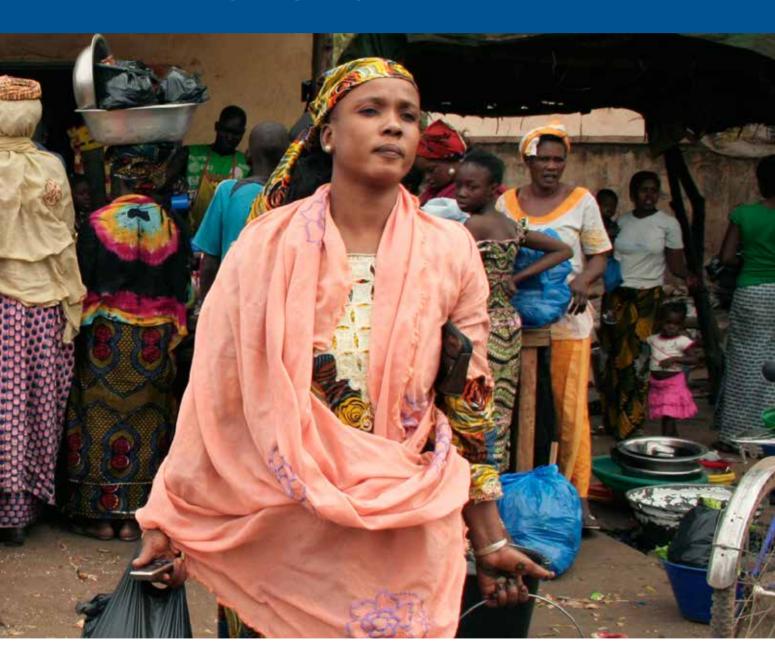
# The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool

An innovative new tool for assessing, understanding and addressing rural poverty





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#### This brochure explains:

- What MPAT is
- How MPAT works
- When to use MPAT and why
- How to use MPAT
- What resources are available for implementing MPAT

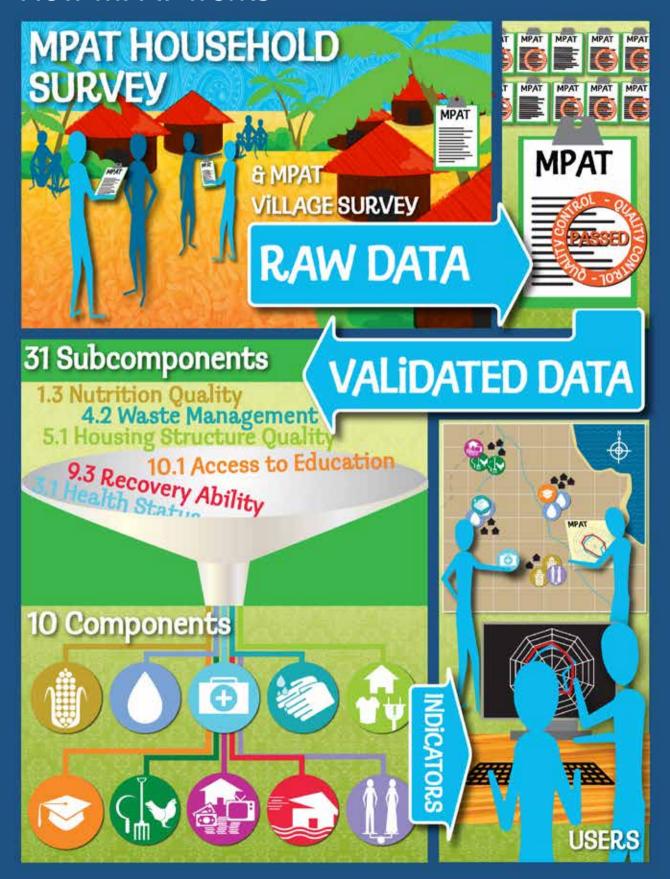
The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool provides data that can inform all levels of decision-making by providing a clearer understanding of rural poverty at the household and village level. As a result, MPAT can significantly strengthen the planning, design, monitoring and evaluation of a project, and thereby contribute to rural poverty reduction.

The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool (MPAT) is the result of a collaborative, international initiative begun in 2008 and led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The purpose was to develop, test and pilot a new tool for local-level rural poverty assessment. The tool went through extensive field testing in several countries and independent validation and peer-review. MPAT is relatively easy to use, requires few resources to implement, and provides users with a reliable and comprehensive picture of a community's poverty situation.

Rural poverty has many dimensions that are often specific to a country and a particular context, which can make it difficult to assess and measure. MPAT was developed in order to allow project managers, government officials, researchers and others to determine which dimensions of rural livelihoods likely require support and whether an enabling environment is in place for beneficial rural development.

MPAT is a survey-based thematic indicator primarily designed to support project design, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), targeting and prioritization efforts at a local level. MPAT's indicators provide an overview of 10 fundamental and interconnected dimensions related to human well-being and rural livelihoods. The first six dimensions can be considered fundamental needs, and the other four address central aspects of rural livelihoods, life and well-being.

# How MPAT works



# When to use MPAT and why

MPAT is an open-source tool intended for use by those concerned with rural poverty alleviation.

The tool allows project managers, government officials, researchers and others to identify and monitor sectors that require support in order to reduce rural poverty and improve livelihoods. It also provides an objective means of justifying resource allocation or planning priorities.

MPAT is based on a bottom-up, participatory approach that reflects communities' voices, wants and perspectives. Expert input from around the world was used to create and test household and village-level surveys, which are used to collect data from rural people; indicators are calculated for each household and then averaged for each village in order to organize this data so that it can be summarized and presented in a clear, standardized fashion.

#### MPAT's many uses:

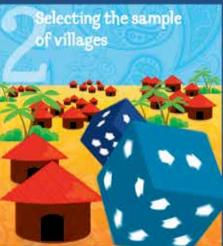
- Project planning and design
- Targeting and prioritization (justifying resource allocation)
- In-project, cross-project and cross-country comparisons
- Facilitating policy dialogue and national programmatic support
- Monitoring and evaluation support
- Raising awareness among a variety of stakeholders
- Beneficiary empowerment and advocacy
- Secondary analysis and reporting using a comprehensive survey dataset

#### MPAT's strengths and benefits for users and projects:

- Developed by an international group of rural development experts
- Field-tested data collection tool with purpose-built surveys
- Independently assessed and validated
- Much of the work is already done for the user (an "off-the-shelf" tool)
- Field-tested training programmes for enumerators, supervisors and data entry personnel
- Uses locally collected data based on people's perceptions
- Standardized methodology, but also customizable
- Indicators are automatically calculated and displayed in an easy-to-understand format
- Designed for organizations of all sizes and budgets

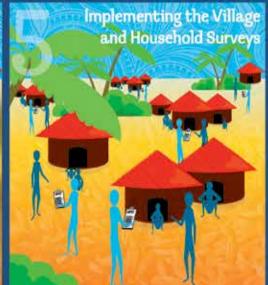
# How to use MPAT







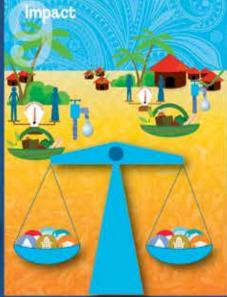












# MPAT resources (1)

All of the resources needed to use MPAT are available free of charge on the MPAT website at: www.ifad.org/mpat. The primary two resources are:

The MPAT User's Guide provides the Household and Village Surveys as well as step-by-step instructions for using MPAT, with a focus on creating a sampling frame, training enumerators and supervisors, implementation, and data quality control and entry. The Guide also discusses how MPAT can support project planning, design, and monitoring and evaluation efforts, with additional advice on customizing MPAT. All of the information and data needed to calculate the MPAT indicators are provided in the Guide's annexes.

The MPAT Excel spreadsheet is designed so that users can simply enter the survey data and the spreadsheet will automatically calculate the MPAT subcomponent and component scores/results. All of the data on survey question valuations and indicator weightings are provided here (as well as in the User's Guide). The Excel spreadsheet provides the MPAT results for each individual household, as well as summaries for each village, and for the entire project (all villages combined).

### **Related resources:**

The MPAT Book (2009) outlines the methodological foundation for MPAT, giving the reader a clear understanding of why, how and for what purpose MPAT was created. It also provides a description of MPAT's initial design development, and piloting and testing in rural China and India.

**An independent assessment of MPAT** conducted by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre is available via a link on the MPAT website. The full citation is:

Saisana, M., & Saltelli, A. (2010). The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool (MPAT): Robustness Issues and Critical Assessment. In *EUR Report 24310 EN*. Luxembourg: European Commission, JRC-IPSC, Italy.

**Academic journal papers** discussing MPAT's theoretical foundations and development are available via a link on the MPAT website. The full citations are:

Cohen, A. & Saisana, M. (2014). Quantifying the qualitative: Eliciting expert input to develop the Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool. *Journal of Development Studies*, 1, 35-50.

Cohen, A. (2010). The Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool: A New Framework for Measuring Rural Poverty. *Development in Practice*, 20, 887-897.

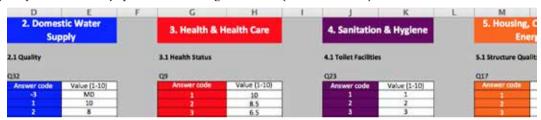
# MPAT resources (2) – the Excel spreadsheet

The MPAT Excel spreadsheet "does the math for you" and automatically calculates the MPAT indicators. It creates color-coded MPAT profiles and graphs, allowing for the simple and effective communication of rural poverty results for a household, village or project. Because expert feedback has informed the calculations that are embedded in the Excel spreadsheet, simple data entry yields results based on extensive expert consultation.

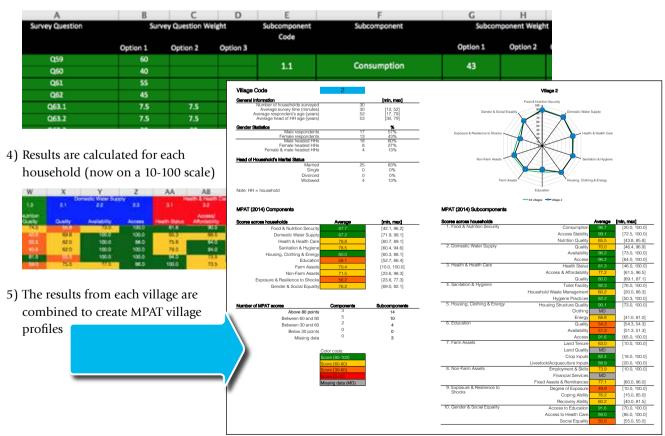
1) Enter survey data into the Excel spreadsheet



2) Responses to survey questions are assigned values (on a 1-10 scale)



3) These values are combined into indicators using weightings



# 1. Food & Nutrition Security

#### **1.1 Consumption [43%]**

59) During the last 12 months, did any member of your household eat fewer meals, or smaller portions, than usual because there was not enough food? [60%]

60) During the last 12 months, did any member of your household go to sleep at night hungry? [40%]

### 1.2 Access Stability [32%]

61) During the last 12 months, did your household experience a period of time longer than 2 weeks when there was not enough food? [55%]
62) During the last 12 months, did your household ever experience 1 full day with no

food to eat? [45%]

### 1.3 Nutrition Quality [25%]

63) During the last 12 months, how often did the majority of your household eat the

Grains (cereals, bread, rice, pasta) [7.5%], Roots &/or tubers (potatoes, cassava, etc.) [7.5%], Vegetables/greens [20%], Fruits [12.5%], Dairy &/or eggs [20% or 25% or 0%], Meat &/or fish/seafood [12.5% or 0%], Nuts &/or legumes (and/or derivatives, tofu, etc.) [20% or 27.5% or 37.5%]

# 2. Domestic Water Supply

## 2.1 Quality [29%]

32) What is the **primary source** (meaning the source that water comes from immediately before being used) of the water your household uses for drinking and cooking inside the home? [45%]

34) Does your household treat water before drinking it (any treatment method: boiling, allowing to settle, filter, chemical treatment, etc.)? [35%]

38) Generally, what do you think the quality of your household's drinking water is (before any treatment)? [20%]

#### 2.2 Availability [38%]

35) During the last 12 months, for how many months was your household's main source of water sufficient to meet your household's drinking and cooking needs? [70%] 36) How often do you worry there will not be enough water from your household's main water source to satisfy your household's drinking and cooking needs? [30%]

#### 2.3 Access [33%]

33) Approximately how much time (in minutes) does it take your household to collect enough water for your household's drinking and cooking needs for a normal (average) day? [60%]

37) Can your household usually afford to pay the fees (direct payments only, not maintenance fees) for using water from your household's main water source? [40%]

## 3. Health & Health Care

#### 3.1 Health Status [38%]

9) In the last 12 months, how often have members of your household had a non-serious illness (meaning they were sick, but not so sick they had to rest in bed a full day or more)? [30% or 40%]

10) In the last 12 months, how often have members of your household been seriously ill (meaning they were so ill that they stayed in bed, or lying down, for 2 or more days)? [45% or 60%]

v21) In the last 2 years, how has the overall health of the majority of the people in your village/area changed? [25% or 0%]

#### 3.2 Access & Affordability [34%]

11) How much time does it take for members of your household to reach the nearest health centre that can diagnose simple illness, or treat simple injuries and prescribe basic medicines? [25% or 38.5%]

13) How much time does it take for members of your household to reach the nearest health centre that can diagnose and treat complicated or serious illnesses or injuries (can perform surgery)? [35% or 0%] 14) Can your household afford professional treatment for serious illness or injury?

[40% or 61.5%]

#### 3.3 Health-Care Quality [28%]

12) How often does this health centre have enough medical supplies to provide adequate health care? [30%]

v1 & v18) What are the approximate population and number of households in your village/area?

-and-

How many full-time (work most days a week) and part-time (work 1 to 3 days a week) health-care staff work in this/these health centre(s)? [25%]

v17) How often does each centre usually have enough medical supplies to provide adequate health care? [15%]

v19) How many years has each staff person been working as a health-care professional (in total, at this health centre and elsewhere)? [15%]

v20) How many years of formal medical training has each staff person completed? [15%]



# 4. Sanitation & Hygiene

#### 4.1 Toilet Facility [38%]

23) What type of toilet facility does your household usually use? [60% or 100%]

24) Over the last 12 months, how often was the toilet **usable** (meaning it was working properly or was available to use)? [40% or 0%]

#### 4.2 Waste Management [26%]

25) What does your household usually do with food waste/remains (any parts not consumed by people in the household)? [35%]

26) What does your household usually do with non-food waste/garbage? [25%]

27) What does your household usually do with wastewater (for example, from bathing, cleaning, the toilet)? [40%]

#### 4.3 Hygiene Practices [36%]

28) How many times a week do most members (the majority) of your household clean their teeth? [20%]

29) How often do the adults in your household clean their hands before eating a meal? [35%]

30) How often do the adults in your household clean their hands after defecating? [30%]

31) Do the adults in your household use soap (any kind of soap) when they clean their hands? [15%]

# 5. Housing, Clothing & Energy

## 5.1 Housing Structure Quality [38%]

17) What is the primary construction material of the housing unit's exterior walls? [70%] 19) Can your home withstand strong winds, severe rain, snow or hail without significant damage? [30%]

#### **5.2 Clothing [33%]**

69) How many of the people (adults and children) in your household usually have adequate footwear? [40%]

70) How many of the people (adults and children) in your household have sufficient clothing for severe weather (for example, very hot and sunny, very cold or very wet weather, depending on the area)? [60%]

## 5.3 Energy Sources [29%]

20) What is the **primary** source of light your home uses when it is dark? [30% or 43%] 21) What is the **primary** fuel source your household uses for cooking? [40% or 57%] 22) What is the **primary** fuel source your household uses for heat? [30% or 0%]

## 6. Education

#### 6.1 Quality [31%]

v5 & v6) What is the total number of female and male students (age 5 to 14) that attend classes regularly (at least 4 days a week) at each school?

-and- How many full-time (work almost every school day) and part-time (work roughly half the school days) teachers are there at each school? [40% or 62%]

v7) Are full-time teachers provided subsidized, or free, housing? If so, what is the quality of the housing? [25% or 38%]

v10) In the last 2 school years, how has the overall performance of the majority of the students changed? [35% or 0%]

## 6.2 Availability [33%]

v8) Do the teachers have adequate teaching supplies to teach effectively (for example: chalk, teacher's books, maps, posters)? [37.5%]

v9) Do the students have adequate school supplies to learn/study effectively (for example: notebooks, pencils, textbooks, chairs, uniforms [if required], desks)? [37.5%] v11 & v5) How many students was the school(s) unable to accept due to limited places (or



sleeping space in the school dorms) and/or limited school supplies? -and- What is the total number of female and male students (age 5 to 14) that attend classes regularly (at least 4 days a week) at each school? [25%]

#### 6.3 Access [36%]

- 5) During most of the year, how long does it take, in minutes, for the school-age children (age 5 to 14) in your household to go to school (one way, by any means: for example, walking, bicycle, scooter, bus)? [50%]
- 6) Can your household afford your children's school fees and school supplies? [50%]
- 39) Does your household have access to land for agriculture, orchards, livestock or aquaculture (meaning fish-farming)? [0% or 100%]
- 40) How much land does your household have for agriculture (for crops, grasses, trees, orchards, etc.)? [35% or 0%]
- 51) What kind of ownership of your land does your household have? [65% or 0%]
- 41) Is the majority of your household's land flat, gently sloping, steep or terraced? [50%]
- 42) What kind of soil covers the majority of your household's land? [50%]
- 43) During the last 2 years, was your household able to make, or buy, enough compost/ manure or artificial fertilizer for each growing season? [25%]
- 44) During the last 2 years, was your household able to afford enough seed for each growing season? [25%]
- 45.1 & 45.2) Is there generally enough water for your household's crops during the dry
- season/rest of the year? [14% & 21% or 0% & 35%]
  50) Does your household usually have enough people to work/manage your farm? (crops, orchards, forestry, livestock and/or aquaculture) [15%]
- 46.1 & 46.2) Is there generally enough water for your household's livestock during the dry season/rest of the year? [10% & 15% or 0% & 25% or 20% & 30% or 0% & 50% or 0% & 0%] 47) During the last 2 years, how often was your household able to grow, collect or buy enough fodder? [25% or 50% or 0%]
- 48.1 & 48.2) Is there generally enough water for your household's aquaculture during the dry season/rest of the year? [14% & 21% or 0% & 35% or 0% & 0% or 28% & 42% or 0% & 70%] 49) During the last 2 years, how often was your household able to make or buy enough fish feed? [15% or 0% or 30%]

## Notes:

The numbers in front of questions are the survey question numbers, with a "v" indicating questions from the MPAT Village Survey, and all others being from the

After each subcomponent and survey question, its aggregation weight is presented in brackets. For some subcomponents, there are different options for aggregation due to the contextual factors of each household (if they do not eat meat for cultural or religious reasons, if heat is not needed in the region, if they gave a certain response to a survey question, etc.), and so in these cases different weighting options are provided in brackets.

For survey answer responses, response values (cardinalization), aggregations rules and other details, please consult Annex 12 of the 2014 MPAT User's Guide.

#### Fundamental Needs



















64) During the last 12 months, has anyone in your household managed/run their own

business (other than selling agricultural products)? [25%]
65) During the last 12 months, has anyone in your household provided others a skilled service (for example, equipment repair, tailoring, construction work) for money or barter? [50%] 1) Can the head of the household read a newspaper? [25%]

66) If your household wanted to borrow money from a bank or other financial service provider (not including friends or relatives), would your household be able to borrow money? [40% or 57%]

67) Is your household currently in debt? [30% or 43%]

68) To whom is the majority of this debt owed? [30% or 0%]

2 & 3) During the last 12 months, how many adults (age 15 and older) lived and slept in your home for 9 or more months? —and— During the last 12 months, how many adults lived and worked outside your home for 3 or more months? [40%]

18) What is the primary construction material of the housing unit's main roof? [40%] 71) Does your household have a television? [20%]

52) Of all the possible negative events (natural or socio-economic) that could occur in the next 12 months, and that would have a bad or damaging impact on your household, which 3 are you most worried about? (as far as negative impacts on household members, livelihoods, agriculture, livestock, aquaculture ...) [0% or 0% or 100%]

53.1 & 53.2) For these events, <u>how damaging</u> would each be for your <u>household</u>? [25% &

25% or 50% & 0% or 0% & 0%]
54.1 & 54.2) For these events, how likely is it that the event will occur in the next 12 months? [25% & 25% or 50% & 0% or 0% & 0%]

55.1 & 55.2 & 55.3) If the worst of the negative events you just mentioned [in question 52] were to occur in the next 12 months, what are the 3 main ways your household would likely react (cope)? [40% & 35% & 25% or 53% & 47% & 0% or 100% & 0% & 0%]

56) If the worst of the negative events you just mentioned [in question 52] were to occur in the next 12 months, how long do you think it would take for your household to return to a satisfactory situation? [45%]

57) If in an extreme disaster (of any sort) your household's home was completely destroyed, but your family members were not injured, how long would it take for your household to rebuild your home? [35%]

58) If the worst of the negative events you just mentioned [in question 52] were to occur in the next 12 months, who do you think would be most likely to assist your

## 10. Gender & Social Equality

#### 10.1 Access to Education [31%]

7) What is the highest level of schooling the female children (0 to 14) in your household will likely complete? [60%]

8) What is the highest level of schooling the male children (0 to 14) in your household will likely complete? [40%]

#### 10.2 Access to Health Care [36%]

15) For the majority of the households in your village/area, do you think there is a better chance for women or men to receive health care when needed? [50%]

16) Are the health-care centres in your village/area (within 2 hours distance from your home) usually able to provide women with adequate health care if they seek it? [50%]

#### 10.3 Social Equality [33%]

72) Do some households in your village/area have fewer economic or political opportunities thán others because of their religion or ethnic/minority group? [45% or 65% or 45%]

73) In the last 2 years, how has this situation of inequality changed? [20% or 0% or 20%] v12 & v22) Do some households in your village/area have fewer economic or political opportunities than others because of their religion or ethnic/minority group? [10% & 10% or 10% & 10% or 17.5% & 17.5%]

v13 & v23) In the last 2 years, how has this situation of inequality changed? [7.5% & 7.5% or 7.5% & 7.5% or 0% & 0%]



Electronic copies of all the MPAT materials, including this brochure, are on the enclosed CD-Rom.

To request a hard copy of the MPAT User's Guide (2014) or Book (2009), please contact IFAD's Communications Division at: publications@ifad.org.

For more information, please visit the MPAT website at www.ifad.org/mpat.

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