



**Development**  
*Initiatives*

P20 INITIATIVE

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INITIATIVE

DATA TO LEAVE  
NO ONE BEHIND

# P20 INITIATIVE

## DATA TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

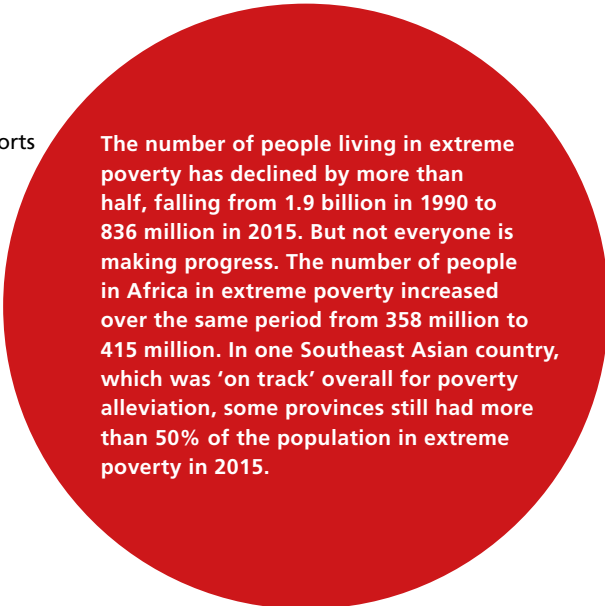
The P20 Initiative is a project focused on how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN's Agenda 2030 can work with the Data Revolution to deliver progress for the people in the poorest 20% of the world's population – the P20.

Agenda 2030 is a global commitment to end extreme poverty and ensure that no one is left behind. The logic is clear: for these goals to be met, we need to know who the people in the poorest 20% are and whether they are included in progress.

Existing statistics help us to track national averages but do not focus enough on who is included and who is left behind.

In any country, if the status of the P20 fails to improve, success on Agenda 2030 will be out of reach – regardless of its progress at national levels. And to achieve the SDGs we need to know that everyone has been included.

The P20 Initiative centres around data that puts people first. It will provide a simple measure that can assess the progress of the people in the poorest 20% of the world's population to ensure that those furthest behind are benefitting from efforts to tackle poverty and improve growth.



The number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. But not everyone is making progress. The number of people in Africa in extreme poverty increased over the same period from 358 million to 415 million. In one Southeast Asian country, which was 'on track' overall for poverty alleviation, some provinces still had more than 50% of the population in extreme poverty in 2015.

# THE P20 INITIATIVE AIMS TO DO THREE THINGS

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## FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE PEOPLE IN THE POOREST 20%

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What the P20 Initiative aims to do

Provide data on whether things are improving for people in the poorest 20% based on three bellwether indicators:

- Income: the most accepted measure for extreme poverty
  - Nutrition: an indicator of an individual's capacity to escape poverty
  - Civil Registration: an indicator of whether people are counted by government, ensuring that those left behind will not remain invisible.
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Why it's important

Agenda 2030 has created unprecedented political will to end poverty, leaving no one behind.

Simple, accessible data is needed to maintain that commitment and to keep public and political attention focused on these goals.

If these three bellwethers are not improving it is very unlikely that we will make enough progress to end poverty and ensure that no one is left behind.

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## UNDERSTAND WHO THE P20 ARE

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What the P20 Initiative aims to do

The P20 Initiative will harness the energy of the Data Revolution to:

- gather and use the best available data to understand who is left behind
  - promote disaggregation of all data, with a minimum set of five elements:
    - Quintile
    - Geography
    - Gender
    - Age
    - Disability
  - encourage everyone making development investments to publish data showing their impact on people.
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Why it's important

National progress can co-exist with chronic or growing poverty for many individuals so we have to look beyond the status of countries to the status of people.

This era of evidence-based policymaking and the Data Revolution creates new opportunities and technologies to collect, publish and use data to:

- know who and where the poorest 20% of people are
  - measure whether people in the P20 are getting their share of investment and opportunity, services and growth.
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## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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What the P20 Initiative aims to do

Working with experts in each sector to highlight progress, the P20 Initiative will:

- ensure that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) commitments on basic services are sustained with clear data on who is included and who is left out of progress
  - support the Agenda 2030 focus on ending poverty in all its forms and track global goals that promote security, livelihoods, opportunity and social protection.
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Why it's important

The policies needed to end poverty by 2030 will not be the same as those that have delivered progress since 2000.

The commitment to the unfinished business of the MDGs needs to be reinforced but we also need the right data and statistical measures in place to ensure that both basic services and the wider goals of Agenda 2030 are met for the poorest groups.

## COLLABORATIONS

The P20 Initiative relies on collaborations, expertise and access to data from a wide range of partners. It aims to complement other initiatives and is actively seeking collaborations around data – especially sectoral data and data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and subnational analysis. It is also seeking collaborations with individuals and organisations that share this agenda and want to drive progress for the P20.

**For more information about the P20 Initiative please visit [www.devinit.org/p20i](http://www.devinit.org/p20i) or contact us on [p20i@devinit.org](mailto:p20i@devinit.org)**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## IS THIS ANOTHER METRIC FOR DEFINING POVERTY?

- The P20 Initiative is not about creating new indicators or a new index; it is about using all the available data and making it simple and accessible so that we can focus on the progress of people.
- Among 17 goals, 169 targets and more than 200 indicators, it is easy to lose focus.
- The world needs a simple, easy-to-understand measure of progress, which is why the P20 Initiative will gather and use data on whether improvements are being made with three simple bellwether measures: income, nutrition and civil registration.
- The world also needs to understand who is held back by their identity or by discrimination, for this reason improvements in disaggregated data are essential.

## WHY THE POOREST 20%?

- The MDGs aimed to lift people above the poverty line. Agenda 2030 sets out a vision for everyone to be included in progress. We need to not only measure a person's income but also see how the poorest people are sharing in overall global progress over time.
- Within countries we know that growth amongst the poorest 20% actually boosts the country's overall growth, but over the past 25 years the poorest 20% has benefitted from less than 1% of global growth.
- In addition to the global P20, we want to focus attention on every country's P20 and support the production and use of better, more disaggregated data that can help ensure that no one is left behind and that everyone is included in growth at the country level.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE P20 INITIATIVE?

- The goal of the P20 Initiative is to keep public attention focused on the people in the poorest 20% of the world's population and the data that shows how they are included in progress on Agenda 2030.
- The P20 Initiative has a 15 year time horizon, but in the first year the objective is to introduce the concept and its focus on data about the people who are left behind.
- The P20 Initiative is as much about using what we know as well as getting better data on what we don't know. We need to focus efforts on what data is available and what is needed to realise the goals of Agenda 2030 to understand the lives of people in poverty and how they are changing.

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Development Initiatives is an independent international development organisation that focuses on the role of data in driving poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Our vision is a world without poverty that invests in human security and where everyone shares the benefits of opportunity and growth.

Since DI was established in 1993, our partnerships across the world have enabled us to expand from a small organisation in south-west England to a staff of over 70 people working in Brazil, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda, the US, and the UK.



To find out more about our work visit: [www.devinit.org](http://www.devinit.org)  
For more information about the P20 Initiative please contact us:

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