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Multidimensional Child Poverty in Kazakhstan

Report 2023

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Republic of Kazakhstan & Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan
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List of abbreviations

MODA	Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis
AROP	At Risk of Poverty
AROPE	At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion
EU-SILK	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
AF	Alkire-Foster
BNS	Bureau of National Statistics Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
CWD	Children with disabilities
hh	household
EU	European Union
CWI	Child Well-Being Index
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MCPI	Multidimensional Child Poverty Index
ERI	Joint Stock Company «Economic Research Institute» (Astana, Kazakhstan)
QoL	Quality of Life (observation)
CPRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
HDS	Health and Demographic survey
MICS	Multiple indicator Cluster Survey
MLSPP	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population
MAAS	Monitoring of academic achievements of students
MoES	Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan
HBS	Household Budget Survey
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SFNSO	Statistical form of national statistical observation "Main Interview Questionnaire"[1]
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
DFC	Digital Family Card
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
PL	Poverty line
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

1 Appendix 9 to the Order No. 14 of the Chairman of the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 19, 2019

Findings

- Based on the experimental calculations using the Alkire-Foster method, Bristol approach, and EU Child Deprivation Index, **the recommended methodology for further measuring multidimensional child poverty is the EU Child Deprivation Index**. Unlike other methodologies, this Index best reflects childhood deprivations, corresponds to the country context, and sets higher living standards for children. It is commensurate and comparable with the national MPI index and monetary poverty and allows comparison with other countries. The Index reflects a unique set of indicators that can be collected within a single HBS, thereby eliminating duplication with administrative data in the Digital Family Card or Child Well-Being Index.

- According to the EU Child Deprivation Index, the national multidimensional poverty level was 28.5%. At the same time, the most multidimensionally poor regions are Turkestan (54.3%), Mangystau (50.3%), North Kazakhstan (39.2%), and Akmola (36.4%). The most prosperous are Pavlodar (0.8%), Kyzylorda (8.5%), and Abay (10.8%) regions.

- Children living in rural areas are more vulnerable, as the multidimensional poverty level in rural areas was 34.8% vs 24.4% in cities. The largest urban vs rural difference of 20-30 percentage points was recorded in Karagandy, North Kazakhstan, Ulytau, and East Kazakhstan regions.

- According to the results, the largest share of deprived children is observed in the indicator “availability of a car,” as two thirds of children live in households that do not have a car. The second highest percentage of deprived ones is the indicator of “difficulty paying debts”; every fourth child lives in a household that at least twice in the last 12 months was not able to pay debts on utility bills, rent or loans. It is worth noting that the most favorable indicator is Internet access; only 2.8% of school-age children do not have access to the Internet. Indicators of food security for children are quite favorable across the country, however, if analyzed by the type of settlement, it can be noted that the number of children experiencing difficulties in accessing fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat in rural areas (about 12%) is twice as high the share of children in cities (about 6%).

- The findings show that among monetarily poor children, i.e. living in families with an average per capita income below the subsistence level, 44% are also multidimensionally poor; this group is doubly vulnerable and needs an integrated package of social, educational, health, housing and other services. It is worth noting that for monetarily poor children, on average, for each of the 17 indicators, the share of deprivation is 2-3 times higher compared to children from financially prosperous families. Almost every second poor child (43.8%) lives in a family with debt, which in turn affects the child’s access to healthy food, recreation, good living conditions, and other rights. Among poor children, one in five cannot afford proper and healthy food. Moreover, one in five children from poor families does not have access to books and other learning materials necessary for their full development.

- At the same time, it turned out that even in households with a sufficient level of well-being, almost a third (28.5%) of children are multidimensionally poor, that is, they experience deprivation in access to a number of important services and benefits. In this regard, it is important to analyze both monetary and multidimensional child poverty, which are complementary.

- At the national level, there are no gender differences in multidimensional poverty rates between girls and boys. The highest level of multidimensional poverty is observed among children of the older age group from 15-17 years old – 32.8%, while among younger children the poverty level is lower: from 0-4 years old – 25.1%, from 5-14 years old – 28.9%.

- The multidimensional child poverty level is higher in large families (34.1%).

- The study included an analysis of deprivation in families with children with disabilities. Across the country, the number of such households was 1.8% or 94,988 hhs. Among such households there is a high level of multidimensional poverty – 43.4%. When formulating policies to combat child poverty, it is important to place special emphasis on families with children with disabilities, since they are among the most vulnerable.

Recommendations for further implementation of the child poverty index

- This report presented calculations of child poverty, on the basis of which it is recommended to develop appropriate methodological guidelines and provisions for the implementation of the EU Child Deprivation Index in BNS reporting. It is recommended that the Index be updated and monitored annually. Its methodology also allows for comparative analysis with EU countries. It is recommended to develop interactive dashboards to visualize data on multidimensional and monetary child poverty in various sections and time periods. The results of monitoring child multidimensional poverty are recommended to be included in the country's Sustainable Development Goals Report.

- For the practical application of this Index for the purpose of developing/improving social policy, it is recommended to include this Index as an additional indicator for assessing the level of social well-being of individuals (families) via the Digital Family Card. At the same time, due to the fact that the data allows disaggregation only at the level of regions and type of settlement (urban-rural), all families belonging to the n cluster (for example, rural areas of the Akmola Region) will get the same indicator value corresponding to the level of multidimensional poverty of a given cluster. This Index can receive appropriate weight and be taken into account in the total score assigned to the family in the well-being rating. Due to that the indicators included in the Index are unique and can only be collected by surveying households, they can be informative and complement the administrative data available in the DFC. Thus, the overall family rating will be more sensitive to multidimensional child poverty.

- The multidimensional child poverty indicator can also be applied individually when assigning targeted social assistance. In addition to current data on family income and property ownership, the value of the individual multidimensional poverty index can enhance targeting.

- The Multidimensional Child Poverty Index can also be used to analyze vulnerability at the regional level. For this purpose, it is recommended to triangulate data and use administrative data from the DFC, MCPI, as well as other available databases, for example, data from the MoES and Kazhydromet on climate and natural disasters. Aggregation of administrative data at the regional level, combined with a regional multidimensional child poverty index, can provide a complete picture of family vulnerability. Moreover, visualization of data in the form of interactive maps using multiple layers and filtering capabilities will allow ministries, departments, as well as local governments to make insightful decisions during planning, implementation, financing, and monitoring of strategies and programs.

I. Introduction

Over the past decades, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in improving the overall standard of living of its population, as evidenced by its progress on the Human Development Index (HDI). Between 1990 and 2021, Kazakhstan's HDI indicator increased from 0.69[2]. to 0.811[3]; the country ranks 56th out of 191 countries. This change reflects an improvement in key dimensions of the HDI, as life expectancy increased by 5.8 years over this period[4], the average number of years of schooling – by 3.8 years, and GNI per capita – by 6.8 times[5]. Many important indicators concerning children have also improved. For example, the mortality rate of children under five years of age has decreased fivefold - from 51.8 per thousand live births in 1990 to 10[6] in 2021. Over the past two decades, Kazakhstan has achieved significant poverty reduction. The poverty rate based on national poverty line fell from 18.2% to 5.2% between 2006 and 2022. Poverty rates, measured using the international poverty line of $6.85 a day at 2017 purchasing power parity (PPP), fell from 51% to 14% between 2006 and 2018[7].

It is worth noting that currently, in addition to calculating monetary poverty using the officially established subsistence level as the poverty line, BNS and MLSPP are considering the need to switch to the methodology for calculating relative poverty. This is due to the fact that Kazakhstan belongs to the group of upper-middle-income countries and poverty indicators based on meeting basic needs are low and do not reflect social needs. Based on the results of calculations carried out by BNS jointly with UNICEF[8], if there is a switch to a poverty line based on median income, the level of monetary child poverty will range from 8.2% (with PL = 50% of median income) to 16.4% (with PL = 60% of median income). For comparison, the share of children living below the subsistence level is 7.3%[9].

Thus, according to various estimates, the likelihood of a child ending up in poverty is 1.5-3 times higher than for the adults. Moreover, children under 18 make up almost half of all people living in poor households (Figure 1.1).

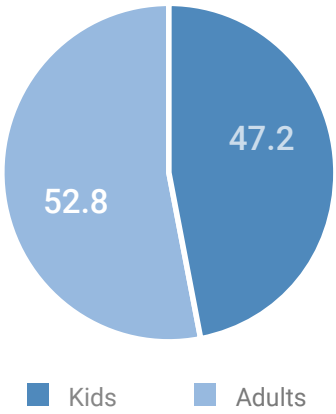

Figure 1.1. Distribution of the population with incomes below the subsistence level by age groups in 2021, %. Source: Children of Kazakhstan

Currently, poverty is measured by one indicator – household consumption, which is an important, but, of course, not the only indicator of the material well-being of children. In this regard, it should also be emphasized that SDG 1.2. binds governments to at least halve the share of men, women, and children of all ages living in all dimensions of nationally determined poverty by 2030. In this regard, the BNS's intentions to develop and implement a Multidimensional Poverty Index not only at the national level (MPI), but also a Multidimensional Child Poverty Index (MCPI) are welcomed. Unlike the national MPI, which is measured at the household level and does not consider the specific needs of children, the multidimensional child poverty indicator will include deprivations affecting children. This report will provide an in-depth overview of international methodologies for measuring MCPI and present the results of multidimensional child poverty assessments using several internationally accepted approaches.

2 UNDP (2020) The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene. Human Development Report 2020.

3 https://countryeconomy.com/countries/kazakhstan

4 Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2023, https://www.gov.kz/

5 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD?locations=KZ

6 https://www.unicef.org/media/136766/file/Kazakhstan-2022-COAR.pdf

7 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.UMIC?locations=KZ

8 "Methodological recommendations and calculation results for measuring median income and relative poverty in the Republic of Kazakhstan", UNICEF & BNS, 2023

9 UNICEF calculations, BNS, 2023

The multidimensional child poverty rate is expected to:

- give an accurate idea of the real scale of the problem
- track progress towards SDG 1.2. over time
- help identify groups most at risk of child poverty
- highlight which dimensions are particularly problematic (e.g. access to healthcare, education, housing)
- shed light on non-monetary dimensions of inequality among children
- analyze the relationship between monetary and multidimensional child poverty
- help national and regional authorities and officials responsible for formulating and implementing public policy

to develop appropriate public policies to combat various dimensions of child poverty and inequality.

II. Rationale for MCPI

Child poverty is a universal problem for countries at all levels of development. In addition to being a grave violation of children's rights as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights treaties, child poverty also hampers any country's future development: numerous studies show that children raised in poverty are more likely to suffer from health problems later in life, have lower educational outcomes, are more likely to be unemployed or suffer from drug addiction. Although there is no single, universally accepted definition of child poverty, international children's rights organizations, including UNICEF, generally define it as a lack of resources, services, and supportive infrastructure that impede a child's ability to enjoy a socially acceptable standard of living and have opportunities to develop to their full potential.

There are two compelling reasons that justify the use of multidimensional indices of deprivation to measure child poverty. First, indicators that measure poverty at the household level make an implicit assumption that resources are distributed equitably within the household, which is rarely true, as evidenced by numerous studies. In this regard, given the same level of household income or consumption, the material well-being of children, that is, the share of family resources allocated to children compared to other family members, can vary significantly depending on the priorities of the household. Moreover, some families often prioritize the needs of some children over others. For example, when faced with financial constraints, some families prioritize the education of older children, boys, and children without disabilities over younger children, girls and children with disabilities.

Secondly, as follows from the above definition, the material well-being of children depends not only on household resources, but also on government and community resources and infrastructure, such as the availability of health and education services, as well as water supply and sanitation infrastructure and other resources.

However, it should be emphasized that multidimensional child poverty measures do not replace monetary poverty measures, but rather are important complements that together allow for a comprehensive assessment of child poverty. In fact, one of the most common ways to test the validity of multidimensional child poverty indices is to measure their correlation with monetary measures of child poverty as well as household income. Therefore, the proposed MCPI index should be used in conjunction with the monetary measures of child poverty published by the BNS.

How does the MCPI differ from the Kazakhstan's Child Well-Being Index and the Social Well-Being Index calculated on the basis of the Digital Family Card?

On October 22, 2020, at a meeting of the National Council of Public Trust, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev instructed the Government from 2022 to develop and implement a national monitoring mechanism – the Child Well-Being Index (CWI). The objectives of the CWI are to enable progress in child well-being to be measured over the long term, to bring to light differences between regions and areas in various dimensions of child well-being and, where possible, to facilitate comparisons with results across countries. The government body responsible for the development of the CWI is the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights (CPRC) under the Ministry of enlightenment. The actual technical work was carried out by the Economic Research Institute (ERI), a quasi-governmental organization that also serves as the Secretariat of the Government Coordination Council for the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, at the request of the CPRC, UNICEF agreed to provide technical assistance to the ERI through its Research Centre – Innocenti. In 2023, the CWI was calculated by the BNS Information and Analysis Center together with the CPRC.

Following extensive public consultation and technical input from UNICEF, the development of the CWI methodology was completed in July 2021. It consists of 4 areas, 14 components, and 56 indicators.

Table 2.1. Child Wellbeing Index Indicators

Are	Child	Family and Society	Public policy	Country's welfare
Indicators	Share of children aged 10-18 years with a high level of life satisfaction, %	Share of children aged 10-18 years who can openly discuss their problems with their parent(s), %	Share of children aged 10-18 who enjoy studying at a comprehensive school, %	Availability of places for back yard/street games, including sports facilities, %
	Share of children aged 10-18 years who find it easy to make friends in comprehensive school, %	Share of children aged 10-18 years who completely agree that their opinion is taken into account when making decisions in the family, %	Share of children aged 10-18 years satisfied with the quality of school meals, %	Share of children aged 10-18 years living less than 15-minute walk from a bus stop, %
	Number of deaths of children under 5 years of age per 1000 births	Share of children aged 10-18 years who have books at home for additional learning, %	Share of families with children renting housing, %	Number of crimes against children, per 100,000 children
	Number of deaths of children aged 0-18 years from external causes, per 100,000 children	Share of children aged 10-18 years who have computer equipment for learning, %	Level of interaction between parents and comprehensive school, %	Number of crimes against sexual integrity of minors, per 100,000 children
	Number of obese children, per 100,000 children	Share of children consuming vegetables and fruits every day, %	Share of parents satisfied with the educational process and additional learning, %	Number of criminal offenses committed by minors or with their complicity, per 100,000 children aged 14-17 years
	Number of children with digestive diseases, per 100,000 children	Share of children aged 10-18 years who completely agree that they participate in social life in comprehensive school, %	Share of preschool and comprehensive school organizations not provided with basic sources of drinking water, warm toilets, and handwashing means	Share of dilapidated schools from the total number of schools
	Share of children aged 0-14 years with postural disorders identified as a result of preventive examinations	Share of children aged 10-18 years who have been bullied, including through social media, %	Coverage of children with disabilities with special psychological and pedagogical support and early correction	Share of drinking water samples that do not meet established quality standards, %
	Share of children aged 0-14 years with decreased visual acuity identified as a result of preventive examinations	Number of days per week for outdoor play (children aged 10-18 years) or number of hours per week spent outdoors (4 or more hours per week)	Share of young children (under 3 years old) screened for neuropsychiatric disorders	Share of the total area of the entire housing stock equipped with central sewerage

Are	Child	Family and Society	Public policy	Country's welfare
Indicators	Share of children aged 0-14 years with decreased hearing acuity and speech defects identified as a result of preventive examinations	Share of children who have a separate room or who have at least 15 square meters of living space per person living in the house	Share of children enrolled in additional education	Share of educational organizations that have a video surveillance system integrated with the Operational Management Center of the MIA RK
	Number of mental behavioral disorders associated with the use of psychoactive substances among children aged 15-17 years per 100,000 children	Share of parents who cannot devote enough time to their children due to work pressure, %	Share of children aged 1-6 years enrolled in preschool education	Share of district/ regional roads with hard surface
	Number of suicide cases among children, per 100,000 children	Number of children aged 0-17 years left without parental care, per 1000 children	Share of three-shift schools from the total number of schools	Water quality level
	Average indicator of monitoring of academic achievements of students (MAAS) for all school students	Number of children in difficult life situations, per 1000 children	Share of budget expenditures aimed at children's needs	Level of PM 2.5 fine particulate matter in the air (air quality)
	Share of those who passed the UNT threshold level	Share of orphans provided with housing from the public housing stock	Share of children with disabilities covered by medical rehabilitation	Gross regional product per capita, thousand tenge
	Level of legal safety of children, %	Share of settlements with access to high-speed Internet, %	Share of children covered by financial and material assistance in state educational organizations	Unemployment rate

Despite some common features, such as a multidimensional approach to child well-being, and perhaps a few common indicators, the MCPI differs from the CWI in several important respects. First, the MCPI focuses exclusively on children's material well-being, while the CWI seeks to capture many intangible dimensions of children's well-being, such as the quality of family relationships, life satisfaction, socialization, physical safety etc. Accordingly, the CWI does not include many important dimensions of childhood material deprivation. Second, the MCPI will be measured at the child level, whereas the CWI consists of indicators measured at both the child and subnational levels (e.g., regional GDP per capita, share of local budgets allocated to children's programs, air quality in areas, regional unemployment levels). Accordingly, the MCPI will rely on household survey data, while most CWI indicators will be obtained from various administrative sources. From a practical perspective, systematically collecting and synthesizing data on 56 indicators from multiple sources can be quite challenging and may result in time and/or geography data gaps. Using a single regular survey, such as the Household Budget Survey, avoids such problems. Third, the CWI is planned to be disaggregated at the district level to inform policy decisions at the local level, whereas for the MCPI, disaggregation should occur across broader social groups (e.g., families by number of children, rural vs urban families, families with working parents vs with unemployed parents) to inform policy decisions at the national level.

As for assessing the social well-being of a family (individual) through the DFC, this practice has been introduced since 2023 with the adoption of the Social Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan and is used to identify families (individuals) potentially in need of social protection and to provide proactive public services by government agencies and (or) organizations. Let's consider the structure of indicators used by the MLSPP to distribute families into categories of social well-being. As can be seen from Table 2.2., most indicators are measured at the household level, that is, they are not sensitive to child deprivation. Also, many indicators are not aimed at measuring material deprivation, but capture the presence or absence of one or another category, for example, persons with disabilities or chronic diseases, children and youth at a certain age. Thus, measuring social well-being according to the DFC does not exclude the need for the multidimensional child poverty index; moreover, the MCPI can be used in combination or complement current indicators.

Table 2.2. Indicators included in calculating the well-being of families using the Digital Family Card[10]

Index	Indicator
Income and credit liabilities	Per capita income level
	Presence/absence of current credit liabilities
	Presence/absence of overdue debt on credit liabilities
Movable property	Presence/absence of movable property
	Presence /absence of commercial transport (bus, trucks, minibuses, special vehicles)
	Presence /absence of agricultural machinery
Employment	Presence/absence of unemployed persons
	Presence of employed persons
	Presence/absence of registration of a person carrying out entrepreneurial activities
Providing social protection services	Presence/absence of minor children under 18 years of age and young students under 23 years of age
	Presence/absence of persons with disabilities over 18 years of age
	Presence/absence of persons with disabilities since childhood or a child with disabilities
Providing health services	Presence/absence of assignment to a health institution
	Presence/absence of compulsory social health insurance participants in the family
	Presence/absence of a person with a chronic disease subject to dynamic monitoring
	Presence/absence of a person registered with a dispensary
Providing educational services	Presence/absence of children and their enrollment in a preschool institution
	Presence/absence of children assigned to secondary education organizations
Housing conditions and infrastructure	Housing of family (individual)
	Presence/absence of commercial real estate
	Settlement status
Providing in the field of agriculture	Presence/absence of personal subsidiary plot
	Presence/absence of land plot

10 "On approval of the Methodology for Determining the Social Well-Being of a Family (Individual)", Order of the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 29, 2023, No. 267.

III. Review of models for constructing multidimensional child poverty indicators

In line with growing global recognition of the multidimensional nature of (child) poverty and deprivation, scientists, think tanks, and international development organizations have developed a variety of methodologies to construct indices that succinctly profile child deprivation using single numerical indicators. Below we review the methods most commonly used to construct multidimensional child poverty indices.

Bristol approach

One of the best-known measures of multidimensional child poverty was developed by a team of researchers from the University of Bristol at the request of UNICEF in 2003 and subsequently used as the main indicator of child poverty in the Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities. It is based on the theory of relative deprivation developed by the famous British scientist Peter Townsend and is closely related to the expanded definition of poverty endorsed at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

This indicator includes eight dimensions: nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, health, housing, education, information, and access to services. Deprivation in each of these dimensions can be measured by a set of closely related phenomena ranging from no deprivation to mild, moderate, severe, and extreme deprivation (Figure 2). However, for practical reasons, the Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities used two thresholds: less severe and severe deprivation (see Appendix 1 for thresholds for each dimension). Children were considered disadvantaged if they experienced deprivation in more than one aspect. The data used to construct the indicator was taken from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)[11] and health and demographic studies (HDS)[12].

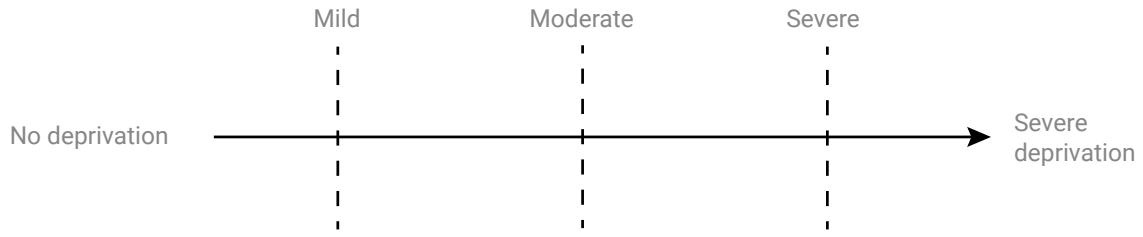

Figure 3.1. A set of closely related deprivation phenomena. Source: Gordon, D., & Nandy, S. (2012). Measuring child poverty and deprivation. In A. Minujin, & S. Nandy (Eds.), Global child poverty and well-being: Measurement, concepts, policy, and action. Policy Press.

The strength of the Bristol approach lies in its strong theoretical foundation and human rights-based approach. However, as an internationally comparable index with a particular focus on the world's poorest countries, its original version used indicators that may be less relevant in wealthier countries, such as nutrition and sanitation. It also does not include dimensions that are more applicable in richer countries, such as Internet access. However, this approach allows you to adapt both dimensions and indicators to the conditions of a particular country, which is recognized by the authors of this index[13].

11 MICS surveys measure key indicators that enable countries to generate data for use in policies, programs, and national development plans, and to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other internationally agreed commitments.

12 Health and Demographic Studies are nationally representative household surveys that provide data on a wide range of indicators for monitoring and assessing population, health and nutrition impacts.

13 Gordon and Nandy (2012).

Alkire-Foster method

The Alkire-Foster (AF) method is another well-known approach to constructing multidimensional poverty indices. In particular, it became famous after the UNDP adopted it as the methodology for calculating the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which is published annually along with the Human Development Report. Like the Bristol approach, the AF method aims to identify multiple deprivations, but since, unlike the first, it is not based on theory, it allows a more flexible approach to the selection of dimensions, each of which can be measured using several indicators. For example, as shown in Figure 3.2, the global MPI consists of three dimensions (health, education, and living standards), which are measured using 10 indicators available from the HDS and MICS surveys. Each dimension and each indicator within a dimension are usually given equal weight, although researchers have complete freedom to assign weight to each aspect and indicator. A unique feature of the AF method is that it simultaneously measures two dimensions of poverty – prevalence (% of people who are poor) and intensity (average % of dimensions in which poor people are deprived) – and combines them into one indicator using the formula: MPI = Prevalence * Intensity.

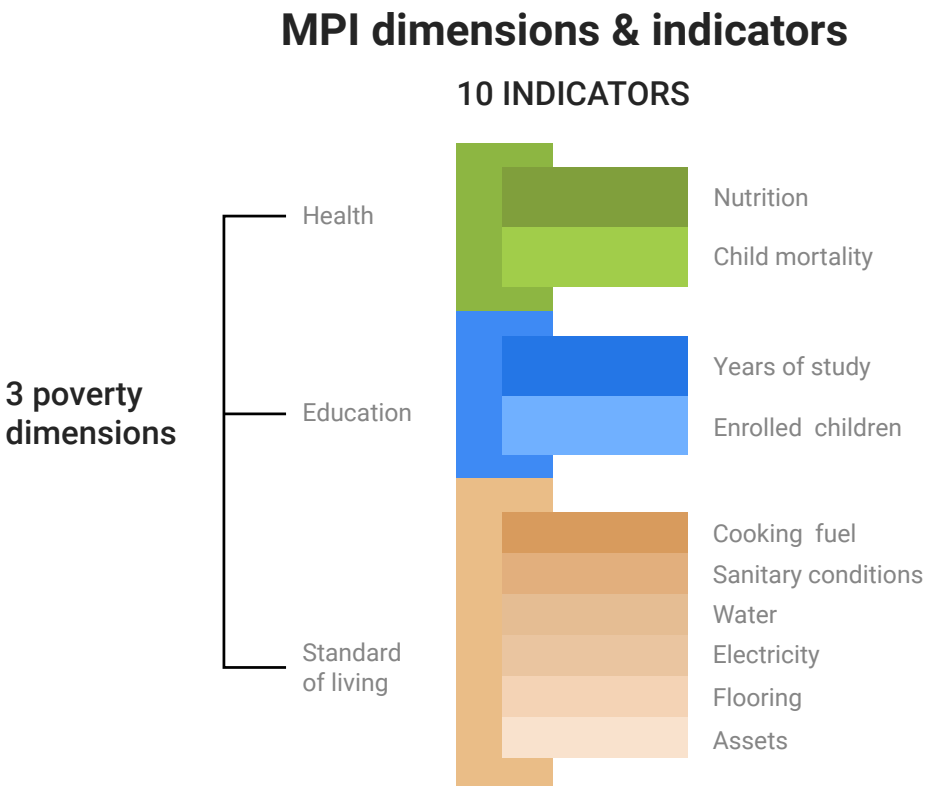

Figure 3.2. Structure of the MPI. Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

Although flexibility is often seen as an advantage of the AF method, it can also be considered a significant disadvantage: dimensions can be chosen arbitrarily, not in accordance with a specific theory or comprehensive framework. Equally problematic is arbitrarily assigning weights to various dimensions and indicators and then deciding at what percentage of total deprivation (30% in the case of the MPI) to set the poverty line. This makes the index quite vulnerable to criticism. Also, without detailed explanation, non-experts may not understand the final score, which is a multiple of prevalence and intensity.

MODA analysis method

Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) is a tool for constructing multidimensional child poverty indicators developed by UNICEF. As the name suggests, its focus is on identifying overlaps between different dimensions of child poverty. Although MODA is not based on a specific theoretical framework, it is broadly linked to the child rights framework. It differs from other multidimensional child poverty methodologies in three important respects. First, it takes into account the different needs of children throughout their lives. Therefore, different dimensions and indicators are usually used for the age groups 0-5, 5-14, and 15-17. Second, MODA analyzes both single and multiple dimensions of deprivation and allows researchers to determine how many overlapping deprivations make up the poverty threshold. For example, as shown in Figure 3.3, the poverty cut-off point can be set at either two deprivations (that is, any child experiencing health and water or health and nutrition or water and nutrition deprivation is a child with multiple deprivations) or three deprivations (only a child who is simultaneously deprived in health, nutrition, and water is a multi-deprived child). Third, MODA analysis allows us to calculate the share of children experiencing different combinations of overlapping deprivations, as well as the share of children experiencing no deprivation.

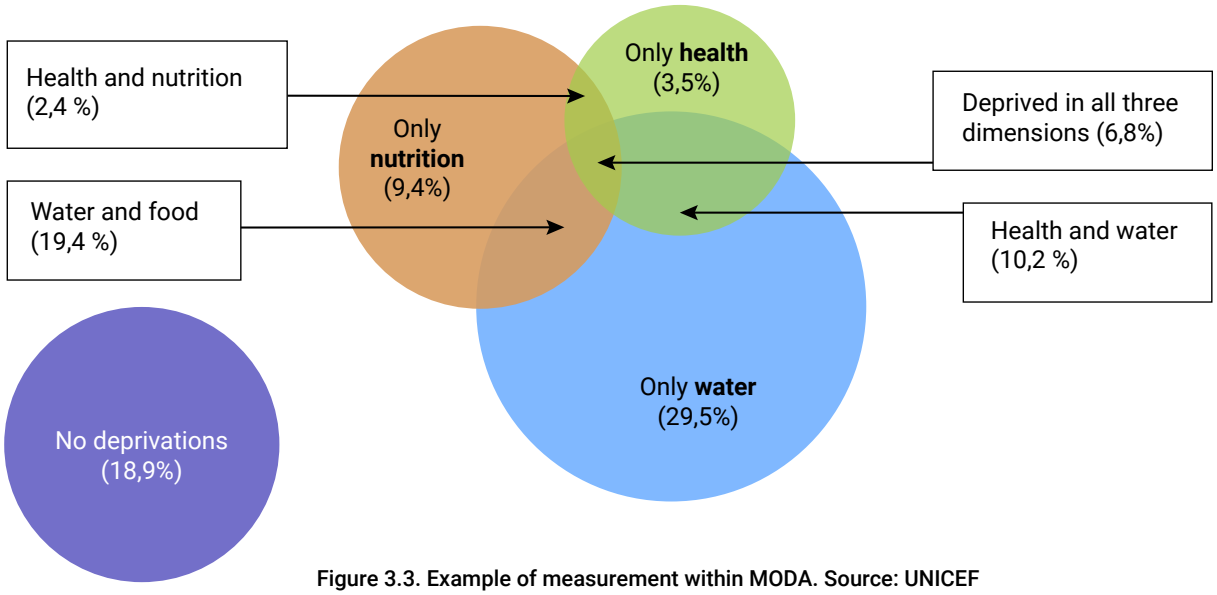

Figure 3.3. Example of measurement within MODA. Source: UNICEF

Flexibility is often considered a strength of the MODA because it gives researchers the ability to tailor the index to country conditions by selecting appropriate dimensions and indicators, and to determine overlaps between dimensions to establish a poverty line. However, in a number of cases, researchers have included in the MODA dimensions that are not clearly related to the child's material well-being (for example, violence and family relationships) and therefore are not relevant to multidimensional child poverty. In addition, practice has shown that selected poverty cut-off points (i.e. the number of overlapping deprivations) can be easily disputed and that members of the public who are not experts in this field (including politicians and the media) find it difficult to understand multiple figures for different combinations simultaneously overlapping deprivations.

Child poverty rates in the EU

The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) uses several indicators to measure child poverty. The first of them is the "level of risk of poverty" (At Risk of Poverty – AROP). It is measured in relative monetary terms relative to 60% of the median equivalent net household income in each EU country. This indicator does not take into account the special needs of children and simply calculates the share of children living in households that are at risk of poverty. The data used to construct this indicator comes from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The advantage of AROP is that it is widely used throughout the world, especially in OECD countries, making it easier to compare internationally. A limitation is that it ignores the multidimensional nature of child poverty and also makes the implicit assumption that resources are distributed equally across households.

The second indicator, At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE), is also measured at the household level. It expands the AROP measure by adding two additional dimensions – very low work intensity and severe material and social deprivation. A household with very low work intensity is defined as one in which members of working age work less than 20% of the potential hours they could work in a year. Severe material and social deprivation are defined as the inability of a household to afford at least four of the following:

1. pay rent, mortgage, or utility bills
2. keep the house warm enough
3. face unexpected expenses
4. eat meat or protein regularly
5. go on vacation
6. a car
7. ability to replace worn furniture
8. ability to replace worn out clothes with new ones
9. availability of two pairs of suitable shoes
10. ability to spend a small amount of money each week ("pocket money")
11. regular leisure activities
12. ability to get together with friends/family for a drink/food at least once a month
13. Internet access[14].

Thus, a child is considered to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion if their household has a net income of less than 60% of the median equivalent income or suffers from very low work intensity or severe material deprivation. The AROPE indicator is the main indicator for monitoring the poverty target of the EU Strategy 2020. It is also based on data from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). From a multidimensional child poverty perspective, AROPE is an improvement over AROP because it takes into account additional dimensions of household resources, some of which (such as keeping the house warm enough) are directly related to a child's well-being. However, it still leaves out many critical dimensions of child poverty.

Recognizing these limitations, in 2018, the EU adopted the Child Deprivation Index. It defines a child as financially disadvantaged if, due to financial barriers, he/she lacks three of the following 17 items:

1. New (not used) clothing
2. Two pairs of properly fitted shoes
3. Fresh fruits and vegetables on a daily basis
4. Meat, poultry, fish, or their vegetarian equivalent on a daily basis
5. Age-appropriate books at home
6. Outdoor recreation equipment

14 Items 1-7 are measured at the household level; items 8-13 are measured at the individual level (respondents aged 16 years or older).

7. Indoor games
8. Regular leisure activities
9. Celebrations for special occasions
10. Periodically inviting friends to play and eat
11. Participation in school trips and school events that require payment
12. Holidays
13. Debt
14. Keeping home adequately warm
15. Access to the car for personal use
16. Replacement of worn-out furniture
17. Internet access

Items 1-12 of this list are measured at the child level, while items 13-17 are measured at the household level. The data for constructing these indicators was obtained from a special module that was included in the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) in 2009 and 2014. Following the official adoption of the EU Index, relevant data are collected regularly through the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

It should be noted that, unlike most international indices, the EU Child Deprivation Index is not based on a specific theory. However, its constituent elements were considered essential for children by more than half of the 2007 Eurobarometer respondents in every EU country. In addition, the index authors conducted multiple robust statistical tests (reliability, validity, summability) to confirm that the items measure the underlying concept of child poverty, which is also highly correlated with household income, subjective poverty, and material deprivation at the household level[15].

The advantage of the EU Child Deprivation Index is that it has strong statistical validity. However, it should be emphasized that, despite the use of 17 indicators, this index is not multidimensional, since, as its authors explain, it measures one basic factor, and not different types of deprivation in children. Moreover, it makes the implicit assumption that children's more basic needs for access to education, health care and other social services have already been met, and therefore ignores these needs. For this reason, its applicability in less fortunate countries is questionable.

IV. Criteria for choosing the MCPI methodology

As the brief overview in the previous section shows, each of the most commonly used MCPI indices has certain strengths and weaknesses that need to be taken into account when choosing an appropriate indicator in the context of Kazakhstan. In this regard, it is important to consider a number of basic criteria that the proposed index must meet.

Firstly, the methodology must correspond to the current level of socio-economic development of Kazakhstan and the situation of children in the country. Due to that Kazakhstan is among the upper-middle-income countries and plans to switch to measuring poverty according to OECD standards based on median income, the use of the EU methodology for measuring child poverty is justified. Moreover, this methodology can serve as a complement to the national poverty index based on the Alkire-Foster methodology, which is more aimed at measuring basic needs. The EU index will measure needs at a higher level and, in combination with the level of relative poverty, will also allow for a comparative analysis of the EU countries and Kazakhstan according to the AROPE indicator.

15 Guio, A. C., Gordon, D., Marlier, E., Najera, H., & Pomati, M. (2018). Towards an EU measure of child deprivation. Child indicators research, 11(3), 835-860.

Secondly, the MCPI should be easy to understand both for bodies and officials responsible for the formation and implementation of public policy, and for the general public. For this reason, MODA and AF methods seem to be less useful. However, for the purpose of comparative analysis, calculations of child poverty were also carried out using the AF method.

Thirdly, deprivation cut-off points for each dimension should be as less controversial as possible. For this reason, it is preferable to use cut-off points commonly used in international and national definitions. In addition, it is preferable for newly developed questions to have binary response options (yes/no) rather than scales (such as a Likert scale or 0-10). In this analysis, all questions were re-coded in the database into dichotomous ones, where 1 means deprivation, and 0 means no deprivation.

Fourthly, it is highly desirable that the MCPI be published by the BNS annually. The best way to ensure this is tomake maximum use of indicators for which data are already collected through regular BNS household surveys: Quality of Life (QoL) and Household Budget Survey (HBS). It is worth noting that several questions were added to the 2023 QoL, taking into account the interests of children and making it possible to measure child poverty using the EU and Bristol methods. An alternative option is to try to use data from the MICS, but this survey is only conducted every five years or so, which would lead to serious gaps in data on child poverty.

Fifthly, whenever possible, the index should use internationally comparable measures. Of course, no original MCPI index developed for a specific context can be fully comparable with international indicators. However, using indicators constructed in accordance with international methodology will allow us to see how Kazakhstan compares to other countries on specific dimensions of child poverty.

Results of calculations of the EU Child Deprivation Index

Since the list of 17 indicators included in the EU index was developed and tested in EU countries, before applying this methodology in the context of Kazakhstan, the authors of the report conducted a series of statistical tests based on the 2023 Quality of Life data.

Relevance test

The purpose of this test is to determine how each of the 17 indicators characterizes the well-being of a child in the opinion of the population. According to the methodology, if more than half of the respondents consider the indicator important in terms of its impact on the well-being of the child, then the indicator is considered appropriate in the context and is recommended for inclusion in the overall index. Below are the survey results.

Table 4.1. Relevance of indicators

Indicator	% of households that consider this indicator important for the well-being of the child/family	Data source
new (not used) clothing of the right size	91.9	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
two pairs of comfortable and seasonally appropriate shoes (one for each season) for each child in the household	93.1	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
eating fresh vegetables and fruits daily	95.2	Quality of life, BNS, 2023

Indicator	% of households that consider this indicator important for the well-being of the child/family	Data source
eating meat, poultry, or fish (or equivalent vegetarian food) at least once daily	94.5	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
age-appropriate educational games and books for each child in the household	90.1	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
equipment for outdoor activities (for example, bicycles, roller skates, sports equipment etc.)	84.8	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
indoor games (for example, educational children's toys, blocks, board games, computer games etc.)	86.1	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
regular leisure	87.7	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
children's parties on special occasions (birthdays etc.)	85.4	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
ability to invite friends over	76.8	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
participation in school excursions and paid school events	81.3	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
vacation with parents away from home for at least a week a year	86.4	Quality of life, BNS, 2023
personal Internet access	87.0	Multidimensional Deprivation Study, UNICEF, 2022
ability to pay household payment arrears	89.8	Multidimensional Deprivation Study, UNICEF, 2022
availability of means to keep home warm in winter	93.0	Multidimensional Deprivation Study, UNICEF, 2022
availability of a car or the ability to use a taxi when needed	75.6	Multidimensional Deprivation Study, UNICEF, 2022
ability to replace the simplest furniture that has become unusable when necessary	75.4	Multidimensional Deprivation Study, UNICEF, 2022

According to Table 4.1, all 17 indicators are relevant to the Kazakhstan context. From 75% to 95% of the country's population believe that the availability of one or another benefit is important for the well-being of a child. Relatively low importance (two-thirds of respondents) was given to such indicators as "the ability to invite friends over," "availability of a car or the ability to use a taxi when needed," and "the ability to replace the simplest furniture that has become unusable when necessary", however, all three indicators passed the 50% threshold.

Test for correlation with monetary income

Multidimensional poverty is related to monetary poverty, but the strength of the relationship varies. Children who live in families with sufficient income may simultaneously experience deprivation in other dimensions. In order to understand the appropriateness of the indicators chosen to measure multidimensional poverty, it is important that the correlation with monetary poverty is non-zero and can be interpreted logically. In this survey, the indicator of subjective assessment of family well-being was chosen as a proxy indicator of monetary income. Each respondent could assess their financial situation on a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is a low level of security, and 6 is a high level. The results of the correlation analysis are presented below.

Table 4.2. Correlation of the presence of deprivation according to the indicators with the level of household income

Indicator		Subjective assessment of household welfare level					
		1 – low	2 – below average	3 – average	4 – above average	5 – sufficient	6 – high level
new clothes of the right size	No deprivation	25.6%	83.0%	96.2%	97.0%	97.2%	96.2%
	Deprivation	74.4%	17.0%	3.8%	3.0%	2.8%	3.8%
2 pairs of comfortable, suitable shoes	No deprivation	25.6%	75.8%	95.4%	96.3%	98.1%	98.1%
	Deprivation	74.4%	24.2%	4.6%	3.7%	1.9%	1.9%
eating fresh vegetables and fruits daily	No deprivation	25.6%	73.5%	95.5%	97.1%	99.0%	99.1%
	Deprivation	74.4%	26.5%	4.5%	2.9%	1.0%	.9%
eating meat, poultry, or fish at least once a day	No deprivation	30.8%	80.7%	96.4%	97.1%	99.0%	99.1%
	Deprivation	69.2%	19.3%	3.6%	2.9%	1.0%	.9%
educational books and games for every child in the household	No deprivation	46.2%	77.1%	94.7%	96.0%	98.2%	97.2%
	Deprivation	53.8%	22.9%	5.3%	4.0%	1.8%	2.8%
outdoor gear	No deprivation	28.2%	72.2%	93.2%	95.3%	97.6%	95.3%
	Deprivation	71.8%	27.8%	6.8%	4.7%	2.4%	4.7%
indoor games	No deprivation	33.3%	76.2%	94.3%	95.6%	97.7%	94.3%
	Deprivation	66.7%	23.8%	5.7%	4.4%	2.3%	5.7%
regular leisure	No deprivation	69.2%	83.0%	93.8%	95.9%	97.2%	90.6%
	Deprivation	30.8%	17.0%	6.2%	4.1%	2.8%	9.4%
children's parties on special occasions	No deprivation	53.8%	80.3%	95.0%	96.1%	97.4%	90.6%
	Deprivation	46.2%	19.7%	5.0%	3.9%	2.6%	9.4%
ability to invite friends over	No deprivation	51.3%	86.1%	94.6%	96.4%	97.2%	89.6%
	Deprivation	48.7%	13.9%	5.4%	3.6%	2.8%	10.4%
participation in school excursions and paid school events	No deprivation	59.0%	78.5%	93.6%	95.7%	97.4%	89.6%
	Deprivation	41.0%	21.5%	6.4%	4.3%	2.6%	10.4%
vacation with parents away from home for at least a week a year	No deprivation	38.5%	68.2%	90.4%	94.3%	97.2%	89.6%
	Deprivation	61.5%	31.8%	9.6%	5.7%	2.8%	10.4%
personal Internet access	No deprivation	20.5%	52.0%	76.6%	77.6%	85.8%	91.5%
	Deprivation	79.5%	48.0%	23.4%	22.4%	14.2%	8.5%
ability to pay arrears of household payments	No deprivation	0.0%	15.7%	69.0%	88.7%	89.2%	82.1%
	Deprivation	100.0%	84.3%	31.0%	11.3%	10.8%	17.9%
availability of means to keep home warm in winter	No deprivation	0.0%	3.6%	94.9%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%
	deprivation	100.0%	96.4%	5.1%	0.0%	.2%	0.0%

Indicator		Subjective assessment of household welfare level					
		1 – low	2 – below average	3 – average	4 – above average	5 – sufficient	6 – high level
ability to replace worn-out furniture	No deprivation	0.0%	11.2%	77.4%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%
	Deprivation	100.0%	88.8%	22.6%	.0%	.2%	0.0%
availability of a car	No deprivation	3.6%	9.3%	27.8%	35.3%	43.9%	32.2%
	Deprivation	96.4%	90.7%	72.2%	64.7%	56.1%	67.8%

As can be seen from Table 4.2, there is a clear relationship between indicators and income level. Thus, the gray zone – a high level of deprivation dominates among the group with the lowest income. As wealth increases, the number of households deprived by one or another indicator decreases.

The quantitative correlation indicator is not zero for all indicators, which allows them to keep in the index. The highest correlation with income is observed for household-level indicators such as the ability to pay debts, replace old furniture, heat the house, followed by indicators of early development, access to clothing and food security. And the weakest connection is in terms of leisure time.

Table 4.3. Correlation of the presence of deprivation according to the indicators with the level of household income

Indicator	Correlation coefficient[16]
new clothes of the right size	-.068**
2 pairs of comfortable, suitable shoes	-.085**
eating fresh vegetables and fruits daily	-.106**
eating meat, poultry, or fish at least once a day	-.083**
educational books and games for every child in the household	-.080**
outdoor gear	-.095**
indoor games	-.079**
regular leisure	-.062**
children's parties on special occasions	-.060**
ability to invite friends over	-.060**
participation in school excursions and paid school events	-.073**
vacation with parents away from home for at least a week a year	-.105**
personal Internet access	-.067**
ability to pay arrears of household payments	-.237**
availability of means to keep home warm in winter	-.268**
ability to replace worn-out furniture	-.320**
availability of a car	-.106**

16 A correlation coefficient is a statistical measure that calculates the strength of the relationship between two variables. The correlation coefficient values range from -1.0 to 1.0. The closer the coefficient is to 1, the stronger the relationship between the variables.

Reliability test

The Cronbach's Alpha test shows the consistency of responses to questions across all 17 indicators. If the value of this test is higher than 0.7, then it is considered that the data was collected correctly, the respondents answered logically to all 17 questions. In addition to the overall test, this analysis will eliminate each indicator in turn and measure the test result in the absence of that indicator. If the absence of an indicator would make the overall index more reliable, it is recommended to exclude this indicator. However, if the reliability value has increased only slightly, then researchers may decide not to change the index design to maintain overall comparability of the methodology.

Table 4.4. Cronbach's Alpha test results

Indicator	Cronbach's Alpha test value
General index (all 17 indicators)	**0.852**
Index without indicator – new clothes of the right size	0.841
Index without indicator – 2 pairs of comfortable, suitable shoes	0.838
Index without indicator – eating fresh vegetables and fruits daily	0.838
Index without indicator – eating meat, poultry, or fish at least once a day	0.839
Index without indicator – educational books and games for every child in the household	0.836
Index without indicator – equipment for outdoor activities	0.836
Index without indicator – indoor games	0.836
Index without indicator – regular leisure	0.839
Index without indicator – children's parties on special occasions	0.839
Index without indicator – ability to invite friends over	0.839
Index without indicator – participation in school excursions and paid school events	0.837
Index without indicator – vacation with parents away from home for at least a week per year	0.836
Index without indicator – personal Internet access	0.867
Index without indicator – ability to pay arrears of household payments	0.885
Index without indicator – availability of funds to keep housing warm in winter	0.871
Index without indicator – ability to replace furniture that has become unusable	0.876
Index without indicator – availability of a car	0.867

As Table 4.4 shows, if indicators measured at the household level are removed, the test value increases slightly. This is explained by the fact that these questions were not directly related to children, while all other indicators measuring children's well-being provide a high degree of reliability and consistency of answers. Due to the high value of the overall indicator of 0.852 and the low increase in reliability in case of removing indicators at the household level, it was decided not to change the design of the index and to leave all 17 indicators.

Thus, the tests carried out above provide a statistical basis for applying the EU methodology for child poverty in the conditions of Kazakhstan. Below are the results of calculations for the country and in various sections – region, type of settlement, gender, age, type of family.

Calculation results

Table 4.5. Share of deprived children for each indicator in the country and in the urban-rural context

Indicator	Total		Urban		Rural	
	N	% of deprived children	N	% of deprived childrenй	N	% of deprived children
new clothes of the right size	**484,712**	**7.3%**	223,015	5.6%	261,697	9.9%
2 pairs of comfortable, suitable shoes	**585,543**	**8.8%**	266,765	6.7%	318,778	12.1%
eating fresh vegetables and fruits daily	**568,248**	**8.6%**	236,343	5.9%	331,905	12.6%
eating meat, poultry, or fish at least once a day	**525,42**	**7.9%**	211,919	5.3%	313,501	11.9%
educational books and games for every child in the household	**621,211**	**9.4%**	267,027	6.7%	354,184	13.4%
outdoor gear	**795,801**	**12.0%**	339,371	8.5%	456,431	17.3%
indoor games	**758,455**	**11.4%**	309,45	7.7%	449,004	17.0%
regular leisure	**745,085**	**11.2%**	387,018	9.7%	358,068	13.6%
children's parties on special occasions	**628,811**	**9.5%**	301,957	7.5%	326,854	12.4%
ability to invite friends over	**624,405**	**9.4%**	331,225	8.3%	293,18	11.1%
participation in school excursions and paid school events	**565,326**	**8.5%**	262,85	6.6%	302,476	11.5%
vacation with parents away from home for at least a week a year	**1,105,205**	**16.7%**	535,604	13.4%	569,601	21.6%
personal Internet access	**186,296**	**2.8%**	100,448	2.5%	85,848	3.3%
ability to pay arrears of household payments	**1,767,898**	**26.6%**	978,473	24.4%	789,425	30.0%
availability of means to keep home warm in winter	**433,392**	**6.5%**	248,085	6.2%	185,308	7.0%
availability of a car	**4,569,817**	**68.8%**	2,778,996	69.4%	1,790,820	68.0%
ability to replace worn-out furniture	**1,256,304**	**18.9%**	732,315	18.3%	523,989	19.9%

Table 4.5 presents the results of deprivation among children for each of the indicators. The highest value is observed for the indicator “availability of a car,” as two-thirds of children live in households that do not have a car. The second highest level of deprivation is the indicator of difficulty paying debts, with one in four children living in a household that has been unable to pay bills and debts at least twice.

It is worth noting that the most favorable indicator is Internet access; only 2.8% of school-age children do not have access to the Internet. Indicators of food security for children are quite favorable across the country, however, if analyzed by type of area, we can note that the number of children experiencing difficulties in accessing fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat in rural areas (about 12%) is twice as high the share of children in cities (about 6%).

Table 4.6. Multidimensional child poverty level in the country and in the urban-rural context

Indicator	Total		Urban		Rural	
	N	% of deprived children	N	% of deprived children	N	% of deprived children
Not multidimensionally poor	**4,743,885**	**71.5%**	**3,026,578**	**75.6%**	**1,717,307**	**65.2%**
Multidimensionally poor	**1,893,768**	**28.5%**	**976,408**	**24.4%**	**917,361**	**34.8%**
Number of deprivations	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
0	**1,317,017**	**19.8%**	820,331	20.5%	496,687	18.9%
1	**2,614,810**	**39.4%**	1,682,705	42.0%	932,105	35.4%
2	**812,057**	**12.2%**	523,542	13.1%	288,515	11.0%
3	**467,105**	**7.0%**	267,549	6.7%	199,557	7.6%
4	**321,594**	**4.8%**	191,774	4.8%	129,819	4.9%
5	**208,549**	**3.1%**	109,03	2.7%	99,519	3.8%
6	**181,573**	**2.7%**	81,925	2.0%	99,648	3.8%
7	**152,528**	**2.3%**	81,359	2.0%	71,169	2.7%
8	**151,044**	**2.3%**	69,228	1.7%	81,815	3.1%
9	**80,506**	**1.2%**	36,365	.9%	44,141	1.7%
10	**59,213**	**.9%**	29,74	.7%	29,473	1.1%
11	**56,43**	**.9%**	27,247	.7%	29,183	1.1%
12	**54,436**	**.8%**	25,141	.6%	29,296	1.1%
13	**47,857**	**.7%**	19,763	.5%	28,094	1.1%
14	**48,044**	**.7%**	10,702	.3%	37,341	1.4%
15	**40,731**	**.6%**	11,081	.3%	29,65	1.1%
16	**19,971**	**.3%**	11,315	.3%	8,656	.3%
17	**4,186**	**.1%**	4,186	.1%	-	0.0%

Thus, the share of multidimensionally poor children was 28.5% throughout the country. At the same time, in rural areas – every third child, in cities – every fourth child experiences more than three deprivations (poverty line). Among the regions where urban poverty exceeds rural poverty, we can note Akmola, Aktobe, Almaty, and Zhetysu regions (see Table 4.7). A fifth of children (19.8%) do not experience any deprivation.

Таблица 4.7. Уровень многомерной детской бедности в разрезе регионов

Region	Total	Urban	Rural	Difference, p.p.
Kazakhstan	**28.5%**	**24.4%**	**34.8%**	10.4%
Abay	10.8%	8.5%	14.7%	6.2%
Akmola	36.4%	37.6%	34.8%	-2.8%
Aktobe	22.0%	23.4%	18.1%	-5.3%
Almaty	25.8%	31.9%	24.7%	-7.2%
Atyrau	24.2%	17.0%	34.6%	17.6%

Region	Total	Urban	Rural	Difference, p.p.
West Kazakhstan	19.7%	14.3%	27.4%	13.1%
Zhambyl	31.7%	28.4%	34.2%	5.8%
Zhetysu	13.5%	17.0%	10.4%	-6.6%
Karagandy	31.5%	25.3%	56.5%	**31.2%**
Kostanay	19.4%	17.2%	23.0%	5.8%
Kyzylorda	8.5%	6.6%	9.8%	3.2%
Mangystau	50.3%	47.6%	52.4%	4.8%
Pavlodar	0.8%	0.3%	2.0%	1.7%
North-Kazakhstan	39.2%	22.3%	53.5%	**31.2%**
Turkestan	54.3%	49.0%	56.2%	7.2%
Ulytau	35.4%	30.3%	55.4%	**25.1%**
East Kazakhstan	18.2%	10.6%	32.7%	**22.1%**
Astana	20.3%	20.3%	NA	
Almaty	28.9%	28.9%	NA	
Shymkent	29.3%	29.3%	NA	

The largest share of multidimensionally poor children live in regions such as Turkestan (54.3%), Mangystau (50.3%) – every second child experiences more than three deprivations. It is also worth noting the high level of deprivation in rural areas in the Karagandy, North Kazakhstan, and Ulytau regions – more than half of the children are deprived. The most prosperous are Pavlodar (0.8%), Kyzylorda (8.5%), and Abay (10.8%) regions. It is worth noting that the low poverty values are explained by the fact that in these regions children experience less than three deprivations. Thus, one or two deprivations were noted in 70% of children in the Pavlodar Region, in 64.6% – in the Kyzylorda Region, and in 65.4% – in the Abay Region.

Table 4.8. Multidimensional child poverty level by monetary poverty status[17]

Indicator	Total		Not monetarily poor		Monetarily poor	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
new clothes of the right size (0-17)	**484,712**	**7.3%**	394,951	6.4%	89,761	18.6%
2 pairs of comfortable, suitable shoes (1-17)	**585,543**	**8.8%**	492,939	8.0%	92,604	19.2%
eating fresh vegetables and fruits daily	**568,248**	**8.6%**	472,383	7.7%	95,864	19.9%
eating meat, poultry, or fish at least once a day	**525,42**	**7.9%**	440,029	7.1%	85,391	17.7%
educational books and games for every child in the household	**621,211**	**9.4%**	526,29	8.5%	94,921	19.7%
outdoor gear	**795,801**	**12.0%**	696,54	11.3%	99,261	20.6%

17 According to the subsistence level

Indicator	Total		Not monetarily poor		Monetarily poor	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
indoor games	**758,455**	**11.4%**	660,46	10.7%	97,994	20.4%
regular leisure	**745,085**	**11.2%**	676,657	11.0%	68,428	14.2%
children's parties on special occasions	**628,811**	**9.5%**	543	8.8%	85,811	17.8%
ability to invite friends over	**624,405**	**9.4%**	558,133	9.1%	66,272	13.8%
participation in school excursions and paid school events	**565,326**	**8.5%**	504,445	8.2%	60,881	12.6%
vacation with parents away from home for at least a week a year	**1,105,205**	**16.7%**	991,659	16.1%	113,546	23.6%
personal Internet access	**186,296**	**2.8%**	173,682	2.8%	12,614	2.6%
ability to pay arrears of household payments	**1,767,898**	**26.6%**	1,557,020	25.3%	210,878	43.8%
availability of means to keep home warm in winter	**433,392**	**6.5%**	352,117	5.7%	81,275	16.9%
availability of a car	**4,569,817**	**68.8%**	4,137,019	67.2%	432,798	89.9%
ability to replace worn-out furniture	**1,256,304**	**18.9%**	1,099,664	17.9%	156,641	32.5%

Number of simultaneous deprivations	Total		Not monetarily poor		Monetarily poor	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	**1,317,017**	**19.8%**	1,297,571	21.1%	19,446	4.0%
1	**2,614,810**	**39.4%**	2,444,964	39.7%	169,846	35.3%
2	**812,057**	**12.2%**	731,669	11.9%	80,388	16.7%
3	**467,105**	**7.0%**	425,854	6.9%	41,251	8.6%
4	**321,594**	**4.8%**	289,121	4.7%	32,473	6.7%
5	**208,549**	**3.1%**	194,854	3.2%	13,695	2.8%
6	**181,573**	**2.7%**	162,799	2.6%	18,774	3.9%
7	**152,528**	**2.3%**	140,649	2.3%	11,879	2.5%
8	**151,044**	**2.3%**	133,462	2.2%	17,581	3.7%
9	**80,506**	**1.2%**	68,374	1.1%	12,132	2.5%
10	**59,213**	**.9%**	49,186	.8%	10,027	2.1%
11	**56,43**	**.9%**	51,232	.8%	5,199	1.1%
12	**54,436**	**.8%**	49,274	.8%	5,162	1.1%
13	**47,857**	**.7%**	36,649	.6%	11,208	2.3%
14	**48,044**	**.7%**	34,337	.6%	13,706	2.8%
15	**40,731**	**.6%**	30,34	.5%	10,392	2.2%
16	**19,971**	**.3%**	12,259	.2%	7,713	1.6%
17	**4,186**	**.1%**	3,581	.1%	605	.1%
Total multidimensionally poor	**1,893,768**	**28.5%**	**1,681,971**	**27.3%**	**211,797**	**44.0%**

It is interesting to analyze the relationship between monetary and multidimensional poverty. According to the data obtained, among monetarily poor children, 44% are also multidimensionally poor. Based on this, we can conclude that not every child who lives in a low-income family necessarily experiences multiple deprivations. At the same time, it turned out that even if a household has enough money, almost a third (28.5%) of children are multidimensionally poor. In this regard, it is important analyze using two indicators of monetary and multidimensional child poverty, which are complementary. It is worth noting that for monetarily poor children, on average, for each of the 17 indicators, the share of deprivation is 2-3 times higher compared to children from financially prosperous families. Almost every second poor child (43.8%) lives in a family with debt, which in turn affects the child's access to healthy food, recreation, good living conditions, and other rights. Among poor children, one in five cannot afford proper and healthy food. Moreover, one in five children from poor families does not have access to books and other educational materials necessary for their full development.

Table 4.9. Multidimensional child poverty level by gender

	Total	Boys	Girls	Difference
Kazakhstan	28.5%	28.7%	28.3%	0.4%
Abay	10.8%	12.1%	9.6%	2.4%
Akmola	36.4%	35.2%	37.6%	-2.5%
Aktobe	22.0%	20.7%	23.2%	-2.5%
Almaty	25.8%	28.1%	23.4%	4.7%
Atyrau	24.2%	23.0%	25.5%	-2.5%
West Kazakhstan	19.7%	17.2%	22.1%	-4.9%
Zhambyl	31.7%	31.9%	31.5%	0.4%
Zhetysu	13.5%	14.5%	12.3%	2.2%
Karagandy	31.5%	31.9%	31.1%	0.9%
Kostanay	19.4%	20.6%	18.0%	2.7%
Kyzylorda	8.5%	8.2%	8.7%	-0.5%
Mangystau	50.3%	49.3%	51.4%	-2.1%
Pavlodar	0.8%	0.5%	1.1%	-0.6%
North-Kazakhstan	39.2%	39.1%	39.3%	-0.2%
Turkestan	54.3%	54.6%	54.0%	0.6%
Ulytau	35.4%	32.6%	38.5%	-5.9%
East Kazakhstan	18.2%	16.0%	20.6%	-4.6%
Astana	20.3%	22.1%	18.4%	3.7%
Almaty	28.9%	29.0%	28.8%	0.2%
Shymkent	29.3%	29.9%	28.8%	1.2%

At the national level, there are no gender differences in multidimensional poverty level between girls and boys. However, there are some differences across regions (within 5 percentage points). Thus, in East Kazakhstan, West Kazakhstan, and Ulytau regions, the share of deprived girls is higher than boys. In the Almaty Region, the opposite is observed. When analyzing gender, it is important to note that the questionnaire did not specifically ask or focus on which gender of children experience deprivation. It was enough that at least one child was deprived according to the indicator. The data was then extended to all children in the household. Thus, the gender-age analysis can be considered conditional.

Table 4.10. Multidimensional child poverty level by age

	Total	0-4	5-14	15-17
Kazakhstan	**28.5%**	**25.1%**	**28.9%**	**32.8%**
Abay	**10.8%**	13.7%	9.4%	11.2%
Akmola	**36.4%**	28.3%	38.2%	42.2%
Aktobe	**22.0%**	26.7%	20.1%	20.5%
Almaty	**25.8%**	21.3%	27.1%	27.9%
Atyrau	**24.2%**	20.4%	24.8%	30.4%
West Kazakhstan	**19.7%**	16.7%	20.0%	25.2%
Zhambyl	**31.7%**	30.0%	31.9%	33.6%
Zhetysu	**13.5%**	11.0%	12.9%	19.9%
Karagandy	**31.5%**	32.0%	30.5%	34.8%
Kostanay	**19.4%**	14.0%	22.7%	17.0%
Kyzylorda	**5.7%**	5.7%	10.2%	7.1%
Mangystau	**50.3%**	46.2%	51.9%	51.2%
Pavlodar	**0.8%**	0.2%	0.8%	1.8%
North-Kazakhstan	**39.2%**	33.0%	40.3%	42.5%
Turkestan	**54.3%**	54.3%	53.5%	57.1%
Ulytau	**35.4%**	33.3%	35.0%	42.2%
East Kazakhstan	**18.2%**	15.5%	20.0%	14.8%
Astana	**20.3%**	20.3%	20.6%	18.6%
Almaty	**28.9%**	13.2%	29.5%	43.6%
Shymkent	**29.3%**	24.7%	29.8%	36.1%

The highest level of multidimensional poverty is observed among children of the older age group from 15-17 years old – 32.8%. This can be explained by the fact that at this age children need the greatest number of material goods, and all 17 indicators are relevant for them. Whereas at a younger age the number of appropriate rights and benefits is smaller.Наибольший уровень многомерной бедности наблюдается среди детей старшей возрастной группы от 15-17 лет – 32.8%. Это можно объяснить тем, что в данном возрасте дети нуждаются в наибольшем числе материальных благ и все 17 индикаторов для них релевантны. Тогда как в более младшем возрасте число подходящих прав и благ меньше.

Table 4.11. Multidimensional child poverty level by family type

	Total	Not a large family	Large family	Difference
Kazakhstan	**28.5%**	**26.3%**	**34.1%**	**8%**
Abay	**10.8%**	11.1%	9.4%	**-2%**
Akmola	**36.4%**	33.3%	50.2%	**17%**
Aktobe	**22.0%**	22.4%	20.7%	**-2%**
Almaty	**25.8%**	26.2%	24.6%	**-2%**
Atyrau	**24.2%**	22.7%	27.0%	**4%**
West Kazakhstan	**19.7%**	18.4%	24.4%	**6%**
Zhambyl	**31.7%**	28.5%	37.4%	**9%**
Zhetysu	**13.5%**	14.4%	11.1%	**-3%**
Karagandy	**31.5%**	27.7%	47.2%	**19%**
Kostanay	**19.4%**	17.8%	33.3%	**16%**
Kyzylorda	**8.5%**	9.7%	7.1%	**-3%**
Mangystau	**50.3%**	45.6%	56.5%	**11%**
Pavlodar	**0.8%**	0.6%	1.4%	**1%**
North-Kazakhstan	**39.2%**	41.1%	15.3%	**-26%**
Turkestan	**54.3%**	53.9%	54.7%	**1%**
Ulytau	**35.4%**	34.8%	36.3%	**2%**
East Kazakhstan	**18.2%**	16.6%	27.9%	**11%**
Astana	**20.3%**	19.2%	23.6%	**4%**
Almaty	**28.9%**	30.2%	17.0%	**-13%**
Shymkent	**29.3%**	26.5%	36.8%	**10%**

The level of multidimensional child poverty is higher in large families. This difference is especially clearly observed in the Karagandy, Kostanay, and Akmola regions. An interesting fact is that the opposite trend occurs in the North Kazakhstan region and in the city of Almaty, where children from large families experience fewer deprivations.

Table 4.12. Multidimensional child poverty level in the context of households with a child with a disability

	Total	With children with disabilities	No children with disabilities	Difference
Kazakhstan	**28.5%**	**43.4%**	**30%**	**13%**
Abay	**10.8%**	56.8%	10%	46%
Akmola	**36.4%**	100.0%	36%	64%
Aktobe	**22.0%**	0.0%	7%	-7%
Almaty	**25.8%**	95.3%	26%	69%
Atyrau	**24.2%**	0.0%	32%	-32%
West Kazakhstan	**19.7%**	48.5%	19%	30%
Zhambyl	**31.7%**	87.0%	31%	56%

	Total	With children with disabilities	No children with disabilities	Difference
Zhetysu	**13.5%**	100.0%	21%	79%
Karagandy	**31.5%**	36.2%	32%	4%
Kostanay	**19.4%**	27.0%	19%	8%
Kyzylorda	**1.2%**	0.0%	11%	-11%
Mangystau	**50.3%**	100.0%	50%	50%
Pavlodar	**0.8%**	5.8%	1%	5%
North-Kazakhstan	**39.2%**	43.6%	40%	4%
Turkestan	**54.3%**	0.0%	57%	-57%
Ulytau	**35.4%**	63.2%	39%	24%
East Kazakhstan	**18.2%**	0.0%	19%	-19%
Astana	**20.3%**	21.9%	21%	1%
Almaty	**28.9%**	100.0%	28%	72%
Shymkent	**29.3%**	77.9%	30%	48%

The study included an analysis of deprivation in families with children with disabilities. Across the country, the number of such households was 1.8% or 94,988 hhs. Among such households there is a high level of multidimensional poverty – 43.4%. When formulating policies to combat child poverty, it is important to place special emphasis on families with children with disabilities, since they are among the most vulnerable.

Results of MCPI calculations using the Bristol method

The second method we suggest using is the Bristol approach. This methodology is related to the framework of children's rights and the SDGs and can be adapted to the national specifics of Kazakhstan. In particular, we recommend that the MCPI include the following 7 dimensions::

- Nutrition
- Access to quality water
- Access to sanitation
- Access to healthcare
- Access to education
- Living conditions
- Access to information

We do not include the eighth dimension of the Bristol Index – access to health and education facilities, as this type of deprivation does not appear to be relevant for the country as a whole, and the few cases where these facilities are missing may be captured by dimensions/indicators of access to health and education.

Suggested indicators

Table 4.13 lists the indicators proposed to measure deprivation in each of the seven dimensions.

Given that severe malnutrition is not common in Kazakhstan (as evidenced by existing rates of stunting, wasting and underweight), for the nutrition aspect, we suggest focusing on the quality of children's nutrition rather than the number of calories consumed. In this regard, in line with the EU methodology on child deprivation, this indicator can measure whether a household's budget allows it to provide children with fruit and vegetables, as well as meat, poultry, fish or a vegetarian alternative on a daily basis.

In contrast to nutrition, water quality remains a problematic issue in some areas of the country. This seems to be confirmed by the BNS, since in the QoL respondents are asked about their satisfaction with the quality of water in their area (Questions 1-10.3). We therefore recommend using this question to measure the share of children lacking access to quality water.

According to 2015 MICS, 98% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities (toilets connected to a piped sewer or septic tank and improved pit latrines). Therefore, instead of the standard indicator used in MICS and DHS, we recommend measuring access to a fixed shower or bathtub within the dwelling. To do this you can use the question from SFNSO about household utilities (Question 5).

Access to basic health care is a universal right in Kazakhstan. Accordingly, rates of antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, postnatal care, and immunization are high. However, as in many countries at similar levels of development, access to additional health services and medications can be problematic. In addition, some remote areas may lack medical facilities and/or medicines. We therefore recommend measuring health deprivation using a non-standard indicator that measures the share of children who were unable to get needed health care or medications due to financial barriers or lack of physical access.

Like basic healthcare, access to pre-school and primary education is a universal right in Kazakhstan. Accordingly, enrollment rates in both types of educational institutions are high. Therefore, instead of educational enrollment, we recommend considering an indicator such as the share of children who (or whose parents) want to enroll (them) in some type of extracurricular activity (for example, private tutoring, art, music, sports) but are unable to do so because that they cannot afford it, or because the desired extracurricular activity is not available in the immediate area.

Also, with regard to housing, it is proposed to consider an indicator specific to children – whether the child has a separate room or a quiet place to study.

Access to information has traditionally been measured in terms of having access to books and mass communication media such as newspapers, television, and radio. However, with the advent of the Internet, some of these communication channels (except books) are losing their relevance. Therefore, we recommend measuring access to information based on whether the child's family has access to a personal computer and the Internet.

Table 4.13: Suggested indicators for each aspect

Aspect	Index	Thresholds
Nutrition	% of children deprived of healthy nutrition	Children aged 1-17 years who are not fed on a daily basis with fruits and vegetables, as well as meat, poultry, fish, or a vegetarian alternative
Water	% of children living in households with low satisfaction with drinking water quality	Children aged 0-17 years who live in households satisfied with the quality of drinking water from 1-3 on a 10-point scale
Sanitary conditions	% of children living in households without a bathroom or shower	Children aged 0-17 years who live in households that do not have a bathroom, shower, or bathhouse
Healthcare	% of children who were unable to receive treatment or medication at least once in the last 12 months	Children aged 0-17 years who were unable to receive treatment or medication at least once in the last 12 months
Education	% of children who cannot afford extracurricular activities such as arts, music, or private lessons	Children aged 3-17 who cannot afford extracurricular activities
Housing	% of children who do not have a suitable place to study or do homework	Children aged 6-17 who do not have a suitable place to study or do homework
Information	% of children living in a household without Internet access (including mobile Internet)	Children aged 6-17 years living in a household without Internet access (including mobile Internet)

Table 4.14. Deprivation thresholds used in the UNICEF Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities

Deprivation	Threshold values for «less severe deprivation»	Threshold values for «severe deprivation»
Housing	Children living in dwellings where there are four or more people per room, or living in a home that has no floor (i.e. dirt or dung floor) or does not have a proper roof	Children living in dwellings where there are five or more people per room, or where there is no flooring material
Sanitary conditions	Children using unequipped sanitation facilities. Non-equipped sanitation facilities include: manual flush toilet, covered pit latrines, open pit latrines and buckets	Children without access to any type of toilet
Water	Children using water from non-equipped sources, such as open wells, open springs, or surface water, or where it takes 30 minutes or more to collect water (walk to the water source, collect it and return)	Children using water from land-based bodies of water such as rivers, ponds, streams, or lakes, or where it takes 30 minutes or more to collect water (walk to the water source, collect it and return)
Information	Children (aged 3-17) without access to radio or television (i.e. broadcast media)	Children (aged 3-17) who do not have access to radio, television, newspapers or a computer (i.e. all types of media)
Nutrition	Children who are more than two standard deviations below the international reference population for stunting (height-for-age) or wasting (weight-for-height) or underweight (weight-for-age)	Children who are more than three standard deviations below the international reference population for stunting (height-for-age) or wasting (weight-for-height) or underweight (weight-for-age). Also known as severe anthropometric deficiency.

Deprivation	Threshold values for «less severe deprivation»	Threshold values for «severe deprivation»
Education	Children (aged 7-17 years) of school age who are not currently attending school or have not completed primary education	Children (aged 7-17 years) of school age who have never attended school or are not currently attending school
Health	Children who have not been vaccinated by two years of age. If a child has not received eight of the following vaccinations, he/she is defined as experiencing deprivation: BCG, DTP-1, DTP-2, DTP-3, OPV types 1, 2, 3, measles or has not received treatment with recent illness of acute respiratory infection or diarrhea	Children who have not been immunized against any disease or who have not received treatment for a recent acute respiratory infection or diarrhea

Source: Gordon, D., & Nandy, S. (2012). Measurement and methodologies Measuring child poverty and deprivation. In A. Minujin, & S. Nandy (Eds.), Global child poverty and well-being Measurement, concepts, policy and action (pp. 57 - 101). Policy Press.

Проведем статистические тесты, аналогичные тем, которые были описаны выше для индекса детской многомерной бедности по методологии ЕС.

Table 4.15. Relevance test

Dimension	Index	% of households that consider this indicator important for the well-being of the child/family
Nutrition	% of children deprived of healthy nutrition	94.9
Water	% of children living in households with low satisfaction with drinking water quality	NA
Sanitary conditions	% of children living in households without a bathroom or shower	NA
Healthcare	% of children who were unable to receive treatment or medication at least once in the last 12 months	NA
Education	% of children who cannot afford extracurricular activities such as arts, music, or private lessons	85.4
Housing	% of children who do not have a suitable place to study or do homework	93.1
Information	% of children living in a household without Internet access (including mobile Internet)	87.0

Based on data from the 2023 Quality of Life, as well as the 2022 UNICEF pilot survey on multidimensional child poverty, it can be concluded that the indicators selected for the Bristol Index are important and adequately reflect the population's understanding and perception of child well-being. More than 80% of respondents considered these indices relevant.

Table 4.16. Test for correlation with monetary income

Indicator	Subjective assessment of household well-being						
	1 – low	2 – below average	3 – average	4 – above average	5 – adequate	6 – high level	Correlation coefficient
the child's ability to eat vegetables, fruits, meat, poultry, fish every day	37.6%	17.2%	3.7%	2.2%	.6%	0.0%	-,101**
satisfaction with drinking water quality	11.2%	21.4%	10.0%	4.8%	3.7%	1.0%	-,099**
availability of a bath, shower room, bathhouse, or sauna	0.0%	3.8%	3.2%	1.0%	.3%	0.0%	-,061**
the child's ability to receive treatment or medication in the last 12 months	13.2%	5.2%	1.7%	1.4%	.6%	0.0%	-,043**
the opportunity to allow the child to do extracurricular activities	12.6%	12.7%	4.1%	2.6%	.8%	5.5%	-,062**
having a suitable place for studying and homework	15.1%	9.5%	2.2%	1.2%	.6%	4.1%	-,058**
Internet access, including mobile Internet	11.6%	11.8%	3.3%	1.7%	1.3%	4.3%	-,060**

In general, despite the low correlation rates with the subjective perception of monetary well-being, a non-zero correlation is observed for all indicators. Moreover, Table 4.16 shows that in low-income groups the level of deprivation for all indicators is noticeably higher than in more fortunate households. Food security is especially worth noting; according to this indicator, more than a third of children from the poorest households do not have access to nutritious food.

Table 4.17. Reliability test

Indicator	Cronbach's Alpha test value
General index (all 7 indicators)	0.328
Index without indicator - eating meat, poultry, or fish at least once a day	0.169
Index without indicator – satisfaction with the quality of drinking water	0.427
Index without indicator – presence of a bathtub, shower room, bathhouse, or sauna	0.427
Index without indicator – the child's ability to receive treatment or medication in the last 12 months	0.335
Index without indicator - the ability to allow a child to do extracurricular activities	0.162
Index without indicator - having a suitable place for study and homework	0.201
Index without indicator - Internet access, including mobile Internet	0.352

The Cronbach's Alpha test was generally quite low, and the overall score did not pass the threshold of 0.7. Moreover, a number of indicators, highlighted in color, reduce the overall reliability, but their exclusion does not give

the desired threshold of 0.7. Due to the fact that for the proposed dimensions these indicators are the most suitable from the available list of questions and database, further analysis will be continued according to these 7 dimensions and indicators.

Calculation results

Table 4.18. Share of deprived children for each indicator in the country and in the urban-rural context

Indicator		Total		Urban		Rural	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
the child's ability to eat vegetables, fruits, meat, poultry, fish every day		707,512	10.7%	300,968	7.5%	406,545	15.4%
satisfaction with drinking water quality		529,279	8.0%	471,263	11.8%	58,017	2.2%
availability of a bath, shower room, bathhouse, or sauna		165,718	2.5%	37,519	.9%	128,199	4.9%
the child's ability to receive treatment or medication in the last 12 months		141,377	2.1%	101,059	2.5%	40,318	1.5%
the opportunity to allow the child to do extracurricular activities		753,269	11.3%	389,702	9.7%	363,567	13.8%
having a suitable place for studying and homework		409,547	6.2%	220,596	5.5%	188,95	7.2%
Internet access, including mobile Internet		186,296	2.8%	100,448	2.5%	85,848	3.3%
Child poverty index based on the methodology of the University of Bristol	0	4,715,472	71.0%	2,884,157	72.1%	1,831,315	69.5%
	1	1,251,584	18.9%	779,577	19.5%	472,007	17.9%
	2	415,332	6.3%	203,142	5.1%	212,19	8.1%
	3	215,564	3.2%	110,968	2.8%	104,596	4.0%
	4	34,444	.5%	22,911	.6%	11,533	.4%
	5	5,257	.1%	2,229	.1%	3,028	.1%
Share of multidimensionally poor children		**670,597**	**10.1%**	**339,251**	**8.5%**	**331,346**	**12.6%**

The Bristol method produces lower results for multidimensional child poverty – 10.1% nationally. Among the dimensions, the largest contributors to poverty are nutrition (10.7%) and education (11.3%).

Table 4.19. Multidimensional child poverty level by region

Region	Total	Urban	Rural
Kazakhstan	**10.1%**	**8.5%**	**12.6%**
Abay	**2.6%**	1.2%	5.0%
Akmola	**21.4%**	25.5%	15.8%
Aktobe	**0.0%**	0.0%	0.2%
Almaty	**18.0%**	11.8%	19.1%
Atyrau	**10.1%**	8.6%	12.1%

Region	Total	Urban	Rural
Western-Kazakhstan	**9.8%**	6.1%	14.9%
Zhambyl	**9.1%**	13.4%	5.8%
Zhetysu	**4.2%**	8.8%	0.3%
Karagandy	**8.3%**	7.2%	13.0%
Kostanay	**5.2%**	4.4%	6.4%
Kyzylorda	**3.7%**	3.7%	3.6%
Mangystau	**17.2%**	18.3%	16.4%
Pavlodar	**0.5%**	0.6%	0.4%
North-Kazakhstan	**11.1%**	5.4%	15.9%
Turkestan	**19.1%**	17.1%	19.8%
Ulytau	**8.5%**	7.4%	13.0%
East-Kazakhstan	**2.3%**	0.7%	5.5%
Astana	**13.2%**	13.2%	NA
Almaty	**3.4%**	3.4%	NA
Shymkent	**11.2%**	11.2%	NA

According to the Bristol methodology, the least prosperous areas are Akmola (21.4%), Turkestan (19.1%), Almaty (18%), and Mangystau (17.2%) regions. The general trend in poverty in the EU index and Bristol is identical, with the exception of the Aktobe Region, where, according to the EU index, the poverty level is 22%, while according to the Bristol method this figure is 0.

Table 4.20. Multidimensional child poverty level by monetary poverty status

Region	Total	Not monetarily poor	Monetarily poor
Kazakhstan	**10.1%**	**9.6%**	**16.6%**
Abay	2.6%	2.1%	8.0%
Akmola	21.4%	21.4%	21.2%
Aktobe	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Almaty	18.0%	16.6%	39.5%
Atyrau	10.1%	9.9%	12.9%
Western-Kazakhstan	9.8%	8.7%	24.7%
Zhambyl	9.1%	9.0%	10.5%
Zhetysu	4.2%	4.0%	6.2%
Karagandy	8.3%	8.1%	11.4%
Kostanay	5.2%	5.0%	8.7%
Kyzylorda	3.7%	3.1%	10.1%
Mangystau	17.2%	13.9%	56.7%
Pavlodar	0.5%	0.4%	2.1%
North-Kazakhstan	11.1%	10.0%	22.3%
Turkestan	19.1%	18.9%	20.6%

Region	Total	Not monetarily poor	Monetarily poor
Ulytau	8.5%	8.6%	7.6%
East-Kazakhstan	2.3%	1.6%	11.3%
Astana	13.2%	12.7%	NA
Almaty	3.4%	3.7%	NA
Shymkent	11.2%	11.0%	NA

As in the EU index, among monetarily poor children the share of multidimensionally poor children is higher and amounts to 16.6%. The deprivation of monetarily poor children is especially noticeable in Mangystau (56.7%), Almaty (39.5%), and West Kazakhstan (24.7%) regions.

Table 4.21. Multidimensional child poverty level by gender

Region	Total	Boys	Girls	Difference
Kazakhstan	**10.1%**	**10.2%**	**10.0%**	**0.2%**
Abay	2.6%	2.5%	2.7%	-0.2%
Akmola	21.4%	20.2%	22.5%	-2.3%
Aktobe	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Almaty	18.0%	18.5%	17.4%	1.1%
Atyrau	10.1%	9.4%	10.7%	-1.3%
Western-Kazakhstan	9.8%	9.1%	10.4%	-1.2%
Zhambyl	9.1%	8.4%	9.8%	-1.3%
Zhetysu	4.2%	5.1%	3.4%	1.7%
Karagandy	8.3%	9.2%	7.4%	1.8%
Kostanay	5.2%	5.8%	4.4%	1.4%
Kyzylorda	3.7%	3.8%	3.5%	0.4%
Mangystau	17.2%	14.8%	19.9%	-5.1%
Pavlodar	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	-0.1%
North-Kazakhstan	11.1%	10.1%	12.1%	-2.0%
Turkestan	19.1%	19.5%	18.6%	0.9%
Ulytau	8.5%	8.8%	8.2%	0.6%
East-Kazakhstan	2.3%	1.5%	3.3%	-1.8%
Astana	13.2%	15.0%	NA	NA
Almaty	3.4%	3.6%	NA	NA
Shymkent	11.2%	11.6%	NA	NA

In most regions, there is no gender difference in the Bristol Index.

Table 4.22. Multidimensional child poverty level by age

Region	Total	0-4	5-14	15-17
Kazakhstan	**10.1%**	**4.6%**	**12.0%**	**11.9%**
Abay	2.6%	1.1%	2.5%	4.7%
Akmola	21.4%	8.4%	25.4%	26.4%
Aktobe	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Almaty	18.0%	7.0%	22.0%	20.7%
Atyrau	10.1%	3.0%	12.8%	13.1%
Western-Kazakhstan	9.8%	6.9%	9.8%	15.8%
Zhambyl	9.1%	3.9%	10.5%	11.0%
Zhetysu	4.2%	1.7%	5.1%	5.0%
Karagandy	8.3%	9.0%	9.0%	10.7%
Kostanay	5.2%	6.3%	7.8%	7.8%
Kyzylorda	3.7%	3.3%	4.3%	2.0%
Mangystau	17.2%	8.4%	20.9%	18.2%
Pavlodar	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%	1.8%
North-Kazakhstan	11.1%	3.2%	13.7%	11.2%
Turkestan	19.1%	9.7%	21.9%	22.2%
Ulytau	8.5%	3.6%	10.7%	11.2%
East-Kazakhstan	2.3%	0.0%	3.2%	2.8%
Astana	13.2%	6.4%	16.6%	11.5%
Almaty	3.4%	2.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Shymkent	11.2%	3.2%	13.0%	19.3%

Similar to the EU Bristol Index, older children are the most vulnerable. However, as noted above, due to the fact that the survey was not conducted separately for gender and age groups, these conclusions are conditional.

Table 4.23. Multidimensional child poverty level by family type

	Total	Not a large family	Large family	Difference, percentage point
Kazakhstan	**10.1%**	**8.8%**	**13.5%**	**4.8%**
Abay	2.6%	2.4%	3.7%	1.3%
Akmola	21.4%	18.9%	32.2%	13.3%
Aktobe	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Almaty	18.0%	18.1%	17.8%	-0.3%
Atyrau	10.1%	10.3%	9.7%	-0.6%
Western-Kazakhstan	9.8%	9.2%	11.7%	2.5%
Zhambyl	9.1%	8.4%	10.4%	2.0%

	Total	Not a large family	Large family	Difference, percentage point
Zhetysu	4.2%	3.9%	5.0%	1.1%
Karagandy	8.3%	7.3%	12.7%	5.4%
Kostanay	5.2%	3.5%	19.2%	15.7%
Kyzylorda	3.7%	3.3%	4.1%	0.7%
Mangystau	17.2%	12.3%	23.7%	11.4%
Pavlodar	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	-0.6%
North-Kazakhstan	11.1%	12.0%	0.0%	-12.0%
Turkestan	19.1%	18.1%	20.1%	2.1%
Ulytau	8.5%	8.1%	9.1%	0.9%
East-Kazakhstan	2.3%	2.7%	0.0%	-2.7%
Astana	13.2%	11.6%	18.5%	7.0%
Almaty	3.4%	3.8%	0.0%	-3.8%
Shymkent	11.2%	9.5%	15.7%	6.2%

The level of poverty among large families according to the Bristol approach is higher in the country as a whole (13.5%), and in individual regions – Kostanay and Turkestan regions (every fifth large family is multidimensionally poor), Akmola (every third large family is multidimensionally poor), Mangystau (every fourth large family is multidimensionally poor).

Table 4.24. Multidimensional child poverty level in the context of household with a child with a disability

Region	Total	With children with disabilities	No children with disabilities	Difference, percentage point
Kazakhstan	**10.1%**	**23.6%**	**11.4%**	**12.3%**
Abay	2.6%	0.0%	2.6%	-2.6%
Akmola	21.4%	0.0%	21.6%	-21.6%
Aktobe	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Almaty	18.0%	83.6%	18.5%	65.1%
Atyrau	10.1%	0.0%	13.2%	-13.2%
Western-Kazakhstan	9.8%	20.4%	9.5%	10.9%
Zhambyl	9.1%	32.4%	9.2%	23.2%
Zhetysu	4.2%	100.0%	9.7%	90.3%
Karagandy	8.3%	36.2%	7.9%	28.2%
Kostanay	5.2%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%
Kyzylorda	3.7%	17.0%	4.1%	12.9%
Mangystau	17.2%	62.3%	16.6%	45.7%
Pavlodar	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	-0.5%
North-Kazakhstan	11.1%	0.0%	11.8%	-11.8%
Turkestan	19.1%	0.0%	21.9%	-21.9%

Region	Total	With children with disabilities	No children with disabilities	Difference, percentage point
Ulytau	8.5%	52.7%	8.8%	43.8%
East-Kazakhstan	2.3%	0.0%	2.4%	-2.4%
Astana	13.2%	21.9%	13.5%	8.4%
Almaty	3.4%	0.0%	3.6%	-3.6%
Shymkent	11.2%	55.6%	11.6%	44.0%

Multidimensional poverty among families with a child with a disability is twice as high as among other families. At the same time, in a number of regions, 50-100% of families with children with disabilities experience multiple deprivations, namely in Zhetysu, Almaty, Mangystau, Ulytau regions, as well as in the city of Shymkent.

Results of MPID calculations using the Alkire-Foster method

Table 4.25 presents the methodology developed to calculate the national multidimensional poverty index. An analysis of the indicators included in it shows that only three indicators, to one degree or another, reflect the situation of children in the household. All these indicators describe the education system. At the same time, satisfaction with quality and accessibility is a composite indicator reflecting the perception of preschool, secondary, and higher education, thus, these indicators are not specific to measuring child poverty. The lack of indicators in each aspect targeting the situation of child deprivation makes this approach less sensitive to the situation of children. Thus, even if a household is not multidimensionally poor, there is a possibility that children may be deprived along other dimensions.

Table 4.25. National MPI methodology developed by UNICEF and BNS

Dimension	Indicator	Deprivation criterion
Education	Level of satisfaction with the quality of education	A household is considered deprived if the level of satisfaction is 1-3 out of 10
	Level of population satisfaction with the availability of educational services	A household is considered deprived if the level of satisfaction is 1-3 out of 10
	Studying in preschool	A household is considered deprived if at least one child aged 1 to 6 years does not attend a preschool institution for the following reasons: expensive (1), the preschool institution is far away (2), the children are looked after by relatives (5) and do not have a residence permit (7)
Health and environment	Level of satisfaction with the quality of healthcare services	A household is considered deprived if its satisfaction level is 1-3 out of 10.
	Level of satisfaction with accessibility of healthcare services	A household is considered deprived if the level of satisfaction is 1-3 out of 10

Dimension	Indicator	Deprivation criterion
	Inability to obtain health care services	A household is considered deprived if at least one member 15+ who was sick during the year could not access health services due to: very expensive services (3), too expensive medicines (4), long queues (5), lack of specialist (6), too far away/lack of access to a medical facility (7), lack of medicines (8), poor quality of services/mistrust (9)
	Level of satisfaction with air cleanliness (lack of pollution, smoke, dust)	A household is considered deprived if the level of satisfaction is 1-3 out of 10
	Level of satisfaction with the cleanliness of the surrounding area (no waste or garbage)	A household is considered deprived if the level of satisfaction is 1-3 out of 10
	Source of drinking water	A household is considered deprived if it receives water from tankers (1) or from a river/pond/lake (4)
	Level of satisfaction with drinking water quality	A household is considered deprived if the level of satisfaction is 1-3 out of 10
Housing and living conditions	Inappropriate standard of accommodation (square meters per person in total area)	A household is considered deprived if there is less than 15 sq.m. per person.
	Heating fuel	A household is considered deprived if it uses solid or liquid fuel for heating
	Access to sewer system (sanitation)	A household is considered deprived if it has a pit toilet without a heavy lid (1) or no toilet (2) or septic tank (3)
	Personal Internet access	A household is considered deprived if it does not have personal access to the Internet
Standard of living, financial accessibility	Household payment arrears	The household had difficulty making payments two or more times for one of the following types: rent, mortgage, utility bills, loan debt, installment plan
	Unemployment	A household is considered deprived if at least one person over 15 years of age does not work (3)

Calculating child poverty using the Alkire-Foster method is of interest for conducting a comparative analysis of the three methods. However, it will be more reflective of basic deprivations at the household level. According to Table 4.26, one in eight children (12%) is multidimensionally poor, with the largest contribution coming from indicators describing housing conditions. The remaining basic needs have a relatively low level of deprivation – less than 10%. Multidimensional poverty in rural areas (19.1%) is three times higher than the poverty level in urban areas (6.5%).

Table 4.26. Share of multidimensionally poor children as per the Alkire-Foster method, 2022

Dimension	Indicator	Total		Urban		Rural	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Education	Level of satisfaction with the quality of education	**76,856**	**3.9%**	32,981	3.0%	43,875	5.1%
	Level of population satisfaction with the availability of educational services	**101,676**	**5.1%**	40,774	3.7%	60,902	7.0%
	Studying in preschool	**188,484**	**9.5%**	116,764	10.5%	71,721	8.3%
Health and environment	Level of satisfaction with the quality of healthcare services	**122,906**	**6.2%**	67,193	6.0%	55,713	6.4%
	Level of satisfaction with accessibility of healthcare services	**120,174**	**6.1%**	63,392	5.7%	56,782	6.6%
	Inability to obtain health care services	**128,164**	**6.5%**	74,785	6.7%	53,379	6.2%
	Level of satisfaction with air cleanliness (lack of pollution, smoke, dust)	**89,359**	**4.5%**	82,376	7.4%	6,983	.8%
	Level of satisfaction with the cleanliness of the surrounding area (no waste or garbage)	**27,78**	**1.4%**	21,544	1.9%	6,236	.7%
	Source of drinking water	**54,082**	**2.7%**	0	0.0%	54,082	6.3%
	Level of satisfaction with drinking water quality	**145,334**	**7.3%**	114,866	10.3%	30,469	3.5%
Housing and living conditions	Inappropriate standard of accommodation (square meters per person in total area)	**979,505**	**49.5%**	594,763	53.3%	384,742	44.5%
	Heating fuel	**473,253**	**23.9%**	69,415	6.2%	403,839	46.7%
	Access to sewer system (sanitation)	**1,124,575**	**56.8%**	290,422	26.0%	834,152	96.5%
	Personal Internet access	**38,796**	**2.0%**	26,075	2.3%	12,721	1.5%
Standard of living, financial accessibility	Household payment arrears	**112,278**	**5.7%**	50,996	4.6%	61,282	7.1%
	Unemployment	**165,327**	**8.4%**	73,028	6.5%	92,299	10.7%
Multidimensionally poor		**237,628**	**12.0%**	72,32	6.5%	165,308	19.1%

Comparative analysis of models for measuring poverty

As can be seen from Table 4.27, in terms of national values, the Bristol and Alkire-Foster indices are closer, but the list of the poorest regions is quite different. On the other hand, the EU index and Alkire-Foster give similar results at the regional level – the list of the most deprived regions is the same. At the same time, the EU index gives a 2.3 times higher level of national multidimensional child poverty, due to the fact that it reflects the needs of a higher level.

Table 4.27. Comparative analysis of models for measuring poverty

	Alkire-Foster method (2022)	Bristol approach (2023, Q1)	EU Index (2023, Q1)	Monetary poverty (2023, Q1)
Total	**12.0%**	**10.1%**	**28.5%**	7.3%
Akmola	20.7%	21.4%	36.4%	9.4%
Aktobe	7.1%	0.0%	22.0%	5.9%
Almaty	13.8%	18.0%	25.8%	6.1%
Atyrau	7.0%	10.1%	24.2%	3.8%
West Kazakhstan	7.6%	9.8%	19.7%	7.0%
Zhambyl	17.2%	9.1%	31.7%	8.4%
Karagandy	17.6%	8.3%	31.5%	6.4%
Kostanay	4.2%	5.2%	19.4%	5.9%
Kyzylorda	8.4%	3.7%	8.5%	7.6%
Mangystau	15.3%	17.2%	50.3%	7.7%
Pavlodar	13.4%	0.5%	0.8%	6.0%
North-Kazakhstan	14.9%	11.1%	39.2%	8.8%
Turkestan	20.9%	19.1%	54.3%	10.4%
East Kazakhstan	10.2%	2.3%	18.2%	7.2%
Astana	5.9%	13.2%	20.3%	2.6%
Almaty	8.8%	3.4%	28.9%	7.7%
Shymkent	4.6%	11.2%	29.3%	7.4%
Abay	NA	2.6%	10.8%	9.1%
Zhetysu	NA	4.2%	13.5%	9.3%
Ulytau	NA	8.5%	35.4%	6.7%

Based on the comparative analysis of three models, **the model recommended for further measuring child multidimensional poverty is the EU Child Deprivation Index**. Unlike other models, this index best reflects children's deprivation, corresponds to the country context, and sets higher living standards for children, is commensurate and comparable with the national MPI index and monetary poverty, allows comparison with other EU countries and reflects a unique set of indicators, which can only be collected through household surveys, thereby avoiding duplication with administrative data in the Digital Family Card or the Child Well-Being Index.

Table 4.28. Advantages and disadvantages of using different models to measure child poverty

Criterion	Alkire-Foster method	Bristol approach	EU Index
Data availability and update frequency	Questions are included in the BNS annual household survey +	Questions are included in the BNS annual household survey +	Questions are included in the BNS annual household survey +
Availability of indicators measuring childhood deprivation	3 out of 16 (19%) indicators indirectly reflect childhood deprivation. These 3 indicators relate to the Education aspect; accordingly, all other three dimensions are not sensitive to childhood deprivation.	4 out of 7 indicators (57%) measure childhood deprivation at the individual level. The remaining 3 indicators are at the agricultural level. 2 out of 7 indicators are duplicated in the national AF MPI. +	12 out of 17 indicators (71%) reflect childhood deprivation. 2 out of 17 indicators are duplicated in the national AF MPI. +
Adequate reflection of the socio-economic context of the country	Aimed at more basic household needs, the level of deprivation according to indicators does not exceed 10%, with the exception of indicators on housing conditions. A number of indicators are based on subjective assessment ("satisfaction"), rather than on objective parameters. Threshold values for the indicator "Source of drinking water" do not adequately reflect the realities of the country.	Reflects both basic (sanitation, Internet access, etc.) and higher-level needs (extracurricular activities). The level of deprivation according to indicators does not exceed 10-11%. +	Reflects both basic needs (food, clothing, heating etc.) and higher-level needs, such as leisure, travel, having a car. Deprivation according to indicators does not exceed 27%, with the exception of having a car. +
Comparability of results between three methods	+"	"12 out of 17 indicators (71%) reflect childhood deprivation. 2 out of 17 indicators are duplicated in the national AF MPI.	"The poorest regions are Mangystau, Turkestan, North Kazakhstan, and Akmola **Data from the AF method and the EU Index are most comparable** **+**
Comparability of results with data on monetary poverty	+"	Akmola and Turkestan regions are the poorest in both monetary and multidimensional dimensions. **Lowest comparability with monetary poverty data** **-**	Akmola, Turkestan, North Kazakhstan, and Zhambyl regions are the poorest in both monetary and multidimensional dimensions. **Greatest comparability with monetary poverty data** **+**
Possibility of comparative analysis with other countries	Does not allow for cross-country comparisons -	Does not allow for cross-country comparisons -	Allows comparison with EU countries
No duplication with the DFC data and the Child Well-Being Index	Partial duplication (access to education, healthcare, housing conditions, unemployment) -	Indicators are not duplicated +	Partial duplication (availability of a car) +
Conclusion	**Not recommended**	**Not recommended**	**Recommended**

The Figure 4.1 presents the results of measuring multidimensional poverty in EU countries for 2021. The highest levels of poverty are found among children in Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece. In the ranking of countries, Kazakhstan is included in the same group with Hungary, Cyprus, and Estonia. In the EU as a whole, the multidimensional child poverty rate is 13%.

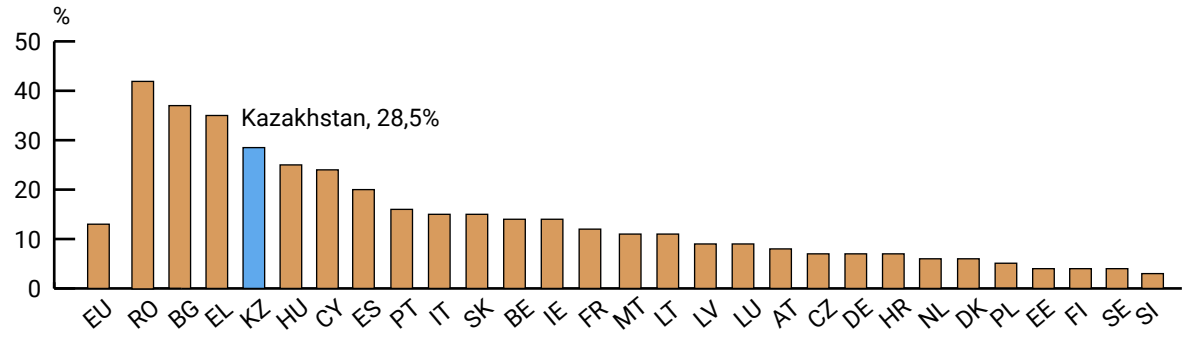

Figure 4.1 Level of material deprivation of children in the EU countries and Kazakhstan

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17. “On approval of the Methodology for Determining the Social Well-Being of a Family (Individual)”, Order of the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 29, 2023, No. 267.

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