

Country examples of adopting and addressing child poverty in national plans, policies, strategies and programs

2017 Poverty Reduction and Development Conference
9 October 2017, Beijing

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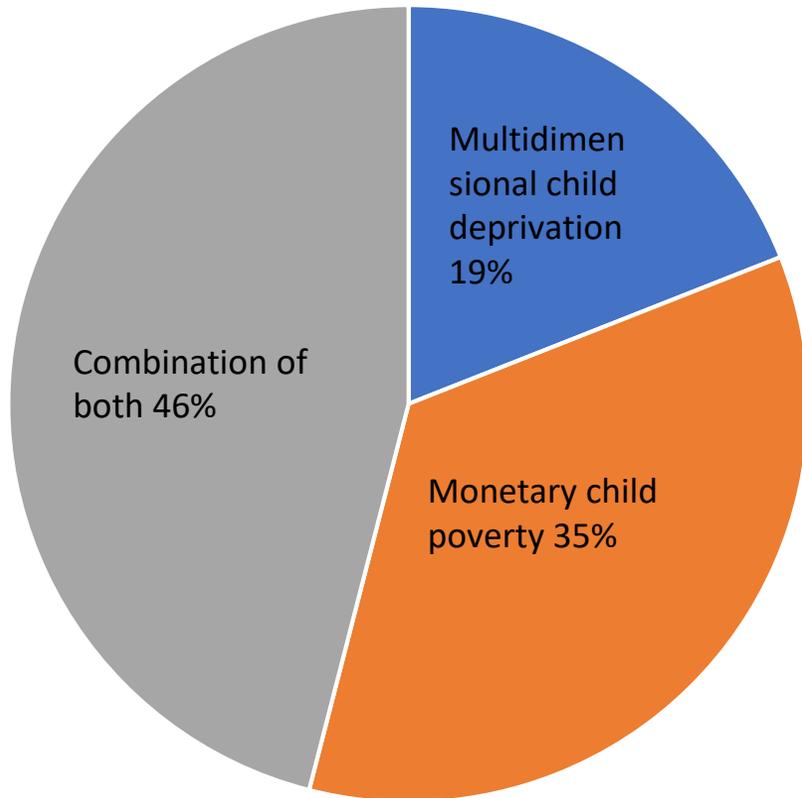
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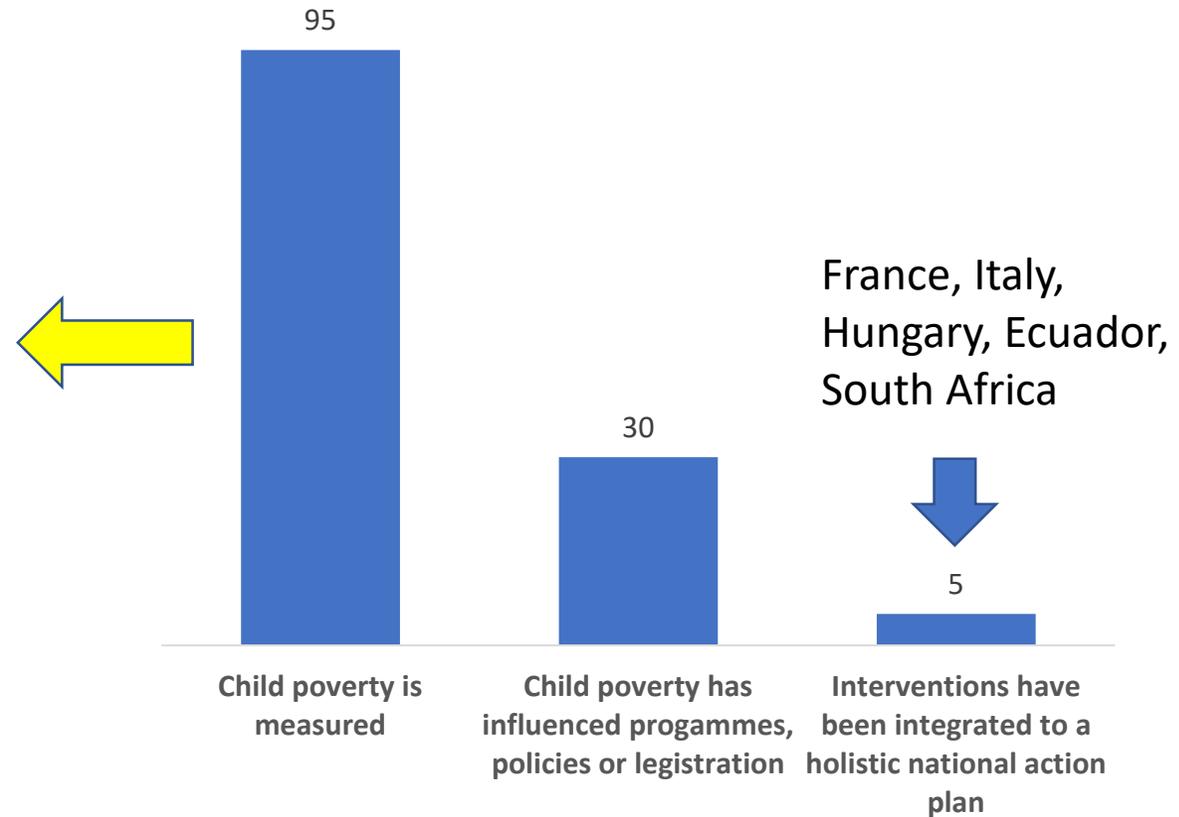
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Where we are: child poverty measurement and policy advocacy

CP measurement



Out of 160 countries surveyed in 2015



Adopting child poverty in key national plans and strategies

- Cambodia: Child monetary poverty rate is adopted as a key target indicator in the current National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018, with clear baseline (23%) and target (18%). Significant progress has been made since the introduction of this target, which has already been met with the latest child monetary poverty rate at 16%. Policy dialogues are underway to add multidimensional child poverty to the next NSDP.
- Hungary: At-risk-of-poverty rate of households with children is adopted in the National Social Inclusion Strategy 2011-2020, with clear baseline (16.0%) and target (12.8%), where at-risk-of-poverty is defined as having a household income below 60% of the national medium.
- China: Child poverty is highlighted in the National Rural Poverty Reduction Strategy 2011-2020, along with other vulnerable groups (women and persons with disabilities), although no specific target is defined.

Reducing child poverty and inequality with a national strategy and budget classifiers – Ecuador

- National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty adopted in 2014.
- Specific interventions laid out and targets defined to achieve alleviating child poverty: access to basic goods and services including housing, health, education, water/sanitation, social protection and care services.
- Child classifiers incorporated to Ministry of Finance’s classification system in 2014, allowing routine measurement and analysis of the total amount of expenditure spent to reduce child poverty and disparity.

Identification fields			Program structure				Spending identification		
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Year	Institution	Implementing unit	Program	Sub-program	Project	Activity	Expense type	Geographic unit	Financing source
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	Sector/s				Type of	Function	Economic		

Theme	Priority group	Policies (child rights)
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- Gender	- Pregnant/women	- Survival
- Ethnicity	- Indigenous persons	- Development
- Age group	- Children/adolescents	- Child protection
- Disability	- Severely ill	- Social protection
- Human mobility	- Migrants	- Participation
		- Social responsibility
		- Research
		- Justice

Source: Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad Intergeneracional (2014)

Assessing impact of potential reforms/programs on poor children and follow-up policy changes – fuel subsidy reform in Ghana

- In 2013, Government of Ghana removed fuel subsidies, leading to increases in the price of petrol, kerosene, diesel and LPG.
- UNICEF undertook a study to assess the impact of the reform on poor children and to ensure a mitigating response in the reform of a social safety net.
- Subsidies were highly regressive – 80% of the subsidies benefitting the wealthiest quintile and only 3% benefiting the poorest quintile.
- Removal of subsidies would increase poverty by 1.5%, but doubling the national cash transfer program (LEAP) would reverse the increase in poverty and reduce inequality.
- LEAP budget increased from 8m GHS in 2012 to 38 GHS in 2015 to expand coverage to the poorest children and families.
- Similar child-focused or child-sensitive cash transfer programs in many other countries: Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar, Basil, Mexico, South Africa, etc.

Routine evaluation of national development plan and policies using poverty measures – Mexico

- In 2000, Government of Mexico institutionalized yearly evaluation of federal subsidy programs.
- In 2004, Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) was established with two mandates: 1) to design a multidimensional poverty methodology taking into account both economic wellbeing and social rights; and 2) to regulate and undertake evaluation of social policies.
- National Evaluation Guidelines published in 2007 required all social programs and policies be evaluated on their impact against multidimensional poverty.
- The National Development Plan 2013-2018 is also being regularly evaluated against multidimensional poverty including specific indicators on the numbers of children in poverty for possible policy adjustments if needed.

Summary: suggested key steps to reduce child poverty

- Building a national commitment to end extreme child poverty and halve it by national definitions.
- Implementing a comprehensive package of interventions.
- Consistent monitoring and evaluation of progress against the goals, and advocacy to make necessary adjustments.

Thank you!