



FAMILY ORIENTED POLICIES FOR POVERTY AND HUNGER REDUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

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BACKGROUND

- In 1990 when MDGs were adopted, 43% of people in developing countries lived at or below \$1.25 a day.
- To achieve the MDG 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015) many developing countries:
 - Put in place poverty reduction strategies
 - Developed various types of social protection programmes
- Largely in response
 - MDG 1 was achieved five years ahead of schedule when:
 - the prop. of people living in extreme poverty in DC was 22% vs. 47% in 1990
 - There was a 42% reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment between 1990-1992 and 2012-14 (FAO, 2015).



HOWEVER,

Table 1: Global poverty assessed with poverty line

Region	Historical			Headline	Projection
	1990	1999	2011	2012	2015
<i>Share of population below \$1.90 a day (PPP) (%)</i>					
East Asia & Pacific	60.6	37.5	8.5	7.2	4.1
Europe & Central Asia	1.9	7.8	2.4	2.1	1.7
Latin America & the Caribbean	17.8	13.9	5.9	5.6	5.6
South Asia	50.6	41.8	22.2	18.8	13.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	56.8	58.0	44.4	42.7	35.2
Developing world	44.4	34.3	16.5	14.9	11.9
World	37.1	29.1	14.1	12.7	9.6
<i>Millions of people below \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP)</i>					
East Asia & Pacific	995.5	689.4	173.1	147.2	82.6
Europe & Central Asia	8.8	36.8	11.4	10.1	4.4
Latin America & the Caribbean	78.2	71.1	35.3	33.7	29.7
South Asia	574.6	568.0	361.7	309.2	231.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	287.6	374.6	393.6	388.8	347.1
World	1958.6	1751.5	983.3	896.7	702.1

Source: World Bank (2016)



PERSISTENT POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- More than 70% of workers in South Asia and SSA are in vulnerable employment: highly precarious due to low-productivity, low and highly volatile earnings, and inadequate social protection.
- High proportion of workers in the informal and agricultural sectors.
- Thus while the number of workers living with their families in extreme poverty have declined new estimates show that 60.9% of workers in developing countries still live on less than \$4 a day.
- The number of people going hungry also remains disturbingly with the 13.5% of overall population DC remaining chronically undernourished (FAO, 2015).



IMPACT OF POVERTY ON FAMILIES

- Poverty endangers and disrupts family functioning: reflected in the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of family activities and interactions
- In poverty conditions required for families to be functional e.g. stability, security, quality time together, access to basic resources, etc. are often lacking.
- Poverty associated with risky behaviours in children, adolescents, and adults



NEED FOR FAMILY-ORIENTED POLICIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Despite the impact of poverty on family functioning the family, as a unit, has rarely been the focus of major poverty reduction policy initiatives.
- The post-2015 development agenda has thus underscored the need to family centred interventions as part of an “integrated comprehensive approach to development”.
- Particularly important in DC where poverty is largely explained by structural factors, key among them being the high level of informality that characterises labour markets in these countries.



NEED FOR FAMILY-ORIENTED POLICIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2)

- Informal sector workers have little or no access to formal risk-coping mechanisms such as insurance, pensions and social security arrangements to meet contingencies and eventualities such as ill health, accidents, death, and old age.
- In addition:
 - Non-contributory social protection policies and programmes, on the other hand, are rudimentary and far from comprehensive
 - Weakened traditional protective mechanisms of the extended family due socio-economic and demographic changes.
 - Other structural factors – gender-biased statutory and customary laws, women's increased labour force participation, declining fertility rates, increased migratory flows, and in some regions the HIV and AIDS crisis



FAMILY ORIENTED POLICIES

- The structural factors in DC “for a pro-poor approach that links informality, social protection and empowerment” (Lund, 2009:74).
- Within the context of the SDG 1 targets, this implies:
 - delinking social security benefits from labour market status and extending coverage to poor families that have previously been excluded.
 - Introducing or up-scaling non-contributory social pensions
 - Recognizing and facilitating care through social security



FAMILY ORIENTED POLICIES (2)

- There are also emerging calls to give more attention to the role and potential of traditional informal social security systems that have, for years, provided a protective cushion to many families in DC e.g. burial societies, savings clubs:

“There were no poor and rich; the haves helped those who were in want. No man starved because he had no food; no child cried for milk because its parents did not have milk cows; no orphan and old person starved because there was no body to look after them” (Iliffe, 1987:3)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- To achieve SGD 1, family-oriented policies for poverty and hunger reduction in DC and need to:
 - delink social security benefits from labour market status and extending coverage to poor families that have previously been excluded.
 - Give more attention to the role and potential of traditional informal social security systems.
 - Promote an integrated, multi-generation approach to social protection that is sensitive to care responsibilities

