

## UNICEF and Social Policy Initiative Launch of the Decent Standard of Living Report



**UNICEF and the Social Policy Initiative in collaboration with several partner organisations launched the Decent Standard of Living report, highlighting the findings on possession of the socially perceived necessities in 2022.**

The launch of the Decent Standard of Living report marked a significant step towards understanding poverty and inequality's impact on people's lives in South Africa. The findings highlighted both positive trends and ongoing challenges in achieving a decent standard of living for all, while the discussions provided insights into the complexities of poverty reduction and policy development.

**Ms. Aleta Miller**, UN Women Representative took to stage to welcome all the attendees at the launch, which included the Minister of Social Development, government officials, representatives from UN agencies, civil society, academia, and research institutes. She highlighted the collaborative effort behind the report and its importance in understanding poverty's impact on people's dignity.

She stressed that the report's methodology combines participatory qualitative work with survey data to identify SPNs, which are categorised into social networks, commodities, and social wage. This approach aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and responds to recommendations for an adequate standard of living measure.





**Isobel Frye**, Executive Director of the Social Policy Initiative addressed the critical nature of understanding the context and impact of poverty. She highlighted how inequality in income and wealth distribution often determines power dynamics in society and influences wellbeing along lines of race, class, gender, and location. She stressed the importance of addressing inequality and improving wellbeing for all. The report's findings showed a positive trend in the possession of SPNs, indicating improvements in living standards.

**Dr. Helen Barnes**, Director and Senior Researcher at SASPRI presented the findings of the possession of SPNs in 2022. The report compared the results of possession of SPNs in 2022 with previous years, revealing shifts in possession trends.

**Minister Lindiwe Zulu**, Minister of Social Development acknowledged the importance of women's month and emphasised the need for equal participation of women in the economy. She called for research and policies that promote inclusive development and address poverty in its various dimensions.

The Minister highlighted the vulnerabilities exposed by the recent pandemic and encouraged using evidence from reports like this to inform policies aimed at improving living standards.

**Commissioner Shongwana**, National Planning Commission underlined the importance of the research in informing evidence-based planning and policy development. He highlighted the role of the report in understanding the perspectives of people's daily lives and its value in integrated management and intersectoral coordination.



## Concluding Remarks

**Isobel Frye** reiterated the importance of networks and collaborations in addressing poverty and improving wellbeing. She emphasised the need for continuous research, particularly focusing on child-specific policies, understanding social networks' roles, and the implications of a more effective social wage. The session concluded with thanks to all participants, emphasising the significance of maintaining networks and fellowship to drive positive change.

**Russell Wildeman** thanked the participants and underscored the importance of maintaining networks and collaborations to address poverty. He highlighted the need for multiple measures to capture the multidimensional nature of poverty and wellbeing, and he encouraged ongoing efforts in research and policy development.