Child Poverty and Vulnerability Mapping for Mauritania

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Initial objectives

- **Programming guidance (first and foremost!):** Improved geographical focus, integrated + disaster sensitive approach in new UNICEF Country Programme Document

- **Advocacy for multi-dimensional poverty and child poverty:** Alignment of national 2017-2030 development strategy indicators on SDG 1

- **Advocacy for a child-sensitive poverty reduction strategy:** Recognition of the importance of reducing child poverty as pre-condition for inclusive growth in the SCAPP 2017-2030

- **Child sensitive and adaptive social protection:** taking into account age specific vulnerabilities in social protection interventions, building integrated social protection systems, building resilience
Overview of final product

- Overlap of child deprivations (child poverty) with hazard exposure (child poverty = proxy for vulnerability)
- **Map** (at a glance visualization)
- **Census data**: max. disaggregation (commune)
- Maps by individual deprivation, multiple deprivations as well as both number and % of deprived children (equity)
- **Dimensions and definition of deprivations** = Gordon et al. (subject to data availability)
Child poverty measure at a glance

To: SGD 1, Target 1.2. + indicator

Multi-dimensional (child experience of poverty!)
Human rights based
- WSSD 1995 definition of poverty
- Material deprivations
- Constitutive rights
- Equal weights

Severe deprivations (threshold definition)
### Definition of deprivations (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic human need</th>
<th>Severe deprivation (Bristol)</th>
<th>Severe deprivation (Mauritania)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Malnutrition (severe anthropometric failure)</td>
<td>Data not available in census; deprivation analysis supplemented by SMART survey data (mapping)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe drinking water</td>
<td>Long walk to water source (more than 200 meters or 15 minutes) or unsafe drinking water (surface water)</td>
<td>Use of surface water adopted as definition of severe deprivation; distance to water source could potentially be derived by combining HH data with GPS data collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation facilities</td>
<td>No access to sanitation of any kind in or near dwelling</td>
<td>Data available in census; same definition of severe deprivation used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>No immunisation against any diseases</td>
<td>Data not available in census; this deprivation has not been covered in the analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Definition of deprivations (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic human need</th>
<th>Severe deprivation (Bristol)</th>
<th>Severe deprivation (Mauritania)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>More than five people per room (severe overcrowding) or with no flooring material</td>
<td>Data available in census; same definition of severe deprivation used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>School age children who have never been to school and who are currently not attending school</td>
<td>Data available in census; but adaptation of definition (“OR”) to fit OOSC definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Children aged between 3 and 18 with no access to radio, television, telephone or newspapers at home</td>
<td>Data available in census; same definition of severe deprivation used (+ computer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic social services</td>
<td>Children living 20km or more from any type of school or 50km or more from any medical facility with doctors</td>
<td>Data not collected at HH level in the census, but could potentially be derived by combining HH data with GPS data collected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total population: 3,537,368

Nomadic: 1.8%

Child population (< 18 years): 50.5%

Total child population (not nomadic): 1,753,151 (49.5%)

Nouakchott (capital): 27% of the population

Admin. structure:
- 225 communes
- 55 moughataa (districts)
- 13 wilaya (regions)
Single deprivation mapping:

- Water
- Sanitation
- Housing
- Education
- Access to information

Different thresholds of # of severely deprived children for single deprivations (mapping) -> equal consideration given to all rights

Ex.: Access to water
Deprived children: 5%
85,007 children
10 communes represent 35% of all deprived children
Ex. Housing

Deprived children: 27.4% = 474,287 children

37% in rural areas
15% in urban areas

0-4 years – 34%
5-9 years – 29%
10-14 years – 24%
15-17 years – 12%

10 communes represent 20% of deprived children
• 27% of children in Mauritania live in “absolute poverty” (two or more severe deprivations) = 472 184 children

• 19,000 (1%) of children suffer from 4 severe deprivations or more

• 106,000 (6%) suffer from 3 severe deprivations or more

• 4 communes represent each > 20,000 children with at least one severe deprivation
EQUITY ANALYSIS

5 municipalities have over 70% of children living in absolute poverty:

- Chelkhet Tiyab (70%)
- Lahrach (71%)
- Bokhol (71%)
- Ouadane (79%)
- Chami (100%, 3 children)
Maps overlapping deprivation & risk of shocks

Example: **Flooding risk & children with two severe deprivations (absolute poverty)**
Socio-demographic analysis of HH with deprived children

- Equal number of HH with deprived children headed by men and women, except in the South
- Among female headed households, the marital status of HoH is married for the majority (60%), widowed (20%) and divorced (20%)
- Strong prevalence of child marriage in regions with most deprived children (4% national, 15-20% in the most deprived areas)
- Larger HH size (> 7 people of more), over 90% in deprived areas
- Hassanya predominant language in deprived HH
Advantages

✓ Children are particularly vulnerable to disaster (Sendai!)
✓ Long-term effects of shocks
✓ Both vulnerability & child poverty are forward-looking concepts (-> policy, HD investments)
✓ Human development inputs (-> policy, HD investments)
✓ Intra-HH dynamics (-> coping strategies, policy)
✓ Human rights based approach (methodology)
✓ Most conservative measure of HH consumption smoothing?
✓ Availability of disaggregated data (census, MICS...)

Looking ahead

On the mapping:

- Systematic disaggregation by age and sex for more targeted life-cycle approach programming (also: “critical period” in child development!)
- Distance to basic services derived from census GPS data
- ODA/Public investment “layer”?
- Adaptation of child poverty indicators to type of hazard?

Avenues for further research:

- Investigation into areas with lack of overlap between hazard & child deprivation (community adaptation)
- Child poverty in the nomadic community
- Causality analyses: inclusion of different underlying factors
- Impact on children living in high-risk areas (ex-ante HH coping)
Thank you!