

SOKOTO STATE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX REPORT (MPI) 2025

*EVIDENCE FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT*

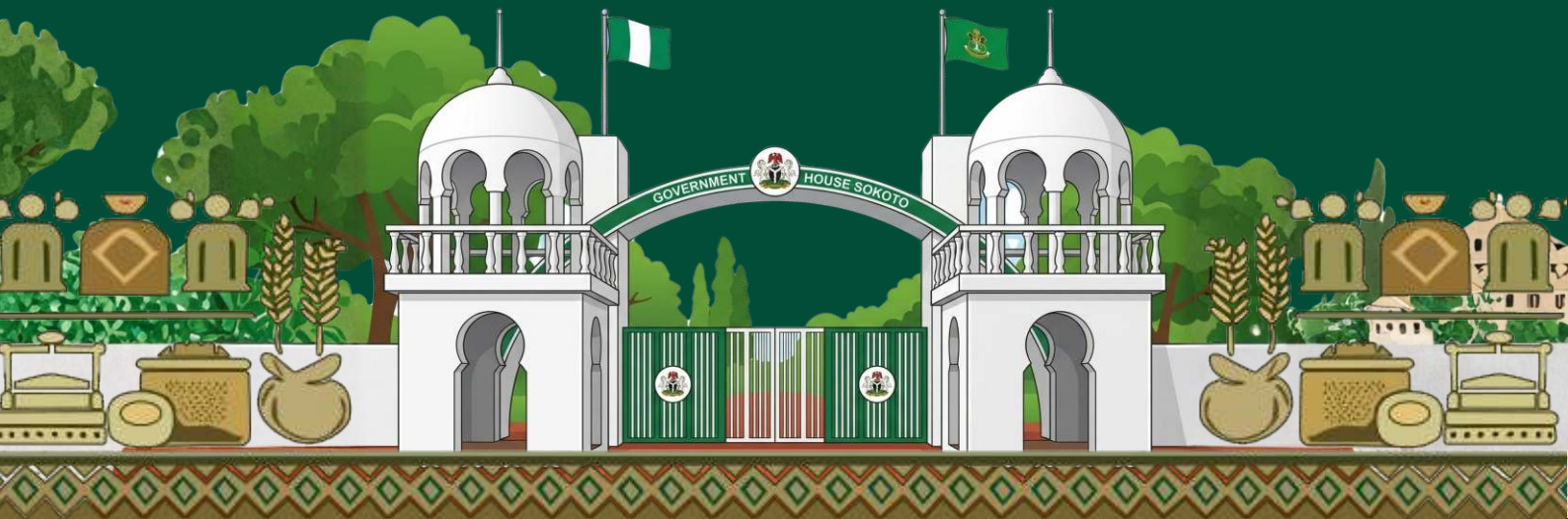


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ABBREVIATIONS

Table FM.1: Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF Method	Alkire-Foster Method (The statistical methodology used to calculate the MPI)
AGILE	Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (A World Bank-supported project)
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
EA	Enumeration Area
EU	European Union
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK)
FMHADMSD	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
H	Headcount Ratio (Incidence of Poverty)
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGR	Internally Generated Revenue
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
LGA	Local Government Area
MBEP	Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
MDA	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NASSCO	National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NG-CARES	Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus
NSIO	National Social Investment Office
NSR	National Social Register
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
PHC	Primary Healthcare Center
PHCUOR	Primary Health Care Under One Roof

PLWD	Person Living with a Disability
PMT	Proxy Means Testing
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
QA	Quality Assurance
SBS	Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHIP	Sokoto State Health Infrastructure Project
SOSG	Sokoto State Government
SUBEB	State Universal Basic Education Board
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

FOREWORD

It is with great professional pride that I present the Sokoto State Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report for 2025. This landmark document represents far more than a statistical snapshot; it is the definitive output of a strategic and deliberate shift in our approach to data governance. Under the leadership of the Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS), we have moved decisively from producing general socio-economic indicators to generating functional, policy-centric data (as adopted by other developed countries). This report is the ultimate embodiment of that new philosophy—a tool engineered not just to measure, but to direct actionable change.

The transformative methodology adopted by the SBS is evident in every chapter. First, by structurally elevating Security to a core dimension with equal weight to Health and Education, the framework acknowledges the existential reality of our citizens. The resulting data, which shows a near-perfect correlation between insecurity and poverty, provides an irrefutable evidence base to argue that peacekeeping is our most urgent poverty intervention. Second, the pioneering dual-lens analysis—contrasting structural deprivation with income-based poverty—is a masterstroke of functional design. It precisely identifies the 31% of our population in “transient poverty,” thereby enabling a twin-track policy response: long-term CAPEX for structural gaps and targeted social protection for liquidity crises.

This new approach is defined by its operational relevance. The SBS has generated intelligence at the Local Government Area (LGA) level with unparalleled granularity, creating a clear hierarchy of need from the critical emergency in Tangaza to the relative stability of Dange-Shuni. This tiered classification transforms our 2026 capital budget from a blanket allocation into a precision instrument for resource targeting. Every sectoral allocation in our 2026 “Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion” finds its justification and its expected performance metric within these pages.

I commend the State Bureau of Statistics for its visionary work in championing this results-oriented model of data production. This report is a testament to their commitment to making statistics the very bedrock of governance. For my Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, this MPI is now our non-negotiable compass. It will directly dictate our budgetary targeting, our performance monitoring frameworks,



and our accountability mechanisms to the people of Sokoto.

To our partners and citizens, this report is a covenant of transparent, evidence-based governance. It proves that we are committed to diagnosing the true nature of our challenges before prescribing solutions. The path ahead is clear, and it is charted by this data. Let us move forward together, turning this profound diagnosis into a decade of transformative delivery.

Furthermore, we are deeply grateful to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their invaluable technical support during the finalization of this report. Their expert review and guidance have ensured that our state-specific innovations—particularly the elevation of Security to a core dimension—meet the highest international standards of statistical transparency, technical rigor, and robustness.

Dr Abubakar Mohammed Zayyana

The Honourable Commissioner

Ministry for Budget and Economic Planning, Sokoto State



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my distinct honour to present this 2025 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report. This document is the culmination of a deliberate, transformative endeavour by the Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS) to transcend conventional data collection and produce actionable, functional intelligence tailored for executive decision-making.

This report is not an isolated achievement. It is the product of extensive collaboration and shared purpose. First, our profound gratitude goes to His Excellency, Governor Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA, FICT, whose visionary 9-Point Smart Agenda provided the urgent policy framework that necessitated this depth of analysis. His commitment to evidence-based governance is the bedrock upon which this exercise was built.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Honourable Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Dr Abubakar Mohammed Zayyana, whose strategic leadership ensured a seamless fusion of statistical insight with budgetary planning. The Commissioner's leadership from inception has been instrumental in shaping this report into a direct input for the 2026 Fiscal Strategy.

The successful execution of this ambitious survey would not have been possible without vital financial and technical partnerships. We are deeply grateful to Redwire Marketing Consulting for its critical financial investment, which directly financed the core survey operations. This support was indispensable in enabling the technological and analytical rigour applied here. Methodologically, this work stands on the shoulders of giants. We acknowledge the foundational work of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the pioneering global frameworks of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Beyond these foundational frameworks, we extend a special note of appreciation to the UNDP for their dedicated technical support and technical review in the finalization of this 2025 report. Their specific insights into robustness checks and methodological transparency were instrumental in refining our data analysis, ensuring that this report serves as a technically sound 'audit mechanism' for the state's fiscal future

The core innovation of this report—treating Security as a fundamental dimension of deprivation—was born from the courageous input of community leaders, traditional institutions, and security advisors across our state. Their on-the-ground truth was vital in calibrating our tools to Sokoto's reality.



This endeavour demanded extraordinary dedication from the entire team at the Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics. I commend our directors, statisticians, data scientists, and ICT staff who mastered the Alkire-Foster methodology and implemented robust Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) systems under immense pressure. My deepest admiration is reserved for our field supervisors and enumerators, who often worked in challenging environments to gather the raw data that informs every page. Their integrity and perseverance are the true foundation of this report's credibility.

We also acknowledge the communities and households that shared their lived experiences with our teams. This is their story, told through their data.

Finally, we recognise a critical, sobering limitation: the five LGAs that remain as "Missing" in our dataset due to severe insecurity. Their exclusion is not a methodological footnote but a central finding that underscores the paramount challenge before our state.

This report marks a new chapter for evidence-based planning in Sokoto. We commit to institutionalising this MPI, updating it biennially, and refining our tools to ensure that the SBS remains a steadfast provider of functional data for transformative action.

Abdullahi Abdulrahman Shagari
Statistician General
Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE SIZE

The 2025 Sokoto State MPI is derived from a rigorous two-stage stratified cluster sampling survey, designed to be representative at both the State and Senatorial District levels.



30 Enumeration Areas (EAs) per LGA



15 Households per EA



5 EXCLUDED RED ZONE LGAS ⚠️

Excluded from the sampling frame due to active security risks ("banditry") and the presence of armed groups.

ZONES: Gudu, Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni, and Tureta

2025 HEADLINE RESULTS

The 2025 Sokoto State MPI establishes a definitive baseline for human development, measuring "governable spaces" across 18 accessible Local Government Areas (LGAs).

INCIDENCE

59.1% multidimensionally poor



INTENSITY

40.3% Depth of poverty



MPI VALUE

0.239

This structural score reflects a state of significant distress but identifies clear pockets of resilience.

THE "TRANSIENT" GAP

The Income Sensitivity Result compares the standard Non-Income MPI against an experimental Income-Adjusted MPI. It reveals the impact of liquidity constraints (inflation/cash scarcity) versus structural deprivation (infrastructure gaps).



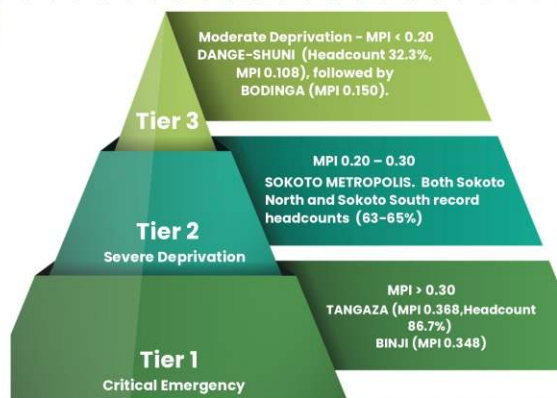
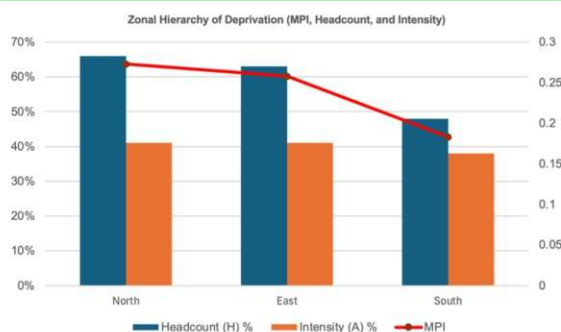
THE GAP 31.1%

One-third of the population face acute cash crises due to agrarian seasonality and hyperinflation.



*Income sensitivity result

SPATIAL ANALYSIS: ZONES AND LGAs



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND BUDGET 2026

The findings validate the 9-Point Smart Agenda and provide the empirical foundation for the 2026 Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion.



✓ 5.42% budgetary allocation to Water Resources.

✓ 5.97% public order and safety budgetary allocation.



CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1. Conceptual Foundations of Multidimensional Poverty

The conceptual architecture of the **Sokoto State Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2025** is firmly rooted in the capability approach, a theoretical framework pioneered by Nobel *Laureate Amartya Sen*. This approach fundamentally shifts the locus of poverty analysis from the possession of commodities, specifically income or financial resources, to the actualization of human capabilities. In the context of Sokoto State, a state characterized by deep agrarian traditions, structural economic challenges, and recent security shocks, the limitation of income-based metrics becomes starkly apparent. Income is merely instrumental; it is a means to an end, not the end itself. As *Sen* articulates, poverty must be viewed as the deprivation of basic capabilities rather than merely as lowness of incomes, which is the standard criterion of identification of poverty. The "beings and doings" that constitute a valued life, such as being literate, being well-nourished, having access to clean water, and living in security cannot be fully captured by a monetary proxy, particularly in an environment where markets for these public goods are missing or imperfect.

For the people of Northern Nigeria, and Sokoto specifically, the disconnect between monetary wealth and lived well-being is often profound. A household in a rural Local Government Area (LGA) like Tambuwal may generate income from a harvest that places them technically above the monetary poverty line for a specific season. Yet, if the local primary healthcare centre lacks drugs, the borehole is defunct, and the threat of banditry prevents children from attending school, that household remains acutely poor in terms of human function.

A visceral case-in-point was the Naira Redesign liquidity crisis of late 2022. During this period, thousands of citizens in Sokoto possessed sufficient funds in their bank accounts, technically placing them above the income poverty line. Yet, due to the scarcity of physical cash and the limitations of digital infrastructure in rural zones, they were unable to purchase food or pay for emergency transport to hospitals. They were "money-rich" but "capability-poor," suffering extreme deprivation despite having financial assets.



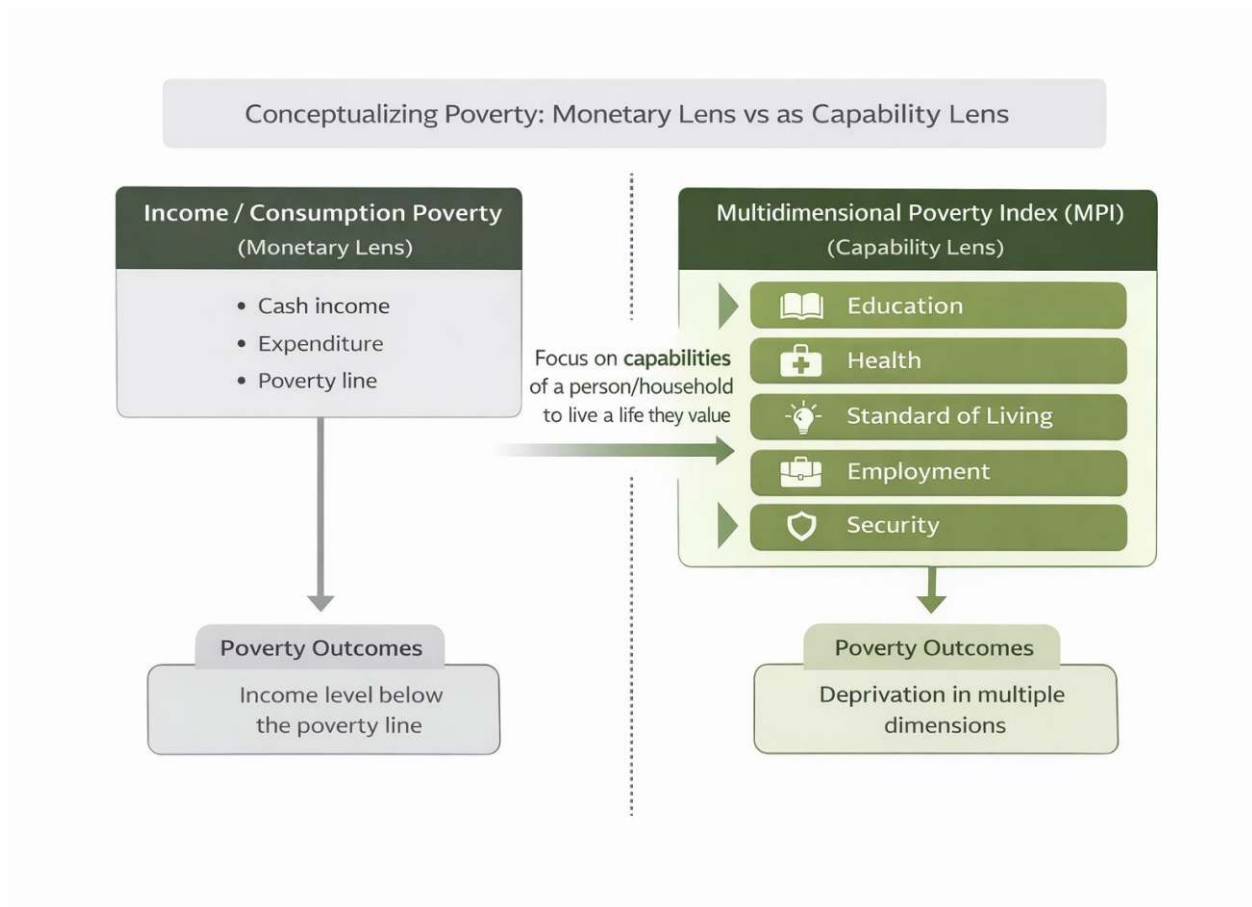
The capability approach allows us to observe these deprivations directly. It acknowledges that resources (income) do not translate uniformly into well-being; conversion factors, personal, social, and environmental, mediate this process. In Sokoto, where environmental desertification and insecurity act as severe negative conversion factors, a focus on income alone would drastically underestimate the true depth of deprivation.

Furthermore, while the critique of income poverty is salient in economies dominated by informal and subsistence sectors, this report adopts a "360-degree" analytical approach that integrates, rather than discards, monetary data.

In Sokoto State, where over 80% of the population engages in agriculture, monetary transactions often represent only a fraction of total economic activity. Consumption frequently relies on own-production, and inter-household transfers are often non-monetary. Consequently, relying *solely* on income data would yield a volatile and theoretically inadequate picture of welfare.

However, to ensure robust policy formulation, we have conducted a dual assessment that explicitly measures the impact of the income dimension alongside the core MPI. This distinction is vital for a comprehensive response strategy. The MPI guides the government on where to invest in "public goods" (Health, Education, Water, and Security), while the income assessment highlights where households face liquidity constraints. By analyzing both, policymakers are empowered to make sound decisions on infrastructure while simultaneously formulating economic policies to improve household cash flow. This holistic view ensures the administration can mitigate all aspects of poverty, tackling both the structural lack of services and the monetary inability to access them.





Source: Adapted from the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) Framework.

1.2 Evolution of MPI: Global, National, and Sub-National

The measurement of multidimensional poverty has undergone a significant evolution, moving from experimental indices to definitive policy tools embedded in national governance structures. The **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, launched in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), established the standard for measuring acute poverty across over 100 developing countries. Utilising the Alkire-Foster (AF) method, the Global MPI aggregates deprivations across three dimensions, Health, Education, and Living Standards providing a rigorous alternative to the World Bank’s \$2.15/day metric.

Nigeria has actively integrated this methodology into its national statistical system. The **Nigeria National MPI 2018**, produced by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS),

laid the groundwork by identifying that 54% of the population was multidimensionally poor, with significant regional disparities. However, the framework of the 2018 report was limited in scope and dimension. The subsequent **Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022)** represented a quantum leap in statistical ambition. Expanding the framework to include four dimensions (Health, Education, Living Standards, and Work & Shocks) and 15 indicators, the 2022 National MPI was the most extensive survey of its kind in Africa, sampling over 56,000 households.

The findings of the 2022 National MPI were sobering for Sokoto State. The report identified that **63% of persons living within Nigeria (133 million people)** were multidimensionally poor, but in Sokoto State, the incidence of poverty surged to **91%**, the highest rate in the federation. This highlighted a critical divergence: while national averages masked localized crises, the sub-national data revealed that poverty in Sokoto was not just a pocket of deprivation but a generalized condition affecting nearly the entire populace. The 2022 report also introduced novel indicators such as "Security Shock" and "Food Security," acknowledging the changing landscape of deprivation in Nigeria.

However, national instruments, despite their granularity at the senatorial level, often lack the specificity required for state-level executive action. The Sokoto State MPI 2025 builds upon this lineage but introduces critical adaptations.

First, recognizing that "security shocks" are no longer transient events but structural realities in the North West, this report elevates Security from an indicator to a full-fledged Dimension with equal weight to Health and Education.

Second, we introduce a dual-layer assessment of Income. While maintaining the global standard of a non-monetary MPI to track structural deprivations, we have concurrently modelled an "Income-Adjusted MPI." This allows us to assess the specific elasticity of poverty relative to household liquidity, determining exactly how much the poverty headcount (H) and intensity (A) shift when income is factored in.

This "impact assessment" approach enables the administration to distinguish between households that are structurally poor (needing long-term infrastructure like schools and boreholes) and those that are transiently poor. For this latter group, the data prescribes a comprehensive economic response: immediate liquidity support



(such as cash transfers) reinforced by sustainable livelihood interventions (such as subsidized agricultural inputs and MSME grants) to restore their productive capacity.

Furthermore, while the National MPI 2022 was designed for federal comparison, the Sokoto State MPI is designed for state-level targeting. It disaggregates data further to inform the specific "9-Point Smart Agenda" of the Government of Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto, ensuring that the metrics of poverty reduction are directly linked to the levers of state governance. This report, therefore, represents the maturation of the MPI from a tool of global comparison to an instrument of sub-national precision governance.

Evolution of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement: Global to Sub-National (2010-2025)



Compiled by the Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS) based on NBS (Nigeria), OPHI, and UNDP historical records.

1.3 Socio-Economic and Development Context of Sokoto State

Sokoto State, the "Seat of the Caliphate," occupies a distinct socio-economic position in the extreme northwest of Nigeria. Spanning approximately 28,232 square kilometers, the state sits within the Sudan Savannah and Sahel zones, a geography defined by semi-arid conditions, open grasslands, and a vulnerability to climatic extremes. This environmental context is deterministic; it dictates an agrarian economy heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture and livestock production.

To provide absolute context to the percentage-based findings in this report, all state-



level estimates use the projected 2025 population structure as their denominator. This projection is derived from the 2022 population estimate of approximately 6.39 million (ranked 11th in Nigeria), which remains the state's primary demographic benchmark.

Demography:

Demographically, Sokoto is experiencing a youth bulge that presents both a dividend and a disaster. From a population of 3.7 million in 2006, estimates for 2022 place the population at approximately 6.39 million, ranking it 11th in Nigeria. The population structure is heavily skewed towards dependents, with a massive cohort of children under 15. This places immense strain on the state's social infrastructure, schools and primary healthcare centers (PHCs), which have historically struggled to keep pace with demographic growth. The state's literacy rates have lagged behind national averages, necessitating the current administration's aggressive focus on education reform.

The Agrarian Economy and Climate Volatility:

The economy of Sokoto remains overwhelmingly agrarian, but recent data reveals a disturbing divergence between nominal growth and real economic value. According to the **Sokoto State GDP Report (2019–2023)**, the Agricultural sector contributed **36.5%** to the state's GDP in 2023. While the sector's nominal value grew to **₦2.16 trillion**, this figure masks a severe crisis of productivity and purchasing power.

When adjusted for inflation, the **Real GDP** of the agricultural sector actually **contracted**, with Crop Production specifically shrinking in real terms from **₦694 billion (2020)** to **₦568 billion (2023)**. This confirms that while farmers are producing more monetary value due to inflation, their actual output and economic stability are declining. This volatility is driven by climate shocks and the lack of value addition; without agro-processing industries to absorb these shocks, Sokoto's farmers remain price-takers in a shrinking real economy.

Structural Constraints and the Security Crisis:

The most pervasive structural constraint facing Sokoto in the 2024–2025 period is insecurity. The rise of "banditry", organized criminal violence involving cattle rustling, kidnapping, and village raids, has profoundly altered the socio-economic landscape.



Large swathes of the state, particularly in the eastern senatorial district (including LGAs like Sabon Birni, Isa, and Rabah), have become conflict zones. This insecurity acts as a "poverty trap" in three distinct ways:

- **Asset Destruction:** Livestock, a primary store of wealth for rural households, is routinely looted, decapitalizing families overnight.
- **Displacement:** The conflict has generated a significant population of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), stripping them of their land and livelihoods and forcing them into dependency in urban centers or camps.
- **Service Disruption:** Schools and health facilities in affected areas have faced closures or reduced operations due to the threat of abduction, directly deepening deprivations in education and health dimensions while education and health services in non-conflict areas are overburdened due to heavy influx of IDPs.

The emergence of new armed groups, such as the Lakurawa faction in late 2024, has further complicated the security matrix along the border with Niger Republic. This reality necessitates a poverty measurement framework that explicitly accounts for security not just as a background context, but as a direct component of deprivation.

1.4 Rationale for a Sokoto State-Specific MPI

While the 2022 National MPI provided a necessary federal benchmark, it left two critical 'governance gaps' that this report aims to fill. First, national instruments often lack the **LGA-level granularity** required for executive state action, providing data only at the senatorial level. Second, the 2022 National MPI did not treat **Security as a structural dimension**, a significant omission given the North West's reality. This 2025 report fills these gaps by elevating Security to a core 20% weight and providing the precision required to drive the 9-Point Smart Agenda through four strategic pillars:

1. Planning and Budgeting:

The Sokoto State Government, led by Governor Dr. Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto. FCNA, has adopted a 9-Point Smart Agenda that prioritizes Security, Religious Affairs, Economic Development, Education, Healthcare, Agriculture, Water Supply, Youth Empowerment, and Local Government Autonomy. To effectively resource this agenda, the Sokoto



State Government requires data that links specific deprivations to budgetary heads. The 2026 Approved Budget, christened the "Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion" allocates 15.35% to Education and 16.8% to Health. The Sokoto MPI serves as the diagnostic tool to guide these capital expenditures, by identifying, for instance, which LGAs have the highest contribution of "School Distance" to their poverty score, the state can scientifically site new schools or renovate existing ones, ensuring allocative efficiency.

2. Targeting and Social Protection:

The effectiveness of social protection programmes, such as the distribution of palliatives or cash transfers, hinges on accurate targeting. While The National Social Register (NSR) is a valuable resource, the Sokoto State MPI "fleshes out" this data by adding a layer of multidimensional verification.

By acting as a Precision Targeting Filter, the MPI allows the state to go beyond generic poverty lists and identify households that are "Double-Deprived", those lacking both income and basic services. Specifically, it enables the administration to pinpoint the "Poorest of the Poor" (households deprived in 80% or more of weighted indicators) and prioritize them for immediate safety nets.

This approach directly operationalizes the **Security** and **Economic Development** pillars of the 9-Point Smart Agenda. By identifying the specific households most devastated by conflict and deprivation, the administration can ensure that its poverty reduction interventions are not blunt instruments, but are deployed with surgical precision to the most vulnerable victims of the insecurity crisis, thereby fulfilling the agenda's vision of a safer and more economically inclusive Sokoto.

3. SDG 1.2.2 Reporting:

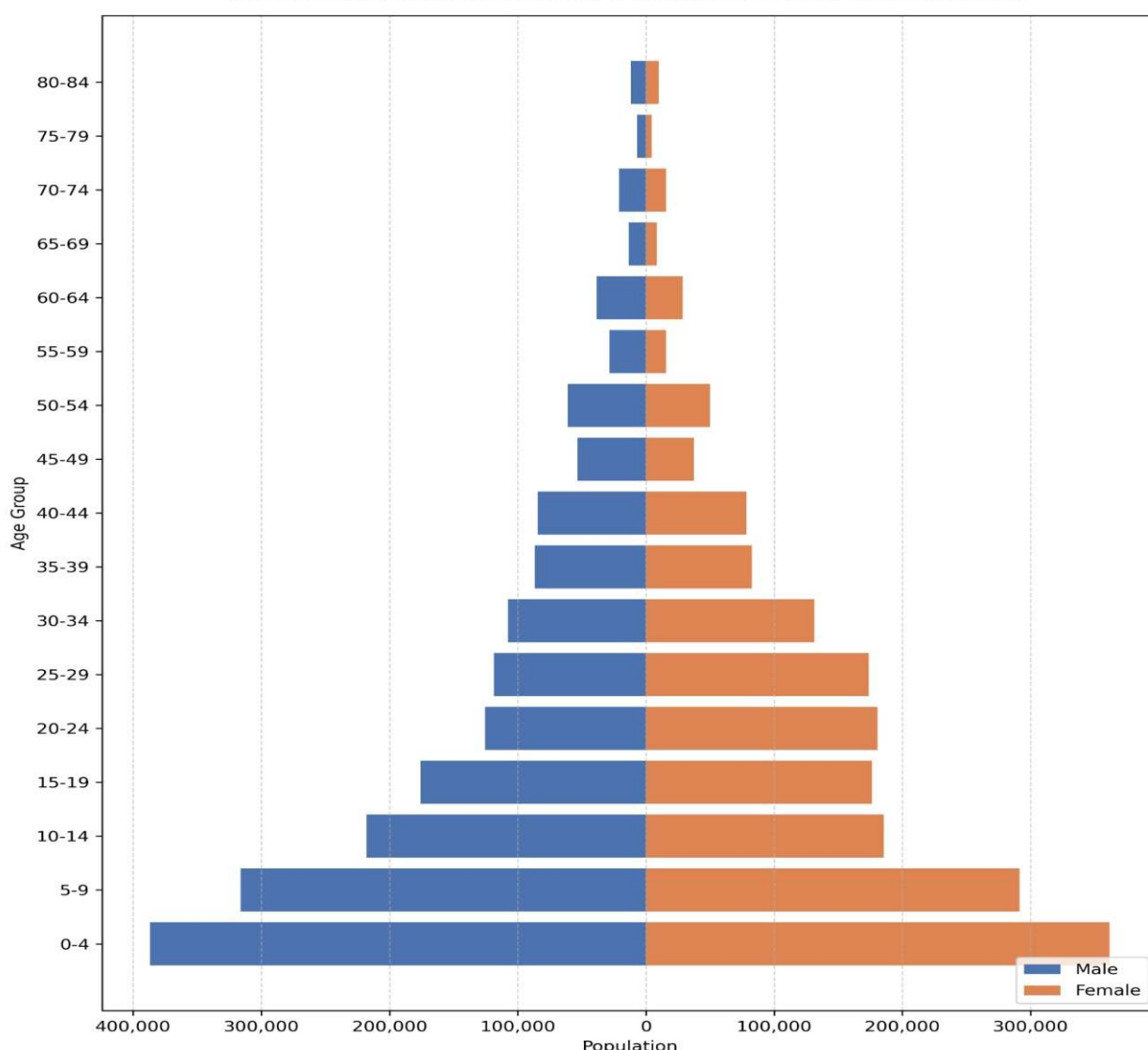
Sokoto contributes to Nigeria's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Target 1.2, which aims to reduce by half the proportion of men, women, and children living in poverty in all its dimensions. A rigorous, state-owned MPI provides a credible baseline for reporting progress on SDG 1.2.2. It moves the state beyond anecdotal evidence of progress to statistically verifiable improvements in human development indicators.



4. Evidence-Based Governance:

Finally, the Sokoto MPI fosters a culture of evidence-based governance rooted in a "360-degree" analytical framework. By institutionalizing the measurement of poverty as a dual phenomenon, capturing both the structural deprivations of the MPI and the liquidity constraints of income, the state government commits to a total view of human welfare. This shift ensures that the administration is judged not merely by abstract macroeconomic figures, but by the actual, multidimensional improvements in the lives of its citizens, ensuring they are both financially empowered and structurally secure.

Sokoto State Population Structure (Population Pyramid, 2025 Projection)



Source: Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS) 2025 Population Projections; based on National Population Commission (NPC) 2006 Census Data.



1.5 Objectives and Structure of the Report

The overarching objective of this report is to establish a robust, state-specific operational baseline of poverty in Sokoto State for the year 2025. While the **NBS 2022 National MPI** serves as the **foundational benchmark** against which broad progress is measured, this 2025 report provides the granular, "governable" baseline required for executive action. It is designed to equip the Sokoto State Government and development partners with the actionable, localized data necessary to drive the **9-Point Smart Agenda** with precision.

Specific Objectives:

- **Estimate Incidence and Intensity:** To calculate the headcount ratio (H) and intensity (A) of multidimensional poverty across Sokoto's 23 LGAs, identifying hotspots of acute deprivation.
- **Dimensional Decomposition:** To decompose the MPI by the five dimensions (Education, Health, Standard of Living, Employment, Security) to understand the specific drivers of poverty in each senatorial district.
- **Policy Guidance:** To provide granular evidence base for the implementation of the **2026 Budget** and the **Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (2024–2026)**, specifically informing sector-specific interventions.
- **Structural Analysis:** To analyse non-monetary deprivation as a measure of structural poverty, while simultaneously assessing the impact of income on the index. This dual approach allows the state to distinguish between chronic capability failures (structural poverty) and transient liquidity constraints, providing a holistic view of household welfare.

What This Report Does NOT Do:

- It does **not** provide monetary poverty estimates (e.g., poverty headcount at \$2.15/day).
- It does **not** evaluate the impact of specific past projects but rather assesses the current state of deprivation.
- It does **not** conflate income with the core Multidimensional Poverty Index. To maintain a stable structural baseline, the headline index tracks capability deprivations exclusively. However, the report includes a supplementary "Income Sensitivity Analysis" in a dedicated chapter. This models how the poverty profile

responds to monetary variables, allowing the state to distinguish between structural deficits (infrastructure) and liquidity constraints (cash) without diluting the primary tracking metric.

Report Structure:

- **Chapter 1 (Introduction & Context):** Outlines the conceptual foundations, the "governable space" limitation, and the strategic objectives of the Sokoto State 2025 MPI Report.
- **Chapter 2 (Methodology):** Details the rigorous statistical framework, defending the Alkire-Foster method, outlining the indicator selection, and explaining the "Dual-Lens" approach to income and security.
- **Chapter 3 (Incidence and Intensity):** Presents the headline MPI results, identifying the headcount ratio (H) and intensity (A) of poverty across the state and determining the "tipping point" for acute deprivation.
- **Chapter 4 (Dimensional Breakdown):** Decomposes the MPI by its five dimensions and 15 indicators, revealing the specific drivers of poverty (e.g., Education vs. Employment) in each Senatorial District.
- **Chapter 5 (The Income Factor):** A dedicated sensitivity analysis that introduces monetary data to measure the "Transient Poverty Gap," distinguishing between households that are structurally poor and those facing temporary liquidity crises.
- **Chapter 6 (Policy Recommendations):** Translates the statistical findings into executive action, linking specific deprivations to the **9-Point Smart Agenda** and proposing targeted interventions for the **2026 Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion**.



CHAPTER TWO METHODOLOGY

2.1 Conceptual Measurement Framework

The Sokoto State MPI 2025 is computed using the **Alkire-Foster (AF) Method**, a rigorous technique for multidimensional measurement that is mathematically robust and policy-relevant. This method addresses the limitations of unidimensional indices by capturing the joint distribution of deprivations, how many disadvantages a person experiences *at the same time*.

The AF method relies on a **dual-cutoff** identification system:

- **Deprivation Cutoff (z_j):** For each indicator j , a threshold is set to determine if a household is deprived. For example, in the indicator "School Attendance," a household is deprived if any school-aged child is not attending school.
- **Poverty Cutoff (k):** A second cutoff is applied to the weighted sum of deprivations. Each household is assigned a deprivation score c_i which is the weighted sum of the indicators in which it is deprived ($c_i = \sum w_j g_{ij}$). For the Sokoto State MPI, the poverty cutoff is set at $k = 0.26$ (or 26%). This means a household is identified as multidimensionally poor if the sum of its weighted deprivations is 26% or higher. This cutoff aligns with the Nigeria National MPI 2022 standard, ensuring comparability while allowing for state-specific dimensions.

Aggregation:

The method aggregates individual data into two summary statistics:

- **Headcount Ratio (H):** The percentage of the population that is multidimensionally poor ($H = q/n$).
- **Intensity of Poverty (A):** The average deprivation score of the poor

$$A = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{i=1}^q c_i$$

The MPI is the product of these two measures:

$$MPI = H \times A$$

This aggregation satisfies the property of **dimensional monotonicity**: if a poor person becomes deprived in an additional indicator, the MPI rises (via A), reflecting the increased severity of poverty.



2.2 Survey Design and Sampling

The data for this report originates from a dedicated **Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025**, designed to be representative at both the state and senatorial district levels. The survey design is a **two-stage stratified cluster sampling** strategy, adhering to the protocols established by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Sampling Frame:

- **Stage 1 (Enumeration Areas):** In each participating Local Government Area (LGA), **30 Enumeration Areas (EAs)** were randomly selected using probability proportional to size (PPS).
- **Stage 2 (Households):** Within each sampled EA, a systematic random sample of **10 households** was selected for interview.

Sample Size and Coverage:

- **Target Sample:** The survey aimed to cover the entire state. However, security challenges necessitated a modification of the sampling frame.
- **Actual Coverage:** Fieldwork was successfully conducted in **18 LGAs** out of 23.
- **Total EAs Sampled:** 18 LGAs × 30 EAs = 540 EAs.
- **Total Households:** 540 EAs × 10 Households = 5,400 Households.

Security-Related Exclusions:

A critical limitation of this methodology is the exclusion of 5 LGAs due to active banditry and high-risk security assessments. The excluded LGAs are:

- **Gudu**
- **Isa**
- **Rabah**
- **Sabon Birni**
- **Tureta**

These exclusions represent approximately **21.7%** of the state's administrative units. It is crucial to note that these areas are likely among the most deprived due to the conflict. Therefore, the MPI results presented in this report should be interpreted as a **lower-bound estimate** of poverty in Sokoto State. The exclusion was a necessary ethical decision to protect the lives of enumerators, adhering to the "Do No Harm" principle in research.

2.3 Indicator Selection and Justification

The Sokoto State MPI 2025 comprises **19 indicators** grouped into **5 dimensions**. These



were selected in consultation with the Sokoto State Statistician General and aligned with the **9-Point Smart Agenda**.

Table 2.1: Dimensions, Indicators, and Deprivation Cutoffs

Dimension (Weight)	Indicator (Weight)	Deprivation Cutoff (A household is deprived if...)	Justification & Policy Link
Education (1/5)	Years of Schooling (1/20)	No member aged 15+ has completed primary school.	Captures human capital stock; critical for literacy targets in 9-Point Agenda.
	School Attendance (1/20)	Any school-aged child (6-16) is not attending school.	Directly tracks out-of-school children, a key priority for SUBEB.
	School Distance (1/20)	The nearest school is >20 mins walk.	Addresses infrastructure gaps in rural areas; informs school construction budget.
	School Lag (1/20)	A child (8-17) is 2+ years behind grade level.	Proxy for education quality and disruption due to insecurity.
Health (1/5)	Nutrition (1/15)	Any member <70 is undernourished (dietary proxy).	Addresses food insecurity and malnutrition crisis in North West.
	Child Mortality (1/15)	A child <18 died in the household in the last 5 years.	Core health outcome; aligns with SHIP goals to reduce mortality.
	Time to Healthcare (1/15)	Nearest facility is >30 mins walk.	Measures physical access; guides siting of PHCs in 2025 budget.
Standard of Living (1/5)	Cooking Fuel (1/30)	Cooks with dung, wood, charcoal, or coal.	Links to environmental degradation and respiratory health.
	Sanitation (1/30)	No facility or shared/unimproved facility.	Critical for public health; targets WASH sector interventions.
	Drinking Water (1/30)	Unsafe source or >30 mins round trip.	Aligns with Water Supply pillar of Smart Agenda.
	Electricity (1/30)	No access to electricity.	Measures infrastructure access; vital for economic

			activity.
	Housing (1/30)	Inadequate floor, roof, or walls.	Indicator of asset poverty and vulnerability to climate shocks.
	Assets (1/30)	Owens <2 small assets and no car/truck.	Proxy for wealth accumulation and economic resilience.
Employment (1/5)	Unemployment (1/10)	Member 15+ available/looking for work but unemployed.	Tracks labor market absorption; informs Youth Empowerment schemes.
	Underemployment (1/10)	Member 15+ works <40 hrs but willing to work more.	Captures seasonal idleness in agrarian economy.
Security (1/5)	Exposure to Violence (1/15)	Household member victim of violence/crime in last year.	Direct measure of the banditry crisis impact.
	Personal Safety (1/15)	Feels unsafe walking in community.	Subjective well-being and psychological toll of insecurity.
	Conflict/Displacement (1/15)	Displaced or daily life hindered by conflict.	Identifies IDPs and severely affected communities for targeted aid.

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

2.4 Weighting Structure and Implications

Justification for Equal Dimensional Weighting

The decision to assign **equal weights (1/5)** to all five dimensions is a normative choice grounded in the specific policy context of Sokoto State.

- **Policy Equivalence:** The 9-Point Smart Agenda does not rank its pillars; Security is as critical as Education, which is as critical as Health. Equal weighting statistically mirrors this political prioritization, ensuring that a failure in Security contributes as much to the poverty score as a failure in Health.
- **Correcting the "Missing Dimension":** Standard MPIs often underweight security or exclude it entirely. Given the existential threat posed by banditry in Sokoto,

assigning it a 20% weight, equal to Health or Education, is a necessary correction. It asserts that **safety is a fundamental capability**, without which other functionings cannot be enjoyed.

- **Robustness:** Equal weighting is transparent and intuitive for policymakers. It avoids the complexity and potential opacity of statistical weighting methods (like Principal Component Analysis) which may derive weights that are technically "correct" but intuitively misaligned with the social contract.

Methodological Defense of Excluding Income

The decision to exclude income from the final core MPI calculation was not arbitrary; it was reached **at initial analysis** after a rigorous evaluation of the data. While income variables were collected and tested during the preliminary phase, they were ultimately set aside for the headline index due to four evidence-based factors specific to Sokoto's economy:

1. Volatility in Agrarian Economies:

Sokoto's economy is rain-fed and agrarian. Agricultural income is highly seasonal and volatile, subject to weather shocks (droughts/floods) and pest infestations. An income survey captures a snapshot that may be misleading, a farmer surveyed post-harvest appears "rich," while the same farmer surveyed during the lean season appears "poor." This volatility creates "poverty transients" rather than identifying the structurally poor. Research confirms that in such contexts, consumption or multidimensional asset indices are more stable proxies for long-term welfare.

2. Measurement Error and Reliability:

Collecting income data in an informal, subsistence economy is notoriously difficult. Self-reported income is prone to substantial error (underreporting by 30-50%) due to recall bias, the difficulty of valuing home consumption (which constitutes a large part of "income" in Sokoto), and the conflation of household and business revenue. In contrast, indicators like "type of floor" (Housing) or "years of schooling" are observable and verifiable, significantly reducing non-sampling error.

3. Avoiding Double-Counting:

Conceptually, income is a resource (a means), while health, education, and living



standards are functionings (ends). Including both in an index risks double-counting. A household with low income typically has poor housing and low education. Counting the low income and the resulting deprivations amplifies the weight of the same underlying disadvantage. By focusing on the deprivations themselves, the MPI measures the actual realization of poverty, independent of the financial means.

4. Alignment with Standards:

This approach aligns with the Global MPI and the Nigeria National MPI 2022, both of which exclude income to provide a distinct, complementary measure to monetary poverty. This ensures that the Sokoto MPI remains a measure of multidimensional deprivation, offering a unique value-add alongside traditional GDP or consumption data.

2.5 Data Quality Assurance

To ensure the reliability of the Sokoto State MPI, rigorous Quality Assurance (QA) protocols were implemented throughout the survey lifecycle:

- **Digital Data Collection:** The survey utilized **Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)** devices. This technology minimized data entry errors through automated skip patterns, constraint checks (e.g., preventing age > 100), and mandatory fields.
- **Geo-Referencing:** GPS coordinates were captured for every household interview. This allowed for the spatial verification of fieldwork, ensuring enumerators actually visited the sampled EAs and preventing "curb-stone" interviews.
- **Training and Standardization:** A centralized training workshop was conducted for all supervisors and enumerators, utilizing the standardized NBS/MPI curriculum. This included field practice sessions to ensure uniform interpretation of questions, particularly for complex indicators like "nutrition" proxies.
- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Data uploaded to the central server was monitored daily. Logic checks were run to identify outliers or inconsistencies (e.g., a household reporting "no electricity" but owning a "refrigerator"), triggering immediate callbacks for verification.
-

2.6 Ethical Considerations and Limitations

Limitations of Security Exclusions:

The exclusion of 5 LGAs (Gudu, Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni, Tureta) is the most significant limitation. These areas are epicenters of banditry and are likely to harbor the highest levels of deprivation, particularly in the Security, Health, and Education dimensions. Consequently, the aggregated MPI for Sokoto State presented in this report is almost certainly a conservative estimate. The true poverty headcount is likely higher. This limitation must be explicitly stated in all policy briefs to prevent a false sense of progress.

While Tangaza serves as a useful proxy for the missing data in this report, the current methodology does not utilize **conflict-adjusted imputation**. Global evidence systematically demonstrates that MPI is significantly higher in active conflict zones than in surrounding areas. Consequently, the lack of such imputation means the results presented here remain a **conservative lower-bound estimate**, and the true upper-bound MPI for the state's total territory is likely higher than the reported 0.239.

Comparability and Weighting Recalibration:

A significant methodological constraint lies in the direct longitudinal comparison between the 2025 Sokoto MPI and the 2022 National MPI baseline. While the 2022 data is a foundational benchmark, it is empirically constrained for precise impact evaluation because the 2025 Sokoto model incorporates Security as a full 20% dimension. This recalibration fundamentally changes the weighting of all other indicators. Therefore, observed differences in the index values are partially attributable to this weight shift and the exclusion of specific LGAs, rather than resulting exclusively from policy interventions."

Conflict-Induced Migration and Sample Bias:

The survey results must be interpreted with the understanding that residents from the five excluded 'Red Zone' LGAs may have migrated into the 18 governable LGAs sampled



in this study. As metropolitan centers like Sokoto North and South have become primary refuges for those fleeing insecurity, it is probable that displaced persons were captured within the sampled Enumeration Areas. This migration creates a 'spillover effect' that may subtly alter the demographic profile and increase the deprivation intensity recorded in otherwise stable areas.

Normative Weighting Assumptions:

The application of equal 20% weighting across all five pillars is a normative choice designed to align with the 9-Point Smart Agenda. However, it is a documented limitation that these dimensions, Education, Health, Standard of Living, Employment, and Security, may not hold equal importance across all socioeconomic contexts. Readers should recognize that different weighting specifications could yield variations in the final MPI scores, though the index remains robust to moderate changes as shown in the Technical Annex.

Ethical Protocols:

Given the sensitivity of questions regarding "Exposure to Violence" and "Conflict," strict ethical protocols were observed. Enumerators were trained in trauma-informed interviewing techniques. Informed consent was mandatory, and respondents were assured of anonymity. In cases where respondents showed distress, interviews were paused or terminated. No incentives were offered that could coerce participation, maintaining the voluntary nature of the research.

Interpretation of Self-Reported Security Data:

Subjective indicators like "Personal Safety" are valuable but can be influenced by adaptive preferences, people in chronically insecure areas may normalize violence, potentially under-reporting their fear compared to those in safer areas experiencing a sudden shock. This bias is acknowledged, and the Security dimension combines subjective (fear) and objective (victimization) indicators to mitigate it.



CHAPTER THREE OVERALL MPI RESULTS

3.1 Introduction to the 2025 Poverty Profile



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

The 2025 Sokoto State Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) represents a watershed moment in sub-national development planning. Adopting the **NBS 2022 National MPI as our "Policy Baseline,"** this report functions as a strategic impact assessment, evaluating the early efficacy of the administration's **9-Point Smart Agenda**.

By domesticating the global Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology and calibrating it to the specific socio-political realities of the Caliphate, this report moves beyond the monolithic narratives of deprivation. Instead, it offers a high-resolution map of human disadvantage, allowing us to quantify the **impact of implementation** and gauge how significantly the administration's policy interventions have shifted the needle from the 2022 baseline. This chapter presents the aggregated results of the 2025 survey, establishing the new operational reality for the state.

The overarching finding of this assessment is sobering yet instructive. The aggregated **Headcount Ratio (H)** for Sokoto State stands at **59.1%**. This statistic indicates that approximately six out of every ten citizens in the surveyed areas are living in multidimensional poverty. These individuals are not merely income-poor; they are simultaneously deprived in at least 26% of the weighted indicators spanning Health, Education, Standard of Living, Employment, and Security. The **Intensity of Poverty (A)**, which measures the severity of deprivation among the poor, is **40.3%**. This implies that the average poor person in Sokoto is deprived in roughly 40% of the weighted indicators, a depth of poverty that suggests systemic failure across multiple service delivery sectors rather than isolated gaps.

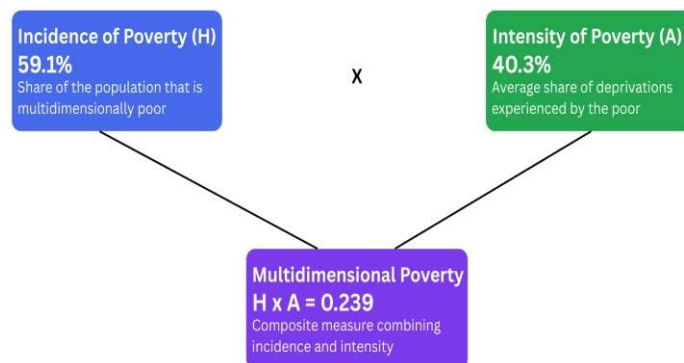


Consequently, the **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, calculated as the product of incidence and intensity ($H \times A$), is **0.239**. While this figure provides a unified metric for monitoring progress, its true value lies in its decomposition. The 2025 MPI reveals a state bifurcated by geography and conflict. We observe a spectrum of deprivation ranging from the relative resilience of **Dange-Shuni LGA** ($MPI = 0.108$) to the acute, conflict-driven destitution of **Tangaza LGA** ($MPI = 0.368$). These variances are not accidental; they are the statistical footprints of insecurity, historical underinvestment, and demographic pressure.

It is critically important to contextualize these findings within the constraints of the survey's coverage. Fieldwork was successfully conducted in 18 of the state's 23 LGAs. Five LGAs, **Gudu, Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni, and Tureta**, were excluded from the sampling frame due to the kinetic risks posed by banditry and the emergence of the *Lakurawa* terror group.

These excluded areas are historically among the most deprived and insecure zones in the state. Therefore, the state-level MPI of 0.239 must be interpreted as a **conservative lower-bound estimate**. Had the "Red Zone" LGAs been accessible, the aggregate poverty metrics would undoubtedly be higher, likely converging closer to the 91% incidence reported in the 2022 National MPI. The current results, therefore, reflect the reality of the "governable" spaces of Sokoto, identifying pockets of urgent need even within accessible territories.

Conceptual Decomposition of the MPI (H x A)



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).



3.2 State-Level Aggregates: The Incidence-Intensity Dynamic

The relationship between the number of poor people (Incidence) and the severity of their poverty (Intensity) is the defining characteristic of the 2025 dataset. In development economics, a high incidence coupled with low intensity typically suggests widespread but shallow poverty, often solvable through single-sector interventions like cash transfers or school feeding. Conversely, Sokoto's profile of **High Incidence (59.1%)** and **High Intensity (40.3%)** indicates deep, structural poverty traps that require integrated, multi-sectoral solutions.

3.2.1 The Depth of Deprivation

An intensity score of 40.3% means that the average poor household is failing in nearly half of the essential functionings required for a dignified life. They are not just lacking clean water; they are likely simultaneously out of school, cooking with hazardous fuel, and unemployed. This "clustering of disadvantages" creates a resilience deficit. When a household is deprived in 40% of indicators, a single shock, be it a security breach, a poor harvest, or a health emergency, can precipitate a catastrophic collapse in welfare. The data reveals significant variance in intensity across the state. In **Tangaza**, the intensity rises to **42.4%**, pushing the population toward destitution. In contrast, **Dange-Shuni** records an intensity of **33.3%**. This 9-percentage point differential is statistically significant. It implies that a poor family in Dange-Shuni is closer to the poverty exit line ($k = 26\%$) and could potentially be lifted out of poverty by addressing just one or two deprivations (e.g., providing a solar borehole or a job). A poor family in Tangaza, however, requires a comprehensive "big push" intervention addressing security, health, and livelihood simultaneously to make any meaningful progress.



Table 3.1: Aggregate Headcount (H) and Intensity (A) by LGA

LGA	Headcount (H)	Intensity (A)	MPI
Tangaza	86.7%	42.4%	0.368
Binji	79.3%	43.9%	0.348
Goronyo	77.3%	43.9%	0.339
Silame	71.0%	38.0%	0.270
Sokoto South	65.0%	42.2%	0.274
Gwadabawa	64.7%	40.5%	0.262
Shagari	64.7%	40.1%	0.259
Gada	64.0%	40.4%	0.258
Sokoto North	63.3%	43.3%	0.274
Illela	60.0%	40.9%	0.245
Tambuwal	52.0%	38.5%	0.200
Yabo	52.0%	40.4%	0.210
Wamako	51.7%	39.3%	0.203
Wurno	48.0%	38.5%	0.185
Kware	47.0%	36.5%	0.171
Bodinga	43.3%	34.6%	0.150
Kebbe	42.3%	39.8%	0.169
Dange-Shuni	32.3%	33.3%	0.108

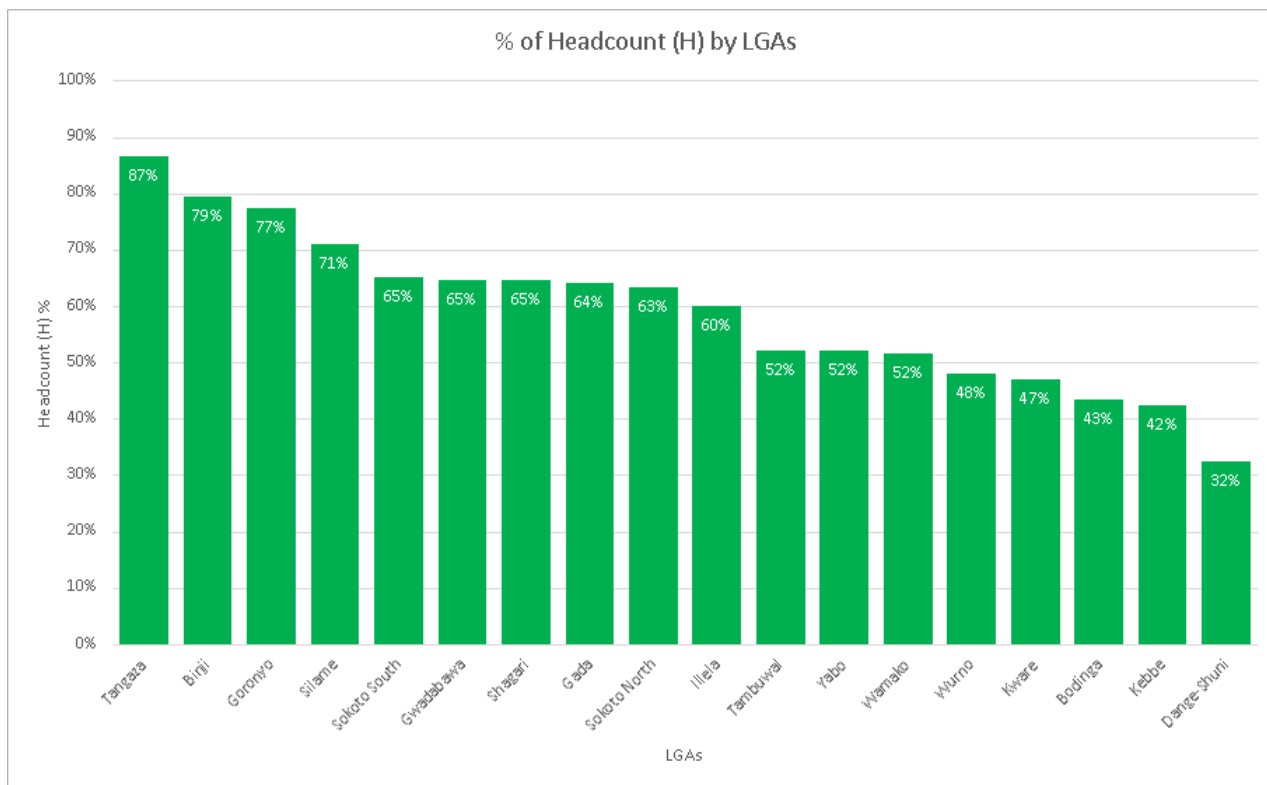
Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

3.2.2 Comparative Trajectory

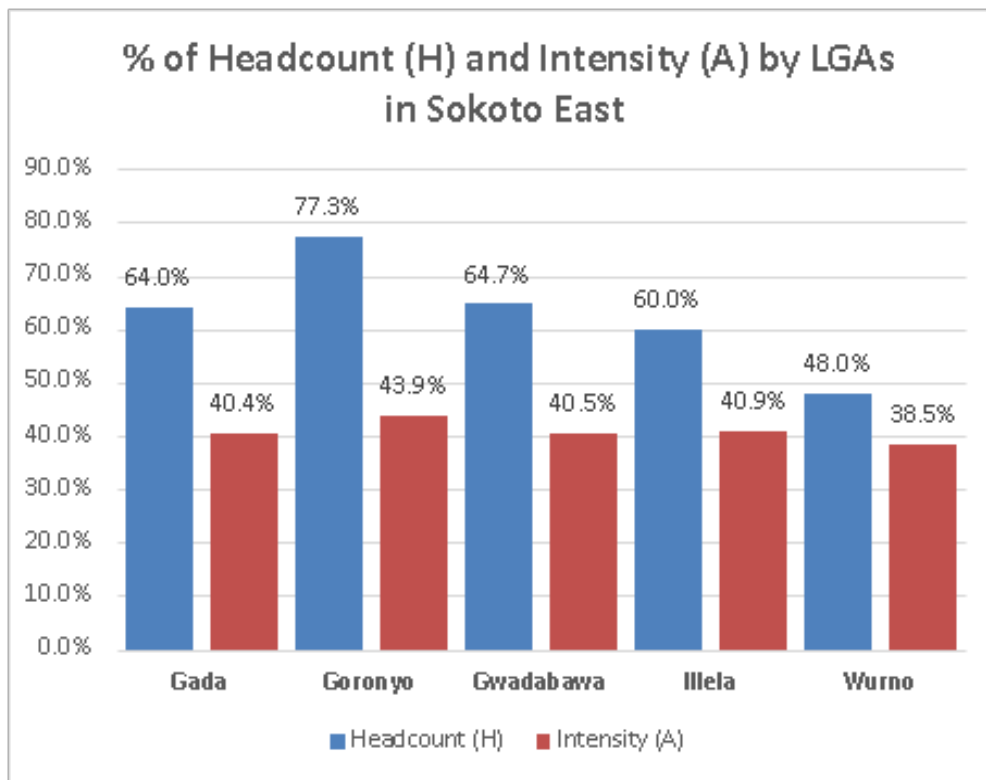
Comparing the 2025 state results ($H = 59.1\%$) with the 2022 National MPI ($H = 91\%$) requires careful nuance. A superficial reading might suggest a miraculous 32-percentage point reduction in poverty in three years. While the administration's aggressive urban renewal and agricultural interventions have undeniably made an impact, the primary driver of this statistical variance is the exclusion of the five poorest, conflict-ridden LGAs.

If we adjust for the exclusion, assuming the five missing LGAs have deprivation profiles similar to their neighbor **Tangaza** ($H = 86.7\%$), the adjusted state headcount would likely hover between 70–75%. This represents tangible progress from the 2022 baseline of 91%, validating the efficacy of recent investments in water supply and social protection, but it also confirms that the crisis remains acute. The reduction is real, but the magnitude is inflated by the necessary omission of the conflict zones.

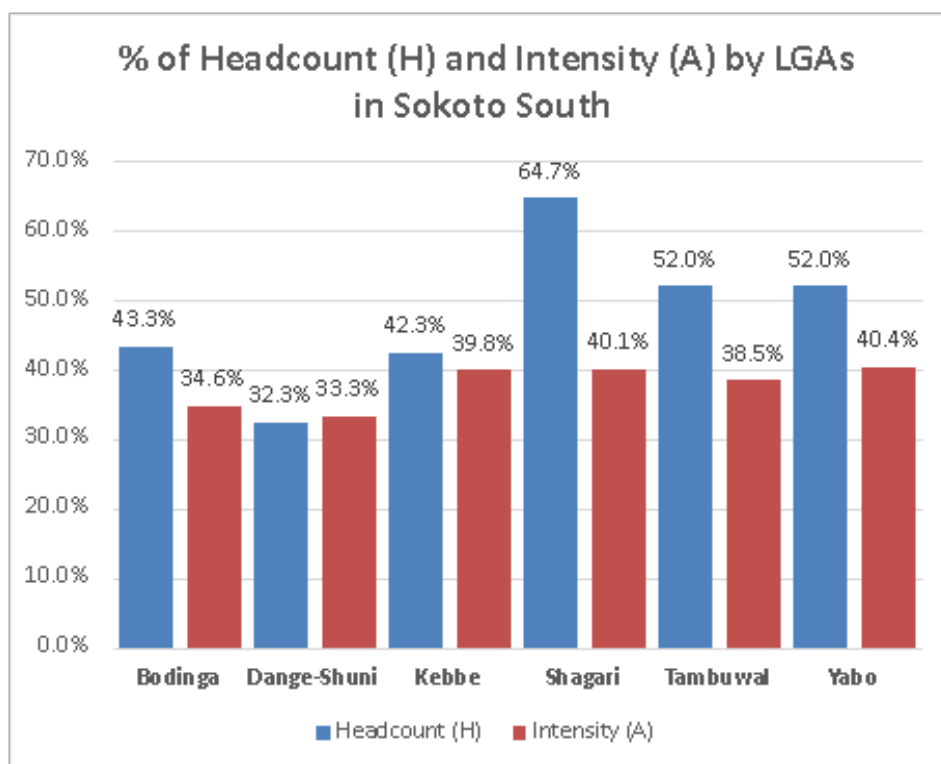
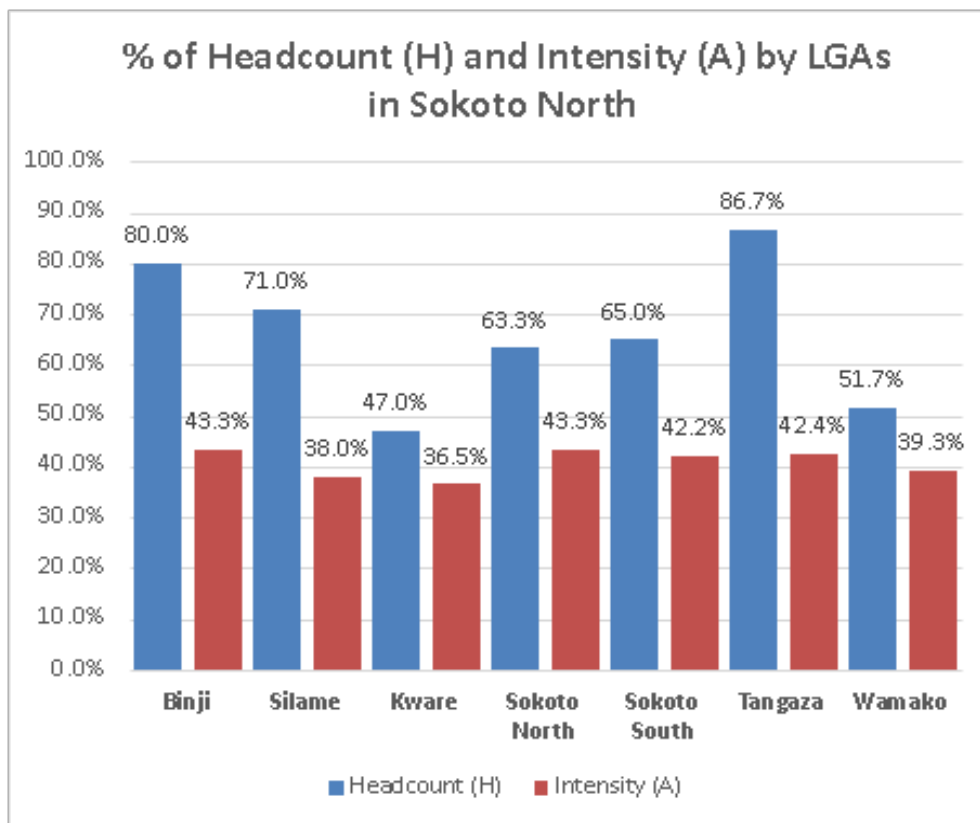




Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).



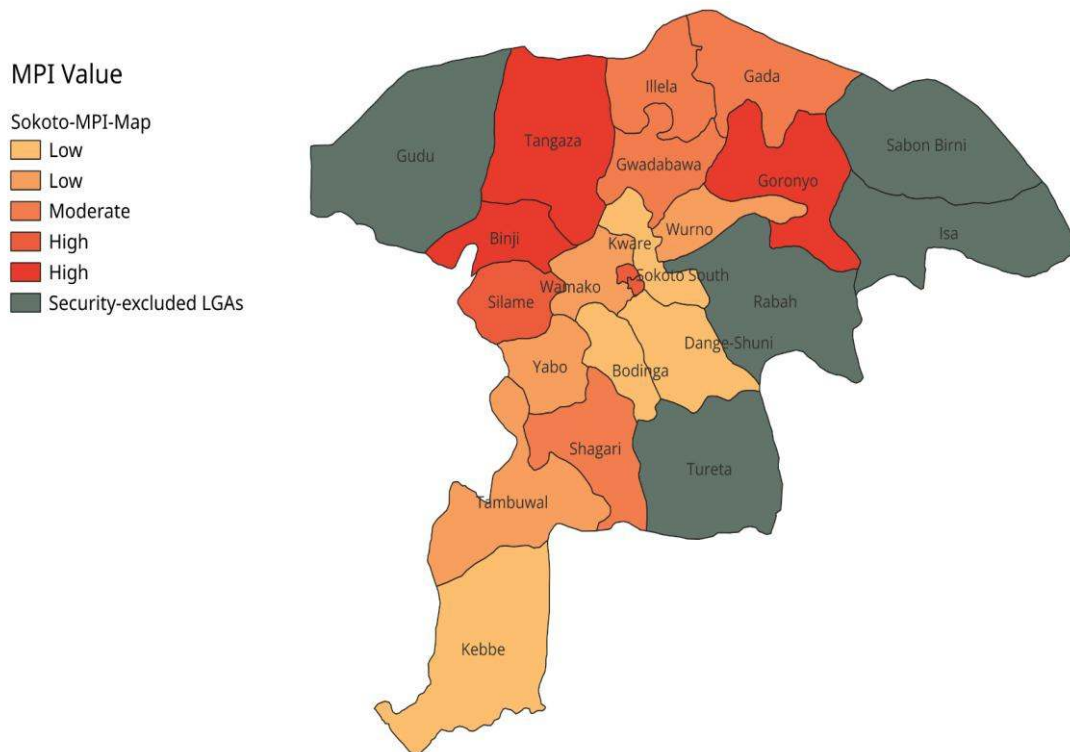
Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).



3.3 Spatial Disaggregation: The Urban Paradox and Rural Heterogeneity

The spatial analysis of the 2025 MPI challenges the orthodox "Urban-Rural Dichotomy" often seen in development literature. In Sokoto, poverty is not exclusively a rural phenomenon. The data unveils a compelling **Urban Paradox**, where the metropolitan centers exhibit poverty rates that rival, and in some dimensions exceed, those of the rural hinterlands.

Figure 3.3: Spatial Distribution of Multidimensional Poverty (MPI) by Local Government Area in Sokoto State, 2025



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

3.3.1 The Urban Paradox: Poverty in the Metropolis

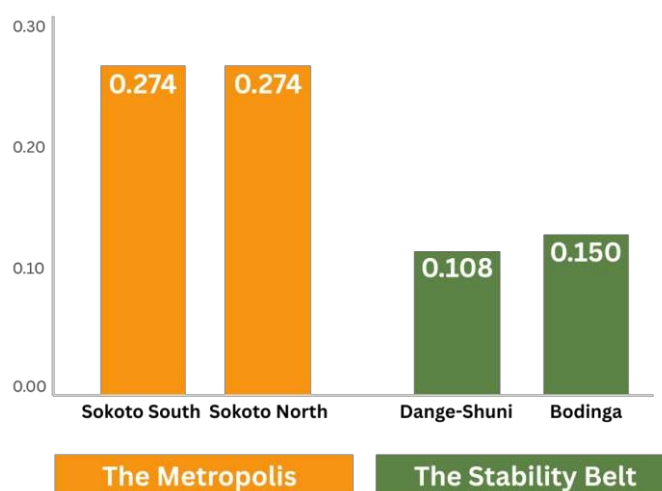
The state capital, comprising **Sokoto North** and **Sokoto South** LGAs, acts as the administrative and commercial nerve center. Yet, the MPI results paint a picture of

severe urban distress:

- **Sokoto South:** Headcount (H) = **65.0%**; MPI = **0.274**.
- **Sokoto North:** Headcount (H) = **63.3%**; MPI = **0.274**.

Both urban LGAs record poverty rates **higher** than the state average of 59.1% and significantly higher than rural neighbours like **Dange-Shuni** (32.3%) and **Bodinga** (43.3%). This counter-intuitive finding is driven by three converging structural pressures:

The Urban Paradox: The Capital is 2x poorer than the Stability Belt.



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

- **The Displacement Crisis (IDP Influx):** Sokoto metropolis has become the primary refuge for populations displaced by banditry in the eastern axis (Isa, Sabon Birni, Goronyo). Reports indicate over 51,000 IDPs are sheltering in safer zones. This sudden population surge places unprecedented strain on urban infrastructure. Existing housing stocks are overwhelmed, leading to overcrowding and the proliferation of informal settlements or slums, notably in areas bordering the metropolis. The 2025 data shows **Standard of Living deprivation at 97.3% in Sokoto North** and **99.0% in Sokoto South**, a direct reflection of this infrastructural saturation.
- **The Employment Mismatch:** Unlike rural areas where subsistence agriculture absorbs the labor force (masking unemployment), the urban poor are utterly dependent on the cash economy. With no access to farmland, they face high barriers to entry in the formal labor market. **Sokoto South** records the highest

Employment Deprivation in the entire state at **61.0%**. This represents a mass of unemployed or underemployed youth who are vulnerable to recruitment by criminal networks, fuelling the "informant syndrome" that Governor Aliyu has identified as a key security threat.

- **Inflationary Food Insecurity:** Urban residents purchase 100% of their food. With food inflation exceeding 40% nationally, the urban poor in Sokoto are disproportionately hit by price shocks compared to rural households that retain some capacity for self-provisioning. The health dimension, which relies heavily on nutrition indicators, shows **60.0% deprivation in Sokoto North**, confirming that food insecurity is now an urban crisis.

3.3.2 Rural Heterogeneity: A Tale of Two Countrysides

The rural landscape is not monolithic. It is sharply divided by the variable of security.

- **The Conflict Belt (North/East):** LGAs like **Tangaza** ($H = 86.7\%$), **Binji** ($H = 79.3\%$), and **Goronyo** ($H = 77.3\%$) represent the "deep rural" poverty trap. Here, insecurity has dismantled the agrarian economy. In Tangaza, the presence of the *Lakurawa* group¹¹ has made farming lethal, leading to an **81.7% Security deprivation** score. Poverty here is a direct consequence of terror; the collapse of livelihoods is collateral damage from the loss of territorial control.
- **The Stability Belt (South/West):** Conversely, LGAs in the southern axis like **Dange-Shuni** ($H = 32.3\%$), **Kebbe** ($H = 42.3\%$), and **Tambuwal** ($H = 52.0\%$) exhibit significantly better outcomes. **Dange-Shuni** is an outlier of resilience. Its location along the strategic Gusau-Sokoto road, coupled with the security umbrella provided by the Giginya Barracks and economic diversification into vegetable farming¹³, has insulated it from the worst shocks. This suggests that rural poverty in Sokoto is not inevitable; it is contingent on stability and market access.

3.4 Senatorial District Analysis

Although the 2025 MPI dataset is built on LGA-level precision, aggregating the data allows us to reconstruct the poverty profile for the state's three geopolitical zones. This analysis is crucial for legislative oversight and ensuring regional equity in budget



allocation.

Table 3.2: Senatorial District Poverty Aggregates (North, East, South)

Zone	MPI Value	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity (A)	Status
Sokoto North	0.273	66%	41%	<i>Most Deprived</i>
Sokoto East*	0.258	63%	41%	<i>High Risk</i>
Sokoto South	0.183	48%	38%	<i>Most Stable</i>

**(Note: Sokoto East figures exclude the "Red Zone" LGAs of Isa, Rabah, and Sabon Birni.)*

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

3.4.1 Sokoto East Senatorial District (The "Constrained" Middle):

With an **MPI of 0.258** and a **Headcount of 63%**, the East occupies a precarious middle ground. However, this figure is a statistical lower bound. It reflects only the "governable" areas; had the three "Red Zone" LGAs (Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni) been included, the East would undoubtedly rival or exceed the North in deprivation intensity. Even within the surveyed areas, the zone drives the state's **Education Deprivation**, with LGAs like **Goronyo** recording the highest deficits in school attendance (63.3%) due to the displacement of teachers and students.

- **LGAs Surveyed:** Gada, Goronyo, Gwadabawa, Illela, Wurno.
- **Excluded LGAs:** Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni.
- **Profile:** This district is the epicenter of the humanitarian crisis. Even with the exclusion of its three most volatile LGAs, the surveyed areas show extreme deprivation. **Goronyo** ($MPI = 0.339$) and **Gwadabawa** ($MPI = 0.262$) are heavily impacted by cross-border banditry and the collapse of the Rima River Basin's agricultural potential due to insecurity. The district faces a "double burden": it is the frontline of the conflict and the home of the highest Education deprivation (Goronyo: 63.3%), threatening a generational transfer of poverty.

3.4.2 Sokoto North Senatorial District (The "Urban Paradox"):

This zone records the highest poverty metrics in the state with an **MPI of 0.273** and a **Headcount of 66%**. This counter-intuitive finding challenges the assumption that the seat of government is always the wealthiest. The high deprivation is driven by a sharp



internal divide: while the metropolitan center (Wamako) is relatively stable, the rural borderlands of **Tangaza** and **Binji** suffer from extreme deprivation (up to 86%), effectively dragging down the zonal average. Furthermore, the capital itself faces a unique "Urban Poverty" crisis, characterized by high food inflation and unemployment (55–61%) rather than just a lack of infrastructure.

- **LGAs Surveyed:** Binji, Kware, Silame, Sokoto North, Sokoto South, Tangaza, Wamako.
- **Excluded LGAs:** Gudu.
- **Profile:** This district is a study in contrasts. It contains the state's administrative core (Sokoto North/South, Wamako) and its most destitute borderlands (Tangaza, Binji). The district's average is heavily skewed by **Tangaza** ($MPI = 0.368$) and **Binji** ($MPI = 0.348$), which are essentially siege economies under the shadow of the *Lakurawa* threat.⁴ Meanwhile, **Wamako** ($MPI = 0.203$) benefits from the spillover of urban infrastructure and the presence of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, showing how institutional presence can mitigate poverty.

3.4.3 Sokoto South Senatorial District (The "Stability Anchor"):

This zone is the state's best performer, recording the lowest **MPI (0.183)** and **Headcount (48%)**. Its relatively lower **Intensity of Poverty (38%)** suggests that even the poor in this zone are less deprived than their northern counterparts. This resilience is structural; LGAs like **Dange-Shuni** and **Bodinga** benefit from secure access to markets and safer agricultural corridors. The zone serves as the economic stabilizer of the state, proving that where security is maintained, poverty can be contained.

- **LGAs Surveyed:** Bodinga, Dange-Shuni, Kebbe, Shagari, Tambuwal, Yabo.
- **Excluded LGAs:** Tureta.
- **Profile:** This is the most stable and economically resilient zone. It hosts the best-performing LGA, **Dange-Shuni** ($MPI = 0.108$), and maintains moderate poverty levels across **Bodinga** ($MPI = 0.150$) and **Kebbe** ($MPI = 0.169$). The relative stability of this district makes it the "breadbasket" of the state, crucial for food security. However, the encroachment of insecurity into **Shagari** ($MPI = 0.259$), with Security deprivation rising to 49%, signals that this stability is fragile and requires active preservation.



3.5 Local Government Area (LGA) Performance Ranking

The 18 surveyed LGAs can be categorized into three distinct tiers of poverty severity. This classification provides a framework for prioritizing the allocation of the 73% CAPEX for 2026 Budget.

Table 3.3: LGA Performance Tiers and Policy Imperatives

Tier	Characteristics	LGAs Included	Policy Imperative
Tier 1: Critical Emergency	MPI > 0.30; H > 75%	Tangaza (0.368), Binji (0.348), Goronyo (0.339)	Security-First Approach: Massive deployment of Community Guard Corps; Emergency food aid; Mobile education/health units.
Tier 2: Severe Deprivation	MPI 0.20 – 0.30; H 50–75%	Sokoto North (0.274), Sokoto South (0.274), Silame (0.269), Gwadabawa (0.262), Shagari (0.259), Gada (0.258), Illela (0.245), Yabo (0.210), Wamako (0.203)	Structural Reform: Youth employment schemes (urban); Educational infrastructure renewal (rural); Hospital upgrades.
Tier 3: Moderate Deprivation	MPI < 0.20; H < 50%	Tambuwal (0.200), Wurno (0.185), Kware (0.171), Kebbe (0.169), Bodinga (0.150), Dange-Shuni (0.108)	Consolidation: Agricultural modernization; Market access roads; PPP investments in agro- processing.

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

Table 3.4: Final LGA Performance Ranking (Non-Income Baseline)

Rank	LGA	Headcount (H)	Intensity (A)	MPI	Primary Driver
1	Dange-Shuni	32.3%	33.3%	0.108	Health/Education Access
2	Bodinga	43.3%	34.6%	0.150	Moderate Health Gaps
3	Kebbe	42.3%	39.8%	0.169	Employment Gaps
4	Kware	47.0%	36.5%	0.171	Security/Education
5	Wurno	48.0%	38.5%	0.185	Education
6	Tambuwal	52.0%	38.5%	0.200	Employment
7	Wamako	51.7%	39.3%	0.203	Security
8	Yabo	52.0%	40.4%	0.210	Security
9	Illela	60.0%	40.9%	0.245	Education/Health
10	Gada	64.0%	40.4%	0.258	Education
11	Shagari	64.7%	40.1%	0.259	Employment/Security
12	Gwadabawa	64.7%	40.5%	0.262	Security
13	Silame	71.0%	38.0%	0.269	Security
14	Sokoto South	65.0%	42.2%	0.274	Employment (Urban)
15	Sokoto North	63.3%	43.3%	0.274	Health (Urban)
16	Goronyo	77.3%	43.9%	0.339	Education/Security
17	Binji	79.3%	43.9%	0.348	Security/Water
18	Tangaza	86.7%	42.4%	0.368	Security (Lakurawa)

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

The ranking highlights **Dange-Shuni** as a model of resilience and **Tangaza** as the priority for emergency intervention. The concentration of high MPI scores in the **Tier 1** LGAs confirms that insecurity is the primary accelerant of multidimensional poverty in Sokoto State.

CHAPTER FOUR DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS

4.1 Composition of Poverty: A Five-Pillar Crisis

While Chapter 3 established *who* is poor and *where* they live, Chapter 4 dissects *how* they are poor. The dimensional analysis breaks down the MPI into its five constituent pillars: **Security, Standard of Living, Employment, Education, and Health**. Each dimension is weighted equally (20%), allowing for a balanced assessment of the specific deprivations driving the poverty index.

The data reveals a clear taxonomy of deprivation:

- **Universal Deprivations:** Standard of Living (Water, Sanitation, Fuel) affects nearly everyone, acting as a baseline of poverty across the state.
- **Acute Stressors:** Security and Employment act as "differentiators," sharply distinguishing the destitute LGAs from the relatively stable ones.
- **Human Capital Deficits:** Education and Health deprivation vary significantly, identifying specific zones of institutional collapse.

4.2 The Security Dimension: The Existential Threat

In the 2025 Sokoto MPI, Security is not merely background context; it is a measurable, dominant driver of poverty. The decision to elevate Security to a full dimension with equal weight to Health and Education has been vindicated by the results. The correlation between high Security deprivation and high MPI is near-perfect, confirming that physical safety is the precondition for all other development outcomes.



Table 4.1: Security Deprivation by LGA (%)

SECURITY DEPRIVATION BY LGA		
LGA	Deprived %	Non-Deprived %
Binji	75.00	25.00
Bodinga	28.67	71.33
Dange-Shuni	34.67	65.33
Gada	27.67	72.33
Goronyo	62.33	37.67
Gwadabawa	57.33	42.67
Illela	41.00	59.00
Kebbe	23.33	76.67
Shagari	49.00	51.00
Silame	59.33	40.67
Kware	49.33	50.67
Sokoto North	54.33	45.67
Sokoto South	37.33	62.67
Tambuwal	38.00	62.00
Tangaza	81.67	18.33
Wamako	52.00	48.00
Wurno	41.67	58.33
Yabo	53.33	46.67

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

4.2.1 Quantitative Security Landscape

- **Highest Deprivation:** Tangaza (81.7%) and Binji (75.0%).
- **Lowest Deprivation:** Kebbe (23.3%) and Gada (27.7%).
- **Urban Exposure:** Sokoto North records a security deprivation of 54.3%, significantly higher than Sokoto South (37.3%). This reflects the vulnerability of the northern peri-urban fringe to infiltration and the concentration of IDP populations who carry the trauma and economic fallout of displacement.

4.2.2 The "Lakurawa" Effect in Tangaza

The extreme deprivation in Tangaza (81.7%) provides empirical evidence of the devastating impact of the Lakurawa terror group. Reports confirm that this group, affiliated with ISGS, established bases in the forest axes of Tangaza and Gudu in late

2024. They imposed a parallel regime of taxation, confiscated livestock, and enforced a brutal moral code, effectively dismantling the local economy.

The MPI data quantifies the human cost of this occupation: four out of five households in Tangaza are effectively living in a war zone. This explains the concurrent collapse in Standard of Living (100% deprivation) as markets close and supply chains are severed. The joint US-Nigeria airstrikes in December 2025, which targeted Lakurawa enclaves in Tangaza, were a direct kinetic response to this humanitarian emergency. The MPI data validates the necessity of such high-level security interventions to reclaim the LGA.

4.2.3 The "Banditry Belt": Goronyo and Silame

Goronyo (62.3%) and **Silame (59.3%)** also show critical security gaps. In Goronyo, this is linked to the disruption of the Rima River Basin agrarian economy. Bandits have systematically targeted farmers during harvest seasons, imposing levies that strip households of their surplus. This turns the state's potential food basket into a zone of food insecurity, linking the Security dimension directly to the health (Nutrition) dimension.



4.3 Dimension: Standard of Living

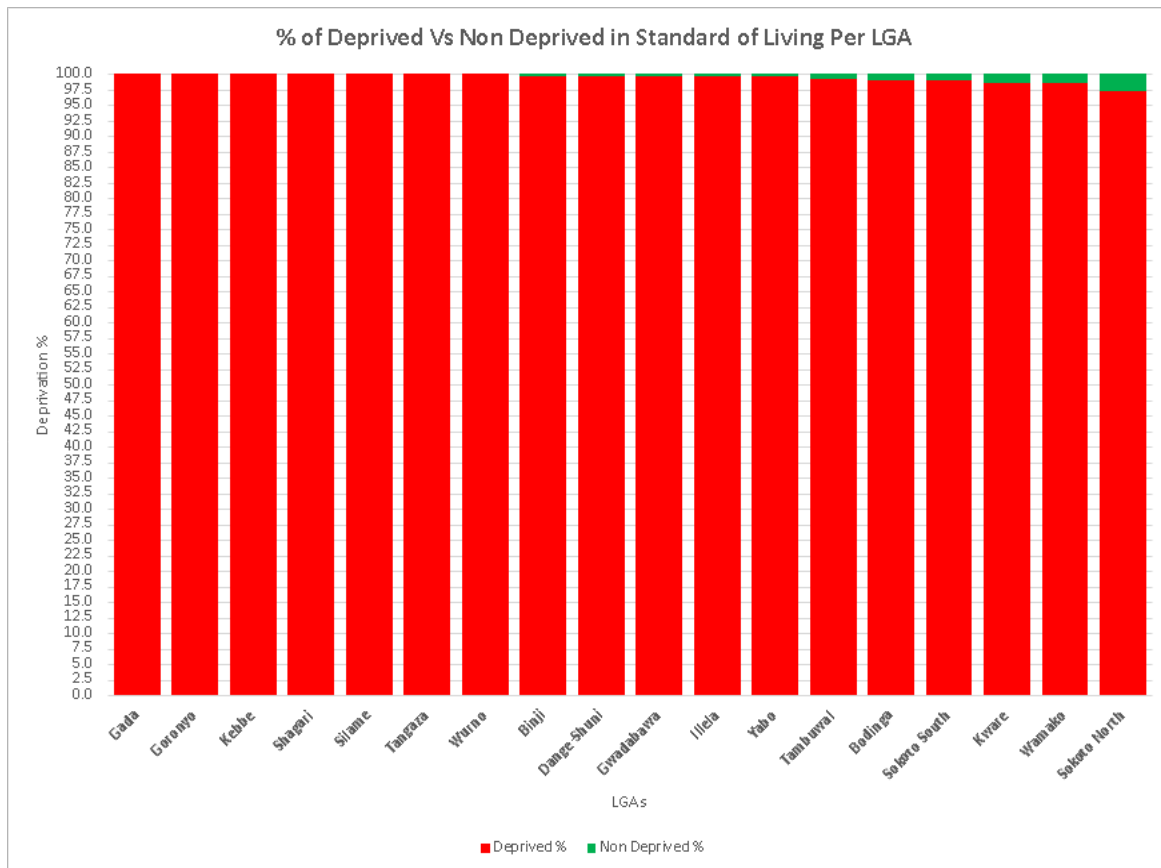
Table 4.2: Standard of Living Deprivation by LGA (%)

STANDARD OF LIVING DEPRIVATION BY LGA		
LGA	Deprived %	Non-Deprived %
Binji	99.67	0.33
Bodinga	99.00	1.00
Dange-Shuni	99.67	0.33
Gada	100.00	0.00
Goronyo	100.00	0.00
Gwadabawa	99.67	0.33
Illela	99.67	0.33
Kebbe	100.00	0.00
Shagari	100.00	0.00
Silame	100.00	0.00
Kware	98.67	1.33
Sokoto North	97.33	2.67
Sokoto South	99.00	1.00
Tambuwal	99.33	0.67
Tangaza	100.00	0.00
Wamako	98.67	1.33
Wurno	100.00	0.00
Yabo	99.67	0.33

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

The Standard of Living dimension reveals a crisis of infrastructure that is almost absolute.

- Statewide Saturation:** Deprivation levels range from **97.3%** in the capital (Sokoto North) to **100%** in seven rural LGAs (Gada, Goronyo, Kebbe, Shagari, Silame, Tangaza, Wurno).
- Implication:** Across the state, virtually no household meets the composite threshold for access to clean water, improved sanitation, clean cooking fuel, and asset ownership simultaneously.



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

4.3.1 Water and Sanitation Emergency

The deprivation in this dimension is driven primarily by water and sanitation deficits. In Binji, specifically, raw headcount data shows 58.1% deprivation in Water and 71.0% in Sanitation. Rural communities rely on unprotected wells and streams, often shared with livestock, creating a vector for waterborne diseases like cholera.

The state government’s commissioning of the N14.1 billion Tamaje Water Scheme and the rehabilitation of solar-powered boreholes in rural areas 5 are critical interventions. However, the MPI data suggests that infrastructure alone is not enough; the reliability of these sources is key. The Standard of Living dimension will only improve when these projects translate into consistent, daily water access at the household level, decoupling rural dwellers from the arduous trek for water that consumes productive labor hours.



4.3.2 The Energy Trap

A major contributor to the near-100% deprivation in this dimension is **Cooking Fuel**. The survey indicates a near-universal reliance on solid fuels (firewood, charcoal, dung) across rural LGAs. In **Binji**, **74.2%** of the poor are deprived in cooking fuel. This dependence drives deforestation (exacerbating climate change and desertification in the Sahelian fringe) and causes indoor air pollution, a silent killer of women and children. The transition to clean energy is not just an environmental imperative but a poverty reduction strategy.

4.4 Dimension: Employment

Table 4.3: Employment Deprivation by LGA (%)

EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION BY LGA		
LGA	Deprived %	Non-Deprived %
Binji	52.33	47.67
Bodinga	40.67	59.33
Dange-Shuni	27.33	72.67
Gada	44.33	55.67
Goronyo	58.33	41.67
Gwadabawa	53.67	46.33
Illela	41.67	58.33
Kebbe	38.33	61.67
Shagari	49.67	50.33
Silame	38.67	61.33
Kware	35.67	64.33
Sokoto North	55.00	45.00
Sokoto South	61.00	39.00
Tambuwal	43.00	57.00
Tangaza	52.00	48.00
Wamako	44.33	55.67
Wurno	37.33	62.67
Yabo	43.00	57.00

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

Employment deprivation serves as the sharpest differentiator between the urban and rural poverty profiles, highlighting the **Urban Paradox**.

- **Urban Crisis: Sokoto South** records the highest Employment Deprivation in the state at **61.0%**, followed by **Sokoto North** at **55.0%**.
- **Rural Variance:** In contrast, **Dange-Shuni** (27.3%) and **Kware** (35.7%) show significantly lower deprivation.

4.4.1 The Urban Unemployment Trap

The high deprivation in the metropolis underscores a crisis of youth unemployment. Unlike rural residents who have recourse to subsistence farming (and thus may not be classified as "unemployed" by strict definitions), urban youth are detached from the land and dependent on a formal labor market that is saturated. The 61% deprivation in Sokoto South represents a "powder keg" of idle human capital.

This data validates the urgency of the Governor's State Neighbourhood Initiative and the ongoing recruitment of 3,000 civil servants.²² These programs are not just job creation schemes; they are stability operations designed to drain the recruitment pool for criminal gangs. The "informant syndrome", where unemployed youth aid bandits for paltry sums, is a direct symptom of this 61% deprivation metric.

4.4.2 Rural Underemployment

While rural areas like Dange-Shuni show lower "unemployment" (27.3%), the *quality* of employment remains a concern. The *9-Point Smart Agenda* emphasizes agricultural modernization. The low deprivation likely masks widespread **underemployment**, low-productivity, seasonal labor that keeps households busy but poor. For rural poverty to fall, the focus must shift from "jobs" to "incomes," achieved through value-chain additions in agriculture (processing, storage) as outlined in the 2025 budget's N18.7 billion allocation to agriculture.



4.5 Dimension: Education

Table 4.4: Education Deprivation by LGA (%)

EDUCATION DEPRIVATION BY LGA		
LGA	Deprived %	Non-Deprived %
Binji	44.67	55.33
Bodinga	30.33	69.67
Dange-Shuni	34.33	65.67
Gada	54.00	46.00
Goronyo	63.33	36.67
Gwadabawa	51.67	48.33
Illela	51.00	49.00
Kebbe	24.67	75.33
Shagari	41.67	58.33
Silame	45.33	54.67
Kware	46.00	54.00
Sokoto North	58.33	41.67
Sokoto South	47.67	52.33
Tambuwal	41.67	58.33
Tangaza	42.00	58.00
Wamako	27.67	72.33
Wurno	58.00	42.00
Yabo	38.33	61.67

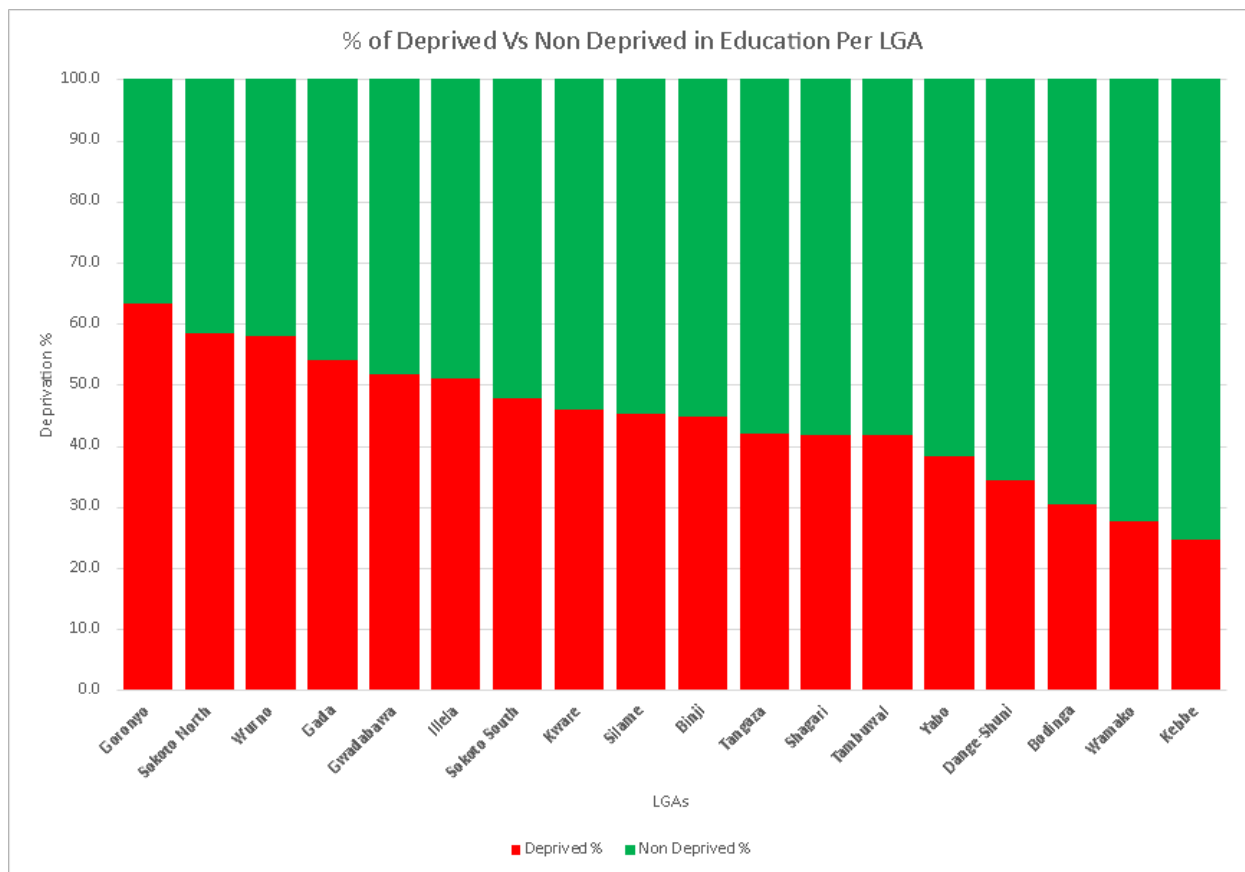
Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

Education remains the "slow-burn" crisis of Sokoto State, with deprivation levels threatening the sustainability of any economic gains.

- **Highest Deprivation: Goronyo (63.3%), Wurno (58.0%), Sokoto North (58.3%).**
- **Lowest Deprivation: Kebbe (24.7%), Wamako (27.7%).**

4.5.1 The Security-Education Nexus in Goronyo

Goronyo's status as the most educationally deprived LGA (63.3%) is inextricably linked to its security crisis (62.3% security deprivation). The constant threat of abduction has forced school closures and the flight of teachers. In this context, education deprivation is not a failure of demand but a failure of protection. Rebuilding schools without securing the territory will yield no improvement in the MPI.



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

4.5.2 The Urban Education Anomaly

The high deprivation in Sokoto North (58.3%) is alarming for a state capital. This anomaly is driven by the School Attendance indicator. The metropolis attracts large numbers of out-of-school children, particularly Almajirai, who migrate to the city for religious education but are often excluded from the formal secular school system. These children count towards the deprivation headcount. The state’s unprecedented allocation of 25% of the 2025 budget to Education (N116 billion) 24 is a robust fiscal response. Projects like the "Learn to Read" initiative and the renovation of primary schools in Sokoto North directly target this deficit. However, the MPI suggests that infrastructure alone is insufficient; integrating the Almajiri system into the formal metrics is essential to reducing this deprivation score.



4.6 Dimension: Health

Table 4.5: Health Deprivation by LGA (%)

HEALTH DEPRIVATION BY LGA		
LGA	Deprived %	Non-Deprived %
Binji	48.00	52.00
Bodinga	36.33	63.67
Dange-Shuni	31.33	68.67
Gada	36.00	64.00
Goronyo	41.67	58.33
Gwadabawa	35.67	64.33
Illela	45.00	55.00
Kebbe	34.00	66.00
Shagari	37.67	62.33
Silame	36.00	64.00
Kware	29.67	70.33
Sokoto North	60.00	40.00
Sokoto South	52.67	47.33
Tambuwal	34.67	65.33
Tangaza	40.33	59.67
Wamako	38.67	61.33
Wurno	33.33	66.67
Yabo	43.33	56.67

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

The health dimension reveals a complex picture where urban proximity does not guarantee better outcomes.

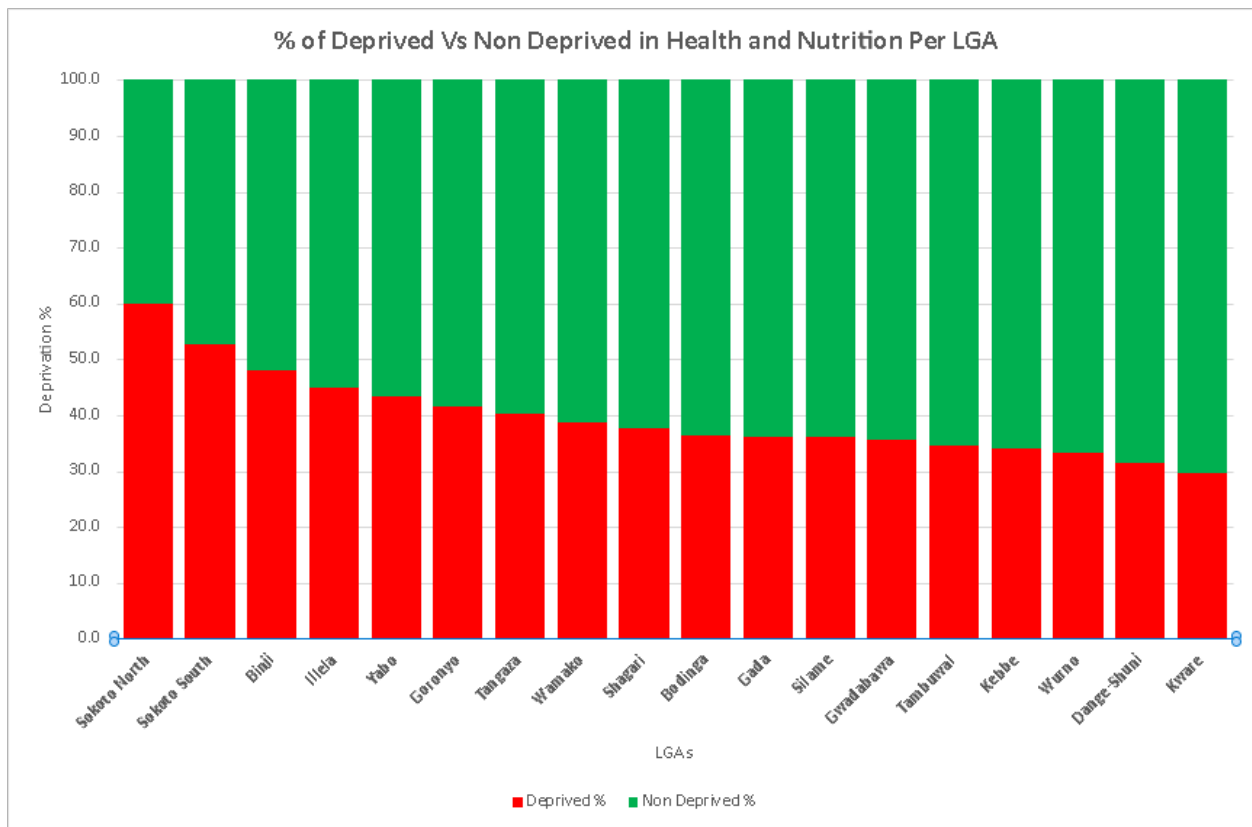
1. **Highest Deprivation: Sokoto North (60.0%), Sokoto South (52.7%).**
2. **Lowest Deprivation: Kware (29.7%), Dange-Shuni (31.3%).**

4.6.1 The Urban Nutrition Crisis

The health dimension is heavily influenced by **Nutrition** indicators. In **Binji**, 41.9% of the poor are nutrition-deprived. The surprisingly high deprivation in Sokoto North (60.0%) suggests that **urban food insecurity** is a major driver. Unlike rural households that can consume their own produce, the urban poor are entirely exposed to food price inflation, which exceeded 40% in 2024. The purchasing power collapse in the city



translates directly into skipped meals and lower dietary diversity, spiking the MPI health score.



Source: Analysis of Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025 Data; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

4.6.2 Access vs. Affordability

While Sokoto metropolis hosts the state's premier health facilities (Teaching Hospital, Specialist Hospital), the high deprivation indicates barriers to access, likely financial. The urban poor cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs for quality care. Conversely, Kware (29.7%) likely benefits from the presence of specialized facilities (Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital) and a more cohesive community health structure that ensures better coverage.

The government's approval of N1.6 billion for the renovation of six General Hospitals in rural hubs like Yabo, Shagari, and Goronyo is a strategic move. By decentralizing quality care, the administration can decongest urban facilities and improve health outcomes in the under-served hinterlands, addressing the spatial imbalance

revealed by the MPI.

4.7 Inter-dimensional Linkages: The Cycle of Poverty

The 2025 analysis confirms that these dimensions do not exist in isolation. They form a reinforcing cycle of poverty:

1. **Security** → **Education**: In Goronyo and Tangaza, insecurity creates an environment where education cannot function. The collapse of schooling then feeds the next generation of unemployment and insecurity.
2. **Displacement** → **Urban Deprivation**: The conflict in the East drives IDPs into Sokoto North/South, overwhelming housing (Standard of Living) and labor markets (Employment), creating the "Urban Paradox."
3. **Infrastructure** → **Resilience**: The positive outlier status of **Dange-Shuni** proves that where security (military presence) and infrastructure (roads/market access) converge, poverty can be significantly reduced.

CHAPTER FIVE

INCOME SENSITIVITY AND COMPARATIVE MPI ANALYSIS

5.1 Purpose and Analytical Role of Income Sensitivity Analysis

The definition and measurement of poverty have undergone a profound epistemological shift over the last three decades, moving from a strictly utilitarian focus on monetary resources to a broader, pluralistic understanding of human capabilities. The **Sokoto State Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report 2025** is firmly rooted in this latter tradition, operationalizing Amartya Sen's "capability approach" to identify the structural deprivations that constrain the lives of the state's citizens. By focusing on non-monetary indicators such as access to clean water, school attendance, nutrition, and physical security, the headline MPI presented in Chapter 3 offers a direct window into the lived experience of poverty, measures that are often obscured by the volatility of aggregate income data.

However, the exclusion of monetary income from a poverty index is a significant methodological choice that requires rigorous justification, particularly in an economic climate defined by hyperinflation and liquidity constraints. Income remains a critical instrumental freedom; it is the primary means by which households access markets to satisfy needs that state provision does not cover. Consequently, while the Non-Income MPI serves as the flagship metric for this report, it is methodologically imperative to interrogate the sensitivity of this measure to the inclusion of a monetary dimension.

This chapter, therefore, serves as a comprehensive **robustness and sensitivity exercise**. It is designed to answer a fundamental analytical question: *To what extent does the inclusion of a monetary income indicator alter the identification of the poor and the ranking of deprivations in Sokoto State?*

The purpose of this analysis is not to propose a replacement for the Non-Income MPI, but to stress-test its validity against a "With-Income" variant. This exercise is critical for three primary reasons:



Assessing Robustness: A robust poverty measure should yield consistent policy signals. If the inclusion of income completely rearranges the ranking of Local Government Areas (LGAs), identifying, for example, a structural "safe haven" as a "poverty hotspot" merely due to income fluctuations, policymakers must understand why. If the rankings remain relatively stable, it reinforces confidence in the Non-Income MPI as a reliable anchor for long-term development planning.

Quantifying Divergence: The divergence between structural poverty (MPI without income) and monetary poverty (MPI with income) is not merely a statistical artifact; it is a diagnostic tool. A large gap between the two measures, specifically, a scenario where the income-based headcount significantly exceeds the structural headcount, signals a population that is "transiently poor" or "vulnerable." These are households that possess the structural assets of well-being (housing, education) but are facing an acute liquidity crisis, likely driven by external macroeconomic shocks such as inflation or seasonal income slumps.

Evaluating Data Reliability: In economies characterized by high informality and agrarian seasonality, such as Sokoto's, self-reported income is notoriously prone to measurement error. By comparing the stability of the Non-Income MPI (grounded in observable stocks like assets and housing materials) against the volatility of the With-Income MPI (grounded in reported flows), this chapter highlights the risks associated with using income as a primary targeting variable in the current Nigerian economic context.

It is crucial to reiterate at the outset; **The Non-Income MPI remains the headline poverty measure for Sokoto State.** This decision is supported by the global best practices advocated by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which caution against mixing "means" (income) and "ends" (capabilities) in a single index unless the data quality is exceptionally high and the economic environment stable. In Sokoto, where the informal sector dominates and inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the currency, income data is often a reflection of immediate cash flow rather than permanent economic status.



The subsequent sections of this chapter will rigorously compare the two measures. Section 5.2 establishes the baseline results of the Non-Income MPI, focusing on the structural deprivation profile of the state. Section 5.3 presents the experimental results of the With-Income MPI. Section 5.4 provides a detailed comparative analysis of the "Headcount Surge" and "Intensity Shift" observed when income is added. Section 5.5 analyzes the dimensional mechanics of this shift. Section 5.6 offers an extensive structural and economic interpretation of the results, linking the statistical divergence to the broader realities of agrarian seasonality, hyperinflation, and insecurity in Northern Nigeria. Finally, Section 5.7 concludes with methodological implications, reinforcing the policy recommendation to retain the Non-Income MPI as the anchor for state intervention.

5.2 Overview of MPI Results WITHOUT Income

To understand the impact of income inclusion, we must first firmly establish the baseline: the profile of poverty in Sokoto State as measured strictly by structural deprivations. The figures presented in this section are derived exclusively from the analysis made without the income dimension. These results represent the "clean" multidimensional measure, unconfounded by the volatility of monetary reporting.

5.2.1 State-Level Baseline: The Structural Reality

The baseline analysis reveals a poverty landscape defined by deep, overlapping deprivations in basic human needs. The state-level parameters for the Non-Income MPI are as follows:

Headcount Ratio (H): 0.59148.

This value indicates that 59.15% of the population in Sokoto State is multidimensionally poor. These are individuals who are deprived in at least 26% of the weighted indicators across Health, Education, Standard of Living, and Security. This headcount represents the chronic poverty burden, the proportion of the citizenry that has been structurally excluded from the state's development progress. They are not merely "cash poor"; they are "capability poor," lacking the fundamental infrastructure and services required to function in a modern society.



Intensity of Poverty (A): 0.40328.

The intensity figure of 40.33% provides the qualitative context to the headcount. It signifies that, on average, a poor person in Sokoto is not just missing one essential service but is simultaneously deprived in roughly 40% of the possible indicators. This high intensity suggests that poverty in Sokoto is not a shallow phenomenon; it is a dense web of disadvantage where a lack of clean water often co-exists with a lack of sanitation, low school attendance, and food insecurity.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): 0.23853.

The aggregate MPI score of 0.239 combines the prevalence and severity of poverty into a single metric. In the context of sub-national poverty measurement in Nigeria, an MPI of 0.239 reflects a state of significant distress, yet one where the differentiation between the "poor" and "non-poor" remains statistically meaningful. This value allows policymakers to identify specific pockets of severe deprivation without assuming that the entire population is uniformly destitute.

5.2.2 LGA-Level Baseline: Spatial Heterogeneity

The granular analysis of Local Government Areas (LGAs) reveals a striking spatial inequality within the state. This variation is critical for targeting and serves as the primary test for the robustness of rankings in the subsequent comparative analysis.

The "Red Zone": Areas of Acute Deprivation

The data unequivocally identifies the northern border regions and specific rural enclaves as the epicenters of structural poverty.

- **Tangaza:** This LGA records the highest levels of deprivation in the state, with a Headcount (H) of **0.867** (86.7%) and an MPI of **0.367**. The severity of the situation in Tangaza is driven by a convergence of factors, most notably security. As shown in the dimensional breakdown tables, Tangaza suffers from an **81.67%** deprivation rate in the Security dimension, the highest in the state. This insecurity likely exacerbates other deprivations, creating a trap from which exit is extremely difficult.
- **Binji:** Close behind is Binji, with a Headcount of **0.793** (79.3%) and an MPI of **0.348**. Binji's profile is characterized by a **75.00%** security deprivation and a **99.67%** deprivation in Standard of Living, indicating a near-total collapse of basic



infrastructure and safety nets.

- **Goronyo:** With a Headcount of **0.773** (77.3%) and an MPI of **0.339**, Goronyo represents another node of critical distress. The data indicates that **63.33%** of the population in Goronyo is deprived in Education, the highest rate in the state, suggesting a generational crisis in human capital formation.

The "Resilient Zone": Areas of Relative Stability

In contrast to the acute deprivation of the border LGAs, the central and urban LGAs exhibit markedly lower poverty metrics, although absolute levels remain high.

- **Dange-Shuni:** This LGA stands out as the most resilient, recording the lowest Headcount (*H*) at **0.323** (32.3%) and an MPI of **0.108**. The divergence between Dange-Shuni and Tangaza (a 54-percentage point gap in headcount) underscores the heterogeneity of the Sokoto experience. Dange-Shuni's relatively lower security deprivation (**34.67%**) and better access to markets likely contribute to this resilience.
- **Sokoto North & Sokoto South:** The state capital region presents a complex picture. While usually centers of wealth, these LGAs show moderate to high headcounts (**0.633** and **0.650** respectively). However, their MPI scores (**0.274**) are tempered by varying intensities. Interestingly, Sokoto North shows a **97.33%** deprivation in Standard of Living, suggesting that urban density has not necessarily translated into universal access to high-quality services for the majority of residents, likely due to the proliferation of peri-urban slums or informal settlements where infrastructure is overstretched.

The Intensity Consistency

A crucial observation from the baseline data is the behaviour of the Intensity (*A*) metric. While Headcounts oscillate wildly from 32% to 87%, Intensity remains remarkably compressed, ranging only from 0.333 (Dange-Shuni) to 0.439 (Binji/Goronyo).

This finding is structurally significant. It implies that the nature of poverty is consistent across the state. Once a household falls below the poverty line, they tend to lack the same bundle of essential capabilities, water, sanitation, and cooking fuel, regardless



of whether they are in a "richer" or "poorer" LGA. The distinguishing factor between LGAs is how many people fall into this trap (the Headcount), not necessarily how they experience it (the Intensity). Dimensional Breakdown Overview

Standard of Living: This dimension acts as a universal floor of deprivation. Deprivation rates for "Standard of Living" indicators are **100%** in Gada, Goronyo, Kebbe, Shagari, Silame, Tangaza, and Wurno. Even in the "best" performing LGA (Sokoto North), deprivation in this dimension is **97.33%**. This indicates a state-wide infrastructure deficit in cooking fuel, sanitation, and electricity that transcends income or geography.

Education: This dimension shows high variance, acting as a discriminator. From **24.67%** in Kebbe to **63.33%** in Goronyo, the disparity in educational access is a key driver of the inequality in MPI scores across the state.

Security: This is the most volatile indicator, ranging from **23.33%** in Kebbe to **81.67%** in Tangaza. The high deprivation in the "Red Zone" LGAs confirms that insecurity is a fundamental component of their multidimensional poverty profile.

This baseline, a state with 59% structural poverty, driven by universal infrastructure deficits and localized security and education crises, provides the necessary counterfactual. It depicts a population struggling with the *availability* of services and the *safety* of their environment. We now turn to seeing how this picture changes when the *affordability* of life (income) is introduced.

5.3 Overview of MPI Results WITH Income

In this sensitivity analysis, **Income is introduced as an experimental sixth dimension**, rather than a standalone indicator. To maintain comparability with the headline MPI while ensuring methodological rigor, the weighting structure is recalibrated: the five core dimensions (Education, Health, Standard of Living, Employment, and Security) are shifted from their standard **20% (1/5) weight** to an equal **16.6% (1/6) weight**, alongside Income. This equal recalibration ensures that no single dimension 'swamps' the others, though the additive effect of Income still results in the significant **31-point headcount surge** observed at the state level.



5.3.1 State-Level Results (With Income)

The inclusion of the income indicator precipitates a dramatic upward shift in all aggregate poverty metrics for Sokoto State. The magnitude of this shift is the first and most important finding of the sensitivity analysis.

- **Headcount Ratio (H): 0.90204.**

When income is included as a weighted indicator, the poverty headcount surges to 90.20%. This is a pervasive, near-universal categorization. It indicates that nine out of every ten households in Sokoto State are identified as multidimensionally poor under this model. Statistically, this result suggests that the income indicator has an extremely high deprivation rate, likely exceeding 90% itself, which, when weighted, drags the vast majority of the population across the poverty cutoff (k).

- **Intensity of Poverty (A): 0.43908.**

The intensity of poverty rises to 43.91%. While this is an increase from the baseline, it is less explosive than the headcount surge. This suggests that the "newly poor" (those added to the headcount by the income measure) are not necessarily the most severely deprived in structural terms. They are households that were perhaps hovering just above the poverty line in the non-income model (e.g., deprived in 20-25% of indicators) but were pushed over the 26% threshold by the addition of the income deprivation. The rise in A confirms that income deprivation is additive, it is an extra burden carried by households already suffering from other deficits.

- **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): 0.39606.**

The MPI value, the product of H and A , increases to 0.396. This represents a roughly 66% increase in the index value compared to the baseline. An MPI of nearly 0.40 is excessively high, typically associated with populations in acute distress or humanitarian crisis conditions. In the context of this sensitivity analysis, it signals that the inclusion of income "saturates" the index, painting a picture of a state where poverty is the overwhelming norm rather than a variable condition.

5.3.2 LGA-Level Results (With Income)

The granular analysis of the "With-Income" model reveals the localized impact of



adding a monetary dimension to structural poverty. While the state-level MPI sits at **0.396**, the performance across the 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) shows a significant shift upward, with several rural areas approaching near-total multidimensional poverty.

Table 5.1: LGA Performance – MPI With Income (Ranked by Severity)

LGA	Headcount (H)	Intensity (A)	MPI
Tangaza	0.987	0.496	0.489
Binji	0.987	0.493	0.487
Goronyo	0.917	0.495	0.454
Silame	0.987	0.441	0.435
Sokoto North	0.937	0.461	0.431
Sokoto South	0.923	0.458	0.423
Gada	0.933	0.442	0.413
Illela	0.920	0.443	0.407
Shagari	0.897	0.450	0.403
Yabo	0.903	0.429	0.388
Wamako	0.890	0.421	0.375
Tambuwal	0.900	0.417	0.375
Kware	0.947	0.395	0.374
Gwadabawa	0.817	0.452	0.369
Kebbe	0.857	0.407	0.349
Wurno	0.827	0.412	0.341
Bodinga	0.830	0.392	0.325
Dange-Shuni	0.780	0.373	0.291

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

Analysis of Income-Driven Shifts

1. The "Border Belt" Crisis (Tangaza & Binji) Tangaza and Binji emerge as the most deprived LGAs when income is considered, with MPI scores of 0.489 and 0.487 respectively. Notably, both recorded near-universal headcounts (H) of 98.7%. This indicates that in these regions, the combination of structural lack (Security, Education) and the total absence of liquidity has created a state of absolute multidimensional poverty.

2. The Income Saturation Effect A forensic look at the dimensional deprivation explains why the headcount surged to 90.2% at the state level. The "Income Deprivation" indicator is almost entirely saturated across the state:

- Sokoto North & South: Record 99.3%- and 99.0%-income deprivation respectively.
- Binji: Records 98.3% income deprivation.
- Gwadabawa: Shows a relative "outlier" status with 79.7% income deprivation, which is still remarkably high but suggests a slightly more resilient local market compared to the state capital's extreme sensitivity to inflation.

3. Urban Vulnerability: Sokoto North & South A striking finding is the performance of the urban centers. Sokoto North (MPI: 0.431) and Sokoto South (MPI: 0.423) both exceed the state average MPI (0.396). While they may have better access to schools than rural Gada, their near-total deprivation in Income (>99%) and high deprivation in Standard of Living (>97%) suggest that urban poverty in Sokoto is increasingly defined by the inability to afford basic services in a hyper-inflationary environment.

Table 5.2: Key Dimensional Deprivations by LGA (Recalibrated for Income model)

LGA	Income Deprived	Education Deprived	Security Deprived	Std. of Living Deprived
Binji	98.33%	44.67%	75.00%	99.67%
Tangaza	98.00%	42.00%	81.67%	100.00%
Sokoto North	99.33%	58.33%	54.33%	97.33%
Dange-Shuni	93.33%	34.33%	34.67%	99.67%
Gada	95.67%	54.00%	27.67%	100.00%

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

This confirms that the inclusion of income acts as a "ceiling effect." In the "Without-



Income" model, LGAs like Dange-Shuni showed significant resilience. However, when income is added, even Dange-Shuni, the best-performing LGA, sees its multidimensional poverty headcount rise to 78%. This indicates that while structural improvements (the "Resilient Zone") are present, the cost-of-living crisis is a universal burden that threatens to swamp the developmental gains made in non-monetary sectors.

5.4 Comparative Analysis: With-Income vs Without-Income MPI

Table 5.3: Side-by-Side MPI Sensitivity Analysis (Dual-Lens Comparison)

LGA	Headcount (H) Without Income	Headcount (H) With Income	Intensity (A) Without Income	Intensity (A) With Income	MPI Score Without Income	MPI Score with Income
Binji	79.3%	98.7%	43.9%	49.3%	0.348	0.487
Bodinga	43.3%	83.0%	34.6%	39.2%	0.150	0.325
Dange-Shuni	32.3%	78.0%	33.3%	37.3%	0.108	0.291
Gada	64.0%	93.3%	40.4%	44.2%	0.258	0.413
Goronyo	77.3%	91.7%	43.9%	49.5%	0.339	0.454
Gwadabawa	64.7%	81.7%	40.5%	45.2%	0.262	0.369
Illela	60.0%	92.0%	40.9%	44.3%	0.245	0.407
Kebbe	42.3%	85.7%	39.8%	40.7%	0.169	0.349
Kware	47.0%	94.7%	36.5%	39.5%	0.171	0.374
Shagari	64.7%	89.7%	40.1%	45.0%	0.259	0.403
Silame	71.0%	98.7%	38.0%	44.1%	0.270	0.435
Sokoto North	63.3%	93.7%	43.3%	46.1%	0.274	0.431
Sokoto South	65.0%	92.3%	42.2%	45.8%	0.274	0.423
Tambuwal	52.0%	90.0%	38.5%	41.7%	0.200	0.375
Tangaza	86.7%	98.7%	42.4%	49.6%	0.368	0.489
Wamako	51.7%	89.0%	39.3%	42.1%	0.203	0.375
Wurno	48.0%	82.7%	38.5%	41.2%	0.185	0.341
Yabo	52.0%	90.3%	40.4%	42.9%	0.210	0.388

Source: Dual-Lens Sensitivity Analysis, Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

The direct comparison of the Non-Income and With-Income models reveals the



magnitude of the "Income Effect." This section quantifies the divergence between the two measures, demonstrating how the current economic climate in Sokoto significantly inflates poverty headcounts when monetary indicators are included.

Table 5.5: Comparative LGA Headcount (H) and MPI Scores

LGA	Headcount (non-income)	Headcount (With-Income)	H Surge (Points)	MPI (non-income)	MPI (With-Income)	MPI Inflation (%)
Binji	79.3%	98.7%	+19.4	0.348	0.487	40%
Bodinga	43.3%	83.0%	+39.7	0.150	0.325	117%
Dange-Shuni	32.3%	78.0%	+45.7	0.108	0.291	169%
Gada	73.0%	93.3%	+20.3	0.306	0.413	35%
Goronyo	77.3%	91.7%	+14.4	0.339	0.454	34%
Gwadabawa	63.3%	81.7%	+18.4	0.274	0.369	35%
Illela	68.3%	92.0%	+23.7	0.287	0.407	42%
Kebbe	61.3%	85.7%	+24.4	0.230	0.349	52%
Shagari	61.3%	89.7%	+28.4	0.252	0.403	60%
Silame	75.3%	98.7%	+23.4	0.301	0.435	45%
Kware	64.7%	94.7%	+30.0	0.237	0.374	58%
Sokoto North	63.3%	93.7%	+30.4	0.274	0.431	57%
Sokoto South	65.0%	92.3%	+27.3	0.274	0.423	54%
Tambuwal	56.3%	90.0%	+33.7	0.213	0.375	76%
Tangaza	86.7%	98.7%	+12.0	0.367	0.489	33%
Wamako	56.0%	89.0%	+33.0	0.214	0.375	75%
Wurno	67.3%	82.7%	+15.4	0.259	0.341	32%
Yabo	61.7%	90.3%	+28.6	0.245	0.388	58%
STATE	59.2%	90.2%	+31.0	0.239	0.396	66%

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

5.4.1 The Headcount Surge: A 31-Point Chasm

The most striking finding is the **31.1 percentage point leap** in the state-level headcount ratio. This gap represents a specific socioeconomic group: individuals who possess the structural assets of a non-poor life (solid housing, school attendance, and water access) but are failing to meet the monetary threshold for income.



The "Vulnerability Peak" (Dange-Shuni & Bodinga): Interestingly, the largest surges are observed in the relatively "wealthier" LGAs. Dange-Shuni's headcount rises from **32.3%** to **78.0%** (+45.7 points). This suggests that while these areas have better infrastructure, their populations are highly exposed to market volatility and inflation.

The "Total Deprivation" Zone (Tangaza & Binji): In areas already suffering from extreme structural poverty, the headcount surge is smaller (+12 to +19 points) simply because the vast majority was already categorized as poor. In these zones, poverty is "saturated" regardless of the model used.

5.4.2 The Intensity Shift: Deepening Deprivation

The increase in Intensity (**A**) from **40.3%** to **43.9%** is statistically significant. It confirms that for those already trapped in structural poverty, the lack of income is not an alternative deprivation but an **additive** one. A poor person in Sokoto is not just lacking a toilet or a clean stove; they are now simultaneously failing to earn enough to buy food or medicine, deepening the severity of their daily struggle.

5.4.3 Summary of Divergence: A "Full Picture" for Policy Formulation

The significant divergence between the aggregate MPI (0.239) and the Income-Adjusted MPI (0.396) does not invalidate either measure; rather, it underscores the necessity of our **dual-lens approach**. By purposefully computing both metrics, we provide the Sokoto State Government with a **"360-degree" view** of poverty that encompasses both the structural capabilities and the monetary realities of the citizenry.

This analysis confirms that the administration cannot afford to discount one approach for the other. Relying solely on the Non-Income MPI would mask the acute liquidity crisis facing households, while relying solely on Income data would obscure the specific infrastructural gaps in health and education. Therefore, the "Gap" identified in this chapter serves as a vital diagnostic tool. It allows policymakers to simultaneously deploy structural interventions (schools, water schemes) for the chronically poor while designing distinct, shock-responsive social safety nets for the transiently poor. This holistic strategy ensures that the government addresses the **totality of deprivation**, fixing both the structural foundations of the state and the immediate financial



resilience of its people.

5.5 Dimensional Deprivation Shifts Due to Income Inclusion

To understand the mechanics of the MPI inflation, we must analyze how the weight of the income indicator interacts with the state's structural profile. The data shows that the inclusion of income does not merely add a variable; it fundamentally alters the "poverty floor" of the index.

5.5.1 The Baseline: Standard of Living as the "Primary Floor"

In the **Without-Income MPI**, the "Standard of Living" dimension (comprising water, sanitation, cooking fuel, and electricity) served as the universal floor of deprivation. With rates of **99% to 100%** in nearly every LGA (e.g., **100% in Gada, Goronyo, and Kebbe**), this dimension ensured that most households already carried a baseline deprivation score. However, because this dimension only accounted for one-fifth of the total weight, households with access to education and security could remain above the poverty threshold.

5.5.2 Income as the "Secondary Floor" and the Saturation Effect

The introduction of the Income dimension (weighted equally with other dimensions) created a second, parallel floor of deprivation. The data reveals that income deprivation is even more pervasive than some structural indicators:

- **State-Level Income Deprivation:** Effectively **90.2%** of the population fails the income threshold.
- **Urban Saturation:** In **Sokoto North**, income deprivation hits **99.33%**, effectively labelling almost every urban household as "monetarily poor."

The Mathematical "Swamping" Effect: Under the With-Income model, a household typically needs to be deprived in roughly **26%** of weighted indicators to be considered poor.

1. **Structural Base:** Almost every household is deprived in **Standard of Living** (weight ~16.6%).
2. **Monetary Base:** Almost every household is deprived in **Income** (weight



~16.6%).

3. **The Result:** By being deprived in just these two "floors," a household reaches a score of **33.3%**, which is already above the poverty cutoff.

This explains why the headcount in **Dange-Shuni** surged by **45.7 points**. Even if a household in Dange-Shuni has a secure environment and children in school, the combined "weight" of having no clean cooking fuel and low reported cash income is enough to categorize them as multidimensionally poor. The "Income Effect" effectively exacerbates the positive impact of human capital (Education) and physical safety (Security).

5.6 Structural and Economic Interpretation of Divergence

The 31.1-percentage point leap in headcount poverty is not a statistical error; it is a clear reflection of the friction between "capabilities" and "cash" in a volatile environment. The data identifies a massive cohort of the "**Transiently Poor**", those who have managed to build structural assets but have seen their liquidity evaporated by external shocks.

5.6.1 Agrarian Seasonality and the Liquidity Trap: Asset-Rich, Cash-Poor

Sokoto's economy is fundamentally agrarian, creating a stark dichotomy between "Wealth" and "Cash." The near-universal income deprivation recorded in rural LGAs like Binji (98.3%) and Tangaza (98%) is not necessarily a sign of destitution, but a reflection of **Asset Illiquidity**.

During the "Lean Season" (May–August), a household may possess significant biological assets (livestock, grain stocks, farmland) yet have zero disposable currency. The "With-Income" model misdiagnoses this liquidity crunch as absolute poverty. However, this creates a specific vulnerability known as the Liquidity Trap: if a household faces a sudden shock (e.g., medical emergency) during the cash-scarce lean season, they are forced into "Distress Sales", selling productive assets like cattle at rock-bottom prices to generate immediate cash. The Non-Income MPI is critical here because it tracks the *underlying assets* that need to be protected from these distress sales, whereas the Income model simply records the temporary lack of cash.



5.6.2 Hyperinflation: The Erosion of the Urban Wage

The most alarming data point is the **99.33% income deprivation** in Sokoto North. This suggests that even for the formal sector and urban traders, nominal incomes have been completely outpaced by Nigeria's 40% food inflation.

This monetary crisis is compounded by two structural factors unique to the metropolis.

- **The "No-Farm" Trap:** Unlike rural households that can retreat into subsistence farming during economic shocks, urban youth and working-age citizens lack agricultural opportunities. They are entirely exposed to market prices with no agrarian safety net.
- **The IDP Burden:** Simultaneously, the massive influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has placed an unprecedented burden on urban social services. This congestion degrades the quality of access to health and education, negatively affecting the **Non-Income MPI** just as inflation destroys the **Income** metrics.

This convergence of wage erosion, lack of subsistence options, and infrastructure strain validates the necessity of our **"360-degree" analytical framework**. Relying on one metric alone would miss the complexity of this "Urban Triple Threat." It is only by integrating both the capability (MPI) and monetary (Income) lenses that the state can fully appreciate the precarious position of its urban capital.

5.6.3 The "Hustle Economy" and Measurement Bias: Flow vs Stock

The divergence between the two models is also a reflection of the structural nature of Sokoto's economy, which is over 90% informal. In this "hustle economy," income is not a steady salary but a volatile "flow", irregular trickles of cash from petty trading, Okada riding, or day labor that fluctuate wildly from week to week.

Consequently, income surveys in this context suffer from three distinct methodological failures:

- **Recall Bias:** Without formal bookkeeping, respondents genuinely struggle to accurately aggregate their monthly earnings, often under-reporting by omission.
- **Volatility Error:** A survey captures a single snapshot in time. A daily wager interviewed on a "good day" appears non-poor, while the same individual



interviewed on a "dry day" appears destitute.

- **Social Desirability Bias:** In many communities, there is a cultural reluctance to disclose full cash holdings due to privacy concerns or tax apprehension.

The Non-Income MPI bypasses these distortions by measuring the "**Stock of Wealth**" rather than the "**Flow of Cash.**" Indicators like housing materials, school attendance, and asset ownership (e.g., motorcycles, grinding machines) are **observable, verifiable, and stable.** They represent the accumulated standard of living over time, providing a far more reliable proxy for household welfare than a self-reported, volatile Naira figure.

5.6.4 Insecurity and Market Retreat

In the "Red Zone" (Tangaza and Binji), insecurity has forced a retreat from market exchange. While households may still have some livestock or grain, the danger of traveling to regional markets means they cannot convert these assets into cash. The 81.67% Security Deprivation in Tangaza correlates almost perfectly with its 98% Income Deprivation.

Thus, in conflict zones, the collapse of the cash economy highlights the critical interdependence between income and capabilities. The inability to convert assets into liquidity (Income) directly paralyzes a household's ability to purchase essential goods, pay for transport, or access emergency healthcare (Capabilities). Understanding this mechanism is vital: it shows that income is not merely a number, but the "transmission belt" for survival, which insecurity has severed.

5.7 Strategic Implications: The Power of the "Dual-Lens" Approach

The findings of this sensitivity analysis led to a decisive strategic conclusion for the Sokoto State Government. The "Income Experiment" has confirmed that Sokoto faces a compound challenge: its citizens are grappling with both **structural deprivation** (lack of assets/services) and **monetary volatility** (lack of cash).

Therefore, rather than viewing the Non-Income and With-Income models as competing alternatives, this report advocates for a "**Dual-Track**" Methodology



1. **The Non-Income MPI (The Structural Tracker):** This remains the primary metric for **Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)** planning. It offers a stable, unclouded map of where to site schools, hospitals, and boreholes, ensuring that physical development is not derailed by the fluctuations of the Naira.
2. **The Income Variable (The Shock Tracker):** This serves as the primary metric for Social Safety Nets and Livelihood Restoration. The high income-poverty rates validate the need for a phased economic response:
 - Phase 1 (Stabilization): Immediate liquidity support (such as seasonal cash transfers and palliatives) to arrest the shock during the "lean seasons."
 - Phase 2 (Recovery): Productive inclusion programs (such as subsidized fertilizer, high-yield seeds, and MSME grants) to restore the income-generating capacity of households, moving them from dependency to self-reliance.

In conclusion, the divergence between the two measures is not a statistical error but a policy signal. By adopting this **"360-degree view,"** the administration avoids the trap of a single-story narrative. It validates the decision to keep the headline MPI focused on human functioning, while simultaneously using the income data to calibrate the urgency of economic relief. This ensures that the 9-Point Smart Agenda addresses the **totality of poverty**, rebuilding the state's infrastructure while sustaining the purchasing power of its people.

1. Strategic Segmentation of Targeting: The divergence between the "With-Income" model (90.2%) and the "Non-Income" model (59.1%) provides a critical opportunity for strategic segmentation.

- **The Limitation of Universal Targeting:** When a metric identifies nine out of ten citizens as poor (90.2%), it acts as a "census of need" rather than a targeting tool. While this validates the universal demand for economic relief, it lacks the granularity required to prioritize scarce capital resources for infrastructure.
- **The Utility of Precision:** The Non-Income MPI (59.1%) serves as the precision instrument. By filtering out transient liquidity issues, it allows the state to identify the **"Poorest of the Poor"**, those who lack not just cash, but the fundamental machinery of life (education, water, and shelter). This ensures



that heavy infrastructure investments are directed to the communities that are structurally left behind.

2. The Non-Income MPI as the Infrastructure Anchor: The Non-Income MPI remains the superior anchor for **Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)** planning because it offers:

- **Differentiation:** It clearly separates the state into distinct zones of severity, allowing for triaged interventions (e.g., prioritizing Tangaza's security and Goronyo's education over Dange-Shuni's general needs).
- **Stability:** It tracks long-term investments. It rewards the government for building schools and clinics, whereas an Income MPI might fail to reflect these improvements if inflation remains high.
- **Actionability:** It points to specific sectoral failures, such as the 63% Education deprivation in Goronyo, that specific ministries can directly address.

3. Policy Interpretation of the "Gap" (The Transient Poor): Policymakers should interpret the **31-point gap** between the two measures not as statistical noise, but as a specific diagnostic of "**Vulnerability.**"

- **The Chronically Poor (59.1%):** These households require **Structural Development**. The solution is physical: new schools, renovated hospitals, solar boreholes, and security deployments.
- **The Transiently Poor (The Additional 31.1%):** These households are structurally sound (they have homes and water) but act as "Income-Poor." For this group, building a new borehole is the wrong solution. The correct policy prescription is **Economic Stabilization**, seasonal cash transfers, fertilizer subsidies, and agricultural price support, to restore their liquidity and purchasing power.

A Unified Strategy: The inclusion of income data confirms the intense monetary pressure facing Sokoto households, driven by the "perfect storm" of inflation and insecurity. However, analyzing it separately validates the decision to use the Non-Income MPI as the primary developmental map. This **Dual-Track Framework** ensures that the state's limited resources are targeted efficiently: using the MPI to solve deep-rooted structural deprivations, while using income data to calibrate the scale of social safety nets. This is not a rejection of one method, but a sophisticated integration of both to address the **totality of poverty** in the Caliphate.



CHAPTER SIX

POLICY IMPLICATIONS, BUDGET ALIGNMENT, AND STRATEGIC RESPONSE

6.1 Role of MPI in Evidence-Based Policy and Planning

The completion of the Sokoto State Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2025 constitutes a watershed moment in the governance trajectory of the state. Having rigorously established the empirical baseline of deprivation, the analytical focus must now shift from diagnostic assessment to strategic operationalization. The MPI is not merely a statistical artifact; it is a dynamic, high-resolution policy compass designed to guide resource allocation and sectoral prioritization as the state transitions to the **2026 Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion**.

The MPI is designed to be fully integrated into Sokoto's wider fiscal architecture, extending beyond the 2026 Budget to the **Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2024–2026**. By mapping structural deprivations to specific capital projects, the MPI serves as the **audit mechanism** for the **72.7% Capital Expenditure** earmarked in the 2026 'Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion'. This alignment ensures that every naira allocated under the MTEF is benchmarked against its potential to reduce the intensity of deprivation in our highest-need LGAs, such as Tangaza and Binji.

Critically, the transition from data to policy requires a **"360-degree" analytical approach**. To effectively eradicate poverty, the administration must deploy a dual-track strategy that utilizes both the **Non-Income MPI** (to target structural roots like education and water infrastructure) and the **Income-Adjusted data** (to address immediate liquidity crises). By integrating these two perspectives, the state ensures a holistic intervention plan that tackles the totality of deprivation, building the physical foundations of development while simultaneously sustaining the purchasing power of the citizenry.

6.1.1 The MPI as a Precision Planning Diagnostic: Operational Independence and functional viability

Traditional poverty measurement often obscures the reality of deprivation by conflating means (income) with ends (human functionings). The Sokoto State



framework breaks this cycle by establishing the **operational independence and functional viability** of the Non-Income MPI and the Income metrics. This distinction is the foundation of precision planning.

In the context of the 2026 fiscal year, where the state operates under an expanded budget, the independence of these variables acts as an efficiency filter:

- **The Non-Income MPI** functions as the diagnostic for **Structural Deprivation**. It isolates failures in service delivery (e.g., a non-functional clinic in Goronyo), directing the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) towards physical infrastructure.
- **The Income Data** functions as the diagnostic for **Monetary Liquidity**. It identifies cash-flow crises, directing Recurrent Expenditure towards social safety nets and economic stimulation.

By treating these metrics as independent rather than competitive, policymakers can ask specific questions: not just "who is poor?", but "who needs a borehole (structural) versus who needs a grant (monetary)?" This clarity prevents budgetary misalignment, ensuring that funds for infrastructure are not diverted to palliatives, and vice versa.

6.1.2 Alignment of Non-Income MPI with Capital Expenditure

The operational utility of the Non-Income MPI lies in its direct correspondence with the state's fiscal structure. The **2026 Budget** allocates a dominant **72.7%** to Capital Expenditure.

This capital allocation is explicitly designed to build the "stock" of development: constructing schools, drilling boreholes, and upgrading health facilities. Consequently, the Non-Income MPI serves as the **audit mechanism** for this specific portion of the budget. Since the index is composed of physical asset indicators (e.g., "School Attendance," "Source of Water"), it provides a one-to-one match with capital projects. This ensures that the investment is not tracked merely by money spent, but by the tangible reduction in structural deprivation scores.

6.1.3 Sub-National Targeting and Geographic Equity

The aggregate state-level headcount ratio of 59.1% conceals immense disparities between the metropolitan center and the rural periphery. The MPI provides the



evidentiary basis to operationalize the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** core principle of **"Leave No One Behind."**

By ranking LGAs based on their MPI contribution and intensity, the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (MBEP) can introduce an "MPI Weighting Factor" into the CAPEX release process. This ensures that "Red Zone" LGAs with high intensity of deprivation receive priority in the release of funds, accelerating geographic convergence and ensuring compliance with global SDG mandates.

6.2 Alignment of MPI Findings with the 9-Point Smart Agenda

The administration of **Governor Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto (FCNA)** has articulated the **9-Point Smart Agenda** as the definitive roadmap for the state's development. The 2025 MPI findings validate this political agenda with rigorous scientific data. By mapping specific deprivation hotspots to these nine pillars, the government moves from general aspirations to evidence-based execution.

Critically, this section utilizes the report's **"Dual-Lens"** approach. For each pillar, we identify the **Structural Gap** (Non-Income MPI) to guide Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and the **Liquidity Gap** (Income-Adjusted MPI) to guide Recurrent Expenditure and Social Safety Nets.

6.2.1 Pillar 1: Security

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** Security is a measurable driver of poverty. The "Red Zone" LGAs of **Tangaza (81.7%)** and **Binji (75.0%)** record the highest security deprivations, where safety collapse has forced school and market closures.
- **Agenda Alignment:** The goal to make Sokoto a "Top 5 Safest State" is a prerequisite for poverty reduction.
- **The Income Evidence:** In Tangaza, **98.7%** of the population is income-poor. This confirms that insecurity has severed the "transmission belt" of the local economy, preventing farmers from accessing markets.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**
 - **State Budget:** The 5.9% Security allocation is strictly targeted at operationalizing the **Community Guard Corps** and procuring



surveillance technology especially for the Tangaza–Binji–Goronyo axis.

- **Federal Synergy:** The state's strategy aligns with the **Federal Government's Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway** (an ongoing federal infrastructure project). The highway's security corridor is critical for opening up these border zones for safe commerce.

6.2.2 Pillar 2: Education

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** Education deprivation distinguishes "resilient" from "destitute" LGAs. **Goronyo** records **63.3%** deprivation (infrastructure/school lag), while **Sokoto North** records **58.3%** (Out-of-School Children/Almajirai).
- **The Income Evidence:** The 31% surge in poverty when income is included indicates that while tuition may be free, parents cannot afford *incidental costs* (books, uniforms).
- **Agenda Alignment:** Target to be a "Top 10 Literacy State" by 2030.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**
 - **State Budget:** 15.3% of the 2026 budget is allocated to Education. This includes the **AGILE Project** counterpart funding (targeting girl-child retention) and the rehabilitation of secondary schools to reduce the "School Distance" indicator.
 - **Federal Synergy:** Utilization of the **UBEC Matching Grants** (drawn from the ₦92bn national 2025 disbursement) to upgrade primary school infrastructure in high-deprivation zones.

6.2.3 Pillar 3: Healthcare Delivery

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** "Time to Healthcare" is a severe rural barrier. **Binji** records **41.9%** deprivation in Nutrition, linking health outcomes directly to food security.
- **The Income Evidence:** The **60%** health deprivation in Sokoto North (Urban) is driven by *affordability*. The urban poor are skipping meals due to food inflation.
- **Agenda Alignment:** Universal primary access is the foundation for health tourism.



- **2026 Budget Alignment:**

- **State Budget:** 16.2% of the 2026 budget is allocated to Health. Key projects include the **Sokoto State University Teaching Hospital** and the renovation of General Hospitals in rural hubs like **Yabo and Shagari** to decentralize access.
- **Legislative Synergy:** The state is actively lobbying for the passage of **House Bill 718** (Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Wurno), which has passed second reading, to address the tertiary healthcare gap in the Eastern Senatorial District.

6.2.4 Pillar 4: Agriculture

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** Agrarian LGAs like **Dange-Shuni** are the most resilient *if* they have market access.
- **The Income Evidence:** This pillar addresses the **31.1% "Transient Poverty" Gap**. Farmers are asset-rich but cash-poor during the lean season.
- **Agenda Alignment:** Focus on irrigation and decoupling from rain-fed cycles.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**
 - **State Budget:** **₦18.7 billion** is directly allocated to Agriculture. This is supported by the **ACRESAL** project (World Bank/State partnership) which focuses on restoring degraded lands in the Rima Basin to boost dry-season farming.
 - **Federal Synergy:** Alignment with the **Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority (SRRBDA)** federal irrigation projects to decouple rural incomes from rain-fed volatility.

6.2.5 Pillar 5: Water Supply

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** The "Universal Floor" of poverty. Deprivation in Water/Sanitation ranges from **97% to 100%** across rural LGAs (e.g., Gada, Kebbe).
- **The Income Evidence:** Income-poor households cannot afford vended water, forcing reliance on unsafe streams.
- **Agenda Alignment:** Sustainable clean water access by 2030.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**



- **State Budget:** 5.4% of the 2026 budget is allocated to Water Resources. This funds the **Tangaza and Binji Urban Water Schemes** and the rehabilitation of rural solar boreholes.
- **Federal Synergy:** Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources on **WASHNORM** targets to eradicate open defecation in Tier 1 LGAs.

6.2.6 Pillar 6: Economic Development

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** The high intensity of poverty (40.3%) reflects a lack of economic complexity.
- **The Income Evidence: 99.3% Income Deprivation** in Sokoto North reveals the collapse of the urban wage economy due to inflation.
- **Agenda Alignment:** Making Sokoto a Top 10 Economy by 2030.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**
 - **State Budget: ₦109.1 billion** allocated to Works & Transport acts as a stimulus. Projects like the **Mabera Axis Roads** are designed to unlock urban commerce and reduce "Employment Deprivation."

6.2.7 Pillar 7: Religious Affairs

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** Religious institutions are central to social cohesion and conflict resolution.
- **The Income Evidence:** These institutions serve as the primary safety net (Zakat) for the income-poor.
- **Agenda Alignment:** Promoting values that facilitate community-based social protection.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**
 - **State Budget: ₦17.4 billion** is allocated to Religious Affairs. This funds the **Hisbah Commission** (complementing security) and mosque-based social welfare programs.



6.2.8 Pillar 8: Youth Empowerment

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** The **61% Employment Deprivation** in Sokoto South is a "ticking time bomb," creating a pool of youth vulnerable to radicalization.
- **The Income Evidence:** Zero liquidity makes these youth susceptible to the "informant economy."
- **Agenda Alignment:** Launch of Skills Acquisition and Empowerment schemes.
- **2026 Budget Alignment:**
 - **State Budget: ₦33.9 billion** allocated to Humanitarian Services & Poverty Reduction. This funds skills acquisition and the **State Neighbourhood Initiative**.
 - **Federal Synergy:** Leveraging the **Renewed Hope Conditional Cash Transfer** program (National Social Safety Net Project Scale-Up) to provide liquidity to the poorest households identified in the State Social Register.

6.2.9 Pillar 9: Local Government Autonomy

- **The Structural Evidence (MPI):** The variance in MPI (0.108 in Dange-Shuni vs. 0.368 in Tangaza) proves that centralized planning is inefficient.
- **Agenda Alignment:** Empowering LGAs to tailor interventions to their specific deprivation profiles.

6.3 Budgetary Alignment and Resource Targeting (2026 Fiscal Cycle)

The **2026 Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion** utilizes a total outlay of **₦758,700,526,538** to provide the fiscal vehicle for the "Big Push" required to shift these indicators.

6.3.1 Capital Expenditure as the Primary Lever

With **₦551.49 billion** allocated to CAPEX (72.7% of the budget), the administration is addressing the structural nature of multidimensional poverty. To maximize impact,



CAPEX execution must be prioritized based on the MPI Headcount and Intensity of each LGA.

6.3.2 Sectoral Allocation Summary (2026)

Table 6.1: Sectoral Allocation Summary (2026 Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion)

Sector	2026 Allocation	Target MPI Dimension
Health	₦122,760,000,000	Time to Healthcare, Nutrition
Education	₦115,930,000,000	School Attendance, School Lag
Works & Transport	₦109,110,000,000	Standard of Living, Assets
Security	₦45,240,000,000	Safety, Security Shocks
Water Resources	₦41,140,000,000	Water Access, Sanitation
Humanitarian/Poverty	₦33,910,000,000	Transient Poverty, Unemployment
Agriculture	₦18,730,000,000	Nutrition, Asset Ownership
Religious Affairs	₦15,770,000,000	Social Cohesion/Safety

Source: Sokoto State MPI Survey 2025; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

6.4 Sector-Specific Strategic Implications

6.4.1 Education: Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle

The **₦15.75 billion AGILE Project** component must prioritize the 240 secondary schools in high-deprivation LGAs. Demand-side interventions should use MPI data to target the poorest deciles.

6.4.2 Health: Bridging the Distance and Nutrition Gap

The **₦122.76 billion** allocation must prioritize equipping renovated General Hospitals in Tangaza, Goronyo, and Sabon Birni to handle malnutrition. Human resources must be decentralized to reduce the "Time to Healthcare."

6.4.3 Security: The Pre-condition for Development

The **₦45.24 billion** security budget is an economic investment. Operationalizing the



Community Guard Corps in "Red Zone" LGAs protects the developmental assets being built.

6.5 Social Protection and Targeting the "Transient Poor"

The 31% gap between Income and Non-Income MPI represents the "**Transient Poor.**" households that possess assets but suffer from acute liquidity crises.

- **Strategy:** The state must pivot from a "Palliative-Only" approach to a "**Productive Inclusion**" strategy. While cash transfers provide immediate relief, they do not cure the underlying volatility of agrarian incomes.
- **Action:** The budget allocation for poverty reduction programme should be deployed in a two-phase cycle:
 1. **Phase 1 (Stabilization):** Seasonal Cash Transfers executed strictly during the "Lean Season" (May–August) to prevent asset distress sales.
 2. **Phase 2 (Sustainability):** The bulk of the fund should be channelled into **Livelihood Restoration Kits** to ensure permanent exit from poverty. This includes:
 - **Dry-Season Farming Support:** Provision of subsidized solar pumps and improved seeds to allow farmers to cultivate year-round, breaking the cycle of seasonal poverty.
 - **Input Financing:** Direct distribution of fertilizer and pesticides to marginal farmers to increase yield per hectare.
 - **MSME Revolving Funds:** Micro-grants for urban petty traders (particularly in Sokoto North) to bypass predatory lending rates and stabilize the urban informal sector.

6.6 Institutionalization of MPI for Monitoring and Accountability

For the MPI to drive sustained change:

1. **Biennial Updates:** Mandate the SBS to update the MPI every two years to track the impact of the 2026 Expansion Budget.
2. **M&E Integration:** Budget releases for MDAs should be contingent on addressing specific MPI deprivation scores.
3. **SDG Reporting:** Use the MPI as the official metric for SDG Indicator 1.2.2.



CONCLUSION: From Diagnosis to Delivery

The Diagnostic Precision The dimensional analysis of the 2025 MPI has provided the Sokoto State Government with a precise diagnostic tool, dispelling the notion of a monolithic "poor." The report reveals that poverty in Sokoto is not uniform; it is a shapeshifter. In **Tangaza**, it is a security crisis defined by the "Lakurawa" incursion. In **Sokoto North**, it is an urban employment and cost-of-living crisis. In **Goronyo**, it is an education crisis triggered by displacement. And everywhere, across all 23 LGAs, it is a foundational crisis of water and energy access.

The Methodological Verdict Critically, the "Income Experiment" conducted in this report has settled the debate on measurement. While the inclusion of income data confirms the intense monetary pressure facing households, driven by the "perfect storm" of inflation and seasonality, it ultimately validates the decision to exclude income from the headline MPI. The Non-Income MPI offers a clearer, more stable map of the state's structural challenges, unclouded by the volatility of the Naira. This ensures that the state's limited resources are targeted at solving deep-rooted structural deprivations (building schools, boreholes, and clinics) rather than chasing the moving target of inflation-adjusted income.

The Strategic Alignment The administration's **9-Point Smart Agenda** is empirically validated by these findings, particularly in its prioritization of Security, Education, and Water. However, the data demands a synchronized execution strategy. Tackling education in Goronyo without first resolving the security deficit will be futile. Similarly, addressing urban poverty requires distinct economic policies (jobs, inflation control) separate from the rural focus on agriculture. The 2025 MPI results are a call for a nuanced, dimension-specific approach to governance in the Caliphate.

The Imperative of Execution Ultimately, the cycle of evidence-based governance is now complete: the **2025 MPI provided the diagnosis**; the **9-Point Smart Agenda provided the treatment plan**; and the **2026 Budget of Socio-Economic Expansion** provides the medicine. Success now depends entirely on ensuring that the budget is deployed with "surgical precision." By adhering to the targeting frameworks outlined in this report, the Sokoto State Government moves beyond mere spending to actual impact, reclaiming the "governable spaces" of the state and restoring the dignity of its citizenry.



MPI Glossary

Censored Headcount Ratio: The proportion of the population who are multidimensionally poor and simultaneously deprived in a specific indicator. This metric is crucial for sectoral planning as it identifies the specific contribution of an indicator (e.g., Water) to the overall poverty of the poor population. For example, if the censored headcount ratio for "School Attendance" is 26.3%, it means 26.3% of the total population are both multidimensionally poor and have a child not attending school.

Deprivation Cutoff (z): The specific threshold used to determine if a household is deprived in a specific indicator. For example, in the Sokoto State MPI 2025, the deprivation cutoff for the "School Distance" indicator is if the nearest school is more than a 20-minute walk away. If a household meets this condition, they are assigned a deprivation status of 1 for that indicator.

Dimensions: The broad conceptual categories that comprise the MPI structure. The Sokoto State MPI 2025 utilizes five dimensions: Education, Health, Standard of Living, Employment, and Security. Each dimension represents a critical aspect of human well-being and capability.

Headcount Ratio (H): Also known as the incidence of poverty, this is the percentage of the population that is identified as multidimensionally poor. It is calculated as $H = q/n$, where q is the number of poor people and n is the total population. For Sokoto State in 2025, the Headcount Ratio is 59.1% in surveyed areas.

Indicators: The specific, measurable variables within each dimension used to assess deprivation. The Sokoto State MPI 2025 comprises 19 weighted indicators, including Nutrition, Child Mortality, Years of Schooling, School Attendance, Cooking Fuel, Sanitation, and Exposure to Violence.

Intensity of Poverty (A): The average percentage of weighted deprivations experienced by those who are identified as poor. It reflects the severity or depth of poverty. A higher intensity means the poor are suffering from more simultaneous deprivations. For Sokoto State in 2025, the Intensity is 40.3%, meaning the average poor



person is deprived in roughly 40% of the weighted indicators.

Multidimensional Poverty: A condition where a household experiences multiple overlapping deprivations (in health, education, living standards, etc.) simultaneously. It moves beyond income-based definitions to measure the actual "functionings" and capabilities of a household, what they can actually do and be.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): The product of the Headcount Ratio (H) and the Intensity of Poverty (A). The formula is $MPI = H \times A$. The value ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 represents no poverty and 1 represents universal deprivation in all indicators. It reflects both the share of people in poverty and the degree of their deprivation.

Poverty Cutoff (k): The threshold of total weighted deprivations a household must exceed to be considered multidimensionally poor. In the Sokoto State MPI 2025, the poverty cutoff is set at 26% ($k = 0.26$). This means a household must be deprived in more than one-quarter of the weighted indicators (effectively more than one full dimension plus a fraction of another) to be classified as multidimensionally poor.

Weights: The relative value assigned to each dimension and indicator to reflect its importance. In the Sokoto State MPI 2025, the five dimensions are equally weighted (20% or $1/5$ each). This normative choice reflects the 9-Point Smart Agenda's prioritization of Security as a pillar equal in importance to Health and Education. Within dimensions, indicators are typically equally weighted (e.g., if Health has 3 indicators, each is weighted $1/15$).



Technical Annex: Methodological Robustness and Sensitivity Framework

A. Dimension-Level Redundancy and Correlation Analysis

To ensure that the five dimensions of the Sokoto MPI, specifically the newly elevated **Security** dimension, provide unique signals of deprivation rather than redundant data, a Pearson correlation analysis was performed across all 5,400 households.

Table A.1: Dimension Correlation Matrix (Redundancy Check)

Dimension	Employment	Health	Education	Std. Living	Security
Employment	1.000	0.209	0.131	-0.029	0.111
Health	0.209	1.000	0.343	0.012	0.290
Education	0.131	0.343	1.000	0.133	0.274
Std. Living	-0.029	0.012	0.133	1.000	0.043
Security	0.111	0.290	0.274	0.043	1.000

Technical Interpretation: The results confirm that all dimensions have low-to-moderate correlations, with the highest being Health and Education (0.343). Crucially, **Security** shows a low correlation with Health (0.290) and Education (0.274), validating its inclusion as a distinct structural dimension that captures a unique form of deprivation not reflected in traditional metrics.

B. Poverty Cutoff (k) Sensitivity Analysis

The headline results of this report use a **poverty cutoff of k=0.26 (26%)**, meaning a household must be deprived in more than one-quarter of the weighted indicators to be identified as poor. To test the stability of our findings, we conducted a sensitivity analysis across alternative thresholds.



Table A.2: K-Cutoff Sensitivity Analysis (Stability Check)

Cutoff	MPI	Headcount (H)	Intensity (A)
k=0.20	0.279	77.3%	36.1%
k=0.26 (Baseline)	0.239	59.1%	40.3%
k=0.33	0.189	41.9%	45.1%

Technical Interpretation: The analysis demonstrates that the MPI remains stable across different cutoffs. As the threshold for identifying the "poor" becomes stricter (moving from 20% to 33%), the headcount naturally drops, but the **Intensity (A)** rises, confirming the "clustering of disadvantage" described in Section 3.2. This proves that the baseline 59.1% headcount is a statistically sound "middle-ground" estimate.

C. Weight-Sensitivity and the Security Dimension

To ensure the mathematical integrity of the index and verify that the results are not overly dependent on the normative choice of equal 20% weighting, a **weight-sensitivity analysis** was performed. This test modelled a counterfactual scenario where the influence of the **Security dimension** was reduced by half, with the remaining weight distributed equally across the other four dimensions.

Table A.3: Weight Sensitivity Analysis (Security Reduction Scenario)

Scenario	Headcount (H)	Intensity (A)	MPI Score
Baseline (Security at 20%)	59.1%	40.3%	0.239
Security at 10% (Others at 22.5%)	61.6%	40.5%	0.249

Technical Interpretation: Reducing the weight of Security by half results in only a marginal shift in the State MPI (from **0.239 to 0.249**). This high level of stability confirms that the deprivations in Sokoto are so deeply overlapping that the index is robust to different normative weighting choices. These results further justify the **equal-weighting approach** used to align the index with the operational priorities of the **9-Point Smart Agenda**.

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