional and affect at various levels – individual, community, or country level.

The impacts of shocks will differ depending on the characteristics of the community or person affected. At the individual level, poverty status, geographic location, age, gender and other aspects affect the resilience or the vulnerability of a person to shocks and trends.

In protracted crisis contexts the resilience is generally lower, and vulnerability thus higher. Likewise, the impact of trends, future developments that are more or less known, will also depend on the characteristics of the countries, including their readiness to respond to them. The climate crisis will impact poorer countries negatively, while the impact of trends like globalisation will differ depending on characteristics of the countries, and how they respond to it.

BOX 5: EXPOSURE TO SHOCKS IN AFGHANISTAN⁸

"Vulnerability to shocks is one of Afghanistan's most defining social and economic challenges. Vulnerability to shocks is an important dimension of fragility in Afghanistan. The country's unsophisticated economic structure, heavy reliance on subsistence agriculture, geography and climate-change risk, the absence of formal safety nets, and protracted history of conflict all contribute to Afghan people vulnerability. With 36 percent of Afghans consuming below the poverty line, and 50 percent of the population consuming under twice the poverty line, shocks have a devastating impact on welfare, human capital accumulation, and on poverty reduction.

For Afghan households, exposure to shocks is pervasive and increasing. Approximately 84 percent of Afghan households experienced at least one shock in 2011-2012, up from 71 percent in 2007-2008. Moreover, 53 percent of households reported three or more shocks, up from 45 percent. ... While methods and instruments are not exactly comparable, shock incidence in Afghanistan far exceeds other comparable developing countries, such as India, Lao PDR, Malawi, Pakistan, Peru, and Uganda."

Understanding trends, risks – i.e. both current and potential shocks – and coping capacities should always be part of a multidimensional poverty analysis, but especially so in contexts characterised by fragility, conflicts and crisis. The update of Burkina Faso's MDPA from 2021⁹ is a good example of including risk analysis in an MDPA.

⁸ [Afghanistan Poverty Status Update](#), p. 43, World Bank, 2015

⁹ [Multidimensional Poverty Analysis \(MDPA\): An update for Burkina Faso 2021](#), Embassy of Sweden, Ouagadougou, 2021

To help the analysis of risks, shocks and trends, questions similar to the ones below can be found in Guiding questions (see link below):

- Which are the key risks and shocks that are likely to affect poverty, or the potential to move out of poverty (both for people and communities)?
- Which groups or geographical areas are most exposed?
- How will shocks affect poverty in its different dimensions?
- What are the underlying causes of the shocks?
- What capacities do people and communities have to prevent, absorb and adapt to such shocks?
- Which trends are likely to impact future poverty outcomes? How?

The process to develop an MDPA is usually not linear. The inclusion of risks and trends benefits from an iterative process – going back and forth between analysing dimensions of poverty and how risks will impact them, who is living in poverty and who is at risk of impoverishment, the structural causes to poverty and the impact of trends, and on who.

There exist numerous analyses related to risks, vulnerability, resilience and underlying causes of conflict that can be used to inform the MDPA, e.g. the INFORM Risk Index, that provides analysis on risks and the severity of ongoing crises. See Tools and Methods for further support and resources.

Deprivations and structural causes to poverty

In addition to the Guiding questions and other tools in the Poverty Toolbox (see below), the following questions can be helpful in order to analyse multidimensional poverty and its causes in a crisis context:

- How is fragility/crisis/conflict (and the risks they entail) explaining poverty in its four dimensions? Whose poverty is affected?
- How is fragility/crisis/conflict (and the risks they entail) affecting the four aspects of the development context?
- What are the root causes to vulnerability/fragility/crisis/conflict?

Sida's Poverty Toolbox (see Tools and Methods) contains documents and guides that help analyse the impact of conflicts on poverty. Both Sida's Global MDPA from 2020¹⁰ and a brief on the conflict perspective contain helpful overviews of the linkages between

¹⁰ [Global multidimensional poverty analysis 2020](#), Sida, 2021

conflict and lack of human security on the one hand, and the four dimensions of poverty as well the four aspects of the context on the other. They also give useful examples of deprivations that are common in conflict-affected contexts. The tool [Guiding questions](#) contain useful questions that help analyse both the impact of conflicts on poverty as well as the causes to them. (So far, similar guidance does not exist on the linkages between other crises and multidimensional poverty.)

To understand the root causes to an ongoing armed conflict requires additional analysis, like a conflict analysis¹¹. In FCC contexts in general and in HDP nexus efforts in particular, a conflict sensitive approach is key to not only mitigate and address potential risks of doing harm but also identify opportunities for positive contributions to peace. The analysis of the peace and conflict context in the MDPA, and additional conflict analysis when needed, is the first key step for ensuring conflict sensitivity.¹²

Who are “the poorest”?

At the centre of the MDPA is the “who”, who is living in or at risk of falling (deeper) into poverty? In crisis contexts, people living in extreme poverty are often at the same time experiencing humanitarian needs, and vice versa. Drawing conclusions on who “the poorest” are, those that are most vulnerable to shocks, is thus especially important in these contexts, not least given the importance this concept has in Sida’s guidance on the HDP nexus¹³. In Box 3, Sida’s understanding of who is living in multidimensional poverty is outlined. Sida has however no definition of “the poorest”, nor guidance on how to identify them in an MDPA. One way to conceptualise “the poorest” is to ask:

- Which groups of people experience deep deprivations in many or all of the different dimensions, are exposed to shocks and suffer from severe poverty, and are thus furthest away from living a life in dignity?
- Are there groups that are purposefully excluded from or prevented from accessing services or assistance by Government or de facto authorities?

11 See [Peace and Conflict Toolbox](#)

12 The second main step for Sida’s approach to conflict sensitivity is to assess the capacity implementing partners to integrate conflict sensitivity in their operations. For further guidance, please visit Sida’s [Peace and Conflict Toolbox](#), where you also can find Sida’s definitions of Conflict Analysis, Conflict sensitivity, and Peace-building

13 Although Sida has the ambition to become better at targeting the development needs of “the poorest”, not least as part of the HDP Nexus, Sida also has the broader assignment to create preconditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression. An MDPA should thus also contain conclusions on “who is living in poverty”, not only “who are the poorest”.

- Which are the groups who have traditionally been supported by humanitarian actors (or not at all), e.g. refugees, internally displaced persons, those worst affected by conflict and violence, or people living in hard to reach areas?

BOX 6: FORCIBLY DISPLACED EXPERIENCE MULTIPLE DEPRIVATIONS

In 2022, UNHCR reported that globally 100 million persons were displaced, 53 million of whom were internally displaced persons (IDPs), the vast majority having fled violence and conflict¹⁴. The forcibly displaced often live in poor areas in low and middle income countries that are already struggling.

Loss of assets, livelihoods and access to family networks make refugees more vulnerable to poverty. The fact that they are rarely granted work permits and thus access to the formal labour market can drive them into the informal sector and/or welfare or humanitarian dependency.

In 2018, only 63 % of child refugees attended primary school and 24 % secondary school. This compares to global figures of 91 and 84 % respectively.¹⁵ IDP children also tend to face higher rates of acute malnutrition, and crowded displacement environments may increase the transmission of communicable diseases that are especially dangerous for children.

An important element of the HDP nexus approach is the realisation that long-term sustainable solutions are needed for groups of people often excluded by development actors, including partner governments, like refugees and IDPs in protracted situations, to avoid permanenting their situation. Humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation actors need to work together, and together with national actors, to find lasting solutions. Therefore, it is important to include refugees and IDPs in the MDPA, particularly in these contexts.¹⁶

The Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) can add knowledge on who the poorest and most vulnerable groups are as they hold data and analyses, key for identifying “the poorest” as well as the areas where they reside (see Tools and Methods).

14 World Bank (2022): Forced Displacement

15 UNHCR. (2019). [Stepping Up: Refugee Education in Crisis](#).

16 The response of development and humanitarian actors will be determined by their mandates and expertise, and the division of labour in the specific context.

TOOLS AND METHODS

Sida's tools and methods

To know more about Sida's approach to multidimensional poverty and get guidance on how to analyse it, please visit Sida's [Poverty Toolbox](#). In addition to general tools that support making an MDPA (e.g. Guiding questions, and workshop suggestions), it includes briefs that are especially relevant in crisis contexts: a brief on the [conflict perspective in the MDPA](#), one on [the environment and climate perspective and the MDPA](#), and finally one describing [risks in the context of an MDPA](#). In the toolbox, there are also experiences from doing MDPAs in different countries and contexts that can be helpful.

To know more about Sida's approach to the HDP nexus, please consult [Sida's guidance note on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#). It is based on the [OECD-DAC recommendation](#) on the HDP nexus.

The [Peace and Conflict tool box](#) contains practical guidance about conflict analyses, including identifying and analysing causes of conflict. The technical notes in the tool box also contain links to reference material and data bases that can be used when analysing contexts of conflict.

Sida's [Humanitarian Crisis Analyses](#) contain useful information for the MDPA.

External tools and analysis¹⁷

OECD's [States of Fragility Platform](#) contains methodology and country information that is helpful in analysing fragility in its different dimensions. The [Fragile States Index](#) and the [Global Peace Index](#) provide relevant data and analyses on FCC contexts.

Humanitarian tools that can inform an MDPA include the [IPC scale](#), that contains information on food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as informative and useful maps. Useful humanitarian analyses include the OCHA-led [Humanitarian Needs Overviews \(HNO\)](#), the [Humanitarian Response Plans \(HRP\)](#), and [ACAPS](#), providing humanitarian data and analysis.

¹⁷ This list provides examples of key tools and analytical frameworks but is not an exclusive list

The [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) gathers and analyses data on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations.

External tools that support the analysis of risks are for example the [INFORM Risk Index](#), that provides analysis on risks for crisis and the severity of an ongoing crisis. It also gives an overall risk score, comparable with other countries. Other tools include the WFP [Integrated Context Analysis \(ICA\)](#) and [Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping \(VAM\)](#) that identifies risks such as floods and droughts with a focus on food security, as well as UNICEF's [Guidance for Risk Informed Programming \(GRIP\)](#).

Increasingly, multisectoral and multistakeholder analysis of risk, vulnerability, resilience and peace-building are being undertaken in FCC contexts. This type of analyses are particularly useful as they have both a multisectoral and a multistakeholder approach which facilitates synergies across the HDP nexus. Which tool and analysis that will be useful in an MDPA depends on the context and focus.¹⁸

- The [Common Country Analysis](#) of the UN (available for several countries) is increasingly integrating risk, vulnerability and resilience.
- The [Recovery and Peace Building Assessment \(RPBA\)](#) is a partnership framework supported by the EU, the UN and the World Bank to coordinate reengagement in countries or regions emerging from conflict or political crisis. It aims to ensure that international and local interventions for recovery are aligned by helping countries assess, plan and prioritize requirements over time under a common process.
- The OECD has developed a method for [Resilience Systems Analysis](#), and such analysis exists for some countries.

¹⁸ Other country specific examples include the vulnerability and resilience framework in Liptako Gorma supported by OECD-DAC and UNICEF, and the World Bank's High Frequency Survey in Somalia that include Internally Displaced People.