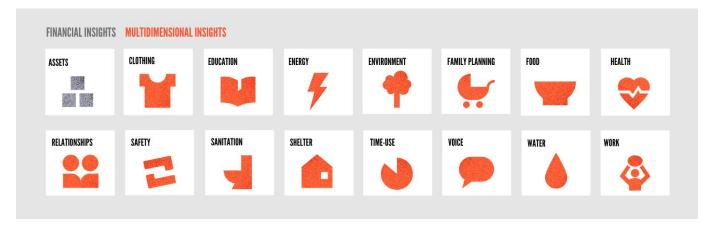


Introducing Equality Insights

Equality Insights is a gender data program delivered by International Women's Development Agency (IWDA). We use an innovative measure, survey and methodology to collect quality, gender-sensitive data about multidimensional poverty and inequality, to accelerate change. The resulting insights provide a truer picture of the circumstances of individuals and groups, and how these vary, to inform targeted, responsive, evidence-based and data-driven solutions that tackle poverty and reduce inequalities.

Overview

The *Equality Insights* measure is a quantitative, individual-level, gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty, underpinned by research collaborations commencing in 2008, and multi-year programs of work. It builds on previous work on the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM), and was developed as an alternative to household-level measurement of poverty, with the objective that routine poverty measurement provides data that can be disaggregated to show how poverty varies for different groups and whether it disproportionately affects people based on gender, age, disability status or other demographic characteristics. It was designed to provide a measure that could be widely used, across contexts and over time. Grounded in feminist principles, rights and capabilities, and lived experience of poverty, the measure and associated survey has been reviewed², audited³, tested through use in seven countries, and iteratively adapted.⁴



Equality Insights as a measure assesses multidimensional poverty by considering fifteen dimensions of life—clothing, education, energy, environment, family planning, food, health, relationships, safety, sanitation, shelter, time use, voice, water, and work. It also assesses financial circumstances by measuring assets. The dimensions measured by Equality Insights were informed by the views of some 3000 people with lived experience of poverty across six countries regarding how poverty should be defined and measured, and what needed to change for them to no longer experience poverty.⁵

Equality Insights as an individual-level, gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty can be assessed using a longer face-to-face survey (Equality Insights Plus) or a shorter phone-survey (Equality Insights Rapid).

The combination of what is measured and how it is measured resolves a number of recognised limitations associated with household-level measurement and provides new insights into material, social, economic, and environmental factors shaping poverty and inequality. Collecting primary data from individual adults enables disaggregation and analysis by gender, age, disability, rural/urban location, and other demographic characteristics as relevant, as well as the intersections of these. Individual-level measurement makes it possible to see the implications of overlapping barriers facing particular groups, and how patterns of deprivation vary. Sampling every adult in a household enables analysis of differences in poverty among household members. Analysing differences











inside households can also identify the 'invisible poor' – poor individuals who live in wealthier households and so are missed when using household-level circumstances to determine poverty status and target poverty reduction interventions.⁸ Understanding within-household differences is also important for accuracy and completeness given an estimated one-third of global inequality lives within the household.⁹

By generating data that can be disaggregated by gender, age, disability, location and other targeted characteristics that shape individual circumstances, *Equality Insights* enables analysis that can inform responsive policies and programs. The insights it reveals can be used to address barriers and inequalities, monitor what is changing, for whom, and support countries to realise the global commitment to leave no one behind.

Equality Insights Rapid

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented increase in levels of global poverty. ¹⁰ Decision makers need data about the circumstances of specific groups—including women and girls, people with disabilities and those living in poverty—to understand how economic recovery is translating into outcomes for people, and whether efforts are leading to recovery. Currently, significant data gaps in the Pacific region limit information about the circumstances of these groups. Such data can support decision makers to focus action where it is most needed and can make the most difference, while also supporting accountability.

However, the COVID-19 context also increased the difficulties and risks of obtaining up-to-date data via traditional face-to-face data collection methods. In response, the *Equality Insights* team developed a new variant of the existing *Equality Insights* survey for phone-based administration. The methodological adaptation work involved extensive engagement with literature and evidence relevant to poverty measurement, survey modalities, gender, and the dimensions of *Equality Insights*. It was supported by a Global Technical Advisory Group, including statistical experts from the Pacific Community, UN Women, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), as well as regional and global gender experts and potential users. The process of developing *Equality Insights Rapid* as a global tool is detailed in *Equality Insights Rapid*: *Tool Development Report*. 11

Equality Insights Rapid retains key conceptual and methodological strengths of the longer Equality Insights face-to-face survey such as:

- individual-level data collection from all adult household members aged 18 years and older, to enable
 insight into differences within households, plus a brief household survey completed by one household
 member only, to efficiently obtain data about circumstances shared by all household members;
- assessment of 15 dimensions of life that were important to people with lived experience of poverty, plus
 data about assets (to provide insight into financial deprivation), and demographic information, to enable
 disaggregation by gender, age, disability, location and other characteristics as relevant;
- assessment of poverty on a scale, to recognise different levels of deprivation and severity.

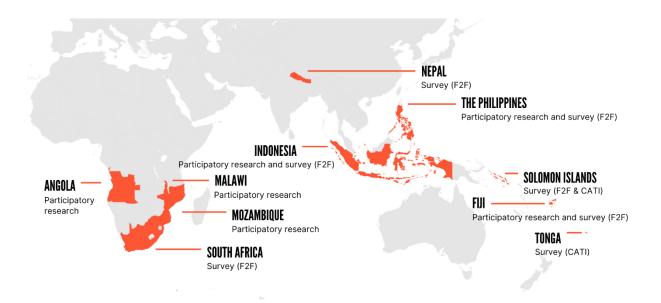
The Pacific regional context

The Pacific presents some unique challenges for non-face-to-face surveying, given geography (multiple small islands), remoteness and more limited internet and mobile phone penetration compared to other regions. ¹² The decision to use Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) for *Equality Insights Rapid* required development of a significantly shorter survey than the *Equality Insights* survey used for face-to-face enumeration. Achieving a short survey that covers 15 dimensions of life plus assets and demographic questions inevitably involves loss of detail and nuance. There are also fewer questions across which to separate the circumstances of respondents. For this reason, *Equality Insights Rapid* assesses individual circumstances on a three-point scale rather than the four-point scale used for the face-to-face *Equality Insights* survey. It can be considered a 'red-flagging tool' that identifies moderate to severe deprivation at a specific point in time. This alerts policy makers to areas or particular social groups that may require further attention, and strengthens evidence about the circumstances of individuals to inform a more inclusive recovery.

The first use of this new survey instrument in Tonga and the Solomon Islands is a practical test of the result, in a specific context. The *Equality Insights* team will assess the overall performance of this new survey and publish analysis of learning and measurement implications, consistent with IWDA's ongoing commitment to strengthen individual-level gender-sensitive poverty measurement.







¹ Wisor, S. et al. Individual Deprivation Measure: A gender sensitive approach to poverty measurement [Internet]. Canberra: Australian National University. (2014). Available from: https://equalityinsights.org/resources/idm-research-report-2014/

² Hunt, Janet, Bessell, Sharon, Crawford, Joanne, Fisk, Kylie, Nguyen, Hieu, Pham, Trang, Suich, Helen & Yap, Mandy. 2017. The Individual Deprivation Measure: Methodology Update 2017. Australian National University, Canberra and International Women's Development Agency, Melbourne. Available from https://equalityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Methodology_Update_2017_FINAL.pdf

³ Caperna, Giulio & Papadimitriou, Eleni. 2020. JRC Statistical Audit of the Individual Deprivation Measure, Joint Research Centre. EUR 30320 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. https://equalityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/JRC-Statistical-Audit-of-the-Individual-Deprivation-Measure-2020.pdf

⁴ As part of IWDA's *Equality Insights* program, statistical performance of IDM items in five countries was reviewed to inform item reduction for the *Equality Insights Plus* face-to-face survey, and provided a base for developing *Equality Insights Rapid*, a shorter phone-based variant. See Meinhart, Melissa & Russell, Cheryl. 2022. Equality Insights Rapid: Tool Development Report. Melbourne, International Women's Development Agency. https://equalityinsights.org/resources/equality-insights-rapid-tool-development-report/

⁵ Wisor, S. et al. (2014).

⁶ Fisk, K., McInerney, C., Rehill, P., Crawford, J. & Pradela, J. Gender insights in the Solomon Islands: Findings from a two-province study using the Individual Deprivation Measure. Melbourne: International Women's Development Agency. (2020). Available from: https://equalityinsights.org/resources/snapshot-report-gender-insights-in-the-solomon-islands/

⁷ McInerney, C. & Fisk, K. Measuring gender inequality within the household using the Individual Deprivation Measure in Fiji. UNECE Conference of European Statisticians Work Session on Gender Statistics. Neuchatel, Switzerland. (2019). Available from: https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.30/2019/mtg1/WP24_Fisk_ENG.pdf

⁸ World Bank. 2018. Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2018: Piecing Together the Poverty Puzzle. Washington, DC: World Bank, pp.6-7 https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30418/9781464813306.pdf

⁹ Kanbur, R. Intra-Household Inequality and Overall Inequality. CEPR Discussion Paper No. DP11719. (2016). Available from: https://ssrn.com/abstract=2893072

¹⁰ See, for ex.,https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/pandemic-prices-and-poverty, published 13 April 2022 and https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2022/05/18/covid-19-and-poverty-vulnerability/.

¹¹ The Tool Development Report captures the thinking that informed development of Equality Insights Rapid. Some further decisions and adjustments to the survey were made in finalizing the global instrument and contextualizing the survey for Tonga.

¹² A background paper on remote surveying in the Pacific Islands region informed decision making and is available on request.



Conceptual Structure of *Equality Insights Rapid* Measure of Multidimensional Poverty*

Dimension	Intended Measurement	Actual measurement	Variable	Source	
	Ownership of sufficient clothing and footwear	Ownership of two sets of clothing	Ownership of two sets of clothing that meet daily needs		
Clothing		Ownership of two pairs of footwear	Ownership of two pairs of footwear that meet daily needs	IDM, SPHERE	
	Social appropriateness of available clothing and footwear	Frequency of wearing appropriate clothing/footwear within the community	Frequency of wearing appropriate clothing/ footwear within the community		
	Protection of available clothing and footwear	Extent clothing/footwear protect from weather	Extent clothing/footwear protect from weather		
Education	Formal educational attainment	Level of educational attainment	Highest level of education completed	ISCED	
	Functional educational acquisition	Degree of functional literacy	Ability to read a simple sentence	MICS	
	Quality of fuel source(s)	Exposure to unclean cooking fuel/source	Main cooking fuel source	MICS	
Energy			Cooking frequency	-	
			Cooking location	MICS	
	Sufficient energy supply	Sufficiency of energy to meet lighting needs	Sufficiency of energy to meet lighting needs	IDM	
		Sufficiency of energy to meet cooking needs	Sufficiency of energy to meet cooking needs	IDM	
Environment	Exposure to natural hazards	Severity of natural hazard exposure on home	Severity of natural hazard exposure on home	IDM, SDGs	
		Severity of natural hazard exposure on daily activities	Severity of natural hazard exposure on daily activities		
	Exposure to pollution	Extent of exposure to pollution	Exposure to air pollution		
			Exposure to water pollution		
			Exposure to soil pollution		

^{*} Equality Insights as a measure assesses multidimensional poverty (by considering fifteen dimensions of life—clothing, education, energy, environment, family planning, food, health, relationships, safety, sanitation, shelter, time use, voice, water, and work) and financial circumstances (by measuring assets). This conceptual framework sets out the approach to assessing multidimensional deprivation. Assessing financial status from multidimensional deprivation recognises that while monetary deprivation is an important component of poverty, not all aspects of multidimensional deprivation can be addressed by improving an individual's financial circumstances. Measuring financial and multidimensional deprivation separately enables policy makers to monitor how, and under what conditions, multidimensional deprivation is related to monetary poverty. For further information on how Assets are assessed, see the Equality Insights Rapid: Tool Development Report, pp. 73-75.



Dimension	Intended Measurement	Actual measurement	Variable	Source
	Unmet need for contraception	Need for contraception	Need for contraception	IDM
		Typology of contraception method	Use of higher efficacy modern method(s) of contraception	IDM, DHS
Family planning			Use of lower efficacy modern method(s) of contraception	
			Use of traditional method(s) with some proven efficacy of contraception	
			Use of traditional method(s) with no proven efficacy of contraception	
			Worried about lack of food	
			Lack of nutritious food	-
			Lack of variety of food	-
		Severity of food	Had to skip a meal	
Food	Food security	insecurity	Ate less	FIES
			Ran out of food	-
			Hungry but did not eat	
			Whole day without eating	_
	Physical health status	Frequency of negative effects of poor physical health	Experience of illness, injury, or persistent pain	IDM
			Frequency of illness, injury or persistent pain negatively affecting ways of living	IDM
Health	Mental health status	Severity of psychological distress	Feelings of nervousness	K6
пеанн			Feelings of hopelessness	
			Feelings of restlessness	
			Unabled to be cheered up	
			Feeling everything is an effort	
			Feelings of worthlessness	
Relationships	Support for basic needs	Frequency of need for support from non-household members to meet basic needs	Frequency of need for support from non-household members to meet basic needs	IDM
	Support in a crisis	Degree of support available from non-household members in times of crisis	Perceived degree of support available from non-household members in times of crisis	IDM
Safety	Harassment in public spaces	Frequency of experiencing unwanted behaviours in public spaces	Frequency of experiencing unwanted behaviours in public spaces	SSPPS
	Perceptions of safety	Degree of safety in public spaces after dark	Perception of safety when walking alone in the community after dark	Aus-PSS
			Perception of safety when using public transportation	Aus-PSS



Dimension	Intended Measurement	Actual measurement	Variable	Source
		Degree of safety in the household	Perception of safety when home alone after dark	Aus-PSS
		after dark	Perception of safety when using household toilet facility after dark	IDM
	Quality of toilet	Quality of main household toilet facility	Improved/unimproved toilet facility	JMP2018
	facility		Shared toilet facility	JMP2018
Sanitation	Sufficient menstrual sanitary products	Frequency of enough menstrual sanitary products	Frequency of enough menstrual sanitary products	IDM
	Sufficient soap for handwashing	Sufficiency of soap for handwashing	Sufficiency of soap for handwashing	IDM
	Security of tenure	Frequency of eviction concerns	Frequency of eviction concerns	IDM
	Sufficient household items	Availability of sufficient bedding	Availability of sufficient bedding	SPHERE
Shelter	Sufficient privacy	Frequency of access to private spaces to wash and change	Frequency of access to private spaces to wash and change	IDM, SPHERE
	Sufficient protection from the elements	Extent of protection from the elements	Extent the home provides protection from the elements	IDM, SPHERE
		Financial consequence of time poverty	Loss/reduction of income due to inadequate time for paid work	-
	Consequences of time poverty	Social consequence of time poverty	Loss/reduction in social interactions with friends and family due to inadequate time	-
		Physical/health consequence of time poverty	Loss/reduction in medical care due to inadequate time	-
Time use	Dual burden of un/paid work	Assessment of the dual burden of un/paid work and caring responsibilities	Care for dependents during paid work	-
			Care for dependents during own use production	-
			Care for dependents during unpaid work within the home	-
			Care for dependents during unpaid work outside the home (family business, apprenticeship, volunteering)	-
Voice	Involvement in community decision making	Likelihood of raising concerns with local leaders	Likelihood of raising concerns with local leaders	IDM
	Autonomy	Degree of personal control over daily life	Degree of personal control over daily life	-
	Involvement in household	Extent of involvement in household decision making	Type of involvement in decisions about household finances	DHS8
	decision making		Type of involvement in decisions about own healthcare	DHS8



Dimension	Intended Measurement	Actual measurement	Variable	Source	
			Type of involvement in decisions about participating in social activities	DHS8	
	Quality of drinking	Quality of main household drinking water source	Improved/unimproved drinking water source	JMP service ladder	
	water		Drinking water collection time	JMP service ladder	
		Severity of water insecurity	Worried about water		
Water	Water security		Change behaviours due to lack of water	WISE	
			Lack of hand washing		
			Not enough water to drink		
	Water access and utilisation during menstruation	Frequency of enough water to wash with during menstruation	Frequency of enough water to wash with during menstruation	IDM	
		Employed in paid work	Currently in paid employment	ILO	
		5	No income generating activity	ILO	
		Part of potential workforce	Looking for work	ILO	
	Status of paid work	(including unemployed people, and potentially under- employed people)	Available to start work	ILO	
			Participation in unpaid own use production, family business, apprenticeship, or volunteer work	ILO	
		Outside the workforce	No income generating activity	ILO	
			Not looking for work	ILO	
			Unable to start working	ILO	
Work	Dignity of un/paid work	Value of work by other household members	Paid work in labour market not valued	IDM	
			Unpaid own use production, family business, trainee/volunteer work not valued	IDM	
			Unpaid domestic and care work not valued	IDM	
		Experience of physical injury, illness, or mental harm as a result of work in past 12-months	Harm during paid work in labour market	IDM	
	Harm from un/paid work		Harm during unpaid own use production, family business, trainee, and/or volunteer	IDM	
			Harm during unpaid domestic and/or care work	IDM	



Source references

- IDM Individual Deprivation Measure (2014 https://equalityinsights.org/resources/idm-research-report-2014/ and 2017 https://equalityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Methodology_Update_2017_FINAL.pdf)
- 2. FIES Food Insecurity Experience Scale https://www.fao.org/3/bl404e/bl404e.pdf
- JMP2018 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme 2018 Core WASH Questionnaire https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/2019-03/JMP-2018-core-questions-for-household-surveys.pdf
- 4. JMP Drinking Water Service Ladder https://washdata.org/monitoring/drinking-water
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- 6. WISE Water Insecurity Experiences Scale https://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/10.4269/ajtmh.20-0417
- 7. SPHERE The Sphere Handbook 2018 https://spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/
- 8. K6 Kessler 6-item Scale of Psychological Distress https://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/ncs/k6 scales.php
- 9. ISCED2011 International standard classification of education: ISCED 2011, UNESCO institute for Statistics http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
- 10. MICS6HH MICS6 Household Questionnaire https://mics.unicef.org/tools?round=mics6
- 11. MICS6Womens MICS6 Women's Questionnaire https://mics.unicef.org/tools?round=mics6
- SSPPS Survey of Safety in Public and Private Places Inappropriate behaviours experienced in a public space (SMP) https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Instr.pl?Function=assembleInstr&lang=en&Item_Id=493082#gb493256
- 13. Aus-PSS Australian Personal Safety Survey https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4906.0.55.003~2016~Main%20Features~ General%20safety~13
- DHS8 Demographics and Health Survey DHS8 Household Questionnaire https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSQ8/DHS8 Household QRE EN 8Apr2020 DHSQ8.pdf
- SDGs Sustainable Development Goal Indicators http://connect.springerpub.com/lookup/doi/10.1891/9780826190123.0013
- 16. ILO ILO model questions on economic characteristics for Population Censuses (Version 1)



Equality Insights: Selected Resources

Note: Work prior to August 2020 was completed under a previous name, the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM).

Resource	Focus	Notes		
Overview				
Introducing Equality Insights	A short high-level introduction to <i>Equality Insights</i> , its history, key features and dimensions	2022 2 pages		
Guidance Note: Equality Insights and individual-level, gender-sensitive measurement of multidimensional poverty and inequality	A detailed overview of Equality Insights, its key features and contributions	2021 22 pages		
Conceptual foundations				
The future of poverty measurement: Introducing the Individual Deprivation Measure	Article summarising the rationale for and approach to developing the IDM	2014 6 pages (pp 16-21)		
The Individual Deprivation Measure: A gender-sensitive approach to poverty measurement	Initial research report detailing development of the Individual Deprivation Measure, the first individual-level, gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty	2014 76 pages		
Methodology				
Individual Deprivation Measure: Methodology Update 2017	Research report detailing methodological developments to end 2017	2017 79 pages		
Solomon Islands Study 2020: Technical Guide	Technical guidance on the composite index construction methodology and scoring scheme used for the Solomon Islands 2020 study	2022 85 pages		
Equality Insights Rapid: Tool Development Report	Report on the process to develop <i>Equality Insights Rapid</i> , a shorter survey variant for remote administration by phone, including key considerations and survey items	2022 89 pages		
Working papers				
Measuring gender inequality within the household using the Individual Deprivation Measure in Fiji	A working paper for the 2019 UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics	2019 11 pages		
Household-level measurement masks gender inequality across three dimensions of poverty	A working paper for the 2019 UNECE Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality: SDGS 1 and 10	2019 12 pages		
Country reports To access all available country reports and briefs, see https://equalityinsights.org/resources				
Gender Insights in the Solomon Islands: Findings from a two-province study using the Individual Deprivation Measure: Snapshot Report	Report of initial findings from the IDM study in the Solomon Islands in 2020, including analysis by dimension and thematic insights on food security, gender dimensions of COVID-19 prevention and response, and women's economic empowerment	2020 116 pages		



Exploring multidimensional poverty In Fiji: Findings from a study using the Individual Deprivation Measure	Report of findings from the first IDM study beyond an initial proof of concept trial, in Fiji in 2015-16	2017 181 pages			
Policy briefs and Issues papers					
Building from the foundations: improving data to inform future-fit social protection	A policy brief for the T20 Indonesia 2022, Task Force 5: Inequality, Human Capital, and Well-being.	2022 17 pages			
Gender and poverty as a feminist foreign policy priority: Opportunities to accelerate action	An Issues Paper for the Australian Feminist Foreign Policy Coalition's Issues Paper series	2023 10 pages			
Independent evaluations A selection of the in Program (2016-2020)	dependent evaluations undertaken at the conclusion of the ID	M Global			
Assessing the Contributions of the Individual Deprivation Measure	An assessment by Development Initiatives of the IDM's contribution to the measurement landscape	2020 29 pages			
Assessing the Costs of the Individual Deprivation Measure	An assessment by Development Initiatives of IDM's costs compared to other multi-topic surveys	2020 27 pages			
Statistical audit of the Individual Deprivation Measure	Audit of the statistical methodology used for the IDM Fiji study, by the European Commission's Competence Centre on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards at the Joint Research Centre	2020 26 pages			
Blogs					
Gender-Just COVID Recovery: From Intention to Outcome	A blog for the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung series for the W7, The Future is Feminist, which explores how we can overcome a persistent gender data gap – on poverty and related inequalities	2022 2 pages			
Not all data is created equal: the case for individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional poverty data to support an inclusive COVID recovery	A blog for the 2020 UN World Data Forum exploring data adequacy, limitations of existing measurement approaches, and making the case for individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional poverty data to support inclusive COVID recovery	2020 2 pages			
Videos					
Counted. Visible. Included.	A short introduction to problems with and limitations of measuring poverty and inequality at the household level	2022 < 3 mins			
Inclusive poverty data in the Solomon Islands	A video for the UN World Data Forum featuring data collectors in the Solomon Islands discussing the relevance of individual-level, gender-sensitive measurement of multidimensional poverty, and how the survey shifted their understanding of poverty	2021 < 3 mins			
Data for understanding inequality and intersectionality: The Individual Deprivation Measure	Presentation to UN Women/UN Statistical Division's Counted and Visible: Global conference on the measurement of gender and intersecting inequalities	2020 < 10 mins			
CSW66 - Accelerating Women's Economic Empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data	Recording of a virtual side event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, exploring gender-sensitive poverty data as a foundation for understanding the intersecting barriers facing particular social groups, and targeted action	2022 1 hour, 30 mins			