


LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT ()


April 2018 global poverty update from the World Bank

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTOPH LAKNER (/TEAM/CHRISTOPH-LAKNER) ON MON, 04/30/2018

CO-AUTHORS: JOAO PEDRO AZEVEDO (/TEAM/JOAO-PEDRO-AZEVEDO) ([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/INTENT/FOLLOW?SCREEN_NAME=JPZVD](https://twitter.com/intent/follow?screen_name=jpazvd)), DANIEL MAHLER (/TEAM/DANIEL-MAHLER), ESPEN BEER PRYDZ (/TEAM/ESPEN-BEER-PRYDZ) ([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/INTENT/FOLLOW?SCREEN_NAME=ESPRY](https://twitter.com/intent/follow?screen_name=espry))
 Share ([HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER.PHP?](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php))
U=[HTTP%3A//TINYURL.COM/YBAALOOOV&T=APRIL%202018%20GLOBAL%20POVERTY%20UPDATE%20FROM%20THE%20WORLD%20BANK](http://tinyurl.com/ybaalooov&t=april%202018%20global%20poverty%20update%20from%20the%20world%20bank)

(HTTP://TWITTER.COM/SHARE?)

URL=[HTTP%3A//TINYURL.COM/YBAALOOOV&COUNT=HORIZONTAL&VIA=WB_RESEARCH&TEXT=APRIL%202018%20GLOBAL%20POVERTY%20UPDATE%20FROM%20THE%20WORLD%20BANK&COUNTURL=TINYU](http://tinyurl.com/ybaalooov&count=horizontal&via=wb_research&text=april%202018%20global%20poverty%20update%20from%20the%20world%20bank&counturl=tinyurl)
 ([HTTP://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/SHAREARTICLE?](http://www.linkedin.com/sharearticle))
MINI=TRUE&URL=[HTTP%3A//TINYURL.COM/YBAALOOOV&TITLE=APRIL%202018%20GLOBAL%20POVERTY%20UPDATE%20FROM%20THE%20WORLD%20BANK&SUMMARY=%0D%0AIN%20APRIL%2C%20POVCALN](http://tinyurl.com/ybaalooov&title=april%202018%20global%20poverty%20update%20from%20the%20world%20bank&summary=%0D%0Ain%20april%2c%20povcaln)
 (/DEVELOPMENTTALK/PRINT/APRIL-2018-GLOBAL-POVERTY-UPDATE-WORLD-BANK)

 (MAILTO:?)
SUBJECT=APRIL%202018%20GLOBAL%20POVERTY%20UPDATE%20FROM%20THE%20WORLD%20BANK&BODY=[HTTP%3A//BLOGS.WORLDBANK.ORG/DEVELOPMENTTALK/DEVELOPMENTTALK/APRIL-](http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/developmenttalk/april-2018-global-poverty-update-world-bank%3fclid%3dshr_blogemailshare_xx_ext)

2018-GLOBAL-POVERTY-UPDATE-WORLD-BANK%3FCID%3Dshr_blogemailshare_xx_ext)

ADD COMMENT ([HTTP://BLOGS.WORLDBANK.ORG/DEVELOPMENTTALK/COMMENT/REPLY/1676#COMMENT-FORM](http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/comment/reply/1676#comment-form))

In April, PovcalNet (<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/home.aspx>) revised the World Bank's global and regional poverty estimates from 1981 to 2013. The next major update of global and regional poverty estimates is scheduled for October 2018, when the global poverty estimates for the reference year 2015 will be released. This will coincide with the launch of the next Poverty and Shared Prosperity report (the 2016 Poverty and Shared Prosperity report can be found here (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25078/9781464809583.pdf?sequence=24&isAllowed=y>)).

The April 2018 update includes 97 new surveys, which brings the total number of surveys to 1577. With Malta now included for the first time, the total country coverage of the global poverty monitoring stands at 164 countries. Aside from the addition of new surveys, several changes to the existing data have been made. Some changes reflect improvements in the welfare aggregate based on new harmonization efforts and more available information. For example, an update to the harmonization methodology of the Socio-Economic Database for Latin America and the Caribbean (<http://www.cedlas.econo.unlp.edu.ar/wp/en/estadisticas/sedlac/>) (SEDLAC), has created revisions to many poverty estimates in this region. Other changes involve improvements and minor corrections in the construction of welfare aggregates. When relevant, auxiliary data, such as the CPIs and National Accounts data, have also been updated as part of the regular updating cycle. Finally, a few surveys have been dropped from the database based on data quality concerns, such as concerns over insufficient documentation and a lack of inter-temporal comparability. A detailed description of all changes made are outlined in Atamanov et al. (2018) (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/173171524715215230/April-2018-Povcalnet-update-what-s-new>).

Table 1: Poverty estimates for reference year 2013: Comparison of October 2017 and April 2018 versions

| Region | Survey coverage (%) | | \$1.90: headcount ratio (%) | | \$1.90: number of poor (mil) | | \$3.20: headcount ratio (%) | | \$3.20: number of poor (mil) | | \$5.50: headcount ratio (%) | | \$5.50: number of poor (mil) | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 | Oct 2017 | Apr 2018 |
| | East Asia and Pacific | 96.5 | 97.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 73.9 | 73.2 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 354 | 352 | 42.6 | 42.5 | 855 |
| Europe and Central Asia | 90.7 | 90.7 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 10.4 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 32.8 | 27.7 | 14.9 | 14.1 | 72.1 | 67.8 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 91.7 | 91.6 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 30.1 | 27.8 | 11.6 | 11.3 | 71.0 | 69.5 | 27.3 | 27.1 | 167 | 166 |
| Middle East and North Africa | 78.0 | 77.7 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 8.3 | 9.6 | 13.1 | 14.5 | 47.1 | 52.0 | 40.8 | 42.7 | 146 | 153 |
| South Asia | 98.3 | 98.1 | 14.7 | 15.1 | 249 | 257 | 52.0 | 52.6 | 883 | 894 | 83.2 | 83.5 | 1414 | 1418 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 49.6 | 69.1 | 41.0 | 42.3 | 390 | 401 | 66.5 | 67.5 | 633 | 639 | 85.0 | 85.2 | 809 | 807 |
| Other High-Income Economies | 68.9 | 76.1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 15.9 | 15.9 |
| World Total | 84.9 | 88.8 | 10.7 | 10.9 | 769 | 783 | 28.3 | 28.6 | 2031 | 2044 | 48.4 | 48.7 | 3479 | 3481 |

Source: PovcalNet (<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/home.aspx>)Notes: Detailed description in Atamanov et al. (2018) (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/173171524715215230/April-2018-Povcalnet-update-what-s-new>).

Table 1 details the impact of the updates on global poverty in 2013. The global \$1.90 headcount ratio increases from 10.7% to 10.9% with the new data, and the number of poor increases from 769 million to 783 million people. This change *at the global level* is primarily driven by new surveys from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Particularly, new surveys in Bangladesh and Ethiopia each add more than 7 million poor people compared to the previous estimate, which was based on extrapolations of older surveys.

Some regions have also undergone substantial changes for the *regional* headcount ratios that are less noticeable at the global level. In the Middle East and North Africa, the headcount ratio increases from 2.3% to 2.7%, and the number of poor from 8.3 million to 9.6 million. This is driven by revised growth rates for Syria in recent years. In Europe and Central Asia, the headcount ratio decreases from 2.2% to 1.6% and the number of poor from 10.4 million to 7.7 million. This is primarily driven by changes for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, where poverty has been revised downward. In Tajikistan, this is caused by replacing with surveys of greater comparability, and in Uzbekistan by a new CPI series. These revisions are described in more detail in Atamanov et al. (2018) (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/173171524715215230/April-2018-Povcalnet-update-what-s-new>).

The revised data can be accessed at <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet> (<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet>).

Add new comment

Your name

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/april-2018-global-poverty-update-world-bank>

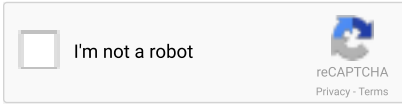
E-mail

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Comment *

More information about text formats (/developmenttalk/filter/tips)

Allowed HTML tags:
 <p>
Lines and paragraphs break automatically.



About (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/about>)

Data (<http://data.worldbank.org>)

Research and Publications (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/research>)

Learning (<https://olc.worldbank.org>)







News (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news>)

Projects and Operations (<http://projects.worldbank.org/?lang=en>)

Countries (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country>)

Topics (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic>)

FOLLOW US

- 
(<http://www.facebook.com/worldbank>)
- 
(<http://www.twitter.com/worldbank>)
- 
(<http://www.linkedin.com/company/the-world-bank>)
- 
(<https://instagram.com/worldbank/>)
- 
(<https://www.youtube.com/user/WorldBank>)
- 
(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldbank>)

NEWSLETTER

This Site in: ENGLISH ([HTTP://WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG](http://www.worldbank.org))

Legal (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/legal>) Access to Information (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/access-to-information>) Jobs (<http://www.worldbank.org/jobs>) Contact (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/contacts>)

REPORT FRAUD OR CORRUPTION ([HTTP://WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG/EN/ABOUT/UNIT/INTEGRITY-VICE-PRESIDENCY/REPORT-AN-ALLEGATION](http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/integrity-vice-presidency/report-an-allegation))

 (<http://www.worldbank.org/>)

IBRD ([HTTP://WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG/EN/WHO-WE-ARE/IBRD](http://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/ibrd)) IDA ([HTTP://WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG/IDA](http://www.worldbank.org/ida)) IFC ([HTTP://WWW.IFC.ORG/](http://www.ifc.org/)) MIGA ([HTTP://WWW.MIGA.ORG/](http://www.miga.org/)) ICSID ([HTTP://ICSID.WORLDBANK.ORG/](http://icsid.worldbank.org/))

© 2018 The World Bank Group, All Rights Reserved.