This brief provides guidance to workshops when conducting a MDPA. Workshops are useful to support shared learning about poverty within the team. This ensures that all team members’ competence and knowledge is effectively used and that the team can better act on the conclusions.

**THE FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES FOR MDPA:**

1. **Flexible:** The process for analysing and integrating multidimensional poverty should be adapted to meet the specific needs and resources of the team.

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 to act on in the strategy process and contribution management.

4. **Existing knowledge:** The MDPA compiles and incorporates existing studies, reports and data as well as build on existing knowledge and experiences within the team. The process should be synchronised with and supportive of national analytical processes when possible.

**Workshop 1: Introduction and plan**

**Purpose:**
1. To introduce the MDPA model.
2. To get an overview of poverty in the context.
3. To provide input to planning the MDPA process.

**Approximate time needed:**
• 3 hours to one full day.

**Recommended participants:**
• The full team including all program managers and officers, development analyst and head of section/team.
• Could invite external partners to contribute to the overview of the context.

**Recommended organisation and existing material**

Start with a presentation of the MDPA model. Presentation material is available in Poverty Toolbox. It is good to include time to discuss and reflect around the model to ensure that all participants have a good basic understanding of it. Discussion exercises could include reflections about the context focusing on who is living in poverty and using the four dimensions in the model as well as the four context parts.

- Who is poor? Gender, age, ethnic structures, geography, urban/rural, etc.
- What are the main deprivations for different groups? Use the four dimensions?
- What are the main underlying causes? Use the context parts.

And/or you can reflect on the model using a selection of contributions.

- Who will experience change as a result of this contribution? Which groups living in poverty will be affected and in what time perspective [short, medium, long]?
- How will they be affected – in what dimensions?
- What underlying causes are targeted by the contribution?
Follow up with a discussion about the context. The purpose is to get an overview of the situation as regards poverty and development and from there be able to plan for the MDPA process.

- Which issues seems to be of particular importance (dimensions and/or context)?
- Which groups living in poverty stand out?
- Knowledge gaps?
- What should be the focus for the continued MDPA process and should we have our starting point in who, how or why. See Report format standard sections?

Prepare a presentation of the basic poverty data. See the table in section 2 in the standard sections: Report format standard sections.

The Indicator guide and the Guiding questions can also be useful, but should not be the focus of the discussion during workshop 1 since they will be in focus during workshop 2. The purpose is to see the main issues and to discuss and prioritise for the continued process, but not to do the full analysis.

You can also add global trends on poverty to see your context in a broader perspective. Presentation material, including context presentation available in Poverty Toolbox.

**Workshop 2: Analyse**

**Purpose:**
1. To review the information and data gathered.
2. To identify information gaps.
3. To review the focus of the MDPA – new/other issues that have come up?
4. To jointly identify main draft finding of the data and information.

**Approximate time needed:**
- 2 hours to one full day.

**Recommended participants:**
- The full team with all program managers and officers, development analyst and head of section/team.
- Could invite external partners to contribute.

**Recommended organisation and existing material**

Start by presenting the information and data already gathered. **This is what we now know!** You can use the model to structure and present the information. This can be done by the development analyst or by team members depending on how the process has been structured. See example from Kosovo in Poverty Toolbox.

Identify information gaps and note them. Avoid spending too much time discussing the gaps. Get the team involved in looking at connections and interlinkages. Use the Guiding questions to assist in the analysis.

Depending on whether you have started in who, how or why, you can use the following questions:

- **Who:** Which groups have been identified as poor? How are they poor? Are there striking differences in deprivations between different groups? What can we see as the main underlying contextual causes?
- **How:** Which main deprivations have been identified, using the four dimensions and sub-dimensions? Who, which groups, suffer particularly from/in these deprivations? What are the main underlying contextual causes?
- **Why:** Which main development and poverty challenges have been identified in the context? What does it imply in terms of deprivations in the different dimensions and sub-dimensions? Who, which groups, suffer particularly from/in these deprivations?

If you have come relatively far in your analysis, and have identified one or some key deprivations that you would like to analyse in-depth, you can use a “problem tree approach”. See Koso problem tree in Poverty Toolbox.

Start by identifying the core problem(s). Continue with discussing the direct and indirect causes to the problem using the model (context and dimensions) as well as the effects (dimensions) and for who.
Workshop 3: Conclusions

Purpose:
1. To agree on, and prioritise, the main conclusions from the analysis regarding who is poor, what the main deprivations are for these groups as well as the main underlying causes.

Approximate time needed:
- 2 hours to one full day.

Recommended participants:
- The full team with all program managers and officers, development analyst and head of section/team.

Recommended organisation and existing material
Start by presenting the main finding so far. As a team, go through the findings one after the other. Are they clear to everybody in the team? Does the data support these findings?

Following the initial discussion, the purpose is to agree on a set of key conclusions. These conclusions should be precise enough to serve as an input into future operational decisions while still reflecting the complexity of the specific context. This balancing act often requires prioritizing between different findings and/or aggregating findings to a high level.