

**Unite for Children,
Unite against AIDS.**

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**UNICEF's work and
initiatives toward
global and national
monitoring of coverage
of social protection
services**

Outline

- UNICEF'S work on Social Protection
- Global definition of child vulnerability in the context of HIV and AIDS
- Background to initiatives toward monitoring of coverage of social protection services
 - Summary of child vulnerability analysis results 2010 & 2013
 - GARPR indicator on economic support to the poorest households
- Redefining child vulnerability
- On-going initiatives to measure social protection indicators in household surveys

UNICEF's work on social protection

- Within UNICEF's equity focused approach to development, social protection is a crucial policy tool for achieving equity and social justice.
- In 2012, UNICEF supported 232 social protection interventions in 97 countries
- Of these, 71 are cash transfers in 52 countries
- Reaching over 12 million households

UNICEF's work on social protection focuses on four key components

Social Transfers

- Cash transfers (including pensions, child benefits, poverty-targeted, seasonal)
- Food transfers
- Nutritional supplementation; Provision of ARVs
- Public works

Programmes to access services

- Birth registration
- User fee abolition
- Health insurance
- Exemptions, vouchers, subsidies
- Specialized services to ensure equitable access for all

Support and care

- Family support services
- Home-based care
- Accessible Childcare services

Legislation

- Minimum and equal pay legislation
- Employment guarantee schemes
- Maternity and paternity leave
- Removal of discriminatory legislation or policies affecting service provision/access or employment
- Inheritance rights

Global definition of child vulnerability in the context of HIV and AIDS (UNICEF & UNAIDS, 2005)

- Defining child vulnerability in the context of HIV and AIDS at the global level
- Proxy definition that reflects HIV/AIDS-related impact
- *An **orphan** is a child below the age of 18 who has lost one or both parents*

A **child** made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS is below the age of 8 and:

- ✓ Has lost one or both parents, or
- ✓ has a chronically ill parent (regardless of whether the parent lives in the same household as the child), or
- ✓ lives in a household where least one adult died in past 12 months after chronic illness, or
- ✓ lives in a household where at least one adult was seriously ill in the past 12 months, or
- ✓ lives outside of family care (i.e. lives in an institution or on the streets)

Global indicators to monitor progress for children affected by HIV/AIDS

- Evolution of indicators to monitor progress towards meeting the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS
 - School attendance ratios of orphans and non-orphans
 - percentage of OVC whose households received free basic external support in caring for the child
- Difficulties in interpretation of chronic illness
- How to design the minimum package of services to meet the needs of vulnerable children?

2010 & 2013 analysis on determinants of child vulnerability

- Akwara et al, 2010; Idele et al, 2013 forthcoming
 - Used population-based household surveys (DHS/AIS/MICS)
 - Explored the utility of existing definition and indicators of child vulnerability in the context of HIV/AIDS
 - Multivariate analysis to assess whether markers of child vulnerability (orphans and those living in households with an ill adult) differentiate across key outcomes

Key Outcomes

- Explored datasets from varying HIV epidemic contexts
- Identification of key outcomes – child's life cycle

Children age 0-4	Children age 5-17	Adolescents age 15-17
DPT3	School attendance (7-17)	Early sexual debut before age 15
Fever treatment	Child labour (5-14)	Early marriage before age 18
Slept under ITN		
Stunting		
Birth registration		

Key research questions

- Are orphans more likely to have worse outcomes than non-orphans?
- Are children living in households with chronically ill or HIV positive adults more likely to have worse outcomes than those who don't?
- Aside from orphaning, chronic illness or HIV positive adults in household, what other factors are associated with poor child outcomes?

Summary of key findings

- Results indicate that the previously used markers do not consistently differentiate vulnerable children
- Wealth, education, living arrangements more consistently identified children with poor outcomes
- Orphanhood was associated with some outcomes

Summary of key findings:

Orphanhood

- Orphanhood status is associated with a number of child outcomes examined in the study:
 - Birth registration
 - School attendance
 - Child labour

Summary of Findings: Living Arrangements

- Living arrangements have an independent effect, holding orphanhood status constant
- Children living with those other than their own parents (compared to one or more parents) experience worse child health and development outcomes - on almost every outcome

Summary of Findings: Household Wealth

- Household wealth ranking is consistently and significantly associated with every outcome among children and adolescents
- Children in the poorest households fare the worst

Summary of Findings: Household Head Education

- Lack of education of an adult in the household is significantly associated with adverse outcomes among under-five children and young children and adolescents with few exceptions

Recent Developments

- Changes to standard MICS and DHS questionnaires eliminated difficult and ambiguous questions
- Growing interest to identify vulnerable children for wider areas of social protection
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Cash transfers
 - External support
 - Child protection
 - Social policy
- Need for AIDS-sensitive indicators, yet not uniquely AIDS-specific

Redefining Child Vulnerability: A New Proposal

- The study's findings have contributed to the dialogue on global monitoring efforts
- A newly proposed set of dimensions of child vulnerability:
 - Living in a household in the lowest wealth quintiles
 - Not living with either parent
 - Who has lost one or both parents
 - Living in a household with adults with no education

Estimating the Number of Vulnerable Children in the Context of HIV/AIDS

- Not living with either parent, and living in a household ranked in the bottom two wealth quintiles
- Who has lost one or both parents, and living in a household ranked in the bottom two wealth quintiles
- Living in a household with adults with no education, and living in a household ranked in the bottom two wealth quintiles

External Economic Support Indicator for Global Monitoring

- Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) (formerly UNGASS)
 - Indicator #7.4: Proportion of the poorest households who received external economic support in the last 3 months
- Numerator:
 - External economic support:
 - » Cash grants
 - » Assistance for school fees
 - » Material support for education
 - » Income generation support in cash or kind
 - » Food assistance provided at household level
 - » Material or financial support for shelter
- Denominator: Total number of poorest households (bottom two wealth quintiles)

Additional outcomes of new evidence

- *Review and revise questionnaire modules for household surveys to enable measurement and monitoring of the care and support indicator, including social protection;*
- Carrying out cost estimates for social protection, care and support programmes based on the new denominator
- Review and revise the *Guide to Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Response for Children Orphaned and Made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS* (2005)

Draft Set of Questions

- Domains and concepts:
 - Cash
 - Cash for work
 - Cash
 - In-kind
 - School material
 - Housing material
 - Agricultural inputs
 - Food
 - Food
 - Food vouchers
 - School feeding
 - Food for work

Process Underway

- In-house consultation with programme/sector specialists and with household survey specialists at NY/HQ
- Consultations with UNICEF regional offices and with MICS Regional Coordinators
- Plan to pilot-test the draft set of questions in a number of settings outside of planned household surveys for eventual inclusion in standard household surveys

Thank you!

