

# Multidimensional and monetary poverty among children in Burundi

Policy Note on the measurement  
of Sustainable Development Goal 1  
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for every child



## Introduction

**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a set of United Nations-led goals aimed at international development. They replace the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) whose progress has enabled a clear evolution. These new targets, covering the **periode 2016-2030**, have been operational since 1 January 2016. This “new world development framework” is defined by 169 targets. Each target is evaluated by various indicators.

In this report, the first two targets of **Goal 1 “Poverty Eradication”** will be measured for children to track the child poverty rate.

- **Target 1.1 of SDG 1** is relatively simple to calculate and consists of the percentage of children living on less than \$1.25 per day.
- **Target 1.2 of SDG 1** is more complicated because it has to do with all aspects of poverty, as defined by each country and in all its forms. This leads to a need for a contextualized definition of poverty in the country. Child poverty does not manifest itself in the same way in Asia, Africa, Europe or the United States and thus child poverty in Burundi manifests itself differently.
- In this document, using the **MODA methodology** (*Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis*) **child poverty is contextualized in the context of Burundi.**





**Objective 1:**  
*Eliminate poverty in all its forms everywhere*

**Objective 1.1:** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

**Objective 1.2:** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

# Methodology of the study



For the targets 1.1 and 1.2 of SDG 1, poverty is defined, measured and analysed from two different angles: Monetary poverty and Non-monetary (multidimensional) poverty.

## *Monetary poverty*

- The traditional methodology is to quantify the standard of living of the households to which the children belong, using **estimates of their income or expenses**. After classifying households in ascending order of their economic well-being and using a poverty line, it is then possible to identify poor households and therefore children living in these households.

- The definition of the poverty line is based on an estimate of the means (monetary) that a person (the equivalent of an adult) needs to survive in Burundi.

For the measurement of SDG 1 target 1.1, child income poverty was calculated using **the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day**.



## *Non-monetary poverty (multidimensional)*

- The analysis of non-monetary (multidimensional) poverty for Burundian children **is based on the MODA (Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis)**<sup>1</sup>. The MODA methodology aims to **calculate the number of deprivations suffered by the child** and thus considers children who suffer several deprivations in the dimensions of their well-being as the poorest or most vulnerable.

- The data used for this analysis come from the Living Conditions Survey of Households in Burundi (ECVMB) conducted in 2019/2020 by the National Institute of Statistics in Burundi (INSBU). A major step in the study was the contextualized selection of dimensions, indicators, thresholds and age groups<sup>2</sup> (see the list page 7). The well-being dimensions for each age group in the context of Burundi are illustrated in Figure 1.

- For non-monetary analysis, **a child is considered multidimensional poor if he/she is deprived in at least three of the seven/eight dimensions of well-being** listed in the figure 2 (K=3)<sup>3</sup>.

1. In this study, the MODA (Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis) methodology, developed by the UNICEF Research Office, is used. MODA is a recent tool created to highlight the various deprivations faced by children simultaneously. The full report provides more details on the MODA methodology.

2. The selection of age groups, dimensions, indicators and thresholds were identified at a national workshop, in May 2021, bringing together all the stakeholders of the different sectoral ministries at national level under the coordination of the National Institute of Statistics of Burundi (INSBU).

3. Table 3 provides a complete list of the dimensions, indicators, and thresholds used for each age group to analyze non-monetary child poverty in Burundi.



**Figure 1.**  
The dimensions of well-being\* selected for children of each age group in the context of Burundi\*\*

\* According to the MODA methodology, no weights are assigned to the well-being dimensions used. Each dimension is considered a right of the child and being deprived in one of these dimensions is a violation of one of its rights.

\*\* The MODA methodology defined K as the poverty line for multidimensional poverty analysis. For example, K=3 means that a child is considered poor if he is deprived of at least 3 dimensions of well-being analysed. K=1 means that a child is poor if the child is deprived of at least one dimension of well-being.



# Results



## Measuring SDG 1.1 and 1.2 for children in Burundi

Table 1 summarizes the reference rates of SDG 1.1 and 1.2 for children in Burundi using the methodologies mentioned (see previous page).

- The first objective (target 1.1) for Burundi is to reduce the percentage of children living on less than \$1.25 a day by 79%.
- The second objective (target 1.2) is to reduce non-monetary child poverty by at least half (from 64% to 39.1%) by 2030. More detailed results for these poverty rates for each province are shown in the table below.

**The rates of monetary and non-monetary poverty remain very high throughout the country, with rates exceeding 70% in all provinces except in Bujumbura Mairie (Table 2). Given the current situation, appropriate measures must be taken to achieve the objective.**

Tableau 1 : The reference rates for targets 1.1 and 1.2 of the SDG 1 at national level (Data Source : ECVMB 2019–2020)				
			2019	2030
SGD	Description of the measure	Poverty threshold	Poverty rate (Reference rate)	Poverty rate (target to achieve)
SDG 1.1	Eradicate extreme poverty for children living on less than \$1.25 per day	1,25 \$ per day	79.07 %	0 %
SDG 1.2	Reduce by at least half the proportion of children living in poverty in all its dimensions as defined in Burundi	Deprived in at least 3 out of the total number of dimensions of well-being analysed*	64 %	39.1%**

\* See Figure 1 for the total number of dimensions of well-being by age of the child  
 \*\* Under target 1.2, the multidimensional poverty rate must be reduced by at least half by 2030 from the 2015 rate. The multidimensional child poverty rate was at 78.2% in 2015.

## Multidimensional poverty of children in Burundi

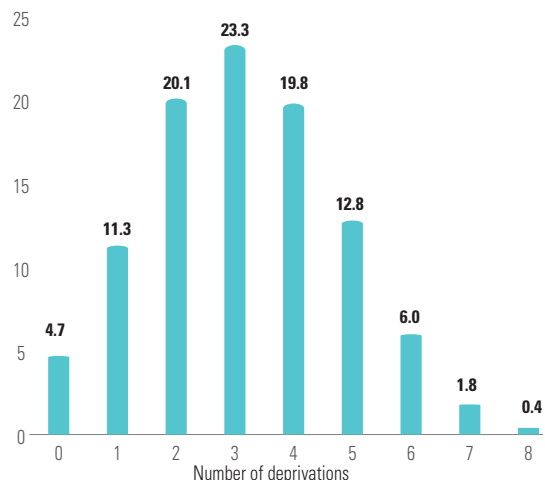
This section provides more details on multidimensional poverty facing children in Burundi.

Figure 2 displays **the number of children aged 0 to 17 years facing simultaneous deprivation in multiple dimensions.**

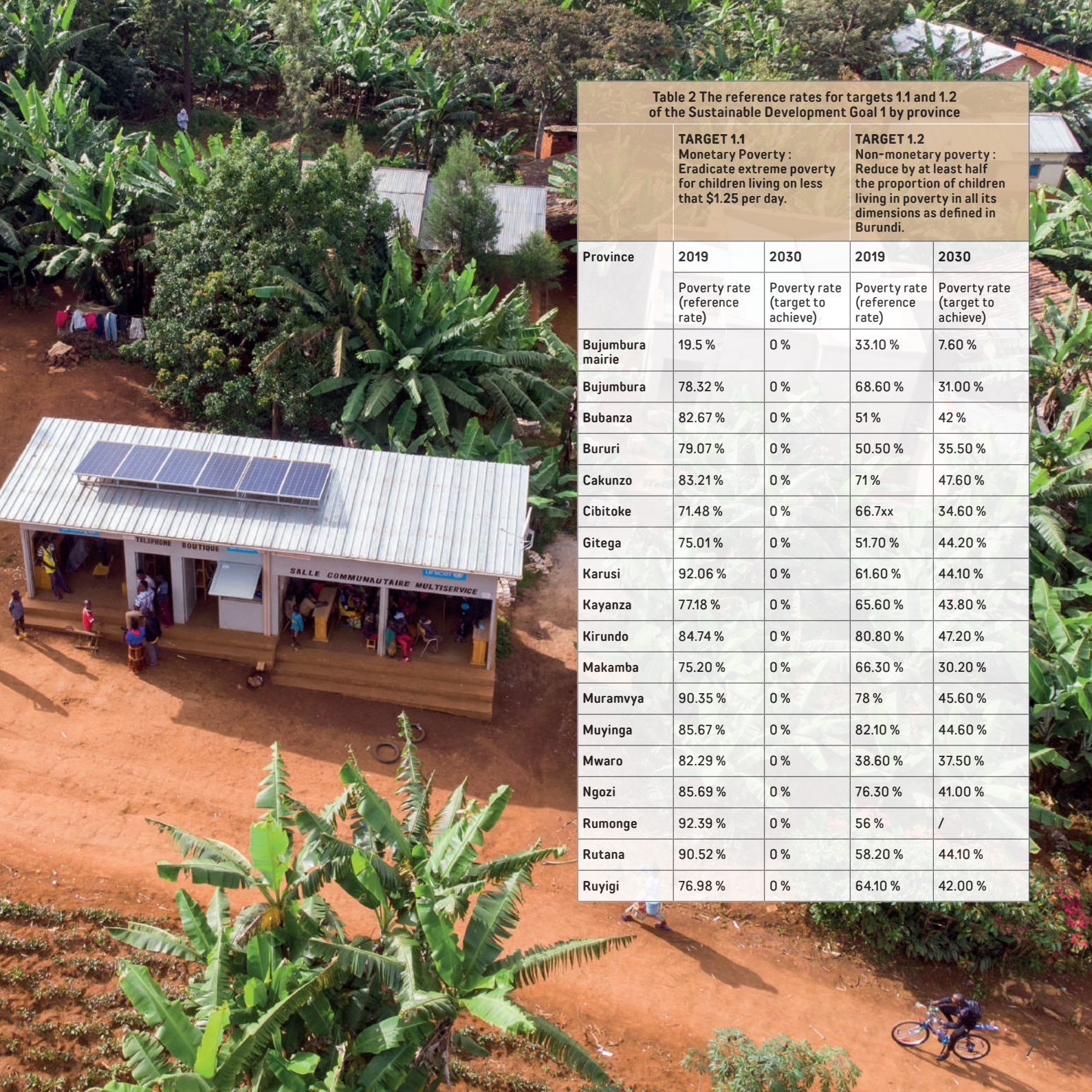
Referring to the agreed dimensions, almost all children in Burundi (**95,3 %**) are deprived **in at least one dimension** out of eight<sup>4</sup>, with only 4.7% suffering from no deprivation.

A large majority of children (**63,2 %**) are deprived **in 2, 3 or 4 dimensions simultaneously** while 8.2% of children are deprived in 6 or more dimensions at the same time.

Figure 2: Deprivation distribution at the national level, 0-17 years



4. The total number of dimensions varies according to the child's age group (see Figure 1).



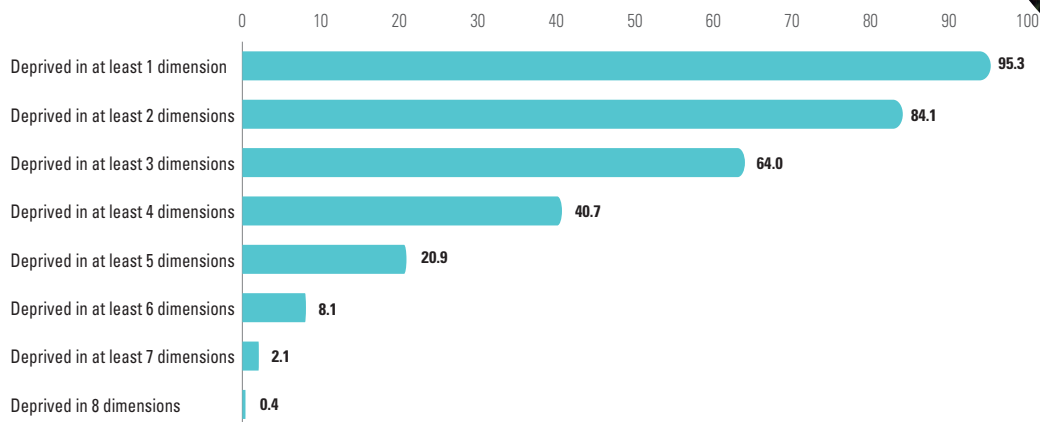
**Table 2 The reference rates for targets 1.1 and 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goal 1 by province**

Province	TARGET 1.1 Monetary Poverty : Eradicate extreme poverty for children living on less that \$1.25 per day.		TARGET 1.2 Non-monetary poverty : Reduce by at least half the proportion of children living in poverty in all its dimensions as defined in Burundi.	
	2019	2030	2019	2030
	Poverty rate (reference rate)	Poverty rate (target to achieve)	Poverty rate (reference rate)	Poverty rate (target to achieve)
Bujumbura mairie	19.5 %	0 %	33.10 %	7.60 %
Bujumbura	78.32 %	0 %	68.60 %	31.00 %
Bubanza	82.67 %	0 %	51 %	42 %
Bururi	79.07 %	0 %	50.50 %	35.50 %
Cakunzo	83.21 %	0 %	71 %	47.60 %
Cibitoke	71.48 %	0 %	66.7xx	34.60 %
Gitega	75.01 %	0 %	51.70 %	44.20 %
Karusi	92.06 %	0 %	61.60 %	44.10 %
Kayanza	77.18 %	0 %	65.60 %	43.80 %
Kirundo	84.74 %	0 %	80.80 %	47.20 %
Makamba	75.20 %	0 %	66.30 %	30.20 %
Muramvya	90.35 %	0 %	78 %	45.60 %
Muyinga	85.67 %	0 %	82.10 %	44.60 %
Mwaro	82.29 %	0 %	38.60 %	37.50 %
Ngozi	85.69 %	0 %	76.30 %	41.00 %
Rumonge	92.39 %	0 %	56 %	/
Rutana	90.52 %	0 %	58.20 %	44.10 %
Ruyigi	76.98 %	0 %	64.10 %	42.00 %

- The figure 3 shows **the percentage of children deprived in at least 1, 2, 3, ..., 8 dimensions.**

As indicated previously, for Burundi, it was decided to adopt a threshold of  $k=3$ , that is, a child with at least 3 deprivations is considered to be multidimensionally deprived. According to this threshold, 64% of all Burundian children are multidimensionally poor (figure 2).

**Figure 3: Deprivation distribution at the national level, 0-17 year, in %**



- Table 3 highlights **the incidence and intensity of multi-dimensional deprivation** at the national and by area of residence (urban and rural). The multidimensional deprivation headcount (H) (%) indicates a higher prevalence of multidimensional poverty in rural areas (66.7%) compared to urban areas (37.9%). This is consistent with the results for monetary poverty.

In addition, Table 3 shows **the average number of deprivations experienced by multidimensionally deprived children** in absolute and percentage terms (A).

- **At the national level**, multidimensionally deprived children suffer, on average, from **52,9 %** of the total number of **deprivations or 4.1 out of 8 dimensions.**

- **Rural children** present a slightly higher deprivation intensity than urban children. These deprived children living in rural areas therefore experience more deprivations at the



same time compared to deprived children living in urban areas.

However, the difference is not significant. Although the prevalence of multidimensional deprivation is much higher in rural areas, the deprivation intensity does not necessarily show large discrepancies.

**Multidimensional deprivation indices at the national level and by area of residence using a threshold of  $K=3$ , 0-17 years**

	Multi dimensional deprivation rate (H), %	Average intensity among the multi dimensionally poor (A),%	Average no. of deprivations among the multi dimensionally poor (A)	Adjusted multi dimensional deprivation rate (M0)
<b>National</b>	64.0	52.9	4.1	0.34
<b>Urban</b>	37.9	48.0	3.8	0.18
<b>Rural</b>	66.7	53.1	4.2	0.36



**List of dimensions, indicators and thresholds for measuring multidimensional child poverty in Burundi**  
based on EICVMB 2019–2020

Dimension	Indicator	Threshold	0–2 yrs	3–7 yrs	8–13 yrs	14–17 yrs
Nutrition	Household consumption	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household which did not consume food from the following four food groups: energy food products (starch-grains and derivatives-fats), vegetable protein products (legumes), animal protein products (meat-fish-eggs) and products containing vitamins (fruits and vegetables) in the last seven days.	x	x	x	x
	Food insecurity	<b>0–17 years:</b> Child living in a food insecure household - Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) <b>The child is considered as deprived if the household answered “Yes” to at least four of the following questions, in the last 12 months:</b> - Were you or other members of your household concerned about not having enough food due to lack of money or other resources? - Were you or other household members unable to eat healthy, nutritious food due to lack of money or other resources? - Have you or other members of the household eaten little variety of food due to lack of money or other resources? - Have you or other household members had to skip a meal because you did not have enough money or other resources to buy food? - Did you or other household members eat less than you thought you should have because of lack of money or other resources? - You or other members of your household were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources to buy food? - Did you or other members of your household spent an entire day without food due to lack of money or other resources?	x	x	x	x
Health	Skilled birth attendance	<b>0–4 years:</b> The child was not delivered by a skilled birth attendant.	x	x (3-4 yrs)		
	Use of mosquito net	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child did not sleep under a mosquito net during the previous night.	x	x	x	x
Education	School attendance	<b>6–17 years:</b> The child does not attend school.		x (6-7 yrs)	x	x
	Primary school attainment	<b>14–17 years:</b> The child did not complete primary education.				x
	Literacy	<b>8–17 years:</b> The child cannot read and write a short text in any of the following languages: French, Kirundi, Swahili and English.			x	x
Child protection	Birth certificate	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child does not have a birth certificate.	x	x	x	x
	Child labour (paid and un-paid)	<b>5–17 years:</b> The child was paid to do a job over the last 7 days or the child has a job.		x (5-7 yrs)	x	x
Water	Drinking water source	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household which uses an unimproved drinking water source. <b>Deprived:</b> unprotected well, other unprotected sources, river/lake/dam, water from street vendor, other. <b>Not deprived:</b> within dwelling/yard, neighbour's tap, public tap, protected borehole, other protected sources, bottled water.	x	x	x	x
	Distance to water source (in minutes)	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household where the distance to go, fetch water and come back is more than 30 minutes.	x	x	x	x
Sanitation	Toilet type	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household which uses an unimproved toilet source. <b>Deprived:</b> Flush to open drain, bucket toilet, hanging toilet/latrine, traditional pit latrine without slab, no toilet, other. <b>Not deprived:</b> Flush to piped sewer system, Flush to septic tank, , Flush to pit latrine, Flush to don't know where, Traditional pit latrines with slab, composting toilet.	x	x	x	x
	Shared toilet	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household which uses an unimproved toilet source.	x	x	x	x
Housing	Overcrowding	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household which has on average more than three people per sleeping room (UN-HABITAT definition).	x	x	x	x
	Materials of the roof	<b>0–17 years:</b> Child lives in a household where the roof is made of natural or rustic materials, which are not considered permanent. <b>Deprived:</b> no roof, thatch/palm/leaves, mats, palm/bamboo, wood planks, cardboard, other. <b>Not deprived:</b> metal sheets, wood, zinc/cement fibres, tiles, shingles, cement, tent (Ishitingi/ihema).	x	x	x	x
Information	Access to information and communication devices	<b>0–17 years:</b> The child lives in a household or there are no information and communication devices (radio, television or mobile phone).	x	x	x	x



## Conclusions

This report, done within the framework of the SDGs, could serve as a basis for studies on the monetary and non-monetary poverty of children in Burundi.

- In the forthcoming years until 2030, constant monitoring of child poverty levels in the country is crucial.
- By using the same methods with the new ECVMB databases, child poverty rates should be calculated for future follow-up.

**The goal, as mentioned above, is to completely eliminate extreme child poverty (living on less than US\$1.25 a day) in Burundi and reduce multidimensional poverty by at least half, from 64% to 39.1% by 2030.**

## Policy recommendations

The results of the MODA analysis in Burundi based on the EICVMB 2019-20 database show high deprivation rates in several areas of child well-being as well as an overlap between the selected dimensions.

**It is therefore necessary to address deprivations simultaneously and to tackle the underlying causes that generate them:**

- 1.** As the majority of children in Burundi experience multiple deprivations, it is important to adopt a long-term **holistic approach** that addresses all major deprivations along the life cycle.
- 2.** Implement interventions that focus on the dimensions that contribute most to multidimensional child poverty.
- 3.** Particular attention should be given to **the most vulnerable children**.
- 4.** Improve the level of investment in social protection and other basic social services to address the multidimensional deprivations experienced by children.
- 5.** In order to enable the development, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies, programs and budgets developed to tackle child poverty, it is desirable to reproduce this analysis on a regular basis to monitor the country's progress on multidimensional and monetary child poverty.





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