The purpose of a multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA) is to contribute to a shared and deeper understanding of multidimensional poverty, better knowledge about how Sida’s operations affect people living in poverty and better operational decisions that reflect the perspective of people living in poverty.

**KEY PRINCIPLES**

1. **Flexible:** The process for analyzing and integrating multidimensional poverty should be adapted to meet the specific needs and resources of the team. The poverty toolbox includes a variety of tools, templates and resources to be used and adapted to these needs.

2. **Shared learning:** One of the key objectives is to achieve a shared understanding of multidimensional poverty. The process should be owned and led by the operational team and should focus on identifying clear conclusions.

3. **Iterative:** The analysis requires multiple discussions that will eventually result in key conclusions. The analysis and conclusions should be revisited on a regular basis.

4. **Existing knowledge:** The MDPA compiles and incorporates existing studies, reports and data. A multidimensional perspective will require identifying and synthesising information from multiple sources. The process should be synchronised with and supportive of national analytical processes when possible.

**WHEN TO CONDUCT A MDPA**

It is recommended to conduct a more comprehensive analysis at one point in the strategy process and then regularly revisit the conclusions. The timing of the MDPA should be planned to 1) increase the strategic impact of Swedish development cooperation and 2) strengthen local analytical capacity to the extent possible. There are a number of opportunities for a more comprehensive analysis:

- **Mid-term review.** The purpose is to make a more comprehensive assessment of the relevance of the portfolio than in the annual follow up, and to make an outlook to future strategies and support (and ideally as an input into the Swedish government’s instructions for the next strategy).

- **End of the strategy** and before the instructions for the next strategy have been presented by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The purpose is to guide the focus of the coming strategy.

- **Major changes in the context.** If the context changes drastically (e.g., civil war, humanitarian catastrophe, major change in the political landscape) consider conducting a full MDPA.

**HOW TO CONDUCT A MDPA**

Experience has shown that collecting and analysing data as a team is more likely to lead to a deeper, common understanding of poverty. Following the initial analysis, it is crucial to revisit the analysis and agree on some selected, prioritised conclusions. The more focused the conclusions the greater the chance that they will influence decision making (both at the strategy level and contribution level). The following steps are recommended:

1. **Plan:** a) discuss the conceptual model; b) gather basic data and get an overview of the poverty in the four dimensions as well as the development context; c) agree on a purpose and focus of the analysis; d) identify what data is available and what is missing; e) decide who will do what, when and the report format [see Report Format]. (see Workshop guide, workshop 1)

2. **Collect data:** a) gather and review the data [see Guiding Questions and Menu of Indicators]; b) summarize and consolidate the data in the report.

3. **Analyse:** a) review and discuss the summarized data together; b) document and discuss findings with the team. (see Workshop guide, workshop 2)

4. **Conclude:** a) revisit findings and agree on key conclusions. (see Workshop guide, workshop 3)
DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO MDPA

The MDPA process can be adapted to reflect the knowledge of the team about poverty in the specific context and the needs of the team the process for analysis. The process can start from: 1) **who** is poor (example from Zambia); 2) **how**, in what dimensions, people are poor (examples from Kosovo, Mali and Afghanistan); or 3) **why**, the underlying structural, institutional and development reasons to poverty (examples from Uganda and Myanmar).