Review of Child Poverty Measurement
With a Focus on Adolescence
SDG 1.2.2

Enrique Delamónica

TransMonEE Network Meeting of National Statistical Offices In Europe and Central Asia
26 November 2019, Vienna
The “History” of Child Poverty Measurement

- **2000**: Poverty reduction begins with children
  - Higher fertility in poor families; limitations of monetary approach; multi-dimensionality
- **2001-3**: Bristol University and the LSE
  - Rights-based approach, ~ 70 countries (consistent definitions & indicators)
- **2005-10**: Conferences and Global Study
- **2010-17**: Regional Studies (LAC, East Asia & Pac., Rich countries, MENA)
Based on all this experience:
What is child poverty?

- Not having (material, economic) resources
- Different from unhappiness, sadness, victim of a crime, lack of privacy, having no name, etc.
- Unfulfilled rights (deprivations)
  - But not all rights?
  - Only those that require material resources closely and directly to be fulfilled (e.g. housing, nutrition)
- NOT: proxy, substitute, marker of lack of $.
- What does it mean in practice to measure it?
Monetary poverty at HH level, good but not sufficient

- Their needs are different
- $ cannot always purchase what children need
- Children should not have to work for a living
- Increasing income may harm children
What defines that a child is poor?

Child right violations

Child Poverty
- Nutrition
- Education
- Water and Sanitation
- Health
- Housing
- Information
Fractions of Rights?

- Inalienable

Height for Age

- Capabilities Approach also against trading off capabilities. All are important and needed.
- Rights cannot be ranked, weighted, traded-off
Averages hide disparities

Same number of children
Same number of deprivations

A (Yellow) = 1 + 2x3 + 3 = 10
B (Red) = 2 + 2x2 + 4 = 10

The average (or correcting the incidence by the average), will not capture the poorest of the poor
What must be measured & reduced?
Prevalence, Depth, & Severity
(Child Poverty Profile)

68% of children suffer at least 1 deprivation

On average, 2.1 deprivations

“Only” 7% suffer more than 4 deprivations
When possible:

- HH Monetary Poor, Children Poor: 16
- HH Monetary Poor, Children OK: 25.1
- HH Monetary OK, Children OK: 40.8
- HH Monetary OK, Children Poor: 18

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2013
Gender disparities are real, particularly as they age into adolescence but......

- Limitation 1: Outcomes, not relationships
- Limitation 2: Data availability

- We tried adding:
  - Anemia
  - Time used by child to collect water
  - Mobile phone ownership
- 3-10% gender gap in incidence ONLY FOR ADOLESCENTS (appropriately)

- Way forward: girl-specific indicators (esp. for adolescents)
- E.g. menstrual hygiene Management (different access to reproductive health services which is for both boys and girls)
Summary

• Child poverty at the level of the individual child (beyond household poverty disaggregation)
• While there are age-specific indicators, the dimensions/rights are the same for all ages
• All rights equally weighted
• Prevalence, depth, and severity
• There is need for further data collection (e.g. adolescent health, gender)
Thank you!