The multi-dimensional approach to poverty provide a framework to assess 1) how development outcomes for Sida’s target groups – women, men, girls and boys living in poverty – are affected by the contribution and in what dimensions these groups experience poverty (resources, power and voice, opportunities and choice, and human security) and which underlying causes of poverty the contribution addresses and 2) how it can be further strengthened.

All contributions shall contribute to changes that benefit people living in poverty. This means that the assessment should always consider how the contribution and the cooperation partner will improve the situation for women and men, girls and boys, living in poverty, directly or indirectly with the special needs, conditions and priorities for people living in poverty as point of departure.

Understanding who is poor, in what way, and the underlying causes of poverty and vulnerability, is usually part of the strategy process. If such an analysis has been done, make the link between the MDPA and the specific contribution and refer to it in the assessment. You should not repeat the analysis but you can relate the main conclusions to the contribution.

How will the contribution improve the situation for people living in poverty?
• Which groups living in poverty are affected by the contribution? Will the contribution affect these groups in the short-term, the medium-term or the long-term?

Does the contribution expect to improve the situation for people living in poverty in the short-term (through direct interventions), in the medium-term (such as service delivery, infrastructure improvement) or in the long-term (through e.g. institutional changes)? Is the approach reasonable given the understanding of poverty and vulnerability in the specific context (ref. MDPA) and the composition of the strategy portfolio?

• In what dimensions (resources, power and voice, opportunities and choice, and human security) will the contribution affect people living in poverty?

Is the contribution likely to address one or several of the four dimensions?

• What underlying causes of poverty and vulnerability does the contribution address? What constraints and opportunities are considered in the design of the contribution?

Multiple causes (economic and social, political and institutional, conflict, environmental), including risks to shocks interplay to push people into a situation of poverty and to keep them there. Knowledge about these causes and risks how they are manifested for different groups of people is fundamental to be able to define effective policy measures and approaches to reduce poverty and vulnerability.

What are the main risks that the contribution does not benefit people living in poverty?
• Are there risks related to not reaching specific groups targeted by the contribution?
• Are there risks related to changes in the context and the constraints and opportunities addressed by the contribution affecting poor people?
• Are there risks related to the capacity of the cooperation partner to address the situation of people living in poverty and vulnerability?