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THE LOCALISED MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (LMPI)

Understanding and Measuring Deprivation Across Malaysia's Parliamentary Constituencies

Wan Asiah Nurjannah Wan Ahmad Tajuddin



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All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG)

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Front Cover Photo: Zulkifli Awang, 29, with his mother, Salmah binti Mera, 65, at their home in Kampung Orang Asli Labong. After completing SPM, he chose to remain in the village to care for his family while earning a living through rubber tapping and other local work.

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Foreword

Nur Rahmah Othman

Executive Director

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The work of APPGM-SDG has always been rooted in a simple conviction: meaningful development must begin with an understanding of the realities faced by communities.

In the past seven years, our journey has taken us across different parts of Malaysia, engaging with communities, local stakeholders and parliamentary constituencies. These experiences have continued to remind us that development challenges are rarely simple, and that the realities of people's lives cannot always be fully understood through national statistics or broad policy frameworks alone.

Behind every policy discussion are people navigating the everyday challenges of making a living, accessing essential services, caring for their families and building a more secure future. Understanding these realities requires more than data. It requires sustained engagement, listening and a willingness to learn from the ground.

The development of the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) represents an important step in this continuing journey. It reflects our commitment to strengthening the connection between knowledge, policy and the communities we serve. More importantly, it reinforces the need to look beyond broad measures of poverty and to appreciate the different circumstances that shape people's experience.

For APPGM-SDG, research has never been an exercise that ends with the publication of a report. Its value lies in how it can deepen public understanding, inform policy conversations and contribute to more meaningful responses to the challenges identified.

This work also reminds us that local evidence is not merely supplementary to development planning. It is an important part of understanding what works, where gaps remain, and how institutions can respond more effectively to the needs of communities.

As we look ahead, we recognise that the work of understanding poverty and vulnerability must continue to evolve. It requires stronger collaboration among policymakers, researchers, civil society, local institutions and communities, as well as a continued commitment to learning from experience.

We hope this report contributes to that ongoing effort. May it encourage more informed discussions, strengthen the connection between evidence and action, and support a development approach that remains attentive to the realities of the people and communities it seeks to serve.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Finance Malaysia and Yayasan Hasanah for their support and collaboration through the Policy Solutions Initiative (*Inisiatif Intervensi Dasar*). Their commitment to strengthening evidence-based development and supporting work that connects policy with the realities of communities has been an important part of this endeavour. We value this partnership and the shared commitment to advancing more inclusive and responsive development in Malaysia.

Executive summary

The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) developed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) was undertaken under the Policy Solutions Initiative (*Inisiatif Intervensi Dasar*), a collaboration between APPGM-SDG and Yayasan Hasanah and the Ministry of Finance Malaysia, and provides a localised lens on poverty and vulnerability in Malaysia. Designed to complement rather than replace Malaysia's National Multidimensional Poverty Index, it examines how deprivation is experienced within different local contexts and provides evidence that can support more targeted responses by policymakers, government agencies and local actors. The study also proposes an instrument for localised multidimensional poverty assessment that can support local and state-level planning, with any contextual adaptation documented and tested to preserve the interpretability of results.

This initial study covers 2,775 households across 55 parliamentary constituencies, encompassing urban, rural and interior communities across Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. Households were purposively selected primarily from the B60 population (the bottom 60% of the household income distribution) to capture a range of socioeconomic vulnerabilities. The findings should therefore be interpreted as evidence of deprivation patterns within the study population rather than as statistically representative poverty estimates for Malaysia or individual parliamentary constituencies. Given the current sampling approach and number of households surveyed within each parliamentary constituency, the findings are intended primarily to provide insights into localised patterns of deprivation. Future iterations could strengthen the potential for constituency-level analysis through larger and more representative household samples within selected areas. The study represents an initial stage of APPGM-SDG's longer-term effort to strengthen localised evidence on multidimensional poverty.

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Education	Health	Living Standards	Social Security	Social Cohesion and Safety
Years of Schooling	Access to Healthcare	Toilet	Social Protection	Family and Friendship Support
Pre-school Attendance	Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)	Waste Collection	Insurance	Community Leadership
Primary School Attendance	Persons with Disabilities	Electricity Supply	Savings or Liquid Assets	Environmental Shocks
Secondary School Attendance	Child Growth (Height)	Digital Literacy	Government Assistance	Neighbourhood Safety
Literacy and Numeracy	Child Growth (Weight)	Digital Poverty	Employment	
	Access to Clean Water	Transportation	Monthly Bills	

The selection of the LMPI dimensions and indicators was informed by stakeholder consultations, technical discussions, APPGM-SDG's earlier localised studies and field experience, and recurring forms of deprivation identified through engagement with communities. The resulting framework comprises 27 indicators across five dimensions: Education, Health, Living Standards, Social Security, and Social Cohesion and Safety. As the LMPI continues to evolve, careful review of the normative value and technical salience of the indicators will be important. The underlying data were collected through a simplified household survey instrument, and future iterations could revisit and strengthen the instrument, particularly to improve how individual-level information is collected at the household level.

This report should be read together with Wajah-wajah kemiskinan (*Faces of Poverty*) by Tajul Arifin and Wan Ahmad Tajuddin (2026). The companion publication provides qualitative accounts that explain how overlapping deprivations are experienced in everyday life and complements the quantitative findings presented here.

Using the basic principles of the Alkire-Foster methodology and a multidimensional poverty cut-off of 25%, the study records an LMPI of 0.221, with a multidimensional poverty incidence (H) of 61.12% and an average intensity (A) of 36.20%. This means that approximately six in ten households within the purposively selected study population were classified as multidimensionally poor, with poor households experiencing, on average, slightly more than one-third of the weighted deprivations measured by the LMPI. H describes the share of surveyed households classified as multidimensionally poor, whereas A describes their average weighted deprivation score; A is not the share of all surveyed households experiencing a particular deprivation.

More important for policy is what lies behind the overall index. Among the 1,696 households identified as multidimensionally poor, Social Security accounts for the largest share of total weighted deprivation at 37.62%, followed by Living Standards at 22.90%. Together, these two dimensions account for 60.52% of the overall composition of poverty. Education contributes 17.15%, Health 17.02%, and Social Cohesion and Safety 5.32%. Social Security is also the largest contributing dimension across all six study regions, highlighting the importance of household economic resilience across the different contexts covered by the study.

The prominence of Social Security draws attention to the economic resilience of households beyond their current income position. Employment stability, formal social security coverage, insurance, savings and assets, government assistance and the ability to meet recurring financial commitments all influence whether households are able to withstand economic shocks. At the same time, the substantial contribution of Living

Standards highlights the continuing importance of the basic conditions that enable households to function effectively, including sanitation, waste services, electricity, digital participation and mobility. The results therefore point towards poverty reduction strategies that address both household resilience and the conditions of everyday living, rather than relying on income support alone.

The findings also show why localisation matters. Although Social Security is the largest contributor across all six study regions, the balance between dimensions differs considerably. Living Standards contributes 27.70% in Sabah and 24.57% in Sarawak, compared with lower shares across the Peninsular regions. Interior settlements also generally record higher multidimensional poverty than rural and urban locations within the study sample, reflecting the effects of physical isolation, service accessibility, connectivity and transportation costs. These differences demonstrate that similar poverty outcomes can arise from different underlying conditions. A uniform response is therefore unlikely to address the priorities of every locality effectively.

The policy value of the LMPI lies precisely in this ability to move from a general identification of poverty towards a more specific understanding of what needs to change and where. Locations where Living Standards deprivation is prominent may require greater attention to infrastructure, basic services, mobility or digital connectivity, while areas characterised by Social Security deprivation may require stronger responses around employment stability, financial resilience, insurance and formal social security coverage. Indicator-level evidence can further refine these priorities, allowing interventions to respond to the particular deprivation profile of a locality rather than to dimensions in the abstract. The report itself finds that policy responses should identify the specific indicators driving deprivation within each locality and population group. The results should be used to identify local needs, not to rank Members of Parliament or local authorities by performance; the purposive sample does not support representative constituency comparisons or causal judgments about leadership.

For this reason, the LMPI should be followed by post-LMPI interventions. Measurement provides the evidence base; its practical value depends on how that evidence is translated into action. Findings from the study locations can provide a common basis for Members of Parliament, District Offices, government agencies, local authorities, civil society organisations, universities and communities to identify priorities, coordinate responses and direct resources towards the deprivations that matter most locally. Subsequent reassessment can then examine whether targeted deprivations have improved, where vulnerabilities remain and whether interventions need to be adjusted. This establishes a practical cycle of measurement, prioritisation, intervention and reassessment. Over time, the same process can strengthen both local action and the LMPI itself by generating

evidence on changing patterns of deprivation and the effectiveness of different responses.

The 55 parliamentary constituencies covered in this initial study provide the foundation for this approach. As the LMPI develops, future iterations could further strengthen the size and representativeness of household samples within selected parliamentary constituencies, alongside the progressive expansion of geographical coverage. The selection of additional parliamentary areas could also take into consideration different local contexts, including remote and rural areas, areas with sizeable concentrations of PPR housing, and densely populated urban areas where broader household coverage may provide a more comprehensive understanding of local deprivation.

Ultimately, the value of the LMPI will not be determined by the index alone. Its greater contribution lies in whether localised evidence leads to better decisions, more appropriately targeted interventions and measurable improvements in the conditions experienced by vulnerable households. In this sense, the LMPI provides not simply another way to measure poverty, but a mechanism for connecting measurement with action.

KEY MESSAGES

Poverty is multidimensional, not solely an income issue.

Income remains an important measure of economic wellbeing, but it cannot fully capture the barriers that affect household wellbeing, resilience and opportunity. The LMPI findings show that deprivation extends across Education, Health, Living Standards, Social Security, and Social Cohesion and Safety dimensions, with many multidimensionally poor households experiencing deprivation across several dimensions simultaneously. Poverty policy must therefore recognise not only individual deprivations, but also the ways in which disadvantages interact and reinforce one another.

Localised evidence matters.

Poverty does not manifest uniformly across Malaysia. Geography, accessibility, infrastructure, livelihoods and access to services shape the forms of deprivation experienced by different communities. The findings show that Social Security remains the largest contributing dimension across all six study regions, while the relative importance of other dimensions differs by location. Living Standards is particularly prominent in Sabah and Sarawak, and interior settlements generally experience higher multidimensional poverty within the study sample. National measures remain essential, but localised evidence can reveal differences that enable more responsive planning and better targeting of resources.

Multidimensional evidence must lead to action.

Measuring poverty is only the beginning. The findings identify Social Security as the largest contributor to multidimensional poverty, followed by Living Standards, drawing attention to household economic resilience alongside basic living conditions. Indicator-level findings further identify specific areas of deprivation, including insurance, savings and assets, education, health, digital participation and access to basic services. The value of the LMPI lies in using this evidence to identify priorities, inform planning and resource allocation, and design post-LMPI interventions that respond to locally identified needs.

Effective responses require institutional and community collaboration.

Multidimensional poverty cannot be addressed by any single institution because the deprivations identified through the LMPI cut across different policy and service areas. Addressing employment stability and financial resilience requires different actors and responses from those needed to improve sanitation, mobility, healthcare, education or digital access. Government agencies, Members of Parliament, District Offices, local authorities, universities, civil society organisations and communities each contribute different knowledge, capabilities and resources. Connecting these actors around locally grounded evidence can strengthen both the design and implementation of interventions.

The LMPI must remain responsive and relevant.

Poverty and vulnerability change as communities, economies and development conditions evolve. The initial implementation also identifies areas where the LMPI itself can be strengthened, particularly through larger and more representative household samples within selected parliamentary constituencies and improvements in the collection of individual-level information at the household level. This could include, for example, more accurate questions relating to child nutrition, including stunting, underweight and overweight among children under five. The LMPI should therefore continue to be tested and refined through empirical evidence, stakeholder engagement, periodic data collection and reassessment, while maintaining comparability and methodological rigour.

Introduction

Poverty is experienced locally. Its form, intensity and underlying causes differ across communities depending on geography, accessibility, livelihoods, infrastructure, environmental conditions and access to essential services. Yet these differences are not always visible through aggregated national or state-level statistics. Within a single parliamentary constituency, urban neighbourhoods may coexist with rural villages, plantations, coastal settlements, islands or interior communities, each facing different forms and combinations of deprivation. This creates an important evidence gap: while national statistics provide an essential picture of poverty in Malaysia, they may not fully reveal where deprivation is concentrated, how different forms of deprivation overlap, and what these differences mean for local policy action.

It is within this gap that the 'Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI)' becomes particularly relevant. Building on the MPI methodology, the LMPI brings multidimensional poverty measurement closer to where poverty is actually experienced. It complements national poverty measures by providing more granular evidence on the nature, intensity and composition of deprivation across different local contexts. In doing so, it connects national poverty measurement with the realities faced by communities and with the policymakers, agencies and local actors responsible for responding to them.

Malaysia has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty over the past five decades. The incidence of absolute poverty has declined substantially through sustained economic growth, targeted development programmes and expanded social assistance. Nevertheless, poverty continues to affect households in ways that are not fully captured through income measures alone. A household may experience inadequate housing, poor sanitation, limited access to healthcare, insecure employment, financial vulnerability, environmental risks or weak social support despite not necessarily being classified as income poor. This raises a fundamental question: are we measuring poverty in a way that sufficiently reflects how it is actually experienced, particularly at the local level?

Recognition that poverty extends beyond a lack of financial resources has long shaped efforts to understand people's living conditions. In Malaysia, an early approach reflecting this thinking was the Sarong Index introduced by Royal Professor Ungku Aziz in rural poverty studies in the 1960s. The use of sarong ownership as an indicator of household socioeconomic conditions demonstrated the importance of understanding poverty through everyday realities and local context. As poverty measurement developed, multidimensional approaches subsequently expanded globally to consider the different forms of deprivation affecting household wellbeing.

This approach considers simultaneous deprivations across different aspects of life, recognising that people require more than financial resources to live healthy, secure and dignified lives. This perspective is aligned with Amartya Sen's capability approach, which views poverty as a limitation on people's capabilities to lead lives they have reason to value (Sen, 1999). This broader understanding of poverty is operationalised through the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, which provides a systematic approach for identifying and aggregating multiple deprivations and forms the methodological foundation for the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (Alkire & Foster, 2011; Alkire et al., 2015).

The Global MPI has become one of the most widely recognised applications of multidimensional poverty measurement. By assessing overlapping deprivations across health, education and living standards, it provides a way of examining not only how many people are multidimensionally poor, but also the composition of the deprivations they experience (Alkire et al., 2025b). The 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index estimated that approximately 1.1 billion people across 112 countries were living in acute multidimensional poverty, over half of whom were children under the age of 18. Approximately 84% lived in rural areas, while nearly two-thirds lived in middle-income countries (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2024). These patterns demonstrate that economic progress alone does not necessarily eliminate overlapping forms of deprivation. International experience also demonstrates why local context matters. Multidimensional poverty does not have the same composition everywhere. Evidence from India shows substantial regional and social-group variation, with the relative importance of health, education, economic conditions and household environment differing across locations and groups (Dehury & Mohanty, 2015; Pradhan et al., 2022). Similarly, studies in Indonesia show that priority deprivations vary across provinces, with education and immunisation prominent in many provinces but different priorities emerging in Maluku and Papua (Sumargo & Simanjuntak, 2019). These findings reinforce the value of multidimensional poverty measurement in revealing geographical and population-level differences that may otherwise be obscured within broader averages.

Malaysia formally incorporated multidimensional poverty measurement into its national development framework under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016–2020), complementing monetary measures of poverty with a broader assessment of deprivation across multiple dimensions of wellbeing (Economic Planning Unit [EPU], 2015). The introduction of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (National MPI) represented an important development in Malaysia's poverty measurement framework by recognising that household wellbeing cannot be understood through income alone. Subsequent efforts by the Ministry of Economy, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have continued to strengthen

multidimensional poverty measurement in response to Malaysia's evolving socioeconomic conditions.

However, national and localised poverty measurement serve different but complementary purposes. National indicators are essential for monitoring progress, establishing comparable benchmarks and informing broad policy direction. LMPI adds another layer by examining deprivation at a scale closer to communities and local decision-making. This is particularly important in Malaysia, where substantial differences can exist not only between states, but also within districts and parliamentary constituencies. A constituency-level perspective can reveal patterns that may be less visible when evidence is aggregated at higher geographical levels.

APPGM-SDG introduces the LMPI to provide localised evidence that complements the role of the National MPI. Through this approach, poverty measurement findings can be connected with community experiences and used to develop policy responses that better meet their needs.

This study represents the first phase of a broader effort to develop the LMPI across all 222 parliamentary constituencies in Malaysia. In this phase, data were collected from 2,775 households in 55 parliamentary constituencies across Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, encompassing urban, rural and interior communities. These 55 constituencies provide an important starting point for understanding differences in multidimensional deprivation across diverse geographical and socioeconomic contexts. The longer-term intention is to progressively extend this approach to all 222 parliamentary constituencies while increasing the size and representativeness of household samples within each selected area. This would build a stronger and more comprehensive local evidence base on multidimensional poverty across Malaysia.

This wider ambition is important because the value of LMPI lies not simply in producing another poverty figure, but in making poverty data more actionable at the places where interventions occur. Two constituencies may record similar levels of multidimensional poverty while experiencing very different underlying forms of deprivation. In one constituency, poverty may be driven primarily by inadequate healthcare access and basic services; in another, employment insecurity, financial vulnerability or weak social support may be more significant. The policy responses required would therefore also be different.

A nationwide LMPI covering all 222 parliamentary constituencies would ultimately allow these differences to be identified systematically, providing a stronger basis for understanding where deprivation occurs, what drives it, and how policy responses should differ from one locality to another. It could support more targeted constituency and

district-level planning while also providing state and national policymakers with a clearer picture of spatial inequalities and emerging forms of deprivation that may be obscured within aggregated statistics.

Through this approach, APPGM-SDG serves as a bridge between communities, policymakers, researchers, government agencies and development partners, bringing local evidence into wider policy discussions. The LMPI therefore represents more than the application of multidimensional poverty measurement at a smaller geographical scale. It is an effort to understand poverty from the ground up and connect that understanding to policy decisions from the constituency to the national level.

The 55 constituencies covered in this study mark the beginning of that effort. By providing localised evidence from 2,775 households across diverse Malaysian communities, this study demonstrates the potential of LMPI to complement official poverty statistics and reveal forms and patterns of deprivation that may otherwise remain less visible. Its longer-term ambition is to extend this evidence base across all 222 parliamentary constituencies, contributing towards a more complete understanding of poverty in Malaysia and enabling policies that are not only evidence-based, but also place-sensitive, targeted and responsive to how poverty is actually experienced.

RATIONALE

Building on the need for more locally grounded evidence, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) advanced a constituency-level approach to localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that national averages often mask pockets of deprivation and exclusion. Through the Policy Solutions Initiative (*Inisiatif Intervensi Dasar*), this study responds to the need for more granular evidence that reflects the lived realities of communities while strengthening the link between multidimensional poverty measurement and evidence-informed policy action.

More importantly, the study addresses a critical gap between data and decision-making at the local level. While existing datasets provide valuable national and state-level insights into poverty, they are often insufficient for understanding the diverse realities within parliamentary constituencies. Policymakers, Members of Parliament, District Officers, local authorities, and community leaders require evidence that reflects the specific circumstances of the communities they serve, enabling interventions to be better prioritised and tailored to local needs. This is particularly important in constituencies that encompass urban, rural, coastal, island, and interior communities, where patterns of deprivation may differ considerably within the same administrative boundary.

As a parliamentary platform that brings together Members of Parliament, government agencies, researchers, civil society organisations, and local communities, APPGM-SDG is uniquely positioned to bridge national policy priorities with local realities. By generating constituency-level evidence across diverse geographical and socioeconomic settings, the study provides an additional layer of understanding that complements existing national poverty statistics while strengthening collaboration between policymakers, researchers, and communities.

Ultimately, this study extends beyond measuring multidimensional poverty. It seeks to establish a constituency-driven evidence platform that supports more responsive, place-based policymaking by ensuring that local experiences and community perspectives contribute meaningfully to development planning. In doing so, the study reinforces APPGM-SDG's long-term commitment to strengthening evidence-informed policymaking and advancing more inclusive approaches to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

To establish APPGM-SDG as a national platform for constituency-driven evidence on multidimensional poverty.

This study marks the beginning of APPGM-SDG's long-term commitment to strengthening multidimensional poverty measurement through constituency-driven evidence. As a parliamentary platform that brings together Members of Parliament, government agencies, researchers, civil society organisations, and local communities, APPGM-SDG is uniquely positioned to generate evidence that bridges national policy priorities with realities on the ground. The study reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that policymaking is informed not only by national statistics but also by the lived experiences of communities across Malaysia.

While national poverty statistics remain essential for monitoring progress, they are not designed to capture every local context or emerging form of deprivation. Communities experience poverty differently depending on their geographical location, access to services, livelihood opportunities, and social circumstances. These local realities are often masked by aggregated datasets, particularly in remote, interior, and underserved communities. By generating evidence directly from 55 parliamentary constituencies, the study provides an additional layer of understanding that complements existing national data.

More than a standalone research exercise, this study establishes an evidence platform that APPGM-SDG can continue to build upon. It lays the foundation for strengthening constituency-driven evidence, fostering closer engagement with communities, and

ensuring that local realities continue to inform national discussions on multidimensional poverty and sustainable development.

To strengthen APPGM-SDG's role in constituency-based policy action through Parliament and local leadership.

A defining strength of APPGM-SDG lies in its ability to connect evidence with action through Parliament. This study was undertaken with the recognition that effective poverty interventions require more than national averages. Members of Parliament, residents, District Officers, local authorities, and community leaders require evidence that reflects the specific circumstances of the communities they serve. Understanding these local realities is essential for designing interventions that are responsive, practical, and grounded in community needs.

The study therefore generated constituency-level evidence across urban, rural, and interior communities throughout Malaysia, with particular attention given to groups that are often less visible in national datasets, including Orang Asli communities, persons with disabilities, older persons, single-parent households, remote communities, and households experiencing urban poverty. Although each parliamentary constituency is represented by a relatively small sample of households, the findings provide valuable contextual insights into local patterns of deprivation and community-specific issues that may otherwise remain overlooked.

By translating community experiences into accessible evidence, the study equips Members of Parliament and District Officers with a stronger basis for engagement, planning, and collaboration within their constituencies. Rather than serving as statistically representative estimates for individual constituencies, the findings are intended to highlight local priorities, stimulate discussion, and support contextually appropriate interventions. In doing so, APPGM-SDG strengthens its role as a bridge between community realities, constituency development, and evidence-informed policymaking.

To contribute to the future development of multidimensional poverty measurement and policy in Malaysia.

Malaysia's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has significantly strengthened the country's approach to measuring poverty beyond income and remains an important foundation for evidence-based policymaking. This study was not intended to replicate or replace the National MPI. Instead, it complements existing national efforts by generating additional evidence from diverse local contexts and vulnerable communities that are not always sufficiently reflected in aggregated national statistics.

Through the inclusion of dimensions such as Social Security and Social Cohesion and Safety, together with extensive engagement across 55 parliamentary constituencies, the study contributes additional evidence to the broader national conversation on multidimensional poverty. Rather than proposing an alternative framework, the study explores areas where community-based evidence can enrich current understanding, stimulate discussion on emerging forms of deprivation, and inform the continued refinement of multidimensional poverty measurement in Malaysia.

Looking ahead, APPGM-SDG intends for this study to serve as the foundation for its long-term multidimensional poverty measurement agenda. The findings provide a basis for continued dialogue on poverty measurement, future refinement of dimensions and indicators, and stronger collaboration with government agencies, researchers, and development partners. Through this ongoing commitment, APPGM-SDG aims to support the development of multidimensional poverty measurement that remains relevant, evidence-based, and responsive to the evolving needs of Malaysian communities.

OBJECTIVES

From the outset, this study was guided by a clear set of objectives that shaped the development of the multidimensional poverty framework, the design of the household survey, and the analysis presented in this report. To ensure that policy responses are grounded in lived realities and reflect the complexity of poverty beyond income measures, this initiative adopts a multidimensional approach to understanding deprivation across Malaysia. By capturing diverse and often overlooked aspects of wellbeing, the study aims to generate locally relevant and actionable evidence, particularly for communities that remain underserved in national development planning. In doing so, it also strengthens the foundation for more targeted, inclusive, and equitable interventions at the parliamentary constituency level. The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To undertake a multidimensional poverty study in 55 parliamentary constituencies in Malaysia.
2. To identify deprivations across five dimensions (Education, Health, Living Standards, Social Security, and Social Cohesion and Safety) in 55 parliamentary constituencies nationwide.
3. To analyse and disaggregate the findings by region and settlement typology (urban, rural, and interior), while exploring how multidimensional poverty is experienced across different vulnerable population groups.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

This study uses a structured questionnaire to systematically collect data on multidimensional poverty in selected parliamentary constituencies. The questionnaire was developed specifically on the basis of the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) Framework and is designed to assess deprivation across five key dimensions, namely:

1. Education
2. Health
3. Living Standards
4. Social Security
5. Social Cohesion and Safety

The questionnaire underwent several rounds of refinement through internal technical discussions and field implementation before being deployed across all study locations. The questionnaire is administered in Bahasa Malaysia to ensure consistency and accessibility across all study locations. It consists primarily of closed-ended questions that enable the assessment of deprivation using predefined indicators and cut-off points, while selected open-ended questions provide limited qualitative insights into household circumstances and local issues. The survey is administered through face-to-face interviews across urban, rural, and interior communities to ensure that diverse geographical and socioeconomic contexts are adequately represented.

The study adopts a purposive sampling approach, focusing on households within the B60 group, which encompasses households with varying levels of socioeconomic vulnerability and the potential to experience deprivation across different aspects of life. Households are selected with the assistance of local leaders and community representatives, drawing on their knowledge of local circumstances and needs. The selection process also considers coverage of urban, rural and interior settlement typologies, alongside gender and ethnic diversity where appropriate to the local context. As the study uses purposive sampling, the selected sample is not intended to produce statistically representative estimates for the entire population of each parliamentary constituency. Instead, this approach allows the study to examine diverse experiences and patterns of deprivation among surveyed households across different community contexts.

All survey responses are consolidated through Google Forms, which serves as the central data collection and management platform for the study. Depending on field conditions, responses are either entered directly during interviews or first recorded using printed questionnaires before being transferred into the system. This approach supports

standardised data management, improves data consistency, and facilitates efficient consolidation and preliminary quality checks across all study locations.

To ensure consistent data collection across all study locations, all Local Coordinators received training based on a module developed specifically for this study (All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals [APPGM-SDG], 2026). The training covered the questionnaire, data collection methods and procedures for administering the survey in the field. Local Coordinators were then responsible for training enumerators in their respective locations using the same module and methods before data collection began. This approach helped ensure that enumerators shared a consistent understanding of the instrument and data collection procedures.

The questionnaire survey is available in Appendix A.

WAJAH-WAJAH KEMISKINAN (FACES OF POVERTY): QUALITATIVE COMPONENT

To complement the quantitative household survey, the study incorporated a qualitative component through APPGM-SDG's *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* (Faces of Poverty) programme. The programme was conducted over three days, from 19 to 21 January 2026, at Ruang Komuniti MySDG, Petaling Jaya, following the completion of household data collection (Figure 1.1). It brought together Local Coordinators (LCs) who had been directly involved in implementing the LMPI household survey across the study locations to reflect on and document the experiences and circumstances encountered during fieldwork.

The programme adopted a structured sharing and reflection process. LCs presented and discussed experiences from their respective study locations based on their direct engagement with households and communities. The qualitative material drew on explanations that emerged during household interviews as well as field observations relating to living conditions, access to services, transportation, infrastructure, environmental risks and the broader characteristics of the communities in which respondents lived.



Figure 1.1 Photos of presentations and discussion sessions conducted by Local Coordinators during the *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* programme
(Source: Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin, 2026)

The discussions were organised in two stages to facilitate comparison across geographical contexts. In the first stage, LCs were grouped according to the six study regions—Northern, Central, Southern, East Coast, Sabah and Sarawak—allowing participants to identify recurring issues as well as differences within and between regions. In the second stage, participants were regrouped according to settlement context, particularly urban, rural and interior communities, with selected small-island contexts also considered. This enabled experiences from different parts of the country to be compared according to the environments in which deprivation occurred and helped distinguish issues that were recurrent across locations from those that were more context-specific.

Through this process, the programme documented experiences relating to barriers to education and healthcare, transportation and accessibility constraints, limitations in basic services and infrastructure, livelihood and financial insecurity, caregiving responsibilities, environmental vulnerability, and the role of family and community support. The discussions also provided insight into how households responded to deprivation, including their coping strategies, aspirations and sources of resilience. These accounts

provided contextual depth to the quantitative results by illustrating how individual deprivations can interact and manifest differently across communities.

Importantly, *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* was not used to calculate the LMPI, determine household poverty status, select the 27 indicators, establish deprivation cut-offs, or assign indicator and dimension weights. As the programme was conducted after the household survey, its role was complementary and interpretive. This distinction maintains the methodological integrity of the quantitative LMPI while allowing field-based experiences to deepen the interpretation of the findings. This is consistent with the treatment of the programme in Chapter 3, which establishes that it was conducted after household data collection and was not used to determine the indicators or their deprivation cut-offs.

At the same time, *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* provided an additional layer of qualitative support for the relevance of the LMPI indicators, and this is recorded in Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin (2026). Although the programme did not determine which indicators were included, the recurrence of experiences corresponding to the selected indicators provided further evidence that they reflect meaningful forms of deprivation encountered by households and communities. Accounts concerning difficulties in accessing schools and healthcare, unreliable basic services, transportation constraints, insecure livelihoods, financial pressures, caregiving responsibilities and reliance on informal support, for example, help demonstrate why these issues are relevant to a localised understanding of multidimensional poverty. In this sense, the programme further strengthens the justification for the indicators by connecting their conceptual and empirical rationale with lived experiences on the ground.

Within this report, evidence from *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* is therefore used in two complementary ways. First, selected narratives are incorporated alongside the discussion of the LMPI dimensions and indicators in Chapter 3 to reinforce their justification and illustrate how the measured forms of deprivation are experienced in practice. Second, the programme informs Chapter 5, "Understanding Vulnerabilities Through a Multidimensional Lens," where qualitative insights provide additional understanding of experiences, relationships and contextual factors that cannot be fully represented through quantitative indicators alone. In this way, the household survey provides the measurement of multidimensional deprivation, while *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* provides additional insight into why the indicators matter and how the deprivations they represent are experienced, interconnected and shaped by local context. This complementary use of quantitative and qualitative evidence is consistent with the scope established for the report.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

The report documents the development of the APPGM-SDG's LMPI Framework, including the conceptual basis, methodological approach, and analytical processes underpinning the study. It presents five key dimensions of poverty, namely Education, Health, Living Standards, Social Security, and Social Cohesion and Safety, operationalised through 27 indicators with clearly defined deprivation cut-offs and weighting structures. The framework was developed through an iterative process involving APPGM-SDG's field experience, technical discussions, engagement with subject matter experts, and consideration of relevant national policy priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, the report not only measures multidimensional poverty but also documents the rationale behind the selection of indicators and methodological choices adopted for the Malaysian context.

Building on this framework, the report presents the multidimensional poverty findings using the Alkire-Foster methodology, including the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI), poverty incidence, poverty intensity, and the composition of poverty. The findings are analysed across regions, settlement typologies, and selected demographic characteristics to identify differences in deprivation patterns and the indicators contributing most significantly to multidimensional poverty. By examining poverty from multiple perspectives, the report provides a more nuanced understanding of how deprivation varies between communities and locations, thereby strengthening the evidence base for more targeted and context-sensitive interventions.

Recognising that quantitative indicators alone cannot fully capture the realities of poverty, the report also incorporates qualitative evidence through the Faces of Poverty initiative. These narratives provide insight into the lived experiences of individuals and communities, illustrating the interconnected challenges, coping strategies, and sources of resilience that shape everyday life. The report further highlights the circumstances of vulnerable population groups, including households experiencing multiple deprivations, women-headed households, persons with disabilities, children, youth, and older persons, recognising that poverty is often experienced differently across different segments of society.

Collectively, the report provides an integrated evidence base to support a more comprehensive understanding of multidimensional poverty in Malaysia. Beyond presenting the findings of a nationwide study, it seeks to strengthen constituency-level evidence for planning and decision-making, contribute to the continued refinement of multidimensional poverty measurement, and support more responsive, inclusive, and evidence-informed policies that advance the Sustainable Development Goals and national development priorities. Central to this approach is the recognition that

deprivation is shaped by place. Understanding where households live, and the geographical and settlement contexts that shape their access to services, infrastructure and opportunities, is therefore essential to interpreting multidimensional poverty. The following chapter situates the study within these diverse local contexts.

Study Locations

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF STUDY LOCATIONS: URBAN, RURAL, AND INTERIOR CONTEXTUAL CLASSIFICATION

Spatial inequalities remain one of the defining characteristics of poverty in Malaysia. Although the country has made substantial progress in reducing poverty over the past decades, geographical disadvantage can compound deprivation, particularly where communities face limited access to infrastructure, public services, education, healthcare, employment opportunities and markets. At the same time, rapid urbanisation has given rise to new forms of urban poverty, demonstrating that multidimensional deprivation is shaped not only by socioeconomic circumstances but also by settlement context. These considerations reinforce the importance of examining poverty beyond administrative boundaries and through a spatial lens, to better understand how place influences the experience of deprivation.

Accordingly, the study adopted an urban–rural–interior settlement classification as one of its main analytical approaches. While Malaysia's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) provides an important framework for measuring multidimensional poverty and also reports urban–rural differences, the LMPI adds further detail by distinguishing interior communities from the rural category. Through this additional analytical perspective, the study examines differences in deprivation patterns across urban, rural and interior areas, providing a more locally grounded understanding of multidimensional poverty. The findings show that households in different settlement environments experience distinct combinations of deprivation. This demonstrates the importance of considering settlement context when interpreting poverty findings and developing policy responses.

The classification was applied across all 55 parliamentary constituencies included in the study. Local Coordinators were provided with common classification guidelines while retaining sufficient flexibility to reflect local geographical and socioeconomic conditions. Consequently, not every constituency contains all three settlement types. Some constituencies are predominantly urban, whereas others comprise mainly rural or interior communities (Figure 2.1). This approach acknowledges the diversity of settlement patterns across Malaysia and ensures that the analysis reflects the characteristics of each study location.

It is also important to note that respondents were identified through purposive sampling, focusing primarily on B60 households and vulnerable communities. Consequently, some constituencies include a larger proportion of respondents from rural and interior areas,

where structural deprivation is often more prevalent. This should not be interpreted as an indication that urban poverty is less significant. Rather, it reflects the study's objective of understanding multidimensional poverty among communities facing the greatest vulnerability. By incorporating the urban-rural-interior classification, the study provides a richer interpretation of poverty across different settlement contexts, generating evidence that supports more context-specific policy development, constituency planning, and local interventions.

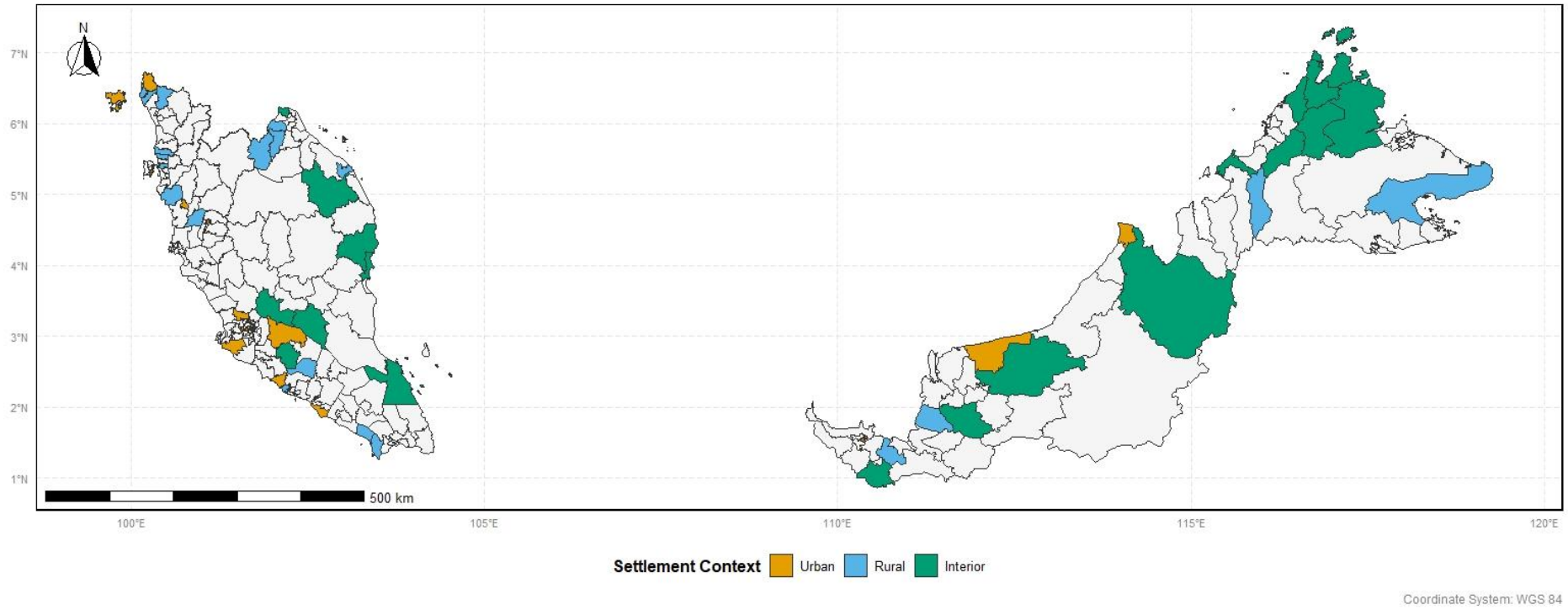


Figure 2.1 Spatial Distribution of 55 LMPI Study Locations by Predominant Settlement Context

REGIONAL AND ZONAL DIVISIONS

The study locations are strategically distributed across the major zones and regions of Malaysia to ensure broad geographical coverage and inclusion of diverse community settings. These locations encompass the Central, Northern, Southern, and East Coast zones of Peninsular Malaysia, as well as the Sabah and Sarawak regions in East Malaysia. Such distribution enables the study to capture variations in socio-economic conditions, demographic characteristics, and local development contexts across the country.

In terms of regional distribution, the study coverage extends across the Northern, Central, Southern and East Coast regions of Peninsular Malaysia, as well as Sabah and Sarawak. Overall, the study covers 55 principal parliamentary constituencies, with field implementation organised according to local administrative and operational considerations. In several locations, neighbouring constituencies were grouped or extended within the same study area to reflect local administrative arrangements and facilitate field coordination. The Central region was further organised into two Local Coordinator (LC) clusters because of the concentration and close geographical proximity of the study areas within the Klang Valley.

To facilitate effective coordination and implementation at the field level, each study location is assigned to one dedicated Local Coordinator (LC). The Local Coordinators play a critical role in overseeing data collection activities, coordinating with local stakeholders and respondents, ensuring adherence to study protocols, and maintaining the overall quality and integrity of the data gathered. In total, 55 Local Coordinators have been appointed across all study locations nationwide to support the successful execution of the study (individual reports in Appendix C).

The study areas are listed in Tables 2.1–2.6 below.

Table 2.1. Study Areas, District and Contextual Description for the Northern Zone

NORTHERN ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
1	Padang Besar	-	Perlis	Predominantly rural, characterised by agricultural activities, border trade, and dispersed settlements near the Malaysia–Thailand border.
2	Arau & Kangar*	-	Perlis	Mixed rural-urban setting, with Kangar functioning as the administrative and urban centre of Perlis, while Arau retains stronger suburban and semi-rural characteristics.
3	Langkawi	Langkawi	Kedah	Predominantly urban-tourism oriented in key areas, although several parts of the island continue to reflect rural and fishing village characteristics.
4	Kubang Pasu	Kubang Pasu	Kedah	Predominantly rural, with agriculture, border economic activities, and small-town settlements forming the main socioeconomic landscape.
5	Sungai Petani	Kuala Muda	Kedah	Predominantly urban, supported by industrial development, commercial activities, and dense residential areas.
6	Bayan Baru	Barat Daya & Timur Laut	Pulau Pinang	Highly urbanised, characterised by industrial zones, commercial centres, and middle-income residential developments.
7	Kepala Batas	Seberang Perai Utara	Pulau Pinang	Predominantly semi-rural, with a combination of traditional villages, agricultural land, and emerging township developments.
8	Permatang Pauh	Seberang Perai Tengah	Pulau Pinang	Mixed semi-urban and rural setting, with established residential communities alongside agricultural and village areas.
9	Ipoh Barat	Kinta	Perak	Predominantly urban, encompassing dense residential, commercial, and administrative areas within the city of Ipoh.
10	Bagan Serai	Kerian	Perak	Predominantly rural, strongly associated with agricultural activities, particularly paddy cultivation and plantation-based economies.

NORTHERN ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
11	Taiping	Larut, Matang & Selama	Perak	Predominantly urban, functioning as a major historical town with established commercial, residential, and public service infrastructure.
12	Kuala Kangsar	Kuala Kangsar	Perak	Predominantly semi-rural, combining traditional settlements, royal administrative functions, and agricultural surroundings.
*Note: In Perlis, Arau and Kangar were combined as a single study area due to the state's administrative structure and the absence of district-level divisions comparable to those used in other states.				

Table 2.2. Study Areas, District and Contextual Description for the Southern Zone

SOUTHERN ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
1	Jelebu	Jelebu	Negeri Sembilan	Predominantly rural, characterised by dispersed settlements, agricultural activities, forested areas, and limited urban development across the district.
2	Tampin	Tampin	Negeri Sembilan	Mixed semi-urban and rural setting, with small-town commercial activities supported by surrounding agricultural settlements and traditional village communities.
3	Kuala Pilah	Kuala Pilah	Negeri Sembilan	Predominantly rural, with traditional villages, agricultural land use, lower-density settlements, and strong dependence on local community-based economic activities.
4	Tangga Batu	Melaka Tengah	Melaka	Predominantly urban, influenced by industrial expansion, residential development, commercial activities, and peri-urban growth surrounding Melaka city.
5	Masjid Tanah	Alor Gajah	Melaka	Predominantly semi-rural, combining small-town settlements, agricultural activities, fishing communities, and expanding residential development corridors.
6	Mersing	Mersing	Johor	Predominantly rural, characterised by coastal fishing communities, tourism-related economic activities, dispersed settlements, and connectivity to several small islands that influence the area's socioeconomic and accessibility conditions.
7	Tanjung Piai	Pontian	Johor	Predominantly rural coastal ecological zone within Pontian District, characterised by mangrove ecosystems, fishing activity, small settlements, and nature-based tourism.

SOUTHERN ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
8	Pontian	Pontian	Johor	Predominantly rural district with a semi-urban administrative and commercial centre, supported by extensive agricultural areas and fishing communities.
9	Muar	Muar	Johor	Predominantly urban district, functioning as a major commercial, industrial, and service hub with well-developed residential and economic infrastructure.

Table 2.3. Study Areas, District and Contextual Description for the Central Zone

CENTRAL ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
1	Batu & Kepong*	-	Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur	Predominantly urban constituencies within the Klang Valley, characterised by dense residential areas, commercial centres, industrial zones, and well-developed transport connectivity.
2	Cheras & Seputeh*	-	Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur	Highly urbanised constituencies, with extensive residential developments, commercial corridors, and integrated urban infrastructure within the Kuala Lumpur metropolitan area.
3	Lembah Pantai & Bandar Tun Razak*	-	Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur	Predominantly urban constituencies, combining high-density housing, institutional zones, commercial activities, and public transport connectivity within the city core and its periphery.
4	Kuala Langat	-	Selangor	Predominantly semi-rural, with a mix of agricultural areas, emerging townships, coastal villages, and growing industrial and residential development corridors.
5	Petaling Jaya	-	Selangor	Predominantly urban and highly developed city, functioning as a major commercial and residential hub within the Klang Valley metropolitan region.
6	Selayang	-	Selangor	Predominantly urban–peri-urban area, characterised by residential townships, commercial centres, and rapid urban expansion linked to the Greater Kuala Lumpur conurbation.

CENTRAL ZONE			
AREA	**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
*Note: In Kuala Lumpur, the three principal study constituencies were extended to include three additional parliamentary constituencies that had also been covered under APPGM-SDG's issue-mapping activities. Given Kuala Lumpur's relatively small geographical area, the close proximity of these constituencies, and their location within the same broader administrative and urban context, the additional constituencies were incorporated into the field coverage of the three principal study constituencies rather than treated as separate principal study areas			

Table 2.4. Study Areas, District and Contextual Description for the East Coast Zone

EAST COAST ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT / JAJAHAN**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
1	Bentong	Bentong	Pahang	Predominantly semi-urban district, with a growing town centre supported by agriculture, tourism (highland gateway), and surrounding rural settlements.
2	Bera	Bera	Pahang	Predominantly rural district, characterised by agricultural activities, FELDA settlements, and dispersed low-density communities.
3	Indera Mahkota	Kuantan	Pahang	Predominantly urban township within the Kuantan metropolitan area, characterised by residential, commercial, and institutional development.
4	Kuala Nerus	Kuala Nerus	Terengganu	Predominantly semi-urban district, closely linked to Kuala Terengganu's urban expansion, with residential growth, institutional zones, and mixed development.
5	Hulu Terengganu	Hulu Terengganu	Terengganu	Predominantly rural interior district, characterised by low-density settlements, forestry, and agricultural livelihoods.
6	Kemaman	Kemaman	Terengganu	Predominantly semi-urban and industrial district, with strong oil, gas, and petrochemical activities centred around coastal townships such as Chukai.
7	Rantau Panjang	Pasir Mas	Kelantan	Predominantly semi-urban border town, driven by cross-border trade activities and commercial clustering along the Malaysia-Thailand boundary.
8	Jeli	Jeli	Kelantan	Predominantly rural-interior district, with agricultural land use, forested areas, and dispersed settlements.

EAST COAST ZONE				
AREA		**DISTRICT / JAJAHAN**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
9	Tumpat	Tumpat	Kelantan	Predominantly rural coastal and border district, with fishing communities, agricultural activities, and smaller township centres.
10	Tanah Merah	Tanah Merah	Kelantan	Predominantly rural district with a semi-urban town centre, supported by agriculture, small-scale commerce, and transit-related activities.

Table 2.5. Study Areas, District and Contextual Description for the Sabah Region

SABAH REGION				
AREA		**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
1	Kota Belud	Kota Belud	Sabah	Predominantly rural coastal and interior, characterised by paddy cultivation, small-scale agriculture, and dispersed rural settlements.
2	Lahad Datu	Lahad Datu	Sabah	Predominantly semi-urban and resource-based coastal area, supported by palm oil plantations, timber activities, and a developing township centre.
3	Kudat	Kudat	Sabah	Predominantly rural coastal area, with fishing communities, small-scale agriculture, and nearby island settlements, including Pulau Banggi.
4	Ranau	Ranau	Sabah	Predominantly rural interior highland area, characterised by agricultural activities, tourism linked to Kinabalu Park, and dispersed upland settlements.
5	Kota Marudu	Kota Marudu	Sabah	Predominantly rural, with agricultural livelihoods (notably oil palm), low-density settlements, and limited urban development.
6	Beluran	Beluran	Sabah	Predominantly rural-interior, characterised by extensive plantation agriculture, forestry-related land use, and sparsely populated communities.
7	Tenom	Tenom	Sabah	Predominantly rural-interior, with riverine settlements, agricultural activities (notably coffee cultivation), and limited urbanisation.
8	Keningau	Keningau	Sabah	Predominantly interior with a semi-urban regional centre, functioning as a service hub for surrounding agricultural and rural communities.
9	Beaufort	Beaufort	Sabah	Predominantly semi-rural, characterised by oil palm agriculture, river-based settlements, and a small but developing town centre along the Padas River.

Table 2.6. Study Areas, District and Contextual Description for the Sarawak Region

SARAWAK REGION					
AREA		**DIVISION**	**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
1	Mukah	Mukah	Dalat	Sarawak	Predominantly semi-rural coastal district, characterised by fishing communities, oil palm plantations, and a growing town centre serving surrounding rural settlements.
2	Batang Sadong	Samarahan	Asajaya, Simunjan, Gedong Sebuyau	Sarawak	Predominantly rural riverine district, with dispersed settlements, agricultural livelihoods, and small community clusters along the Sadong River basin.
3	Miri	Miri	Miri	Sarawak	Predominantly urban district, functioning as a major regional economic hub driven by oil and gas, commercial services, and established urban infrastructure.
4	Bandar Kuching	Kuching	Kuching	Sarawak	Predominantly urban metropolitan district, serving as the state capital with concentrated administrative, commercial, and residential development.
5	Selangau	Sibu	Selangau	Sarawak	Predominantly rural-interior district, characterised by plantation agriculture, forested areas, and low-density indigenous settlements.
6	Julau	Sarikei	Pakan	Sarawak	Predominantly rural-interior district, with longhouse communities, agricultural activities, and dispersed settlements.
7	Saratok	Betong	Saratok, Kabong	Sarawak	Predominantly rural district, with agricultural livelihoods, riverine settlements, and small township centres.

SARAWAK REGION					
AREA		**DIVISION**	**DISTRICT**	**STATE**	**CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION**
8	Serian	Serian	Tebedu	Sarawak	Predominantly rural-interior district with a semi-urban town centre, characterised by agricultural livelihoods (notably paddy, pepper, and smallholder farming), dispersed rural settlements, and longhouse communities, with the town of Serian functioning as a modest service and market hub for surrounding interior areas.
9	Baram	Miri	Telang Usan	Sarawak	Predominantly rural-interior district, characterised by remote longhouse settlements, forestry areas, and limited accessibility infrastructure.

SELECTING HOUSEHOLDS FOR SURVEY (SAMPLING APPROACH)

The selection of households for survey in this study adopted a purposive and community-informed sampling approach. Given the focus on multidimensional poverty and vulnerability, the study sought to include households within the B60 income group, representing the bottom 60 per cent of Malaysia's household income distribution. The B60 was selected as the sampling frame, rather than as a definition or classification of poverty.

The decision to select households within the B60 income group was informed by both methodological and policy considerations. Methodologically, the objective of the study was not merely to identify households already classified as poor, but to understand the gradient of multidimensional deprivation among households experiencing different levels of socioeconomic vulnerability. Restricting the sampling frame solely to households below the official Poverty Line Income (PLI) or to the B40 group would substantially reduce variation in deprivation scores and limit the ability of the LMPI to distinguish between severe deprivation, moderate deprivation and emerging vulnerability. Conversely, surveying the entire Malaysian population would require considerably greater resources while including many households with little or no deprivation. Selecting households within the B60 therefore provides a broader socioeconomic spectrum from which the LMPI can meaningfully differentiate the intensity and composition of multidimensional deprivation.

The selection of the B60 was further informed by recent discussions on household vulnerability in Malaysia. While the B40 classification remains one of the principal mechanisms for targeting government assistance, recent evidence suggests that economic vulnerability extends beyond households officially classified as low income (Ho Wai Son & Ismail, 2024). Rising living costs, increasing housing expenditure, healthcare costs, educational expenses and regional disparities have resulted in many households above the B40 threshold facing financial vulnerability. Although the Khazanah Research Institute proposes an alternative expenditure-based classification, the study reinforces the broader argument that household income alone is insufficient for understanding household welfare and vulnerability. This supports the use of a broader sampling frame that captures not only households experiencing existing poverty but also those vulnerable to falling into multidimensional deprivation (Ho Wai Son & Ismail, 2024).

Consistent with these considerations, the study sought to include households from the B60 income group, particularly those who may be economically vulnerable despite not being officially classified within the lower-income categories. This approach recognised that vulnerability is not limited to households formally identified as poor, but may also affect segments of the middle-income population who are exposed to economic

instability, rising living costs, insecure employment, debt burdens, or limited access to essential services. Consequently, the B60 should not be interpreted as a poverty classification, but rather as a sampling frame designed to capture households with varying degrees of vulnerability before multidimensional poverty was assessed through the LMPI framework.

However, the identification of B60 households presented certain practical limitations, as there is no comprehensive public database that directly categorises households according to B60 status at the local level. As such, the study did not rely solely on formal income classifications. Instead, Local Coordinators (LCs) and field researchers engaged directly with community stakeholders and local leadership structures, including village heads, community representatives, residents' associations, and other relevant local authorities, to obtain permission for field activities and to identify households that reasonably reflected the targeted socioeconomic profiles.

Through these engagements, community leaders were also consulted in identifying households perceived to fall within the B60 category or households considered vulnerable based on local contextual knowledge. This community-based identification process was important in ensuring that the study captured households experiencing hidden or emerging vulnerabilities that may not have been reflected in official records. The approach further enabled the study to account for contextual differences across urban, rural, and interior locations, where socioeconomic conditions and indicators of vulnerability differed substantially.

Each study location recorded an average of approximately 50 households. While the sample size at the individual location level may appear relatively small, the cumulative coverage across all 55 study locations resulted in responses from 2,775 households overall. Given the number of households surveyed within each study location, the sample was not designed to generate statistically representative poverty estimates for individual parliamentary constituencies. Rather, the constituency-based sampling provides localised insights into deprivation among the households surveyed. Future iterations could strengthen constituency-level analysis through larger and more representative household samples within selected parliamentary areas.

This broader aggregated sample provided sufficient variation across diverse socioeconomic and geographic contexts throughout Malaysia. As the primary objective of the study was to examine patterns of multidimensional deprivation rather than estimate national poverty prevalence, the sample should be interpreted as a purposive constituency-based sample of households within the B60 income group, rather than a nationally representative household survey.

In addition, the sampling approach aimed to ensure diversity in household representation across demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, including employment status, household composition, age groups, housing conditions, and geographic setting. By combining local knowledge with field-based observations, the study was able to obtain a more grounded and contextually relevant understanding of multidimensional poverty and vulnerability among households across the selected study locations. The findings therefore complement official national poverty statistics (Department of Statistics Malaysia [DOSM], 2026) by providing localised evidence from selected parliamentary constituencies that can support local policy interventions and community-based development planning.

Dimensions and Indicators

PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING DIMENSIONS AND INDICATORS

The identification of the multidimensional poverty dimensions and indicators in this study was built upon and refined from earlier work undertaken under the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) framework. Rather than developing an entirely new framework from the beginning, the study represents a continuation and consolidation of established field-based findings, thematic assessments, and multidimensional poverty research previously conducted across various locations in Malaysia.

A key foundation of this process was the work undertaken by the Constituency Coordination Department (CCD) of the APPGM-SDG Secretariat, which had conducted extensive engagements and field visits across 55 parliamentary constituencies and localities nationwide. Through these engagements, recurring thematic issues affecting communities were identified, including challenges related to education, sanitation, healthcare access, infrastructure, livelihoods, environmental vulnerabilities, and social wellbeing. These findings provided important grassroots insights into the lived realities of poverty across different settlement typologies, including urban, rural, coastal, and interior communities.

The development of the dimensions and indicators also drew on the earlier publication Reviewing the National Multidimensional Poverty Index's Dimensions and Indicators – An Exercise by APPGM-SDG by Debbie Ann Loh (Loh, 2025), which represented an initial effort to examine possible revisions to Malaysia's multidimensional poverty framework. The publication provided a starting point for further discussion and review rather than a definitive framework for the present study.

Building on this initial work, APPGM-SDG convened a workshop on 19 November 2024 to critically evaluate the proposed revisions and obtain recommendations from relevant stakeholders and experts. The workshop provided an important platform to assess the suitability of the proposed dimensions, indicators and measurement approach within the Malaysian context, while identifying areas requiring further refinement. The recommendations arising from this process, together with subsequent field experience, stakeholder engagement, expert consultation and empirical assessment, informed the progressive development of the framework adopted in the present study.

In parallel, the Parliamentary Policy Advocacy Department (PPAD) and collaborating researchers and institutions had conducted multidimensional poverty studies in selected

areas, including Patah Jelutong in Pekan, Jeli, several locations in Sabah, and studies focusing on Indian community-based multidimensional poverty. These studies reinforced that poverty is experienced through multiple interconnected forms of deprivation extending beyond income, including access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, social security, digital inclusion, and environmental resilience.

The preliminary dimensions and indicators derived from these initiatives were subsequently deliberated and refined through stakeholder engagement, expert consultation, field-based reflection, and literature review. Engagements with local coordinators, community representatives, practitioners, government agencies, and academic experts helped validate the relevance, contextual suitability, and applicability of the proposed indicators. Existing multidimensional poverty frameworks, national policy documents, and international references, including SDG-related indicators, were also reviewed to strengthen conceptual and policy relevance.

Indicators were ultimately selected based on four considerations: their relevance in reflecting multidimensional deprivation experienced by households and communities; applicability across different geographical and settlement contexts; practicality and measurability for field implementation; and usefulness for informing policy interventions and targeted development planning. Through this process, five core dimensions were finalised: Education, Health, Living Standards, Social Security, and Social Cohesion and Safety, represented by 27 indicators.

LMPI DIMENSIONS

The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) Framework comprises five dimensions and 27 indicators that form the basis of the survey instrument and multidimensional poverty measurement in this study. The overall framework is presented in Figure 3.1. This section will further elaborate on their definitions and importance.

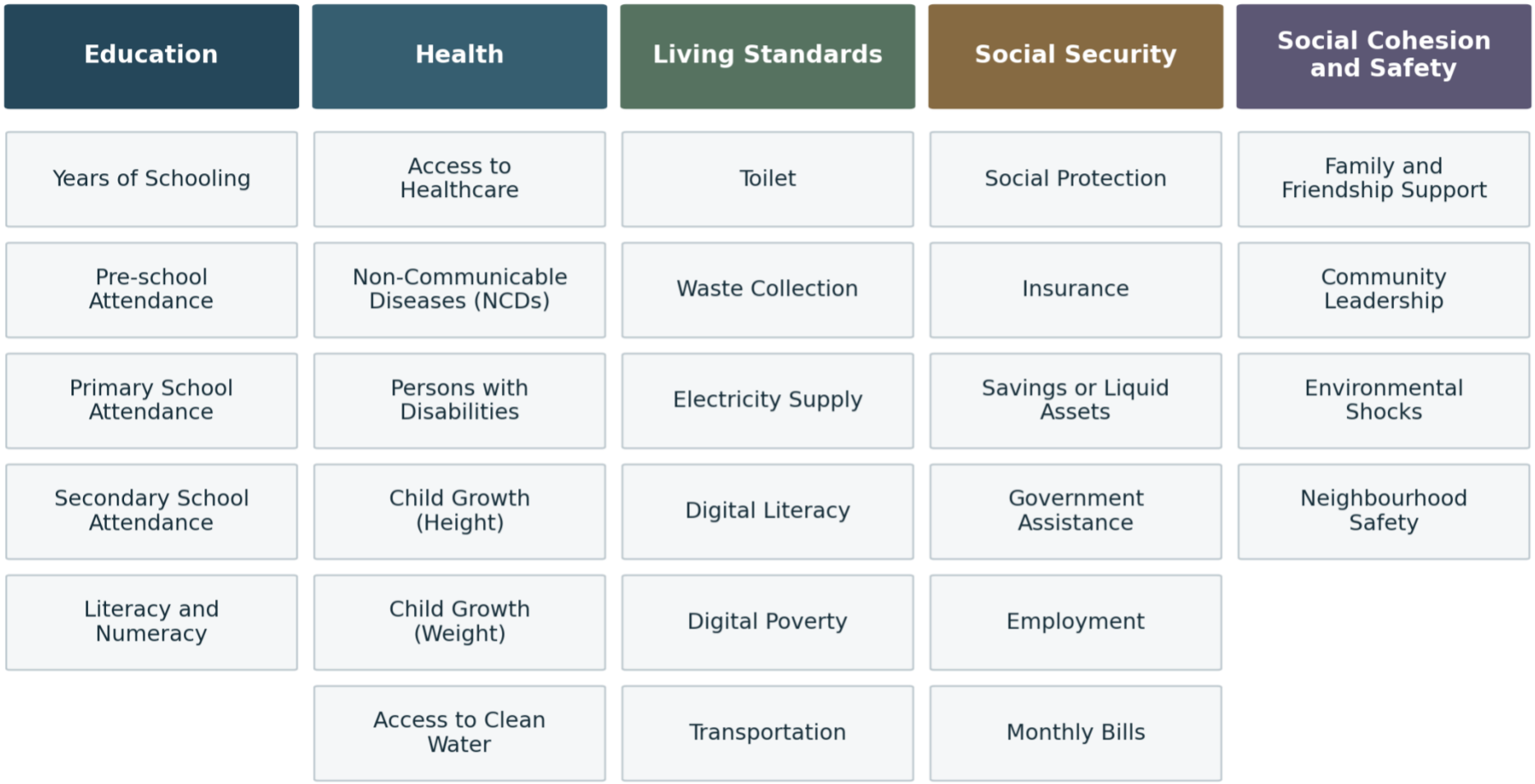


Figure 3.1 Five Dimensions and 27 Indicators

The dimensions included in the LMPI Framework are intended to capture different but interconnected aspects of household deprivation. Education and Health represent fundamental human capabilities; Living Standards reflects access to essential services, infrastructure, mobility and digital participation; Social Security captures household protection against economic shocks; and Social Cohesion and Safety recognises the role of social support, community institutions, environmental vulnerability and neighbourhood safety.

Education

The Education dimension measures access to formal education, continued educational participation, and the acquisition of basic knowledge and skills. Education affects employment opportunities, income potential, social mobility and the ability to participate fully in social and economic life.

Health

The Health dimension captures access to healthcare, the burden of chronic illness, child nutritional status, disability-related vulnerability, and access to clean and reliable water. Poor health can both result from poverty and deepen it through higher costs, reduced productivity and greater caregiving needs.

Living Standards

The Living Standards dimension measures whether households have the basic infrastructure, services and capabilities required for safe and functional daily living, including sanitation, waste services, electricity, digital access and mobility.

Social Security

The Social Security dimension measures the extent to which households are protected against income loss and unexpected financial shocks through formal protection, insurance, savings, assistance, stable employment and the ability to meet recurring expenses.

Social Cohesion and Safety

The Social Cohesion and Safety dimension recognises that household wellbeing also depends on informal support, responsive community institutions, exposure to environmental shocks and a sense of neighbourhood safety. These factors influence the ability to cope with hardship and recover from crises.

INDICATORS AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFFS

The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) Framework comprises five dimensions measured through 27 indicators. To provide a complete explanation of each indicator alongside the rationale for its deprivation cut-off, each indicator is presented through four related components: its definition, justification for selection, importance to multidimensional poverty and deprivation cut-off. This structure provides an orderly account of each indicator, including the methodological considerations behind its selection and measurement within the LMPI framework.

The deprivation cut-off represents the minimum acceptable threshold used to classify a household as deprived (1) or non-deprived (0). Where possible, thresholds draw on Malaysian legislation, policies, service standards and administrative definitions. Where no formal national benchmark exists, the cut-offs are informed by relevant literature, expert consultation and practical field considerations.

Indicators that do not apply to a household are treated as non-deprived for calculation purposes, and their weights are not redistributed across the remaining indicators. This maintains a consistent weighting structure across households, although the treatment of non-applicable indicators may be further examined through sensitivity testing in future iterations of the LMPI.

The relevance of these indicators was further reinforced through the *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* (Faces of Poverty) programme. Conducted after the household data collection, the programme was not used to determine the selection of indicators or their deprivation cut-offs. Rather, the narratives and field experiences shared by Local Coordinators provided qualitative insight into how these deprivations are experienced in different local contexts. These accounts further reinforced the justification for the indicators by demonstrating their relevance to the lived realities of households across urban, rural and interior communities.

Dimension 1: Education

Education captures both participation in formal education and the functional capabilities required for learning, employment and everyday life. The indicators distinguish between different stages of education while also recognising that years of schooling alone may not guarantee basic literacy and numeracy (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Education dimension and deprivation cut-offs

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Years of Schooling	**Definition:** Years of schooling measures the formal educational attainment of working-age household members, focusing on whether adults have completed a level of schooling broadly equivalent to secondary education. **Justification:** The indicator goes beyond school attendance among children by capturing the stock of education already accumulated within the household. Malaysia's labour market increasingly requires qualifications, technical skills and the ability to continue into further education or training. A threshold higher than that used in the Global MPI is therefore appropriate for a country-specific measure reflecting Malaysia's development level. **Importance:** Low educational attainment can constrain access to stable and better-paid employment, TVET and tertiary education, and may reduce a household's capacity for upward mobility across generations. It therefore represents a longer-term form of human-capital deprivation rather than only a current schooling problem. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if at least one household member aged 17–65 has fewer than 11 years of schooling. However, household members aged 17 who are currently attending secondary school are not classified as deprived solely on the basis of having completed fewer than 11 years of schooling. The selection of this indicator is supported by evidence on the relationship between educational attainment, employment opportunities and socioeconomic mobility (Saidon et al., 2022; Syed Chear & Arifin, 2024; Zailani et al., 2025).

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Pre-school Attendance	**Definition:** Pre-school attendance measures whether children aged 4–6 are enrolled in and attending early childhood education. **Justification:** Although pre-school is not compulsory in the same manner as primary education, early childhood education is increasingly recognised in Malaysia as an important part of human-capital development. Evidence links pre-school participation with stronger school readiness, language development, early literacy and numeracy, and cognitive abilities. **Importance:** The indicator identifies children who may enter primary school without developmental and early learning opportunities comparable to those of their peers. Such disadvantages can accumulate over time and affect children's development and learning, particularly among those from households already facing socioeconomic constraints. This can widen learning gaps from an early stage and influence their future educational opportunities, making it relevant to understanding multidimensional poverty. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if at least one child aged 4–6 is not attending pre-school. The inclusion of this indicator is supported by evidence on the importance of early childhood education for school readiness and developmental outcomes (Dinh & Robinson, 2023; Johnson et al., 2025).
Primary School Attendance	**Definition:** Primary school attendance measures whether children aged 7–12 are enrolled in and attending primary education. **Justification:** Primary education provides the basic literacy, numeracy and social foundations required for later learning and is the compulsory level of education under Malaysia's Education Act 1996. Non-attendance therefore represents more than a disadvantage in educational progression; it indicates failure to meet a basic and legally recognised minimum standard.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Importance: Children excluded from primary education face substantially higher risks of weak foundational skills, later dropout and limited socioeconomic opportunities. Within the LMPI, this is consequently one of the clearest indicators of severe educational deprivation. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if at least one child aged 7–12 is not attending primary school. Primary education is compulsory in Malaysia under section 29A of the Education Act 1996 [Act 550], while wider evidence supports the importance of sustained participation in primary education (Education Act 1996, s. 29A; Alkire et al., 2022; Putri et al., 2024).
Secondary School Attendance	**Definition:** Secondary school attendance measures continued participation in formal education among children and adolescents aged 13–17. **Justification:** The Malaysia-specific framework separates primary and secondary attendance because deprivation at these stages has different implications. While primary education establishes minimum foundational learning, secondary education is increasingly necessary for progression into skills training, tertiary education and a labour market requiring higher qualifications. **Importance:** Leaving school during the secondary years can result in early labour-market entry, lower qualifications and reduced earning potential. Measuring this separately allows the LMPI to identify households in which children have entered school but are not able to sustain educational participation through adolescence. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if at least one child aged 13–17 is not attending secondary school. The inclusion of this indicator is supported by evidence on the consequences of interrupted educational participation and early school leaving (Abbas & Muhammad Ashraf, 2024; Dräger et al., 2024).

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Literacy and Numeracy	**Definition:** Literacy and numeracy measure functional ability to read, write and perform basic arithmetic, corresponding to the foundational 3M competencies of *Membaca* (reading), *Menulis* (writing) and *Mengira* (counting). **Justification:** Years of schooling do not necessarily show whether a person retains or can apply basic skills in everyday life. The indicator therefore complements educational attainment by assessing functional capability. The Malaysian Literacy and Numeracy Screening (LINUS) framework provides the baseline reference, with the competencies expected by Year 3 (approximately nine years of age) used as the minimum benchmark. By this stage of primary education, children are expected to have acquired foundational literacy and numeracy skills that enable them to progress to more advanced learning. For the LMPI, this benchmark is not intended to assess older household members against Standard 3 academic performance. Rather, it provides a nationally relevant reference point for the minimum functional ability to read, write and perform basic arithmetic required for everyday participation. For operational purposes, the LMPI applies this assessment to the respondent and household members aged 60 years and above. The respondent serves as the primary source of household information and provides a consistent reference person across surveyed households, while the inclusion of household members aged 60 years and above allows the indicator to identify functional literacy and numeracy limitations among older household members, whose educational opportunities may have differed from those of younger generations. This respondent- and age-based application is an operational feature of the LMPI instrument and should be distinguished from the LINUS benchmark itself, which is used only as the reference for foundational literacy and numeracy competencies. **Importance:** Limited functional literacy and numeracy can affect the ability to understand health information, manage money, complete forms, access government assistance and use digital services. These

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	capabilities are important for everyday functioning and independent participation in society and are particularly relevant for older persons whose educational opportunities may historically have been more limited. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if the respondent or a household member aged 60 years and above is unable to read, write and perform basic arithmetic. The foundational competencies expected by Year 3 (approximately age nine) under the LINUS framework are used as the baseline reference for these functional skills. The use of foundational literacy and numeracy as measures of functional capability is informed by relevant Malaysian and wider evidence (Ministry of Education Malaysia, 2017; Baiju, 2023; Suppiah et al., 2023), while the application of the assessment to the respondent and household members aged 60 years and above reflects the operational design of the LMPI instrument.

Field evidence from the *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* (Faces of Poverty) programme (Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin, 2026) further reinforces the relevance of these education indicators. The narratives show that educational deprivation is not determined by enrolment alone, but can be shaped by the practical conditions required to remain in education. In interior Ranau, for example, some parents rented accommodation closer to schools or incurred substantial transport costs involving boats and four-wheel-drive vehicles so that their children could continue attending school. Elsewhere, early entry into tourism and informal work, documentation barriers and the costs of continuing education created additional risks of exclusion. At the same time, experiences in Tenom showed that some adults with limited formal schooling had developed functional literacy and numeracy through everyday economic activities. Together, these experiences reinforce the value of distinguishing educational attainment, attendance at different stages of schooling, and functional literacy and numeracy within the LMPI.

Dimension 2: Health

Health deprivation is assessed through access to care, chronic disease burden, disability-related vulnerability, child nutritional status and access to clean water. Together, these indicators capture both health outcomes and the conditions that enable households to maintain good health (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 Health dimension and deprivation cut-offs

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Access to Healthcare	**Definition:** Access to healthcare measures whether household members can practically reach and obtain needed healthcare, considering both physical distance and reported access difficulties. **Justification:** A simple distance measure may not adequately represent Malaysian rural, island and interior contexts. A facility can appear geographically accessible while poor roads, limited boats or public transport, travel costs, weather conditions or long journey times make actual access difficult. The indicator therefore combines an objective distance threshold with household experience. **Importance:** Delayed or foregone treatment can worsen illness, increase later healthcare costs and reduce the ability to work or care for family members. Capturing practical accessibility makes the indicator more sensitive to the real barriers faced by geographically and economically vulnerable households. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if the distance to a public hospital exceeds 30 km or the household reports difficulty accessing healthcare. The inclusion of physical and practical accessibility reflects evidence that distance, transport and other accessibility barriers can constrain healthcare utilisation (Osadolor et al., 2022; Ab Hamid et al., 2023; Dotse-Gborgbortsi et al., 2022).
Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)	**Definition:** The NCD indicator measures the burden of chronic illnesses within the household, including conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, asthma and cancer. **Justification:** The presence of one chronic condition does not necessarily indicate multidimensional deprivation. The selected threshold instead seeks to identify a more substantial and sustained disease burden. Multiple chronic conditions are associated with greater healthcare utilisation, caregiving requirements and long-term treatment needs.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Importance: For lower-income households, a high NCD burden can translate into repeated medical and transport expenditure, reduced labour-force participation and loss of productive time by both patients and caregivers. The indicator therefore captures the interaction between chronic health conditions and household economic vulnerability. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if more than two NCDs are present within the household. The indicator is informed by evidence on the health, care and socioeconomic burden associated with multiple chronic conditions (Tan et al., 2022, 2025; Karan et al., 2022).
Persons with Disabilities	**Definition:** This indicator identifies whether at least one household member is a person with disabilities (PWD). **Justification:** The indicator does not define disability itself as poverty or deprivation. Rather, the presence of a PWD is used in the current LMPI as a proxy for potential disability-related vulnerability, recognising that disability can interact with inaccessible infrastructure, additional healthcare and assistive costs, caregiving responsibilities, limited employment opportunities and insufficient support services. These conditions may place households at greater risk of experiencing other forms of deprivation. **Importance:** Its interpretation therefore requires caution. Disability-related deprivation arises not from disability itself, but from the barriers, additional costs and limitations in access to services, opportunities and reasonable accommodation that persons with disabilities and their households may experience. The current LMPI retains the indicator provisionally as a proxy for such vulnerability. Future iterations should consider reformulating the indicator to measure these barriers and accessibility constraints more directly, rather than relying primarily on the presence of a PWD within the household.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Deprivation cut-off: For the purposes of the current LMPI, a household is classified as deprived if at least one household member is a person with disabilities. This operationalisation should therefore be interpreted as identifying potential disability-related vulnerability rather than treating disability itself as a state of deprivation. The indicator is informed by evidence on the additional barriers, costs and socioeconomic risks that may be experienced by persons with disabilities and their households (Ismail et al., 2022; Omar et al., 2024; Mitra et al., 2023; Pinilla-Roncancio, 2023).
Child Growth (Height)	**Definition:** Child growth by height measures height-for-age among children under five and identifies stunting or abnormal growth assessed by a health officer. **Justification:** Height-for-age reflects cumulative nutritional and health conditions rather than short-term fluctuations. Stunting is internationally recognised as an indicator of chronic undernutrition and may reflect sustained inadequacy in food intake, repeated infection, poor sanitation or other adverse early-life conditions. **Importance:** Chronic growth deprivation matters beyond physical stature. It is associated with poorer cognitive development, delayed educational progression and lower productivity later in life. Using health-officer identification also reduces reliance on household perception and anchors the measure in established child-growth assessment. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is classified as deprived if at least one child under five is identified by a health officer as stunted or having abnormal height-for-age. This indicator draws on established child growth standards and evidence on child growth and nutritional deprivation (World Health Organization [WHO], 2006; Alkire et al., 2025b; Alam et al., 2020)

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Child Growth (Weight)	**Definition:** Child growth by weight measures weight-for-age among children under five and identifies underweight children or those requiring nutritional monitoring. **Justification:** Weight-for-age captures a different aspect of child nutrition from height. It is more responsive to recent illness, inadequate food intake and short-term nutritional stress, while height is more indicative of cumulative deprivation. Treating the two separately prevents one measure from obscuring the other. **Importance:** The indicator enables the LMPI to identify households in which children may be experiencing current nutritional vulnerability requiring more immediate attention. Assessment by a health officer strengthens consistency and avoids relying only on parental perception of a child's growth. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is classified as deprived if at least one child under five is identified as underweight or requiring nutritional monitoring. This indicator draws on established child growth standards and evidence on child nutritional status (World Health Organization [WHO], 2006; Dassie et al., 2024; Martinez & Haisma, 2025).
Access to Clean Water	**Definition:** Access to clean water measures both whether a household has treated water and whether the supply is sufficiently reliable for everyday use. **Justification:** Water access cannot be understood only by the type of source. A household connected to treated water may still experience deprivation when prolonged disruptions prevent adequate drinking, cooking, hygiene and sanitation. Conversely, reliance on untreated wells, rivers or rainwater may expose households to contamination and waterborne disease.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Importance: Reliability is especially important for poorer households because they may have less storage capacity and fewer resources to purchase or transport alternative water. Combining water quality and continuity therefore provides a more realistic measure of water-related health deprivation. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has no clean or treated water supply, or experiences water disruption exceeding three days per month. The indicator is informed by evidence on the importance of safe and reliable water access for health and household wellbeing (Devi et al., 2023; Kamu et al., 2024; Njoroge et al., 2024).

The *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* narratives further demonstrate that health deprivation extends beyond the presence of illness or the physical availability of healthcare facilities. In Tanjung Piai, residents requiring specialist healthcare were reported to incur transport costs of up to RM150, while in Mukah, Sarawak, reaching specialist treatment could cost as much as RM1,500 when boat transport, four-wheel-drive travel and accommodation were taken into account. These experiences illustrate how geographical distance can translate into a substantial financial and logistical burden for households, particularly in rural and interior communities. The narratives also highlighted the interaction between health and other forms of deprivation. At PPR Seri Cempaka, for example, a recently widowed mother continued earning an income by cooking from home despite relying on a damaged wheelchair, illustrating how disability, mobility, employment and household vulnerability can intersect. Such experiences reinforce the LMPI's inclusion of practical healthcare access, chronic disease burden, disability-related vulnerability, child growth and reliable access to clean water as interconnected conditions affecting household health (Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin, 2026).

Dimension 3: Living Standards

Living Standards focuses on the material and infrastructural conditions that shape daily life. The indicators cover sanitation, waste services, electricity, digital capability and access, and mobility, recognising that deprivation can arise from unreliable services as well as complete absence (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 Living standards dimension and deprivation cut-offs

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Toilet	**Definition:** The toilet indicator measures whether the household has access to a minimum sanitation facility capable of safely separating human waste from human contact. **Justification:** Sanitation is a basic requirement for health, hygiene and dignity. The threshold focuses on the availability of at least a pour-flush toilet because the absence of such a facility signals a substantial gap in household sanitation infrastructure and a greater likelihood of unsafe waste disposal. **Importance:** Inadequate sanitation can increase exposure to communicable disease and disproportionately affect children, older persons and communities with weak infrastructure. It also represents a material deprivation that income measures alone may not reveal. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if no pour-flush toilet is available. The indicator is supported by evidence on the health and wellbeing consequences of inadequate sanitation (Yamauchi, 2022; Egger et al., 2023; Murtaza et al., 2023).
Waste Collection	**Definition:** Waste collection measures whether households have access to scheduled solid-waste collection or a reasonably accessible official disposal site. **Justification:** The indicator recognises differences in service arrangements across Malaysia. Regular municipal collection may not exist in every locality, particularly in rural or interior areas, but households may still have a safe disposal option if an official facility is reasonably close. Deprivation therefore requires the absence of both forms of access.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Importance: Without a safe disposal route, households may resort to burning, dumping or other practices that increase pollution, pest infestation and health risks. The measure consequently captures both environmental health and inequality in basic service provision. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if there is no scheduled waste collection and the nearest official disposal site is more than 1 km away. The indicator is informed by evidence on the environmental and health consequences of inadequate solid-waste management (Jerumeh et al., 2022; Salem et al., 2020).
Electricity Supply	**Definition:** Electricity supply measures both connection to electricity and the reliability of that supply. **Justification:** Electricity is required for lighting, communication, education, refrigeration, household safety and many forms of economic activity. In a setting where electricity connection is generally expected, access alone is an insufficient benchmark if households experience repeated interruptions that prevent normal use. **Importance:** Frequent outages can disrupt study, work, food storage and digital access, and may impose additional coping costs. Including reliability therefore allows the LMPI to distinguish between nominal connection and a service level adequate for everyday living. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has no electricity or experiences power interruptions more than three times per month. The indicator is supported by evidence on the importance of reliable electricity access for household wellbeing and socioeconomic participation (Falchetta et al., 2020; Sedai et al., 2020).

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Digital Literacy	**Definition:** Digital literacy measures whether household members can use basic digital devices and perform routine digital activities. **Justification:** Digital participation increasingly depends on capability as well as connectivity. Education, job applications, banking, healthcare information and government services are progressively delivered through digital platforms. A household may therefore own a device yet remain excluded if no member can use it effectively. **Importance:** The indicator captures this skills-based 'second digital divide'. The age range of 9–60 focuses on members generally expected to participate in schooling, employment or routine digital transactions and identifies households where limited capability may restrict access to opportunities and services. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if at least one household member aged 9–60 cannot use basic digital devices. The indicator is informed by evidence on digital capability and the consequences of digital exclusion (James, 2020; Lev-On et al., 2021; Matli & Ngoepe, 2020).
Digital Poverty	**Definition:** Digital poverty measures whether household members have practical and recent access to digital devices, rather than ownership alone. **Justification:** A device recorded as belonging to a household may be shared, damaged, unavailable or unaffordable to operate. The one-week reference period is intended to capture whether digital access is genuinely available for everyday activities when needed. **Importance:** Meaningful access is increasingly important for schooling, employment, communication, financial transactions and government services. Households without functional access may therefore experience exclusion from opportunities even where wider digital infrastructure is available.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Deprivation cut-off: For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has no or limited access to digital devices within one week. The indicator is informed by evidence on digital inequality and meaningful access (Robinson et al., 2020).
Transportation	**Definition:** Transportation measures whether a household owns a motorised means of transport that supports access to essential destinations. Motorised transport includes locally appropriate modes such as motorcycles, cars, four-wheel-drive vehicles, vans and boats. **Justification:** Access to household transport is particularly important where essential destinations cannot be reached easily or reliably without privately available mobility. The form of transport required varies across Malaysia's geographical contexts. Motorcycles and cars may facilitate daily mobility in urban and rural areas, while four-wheel-drive vehicles or boats may be particularly important in interior, coastal and island communities. The indicator therefore recognises different forms of motorised transport rather than applying a single vehicle type across all locations. **Importance:** Limited access to transport can convert geographical distance into practical exclusion by increasing the time, cost and difficulty of reaching employment, education, healthcare, markets and other essential services. The availability of motorised transport within the household therefore provides a practical measure of its capacity to overcome mobility and accessibility constraints. **Deprivation Cut-Off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it owns no motorised means of transport. The cut-off captures the absence of privately available motorised mobility rather than overall transport accessibility and is informed by evidence on transport disadvantage, accessibility and mobility-related exclusion (Pot et al., 2020; Morris et al., 2020; Zhao & Yu, 2020).

Field experiences documented through *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* reinforce the importance of assessing living standards through the quality, reliability and accessibility of basic services rather than their nominal availability alone. In urban low-cost housing, recurring lift failures were reported to restrict the mobility of older persons and persons with disabilities, while rusty water required some lower-income households to spend part of their limited resources on filtered or bottled water. In Bagan Serai, physical conditions such as extensive drainage systems constrained the ability of waste-collection vehicles to enter some settlements, while households in other suburban communities without scheduled collection resorted to burning domestic waste. Digital deprivation presented a different form of access constraint: even where internet coverage was available, some households could not afford sufficient devices or stable monthly data plans, limiting access to digital learning and economic opportunities. These experiences demonstrate how sanitation, waste services, electricity, digital capability and access, and transport are not simply measures of infrastructure provision, but of whether households can practically access and benefit from the basic services required for everyday life (Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin, 2026).

Dimension 4: Social Security

Social Security assesses whether households possess the formal protection and financial buffers needed to withstand economic shocks. It combines coverage-based indicators with measures of actual financial stress and unmet need (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 Social security dimension and deprivation cut-offs

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Social Protection	**Definition:** Social protection measures household coverage by formal mechanisms such as the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Social Security Organisation (PERKESO/SOCSO) or a pension scheme. **Justification:** These mechanisms provide protection against life-cycle and employment-related risks, including old age, employment injury, disability and income loss. The indicator focuses on whether any recognised formal protection exists rather than attempting to assess the adequacy of individual benefits. **Importance:** Households completely outside formal social protection are more exposed to income shocks and may have to depend on savings, family assistance or government aid when adverse events occur. Coverage therefore provides an important measure of longer-term household resilience. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has no access to EPF, PERKESO or a pension scheme. The indicator is informed by evidence on the role of formal social protection in reducing household exposure to economic and life-cycle risks (Gentilini et al., 2020; Mestrum, 2020).
Insurance	**Definition:** Insurance measures whether the household has medical or life insurance that provides financial protection against health-related expenditure or loss of an income earner. **Justification:** Public healthcare reduces many medical costs but does not eliminate all financial consequences of serious illness, disability or death. In Malaysia, households continue to incur out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure despite the availability of public healthcare services, indicating the continuing relevance of additional forms of financial protection (Ministry of Health Malaysia [MOH], 2025). Insurance can provide an additional layer of protection against expenses and income losses that are not fully covered through public services or employment-based schemes.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Importance: The absence of insurance can make unexpected events more financially disruptive, particularly where households have limited savings. The indicator therefore complements social protection by measuring another form of risk-pooling and financial resilience. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has no medical or life insurance. The indicator is included as a measure of additional financial protection and household resilience against unexpected health expenditure or loss of an income earner (Sriram & Khan, 2020).
Savings or Liquid Assets	**Definition:** Savings or liquid assets measure whether a household has resources that can be drawn on or converted into money to meet immediate needs and unexpected expenditure. These include cash savings and deposits as well as selected monetisable assets. **Justification:** The three-month benchmark represents a practical minimum financial buffer for periods of temporary income loss or emergency expenditure. The measure also recognises that household resilience is not limited to cash. Assets such as gold, land or property may provide additional economic resources, although they differ in how quickly they can be converted into cash. **Importance:** Households without either savings or monetisable assets have little capacity to absorb shocks without reducing essential consumption, borrowing or seeking external assistance. This makes the indicator a direct measure of financial resilience rather than simply accumulated wealth. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has neither savings sufficient to cover more than three months of basic expenses nor monetisable assets. The indicator is informed by evidence on the role of emergency savings and assets in household financial resilience (Despard et al., 2020; McKnight & Rucci, 2020; Hariri et al., 2020).

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Government Assistance	**Definition:** Government assistance measures whether households that require financial or in-kind support are actually reached by government social protection programmes. **Justification:** The indicator deliberately does not classify every household without assistance as deprived. Many households do not need government support. The relevant deprivation is unmet need: a household requires assistance but is excluded because of targeting gaps, administrative barriers, lack of information or other access problems. **Importance:** This distinction makes the indicator useful for assessing the reach of the social safety net rather than simply programme participation. It can help identify vulnerable households falling between formal eligibility, administrative systems and actual need. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it requires government assistance but does not receive it. The indicator is informed by evidence on social-assistance coverage, unmet need and gaps in social protection (Endris et al., 2020; Gilligan, 2020).
Employment	**Definition:** Employment measures severe insecurity in access to work and in the reliability of earnings from work. **Justification:** The threshold captures two different problems: prolonged unemployment and sustained non-payment of wages. A person may technically remain employed while receiving no reliable income, meaning employment status alone can overstate household economic security. **Importance:** Long-term unemployment can reduce income, skills and future employability, while three consecutive months without wages can create immediate difficulty meeting food, housing and utility costs.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Combining these conditions allows the indicator to capture both exclusion from employment and serious instability within employment. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if a household member is unemployed for more than one year or unpaid for three consecutive months. The indicator is informed by evidence on the socioeconomic consequences of prolonged unemployment and employment insecurity (Nwakanma & Igbe, 2020; Poulimenakou et al., 2020; Papuchon, 2020).
Monthly Bills	**Definition:** Monthly bills measure whether a household can consistently meet essential recurring commitments, including utilities, rent, loans and other necessary payments. **Justification:** Income alone does not show whether a household has enough liquidity after meeting other needs. Arrears on routine commitments provide a more immediate indication that available resources are insufficient to maintain the household's current standard of living. **Importance:** Persistent inability to pay bills may result in service disconnection, housing insecurity, penalties, borrowing and accumulating debt. The indicator therefore complements income, savings and employment measures by capturing financial stress as it is experienced in everyday household expenditure. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it is unable to pay monthly utility, rental or loan bills for more than one month. The indicator is informed by evidence on arrears and household financial distress (Roll & Despard, 2020; Kingsley, 2020).

The *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* narratives established in Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin (2026) reinforce an important distinction within the LMPI between having work and having economic security. Across rural and interior communities, household heads working as farmers, fishermen, rubber tappers and daily-paid workers were frequently dependent on informal or irregular employment without formal protection through EPF or PERKESO. The consequences extended beyond the absence of retirement or employment protection. Irregular income left some households with prolonged utility arrears and a continuing risk of electricity or water disconnection, while daily earnings were often absorbed by immediate food and basic needs, leaving little or no emergency savings to absorb events such as vehicle repairs, illness or increases in living costs. The experiences recorded in Tanjung Piai and Mukah also demonstrate why such financial buffers matter: accessing specialist healthcare alone could impose substantial transport and logistical costs on rural households. Together, these experiences strengthen the rationale for considering formal social protection, insurance, savings and liquid assets, access to needed government assistance, employment security and the ability to meet recurring financial commitments as interconnected components of household resilience.

Dimension 5: Social Cohesion and Safety

Social Cohesion and Safety extends the LMPI beyond material resources to the social and environmental conditions affecting resilience. The indicators capture informal support, responsiveness of local institutions, disaster-related losses and neighbourhood safety (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5 Social cohesion and safety dimension and deprivation cut-offs

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
Family and Friendship Support	**Definition:** Family and friendship support measures whether a household has someone within its informal social network who can provide practical, emotional or financial assistance when needed. **Justification:** Formal services do not capture all resources available to households during hardship. Family members, relatives and friends often provide childcare, caregiving, temporary financial help, transport, information or emotional support. The indicator therefore captures an informal safety net that can affect how households experience and respond to poverty. **Importance:** A household without dependable support may be more vulnerable to isolation and may have fewer options when facing illness, unemployment or emergencies. Although perception-based, the availability of support is itself relevant because assistance that cannot be relied upon has limited protective value. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if no family member or friend is available to provide assistance when needed. The indicator is informed by evidence on the role of informal social support in household resilience and wellbeing (Lubbers et al., 2020; Li & Cai, 2024; Yu et al., 2025).
Community Leadership	**Definition:** Community leadership measures whether households perceive community leaders, local institutions or NGOs as accessible and responsive when support or action is required. **Justification:** The indicator is not intended to rank the personal quality of individual leaders. Instead, it focuses on whether local institutions function as an effective bridge between households and available services, resources and collective responses. This is especially relevant where communities depend on local actors to communicate needs or coordinate assistance.

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	Importance: Responsive leadership can improve access to information and services, mobilise community action and strengthen crisis response. Limited responsiveness can leave vulnerable households disconnected from both formal programmes and community support, increasing the consequences of other deprivations. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it reports limited responsiveness from community leaders, institutions or NGOs. The indicator is informed by evidence on the role of responsive local institutions and community leadership (Garcia Ferrari et al., 2022; Watson et al., 2025).
Environmental Shocks	**Definition:** Environmental shocks measure whether a household has experienced a natural hazard or disaster that caused damage or loss to property or productive assets. **Justification:** Exposure to a hazard alone does not necessarily constitute deprivation. The threshold therefore focuses on material consequences, such as damage from floods, landslides, storms, droughts or coastal erosion. Property loss provides an observable indication that the event has affected household resources and living conditions. **Importance:** Low-income households often have fewer savings, less insurance and less capacity to repair or replace damaged assets. Disaster losses can therefore disrupt livelihoods, increase debt and prolong poverty well after the event itself. The indicator captures this link between environmental risk and household resilience. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it has been affected by a natural disaster resulting in damage or loss of property. The indicator is informed by evidence on the

INDICATOR	DEFINITION, JUSTIFICATION, IMPORTANCE AND DEPRIVATION CUT-OFF
	relationship between disaster-related losses, vulnerability and household resilience (Hallegatte et al., 2020; Umaroh et al., 2026).
Neighbourhood Safety	**Definition:** Neighbourhood safety measures whether household members feel safe living in the area surrounding their home. **Justification:** Safety is included because the ability to use public space, travel locally and participate in community life depends partly on whether people perceive their surroundings as secure. Although subjective, perceived safety captures an aspect of lived experience that recorded crime statistics alone may not reflect. **Importance:** Persistent insecurity can increase stress, restrict mobility and reduce participation in education, work, recreation and community activities. These effects may be particularly significant for women, children and older persons. The indicator therefore captures a non-material but capability-relevant form of deprivation. **Deprivation cut-off:** For the purposes of the LMPI, a household is deprived if it does not feel safe living in the neighbourhood. The indicator is informed by evidence on perceived safety, wellbeing and participation in community life (Pearson et al., 2021; Ghose & Etowa, 2022; Saaka et al., 2025).

The *Wajah-Wajah Kemiskinan* narratives provide particularly strong justification for extending the LMPI beyond material deprivation to consider the social and environmental conditions that shape household resilience. In Kampung Gual Ipoh, Tanah Merah, residents without their own vehicles shared transport to clinics and hospitals, illustrating how family and community networks can partly compensate for gaps in individual resources and accessibility. In other communities in Sabah, strong social relationships persisted despite substantial infrastructure deprivation, while communities elsewhere organised collective action such as clearing rivers in anticipation of flooding. In Tanjung Piai, households also adapted economic activities according to seasonal flood conditions. At the same time, these informal forms of resilience coexist with significant environmental vulnerability. Households in Bentong, Pahang, and Beaufort, Sabah, for example, were reported to face recurring flood risks capable of damaging homes as well as productive assets such as crops, livestock and small businesses. These experiences reinforce the inclusion of family and friendship support, community leadership, environmental shocks and neighbourhood safety within the LMPI. Importantly, the strength of community networks should not be interpreted as a substitute for adequate public services or formal social protection; rather, it demonstrates how social cohesion can influence a household's capacity to anticipate, withstand and recover from deprivation (Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin, 2026).

KEY PARAMETERS: WEIGHTS AND POVERTY CUT-OFFS

Key Parameter 1: Weights

Ideally, the weighting structure of a multidimensional poverty measure would follow a nested weighting approach consistent with the principles of the Alkire-Foster methodology applied in Global MPI (Figure 3.2), whereby weights are assigned across dimensions and subsequently distributed among the indicators within each dimension. This provides a clear and systematic structure for aggregating multiple deprivations while ensuring that dimensions containing a larger number of indicators do not automatically exert greater influence on the overall deprivation score.

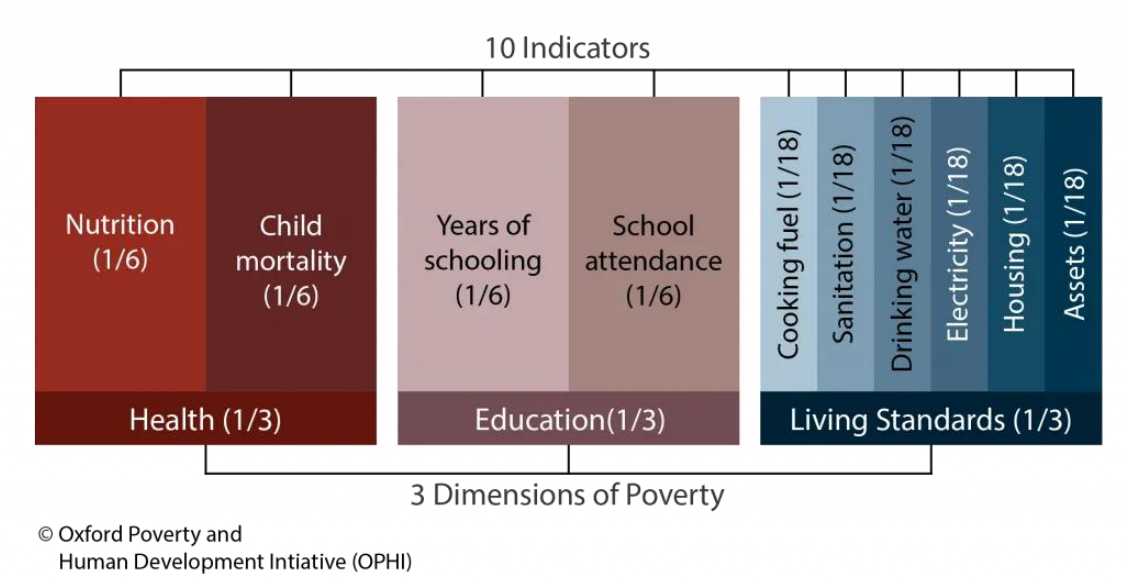


Figure 3.2 Three Dimensions of Poverty

(Source: Adapted from Human Development Report Office (HDRO) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), as presented in UNDP (2024))

Under the Alkire-Foster methodology, no single universal weighting structure is prescribed. Equal or nested weights are commonly used, but weighting choices may be adapted to the conceptual framework, indicator structure and empirical characteristics of a particular measure, with robustness analysis used to assess the stability of the resulting poverty estimates (Alkire & Foster, 2011; Alkire et al., 2015; Alkire et al., 2022). For the LMPI, eight alternative weighting specifications were developed and tested. Figures 3.3(a) and 3.3(b) present the results of the robustness tests across these specifications.

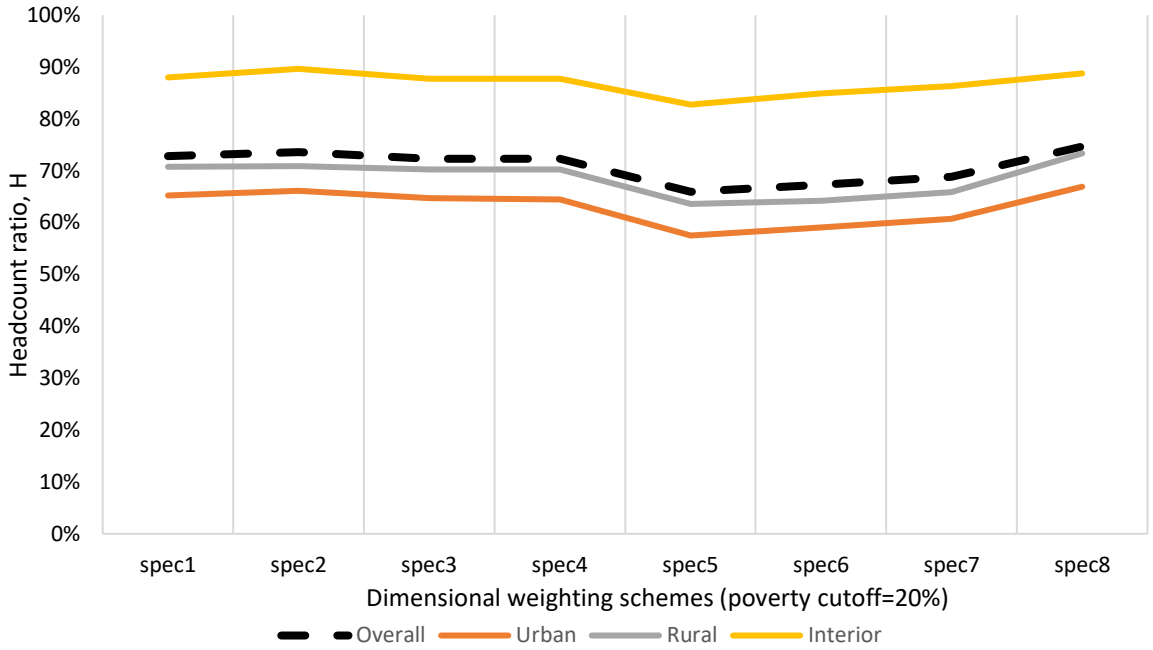


Figure 3.3(a) Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty by National and Area, for Different Dimensional Weight Structures

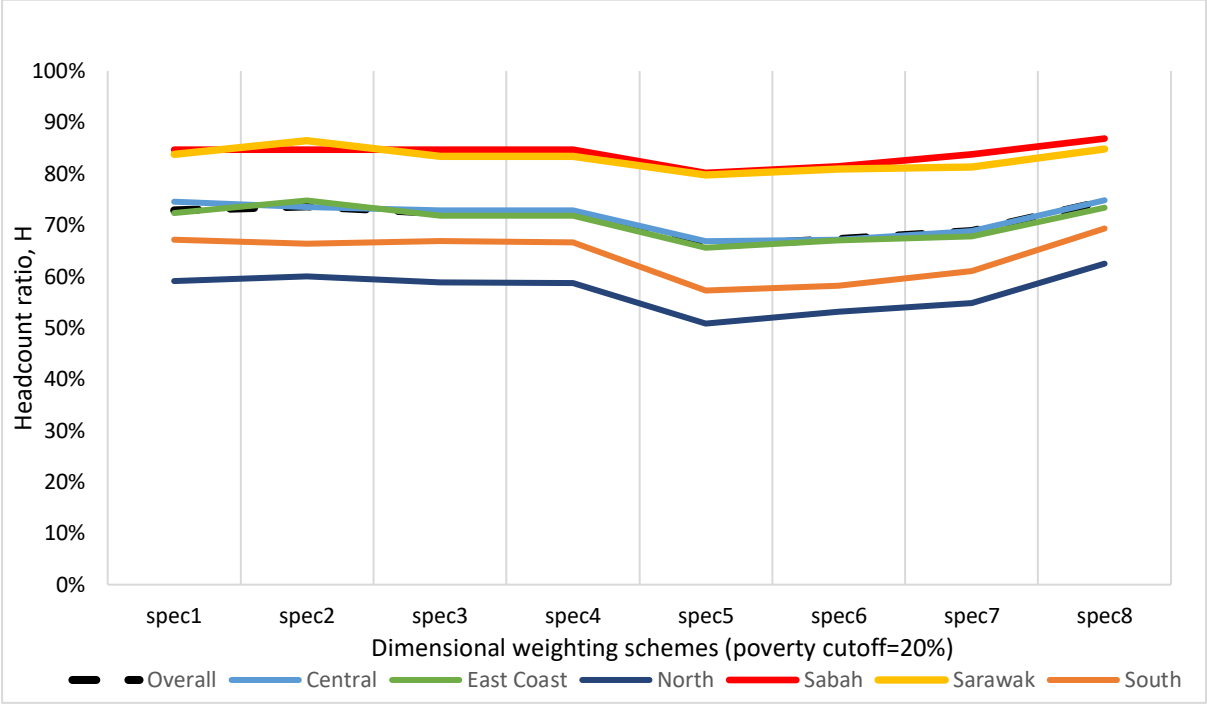


Figure 3.3(b) Incidence of Multidimensional Poverty by National and Major Regions, for Different Dimensional Weight Structures

Note: The robustness tests shown use a poverty cut-off of 20%. The final LMPI results use the adopted poverty cut-off of 25%. Overall study sample refers to all surveyed households, not a nationally representative population estimate.

For the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI), the selection of weights also took into account the characteristics of this initial implementation. The assessment considered the design and performance of the survey instrument, the quality and consistency of the data collected, household response patterns, and the organisation of the 27 indicators across the five dimensions. These considerations were important because the dimensions contain different numbers and types of indicators, which can affect how deprivation is represented when the indicators are aggregated.

Eight alternative weighting specifications were therefore developed and evaluated as part of the methodological robustness assessment. Their initial formulation was informed by APPGM-SDG's cumulative research and field experience, including constituency issue mapping, policy research, stakeholder engagement, community programmes, field visits and other evidence-gathering activities across Malaysia. This provided a contextual basis for considering how different forms of deprivation may manifest across localities. The specifications were then tested empirically to assess how different weighting structures affected the resulting poverty estimates and profiles.

Each specification was applied to the dataset of 2,775 households across 55 parliamentary constituencies. The robustness assessment examined its effect on multidimensional poverty incidence and intensity, as well as on regional comparisons, state-level rankings and urban-rural-interior typologies. The assessment focused on the stability of the findings across alternative specifications together with the organisation and empirical behaviour of the indicators within the LMPI.

The purpose of this exercise was not to rank the dimensions according to their substantive importance. Rather, it was to identify a weighting structure that appropriately reflected the design and performance of the instrument, the quality of the responses, the organisation of the indicators and the robustness of the resulting poverty profiles, while preserving the conceptual integrity of the multidimensional framework.

Figures 3.4 (a) and (b) present the eight alternative weighting specifications assessed for the LMPI, showing the corresponding indicator weights across the five dimensions.



Figure 3.4(a) Alternative Weight Specifications

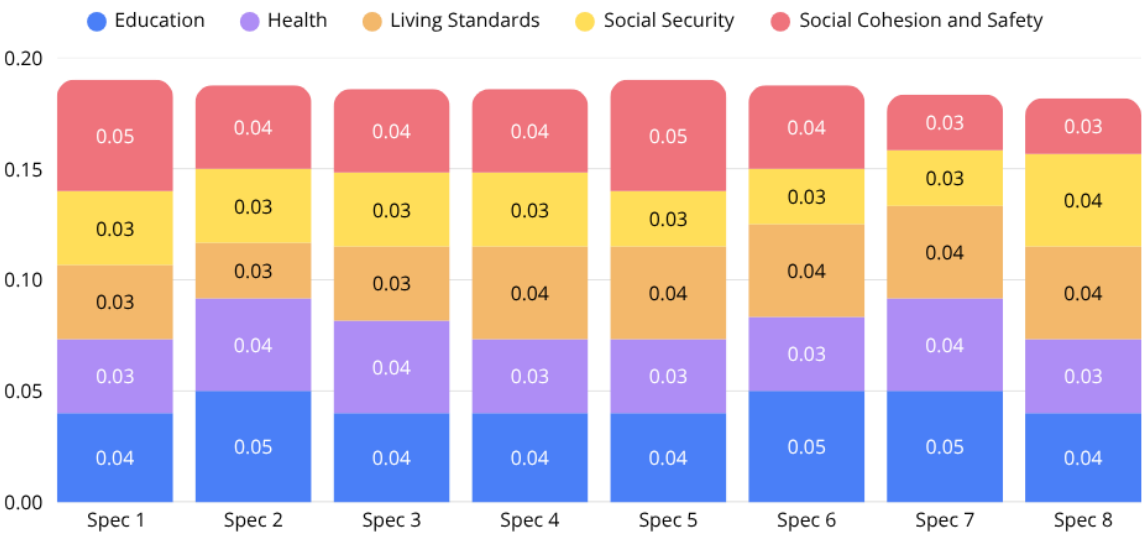


Figure 3.4 (b) Indicator Weights Across LMPI Dimensions

Based on this assessment, Specification 8 was selected as the final weighting structure for the LMPI. The comparison across alternative specifications was used to assess whether the overall results were unduly sensitive to changes in the weighting structure and to inform the selection of the final specification. Under Specification 8, Education and Health are each assigned a weight of 20%, Living Standards and Social Security 25% each, and Social Cohesion and Safety 10%, as presented in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6. Final Dimension Weights (Specification 8)

DIMENSION	WEIGHT (%)	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	WEIGHT PER INDICATOR (%)
Education	20	5	4.00
Health	20	6	3.33
Living Standards	25	6	4.17
Social Security	25	6	4.17
Social Cohesion and Safety	10	4	2.50
Total	100	27	NA

Within each dimension, equal weights were assigned to all indicators. Consequently, the five Education indicators each contribute 4.00% of the total LMPI deprivation score, the six Health indicators 3.33% each, the six Living Standards and six Social Security indicators 4.17% each, and the four Social Cohesion and Safety indicators 2.50% each.

The selected weighting structure should be understood as a methodological calibration of the LMPI rather than as a ranking of the substantive importance of its five dimensions. All five dimensions represent relevant aspects of multidimensional poverty. Accordingly, the relatively higher weights assigned to Living Standards and Social Security, and the lower weight assigned to Social Cohesion and Safety, do not imply that deprivation in one dimension is inherently more or less important than deprivation in another.

The final weighting structure reflects several considerations arising from the development and assessment of the LMPI. These include the design and performance of the instrument, the quality and consistency of responses, observed patterns of deprivation across indicators, and the organisation of the 27 indicators across dimensions. These considerations were particularly relevant because the dimensions differ in both the number and nature of indicators included, which affects how individual indicators contribute to a household's overall deprivation score.

The weights adopted in this study therefore represent a context-specific methodological choice for this initial stage of LMPI implementation, while retaining the basic principles of multidimensional poverty measurement under the Alkire-Foster framework. As the evidence base expands, the instrument is refined, and implementation extends across a broader range of parliamentary constituencies, future applications should continue to assess the appropriateness of the weighting structure and refine it where supported by additional evidence.

Key Parameter 2: Poverty Cut-Off

The multidimensional poverty cut-off (*k*) represents the minimum weighted deprivation score required for a household to be classified as multidimensionally poor. Following the Alkire-Foster methodology, each household is assigned a weighted deprivation score based on the indicators in which it is deprived. A household whose total weighted deprivation score equals or exceeds the selected threshold is identified as multidimensionally poor. The Alkire-Foster methodology does not prescribe a universal poverty cut-off; rather, the selection of *k* should be appropriate to the purpose and structure of the measure and supported by robustness and sensitivity analysis (Alkire et al., 2015; Alkire et al., 2022).

Ideally, the selected poverty cut-off should distinguish households experiencing sufficiently broad or substantial deprivation from those experiencing more limited or isolated forms of deprivation, while remaining sensitive enough to identify households facing meaningful combinations of disadvantages. The choice of *k* therefore needs to be considered together with the weighting structure, the number and organisation of indicators, the empirical distribution of deprivation scores, and the intended policy application of the index.

For the LMPI, alternative poverty cut-offs were assessed alongside the alternative weighting specifications as part of the robustness analysis. This enabled the study to examine how changes in the poverty threshold affected multidimensional poverty incidence, intensity and the resulting LMPI. As shown in Table 3.7, poverty cut-offs ranging from 15% to 30% were examined to assess the sensitivity of the results to different thresholds and their implications for household classification.

Table 3.7 Sensitivity of LMPI Results to Alternative Poverty Cut-Offs

POVERTY CUT-OFF (*K*) (%)	MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INCIDENCE, H (%)	AVERAGE INTENSITY, A (%)	LMPI	MULTIDIMENSIONALLY POOR HOUSEHOLDS (N)
15	88.14	31.34	0.276	2,446
16	84.07	32.10	0.270	2,333
17	82.56	32.39	0.267	2,291
18	81.66	32.55	0.266	2,266
19	78.81	33.06	0.261	2,187
20	75.39	33.67	0.254	2,092
21	72.79	34.14	0.249	2,020
22	71.78	34.32	0.246	1,992
23	69.01	34.80	0.240	1,915
24	63.86	35.70	0.228	1,772

POVERTY CUT-OFF (*K*) (%)	MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INCIDENCE, H (%)	AVERAGE INTENSITY, A (%)	LMPI	MULTIDIMENSIONALLY POOR HOUSEHOLDS (N)
25	**61.12**	**36.20**	**0.221**	**1,696**
26	59.24	36.54	0.216	1,644
27	56.79	36.97	0.210	1,576
28	53.51	37.57	0.201	1,485
29	48.00	38.62	0.185	1,332
30	45.91	39.02	0.179	1,274

The sensitivity analysis shows the expected relationship between the poverty cut-off and the resulting poverty estimates. As the cut-off increases, fewer households are classified as multidimensionally poor, while the average intensity of deprivation among those identified as poor increases. Across the thresholds examined, multidimensional poverty incidence declines from 88.14% at k = 15% to 45.91% at k = 30%, while average intensity increases from 31.34% to 39.02%. The corresponding LMPI declines from 0.276 to 0.179. These results demonstrate that household classification is sensitive to the selected threshold, as expected, while providing a transparent basis for assessing the implications of alternative poverty cut-offs.

Following this assessment, a poverty cut-off of k = 25% was adopted for the LMPI. At this threshold, 1,696 of the 2,775 surveyed households are classified as multidimensionally poor, corresponding to an incidence (H) of 61.12%. These households experience an average intensity (A) of 36.20%, producing an LMPI value of 0.221. The selection of 25% should not be interpreted as implying that any particular dimension is inherently more important than another, nor was the threshold selected because Living Standards and Social Security are each assigned a dimension weight of 25%. Rather, the threshold was selected based on the overall performance of the measure under the robustness assessment and its suitability for distinguishing households experiencing a meaningful accumulation of deprivation within the structure of the LMPI.

Under this threshold, a household is classified as multidimensionally poor when its weighted deprivations collectively account for at least one-quarter of the total possible deprivation score. Importantly, households may reach this threshold through different combinations of indicators and dimensions. A household may experience multiple deprivations concentrated within a particular dimension, or overlapping deprivations distributed across several dimensions. The LMPI therefore does not prescribe a single pathway into multidimensional poverty; rather, it captures the different ways in which disadvantages can accumulate within a household.

This is particularly relevant for a localised measure of poverty, as households living in different geographical and socioeconomic contexts may experience different combinations of deprivation. For example, one household may experience difficulties associated with basic services, transportation and digital access, while another may face employment insecurity, limited savings, health-related constraints and inadequate social protection. Although the specific forms of deprivation differ, the weighted deprivation score provides a common basis for assessing whether their cumulative disadvantages meet the multidimensional poverty threshold.

The adoption of k = 25% therefore provides a practical and empirically supported threshold for this initial stage of the LMPI. It enables the index to identify households experiencing substantial or overlapping deprivation without requiring deprivation across all, or even most, dimensions. At the same time, it reduces the likelihood that a household will be classified as multidimensionally poor solely on the basis of a small number of isolated deprivations.

As with the weighting structure, the poverty cut-off should remain open to reassessment as the LMPI is further developed, the survey instrument is refined, and the evidence base expands across a broader range of parliamentary constituencies. The selected threshold should therefore be understood as a context-specific methodological parameter for this initial stage of implementation rather than as a universal or permanent poverty threshold. Together, the selected weights and the 25% poverty cut-off provide the basis for identifying and analysing overlapping forms of deprivation through the LMPI.

Multidimensional Poverty Results

ALKIRE-FOSTER METHOD

The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) presented in this study was calculated using the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, which has become the internationally recognised framework for measuring multidimensional poverty (Alkire & Foster, 2011). Unlike conventional poverty measures that assess poverty solely through income or expenditure, the AF methodology recognises that poverty is experienced through multiple and often overlapping deprivations affecting different aspects of people's lives. A household may possess sufficient income yet continue to experience poor health, inadequate housing, limited educational opportunities, financial insecurity or weak social support. By considering these dimensions simultaneously, the AF methodology provides a more holistic assessment of household wellbeing.

The AF methodology identifies multidimensional poverty using two types of cut-off: a deprivation cut-off for each indicator and an overall poverty cut-off. Each household was first assessed against the deprivation cut-offs for the 27 indicators and classified as deprived (1) or non-deprived (0) in each. The final indicator weights were then applied and summed to calculate the household's weighted deprivation score. Households with scores equal to or greater than the poverty cut-off of 25% were classified as multidimensionally poor. This approach captures the overlapping deprivations experienced by households across different aspects of wellbeing.

Following identification, the aggregation stage summarises multidimensional poverty using three complementary measures: the incidence of poverty (H), the average intensity of poverty (A) and the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI). The LMPI applies the basic principles of multidimensional poverty calculation under the Alkire-Foster methodology, whereby the index is calculated as the product of the incidence (H) and intensity (A) of multidimensional poverty (LMPI = H × A). The relationship between these measures enables poverty to be understood not only in terms of how many households are poor, but also the extent of overlapping deprivation experienced by poor households. Consequently, the AF methodology provides considerably richer information than conventional poverty statistics, which generally report only the proportion of households below an income threshold.

Another important strength of the AF methodology is its ability to decompose poverty while maintaining methodological consistency. The same methodology can be applied across regions, settlement typologies, dimensions and indicators while retaining the same indicators, cut-offs and weights. This allows meaningful comparisons between

different geographical areas and population groups while also identifying the principal contributors to multidimensional poverty. Such flexibility is particularly valuable for constituency-based policy planning, where local contexts often differ substantially despite similar overall poverty levels.

Overall, the AF methodology provides a robust analytical framework that extends beyond identifying who is poor. It enables policymakers to understand where multidimensional poverty is concentrated, how severe it is, and which deprivations contribute most significantly to poverty. This richer evidence base supports more targeted, integrated and place-based interventions that complement existing income-based poverty measures.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY VALUE

The overall Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) for the study was 0.221, calculated as the product of the incidence of multidimensional poverty (61.12%) and the average intensity of poverty (36.20%). The LMPI represents a summary measure that combines both the breadth and depth of multidimensional poverty into a single indicator, allowing overall deprivation to be compared across different geographical areas and population groups.

The LMPI value of 0.221 reflects the combined incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty observed within the purposively selected study population. While the value itself does not represent a percentage, it reflects the combined effect of a relatively high proportion of multidimensionally poor households together with the multiple deprivations experienced by those households. In practical terms, the findings suggest that multidimensional poverty within the study population is characterised by interconnected disadvantages rather than isolated deficiencies.

The interpretation of the overall LMPI should also consider the study design. The survey deliberately focused on B60 households across 55 parliamentary constituencies, with the intention of understanding deprivation among households considered vulnerable to poverty. Consequently, the LMPI reported in this study should not be interpreted as a national poverty estimate. Instead, it provides constituency-level evidence that complements Malaysia's official multidimensional poverty statistics by capturing forms of deprivation experienced within vulnerable communities.

The LMPI also demonstrates the value of adopting a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement. Had the analysis relied solely on monetary indicators, many overlapping deprivations associated with education, health, living standards, social security, and social cohesion and safety would have remained invisible. By integrating these dimensions into a single index, the study provides a more comprehensive

understanding of household wellbeing and highlights the complexity of poverty experienced across different communities.

The overall LMPI serves as the foundation for the subsequent analyses presented in this chapter. While the summary value provides an overall picture of multidimensional poverty, further decomposition by incidence, intensity, geographical location and poverty composition enables a deeper understanding of how poverty differs across Malaysia and which dimensions contribute most significantly to deprivation.

INCIDENCE AND INTENSITY OF POVERTY

Multidimensional Poverty Results

The study recorded a Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) of 0.221. The LMPI combines the incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty into a single measure, calculated as LMPI = H × A (Figure 4.1). It therefore reflects both how widespread multidimensional poverty is among the surveyed households and the average extent of deprivation experienced by households identified as poor.

LMPI	**H**	**A**
Overall localised multidimensional poverty index	Incidence	Intensity
0.221	**61.12%**	**36.20%**

LMPI = H × A = 0.6112 × 0.3620 ≈ 0.221

Figure 4.1 LMPI Results

The incidence of multidimensional poverty (Headcount Ratio, H) was 61.12%, indicating that approximately six out of every ten surveyed households were identified as multidimensionally poor after applying the selected poverty cut-off. This finding suggests that multidimensional deprivation is widespread among the B60 households included in the study, reflecting the prevalence of overlapping disadvantages across multiple dimensions of wellbeing.

The average intensity of multidimensional poverty (A) was 36.20%, meaning that households identified as multidimensionally poor experienced, on average, just over one-third of the weighted deprivations included in the index. This demonstrates that poverty among these households is not generally confined to a single aspect of wellbeing but involves simultaneous disadvantages across education, health, living standards, social security, and Social Cohesion and Safety.

Taken together, H = 61.12% and A = 36.20% produce an LMPI of approximately 0.221 (0.6112 × 0.3620). The three measures provide complementary information. Incidence indicates how widespread multidimensional poverty is, intensity captures the average depth of deprivation among poor households, while the LMPI combines both into an overall measure of multidimensional poverty.

Considering incidence and intensity together provides a more nuanced understanding of poverty than either measure individually. Two geographical areas, for example, may record similar poverty incidence but differ considerably in intensity, indicating that households in one area experience a greater cumulative burden of deprivation. Analysing these measures together therefore provides a more balanced understanding of poverty severity and can assist policymakers in identifying areas requiring more comprehensive interventions. Figure 4.2 illustrates this across constituencies involved in the study.

These findings reinforce the importance of addressing multiple dimensions of deprivation simultaneously. Interventions that improve only one aspect of wellbeing may not be sufficient to move households beyond the multidimensional poverty threshold if significant deprivations persist elsewhere. Consequently, coordinated and integrated policy responses are important for reducing both the incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty and, ultimately, the overall LMPI.

Note: These results relate to the purposively sampled B60 households covered by the study and should not be interpreted as national poverty estimates.

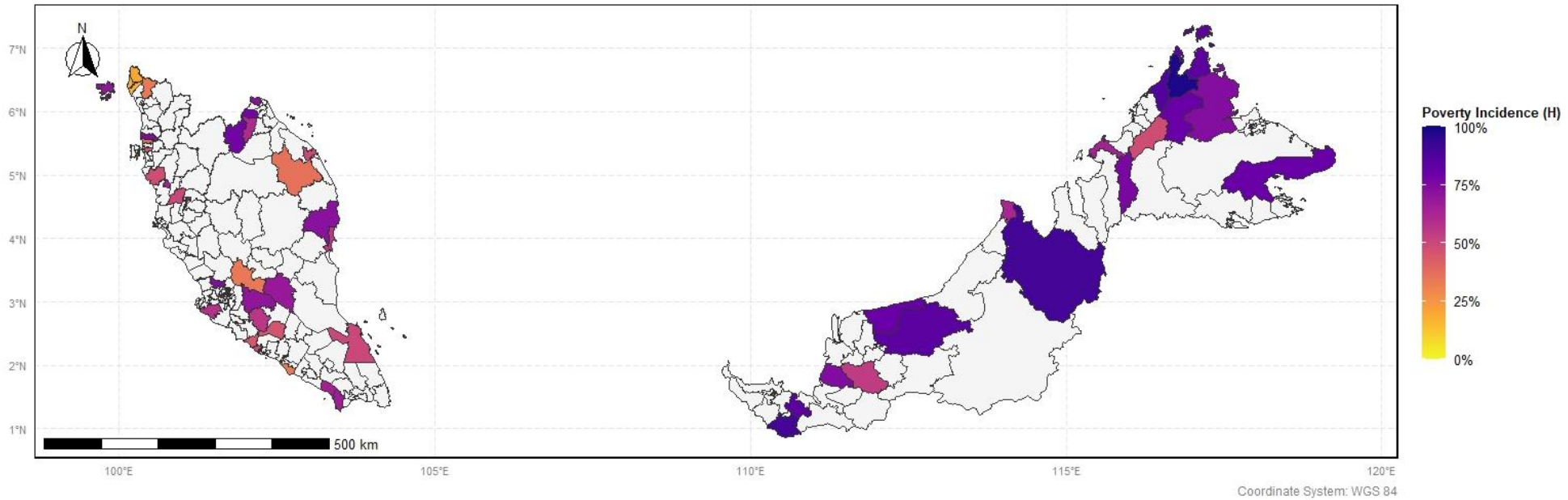


Figure 4.2 Multidimensional Poverty Incidence (H) across LMPI Study Locations

Poverty by Region and Location Type

The geographical decomposition shows substantial differences in the incidence of multidimensional poverty (H) across settlement types. As shown in Figure 4.3, against the overall study incidence of 61.12%, the incidence is approximately 52% in urban areas, 58% in rural areas and 80% in interior settlements. Interior communities therefore record by far the highest incidence, around 22 percentage points above rural areas and almost 30 percentage points above urban areas. The pattern for intensity (A) is considerably narrower, at approximately 35% in urban and rural areas and 39% in interior areas, compared with the overall intensity of 36.20%. This indicates that the most pronounced difference between settlement types lies in the proportion of households experiencing multidimensional poverty, rather than large differences in the average breadth of deprivation among households already identified as poor.

Regional differences are similarly pronounced, whereby the Central and East Coast regions record incidences of approximately 61% and 60% respectively, broadly comparable with the overall study incidence. The Northern zone records the lowest incidence at approximately 46%, followed by the Southern zone at around 53%. In contrast, incidence rises substantially in East Malaysia, reaching approximately 77% in Sabah region and 74% in Sarawak region. Despite this wide variation in incidence, intensity remains within a relatively narrow range of approximately 35% to 39% across the regions. Sabah region records the highest regional intensity at approximately 39%, followed by Sarawak region at around 38%, while the Central, Northern and Southern regions are approximately 35% and the East Coast zone approximately 36%.

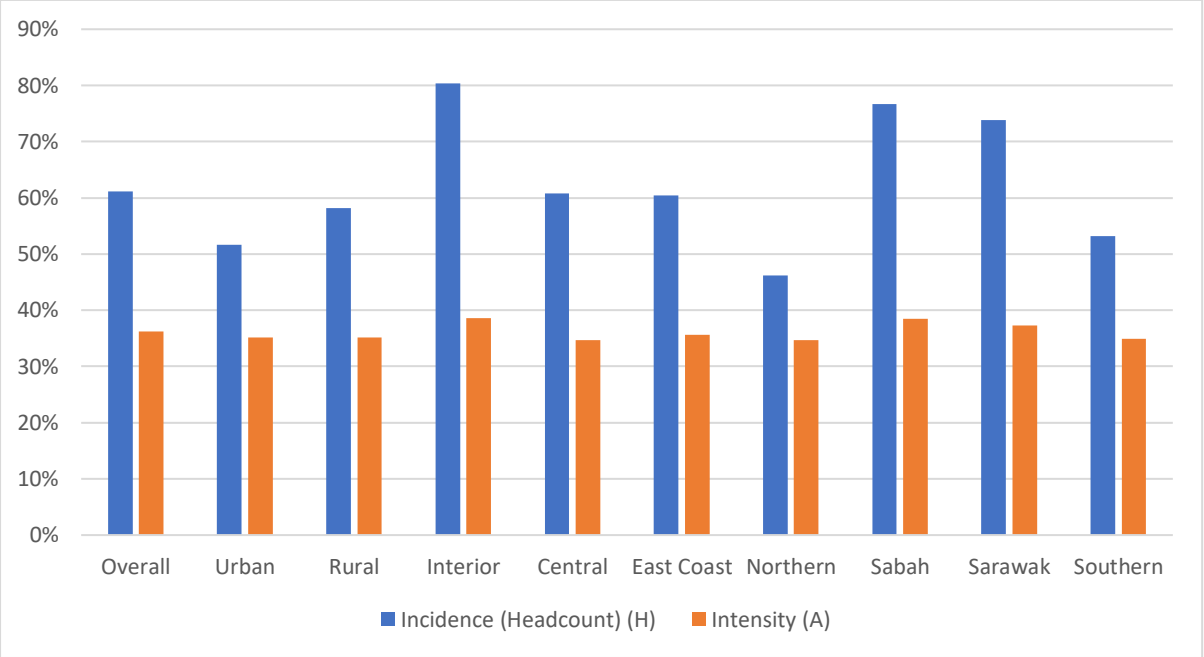


Figure 4.3 Incidence (H) and Intensity (A) of Multidimensional Poverty by Region and Location Type

These differences in incidence and intensity are reflected in the resulting LMPI values also presented in Figure 4.4. The overall LMPI is 0.221, compared with approximately 0.181 for urban, 0.204 for rural and 0.311 for interior settlements. Regionally, Sabah records the highest LMPI at approximately 0.295, followed by Sarawak at 0.275. The East Coast and Central zones record approximately 0.215 and 0.211, respectively, while the Southern zone records approximately 0.185. The Northern zone records the lowest LMPI at approximately 0.160. The geographical contrast is substantial, with the LMPI for interior settlements almost twice that recorded for the Northern zone and considerably higher than the overall study value.

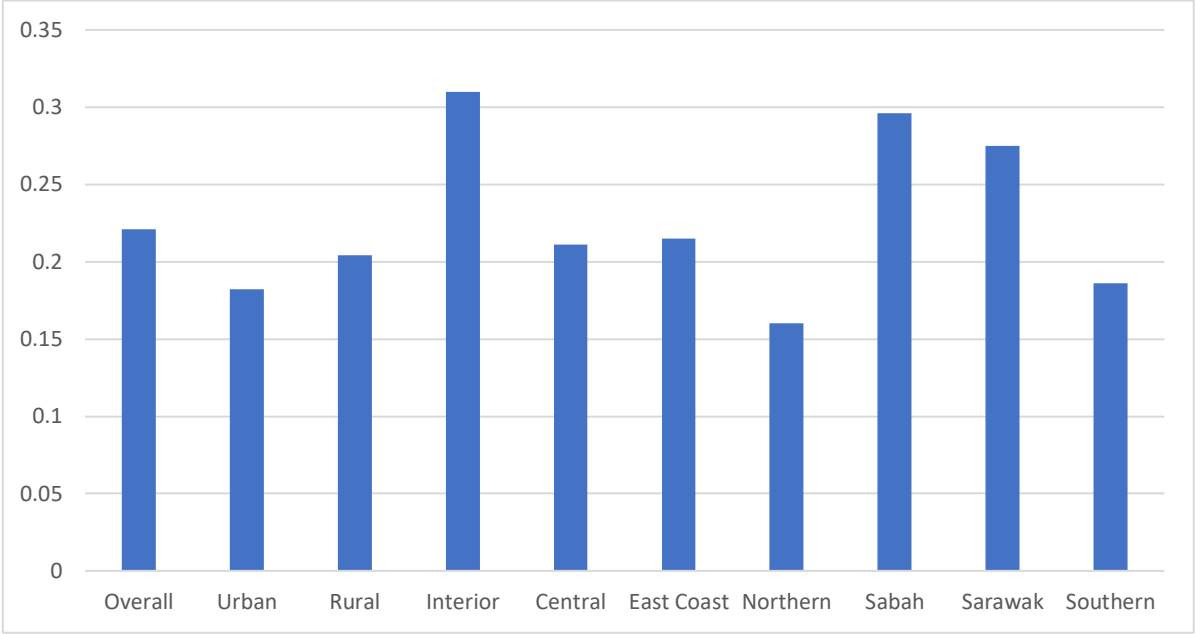


Figure 4.4 Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) by Region, Zone, and Location Type

Taken together, Figures 4.3 and 4.4 show that geographical variation in the LMPI is driven more strongly by differences in incidence (H) than intensity (A). This is particularly evident for interior communities, Sabah and Sarawak, where considerably higher incidence combines with only moderately higher intensity to produce substantially higher LMPI values. The contrast between urban (0.181), rural (0.204) and interior (0.311) settlements also provides empirical support for maintaining the study's urban-rural-interior typology. Combining interior communities within a broader rural category would risk obscuring the substantially greater multidimensional poverty observed in these locations and the particular constraints associated with physical isolation, connectivity, transportation and access to essential services.

COMPOSITION OF POVERTY

Understanding the Composition of Poverty

The methodology adopted in this study follows the basic principles of multidimensional poverty measurement under the MPI framework, whereby the incidence and intensity of deprivation are combined into a single measure. The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) therefore provides an overall picture of multidimensional poverty by capturing both how many households are poor and the average extent of deprivation they experience. While this summary measure is useful for assessing the extent of multidimensional poverty, it does not by itself reveal which dimensions are driving the overall result. The composition of poverty addresses this by decomposing the LMPI into the relative contribution of each dimension.

Unlike incidence (H), which measures the proportion of households identified as multidimensionally poor, or intensity (A), which measures the average share of weighted deprivations experienced by poor households, the composition of poverty examines how total weighted deprivation is distributed across the dimensions of the MPI. In other words, it shows where the burden of multidimensional poverty lies and which aspects of wellbeing account for the largest share of deprivation among poor households.

For the 1,696 multidimensionally poor households identified in the study, as shown in Figure 4.5, Social Security contributes the largest share of total weighted deprivation (37.62%), followed by Living Standards (22.90%), Education (17.15%), Health (17.02%), and Social Cohesion and Safety (5.32%).

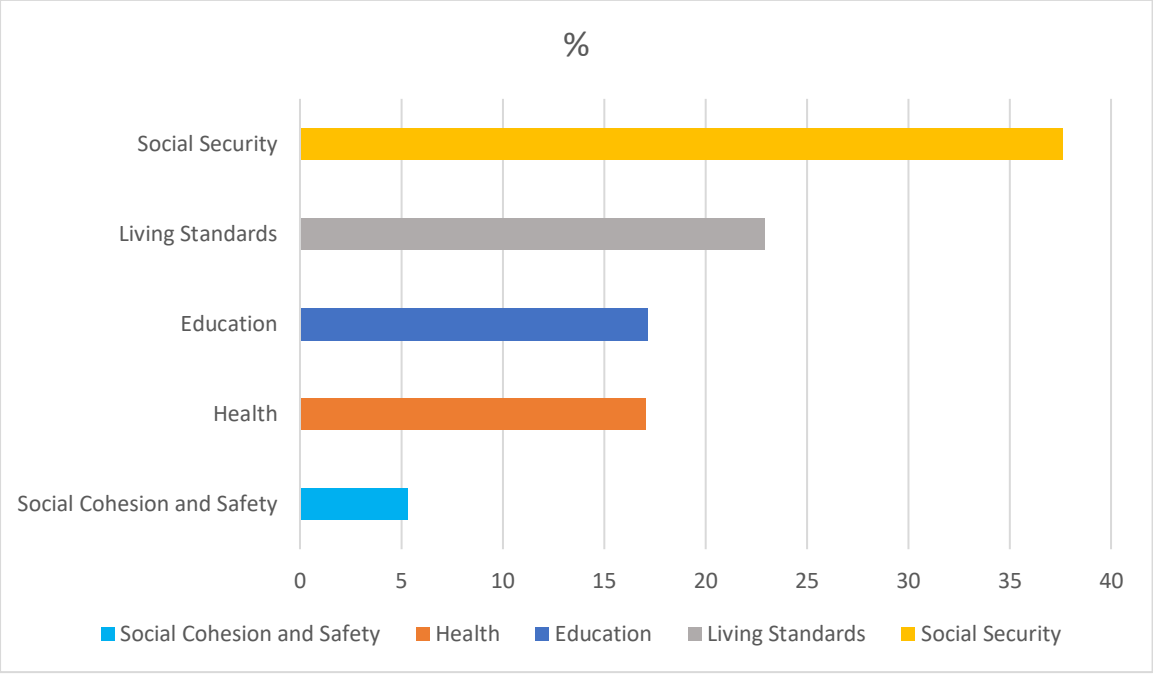


Figure 4.5 Overall Dimension Contribution for the LMPI

Figure 4.6 shows that Social Security is the leading dimension of multidimensional poverty across most LMPI study locations, consistent with the overall composition of poverty. However, several locations are driven by other dimensions, particularly Living Standards and Health, highlighting geographical differences in how multidimensional poverty is experienced and reinforcing the need for place-sensitive responses.

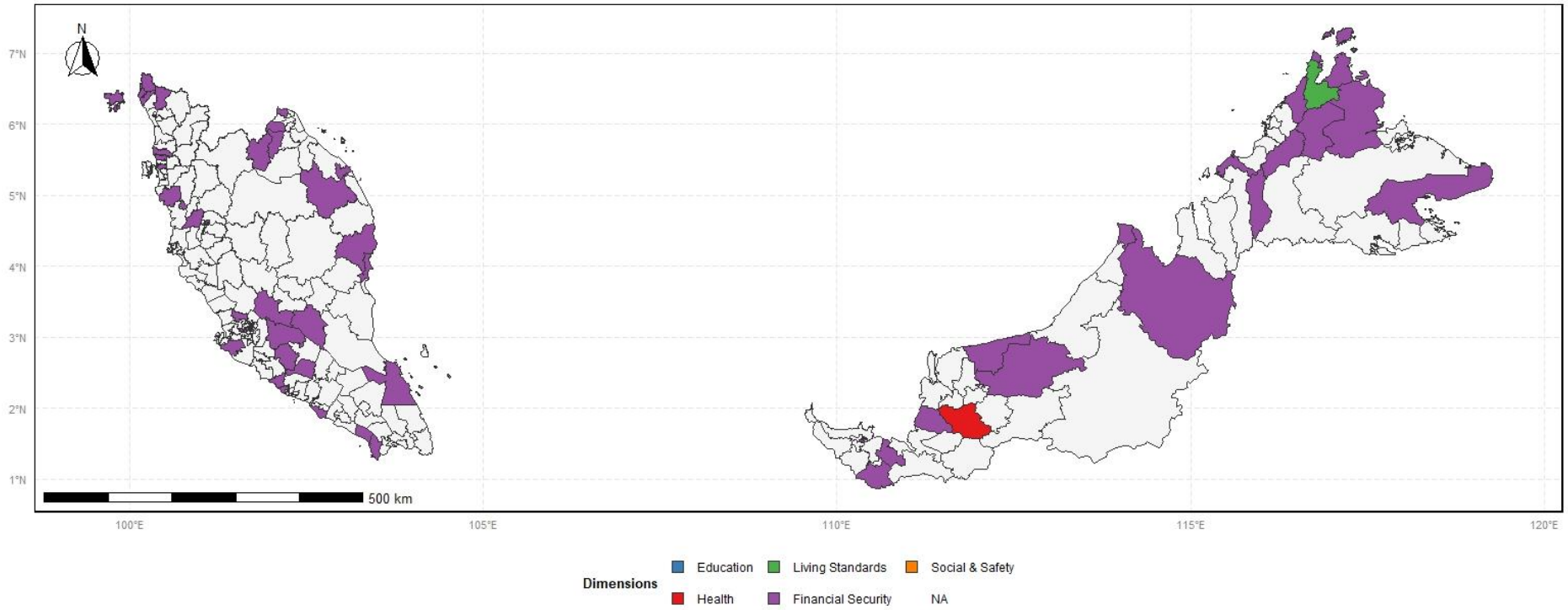


Figure 4.6 Leading Dimension of Multidimensional Poverty across LMPI Study Locations

Composition of Poverty by Region / Zone

Although the overall results provide an overall picture of multidimensional poverty, the composition of deprivation varies across regions. Examining the contribution of each dimension within individual regions (as shown in Table 4.1) reveals differences in the structure of poverty that are not apparent from the overall average alone.

Table 4.1 Overall Dimension Contribution by Region / Zone (%)

REGION / ZONE	EDUCATION	HEALTH	LIVING STANDARDS	SOCIAL SECURITY	SOCIAL COHESION & SAFETY	TOTAL
Overall	17.15	17.02	22.90	37.62	5.32	100
Urban	17.44	15.78	21.59	38.94	6.24	100
Rural	16.93	16.46	21.05	39.93	5.63	100
Interior	17.11	18.75	26.05	33.95	4.14	100
Central	16.86	16.87	20.40	39.19	6.69	100
East Coast	19.24	15.38	20.85	38.83	5.70	100
Northern	17.77	14.32	21.59	40.09	6.22	100
Sabah	15.13	18.97	27.70	33.28	4.92	100
Sarawak	16.97	18.85	24.57	35.49	4.11	100
Southern	17.55	16.43	18.63	42.25	5.14	100

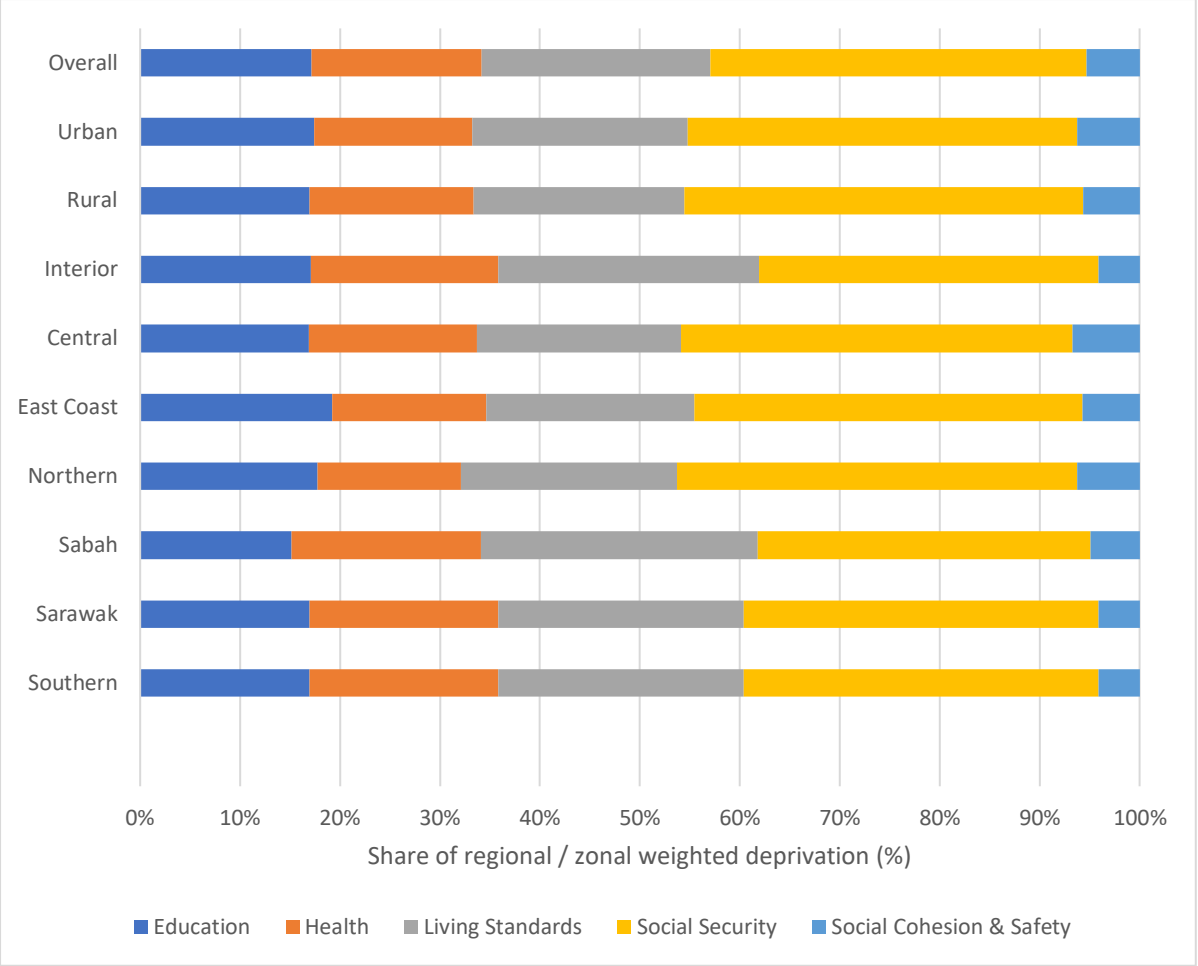


Figure 4.7 Regional/zonal composition of multidimensional poverty across the five LMPI dimensions (%)

As shown in Figure 4.7, across all regions, Social Security remains the largest contributor to multidimensional poverty, although its relative contribution varies. Within Peninsular Malaysia, the Southern region records the highest contribution from Social Security at 42.25%, followed by the Northern (40.09%), Central (39.19%) and East Coast (38.83%) regions. This indicates that economic and financial insecurity consistently accounts for the largest share of weighted deprivation across the Peninsular regions.

East Malaysia presents a somewhat different composition of poverty. Although Social Security remains the largest contributor in both Sabah and Sarawak, Living Standards accounts for a substantially larger share of weighted deprivation than in the Peninsular regions, reaching 27.70% in Sabah and 24.57% in Sarawak. Health also contributes relatively more in Sabah (18.97%) and Sarawak (18.85%), while the contribution of Social Security is lower at 33.28% and 35.49%, respectively. These differences highlight meaningful geographical variation in the composition of multidimensional poverty and reinforce the importance of tailoring policy responses to the specific deprivation profile of each region.

Composition of Poverty by State

State-level analysis (Table 4.2) provides a more detailed view of how multidimensional poverty is composed within different parts of the country. While the regional analysis highlights broad geographical patterns, the state-level decomposition reveals variation that may otherwise be masked within regional averages.

Table 4.2 Overall Dimension Contribution by State (%)

REGION	STATE	EDUCATION	HEALTH	LIVING STANDARDS	SOCIAL SECURITY	SOCIAL COHESION & SAFETY	TOTAL
Overall		17.15	17.02	22.90	37.62	5.32	100
Urban		17.44	15.78	21.59	38.94	6.24	100
Rural		16.93	16.46	21.05	39.93	5.63	100
Interior		17.11	18.75	26.05	33.95	4.14	100
Central	Kuala Lumpur	15.4	16.05	20.59	40.82	7.14	100
	Selangor	18.16	17.6	20.22	37.74	6.28	100
East Coast	Kelantan	18.45	16.77	21.05	38.15	5.58	100
	Pahang	19.69	15.00	24.03	36.80	4.48	100
	Terengganu	20.31	13.04	17.08	42.34	7.24	100
Northern	Kedah	15.01	14.72	19.23	43.48	7.55	100
	Perak	18.77	14.39	23.22	36.84	6.78	100
	Perlis	19.07	12.18	21.18	46.38	1.19	100
	Pulau Pinang	19.54	14.27	22.04	39.49	4.66	100
Sabah	Sabah	15.13	18.97	27.70	33.28	4.92	100
Sarawak	Sarawak	16.97	18.85	24.57	35.49	4.11	100
Southern	Johor	19.61	15.90	18.43	41.12	4.93	100
	Melaka	20.62	11.61	20.90	40.96	5.92	100
	Negeri Sembilan	13.67	19.27	17.83	44.21	5.03	100

The state-level results reinforce the overall study pattern, with Social Security emerging as the largest contributor in every state. Its contribution ranges from 33.28% in Sabah to 46.38% in Perlis, reflecting differences in the relative concentration of deprivation despite the common dominance of this dimension.

Living Standards shows greater variation across states. Sabah records the highest contribution at 27.70%, followed by Sarawak (24.57%) and Pahang (24.03%), while Negeri Sembilan (17.83%) and Johor (18.43%) record comparatively smaller shares. Education and Health vary within a narrower range, suggesting a more consistent contribution across states. Social Cohesion and Safety remains the smallest contributor throughout

the states, although its share ranges from 1.19% in Perlis to 7.55% in Kedah (as shown in Figure 4.8).

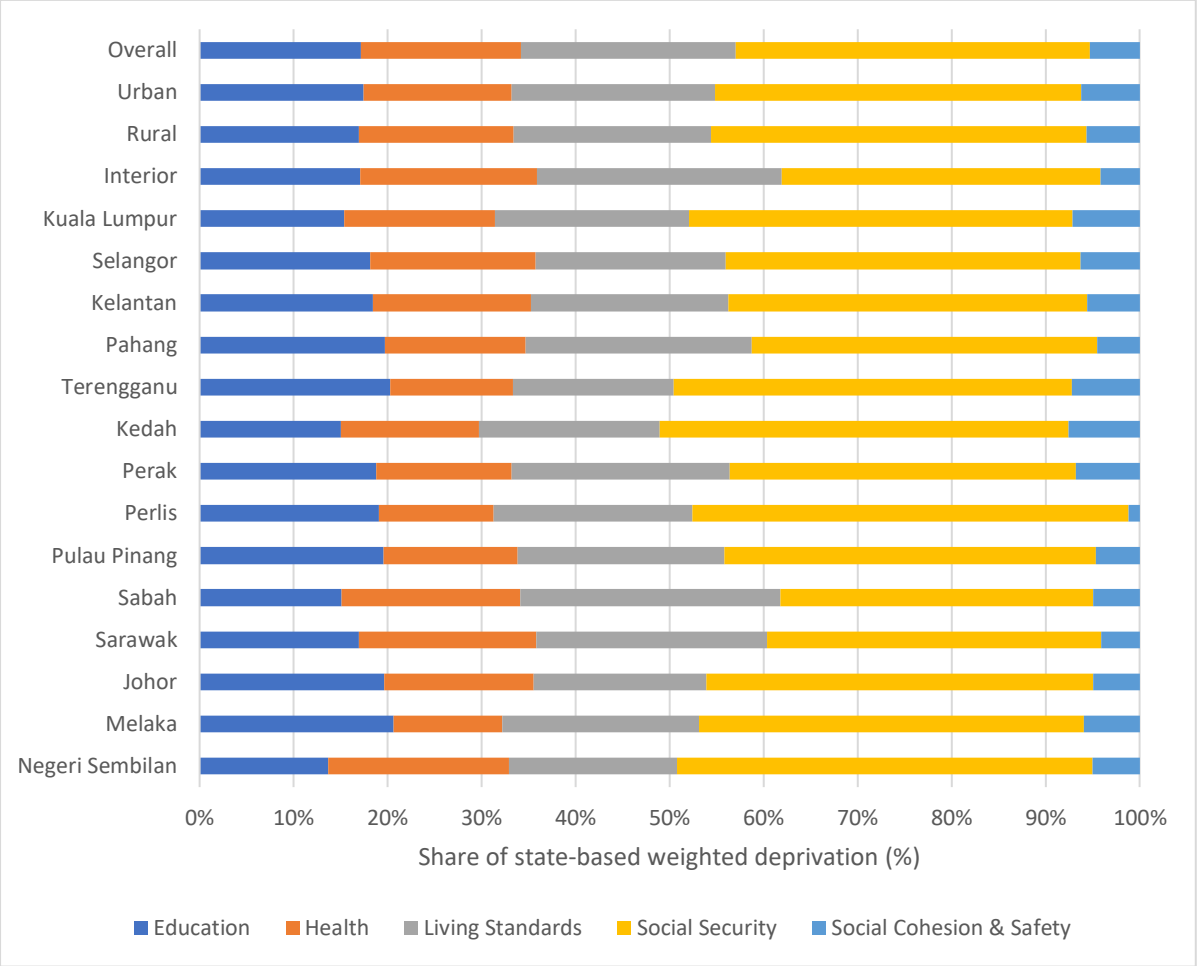


Figure 4.8 State-level composition of multidimensional poverty across the five LMPI dimensions (%)

Taken together, these findings show that multidimensional poverty shares a broadly similar structure across Malaysia, but the balance between dimensions differs from one state to another. The variation is particularly evident in the relative importance of Living Standards and Social Security, highlighting the diverse ways in which deprivation is experienced across different geographical contexts.

Indicator-Level Deprivation Patterns by Geography

While the preceding analysis examines the contribution of each dimension to the overall Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI), a more detailed understanding of poverty can be obtained by examining deprivation at the individual indicator level. Indicator-level analysis identifies the specific forms of deprivation experienced by households classified as multidimensionally poor and shows how these patterns vary geographically.

For this analysis, the deprivation rate for each indicator is calculated as the proportion of multidimensionally poor households within the relevant geographical group that are deprived in that indicator. The denominator therefore consists only of households classified as multidimensionally poor rather than all surveyed households. These percentages should not be interpreted as the weighted contribution of an indicator to the LMPI. Instead, they indicate how prevalent a particular deprivation is among multidimensionally poor households within each region, settlement typology or state.

Across the study, 1,696 households were identified as multidimensionally poor. The geographical disaggregation demonstrates that although several indicators recur across the country, their prevalence differs considerably between locations. These differences reinforce the importance of examining multidimensional poverty not only through aggregate index values, but also through the individual deprivations that constitute household poverty.

Indicator Deprivation Patterns by Region and Zone

Table 4.3 presents the proportion of multidimensionally poor households deprived under each of the 27 LMPI indicators across the six study regions and zones.

Table 4.3 Indicator Deprivation Rates by Region/Zone among Multidimensionally Poor Households

	NORTHERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EAST COAST	SABAH	SARAWAK
Multidimensionally poor households (n)	277	191	238	302	356	332
Education Indicator (%)						
Years of Schooling	76.2	63.9	69.7	84.1	70.8	81.3
Preschool Attendance	10.1	13.1	12.2	9.3	12.6	5.4
Primary School Attendance	2.5	3.1	5.5	3.3	5.6	2.1
Secondary School Attendance	5.1	4.7	9.7	7.0	7.3	5.1
Literacy and Numeracy	60.3	61.3	56.3	67.5	49.4	64.5
Health Indicator (%)						
Access to Healthcare	16.2	16.2	29.8	14.2	59.8	59.3
Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)	72.2	60.7	60.9	62.9	41.9	60.5
Persons with Disabilities	27.8	19.4	37.8	24.8	20.2	19.9
Child Growth (Height)	2.5	15.2	5.9	4.0	8.7	2.1
Child Growth (Weight)	2.5	14.1	6.3	5.0	9.0	3.9
Water Supply	27.8	49.7	31.5	53.3	79.8	65.4
Living Standards Indicator (%)						
Toilet	3.2	1.6	4.2	6.3	14.9	5.1
Waste Collection	21.3	2.6	25.2	40.7	50.0	29.5
Electricity Supply	9.7	23.6	17.2	12.9	53.7	24.4
Digital Literacy	58.8	46.6	36.1	52.3	47.5	62.7
Internet Access	58.8	49.7	53.8	49.0	50.0	62.3
Transportation	27.8	45.5	19.7	16.9	40.2	36.1
Social Security Indicator (%)						
Social Protection	76.2	60.2	82.4	81.1	75.3	72.3

	NORTHERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN	EAST COAST	SABAH	SARAWAK
Insurance	96.4	86.9	94.5	85.4	93.3	92.2
Savings or Liquid Assets	82.7	77.0	79.8	69.2	75.3	68.7
Government Assistance	6.5	19.9	12.6	9.9	5.1	7.5
Employment Stability	25.3	30.4	34.9	29.1	24.7	38.6
Overdue Bills	46.6	51.3	50.0	56.6	34.0	38.6
Social Cohesion and Safety Indicator (%)						
Family and Friendship Support	19.5	41.4	21.0	18.9	10.7	12.7
Community Leadership	35.4	26.2	17.6	12.6	21.9	16.9
Environmental Shocks	15.2	8.9	21.4	37.4	33.4	21.4
Neighbourhood Safety	16.2	16.2	11.8	12.3	9.8	10.5

Note: Percentages represent the proportion of multidimensionally poor households within each region/zone that are deprived in the respective indicator. Results relate to the purposively selected study sample and should not be interpreted as representative prevalence estimates for the respective regions

Several patterns stand out from the regional results. Insurance deprivation is consistently high across all regions, ranging from 85.4% in the East Coast to 96.4% in the Northern region. Social protection and insufficient savings or liquid assets are similarly widespread, reinforcing the importance of financial resilience within the overall poverty profile.

At the same time, the results reveal substantial geographical differences in basic services and accessibility. Healthcare access deprivation is considerably higher in Sabah (59.8%) and Sarawak (59.3%) than in the Peninsular regions. Water supply deprivation shows an even stronger geographical contrast, affecting 79.8% of multidimensionally poor households in Sabah and 65.4% in Sarawak, compared with 27.8% in the Northern region and 31.5% in the Southern region. Sabah also records substantially higher deprivation in electricity supply (53.7%) and waste collection (50.0%).

Educational deprivation also varies. Years of Schooling is particularly prominent in the East Coast (84.1%) and Sarawak (81.3%), while Literacy and Numeracy deprivation is highest in the East Coast (67.5%) and Sarawak (64.5%). These patterns demonstrate that the underlying forms of deprivation differ between regions even where households are classified under the same multidimensional poverty threshold.

Indicator Deprivation Patterns by Settlement Typology

The study's urban-rural-interior classification provides an additional lens for understanding how geographical context shapes deprivation. Table 4.4 compares indicator-level deprivation among multidimensionally poor households across the three settlement typologies.

Table 4.4 Indicator Deprivation Rates by Settlement Typology among Multidimensionally Poor Households

	URBAN	RURAL	INTERIOR
Multidimensionally poor households (n)	533	627	536
Education Indicator (%)			
Years of Schooling	74.5	70.7	81.2
Preschool Attendance	10.5	10.2	9.9
Primary School Attendance	2.6	4.6	3.7
Secondary School Attendance	4.9	5.7	9.0
Literacy and Numeracy	60.8	57.4	61.2
Health Indicator (%)			
Access to Healthcare	16.5	28.5	62.1
Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)	66.0	61.6	49.1
Persons with Disabilities	23.1	30.9	18.7
Child Growth (Height)	7.3	4.8	5.8

	URBAN	RURAL	INTERIOR
Child Growth (Weight)	7.7	5.3	6.5
Water Supply	45.8	42.3	74.6
Living Standards Indicator (%)			
Toilet	3.8	4.3	11.9
Waste Collection	8.8	36.8	45.7
Electricity Supply	20.8	21.7	33.0
Digital Literacy	55.3	43.5	56.9
Internet Access	57.8	46.6	59.5
Transportation	35.6	24.4	34.0
Social Security Indicator (%)			
Social Protection	68.7	78.1	78.2
Insurance	89.9	93.0	91.8
Savings or Liquid Assets	78.8	74.8	71.3
Government Assistance	11.8	9.1	7.3
Employment Stability	29.3	31.7	29.9
Overdue Bills	49.9	49.4	35.4
Social Cohesion and Safety Indicator (%)			
Family and Friendship Support	30.2	16.7	10.1
Community Leadership	22.9	22.6	18.3
Environmental Shocks	16.9	27.9	27.6
Neighbourhood Safety	17.8	11.8	7.8
Note: Percentages represent the proportion of multidimensionally poor households within each settlement typology that are deprived in the respective indicator. Urban, rural and interior classifications follow the contextual classifications applied in this study.			

The typology results provide particularly strong evidence of the importance of distinguishing interior communities from the broader rural category. Healthcare access deprivation affects 62.1% of multidimensionally poor households in interior settlements, compared with 28.5% in rural areas and only 16.5% in urban areas. Water supply shows a similar pattern, with deprivation reaching 74.6% among interior households compared with 42.3% in rural and 45.8% in urban locations.

Living Standards indicators further illustrate this geographical disadvantage. Waste collection deprivation rises from 8.8% among urban poor households to 36.8% among rural households and 45.7% among interior households. Electricity supply deprivation similarly reaches 33.0% in interior settlements, compared with approximately one-fifth of multidimensionally poor households in urban and rural locations.

However, not every deprivation is more prevalent in interior areas. Non-communicable disease deprivation is higher among urban (66.0%) and rural (61.6%) poor households than among interior households (49.1%), while overdue bills affect almost half of urban and rural poor households compared with 35.4% of those in interior settlements. Family and friendship support deprivation is also substantially higher in urban areas (30.2%) than in rural (16.7%) or interior (10.1%) communities. These contrasts illustrate that urban, rural and interior poverty differ not simply in degree but also in composition.

Indicator Deprivation Patterns by State

State-level disaggregation provides a further layer of detail by identifying variation that may be concealed within broader regional averages. Table 4.5 presents indicator deprivation rates among multidimensionally poor households for the 13 states and the Federal Territory grouping represented in the study.

Table 4.5 Indicator Deprivation Rates by State among Multidimensionally Poor Households (%)

INDICATOR	PERLIS	KEDAH	P. PINANG	PERAK	SELANGOR	KL	N. SEMBILAN	MELAKA	JOHOR	PAHANG	TERENGGANU	KELANTAN	SABAH	SARAWAK
Multidimensionally poor households (n)	19	89	58	111	101	90	86	45	107	79	79	144	356	332
Education Indicator (%)														
Years of Schooling	94.7	56.2	82.8	85.6	77.2	48.9	51.2	84.4	78.5	86.1	84.8	82.6	70.8	81.3
Preschool Attendance	0.0	13.5	12.1	8.1	5.0	22.2	8.1	13.3	15.0	8.9	8.9	9.7	12.6	5.4
Primary School Attendance	0.0	4.5	3.4	0.9	2.0	4.4	5.8	4.4	5.6	2.5	3.8	3.5	5.6	2.1
Secondary School Attendance	0.0	5.6	6.9	4.5	5.0	4.4	9.3	8.9	10.3	6.3	8.9	6.2	7.3	5.1
Literacy and Numeracy	63.2	47.2	62.1	69.4	68.3	53.3	50.0	53.3	62.6	73.4	64.6	66.0	49.4	64.5
Health Indicator (%)														
Access to Healthcare	0.0	22.5	3.4	20.7	7.9	25.6	54.7	11.1	17.8	16.5	17.7	11.1	59.8	59.3
Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)	52.6	65.2	70.7	82.0	66.3	54.4	55.8	57.8	66.4	59.5	70.9	60.4	41.9	60.5
Persons with Disabilities	15.8	29.2	36.2	24.3	20.8	17.8	38.4	24.4	43.0	25.3	24.1	25.0	20.2	19.9
Child Growth (Height)	0.0	1.1	5.2	2.7	17.8	12.2	8.1	6.7	3.7	1.3	2.5	6.2	8.7	2.1
Child Growth (Weight)	0.0	1.1	6.9	1.8	18.8	8.9	10.5	2.2	4.7	1.3	3.8	7.6	9.0	3.9
Water Supply	52.6	30.3	24.1	23.4	51.5	47.8	43.0	8.9	31.8	58.2	12.7	72.9	79.8	65.4
Living Standards Indicator (%)														
Toilet	0.0	0.0	1.7	7.2	2.0	1.1	8.1	4.4	0.9	8.9	6.3	4.9	14.9	5.1
Waste Collection	52.6	30.3	13.8	12.6	5.0	0.0	22.1	11.1	33.6	34.2	16.5	57.6	50.0	29.5

INDICATOR	PERLIS	KEDAH	P. PINANG	PERAK	SELANGOR	KL	N. SEMBILAN	MELAKA	JOHOR	PAHANG	TERENGGANU	KELANTAN	SABAH	SARAWAK
Electricity Supply	0.0	5.6	22.4	8.1	25.7	21.1	23.3	8.9	15.9	29.1	1.3	10.4	53.7	24.4
Digital Literacy	52.6	43.8	63.8	69.4	43.6	50.0	30.2	44.4	37.4	59.5	43.0	53.5	47.5	62.7
Internet Access	52.6	49.4	56.9	68.5	53.5	45.6	52.3	73.3	46.7	62.0	46.8	43.1	50.0	62.3
Transportation	10.5	27.0	22.4	34.2	38.6	53.3	19.8	17.8	20.6	13.9	24.1	14.6	40.2	36.1
Social Security Indicator (%)														
Social Protection	84.2	88.8	60.3	73.0	59.4	61.1	82.6	88.9	79.4	73.4	84.8	83.3	75.3	72.3
Insurance	94.7	97.8	98.3	94.6	88.1	85.6	97.7	100.0	89.7	89.9	91.1	79.9	93.3	92.2
Savings or Liquid Assets	100.0	80.9	86.2	79.3	82.2	71.1	84.9	64.4	82.2	78.5	68.4	64.6	75.3	68.7
Government Assistance	5.3	11.2	5.2	3.6	14.9	25.6	11.6	17.8	11.2	17.7	8.9	6.2	5.1	7.5
Employment Stability	0.0	29.2	34.5	21.6	24.8	36.7	45.3	13.3	35.5	22.8	27.8	33.3	24.7	38.6
Overdue Bills	84.2	44.9	39.7	45.0	44.6	58.9	64.0	28.9	47.7	35.4	60.8	66.0	34.0	38.6
Social Cohesion and Safety Indicator (%)														
Family and Friendship Support	0.0	12.4	10.3	33.3	32.7	51.1	23.3	35.6	13.1	30.4	21.5	11.1	10.7	12.7
Community Leadership	0.0	59.6	20.7	29.7	32.7	18.9	19.8	15.6	16.8	8.9	24.1	8.3	21.9	16.9
Environmental Shocks	15.8	15.7	12.1	16.2	15.8	1.1	24.4	11.1	23.4	15.2	39.2	48.6	33.4	21.4
Neighbourhood Safety	0.0	14.6	20.7	18.0	5.9	27.8	5.8	13.3	15.9	10.1	12.7	13.2	9.8	10.5

Note: Percentages represent the proportion of multidimensionally poor households within each state that are deprived in the respective indicator. Results relate only to households included in the purposively selected study sample and should not be interpreted as representative state-level

INDICATOR	PERLIS	KEDAH	P. PINANG	PERAK	SELANGOR	KL	N. SEMBILAN	MELAKA	JOHOR	PAHANG	TERENGGANU	KELANTAN	SABAH	SARAWAK
prevalence estimates. Particular caution should be exercised when interpreting states with relatively small numbers of multidimensionally poor households, especially Perlis (n = 19).														

The state-level results reinforce the conclusion that multidimensional poverty is composed differently across locations. Financial protection remains a recurring vulnerability, with insurance deprivation exceeding 79% in every state represented in the study. Social protection and inadequate savings or liquid assets are also widespread, although their prevalence varies between states.

Greater geographical differentiation is visible in indicators associated with infrastructure and service accessibility. Water supply deprivation is especially prominent among multidimensionally poor households in Sabah (79.8%), Kelantan (72.9%) and Sarawak (65.4%), while electricity deprivation is markedly higher in Sabah (53.7%) than elsewhere. Healthcare access similarly distinguishes Sabah and Sarawak, where approximately six in ten multidimensionally poor households experience deprivation under this indicator.

Other indicators demonstrate that vulnerability is not confined to remote or infrastructure-constrained locations. Overdue bills, for example, affect 66.0% of multidimensionally poor households in Kelantan, 64.0% in Negeri Sembilan, 60.8% in Terengganu and 58.9% in Kuala Lumpur. Transportation deprivation is particularly notable in Kuala Lumpur (53.3%), Sabah (40.2%) and Selangor (38.6%), illustrating that mobility constraints may emerge under very different geographical circumstances.

The state results should nevertheless be interpreted with regard to the purposive sampling design and differences in the number of multidimensionally poor households represented within each state. They are most useful for identifying patterns within the study population and highlighting potential areas for further investigation, rather than for ranking states or estimating population-level deprivation prevalence.

Deprivation Patterns Across Individual Indicators

While the preceding analysis shows how the five dimensions contribute to the overall LMPI, examining individual indicators reveals the specific forms of deprivation underlying these broader patterns. Figure 4.9 compares the number of households deprived under each of the 27 indicators among all households surveyed and among households classified as multidimensionally poor. The figure should be interpreted as a measure of the prevalence of individual deprivations, rather than their weighted contribution to the LMPI. This distinction is important because an indicator may affect a large number of households but carry a relatively small weight within the index, while a less common indicator may still be highly significant for the households affected.

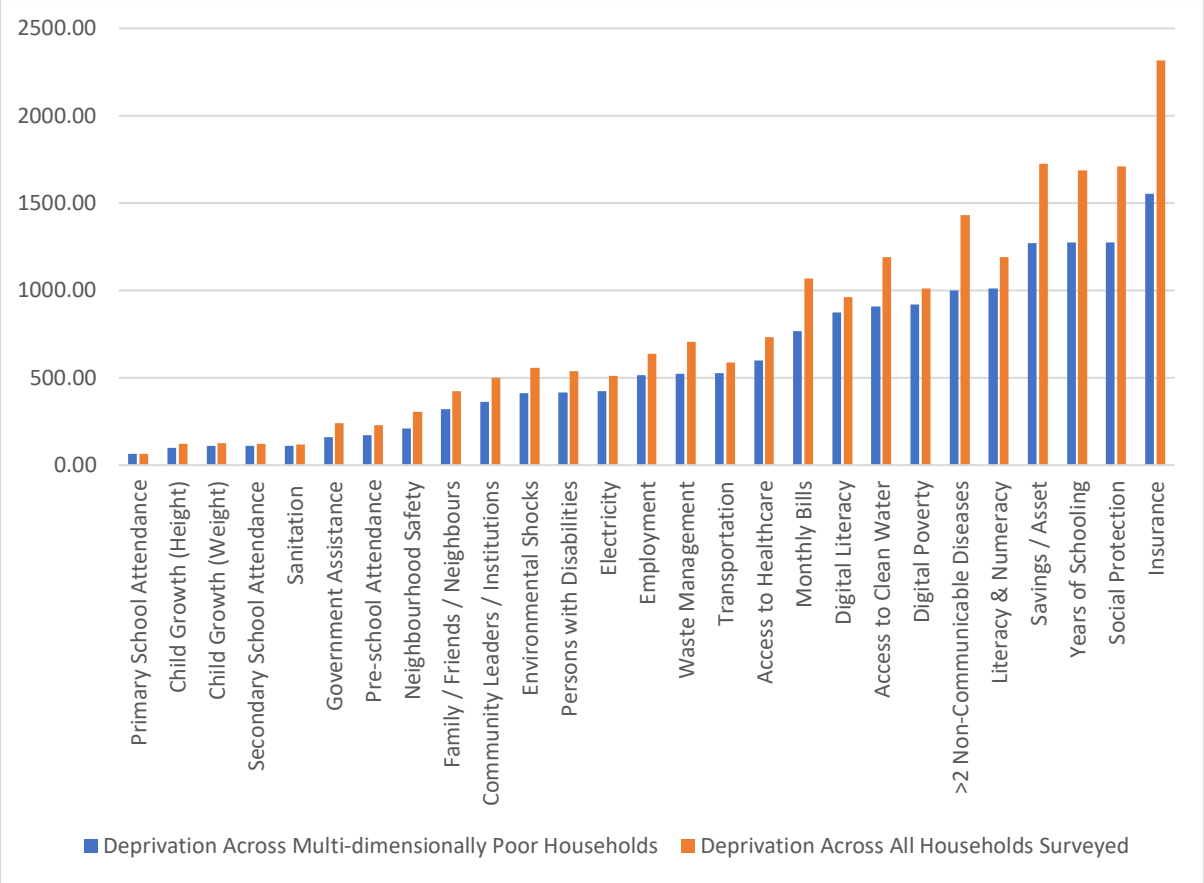


Figure 4.9 Household Deprivation Across the 27 LMPI Indicators

A clear pattern emerges from the distribution. Insurance is the most widespread deprivation in the survey, affecting more households than any other indicator and remaining particularly prominent among households classified as multidimensionally poor. This is followed by a cluster of indicators relating to social protection, years of schooling, savings and assets, literacy and numeracy, non-communicable diseases, digital poverty and access to clean water. The concentration of several Social Security indicators towards the upper end of the distribution helps explain why Social Security contributes the largest share of the overall LMPI. Importantly, however, the pattern is broader than financial insecurity alone. High levels of deprivation are also evident in educational attainment and basic capabilities, health conditions, digital inclusion and access to essential services.

The figure also reveals differences within individual dimensions that are obscured when results are presented only at the dimension level. Education provides a particularly clear example. Deprivation in years of schooling is comparatively widespread, whereas primary school attendance, secondary school attendance and pre-school attendance occur much less frequently. This suggests that the educational deprivation captured by the LMPI is driven less by widespread current non-attendance and more by deficits in accumulated educational attainment and capabilities, including literacy and numeracy. Within Living

Standards, digital poverty is more widespread than sanitation deprivation. The results therefore caution against treating a dimension as a single uniform problem: households may perform relatively well on some indicators within a dimension while remaining substantially deprived on others.

Health shows another distinctive pattern. Non-communicable diseases involving more than two conditions are among the more frequently observed health-related deprivations, while deprivation associated with disability affects a smaller, although still substantial, group. Child growth indicators are located much lower in the overall distribution. These differences are important for policy interpretation because they point towards different types of health vulnerability. The prominence of non-communicable diseases indicates the importance of chronic health burdens among the surveyed households, whereas disability may involve additional accessibility, caregiving, transportation and participation challenges that are not fully reflected by the frequency of the indicator itself. Access to clean water, which is placed under the same dimension, also affects a large number of households.

The comparison between all surveyed households and multidimensionally poor households provides a further insight. For many of the more prevalent indicators, a substantial proportion of all households experiencing the deprivation are also found among the multidimensionally poor. This is particularly visible towards the upper end of the figure, where the blue bars representing poor households constitute a large share of the corresponding orange bars for the overall surveyed sample. In contrast, some deprivations are also experienced by households that do not cross the 25% multidimensional poverty threshold. Experiencing a particular deprivation is therefore not equivalent to being multidimensionally poor. Classification depends on the combination and weighted accumulation of deprivations experienced by the household.

The geographical distribution of the leading weighted deprivation indicator further demonstrates this local variation. Although the LMPI comprises 27 indicators across five dimensions, Figure 4.10 shows that a smaller group of indicators emerges as the leading contributors across the study locations. To derive the leading indicator for each location, the mean weighted deprivation score was calculated for each of the 27 indicators across surveyed households, incorporating both the prevalence of each deprivation and its assigned weight within the LMPI. The indicator with the highest mean weighted score was then identified as the leading weighted deprivation indicator for that location. Insurance emerges as the leading indicator in most locations, consistent with its prominence in the overall indicator analysis. However, several locations are characterised by other leading indicators, including savings and liquid assets, waste collection and years of schooling. These differences illustrate how the relative contribution of individual indicators to

multidimensional poverty varies geographically, reinforcing the importance of place-sensitive responses that reflect local deprivation patterns.

Taken together, the indicator-level analysis adds an important layer to the composition findings. At the dimension level, Social Security makes the largest contribution to the LMPI, followed by Living Standards, while Social Cohesion and Safety contributes the smallest share. At the indicator level, however, the picture is considerably more differentiated. Insurance and other forms of financial protection are highly prominent, but so too are specific disadvantages relating to schooling, chronic health conditions, digital inclusion and clean water. Conversely, several indicators have relatively low prevalence even within dimensions that contribute substantially to the LMPI. The results therefore suggest that policy responses should not target dimensions in the abstract; they should identify the particular indicators driving deprivation within each locality and population group. This indicator-level variation provides the basis for the next chapter, which moves beyond individual deprivations to examine how these disadvantages overlap within the same households.

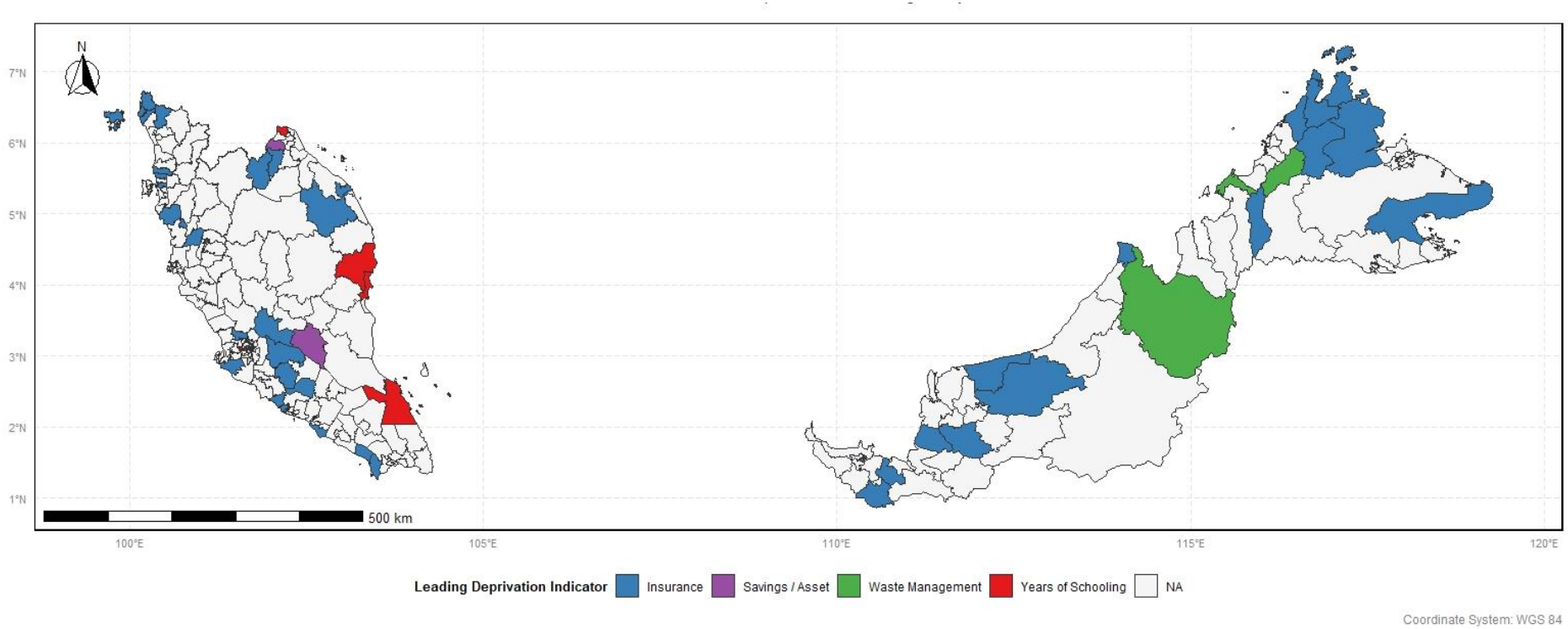


Figure 4.10 Leading Weighted Deprivation Indicator across LMPI Study Locations

(Note: Refer to Appendix B for Constituency-Level LMPI Results and Deprivation Table)

Summary

The composition of poverty provides a deeper understanding of multidimensional poverty by showing how the overall burden of deprivation is distributed across the five dimensions of the LMPI. Rather than contributing equally, deprivation is concentrated primarily in Social Security and Living Standards, which together account for more than three-fifths of the total weighted deprivation experienced by multidimensionally poor households. Education and Health contribute relatively similar shares, while Social Cohesion and Safety represents the smallest component of the overall poverty profile.

The decomposition also highlights important geographical differences. Although Social Security remains the largest contributor across all regions and states, Living Standards plays a more prominent role in Sabah, Sarawak and several states such as Pahang. These findings illustrate that multidimensional poverty is not only characterised by multiple overlapping deprivations but also by differences in how those deprivations are distributed across geographical contexts. Understanding these variations provides a richer picture of poverty beyond the overall LMPI value and complements the incidence and intensity measures presented in the preceding sections.

Understanding vulnerabilities through a multidimensional lens

While the previous chapter examined the extent and distribution of multidimensional poverty across Malaysia, understanding poverty also requires looking beyond aggregate statistics. Households with similar LMPI values may experience poverty in very different ways depending on their circumstances, demographic characteristics, and geographical setting. This chapter examines selected patterns within the data to better understand how multidimensional poverty is experienced across different households and communities.

HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING OVERLAPPING DEPRIVATIONS

The most striking feature of the multidimensional poverty profiles is the extent to which deprivation overlaps across different aspects of wellbeing. Rather than experiencing difficulties in only one or two dimensions, most multidimensionally poor households faced several forms of deprivation simultaneously, reflecting the interconnected nature of poverty.

This pattern is clearly evident among the 1,696 households identified as multidimensionally poor. Only 9 households (0.5%) experienced deprivation in two dimensions, while 198 households (11.7%) were deprived in three dimensions. In contrast, 853 households (50.3%) experienced deprivation across four dimensions and 636 households (37.5%) across all five dimensions. Overall, 1,489 households, or 87.8% of multidimensionally poor households, experienced deprivation in at least four dimensions. This demonstrates that multidimensional poverty among the surveyed households is overwhelmingly characterised by the accumulation of disadvantages across several aspects of wellbeing rather than by isolated deprivation.

Looking across the five dimensions provides further insight into how these overlapping deprivations are distributed. Social Security was the most widespread dimension of deprivation, affecting 1,688 households (99.5% of multidimensionally poor households). This was followed by Health, affecting 1,570 households (92.6%); Education, 1,508 households (88.9%); Living Standards, 1,474 households (86.9%); and Social Cohesion and Safety, 964 households (56.8%). The near-universal prevalence of Social Security deprivation indicates that economic and financial insecurity is a defining feature of the poverty profiles of households classified as multidimensionally poor.

The pattern is particularly revealing among the 853 households experiencing deprivation in four dimensions. Social Cohesion and Safety was by far the dimension most commonly absent from their deprivation profiles, with 561 households (65.8%) not deprived in this

dimension. This was followed by Living Standards, which was absent for 130 households (15.2%); Education for 94 households (11.0%); Health for 65 households (7.6%); and Social Security for only 3 households (0.4%). This suggests that while many multidimensionally poor households retain comparatively stronger conditions in relation to Social Cohesion and Safety, deprivation in Social Security is deeply embedded across their poverty profiles.

These findings demonstrate that multidimensional poverty is rarely the result of a single challenge. Instead, disadvantages in education, health, living standards and financial security frequently occur together and may reinforce one another, creating circumstances that are considerably more difficult for households to overcome. At the same time, the comparatively lower prevalence of Social Cohesion and Safety deprivation suggests that some households continue to retain social and community resources despite experiencing substantial material and economic hardship. Examining these overlapping disadvantages therefore provides a richer understanding of how poverty is experienced than considering individual dimensions or indicators independently.

Box 5.1 The cover story of overlapping deprivations

Zulkifli Awang, 29, is pictured on the cover with his mother, Salmah binti Mera, 65, at their home in Kampung Orang Asli Labong, Mersing, Johor. After SPM, Zulkifli received an offer to continue his education but declined it, remaining at home to care for his mother and his late sister's three children. He earns a living through village work, including rubber tapping.

His experience illustrates how opportunities for further education, livelihoods and caregiving responsibilities can intersect within a household. Taking up an educational opportunity would have meant finding an alternative arrangement for family care. His livelihood must also be understood alongside the responsibilities he carries at home. These overlapping pressures show why household circumstances cannot be understood through income alone, and why responses to deprivation need to consider education and employment opportunities together with support for family care.

Source: Cover photograph narrative, Kampung Orang Asli Labong, Mersing, Johor.

POVERTY AND DISABILITY

Among the 1,696 multidimensionally poor households, 417 households (24.6%) were identified as deprived under the disability indicator. This finding should be interpreted carefully in the context of how disability is operationalised in the current LMPI.

The indicator identifies whether a household includes a person with disabilities (PWD). It does not imply that disability itself constitutes poverty or deprivation. Rather, the presence of a PWD is used as a provisional proxy for potential disability-related vulnerability. The current indicator does not directly capture many of the barriers that shape everyday experiences, including accessibility to education, healthcare, employment, transport, assistive devices and public facilities, as well as caregiving responsibilities and additional household costs. These factors can influence the wellbeing of persons with disabilities and their families and may interact with other forms of deprivation.



Figure 5.1 Local Coordinators and Enumerators Conducting Household Surveys with Persons with Disabilities

Box 5.2 Disability, livelihoods and household vulnerability

At PPR Seri Cempaka, Lembah Pantai, Kuala Lumpur, a recently widowed mother continued earning an income by cooking from home while relying on a damaged wheelchair. Her experience, documented in the Faces of Poverty narratives, illustrates how mobility constraints, bereavement and livelihood pressures can overlap. It also shows why a response centred on income alone may miss practical barriers to household wellbeing. This qualitative account illustrates intersecting vulnerabilities; it does not establish an individual LMPI score.

Source: Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin (2026), as discussed in this report.

This is consistent with APPGM-SDG's nationwide engagement through its study on Community-Based Rehabilitation Centres (*Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti* [PDK]). Across many communities, families described challenges that extended well beyond disability itself. Caregivers frequently reduced or left employment to provide full-time care, households faced additional healthcare and transportation costs, and many encountered barriers in accessing rehabilitation services, inclusive education and employment opportunities.

These challenges can affect several dimensions of wellbeing simultaneously, despite being represented by only a single indicator within the LMPI.

The findings therefore point to an important area for future refinement. Rather than relying primarily on the presence of a PWD as a proxy, future iterations of the LMPI could measure disability-related barriers more directly, including accessibility, participation, reasonable accommodation, access to services and assistive support, caregiving responsibilities, additional household costs and independent living. This would provide a more complete assessment of the circumstances faced by persons with disabilities and their households.

GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY

Although this study was not designed to compare multidimensional poverty between women and men, the findings indicate that gender continues to shape how deprivation is experienced within households.

Across many communities, women played a central role in managing household wellbeing. Alongside paid employment, many balanced caregiving responsibilities, household management, and ensuring that children and family members continued to access education, healthcare, and other essential services despite limited resources. These responsibilities often became more demanding as households experienced multiple forms of deprivation simultaneously.

At the same time, caregiving responsibilities may reduce opportunities for stable employment and long-term financial security. Interruptions to employment can limit retirement savings and access to formal social security, increasing vulnerability later in life. These challenges are particularly relevant given the prominence of Social Security as one of the most common dimensions of deprivation identified in this study.

Men frequently experienced different forms of vulnerability, particularly through unstable employment, irregular income, occupational risks, and the responsibility of providing the primary source of household income. Together, these differing experiences highlight that multidimensional poverty is shaped not only by household circumstances but also by the different social and economic roles carried by women and men.

AGE-SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES

The experience of multidimensional poverty changes across the life course. Children, young people, and older persons may live in the same household, yet the forms of deprivation affecting each group are often different.

For children, deprivation during the early years can influence health, educational attainment, and future opportunities. Limited access to quality education, adequate nutrition, clean water, healthcare, sanitation, and digital learning opportunities may have lasting consequences that continue into adulthood, increasing the risk that disadvantage is carried across generations.

For young people, the transition from education to employment presents a different set of challenges. Limited employment opportunities, barriers to higher education or skills training, transport constraints, and inadequate digital capabilities may delay economic independence and restrict future earning potential. These experiences shape not only current wellbeing but also future resilience.

Among older persons, multidimensional poverty is more closely associated with declining health, reduced mobility, limited financial security, and increasing dependence on family members or community support. As Malaysia continues to experience population ageing, these challenges are likely to become increasingly important in understanding multidimensional poverty.

URBAN, RURAL, AND INTERIOR DIFFERENCES

The findings show that multidimensional poverty is experienced differently across urban, rural, and interior communities. While poverty exists in each setting, the combination of deprivations often reflects the opportunities and constraints associated with place.

Urban households generally benefit from better access to healthcare, education, employment opportunities, public transport, digital infrastructure, and government services. At the same time, they are more likely to face pressures associated with higher living costs, housing affordability, insecure employment, and financial commitments, creating a different profile of vulnerability.

In rural and interior communities, accessibility emerged as a recurring challenge. Throughout the Faces of Poverty programme, communities consistently described the additional time, cost, and effort required to reach schools, healthcare facilities, markets, government offices, and employment opportunities. In remote villages, Orang Asli settlements, longhouses, and small island communities, geographical isolation frequently compounded existing disadvantages, making deprivation more persistent and more difficult to overcome.

These findings demonstrate that geography influences not only where poverty occurs, but also how it is experienced. Transport, digital connectivity, infrastructure, and access to essential services frequently interact with other dimensions of deprivation, producing

distinct patterns of multidimensional poverty across different local contexts. Looking beyond national averages therefore provides a deeper understanding of the diverse realities of poverty experienced across Malaysia.

BEYOND THE INDICATORS: INSIGHTS FROM THE FACES OF POVERTY PROGRAMME

While the APPGM-SDG Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) provides a comprehensive assessment of deprivation across five dimensions and twenty-seven indicators, the Faces of Poverty programme, as recorded in Tajul Arifin and Wan Ahmad Tajuddin (2026), revealed several aspects of poverty that are difficult to capture through quantitative measures alone. These insights do not diminish the value of the LMPI. Rather, they enrich its interpretation by explaining how deprivation is experienced, navigated and understood by communities themselves.

Psychological Stress and Emotional Well-being

One of the strongest themes emerging from the discussions was the emotional burden associated with living in persistent uncertainty. Many households described constant anxiety over unstable employment, rising living costs, unexpected healthcare expenses and the possibility of financial shocks. Although the LMPI captures objective conditions such as employment status, savings and social security, it cannot fully reflect the psychological stress associated with prolonged financial insecurity.

The Hidden Cost of Distance

Distance emerged repeatedly throughout the discussions, but its impact extended well beyond physical accessibility. Communities described the financial costs of transportation, the time required to access schools, healthcare facilities and government offices, lost employment opportunities resulting from travel, and dependence on weather conditions, particularly in remote interior and small island communities. These cumulative burdens influence multiple dimensions of poverty simultaneously yet are difficult to capture through individual indicators.

Quality and Reliability of Public Services

Local Coordinators consistently observed that access does not necessarily translate into meaningful service delivery. Many households technically had access to electricity, treated water, schools or healthcare facilities, yet continued to experience deprivation because these services were unreliable, poorly maintained or inconsistent. These findings suggest that service quality can be as important as service availability in shaping multidimensional poverty.

Geography as a Driver of Poverty

One of the clearest findings from the programme was that geography fundamentally shapes how poverty is experienced. Similar deprivation scores often conceal very different realities depending on whether households lived in urban neighbourhoods, rural villages, remote interior settlements or small island communities. The discussions demonstrated that effective poverty policies must therefore be geographically responsive rather than relying on uniform interventions.

Box 5.3 The cost of reaching healthcare

The Faces of Poverty narratives describe transport costs of up to RM150 for residents seeking specialist healthcare in Tanjung Piai. In Mukah, costs could reach RM1,500 when boat travel, four-wheel-drive transport and accommodation were included. These are separate local accounts, not a single household case.

In some locations in Baram, reported distances to a public hospital exceed 160 km, while a public health clinic (*Klinik Kesihatan*) may be approximately 45 km away. Difficult ground access makes services such as the Flying Doctor Service important for reaching remote communities. On 8 September 2026, a helicopter operating this service crashed near Long Lellang STOLport in Long Lellang, Miri, Sarawak (Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia, 2026). In an update dated 10 September 2026, the Ministry of Health announced a temporary suspension of all Flying Doctor Service operations in Sarawak for investigation and safety and operational reviews. Emergency medical evacuation continued through cooperation with the Fire and Rescue Department (Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2026).

Together, these accounts illustrate how infrastructure and transport access intersect with health needs and financial resilience. Long journeys can add transport and accommodation costs, time away from paid work and demands on family caregivers. Where communities depend on visiting medical teams, disruptions can further constrain access to care. The presence of a healthcare facility alone therefore does not guarantee practical access: reliable transport and continuity of services also matter in addressing overlapping deprivations.

Sources: Tajul Arifin & Wan Ahmad Tajuddin (2026); local accounts from Baram supplied for this report; Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (2026); Ministry of Health Malaysia (2026).

Community Strengths and Social Capital

The programme also highlighted important community assets that are rarely reflected within quantitative indicators. Across many constituencies, Local Coordinators observed strong neighbourly support, informal transport arrangements, food sharing,

volunteerism, collective fundraising and mutual assistance during times of crisis. These informal support systems strengthened resilience and demonstrated that communities possess considerable social capital despite experiencing material hardship.

Aspirations, Dignity and Agency

Perhaps the most important insight was that poverty should not be equated with a lack of effort or aspiration. Local Coordinators consistently encountered households that continued working, prioritising their children's education, supporting family members and seeking opportunities despite multiple structural barriers. Many respondents expressed a desire not for long-term dependence on assistance, but for stable employment, better public services and greater opportunities to improve their lives. These aspirations reflect an important dimension of human dignity that cannot be adequately represented through quantitative indicators alone.

Collectively, these insights demonstrate why qualitative evidence is an essential complement to multidimensional poverty measurement. While the MPI identifies where deprivation exists and measures its extent, the Faces of Poverty programme explains how deprivation is experienced, why it occurs and what communities themselves identify as the most pressing challenges. Integrating these complementary forms of evidence provides a richer understanding of multidimensional poverty and strengthens the foundation for evidence-informed policymaking that is responsive to Malaysia's diverse local realities.

Policy Implications and Strategic Recommendations

KEY POLICY INSIGHTS AND PRIORITY INTERVENTION AREAS

The findings of this study reinforce an important policy message: poverty in Malaysia should no longer be understood solely through the lens of income. While income remains an important determinant of household wellbeing, it does not fully capture the multiple and overlapping disadvantages experienced by vulnerable communities. Across the 55 parliamentary constituencies included in this study, households experienced deprivation in different combinations depending on their geographical location, access to public services, employment opportunities, environmental conditions, and levels of social security. These findings demonstrate that poverty is multidimensional in nature and requires equally multidimensional policy responses.

Strengthen Household Resilience and Basic Services

One of the most significant findings is the large contribution of Social Security, followed by Living Standards, to overall multidimensional poverty. Deprivations related to sanitation, waste management, transport accessibility, digital inclusion, employment security, financial resilience, insurance coverage and access to formal social security mechanisms consistently emerged across many constituencies. These findings suggest that poverty reduction policies should place greater emphasis on strengthening household resilience rather than relying primarily on income transfers. Investments that improve access to essential infrastructure while enhancing households' ability to withstand economic shocks are likely to generate broader and more sustainable development outcomes.

Respond to Local Settlement Contexts

The study also highlights the importance of recognising geographical diversity in poverty. Urban, rural, and interior communities experience fundamentally different patterns of deprivation. In many urban areas, multidimensional poverty is driven by financial insecurity, unstable employment and rising living costs despite relatively better access to public services. Rural communities often experience a combination of infrastructure gaps and limited economic opportunities, while remote communities continue to face persistent challenges relating to transport connectivity, healthcare accessibility, digital infrastructure and environmental vulnerability. These findings reinforce the need for place-based policies that respond to local realities rather than adopting uniform interventions across all regions.

Prevent Vulnerability from Deepening

Another important insight is that multidimensional poverty should increasingly be understood as a condition of vulnerability rather than merely a condition of low income. Many households surveyed in this study may not necessarily fall below conventional income poverty thresholds, yet they remain highly vulnerable because they lack savings, stable employment, insurance, social security coverage or access to reliable public services. Without adequate resilience, relatively minor economic, health or environmental shocks can quickly push these households into chronic poverty. Preventing vulnerability before it develops into severe deprivation should therefore become a central objective of future poverty policies.

Use Local Evidence to Guide Priorities

The findings further demonstrate the value of constituency-level evidence in complementing national statistics. National poverty estimates remain essential for monitoring progress at the country level, but they cannot fully capture the considerable variation that exists between constituencies or even neighbouring communities. By collecting household-level evidence across diverse geographical settings, this study reveals localised patterns of deprivation that would otherwise remain hidden within aggregated national datasets. Such evidence enables Members of Parliament, District Offices, local authorities and implementing agencies to better prioritise interventions according to the specific needs of their constituencies.

Strengthen Policy Learning and Research Capacity

Beyond the empirical findings, the APPGM-SDG Multidimensional Poverty Initiative has also demonstrated the broader value of multidimensional poverty measurement as a platform for policy learning and institutional development. Throughout the implementation of the study, comparative knowledge-sharing sessions, including discussions on the Indian Multidimensional Poverty Index, strengthened understanding of context-specific deprivation and highlighted the importance of adapting multidimensional poverty measurement to Malaysia's own socioeconomic realities. The initiative also positioned MPI as a practical tool for understanding interconnected local development issues rather than merely measuring poverty outcomes, encouraging more integrated and evidence-informed policy discussions across government, academia and civil society.

The initiative has also contributed to strengthening national dialogue on multidimensional poverty measurement. Engagements with Dr Usha Kanagaratnam and other stakeholders facilitated important methodological discussions, including the recognition of Social Security as a critical dimension of deprivation and the continued importance of sanitation within Malaysia's multidimensional poverty framework. At the

same time, the study has strengthened research capacity by introducing university researchers to multidimensional poverty methodology, with AIMST University completing the training programme and Taylor's Poverty Lab identified as a potential partner for future collaboration. These developments illustrate how constituency-based research can simultaneously generate evidence, strengthen institutional capacity and support continuous methodological improvement.

Translate Findings into Local Action

Perhaps most importantly, the study has demonstrated that multidimensional poverty evidence can be translated into practical action. Findings generated through the *Faces of Poverty* programme have informed targeted community interventions, including the sanitation initiative in Pulau Tigabu, Sabah, which was developed in response to severe sanitation deprivation identified during community engagement. The study has also attracted interest from external partners to expand public awareness and community education initiatives based on the findings. These examples demonstrate that multidimensional poverty measurement should not be viewed solely as a statistical exercise, but as an evidence platform capable of informing policy, strengthening partnerships and guiding locally relevant interventions.

Taken together, these findings suggest that Malaysia's future poverty agenda should move beyond measuring who is poor towards understanding why households remain vulnerable and which combinations of deprivations require the greatest policy attention. By integrating constituency-driven evidence with national poverty statistics, policymakers can develop more targeted, locally responsive and evidence-informed interventions that address the underlying drivers of multidimensional poverty rather than its symptoms alone.

Positioning the LMPI within Malaysia's Multidimensional Poverty Measurement Framework

Malaysia's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (National MPI), the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (Global MPI), and the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) each serve distinct but complementary roles in understanding poverty. While all three frameworks recognise that poverty extends beyond income, they differ in their objectives, geographical scale, intended users and policy applications. Rather than representing competing approaches, the three indices should be viewed as components of a broader poverty measurement ecosystem that supports evidence-informed policymaking at international, national and local levels.

The Global MPI provides a global picture of poverty that enables multidimensional poverty to be compared across countries. Malaysia's National MPI, meanwhile, adapts the multidimensional poverty approach to the national context and serves as the

country's official framework for measuring and monitoring multidimensional poverty. Its strength lies in providing nationally consistent evidence that supports policy planning, programme monitoring and resource allocation across the country.

The LMPI was developed with a different objective. Rather than focusing primarily on national comparability, it was designed to generate constituency-level evidence that captures local realities and emerging forms of deprivation. Drawing upon APPGM-SDG's extensive field experience, issue mapping and engagement with communities across Malaysia, the framework incorporates dimensions and indicators that reflect challenges frequently encountered at the local level. These include aspects such as employment security, financial resilience, digital poverty, transport accessibility, environmental shocks and community support, issues that are increasingly relevant for understanding household vulnerability but may not be fully reflected within broader multidimensional poverty frameworks.

Table 6.1 compares the National MPI and the LMPI to illustrate their complementary roles within Malaysia's multidimensional poverty measurement landscape. The comparison highlights how the LMPI provides a more localised and context-sensitive assessment of deprivation while complementing, rather than replacing, the nationally standardised framework provided by the National MPI.

Table 6.1 A framework for Malaysia's National MPI and the APPGM-SDG's Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI)

ASPECT	MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL MPI	LMPI
Primary purpose	Measure and monitor multidimensional poverty in Malaysia	Generate constituency-level evidence to support targeted policy interventions
Geographical coverage	National	55 parliamentary constituencies across Malaysia
Primary users	Federal Government, DOSM, ministries and state governments	Members of Parliament, District Offices, Local Authorities, APPGM-SDG, researchers and community partners
Strength	Nationally consistent measurement for planning and monitoring	Captures local realities, emerging deprivations and constituency-specific priorities

ASPECT	MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL MPI	LMPI
Policy application	National policy planning, resource allocation and monitoring	Place-based planning, programme design, policy innovation and local interventions
Role in Malaysia's poverty ecosystem	Serves as the official national multidimensional poverty measure	Complements the National MPI through locally generated evidence and community-based insights

As shown in Table 6.1, the National MPI and LMPI perform complementary rather than competing functions. The National MPI provides a nationally consistent framework for measuring multidimensional poverty across Malaysia, while the LMPI contributes an additional layer of evidence by identifying local priorities, constituency-specific deprivation patterns and emerging vulnerabilities that may not be fully reflected within national datasets. Alongside these approaches, the Global MPI provides an internationally comparable benchmark. Together, the three frameworks provide a more comprehensive understanding of multidimensional poverty across international, national and local contexts.

Disaggregated multidimensional poverty analysis can further reveal important differences in the incidence and composition of poverty across geographical areas and population groups that may be obscured within aggregate estimates (Alkire et al., 2025b). A key contribution of the LMPI is its geographical scale of analysis. While national poverty statistics are generally reported at national and state levels, this study examines multidimensional poverty across 55 parliamentary constituencies while distinguishing between urban, rural and interior communities. The findings demonstrate that deprivation patterns can vary considerably within the same state, indicating that state-level averages may mask important local differences. Constituency-level evidence therefore provides Members of Parliament, District Offices, local authorities and implementing agencies with more granular information to identify priority areas and tailor interventions according to local needs.

The study also demonstrates how locally generated evidence can contribute to the continuous improvement of multidimensional poverty measurement in Malaysia. Throughout the implementation of the Faces of Poverty programme and the subsequent development of the LMPI, field evidence generated through community engagement informed wider discussions on strengthening multidimensional poverty measurement. In particular, the findings reinforced the importance of recognising social security as a

critical dimension of household wellbeing and highlighted the continued relevance of sanitation as a key indicator of deprivation. These experiences illustrate how constituency-based research can complement official statistics by informing future methodological refinement while remaining aligned with national poverty measurement efforts.

The relationship between the three multidimensional poverty frameworks is illustrated in Figure 6.1.

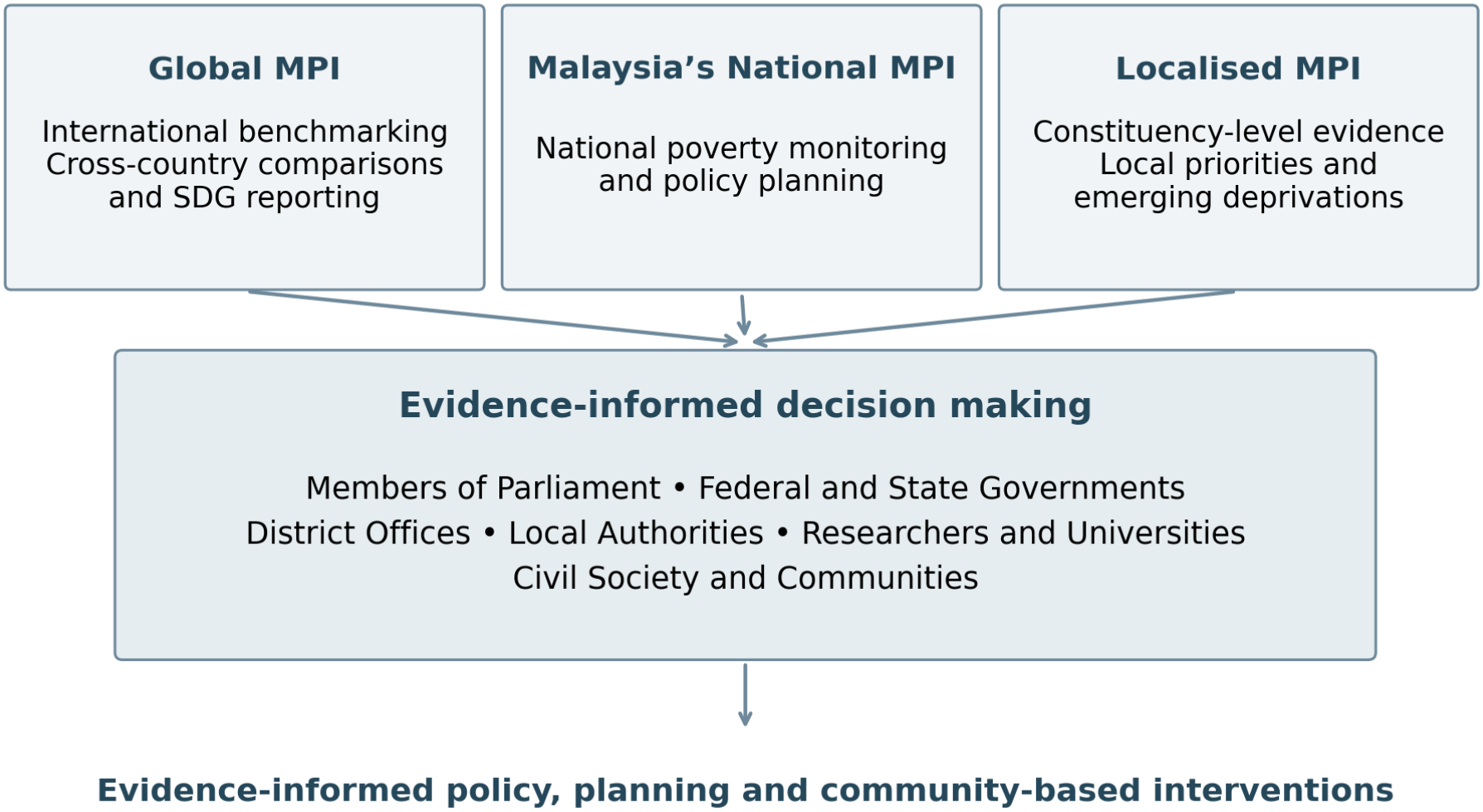


Figure 6.1 Positioning of the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index within Malaysia's Poverty Measurement Ecosystem.

The LMPI should therefore be viewed as a complementary evidence platform rather than an alternative multidimensional poverty measure. The National MPI remains the country's official framework for monitoring multidimensional poverty, while the Global MPI continues to facilitate international comparison. By providing constituency-level evidence and highlighting local and emerging forms of deprivation, the LMPI strengthens Malaysia's overall poverty measurement ecosystem and supports more responsive, place-based and evidence-informed policymaking.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING DATA INPUTS AND INDICATORS

The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) was developed to provide a broader understanding of poverty by incorporating dimensions and indicators that reflect the diverse realities experienced by communities across Malaysia. The framework was tested using data from 2,775 households across 55 parliamentary constituencies, covering urban, rural and interior communities throughout the country. The findings demonstrate that the framework is capable of identifying multiple and overlapping forms of deprivation that extend beyond conventional income measures while providing valuable insights into local poverty dynamics.

At this initial stage, APPGM-SDG has implemented the LMPI across 55 parliamentary constituencies. Building on this foundation, and subject to future funding and institutional support, APPGM-SDG aims to progressively extend the LMPI to a broader range of parliamentary constituencies. Expanding its geographical coverage would strengthen the evidence base for understanding how multidimensional poverty varies across different local contexts and support more targeted, place-based policy responses.

As with any multidimensional poverty framework, the LMPI should be regarded as an evolving measurement tool rather than a finalised model. The process of developing, testing and analysing the framework has generated valuable methodological lessons that can guide future refinement. Rather than indicating shortcomings, these reflections represent opportunities to further strengthen the framework's analytical robustness, operational practicality and policy relevance as it continues to mature.

The MPI Should Continue to Evolve

The development of the LMPI reinforces a broader principle of multidimensional poverty measurement: the MPI should continue to evolve. This study is not intended to establish a definitive or permanent measure of multidimensional poverty in Malaysia. Rather, it demonstrates that multidimensional poverty measurement should remain dynamic and responsive to changing socioeconomic conditions, development priorities and emerging forms of deprivation. Poverty itself is continually evolving. New vulnerabilities arise from demographic change, labour market transformation, digitalisation, environmental

pressures and changing patterns of social exclusion. Consequently, multidimensional poverty frameworks must also continue to evolve if they are to remain relevant to contemporary policy challenges.

Evidence from countries with comparable data over time also demonstrates that multidimensional poverty is not static, with both the level and patterns of deprivation changing over time (Alkire et al., 2025c).

The LMPI was intentionally developed as an evolving framework capable of incorporating new evidence and practical experience. Throughout the implementation of this study, household surveys, discussions with Local Coordinators, field observations and engagement with subject matter experts generated valuable insights into the performance and relevance of individual indicators. These experiences reinforce the importance of treating multidimensional poverty measurement as a continuous process of learning, assessment and refinement rather than as a one-off statistical exercise.

Future iterations of the LMPI should therefore continue to draw upon empirical findings, stakeholder consultations, methodological advances and emerging policy priorities. This iterative approach will strengthen the framework while ensuring that it remains responsive to the changing realities experienced by communities throughout Malaysia.

The Number of Indicators Should Be Reviewed

The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) currently comprises 27 indicators across five dimensions. The relatively larger number of indicators reflects the exploratory nature of this study, which sought to capture a broad range of deprivations experienced by communities across Malaysia. During the framework development stage, the priority was to avoid prematurely excluding potentially important dimensions of poverty, particularly those identified through APPGM-SDG's extensive field experience, issue mapping and engagement with Local Coordinators and communities. The framework therefore intentionally adopted a more comprehensive set of indicators to assess their relevance and contribution within the Malaysian context.

International experience demonstrates that multidimensional poverty frameworks should balance comprehensiveness with practicality. While there is no universally accepted optimum number of indicators, an excessively large indicator set may increase respondent burden, complicate data collection and reduce operational efficiency. Conversely, an overly simplified framework risks overlooking forms of deprivation that are highly relevant to national and local policymaking. Achieving an appropriate balance between these competing considerations is therefore an important aspect of multidimensional poverty measurement.

The findings from 2,775 households across 55 parliamentary constituencies indicate that the broader framework captured diverse patterns of deprivation across urban, rural and interior communities. At this stage, retaining the wider range of indicators provides valuable evidence for understanding which dimensions and indicators contribute most meaningfully to multidimensional poverty in Malaysia. The current framework should therefore be viewed as an important developmental stage rather than a finalised model.

Nevertheless, future iterations of the LMPI will undertake a systematic review of the indicator framework. This review should consider the normative value and technical salience of each indicator alongside its empirical performance, statistical robustness, policy relevance, operational feasibility and stakeholder feedback to determine whether certain indicators should be retained, merged, refined or removed. The objective is not simply to reduce the number of indicators, but to ensure that each indicator contributes meaningful explanatory value while maintaining a framework that remains practical for routine implementation.

Future iterations should also review the structure of the household survey instrument to strengthen the collection of individual-level information within households. This would allow selected indicators to more accurately reflect the circumstances of individual household members while retaining the household as the principal unit of multidimensional poverty analysis.

Not All Indicators Contribute Equally

The empirical assessment undertaken in this study demonstrates that individual indicators do not contribute equally to explaining multidimensional poverty. Some indicators consistently differentiated multidimensionally poor households across different geographical settings, while others exhibited relatively low variation or limited influence on the overall multidimensional poverty profile. This variation is expected in multidimensional poverty measurement and reflects differences in the prevalence, severity and distribution of individual deprivations.

Importantly, indicators that contribute less statistically should not automatically be regarded as unimportant. Certain indicators may affect relatively small population groups yet remain highly significant from a policy perspective because they capture severe forms of deprivation or represent vulnerable populations whose needs require specific policy attention. Statistical contribution should therefore not be interpreted as the sole criterion for determining an indicator's value within a multidimensional poverty framework.

For example, the Disability (PWD) indicator demonstrated relatively limited discriminatory power within the current dataset. This finding should not be interpreted as suggesting that disability is unimportant or that persons with disabilities experience lower levels of vulnerability. Rather, the current LMPI uses the presence of a person with disabilities as a provisional proxy for potential disability-related vulnerability. Disability itself should not be treated as a state of poverty or deprivation; instead, vulnerability may arise through the barriers, additional costs and limitations in access to services, opportunities and reasonable accommodation experienced by persons with disabilities and their households.

Future iterations of the framework should therefore consider moving towards measures that capture these barriers more directly. These may include accessibility to essential services and infrastructure, availability of assistive devices and rehabilitation services, reasonable accommodation, barriers to education and employment, caregiving responsibilities, additional household costs, independent living, and broader measures of social inclusion and participation. Such measures may provide a more complete representation of disability-related vulnerability while strengthening the analytical contribution of the indicator within the overall framework.

Future refinement should also incorporate comprehensive indicator-level analyses, including decomposition, sensitivity analysis and robustness testing, to evaluate the contribution of each indicator to the overall LMPI. These analyses will provide an objective basis for determining whether indicators should be retained, merged, refined or replaced in subsequent iterations of the framework. Such evidence-based refinement will ensure that future versions of the LMPI remain analytically robust, policy relevant and responsive to the diverse forms of deprivation experienced across Malaysia.

Indicator Definitions May Be Improved Over Time

The implementation of the LMPI also highlighted that some indicators may require further refinement as the framework evolves. While the current set of indicators captures a broad range of deprivations experienced by households, the study shows that the way certain indicators are defined and measured may not always fully reflect the complexity of contemporary poverty or differences across local contexts.

The Years of Schooling indicator provides a useful example. Educational attainment remains an established component of multidimensional poverty measurement, but years of formal schooling alone may not adequately reflect whether an individual possesses the knowledge, functional skills and competencies needed to participate effectively in society and the labour market. The findings and field narratives also suggest that educational disadvantage can arise through factors such as learning quality, literacy and

numeracy, digital capability, geographical access and interrupted schooling. Future iterations of the LMPI could therefore examine whether Years of Schooling should be retained in its current form, complemented by other measures, or refined to better reflect educational capability and outcomes.

Similar considerations apply to other indicators that currently depend on binary deprivation cut-offs. Classifying households as either deprived or non-deprived provides the clarity required for aggregation under the Alkire-Foster methodology, but it can sometimes conceal important differences in the severity or circumstances of deprivation. For example, households may technically have access to a service while still facing substantial barriers related to affordability, reliability, distance, quality or geographical accessibility. Future refinement should therefore consider whether selected indicator definitions or cut-offs can better capture these contextual differences without undermining methodological consistency.

The LMPI should consequently be treated as an evolving measurement framework. Future revisions should review indicator definitions and deprivation cut-offs using empirical performance, field evidence, stakeholder and expert consultation, and developments in multidimensional poverty measurement. The objective is not simply to introduce greater complexity, but to ensure that each indicator continues to measure a meaningful form of deprivation, distinguishes vulnerability effectively, and reflects the lived realities that the LMPI is intended to capture while preserving comparability across locations and over time.

State Priorities Should Inform Future Adaptations

One of the clearest findings from this study is that multidimensional poverty manifests differently across Malaysia. Significant variation was observed not only between states but also between urban, rural and interior communities within the same state. These differences reflect variations in geography, livelihoods, infrastructure provision, environmental conditions, accessibility and local development priorities.

This diversity suggests that while Malaysia should continue to maintain a nationally consistent multidimensional poverty framework, future iterations should also provide greater flexibility for contextual adaptation where appropriate. A common national core remains essential to preserve comparability across states and over time. However, additional indicators or refinements may be introduced to better reflect state-specific priorities or unique geographical circumstances, provided that they complement rather than replace the national framework.

For example, environmental vulnerability may be particularly relevant for coastal and island communities, while accessibility to essential services may require different considerations in remote interior settlements. Similarly, highly urbanised areas may face emerging forms of deprivation associated with housing affordability, digital exclusion or insecure employment that warrant greater emphasis. Allowing carefully considered contextual adaptations would enable multidimensional poverty measurement to become more responsive to local realities while preserving national coherence.

Strengthening Data Integration for Future Poverty Measurement

The long-term sustainability of multidimensional poverty measurement depends not only on the quality of the framework itself but also on the availability of reliable and timely data. Household surveys remain indispensable because they capture lived experiences, perceptions and forms of deprivation that are not routinely available through administrative systems. However, they are resource-intensive and cannot be conducted continuously.

Future iterations of the LMPI should therefore strengthen integration between household survey data and administrative datasets maintained by relevant government agencies. Information relating to education, health, employment, social security and government assistance already exists across multiple administrative systems and could complement survey findings where appropriate. Greater interoperability between datasets would improve data quality, reduce duplication and support more frequent monitoring of multidimensional deprivation.

At the same time, constituency-level household surveys should continue to play an important role within Malaysia's poverty measurement ecosystem. Administrative records describe programme participation and service utilisation but often cannot capture emerging vulnerabilities, community perceptions or locally specific forms of deprivation. Combining administrative data with community-based evidence would therefore provide a richer and more comprehensive understanding of multidimensional poverty while strengthening evidence-informed policymaking at national, state and constituency levels.

Taken together, these recommendations reinforce that multidimensional poverty measurement should be viewed as a continuous process of learning, validation and refinement. The findings illustrate the LMPI's potential to identify multiple and overlapping forms of deprivation across diverse Malaysian communities while providing locally relevant evidence that complements existing national statistics. As additional evidence becomes available and policy priorities continue to evolve, the framework should likewise continue to be strengthened through empirical testing, methodological

review and stakeholder engagement. Through this process of continuous improvement, the LMPI can continue to complement Malaysia's National MPI while contributing to a more robust, locally responsive and evidence-informed multidimensional poverty measurement ecosystem.

SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM POLICY ACTIONS

The findings of the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) demonstrate that addressing poverty requires coordinated actions that respond to the multiple and interconnected forms of deprivation experienced by households. While long-term structural reforms remain essential, the study also identifies several practical actions that can be implemented in the short and medium term using existing institutional arrangements. These recommendations emphasise translating multidimensional poverty evidence into policy, planning and implementation while strengthening coordination across different levels of government and stakeholders.

Strengthen the Use of Multidimensional Poverty Evidence in Local Planning

One immediate priority is to integrate multidimensional poverty evidence more systematically into local planning and decision-making processes. Unlike conventional poverty statistics, the LMPI identifies the specific dimensions in which households experience deprivation, allowing policymakers to better understand the underlying factors contributing to poverty within each locality.

District Offices, local authorities and state agencies should incorporate multidimensional poverty findings into district development plans, local action plans and programme prioritisation. Rather than implementing uniform interventions across different communities, planning should respond to the dominant forms of deprivation identified within each area, recognising that priorities differ between urban, rural and interior communities. This place-based approach will improve the effectiveness of public investments by ensuring that interventions address the most pressing local needs.

Promote Integrated Rather Than Single-Sector Interventions

The study demonstrates that multidimensional poverty rarely exists in isolation. Households experiencing poor living standards often face overlapping challenges related to financial insecurity, health, education, access to services and social wellbeing. Addressing only one dimension of deprivation may therefore produce limited and short-lived outcomes.

Government agencies should increasingly design integrated interventions that combine multiple sectors within a coordinated programme. Infrastructure improvements, for example, should be complemented by livelihood initiatives, social security measures,

health promotion or community development activities where appropriate. Such integrated approaches recognise the interconnected nature of poverty and are more likely to produce sustainable improvements in household wellbeing.

Strengthen Constituency-Level Evidence for Policy Development

One of the key contributions of the LMPI is the generation of constituency-level evidence that complements national poverty statistics. This localised information enables Members of Parliament, District Officers, local authorities and community leaders to better understand the specific deprivation patterns affecting their constituencies and to develop interventions that are responsive to local priorities

Future poverty reduction initiatives should continue to support periodic constituency-level data collection and encourage its integration into parliamentary engagement, district planning and local development programmes. Maintaining a strong evidence base at the constituency level will enable policymakers to monitor changes over time, evaluate intervention outcomes and respond more effectively to emerging forms of deprivation.

Strengthen Collaboration Between Government, Universities and Communities

The successful implementation of the LMPI demonstrates the value of collaboration between government agencies, universities, civil society organisations and local communities. Each stakeholder contributes different strengths, including policy implementation, technical expertise, research capacity and local knowledge, all of which are essential for developing a comprehensive understanding of multidimensional poverty.

Future initiatives should continue to strengthen these partnerships throughout the research and implementation process. Universities can contribute to methodological development, impact evaluation and policy analysis, while Local Coordinators and community representatives provide important contextual knowledge that supports data collection, interpretation and programme design. Strengthening these collaborative networks will improve both the quality of evidence and the effectiveness of policy responses.

Translate Research Findings into Post-Study Projects

The value of multidimensional poverty research extends beyond the generation of evidence. Findings should serve as the foundation for practical interventions that address the specific forms of deprivation identified within communities. Where priority issues emerge consistently from the study, they should inform the design and implementation of post-study projects that translate research findings into tangible improvements in community wellbeing. In doing so, multidimensional poverty measurement becomes not

only a tool for understanding poverty but also a mechanism for supporting evidence-informed action.

The community sanitation initiative implemented in Pulau Tigabu, Sabah (Figures 6.2(a) and 6.2(b)), provides an example of how research findings can be translated into post-study action. Findings from the Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) highlighted sanitation as a significant local deprivation and informed the development of a community-based sanitation programme in collaboration with academic partners and local stakeholders. This initiative demonstrates how constituency-level evidence can inform targeted interventions that respond directly to locally identified needs while strengthening collaboration between researchers, government agencies and communities.



Figure 6.2(a) House with toilet waste discharged directly into the surrounding water



Figure 6.2(b) Participants of the Bengkel Kesedaran dan Amali Sanitasi Selamat held at SK Pulau Tigabu, Kudat.

Future iterations of the LMPI should continue to encourage the development of post-study projects across participating constituencies. The nature of these projects should be guided by the dominant forms of deprivation identified within each locality, recognising that priorities differ between urban, rural and interior communities. Depending on local findings, post-study initiatives may focus on improving sanitation, strengthening financial resilience, enhancing digital inclusion, expanding access to essential services, promoting livelihood opportunities or addressing other locally significant forms of deprivation.

Embedding post-study projects within the multidimensional poverty framework also creates opportunities for continuous learning and policy improvement. By linking evidence generation with implementation and subsequent evaluation, future studies can assess whether targeted interventions contribute to measurable reductions in multidimensional deprivation over time. This evidence-to-action approach strengthens the practical value of the LMPI while ensuring that research findings continue to inform policies, programmes and community-based initiatives across Malaysia.

Strengthen Monitoring and Continuous Learning

Multidimensional poverty measurement should become part of an ongoing learning process rather than a one-off assessment. Periodic data collection enables policymakers to evaluate whether interventions are reducing deprivation across different dimensions, identify emerging challenges and refine policy responses based on evidence.

Future studies should therefore be conducted at regular intervals using a consistent methodological framework while allowing for incremental improvements to indicators

and measurement approaches where necessary. Repeated measurement will strengthen the evidence base for evaluating policy effectiveness, monitoring trends over time and identifying successful interventions that can be adapted or expanded to other locations.

Looking Ahead

This study provides an initial evidence base on multidimensional poverty across 55 parliamentary constituencies and, in doing so, demonstrates both the value and the complexity of examining deprivation at the local level. The findings show that the overall level of multidimensional poverty tells only part of the story. What households are deprived of, and the relative importance of those deprivations, vary across places and population groups. This is the contribution that the LMPI adds to the wider understanding of poverty in Malaysia.

The study also leaves a body of evidence that can be used beyond this report. Its findings can contribute to constituency and policy discussions, strengthen the identification of local priorities, and provide additional evidence for organisations already working on the issues identified. Where opportunities arise, they can also inform more focused responses to particular deprivations. The value of the study therefore does not depend on a further round of data collection or the creation of new programmes; its impact begins with how the evidence already generated is understood and used.

There remains scope to build on this work. Further application of the LMPI, whether through additional constituencies, reassessment or methodological refinement, would deepen the evidence generated through this first study. APPGM-SDG's longer-term aspiration to extend the initiative towards all 222 parliamentary constituencies remains an opportunity to broaden that evidence base, subject to future opportunities and resources. Such expansion should build upon the lessons of this initial implementation rather than diminish the value of what has already been achieved.

Ultimately, this report should be judged not only by the LMPI value it produces, but by whether it contributes to greater visibility of deprivation, stronger policy discussion and more informed decisions about the communities represented in the study. The evidence is now available. Its impact will depend on what is done with it.

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Appendix A

Survey Questionnaire

BORANG MAKLUMAT DAN KEIZINAN RESPONDEN

Salam sejahtera Tuan / Puan. Nama saya _____. Terima kasih Tuan / Puan kerana sudi menerima kedatangan kami dan meluangkan masa bersama kami pada hari ini.

Pengenalan: Saya mewakili pasukan penyelidik Kumpulan Rentas Parti Parlimen Malaysia Mengenai Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari (APPGM-SDG), sebuah organisasi dwipartisan yang ditubuhkan pada 2019 di bawah Parlimen Malaysia. Fokus kami bertumpukan penyetempatan Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari di kawasan Parlimen di seluruh Malaysia.

Tujuan: Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti cabaran-cabaran yang dialami oleh komuniti akar umbi di 55 kawasan Parlimen di Malaysia. Fokus kajian ini adalah dari segi pendidikan, kesihatan, taraf kehidupan, perlindungan sosial serta kesepaduan sosial dan keselamatan.

Prosedur: Soal selidik ini terdiri daripada 6 bahagian dan mengambil masa kira-kira 40 minit. Penyertaan adalah secara sukarela, dan perkongsian pengalaman Tuan/Puan amat dihargai bagi membolehkan pihak kami memahami keadaan sebenar komuniti setempat. Sekiranya terdapat mana-mana soalan yang Tuan/Puan rasa kurang selesa untuk menjawab, Tuan/Puan boleh memohon penemu duga untuk meneruskan ke soalan seterusnya atau menghentikan sesi soal jawab ini. Sekiranya perlu, pihak kami akan menghubungi Tuan/Puan untuk sebarang soalan susulan atau penjelasan lanjut.

Risiko dan manfaat: Tiada risiko yang dikenalpasti terkait dengan kajian ini. Hasil dapatan kajian ini akan dibentangkan kepada pihak berkepentingan termasuk agensi-agensi kerajaan dan diharap dapat membantu menambahbaik kualiti kehidupan komuniti setempat.

Kerahsiaan: Semua maklumat yang diberikan oleh Tuan / Puan adalah SULIT dan RAHSIA, dan akan disimpan dengan selamat. Data yang dibentangkan dan diterbitkan tidak akan mengandungi sebarang maklumat yang dapat mengenal pasti identiti Tuan / Puan.

Keizinan: Kesemua maklumat di atas telah diterangkan kepada saya and saya telah memahami penjelasan yang diberikan oleh pihak penemu duga.

Saya dengan ini BERSETUJU dan memberi kebenaran kepada APPGM-SDG untuk menggunakan maklumat yang diberikan dalam sesi ini.

Saya dengan ini TIDAK BERSETUJU dan tidak memberi kebenaran kepada APPGM-SDG untuk menggunakan maklumat yang akan diberikan dalam sesi ini.
Tandatangan KK / Wakil:

Nama KK : _____
Tarikh : _____/_____/_____

MAKLUMAT PENGENALAN

E-mel *: _____
Kod borang * (contoh: MPI-043-XXX): _____

*Arahan: Pilih satu jawapan, kecuali soalan yang membenarkan lebih daripada satu jawapan. Ikuti arahan lompat soalan. Tanda * menunjukkan soalan wajib dalam borang asal.*

Nama Responden *
Jawapan: _____
Alamat *
Jawapan: _____
Daerah *
Jawapan: _____
Negeri *
Jawapan: _____
DUN *
Jawapan: _____
Parlimen *
Jawapan: _____
No. telefon bimbit (format: 012-345 6789) *
Jawapan: _____

Bahagian A: Demografi

A1.1 Jantina *
1 - Lelaki
2 - Perempuan
A1.2 Umur (tahun) *
Jawapan: _____

A1.3 Etnik *
1 - Melayu
2 - Cina
3 - India
4 - Orang Asli (teruskan ke soalan A1.3A)
5 - Bumiputera Sarawak (teruskan ke soalan A1.3A)
6 - Bumiputera Sabah (teruskan ke soalan A1.3A)
7 - Lain-lain (teruskan ke soalan A1.3A)

A1.3A Etnik Sekiranya Orang Asli / Bumiputera Sarawak / Bumiputera Sabah / Lain-lain, sila nyatakan etnik atau NA jika "Tidak berkenaan" *
Jawapan: _____

A1.4 Status perkahwinan *
1 - Bujang / tidak pernah berkahwin
2 - Berkahwin
3 - Bercerai / berpisah
4 - Balu / duda

A1.5 Agama *
1 - Islam
2 - Kristian
3 - Buddha
4 - Hindu
7 - Lain-lain

A1.6 Status persekolahan *
1 - Tidak pernah bersekolah
2 - Pernah bersekolah

A1.7 Tahap pendidikan tertinggi *
1 - Tiada
2 - Sekolah rendah (Darjah 1 – 6)
3 - Pendidikan menengah rendah (Tingkatan 1 - 3)
4 - Pendidikan menengah tinggi (Tingkatan 4 - 5)
5 - Kolej / Diploma / Politeknik / Maktab / Pra Universiti / Asasi / STAM / STPM / Vokasional
6 - Ijazah Sarjana Muda ke atas

A1.8 Status pekerjaan *
1 - Tidak bekerja (termasuk suri rumah dan pesara)
2 - Sektor kerajaan
3 - Sektor swasta
4 - Bekerja sendiri
A1.9 Pekerjaan sampingan *
1 - Tiada
2 - Ada

A1.10 Bilangan orang dewasa (18 tahun ke atas) termasuk anda di rumah anda (sekiranya tiada, sila tulis '0') *
Jawapan: _____

A1.11 Bilangan remaja (13 – 17 tahun) di rumah anda (sekiranya tiada, sila tulis '0') *
Jawapan: _____

A1.12 Bilangan kanak-kanak (7 – 12 tahun) di rumah anda (sekiranya tiada, sila tulis '0') *
Jawapan: _____

A1.13 Bilangan kanak-kanak (0-6 tahun) di rumah anda (sekiranya tiada, sila tulis '0') *
Jawapan: _____

A1.14 Jumlah isi rumah (orang dewasa + remaja + kanak-kanak) *
Jawapan: _____

R1. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)
_____

Bahagian B: Pendidikan

B1 Jumlah tahun persekolahan
B1.1 Adakah semua orang dewasa (18 tahun ke atas) di dalam isi rumah ini telah belajar sehingga tamat Tingkatan 5? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

B2 Kehadiran di peringkat Pra-Sekolah
B2.1 Adakah semua kanak-kanak berumur 4 - 6 tahun di dalam isi rumah ini sedang bersekolah di tadika / pra-sekolah? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada kanak-kanak berumur 4 - 6 tahun)

B2.2 Apakah sebab-sebab kanak-kanak berkenaan tidak bersekolah di tadika / pra-sekolah? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Masalah kewangan
2 - Jarak rumah ke sekolah yang jauh / masalah pengangkutan
3 - Masalah kesihatan
4 - Tiada sijil lahir
7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada kanak-kanak berumur 4 - 6 tahun atau semua yang berkenaan bersekolah)

B3 Kehadiran di peringkat Sekolah Rendah
B3.1 Adakah semua kanak-kanak berumur 7 - 12 tahun di dalam isi rumah ini sedang bersekolah? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada kanak-kanak berumur 7 - 12 tahun)

B3.2 Apakah sebab-sebab kanak-kanak berkenaan tidak bersekolah? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Masalah kewangan
2 - Jarak rumah ke sekolah yang jauh / masalah pengangkutan
3 - Masalah kesihatan
4 - Tiada sijil lahir
5 - Tidak berminat untuk belajar

6 - Bekerja
7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada kanak-kanak berumur 7 - 12 tahun atau semua yang berkenaan bersekolah)

B4 Kehadiran di peringkat Sekolah Menengah
B4.1 Adakah semua remaja berumur 13 - 17 tahun di dalam isi rumah ini sedang bersekolah? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada remaja berumur 13 - 17 tahun)

B4.2 Apakah sebab-sebab remaja berkenaan tidak bersekolah? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Masalah kewangan
2 - Jarak rumah ke sekolah yang jauh / masalah pengangkutan
3 - Masalah kesihatan
4 - Tiada sijil lahir
5 - Tidak berminat untuk belajar
6 - Bekerja
7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada remaja berumur 13 - 17 tahun atau semua yang berkenaan bersekolah)

R2. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)
_____

B5 Penilaian membaca menulis dan mengira
Gunakan soalan penilaian di bawah.

B5.1 Membaca *
(Rujukan: Instrumen Literasi Bahasa Melayu Membaca Saringan 2 Tahun 3 (2018) LINUS 2.0 © Hak Cipta Kerajaan Malaysia 2018)
Sila baca semua ayat di bawah.

Nota: Penemu duga diminta untuk menandakan pilihan yang berkenaan sekiranya responden membaca dengan tepat.
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.

Cikgu Hamid pakai cermin mata.

Emak membeli jagung dan halia di pasar tani.
Klinik Kesihatan itu terletak di depan balai polis.

1 - Tidak mahir membaca

B5.2 Menulis *
(Rujukan: Instrumen Literasi Bahasa Melayu Menulis Saringan 2 Tahun 3 (2018) LINUS 2.0 © Hak Cipta Kerajaan Malaysia 2018)
Sila tulis suku kata yang betul di ruang yang disediakan.
Nota: Penemu duga diminta untuk menandakan pilihan yang berkenaan sekiranya responden menulis dengan tepat.
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
si + kat
lin + tah
da + pur
1 - Tidak mahir menulis

B5.3 Mengira *
(Rujukan: Instrumen Numerasi Bertulis Saringan 2 – DLP Tahun 3 (2018) LINUS 2.0 © Hak Cipta Kerajaan Malaysia 2018)
Sila buat pengiraan dan tuliskan jawapan di ruang kosong.
Nota: Penemu duga diminta untuk menandakan pilihan yang berkenaan sekiranya responden mengira dengan tepat.
a. 96 − 32 = _____
b. RM5 + RM50 = _____
c. 8 ÷ 2 = _____
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
96 - 32
RM5 + RM50
8 ÷ 2
1 - Tidak mahir mengira

B5.4 Literasi dan numerasi
Adakah semua ahli isi rumah yang berumur 60 tahun ke atas (termasuk anda) boleh membaca, menulis DAN mengira? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada ahli isi rumah berumur 60 tahun ke atas)

R3. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)

Bahagian C: Kesihatan

C1 Akses kesihatan
C1.1 Apakah nama hospital kerajaan yang terdekat? *
Jawapan: _____

C1.2 Jarak (km) antara rumah dengan hospital kerajaan (diisi oleh penemu duga dengan merujuk kepada Google Maps berdasarkan alamat responden) *
Jawapan: _____

C1.3 Apakah nama klinik kesihatan / klinik bergerak yang terdekat? *
Jawapan: _____

C1.4 Jarak (km) antara rumah dengan klinik kesihatan / klinik bergerak (diisi oleh penemu duga dengan merujuk kepada Google Maps berdasarkan alamat responden) *
Jawapan: _____

C1.5 Adakah ahli isi rumah termasuk anda mudah untuk mendapatkan rawatan kesihatan, sekiranya perlu? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

C1.6 Apakah cabaran yang dihadapi dalam mendapatkan rawatan kesihatan berkenaan? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Masalah kewangan
2 - Jarak ke hospital terlalu jauh / masalah pengangkutan
3 - Masalah komunikasi
4 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada cabaran yang dihadapi dan mudah untuk mendapatkan rawatan kesihatan)

C2 Penyakit tidak berjangkit yang utama (Main Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD))
C2.1 Adakah ahli isi rumah termasuk anda menghidapi gejala penyakit tidak berjangkit di bawah? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Sakit jantung
2 - Kencing manis
3 - Darah tinggi
4 - Kolesterol tinggi

5 - Barah / kanser
6 - Strok
7 - Lain-lain
8 - Tidak tahu
9 - Tiada

C3 Orang Kurang Upaya (OKU)
C3.1 Adakah terdapat kanak-kanak atau dewasa OKU dalam kalangan isi rumah ini? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

C4 Pertumbuhan Kanak-Kanak
C4.1 Bagi kanak-kanak berumur 5 tahun dan ke bawah, adakah doktor atau jururawat telah menyatakan bahawa ketinggian mereka sesuai dengan usia mereka? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak (Terdapat satu / lebih kanak-kanak berumur 5 tahun dan ke bawah yang mempunyai masalah kurang ketinggian)
8 - Tidak tahu
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada kanak-kanak berumur 5 tahun dan ke bawah)

C4.2 Bagi kanak-kanak berumur 5 tahun dan ke bawah, adakah doktor atau jururawat telah menyatakan bahawa berat badan mereka sesuai dengan usia mereka? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak (Terdapat satu / lebih kanak-kanak berumur 5 tahun dan ke bawah yang mempunyai masalah kurang berat badan)
8 - Tidak tahu
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada kanak-kanak berumur 5 tahun dan ke bawah)

C5 Akses kepada air terawat dan bersih
C5.1 Adakah terdapat bekalan air di dalam rumah atau paip air di luar rumah yang terawat? *
Penjelasan:
1. Bekalan air terawat bermaksud air yang dirawat di loji rawatan air.
2. Air sungai, air perigi, air bawah tanah (boring), air bukit (gravity) BUKAN air terawat.
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak (Teruskan ke soalan D1.1)

C5.2 Adakah bekalan air tersebut bersih? *
Penjelasan: Air bersih merujuk kepada air yang jernih, tidak berbau, tidak berkarat atau tidak keruh.

1 - Ya
2 - Tidak (Teruskan ke soalan D1.1)

C5.3 Dalam tempoh sebulan yang lepas, adakah terdapat gangguan air selama 3 hari berturut-turut? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

R4. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)
_____

Bahagian D: Taraf Hidup

D1 Tandas
D1.1 Apakah jenis tandas di rumah? *
1 - Pam / flush
2 - Siram air
3 - Lubang dalam tanah
4 - Rosak
5 - Lain-lain
6 - Tiada

D2 Pengurusan sampah
D2.1 Adakah terdapat perkhidmatan kutipan sampah berjadual di kawasan perumahan anda? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

D2.2 Berapakah jarak dari rumah anda ke tempat pembuangan sampah (yang rasmi)? *
Penjelasan: Pembakaran sampah terbuka atau sampah yang ditanam tidak dikira sebagai pembuangan sampah yang rasmi.
1 - Lebih dari 1 km
2 - Kurang dari 1 km
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Ada kutipan sampah berjadual)

D3 Elektrik
D3.1 Adakah terdapat bekalan elektrik di rumah anda? *
Penjelasan: Bekalan elektrik merujuk kepada grid elektrik, gen set atau solar.
1 - Ya
2 - Tiada

D3.2 Dalam tempoh sebulan yang lepas, pernahkah anda mengalami bekalan elektrik terputus lebih dari 3 hari berturut-turut? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada bekalan elektrik di rumah)

D4 Literasi digital dan akses internet

D4.1 Adakah semua ahli isi rumah yang berumur 9 - 60 tahun (termasuk anda) mampu melakukan kedua-dua perkara berikut:
• Menaip dan menghantar mesej teks / e-mel DAN
• Mencari maklumat di internet *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

D4.2 Apakah kekerapan anda mengakses internet di rumah dalam sebulan yang lepas? *
1 - Kerap (Sekurang-kurangnya 1 kali dalam seminggu atau hampir setiap hari)
2 - Jarang atau Tidak Pernah (Kurang dari 1 kali dalam seminggu atau tidak pernah)

D5 Pengangkutan
D5.1 Adakah anda atau ahli isi rumah mempunyai kenderaan bermotor persendirian (cth: kereta, motosikal, van, bot, sbgnya)? *
1 - Ya (Teruskan ke soalan E1.1)
2 - Tidak

R5. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)
_____

Bahagian E: Perlindungan Sosial

E1 Perlindungan sosial
E1.1 Adakah anda atau ahli isi rumah mempunyai mana-mana yang berikut pada masa kini? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - EPF
2 - SOCSO / PERKESO
3 - Pencen / Elaun Sara Hidup
4 - Tiada

E2 Insurans
E2.1 Adakah anda atau ahli isi rumah mempunyai insurans hayat atau insurans perubatan atau insurans kemalangan peribadi? (cth: Peka B40, iSarawakCare, Prudential, AIA, Great Eastern, Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM), sbgnya) *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

E3 Simpanan / Aset
E3.1 Adakah anda atau ahli isi rumah mempunyai simpanan kewangan yang mencukupi untuk sekurang-kurangnya 3 bulan? (cth: wang tunai atau wang simpanan di bank)? *
Penjelasan: Sekiranya kehilangan sumber pendapatan atau tidak dapat bekerja secara tiba-tiba.
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

E3.2 Adakah anda atau ahli isi rumah memiliki aset yang boleh dicairkan (cth: barang kemas, bar emas, hartanah, tanah)? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

E4 Bantuan Kerajaan
E4.1 Adakah anda atau ahli isi rumah menerima bantuan kerajaan (cth: BRIM / Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah / JKM / eKasih, Baitumal, Zakat, sbgnya), jika memerlukan? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan

E4.2 Apakah sebab-sebab anda tidak menerima bantuan tersebut? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Tidak tahu atau tidak mempunyai maklumat lanjut
2 - Belum pernah memohon
3 - Masalah pengangkutan untuk ke tempat permohonan
4 - Pengalaman negatif semasa permohonan
5 - Tidak layak / Permohonan ditolak
6 - Tiada akaun bank atau nombor telefon
7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Bantuan kerajaan diterima)

E5 Pekerjaan

E5.1 Adakah terdapat ahli isi rumah (termasuk anda) yang berumur di antara 15 - 60 tahun yang menganggur lebih dari setahun? *
Penjelasan: Suri rumah, pelajar sekolah dan pesara tidak dianggap sebagai golongan yang menganggur.
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

E5.2 Bagi mereka yang bekerja, adakah terdapat ahli isi rumah yang tidak menerima gaji selama 3 bulan dan lebih secara berturut-turut? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada ahli isi rumah yang bekerja)

E6 Bil Bulanan
E6.1 Adakah anda mempunyai tunggakan bayaran bil bulanan yang tidak mampu dibayar dalam tempoh sebulan dan lebih (cth: bil utiliti, sewaan, pinjaman, bayaran kad kredit dan sbgnya)? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

R6. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)

Bahagian F: Kesepaduan Sosial Dan Keselamatan

F1 Keluarga / Rakan / Jiran
F1.1 Jika anda dalam kesusahan dan memerlukan sokongan, adakah anda mempunyai ahli keluarga, rakan atau jiran yang dipercayai untuk memberikan bantuan / membantu? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak

F2 Ketua Komuniti / Institusi
F2.1 Adakah ahli isi rumah pernah berurusan dengan ketua komuniti seperti Komuniti Rukun Tetangga (KRT)/ Jawatankuasa Pembangunan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JKKK/JPKK), persatuan penduduk (RA), penghulu / Tok Batin, institusi, agensi kerajaan atau NGO untuk mendapatkan bantuan? *
1 - Ya
2 – Tidak

F2.2 Apakah cabaran utama yang dihadapi semasa berurusan dengan mereka? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Lambat memberi maklum balas
2 - Tiada tindakan susulan
3 - Sukar untuk dihubungi
4 - Kurang mesra atau tidak prihatin
7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tidak pernah berurusan atau tiada cabaran dihadapi)

F3 Bencana alam
F3.1 Dalam tempoh setahun yang lepas, apakah jenis bencana alam yang pernah anda alami di kawasan perumahan anda sekarang? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Banjir
2 - Tanah runtuh
3 - Ribut
7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada bencana alam)

F3.2 Dalam tempoh setahun yang lepas, adakah anda pernah mengalami kerosakan atau kehilangan harta benda rumah akibat bencana alam (cth: banjir, tanah runtuh, ribut)? *
1 - Ya
2 - Tidak
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Tiada bencana alam atau sebarang kerosakan yang berlaku)

F4 Keselamatan Kawasan Perumahan
F4.1 Adakah anda berasa selamat untuk tinggal di kawasan perumahan anda sekarang? *
1 - Ya (Tamat soal selidik)
2 - Tidak

F4.2 Apakah sebab-sebab yang membuatkan anda berasa tidak selamat? *
Boleh pilih lebih daripada satu jawapan.
1 - Kes jenayah seperti kecurian, rompakan, atau pecah masuk
2 - Pergaduhan atau keganasan dalam komuniti
3 - Aktiviti mencurigakan (cth: penyalahgunaan dadah, gangsterisme)
4 - Kurangnya lampu jalan atau kawasan gelap pada waktu malam
5 - Keadaan rumah yang agak teruk (cth: keretakan di dinding, bumbung hampir runtuh)

7 - Lain-lain
9 - Tidak berkenaan (Responden berasa selamat)

R7. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)

Gambar responden
Gambar penuh responden di depan rumah (sekiranya mendapat keizinan) *
Ada
Tiada
Sila memuat naik gambar responden di depan rumah (sekiranya mendapat keizinan)

Nama fail / rujukan gambar: _____

R8. Nota tambahan (sekiranya ada)

-Sekian terima kasih-

Appendix B

Constituency-Level LMPI Results

The constituency-level results provide a more detailed view of the geographical variation underlying the regional, state and settlement-typology findings presented in Chapter 4. The tables in this appendix summarise the principal LMPI results and indicator-level deprivation patterns across the 55 study locations.

As the household sample was purposively selected, the results describe deprivation patterns among surveyed households within each study location and should not be interpreted as statistically representative estimates of poverty prevalence for the respective parliamentary constituencies.

Table B.1 Multidimensional Poverty and Deprivation Profile by LMPI Study Location

NO.	STUDY LOCATION	STATE	REGION / ZONE	SURVEYED	POOR	H (%)	A (%)	LMPI	LEADING DIMENSION	LEADING WEIGHTED INDICATOR
1	Kubang Pasu	Kedah	North	50	17	34.00	31.23	0.106	Social Security	Insurance
2	Langkawi	Kedah	North	50	35	70.00	33.04	0.231	Social Security	Insurance
3	Sungai Petani	Kedah	North	50	37	74.00	35.79	0.265	Social Security	Insurance
4	Bagan Serai	Perak	North	50	24	48.00	34.78	0.167	Social Security	Insurance
5	Ipoh Barat	Perak	North	50	30	60.00	36.08	0.216	Social Security	Insurance
6	Kuala Kangsar	Perak	North	50	25	50.00	34.83	0.174	Social Security	Insurance
7	Taiping	Perak	North	50	32	64.00	37.38	0.239	Social Security	Insurance
8	Arau & Kangar	Perlis	North	50	9	18.00	32.03	0.058	Social Security	Insurance
9	Padang Besar	Perlis	North	50	10	20.00	34.11	0.068	Social Security	Insurance
10	Bayan Baru	Pulau Pinang	North	50	18	36.00	35.05	0.126	Social Security	Savings or Liquid Assets / Overdue Bills*
11	Kepala Batas	Pulau Pinang	North	50	18	36.00	34.39	0.124	Social Security	Insurance
12	Permatang Pauh	Pulau Pinang	North	50	22	44.00	33.43	0.147	Social Security	Insurance
13	Batu	Kuala Lumpur	Central	50	22	44.00	32.91	0.145	Social Security	Insurance
14	Cheras	Kuala Lumpur	Central	50	28	56.00	33.33	0.187	Social Security	Insurance

NO.	STUDY LOCATION	STATE	REGION / ZONE	SURVEYED	POOR	H (%)	A (%)	LMPI	LEADING DIMENSION	LEADING WEIGHTED INDICATOR
15	Lembah Pantai	Kuala Lumpur	Central	61	40	65.57	36.47	0.239	Social Security	Insurance
16	Kuala Langat	Selangor	Central	50	29	58.00	32.09	0.186	Social Security	Insurance
17	Petaling Jaya	Selangor	Central	53	35	66.04	36.78	0.243	Social Security	Years of Schooling
18	Selayang	Selangor	Central	50	37	74.00	34.73	0.257	Social Security	Insurance
19	Mersing	Johor	South	50	25	50.00	33.18	0.166	Social Security	Years of Schooling
20	Muar	Johor	South	50	17	34.00	34.34	0.117	Social Security	Insurance
21	Pontian	Johor	South	50	32	64.00	35.75	0.229	Social Security	Insurance
22	Tanjung Piai	Johor	South	50	33	66.00	36.21	0.239	Social Security	Insurance
23	Masjid Tanah	Melaka	South	47	21	44.68	31.09	0.139	Social Security	Insurance
24	Tangga Batu	Melaka	South	50	24	48.00	32.61	0.157	Social Security	Insurance
25	Jelebu	Negeri Sembilan	South	50	35	70.00	37.41	0.262	Social Security	Insurance
26	Kuala Pilah	Negeri Sembilan	South	50	28	56.00	36.86	0.206	Social Security	Insurance
27	Tampin	Negeri Sembilan	South	50	23	46.00	34.35	0.158	Social Security	Insurance
28	Jeli	Kelantan	East Coast	50	39	78.00	37.06	0.289	Social Security	Insurance

NO.	STUDY LOCATION	STATE	REGION / ZONE	SURVEYED	POOR	H (%)	A (%)	LMPI	LEADING DIMENSION	LEADING WEIGHTED INDICATOR
29	Rantau Panjang	Kelantan	East Coast	50	39	78.00	37.19	0.290	Social Security	Savings or Liquid Assets
30	Tanah Merah	Kelantan	East Coast	50	30	60.00	33.32	0.200	Social Security	Insurance
31	Tumpat	Kelantan	East Coast	50	36	72.00	37.52	0.270	Social Security	Years of Schooling
32	Bentong	Pahang	East Coast	50	17	34.00	33.67	0.114	Social Security	Insurance
33	Bera	Pahang	East Coast	50	34	68.00	36.85	0.251	Social Security	Savings or Liquid Assets
34	Indera Mahkota	Pahang	East Coast	50	28	56.00	36.38	0.204	Social Security	Years of Schooling
35	Hulu Terengganu	Terengganu	East Coast	50	18	36.00	35.50	0.128	Social Security	Insurance
36	Kemaman	Terengganu	East Coast	50	36	72.00	33.27	0.240	Social Security	Years of Schooling
37	Kuala Nerus	Terengganu	East Coast	50	25	50.00	32.89	0.164	Social Security	Insurance
38	Beaufort	Sabah	Sabah	50	32	64.00	39.06	0.250	Social Security	Waste Collection
39	Beluran	Sabah	Sabah	53	39	73.58	36.03	0.265	Social Security	Insurance
40	Keningau	Sabah	Sabah	50	24	48.00	36.85	0.177	Social Security	Waste Collection
41	Kota Belud	Sabah	Sabah	51	44	86.27	38.97	0.336	Social Security	Insurance
42	Kota Marudu	Sabah	Sabah	50	49	98.00	41.62	0.408	Living Standards	Insurance

NO.	STUDY LOCATION	STATE	REGION / ZONE	SURVEYED	POOR	H (%)	A (%)	LMPI	LEADING DIMENSION	LEADING WEIGHTED INDICATOR
43	Kudat	Sabah	Sabah	60	50	83.33	38.73	0.323	Social Security	Insurance
44	Lahad Datu	Sabah	Sabah	50	40	80.00	35.42	0.283	Social Security	Insurance
45	Ranau	Sabah	Sabah	50	40	80.00	40.19	0.322	Social Security	Insurance
46	Tenom	Sabah	Sabah	50	38	76.00	38.58	0.293	Social Security	Insurance
47	Bandar Kuching	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	23	46.00	34.02	0.156	Social Security	Insurance
48	Baram	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	45	90.00	36.84	0.332	Social Security	Waste Collection
49	Batang Sadong	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	42	84.00	35.06	0.295	Social Security	Insurance
50	Julau	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	27	54.00	35.27	0.190	Social Security	Insurance
51	Miri	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	31	62.00	36.12	0.224	Social Security	Insurance
52	Mukah	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	40	80.00	38.53	0.308	Social Security	Insurance
53	Saratok	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	37	74.00	39.02	0.289	Social Security	Insurance
54	Selangau	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	42	84.00	39.14	0.329	Social Security	Insurance
55	Serian	Sarawak	Sarawak	50	45	90.00	39.60	0.356	Social Security	Insurance

Note: H refers to the multidimensional poverty headcount ratio; A refers to the average intensity of deprivation among multidimensionally poor households; and LMPI is calculated as H × A. The leading dimension refers to the dimension making the largest weighted contribution to multidimensional poverty within the respective study location. The leading weighted deprivation indicator is identified by calculating the mean weighted deprivation score for each of the 27 indicators across surveyed households and selecting the indicator with the highest mean weighted score. Results are based on the purposively selected study sample and should not be interpreted as statistically representative estimates for the respective parliamentary constituencies.

Table B.2. Percentage of Surveyed Households Experiencing Deprivation by Indicator and LMPI Study Location

Education

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	YEARS OF SCHOOLING (%)	PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	LITERACY AND NUMERACY (%)
Kubang Pasu	50	30.0	6.0	2.0	6.0	32.0
Langkawi	50	50.0	14.0	6.0	2.0	36.0
Sungai Petani	50	46.0	12.0	0.0	4.0	40.0
Bagan Serai	50	76.0	8.0	2.0	2.0	52.0
Ipoh Barat	50	58.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	56.0
Kuala Kangsar	50	80.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	38.0
Taiping	50	72.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	42.0
Arau & Kangar	50	34.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	14.0
Padang Besar	50	34.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Bayan Baru	50	60.0	10.0	2.0	0.0	20.0
Kepala Batas	50	56.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	38.0
Permatang Pauh	50	54.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	52.0
Batu	50	22.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	18.0
Cheras	50	62.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	32.0
Lembah Pantai	61	39.3	23.0	6.6	8.2	47.5
Kuala Langat	50	74.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	54.0
Petaling Jaya	53	75.5	11.3	5.7	9.4	50.9

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	YEARS OF SCHOOLING (%)	PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	LITERACY AND NUMERACY (%)
Selayang	50	56.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	50.0
Mersing	50	84.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	46.0
Muar	50	48.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	26.0
Pontian	50	58.0	12.0	2.0	10.0	38.0
Tanjung Piai	50	42.0	14.0	6.0	8.0	50.0
Masjid Tanah	47	59.6	12.8	2.1	2.1	21.3
Tangga Batu	50	66.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	38.0
Jelebu	50	38.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	52.0
Kuala Pilah	50	44.0	10.0	2.0	10.0	32.0
Tampin	50	32.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	22.0
Jeli	50	80.0	8.0	4.0	6.0	66.0
Rantau Panjang	50	76.0	8.0	2.0	2.0	52.0
Tanah Merah	50	54.0	12.0	2.0	8.0	42.0
Tumpat	50	86.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	62.0
Bentong	50	56.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	28.0
Bera	50	72.0	10.0	2.0	8.0	58.0
Indera Mahkota	50	78.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	52.0
Hulu Terengganu	50	66.0	8.0	2.0	8.0	30.0
Kemaman	50	82.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	56.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	YEARS OF SCHOOLING (%)	PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (%)	LITERACY AND NUMERACY (%)
Kuala Nerus	50	46.0	12.0	2.0	4.0	48.0
Beaufort	50	50.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	36.0
Beluran	53	32.1	5.7	0.0	0.0	34.0
Keningau	50	34.0	16.0	2.0	0.0	10.0
Kota Belud	51	82.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	56.9
Kota Marudu	50	94.0	4.0	6.0	12.0	76.0
Kudat	60	86.7	11.7	5.0	6.7	50.0
Lahad Datu	50	44.0	14.0	4.0	10.0	58.0
Ranau	50	62.0	28.0	12.0	18.0	32.0
Tenom	50	54.0	20.0	4.0	4.0	16.0
Bandar Kuching	50	74.0	6.0	0.0	2.0	40.0
Baram	50	82.0	8.0	2.0	6.0	20.0
Batang Sadong	50	86.0	8.0	0.0	2.0	86.0
Julau	50	62.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	48.0
Miri	50	88.0	4.0	2.0	8.0	46.0
Mukah	50	74.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	64.0
Saratok	50	54.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	42.0
Selangau	50	48.0	14.0	12.0	8.0	56.0
Serian	50	86.0	2.0	0.0	4.0	84.0

Health

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	HEALTHCARE ACCESS (%)	NCD (%)	DISABILITY (%)	STUNTING (%)	UNDERWEIGHT (%)	WATER DISRUPTION (%)
Kubang Pasu	50	2.0	54.0	28.0	2.0	0.0	6.0
Langkawi	50	12.0	76.0	28.0	0.0	2.0	16.0
Sungai Petani	50	26.0	46.0	12.0	2.0	2.0	40.0
Bagan Serai	50	26.0	62.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	16.0
Ipoh Barat	50	0.0	84.0	22.0	0.0	0.0	24.0
Kuala Kangsar	50	16.0	80.0	24.0	2.0	4.0	2.0
Taiping	50	16.0	66.0	18.0	2.0	0.0	32.0
Arau & Kangar	50	2.0	38.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	36.0
Padang Besar	50	0.0	38.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	24.0
Bayan Baru	50	2.0	52.0	18.0	2.0	4.0	44.0
Kepala Batas	50	4.0	54.0	34.0	6.0	6.0	10.0
Permatang Pauh	50	4.0	52.0	28.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Batu	50	4.0	28.0	0.0	24.0	14.0	56.0
Cheras	50	42.0	56.0	14.0	2.0	2.0	10.0
Lembah Pantai	61	8.2	41.0	18.0	4.9	1.6	45.9
Kuala Langat	50	10.0	36.0	18.0	4.0	4.0	20.0
Petaling Jaya	53	11.3	77.4	30.2	35.8	37.7	28.3
Selayang	50	2.0	64.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	80.0
Mersing	50	4.0	58.0	34.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Muar	50	14.0	42.0	30.0	2.0	2.0	14.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	HEALTHCARE ACCESS (%)	NCD (%)	DISABILITY (%)	STUNTING (%)	UNDERWEIGHT (%)	WATER DISRUPTION (%)
Pontian	50	26.0	66.0	32.0	6.0	6.0	58.0
Tanjung Piai	50	14.0	56.0	28.0	0.0	2.0	36.0
Masjid Tanah	47	4.3	31.9	19.1	4.3	4.3	6.4
Tangga Batu	50	12.0	72.0	12.0	4.0	0.0	8.0
Jelebu	50	34.0	52.0	36.0	8.0	10.0	10.0
Kuala Pilah	50	26.0	56.0	26.0	8.0	10.0	56.0
Tampin	50	70.0	48.0	24.0	6.0	2.0	36.0
Jeli	50	2.0	48.0	24.0	16.0	18.0	54.0
Rantau Panjang	50	18.0	48.0	18.0	2.0	2.0	70.0
Tanah Merah	50	2.0	72.0	12.0	0.0	2.0	58.0
Tumpat	50	16.0	60.0	28.0	2.0	4.0	78.0
Bentong	50	0.0	36.0	14.0	2.0	0.0	28.0
Bera	50	22.0	44.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	58.0
Indera Mahkota	50	6.0	62.0	28.0	4.0	2.0	38.0
Hulu Terengganu	50	2.0	48.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Kemaman	50	24.0	74.0	30.0	4.0	2.0	12.0
Kuala Nerus	50	4.0	36.0	16.0	2.0	4.0	12.0
Beaufort	50	40.0	54.0	30.0	0.0	2.0	44.0
Beluran	53	0.0	32.1	11.3	0.0	1.9	77.4

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	HEALTHCARE ACCESS (%)	NCD (%)	DISABILITY (%)	STUNTING (%)	UNDERWEIGHT (%)	WATER DISRUPTION (%)
Keningau	50	62.0	28.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	48.0
Kota Belud	51	54.9	33.3	23.5	21.6	23.5	76.5
Kota Marudu	50	78.0	50.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	80.0
Kudat	60	76.7	38.3	18.3	5.0	6.7	83.3
Lahad Datu	50	24.0	34.0	16.0	2.0	4.0	72.0
Ranau	50	66.0	20.0	18.0	8.0	6.0	78.0
Tenom	50	70.0	40.0	18.0	14.0	12.0	86.0
Bandar Kuching	50	4.0	58.0	14.0	2.0	6.0	68.0
Baram	50	100.0	66.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	100.0
Batang Sadong	50	12.0	68.0	36.0	2.0	0.0	26.0
Julau	50	100.0	52.0	12.0	0.0	2.0	90.0
Miri	50	24.0	58.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	52.0
Mukah	50	12.0	64.0	22.0	0.0	2.0	80.0
Saratok	50	80.0	20.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
Selangau	50	90.0	54.0	10.0	2.0	2.0	86.0
Serian	50	66.0	60.0	22.0	0.0	0.0	40.0

Living Standards

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	SANITATION (%)	WASTE COLLECTION (%)	ELECTRICITY DISRUPTION (%)	DIGITAL LITERACY (%)	INTERNET ACCESS (%)	TRANSPORT (%)
Kubang Pasu	50	0.0	14.0	2.0	10.0	24.0	10.0
Langkawi	50	0.0	6.0	8.0	26.0	34.0	14.0
Sungai Petani	50	0.0	54.0	6.0	42.0	44.0	24.0
Bagan Serai	50	2.0	4.0	2.0	22.0	18.0	6.0
Ipoh Barat	50	8.0	0.0	4.0	56.0	56.0	34.0
Kuala Kangsar	50	6.0	44.0	2.0	42.0	36.0	20.0
Taiping	50	4.0	0.0	10.0	54.0	52.0	26.0
Arau & Kangar	50	0.0	26.0	2.0	14.0	14.0	0.0
Padang Besar	50	0.0	26.0	2.0	12.0	12.0	8.0
Bayan Baru	50	0.0	0.0	34.0	44.0	10.0	2.0
Kepala Batas	50	2.0	0.0	4.0	22.0	20.0	14.0
Permatang Pauh	50	0.0	24.0	6.0	52.0	54.0	16.0
Batu	50	0.0	0.0	36.0	22.0	22.0	40.0
Cheras	50	0.0	0.0	4.0	26.0	24.0	54.0
Lembah Pantai	61	1.6	0.0	11.5	39.3	37.7	31.1
Kuala Langat	50	4.0	16.0	14.0	18.0	14.0	14.0
Petaling Jaya	53	0.0	1.9	7.5	30.2	30.2	35.8
Selayang	50	0.0	0.0	42.0	52.0	78.0	36.0
Mersing	50	0.0	46.0	4.0	26.0	26.0	10.0
Muar	50	2.0	6.0	12.0	20.0	24.0	4.0
Pontian	50	0.0	30.0	8.0	20.0	28.0	10.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	SANITATION (%)	WASTE COLLECTION (%)	ELECTRICITY DISRUPTION (%)	DIGITAL LITERACY (%)	INTERNET ACCESS (%)	TRANSPORT (%)
Tanjung Piai	50	0.0	10.0	32.0	32.0	42.0	22.0
Masjid Tanah	47	4.3	0.0	4.3	21.3	48.9	6.4
Tangga Batu	50	0.0	24.0	12.0	26.0	28.0	16.0
Jelebu	50	2.0	40.0	8.0	34.0	52.0	22.0
Kuala Pilah	50	12.0	18.0	18.0	10.0	18.0	10.0
Tampin	50	0.0	2.0	22.0	16.0	40.0	12.0
Jeli	50	12.0	48.0	2.0	40.0	32.0	12.0
Rantau Panjang	50	0.0	50.0	0.0	48.0	56.0	18.0
Tanah Merah	50	2.0	72.0	10.0	24.0	8.0	4.0
Tumpat	50	0.0	34.0	18.0	54.0	28.0	12.0
Bentong	50	2.0	36.0	20.0	16.0	22.0	8.0
Bera	50	10.0	12.0	12.0	46.0	48.0	2.0
Indera Mahkota	50	4.0	32.0	28.0	46.0	38.0	12.0
Hulu Terengganu	50	2.0	32.0	0.0	24.0	30.0	16.0
Kemaman	50	12.0	8.0	2.0	26.0	32.0	14.0
Kuala Nerus	50	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	24.0	14.0
Beaufort	50	6.0	88.0	30.0	24.0	26.0	12.0
Beluran	53	11.3	64.2	83.0	26.4	18.9	24.5
Keningau	50	2.0	100.0	26.0	12.0	34.0	10.0
Kota Belud	51	11.8	56.9	31.4	66.7	52.9	25.5
Kota Marudu	50	8.0	26.0	64.0	74.0	76.0	62.0
Kudat	60	26.7	3.3	26.7	51.7	53.3	50.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	SANITATION (%)	WASTE COLLECTION (%)	ELECTRICITY DISRUPTION (%)	DIGITAL LITERACY (%)	INTERNET ACCESS (%)	TRANSPORT (%)
Lahad Datu	50	0.0	50.0	36.0	20.0	30.0	50.0
Ranau	50	22.0	20.0	56.0	34.0	40.0	38.0
Tenom	50	16.0	62.0	64.0	24.0	30.0	18.0
Bandar Kuching	50	4.0	0.0	2.0	28.0	26.0	6.0
Baram	50	2.0	90.0	8.0	40.0	44.0	32.0
Batang Sadong	50	2.0	0.0	20.0	62.0	42.0	48.0
Julau	50	0.0	16.0	6.0	32.0	32.0	18.0
Miri	50	14.0	12.0	42.0	26.0	16.0	14.0
Mukah	50	6.0	22.0	32.0	68.0	64.0	28.0
Saratok	50	6.0	62.0	14.0	66.0	70.0	38.0
Selangau	50	0.0	16.0	44.0	38.0	62.0	26.0
Serian	50	0.0	2.0	14.0	80.0	80.0	42.0

Social Security

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE (%)	INSURANCE (%)	SAVINGS / LIQUID ASSETS (%)	GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (%)	EMPLOYMENT STABILITY (%)	OVERDUE BILLS (%)
Kubang Pasu	50	78.0	98.0	58.0	12.0	12.0	26.0
Langkawi	50	78.0	96.0	62.0	6.0	24.0	66.0
Sungai Petani	50	78.0	96.0	94.0	10.0	24.0	28.0
Bagan Serai	50	50.0	76.0	72.0	0.0	20.0	48.0
Ipoh Barat	50	52.0	70.0	60.0	6.0	14.0	48.0
Kuala Kangsar	50	52.0	94.0	48.0	0.0	6.0	30.0
Taiping	50	60.0	98.0	72.0	6.0	16.0	38.0
Arau & Kangar	50	40.0	74.0	40.0	14.0	0.0	36.0
Padang Besar	50	52.0	64.0	46.0	6.0	0.0	32.0
Bayan Baru	50	40.0	54.0	64.0	4.0	26.0	64.0
Kepala Batas	50	42.0	84.0	42.0	12.0	22.0	42.0
Permatang Pauh	50	48.0	84.0	72.0	2.0	28.0	2.0
Batu	50	36.0	50.0	38.0	46.0	46.0	44.0
Cheras	50	52.0	68.0	50.0	14.0	26.0	32.0
Lembah Pantai	61	63.9	91.8	67.2	11.5	23.0	57.4
Kuala Langat	50	46.0	84.0	78.0	10.0	36.0	46.0
Petaling Jaya	53	43.4	67.9	64.2	15.1	15.1	60.4
Selayang	50	46.0	80.0	76.0	14.0	12.0	26.0
Mersing	50	60.0	76.0	64.0	4.0	4.0	38.0
Muar	50	68.0	88.0	58.0	4.0	32.0	44.0
Pontian	50	44.0	76.0	60.0	6.0	30.0	56.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE (%)	INSURANCE (%)	SAVINGS / LIQUID ASSETS (%)	GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (%)	EMPLOYMENT STABILITY (%)	OVERDUE BILLS (%)
Tanjung Piai	50	70.0	88.0	66.0	30.0	30.0	36.0
Masjid Tanah	47	87.2	100.0	42.6	12.8	6.4	25.5
Tangga Batu	50	52.0	96.0	84.0	10.0	8.0	32.0
Jelebu	50	74.0	96.0	82.0	10.0	50.0	56.0
Kuala Pilah	50	68.0	78.0	62.0	2.0	26.0	54.0
Tampin	50	44.0	82.0	58.0	12.0	24.0	36.0
Jeli	50	66.0	92.0	70.0	2.0	18.0	68.0
Rantau Panjang	50	68.0	46.0	80.0	6.0	24.0	68.0
Tanah Merah	50	80.0	90.0	24.0	2.0	44.0	48.0
Tumpat	50	76.0	80.0	36.0	10.0	30.0	58.0
Bentong	50	64.0	80.0	58.0	24.0	14.0	10.0
Bera	50	64.0	78.0	86.0	10.0	32.0	38.0
Indera Mahkota	50	50.0	74.0	44.0	6.0	16.0	42.0
Hulu Terengganu	50	58.0	84.0	62.0	6.0	0.0	30.0
Kemaman	50	74.0	76.0	58.0	2.0	30.0	58.0
Kuala Nerus	50	78.0	88.0	56.0	18.0	24.0	36.0
Beaufort	50	64.0	82.0	58.0	0.0	24.0	38.0
Beluran	53	81.1	90.6	75.5	1.9	13.2	54.7
Keningau	50	64.0	80.0	62.0	12.0	30.0	18.0
Kota Belud	51	70.6	90.2	78.4	5.9	15.7	11.8
Kota Marudu	50	86.0	92.0	56.0	2.0	10.0	22.0
Kudat	60	80.0	91.7	70.0	5.0	16.7	16.7

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE (%)	INSURANCE (%)	SAVINGS / LIQUID ASSETS (%)	GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (%)	EMPLOYMENT STABILITY (%)	OVERDUE BILLS (%)
Lahad Datu	50	56.0	94.0	78.0	10.0	34.0	48.0
Ranau	50	64.0	94.0	74.0	8.0	22.0	24.0
Tenom	50	66.0	94.0	54.0	4.0	28.0	38.0
Bandar Kuching	50	42.0	72.0	64.0	2.0	14.0	30.0
Baram	50	60.0	82.0	40.0	30.0	22.0	24.0
Batang Sadong	50	84.0	96.0	76.0	2.0	40.0	26.0
Julau	50	70.0	80.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	24.0
Miri	50	44.0	98.0	76.0	2.0	26.0	12.0
Mukah	50	40.0	82.0	56.0	6.0	42.0	36.0
Saratok	50	74.0	98.0	88.0	0.0	4.0	52.0
Selangau	50	68.0	88.0	84.0	6.0	48.0	34.0
Serian	50	72.0	86.0	72.0	6.0	72.0	48.0

Social Cohesion and Safety

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	FAMILY SUPPORT (%)	COMMUNITY SUPPORT / LEADERSHIP RESPONSIVENESS (%)	ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS / DISASTER (%)	NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY (%)
Kubang Pasu	50	0.0	6.0	12.0	2.0
Langkawi	50	18.0	80.0	10.0	8.0
Sungai Petani	50	4.0	54.0	10.0	26.0
Bagan Serai	50	30.0	28.0	32.0	4.0
Ipoh Barat	50	12.0	42.0	2.0	30.0
Kuala Kangsar	50	10.0	8.0	10.0	4.0
Taiping	50	42.0	16.0	12.0	18.0
Arau & Kangar	50	0.0	8.0	14.0	2.0
Padang Besar	50	0.0	0.0	28.0	0.0
Bayan Baru	50	6.0	14.0	4.0	18.0
Kepala Batas	50	20.0	18.0	4.0	30.0
Permatang Pauh	50	0.0	2.0	12.0	8.0
Batu	50	36.0	8.0	8.0	26.0
Cheras	50	32.0	22.0	0.0	36.0
Lembah Pantai	61	44.3	16.4	0.0	9.8
Kuala Langat	50	32.0	18.0	34.0	8.0
Petaling Jaya	53	37.7	18.9	3.8	7.5
Selayang	50	12.0	34.0	4.0	10.0
Mersing	50	2.0	2.0	32.0	6.0
Muar	50	12.0	8.0	20.0	8.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	FAMILY SUPPORT (%)	COMMUNITY SUPPORT / LEADERSHIP RESPONSIVENESS (%)	ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS / DISASTER (%)	NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY (%)
Pontian	50	16.0	18.0	24.0	28.0
Tanjung Piai	50	18.0	16.0	18.0	18.0
Masjid Tanah	47	31.9	19.1	6.4	0.0
Tangga Batu	50	8.0	8.0	12.0	16.0
Jelebu	50	22.0	8.0	18.0	6.0
Kuala Pilah	50	14.0	26.0	26.0	4.0
Tampin	50	18.0	16.0	6.0	2.0
Jeli	50	20.0	22.0	16.0	16.0
Rantau Panjang	50	10.0	4.0	78.0	6.0
Tanah Merah	50	2.0	4.0	24.0	30.0
Tumpat	50	8.0	2.0	58.0	0.0
Bentong	50	2.0	2.0	18.0	0.0
Bera	50	36.0	18.0	8.0	12.0
Indera Mahkota	50	26.0	12.0	16.0	12.0
Hulu Terengganu	50	14.0	16.0	38.0	6.0
Kemaman	50	28.0	12.0	24.0	16.0
Kuala Nerus	50	6.0	38.0	42.0	6.0
Beaufort	50	20.0	50.0	48.0	10.0
Beluran	53	3.8	18.9	5.7	17.0
Keningau	50	8.0	16.0	22.0	6.0
Kota Belud	51	7.8	21.6	17.6	0.0

LMPI STUDY LOCATION	SURVEYED HH	FAMILY SUPPORT (%)	COMMUNITY SUPPORT / LEADERSHIP RESPONSIVENESS (%)	ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS / DISASTER (%)	NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY (%)
Kota Marudu	50	10.0	18.0	28.0	4.0
Kudat	60	6.7	3.3	41.7	1.7
Lahad Datu	50	2.0	24.0	28.0	2.0
Ranau	50	12.0	36.0	24.0	22.0
Tenom	50	14.0	8.0	36.0	14.0
Bandar Kuching	50	22.0	12.0	18.0	14.0
Baram	50	6.0	38.0	12.0	0.0
Batang Sadong	50	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.0
Julau	50	8.0	40.0	10.0	20.0
Miri	50	20.0	32.0	48.0	32.0
Mukah	50	28.0	24.0	54.0	4.0
Saratok	50	20.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Selangau	50	0.0	2.0	28.0	10.0
Serian	50	18.0	4.0	0.0	0.0

*Note**:** Percentages represent the proportion of all surveyed households within each LMPI study location that meet the deprivation criterion for the respective indicator. The denominator is the total number of households surveyed in each study location, irrespective of whether the household is subsequently classified as multidimensionally poor at the 25% LMPI poverty cut-off. Results describe deprivation patterns within the purposively selected study sample and should not be interpreted as population-level prevalence estimates for the respective parliamentary constituencies.*

Appendix C

QR Link to Individual Constituency Reports



The Localised Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) offers a localised perspective for understanding how poverty and vulnerability are experienced across Malaysia. The LMPI was developed through the Policy Intervention Initiative, a collaboration between APPGM-SDG, Yayasan Hasanah and the Ministry of Finance Malaysia. It complements Malaysia's National Multidimensional Poverty Index by connecting the macro perspective at the national level with the micro realities of households and communities. The LMPI examines the forms of deprivation experienced by communities within their local contexts and links poverty measurement with more targeted policy action.

Based on a household survey involving 2,775 households across 55 parliamentary constituencies in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, the study examines deprivation through 27 indicators across five dimensions: Education, Health, Living Standards, Social Security, and Social Cohesion and Safety. The findings show that multidimensional poverty is shaped by interconnected challenges, while geography and settlement context influence how poverty is experienced in urban, rural and interior communities.

In addition to the quantitative findings, the report highlights qualitative insights and lived experiences gathered through APPGM-SDG's engagement with communities in the study locations. It also examines how different forms of deprivation overlap and how experiences of poverty are shaped by varying household circumstances and local contexts. Overall, the findings provide a more nuanced understanding of multidimensional poverty and demonstrate why similar levels of deprivation may require different responses across locations.

Malaysia's journey in understanding poverty has evolved from early ideas such as the Sarong Index, which linked poverty measurement to the realities of people's everyday lives, to the introduction of the Multidimensional Poverty Index under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, which was tabled in 2015 and implemented from 2016. The LMPI is now introduced as the next step in bringing multidimensional poverty measurement closer to the realities of households and communities within their local contexts.

The LMPI is not simply another method of measuring poverty; it is an evidence platform for action. By identifying the forms of deprivation experienced by households, how these deprivations overlap and how their patterns vary across local contexts, the study seeks to support budget planning and allocation at multiple levels, from the macro to the micro level, including more targeted state- and district-level interventions. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration between institutions and communities and contribute to the continuous improvement of multidimensional poverty measurement in Malaysia.

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