



# **DOMAIN 5 ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS**

**THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL INEQUALITY FRAMEWORK:  
THE OXFAM TOOLKIT**



**OXFAM**

This domain covers inequalities in meeting basic needs (food, clean water, shelter, sanitation, warmth), access to good quality and secure housing, access to transport infrastructure (allowing mobility and geographical connectedness), the quality of the local environment and the ability to enjoy leisure time alongside employment or caring responsibilities.

## DOMAIN 5 – ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS

### Inequality in the capability to enjoy comfortable, independent and secure living conditions

The multidimensional inequality framework allows you to measure inequalities in seven domains that matter for human life, through a number of suggested indicators, measures and variables of disaggregation.

This paper contains a brief description of the adequate living conditions domain and the list of sub-domains, indicators and measures suggested to measure and assess inequalities in the capability to enjoy comfortable, independent and secure living conditions. Please, remember that the MIF is flexible and it is up to you to decide how to use it, based on what makes sense in your unique context.

#### Brief description

This domain considers inequalities in **meeting basic needs, access to good quality and secure housing, access to transport infrastructure, the quality of the local environment and the ability to enjoy leisure time** alongside employment or caring responsibilities. This will help assess differences across individuals and groups in terms of meeting minimum acceptable conditions, access to basic amenities, and the independence and freedoms required for people to lead the life they have reason to value.

Secure access to **food, clean water, shelter, sanitation, warmth, utilities and adequate accommodation** are basic defining features of secure and comfortable living conditions. Where a country or region faces emergencies such as natural disasters (flooding, drought, famine, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons, violent storms), war and conflict, people face displacement, disrupting their lives and challenging their capability to enjoy comfortable, independent and secure living conditions or even meet their basic needs. These risks are not faced equally by all and particular groups are often more disadvantaged.

**Mobility and geographical connectedness** are important for independent living, to visit family and friends, to enhance work opportunities, to travel for pleasure and to socialise. The **quality of the local environment** is also critical with pollution levels, noise, odour, unsociable behaviour, rubbish, access to places where children can play, access to leisure facilities and green spaces, differing widely between communities. These aspects, as well as the **balance between employment, care responsibilities and leisure**, are all captured under this domain. .

The **sub-domains** covered in the adequate living conditions domain are:

- 5.A:** Enjoy secure access to food, clean water, clean air, shelter, sanitation, warmth and utilities
- 5.B:** Enjoy adequate housing quality and security
- 5.C:** Enjoy access to safe and appropriate transport
- 5.D:** Access to green and public spaces
- 5.E:** Be able to achieve a good work-life/care-life balance

## Indicators and measures

It is highly unlikely that you will find data for your city, country or region for *all* measures across *all* domains. What is suggested here is a relatively comprehensive list of indicators and measures, presented by each sub-domain. You can choose priority measures from this list and add or adapt measures to suit your context.

**To find data** related to this domain, as well as using any national surveys and sources available, you can consider the following global data sources (please, visit the [online Oxfam toolkit](#) for updated global and regional datasources):

- [Demographic and Health Surveys](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#) Global Database
- [World Values Survey](#)

### Sub-domain 5.A. Enjoy secure access to food, clean water, clean air, shelter, sanitation, warmth and utilities

#### ***Indicator 5.1: Secure access to food, clean water, clean air, sanitation, shelter, warmth and utilities***

Measure 5.1.1: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

Measure 5.1.2: Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age

Measure 5.1.3: Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

Measure 5.1.4: Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services

Measure 5.1.5: Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Measure 5.1.6: Percentage sleeping rough without shelter

Measure 5.1.7: Rates of fuel poverty - share of households unable to keep their home at a comfortable ambient temperature for a reasonable cost

Measure 5.1.8: Percentage of population with access to electricity

### Sub-domain 5.B. Enjoy adequate housing quality and security

#### ***Indicator 5.2: Housing quality and security***

Measure 5.2.1: Percentage of population living in long-term informal settlements and slums

Measure 5.2.2: Number of people living in shelters, refuges, refugee camps, immigration centres

Measure 5.2.3: Number of people living in mobile accommodation and caravans

Measure 5.2.4: Percentage of the population living in: (a) temporary accommodation; (b) rented accommodation under short-term tenancy agreement

Measure 5.2.5: Share of total population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor

Measure 5.2.6: Rates of housing overcrowding

Measure 5.2.7: Inequality in housing quality index

Measure 5.2.8: Housing cost overburden rate

**Remember make the framework yours! You can choose priority measures from this list and add or adapt measures to suit your context**

### Sub-domain 5.C. Enjoy access to safe and appropriate transport

#### **Indicator 5.3: Mobility and transportation**

Measure 5.3.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2km of an all-season road

Measure 5.3.2: Monthly travel costs as a percentage of monthly income

Measure 5.3.3: Percentage of population that has convenient access to public transport

### Sub-domain 5.D. Access to green and public spaces

#### **Indicator 5.4: Quality of local areas and access to open spaces**

Measure 5.4.1: Inequality in local environment quality (rubbish, pollution, noise, odour, antisocial behaviour etc.)

Measure 5.4.2: Ability to access free facilities that promote leisure and wellbeing

Measure 5.4.3: Percentage of population with access to open, green spaces

### Sub-domain 5.E. Be able to achieve a good work-life/care-life balance

#### **Indicator 5.5: Work-life balance**

Measure 5.5.1 Satisfaction with work-life/care-life balance

Measure 5.5.2: Average minutes per day spent on leisure activities

Measure 5.5.3: Travel to work times.

## Oxfam 2019

This Oxfam toolkit was written by Claire Kumar. The Multidimensional Inequality Framework and online toolkits are free resources which have been developed as part of a collaboration between academics in the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at the London School of Economics (LSE) and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), led by Abigail McKnight, and practitioners in Oxfam, led by Alex Prats. The initial project was funded by the LSE's International Inequalities Institute's Atlantic Visiting Fellows Programme.

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This paper is part of a series of papers written to inform public debate on development, poverty and inequality. For further information on the issues raised in this paper please email [inequality.toolkit@oxfam.org](mailto:inequality.toolkit@oxfam.org)

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# OXFAM

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