

Title: An analysis of changes in child poverty in the developing world at the end of the 20th century

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Abstract:

What do we know about child poverty and deprivation in the developing world? Are things getting better or, given the political and economic turmoil of recent years, have conditions worsened? Are children's basic needs for shelter, water, food and education being met, or has there been a decline in their standard of living? These are, one would think, quite simple questions to which there would be ample evidence to provide a detailed answer. In fact, reliable data on child poverty in the developing world are sparse. This may come as a surprise, given the considerable international attention and resources according to children. Until recently, most detailed studies of child poverty were conducted in rich countries; very few, if any, were conducted in the countries where almost all of the world's poorest children live – those in the developing world. This thesis examines the issues of child poverty and deprivation in the developing world. Using an international accepted definition of absolute poverty, a peer-reviewed methodology and high-quality individual level survey data on more than 3.5 million children in 84 countries, it provides for the first time, reliable data to show what changes there have been in the extent and nature of child poverty and deprivation in the developing world in the final decade of the twentieth century. It shows limited progress has been made in reducing the depth of child poverty and the prevalence of some key deprivations, and that while some regions have successfully reduced child poverty, others, namely Sub-Saharan Africa, have seen conditions worsen. The data also show how disparities, between boys and girls and between urban and rural children, changed over the 1990s.