

POLICIES TARGETING CHILD POVERTY

Laurence Chandy

Director, Data, Research and Policy



INTRODUCTION

Observations after several years working on poverty and two months working at UNICEF.

What do we know about child poverty and what policies work to reduce it?



MONETARY POVERTY

Child headcount < PPP\$1.90/day = 385m (2013). 19.5% of all children
Household measure, so more a comment on demographics of poor households
Ignores intra-household allocation
Income earned by children may come at the expense of rights
Fails to respond to experiential difference of poverty faced by children



MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

More responsive to needs of children

CRC as north star identifying key
dimensions: survival, development,
protection, participation

Measuring concerning child, not
household

Age and context specific

No globally agreed aggregate measure
(what to include, how to weight)





POLICIES (MONETARY)

The elusive quest for growth versus the stunning rise of social assistance:

Narayan et al 2009 find that in the 1990s, only 3.7% of poverty escapees cited government or NGOs as cause.

Azevedo et al 2013 show that in 2000s, non-labor income explains only a fraction less poverty reduction than labor income.

A young boy in a blue shirt and shorts is performing a handstand on a dark green basketball court. The court has white and red lines. In the background, there are bleachers and a building. The scene is lit with bright sunlight, creating long shadows.

21 to 40

Number of African countries with cash transfer programs in 2010 and 2014

POLICIES (MULTIDIMENSIONAL)

Sharp contrast in how much we know about what works on child survival, compared to how little we know about what works on child development and child protection





STICKING POINTS

Targeting versus universality
Exits versus backslides
Fragile states



unicef 

THANK YOU!