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Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation
27-29 June 2016
New York

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By Olivier Dupriez

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Disaggregation of, and by, income poverty

- % of poor at national and international poverty lines are SDG indicators
 - To be disaggregated by urban/rural, age, sex, and employment status
- Consumption-based measure in most low-income countries
- Source of data: household surveys (+ price data / PPPs)
- Disaggregation of key socio-economic indicators by poverty status (NPL) highly relevant for targeting and monitoring “pro-poor” policies
 - Multi-topic surveys → [poverty profiles](#) w/ disaggregation of various indicators
- Not much breakdown by poor/non-poor in time series databases
 - Poverty numbers usually not reported by age/sex/employment status

What the World Bank is doing

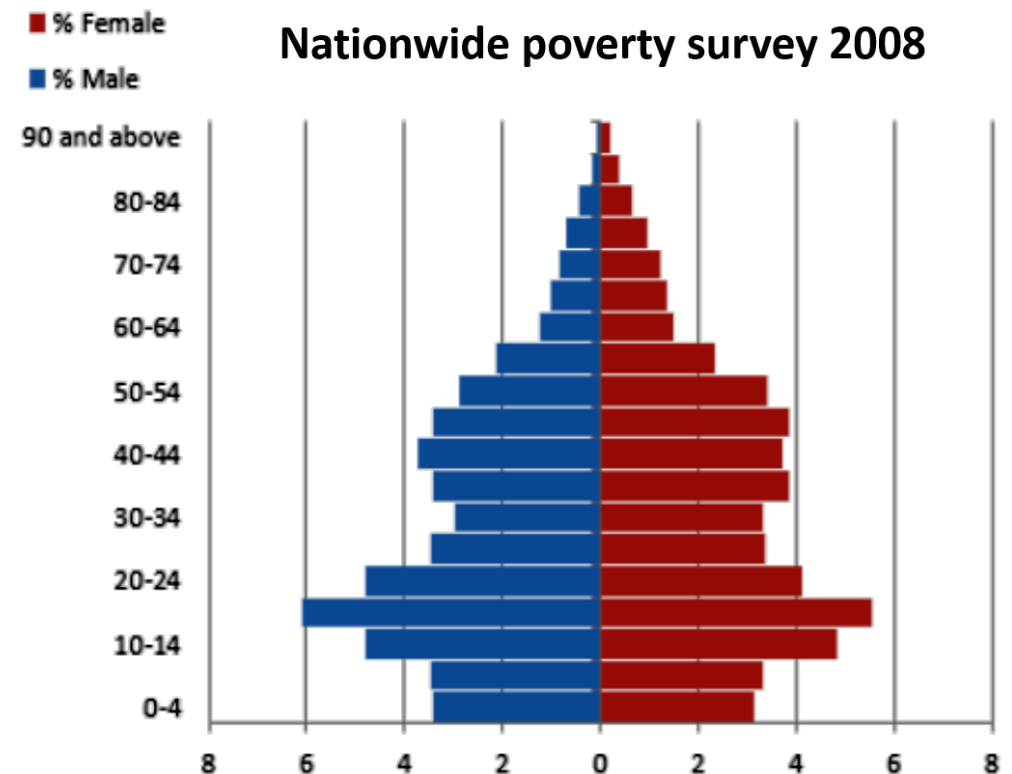
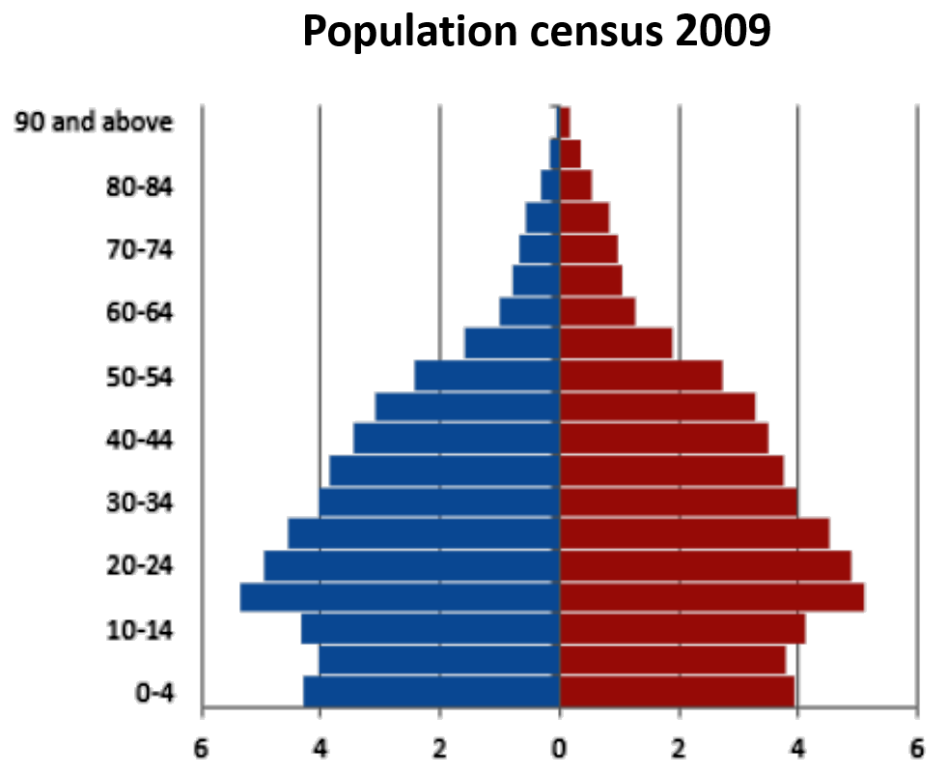
- Produce **global poverty estimates** (at international poverty line)
 - Use microdata when available (ex-post harmonization work), otherwise grouped data
 - Currently not disaggregated (except urban/rural for very few countries)
- Support **data collection** (“ending data deprivation” 2015-30 survey initiative)
 - Multi-topic surveys for maximum relevance and poverty profiling
- Participate in development and implementation of improved **survey methods**
 - Survey design, data capture/editing, data curation and dissemination
- Provide **tools and guidelines**
 - CAPI Survey Solutions, data documentation and dissemination, and others
- **Research** work
 - E.g., survey-to-survey imputations, poverty mapping, synthetic data, micro-simulation
- **Data dissemination** (e.g., WDI, Microdata Library)

(Some of) the challenges for disaggregation

- Poverty is measured at the household level, not individual level
 - Not ideal for disaggregation of/by individual-level indicators
 - No plan to change that
- Comparability (within and across countries) and reliability of data
 - Need better methods for measuring consumption / treating outliers / adjusting for non-responses, etc. (being developed)
 - No consensus on definition of “urban”
- Demand for larger samples
 - Issues of data quality, cost of surveys → not always recommended
 - Alternatives: survey-to-survey imputations, complex sampling, use new data sources
- Not all groups of population are / can be covered in “standard” surveys
 - Issues of sample size, sample frames, questionnaire design, cost, risk
- Data availability and accessibility (need access to microdata)

Data quality/comparability – An example

- Non-response may have impact on disaggregated estimates
- Solution (?) in sample calibration



Priorities for next steps

- Research on better measuring income / consumption
 - On survey design, sampling, data capture / editing / analysis
 - Must be a coordinated effort (→ ISWGHS)
- Innovation: develop/test/improve modeling methods and tools
 - Poverty maps/small area estimates, data fusion, synthetic data, micro-simulation
- Funding for data collection in low-income countries
 - Fill data gaps, with better data integration (consistency across data sources)
- More open dissemination of fully-documented microdata
 - Not all disaggregation will/can/should be made by statistics offices
 - Need to promote a global (responsible) data liberation