

# **Child poverty measurement and gender discrimination**

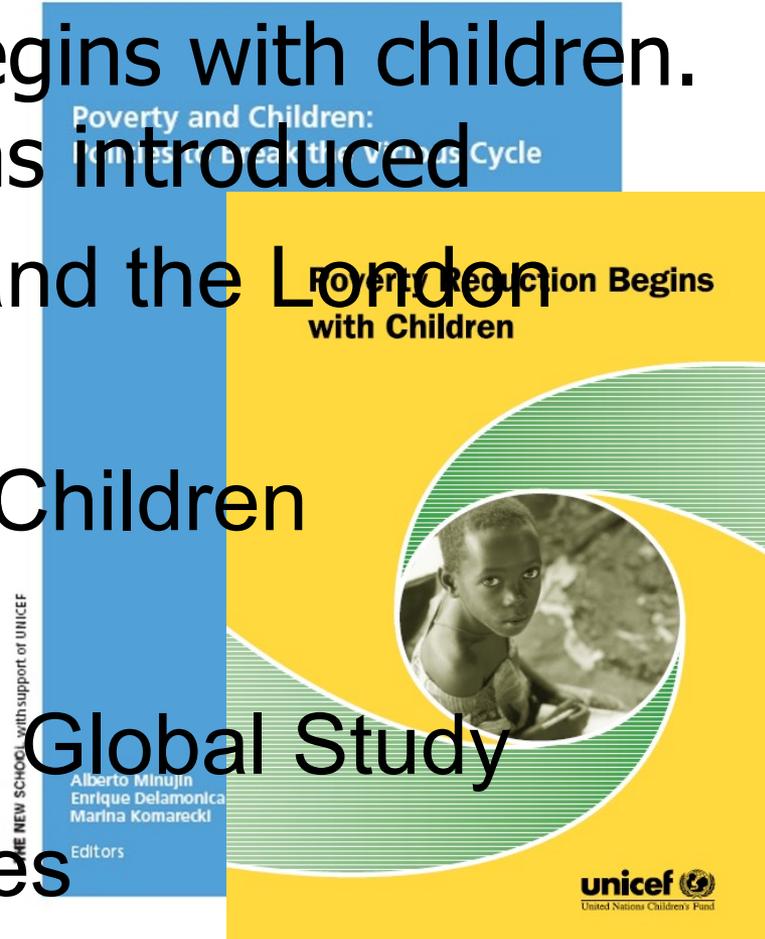
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# Questions & Outline

1. What can multidimensional measures tell us about
  - who is left behind
  - the ways in which marginalization and exclusion are experienced?
2. What is the added value of multidimensional poverty measurement?
3. What are some of the challenges in developing these measures?
4. What data gaps exist?

# The “History” of Child Poverty Measurement

- 2000: Poverty reduction begins with children.
  - Multi-dimensionality was introduced
- 2001-3: Bristol University and the London School of Economics
- 2005: State of the World’s Children
- 2006 GA Resolution
- 2005-10: Conferences and Global Study
- 2010-2017: Regional studies
- 2018-2020: Global report



# 1) What can MD Poverty tell us about who is left behind and experience of marginalization? E.g. Child Poverty

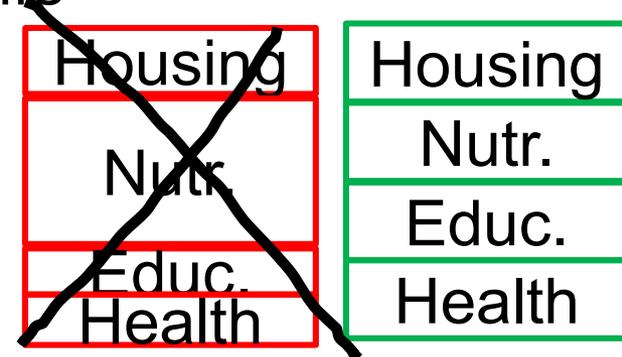
- Money cannot always buy what children need
  - In a rural area without medical services, income is useless
- Their needs are different
  - They are not “0.7 of an adult”
  - Immunization, school, and nutrition
- Increasing income may harm children.
  - Child labor
  - Neglected children
- Irreversible impacts for life.

# Some points to remember

- Individual Child
  - Incidence, Depth, Severity
- \$ as separate dimension

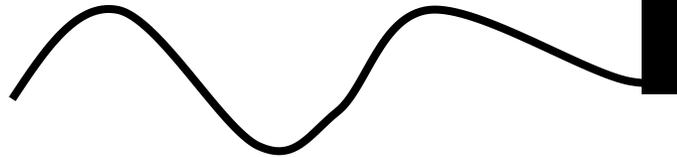
	Monetary OK	Monetary POOR
Multidimensionally OK		
Multidimensionally POOR		

- Dimensions = Constitutive rights of poverty
  - Poverty  $\neq$  Well-being or Quality of Life
- Equal weights across rights  
(indivisibility, no hierarchy of rights)



# Multidimensional poverty at HH level, good but not sufficient

## MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY



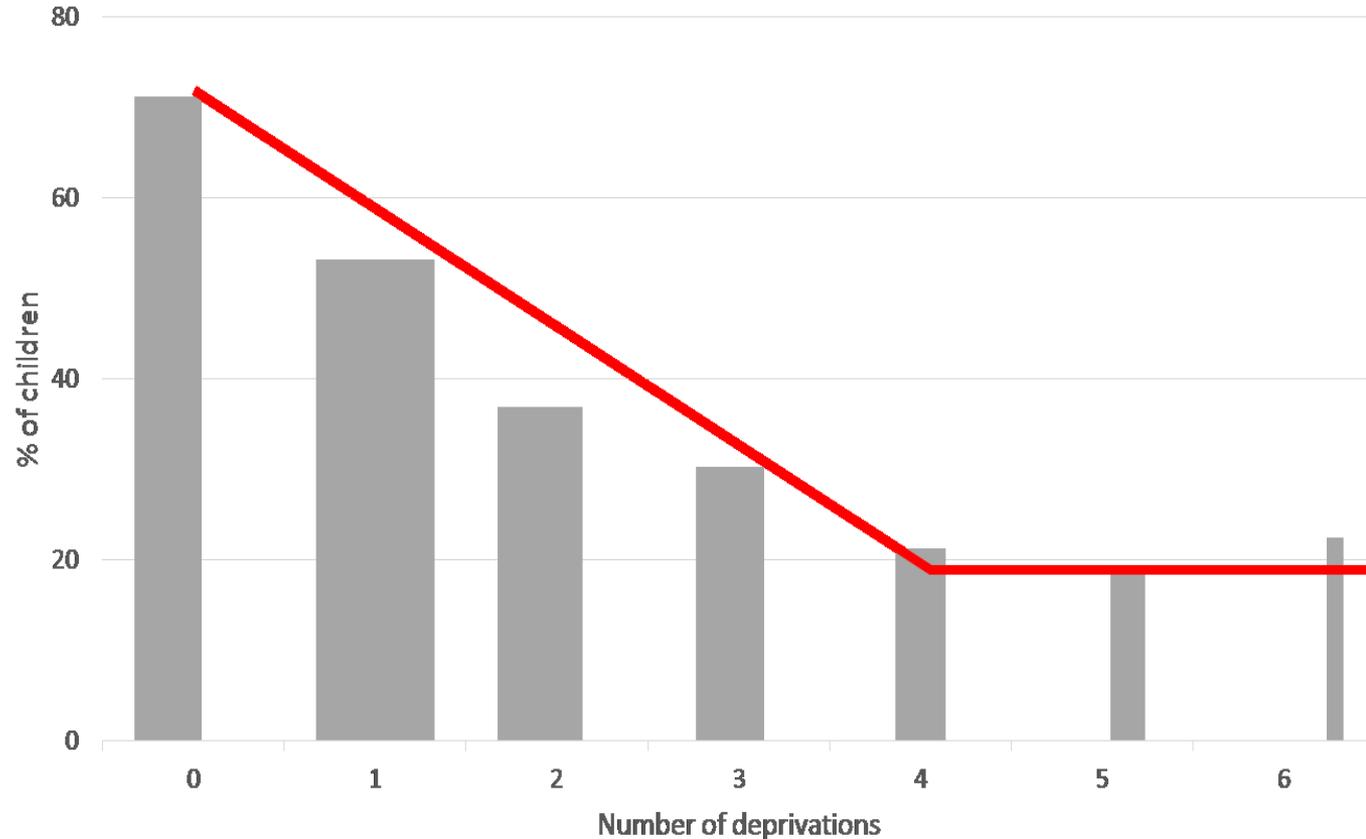
	Adult 1	Adult 2	Child 1	Child 2
Unemployment			In this example, HH-level poverty is declining but children are worse off	
# of school years				
Malnourishment				
Inmunization				

Only looking at households, we might believe progress is made while  $\approx 40\%$  of the population (the children!) is left behind

## 2. What is the added value of MD poverty measurement?

Correlation with other violations

(e.g. Child Labour, VAC, Birth Registration)



*Policy direction: who and where are the poor children*



### 3. What are some of the challenges?

- Gender disparities go well beyond quantifiable issues.
  - E.g. NER gender parity but gender stereotypes are reproduced at school.
- Child Poverty estimates usually show no significant difference between boys and girls
- Individual-level material deprivation indicators may not be the “right” ones to capture discrimination
- It could be different for quality of life/well-being

# Possible Approaches

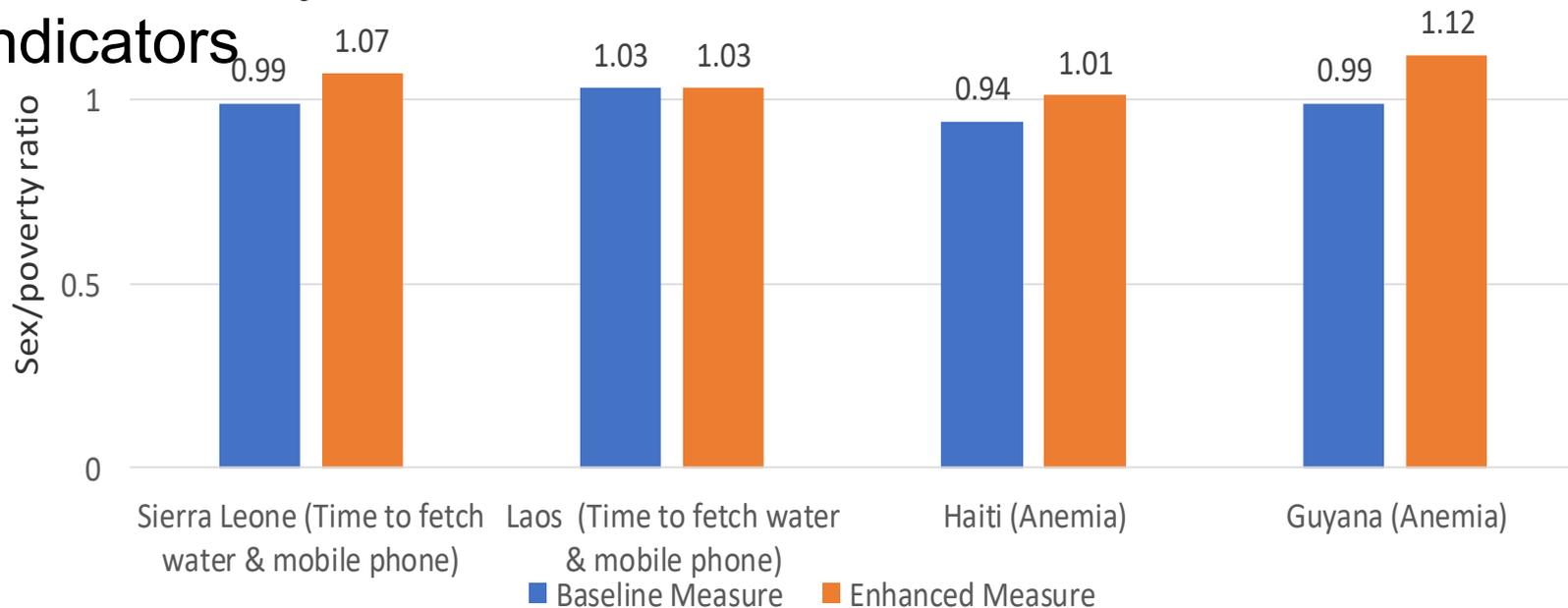
- Measure boys and girls separately?
  - Comparability issues
- Assign different thresholds or ladders for boys and girls for some indicators under the rationale that girls are differentially affected?
  - E.g. by WASH
- Include girl-specific indicators?
- Or include additional indicators that are “gender-informed”?
  - Indicators more likely to capture differences between girls and boys

# Preliminary results

Child poverty prevalence among adolescents aged 15-17

(Gender gaps in relative terms)

Observed differences are related to different experiences of girls and boys, not to construction of measure or choice of indicators



≈ 6% gender gap ONLY FOR ADOLESCENTS (appropriately)

- Way forward: girl-specific indicators (esp. for adolescents)
  - E.g. menstrual hygiene management

# 4. What data gaps exist?

- Sex-disaggregation insufficient for capturing gender differences due to intersectional inequalities
- Limited number of indicators to undertake gender-sensitive analysis of child poverty in standard HH surveys
- Indicators selected without attention to capturing gender disparities and gender discrimination dynamics
- Perhaps not possible to capture gender inequality with material shortcoming indicators for children!
  - Quality of life/wellbeing certainly could
- Both issues point to important data constraints
- Way forward: girl-specific indicators (esp. for adolescents)
  - If not measured, underestimating rights violations