7th Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD)

Session 2a: SDG 1 (No Poverty)

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Poverty vs. Hardship – What is the difference?

**Poverty** is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty-stricken people and families might go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention.

**Hardship** is a condition that is difficult to endure; suffering; deprivation; oppression: a life of hardship. An instance or cause of this; something hard to bear, as a deprivation, lack of comfort, or constant toil or danger.
Poverty-Hardship Relationship

- **Bi-causal**: poverty can lead to hardship but hardship also leads to poverty
- **Key factors**: are internal and external shocks, as well as government policies
  - Internal shocks – health related (e.g. NCDs); political; violence
  - External shocks – climate change; economic crises, pandemics, war
  - Government Policy – Social protection; taxation
Tackling Poverty and Hardship

• **1.1** By 2030, **eradicate extreme poverty** for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $2.15 a day

• **1.2** By 2030, **reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty** in all its dimensions according to national definitions

• **1.3** **Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems** and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

• **1.4** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, **in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property**, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

• **1.5** By 2030, **build the resilience of the poor** and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

• **1.A** Ensure **significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources**, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

• **1.B** Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on **pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies**, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
Is the Pacific poor?

Target 1.1

By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day

Indicator 1.1.1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)

1.1.1 Population below international poverty line

Total Population, no age breakdown – Source: PDH stat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FJ</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MH</td>
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<td>TV</td>
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<td>VU</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WS</td>
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Is the Pacific Poor?

Target 1.2

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Indicator 1.2.1: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age.

1.2.1 Population below national poverty line

Total Population – Source: PDH.stat

Papua New Guinea
Percentage of population (2009): 36.9%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
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What is the Pacific experience with hardship?

Internal Shocks

Example - NCDs

- Samoa has one of the highest mortality rates (81%) and morbidity rates from NCDs in the world. An estimated 89.1% of Samoans are overweight, and 63.1% are obese.

- Key factors in the high rates of NCDs are poor quality and unhealthy diet, over-nutrition, and sedentary lifestyles. The level of poor food nutrition as a key factor of poverty and poor health is reflected in the 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Example – Violence against women

- The continued economic hardship compounded by slow economic recovery and rising food prices, implies continued challenges with violence against women and girls. Following the State of Emergency introduced to curb COVID-19, overall crime rates rose sharply by 64%, domestic violence (33%) and of crimes against a person such as assault and insulting words (36%), according to the Government.
What is the Pacific experience with hardship?

External Shocks

Example – COVID19 Pandemic

Samoa’s GDP shrank in real terms by 9.2% during 2020, the largest annual drop ever recorded since the start of the GDP data series. The current account surplus narrowed to 1.2% of GDP in FY 2020 as a 20.4% fall in tourism receipts and other service exports dwarfed a 6.7% decline in goods imports. Jobs of women, youth highly affected.

Example – Climate Change

Climate induced hardship follows from displacement, health, environment and economic effects. Environmental effects: death and sickness, and loss in productivity (Heat, flooding, hurricanes). UN calculates that the numbers of people dying due to environmental (slow moving) effects in the Pacific are significant..
Deaths due to the Environment

![Bar chart showing deaths due to the environment across different regions and income levels.](chart.png)

- **Total deaths**: Orange bars indicate the total number of deaths globally due to the environment.
- **Total environmental deaths**: Grey bars represent the number of deaths specifically attributable to environmental factors.
- **Burden attributable to the environment [%]**: Blue bars show the percentage of deaths attributable to the environment.

**Regions**: All, Africa, HIC Americas, LMIC Americas, HIC Eastern Mediterranean, LMIC Eastern Mediterranean, HIC Europe, LMIC Europe, All South-East Asia, HIC South-East Asia, LMIC South-East Asia, HIC Western Pacific, LMIC Western Pacific.

**Income Levels**: High-income countries (HIC), Low and middle-income countries (LMIC).

**Key Data**:
- **Total deaths**:
  - All: 29.1
  - Africa: 13.3
  - Americas: 19.0
  - Eastern Mediterranean: 24.4
  - Europe: 24.0
  - South-East Asia: 14.4
  - Western Pacific: 15.3
- **Total environmental deaths**:
  - All: 29.6
  - Africa: 14.9
  - Americas: 14.9
  - Eastern Mediterranean: 29.6
  - Europe: 14.9
  - South-East Asia: 14.9
  - Western Pacific: 28.1

**Legend**:
- Orange: Total deaths
- Grey: Total environmental deaths
- Blue: Burden attributable to the environment [%]
Natural Disaster Shocks and Growth

Nominal GDP Growth

Trend Growth (Avg): 5.5%
Is Poverty and Hardship being Addressed?

**Target 1.3**

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

**Indicator 1.3.1:** Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.

**1.3.1 Population above retirement age receiving a pension**

Proportion of population – Source: PDH.stat

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- CK
- FJ
- FM
- KI
- MH
- NR
- PF
- PG
- PW
- SB
- TO
- TV
- VU
- WS

Percent

0 25 50 75 100
Is Poverty and Hardship being Addressed?

1.3.1 Employed population covered in the event of work injury

Source: PDH.stat - SDG Goal 01
Is Poverty and Hardship being Addressed?

1.3.1 Population covered by at least one social protection floor/system

Source: PDH.stat
Conclusions

• Whilst the Pacific is not poor by international standards, the region’s exposure to hardship means that reversals in poverty gains are of high probability

• Hardship emanates mainly from shocks both internally and externally, and are underlined by factors that are expected to increase in frequency and severity – e.g. climate change, pandemics, economic crises, NCDs

• Important to mitigating hardship and therefore poverty are:
  • Buffers or government safety nets – social protection
  • Private insurance
  • Nutrition policy
  • Remittances
  • Gender equality and empowerment; youth empowerment and employment
THANK YOU