Leave no child behind: the urban poor and children with disabilities

By Melva Johnson
44 child-related indicators are integrated across the 17 SDGs
Over half a billion children are effectively uncounted.

520M

Additional half a billion children live in countries where SDG promise is out of reach.

533M
Nine indicators of child well-being

**Household indicators**
- Coverage of access to at least basic drinking water services
- Coverage of access to at least basic sanitation services

**Health and rights service indicators**
- Skilled births attendants rate
- Birth registration rate
- DPT3 Immunization rate

**Education and knowledge indicators**
- Primary education completion rate
- Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS (young women and men)

**Outcome indicators**
- Stunting rate
- Under-five mortality rate
For every child, a fair chance
The average country exhibits an “urban advantage” on all 9 indicators of children’s welfare

Median levels of selected indicators for around 70 countries, by urban and rural

Source: UNICEF analysis based on MICS and DHS surveys (2011-2016)
The size of the “urban advantage” varies across indicators

| Median size of urban advantage (disparity gap) |

Note: “Urban advantage” is calculated as the difference between urban and rural level, except for stunting and under-five mortality, where the reversed order is used.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on MICS and DHS surveys (2011-2016)
However, country averages can mask large inequities in urban areas

Median size of wealth advantage (difference between richest and poorest quintile) in urban population

Note: “Wealth advantage” is calculated as the difference between the richest quintile (Q5) and the poorest quintile (Q1), except for stunting and under-five mortality, where the reversed order is used.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on MICS and DHS surveys (2011-2016)
Children in urban peripheries are among those furthest behind: In a number of countries, and in fact the most vulnerable children in urban areas fare worse than their peers in rural areas.

Share of countries in which the poorest urban quintile fares worse than the rural population in average (left) or worse than the poorest rural quintile (right).

Source: UNICEF analysis based on MICS and DHS surveys (2011-2016)
For every child, hope
Challenges in collecting data on child disability

• Data on disability are inadequate and much needed for the overall population, yet children represent a special group that deserves particular consideration – but one that poses special measurement challenges.

• Large information gaps remain in how many children experience limitations and how the environment (including physical, social and attitudinal factors) affects children’s participation in their communities.
Disability and The Convention on the Rights of the Child

• Article 31: to collect data to monitor and protect the rights of all persons with disabilities

• Data collection must:
  • Comply with legally established safeguards
  • Ensure confidentiality
  • Respect the privacy of persons with disabilities

• Information should be accessible to people with disabilities
Disaggregation: School attendance

Population aged 15 years + who never attended school, by disability status (%)

Source: Various surveys that used the WG SS, 2005-2006
Before turning 18, up to

68% of girls with disabilities

will experience sexual violence*

30% of boys with disabilities

Source: OECD 2016 - Discrimination: Sex for Children & Youthful Internationals

to #ENDviolence:

National laws and policies must take children and adolescents with disabilities into account

Provide free, accessible services that prevent and respond to sexual violence

Fight stigma and discrimination

Set up safe reporting mechanisms that work for children and adolescents with and without disabilities

unicef unite for children

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

endviolence global partnership to end violence against children
are 17x more likely to live in an INSTITUTION than their peers without disabilities, where their risk of VIOLENCE, NEGLECT and ABUSE is much higher than when living at home.

to #ENDviolence:

- provide inclusive community-level services, i.e. in health, education, social protection;
- protect children and adolescents with disabilities by supporting families.

Source: UNICEF, "Children under the age of five in formal care in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2015, A44-0 C"
Investing in inclusive education pays

In Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Philippines returns to investment in the education of children with disabilities are up to 3x higher than that of children without disabilities.

Source: Lamichhane, K. (2003). Disability, Education and Employment in Developing Countries. From Charity to Investment

#thisability
Conclusions

Resolve to strengthen data systems and empower municipalities to collect and analyze data on groups of the population most likely to be left behind – such as the urban poor and persons with disability - to ensure that policies can be adequately targeted and that they address the structural barriers to inclusion.
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