Data disaggregated by age

By Shane Khan
Data disaggregated by age

Issues and proposals for children and adolescents
Disaggregation & SDG indicators

Are disaggregates defined for SDGs?

Yes

6.1.1 Safely managed water: U/R

3.3.1 Malaria incidence: age

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate: 10-14, 15-19

1.2.1 Prop men, women, children below poverty line

2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting for under-fives

No/not yet

5.5.2 Women in managerial positions

Even for 5.5.2, age disaggregate is possible
Data sources & Methodologies

- Household surveys-
  - UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)
  - USAID-supported Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
  - Other household surveys
- Censuses
- Administrative systems
Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

Notes: Countries with at least one MICS survey
Including sub-national surveys
MICS Features

- Multi-topic: demography, education, health, child development, child protection, subjective well-being, child learning, social protection, water quality etc.
- Many disaggregates: wealth index, ethnicity, religion, language, place of residence, region, education, age etc.

- Collect age data for all household members
  - Month and Year
  - Also Day for under-fives

- Provides age disaggregates for indicators in reports
  - Usually categories
MICS Features

• Child-specific indicators & questionnaires
  – Under-fives, disaggregated by age group/cohort/single years
  – Indicator 2.2.1: Stunting prevalence

• Adolescent-specific indicators
  – 10-24 year olds, disaggregated by age group/cohort/single years
  – Indicator 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate

• Child and Adolescent indicators combined
  – Indicator 8.7.1: Child labour: 5-17

• Women and men
  – Specific questionnaires for age 15-49

• Women and men 50+
  – Education, water and sanitation, handwashing, pensions and social transfers (coming soon)
Example of age disaggregate

Categories can represent ‘cohorts’

Age in single years
Limited variation (at times)
Sample size constraints
### Methodological challenges & guidance from MICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Guidance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small sample sizes for under-fives (usually in low-fertility settings)</td>
<td>Oversampling of households with children (pioneered in MICS); expert guidance available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross-analysis of disaggregates e.g. children in poor, rural households</td>
<td>Larger samples (?) Sub-national and targeted surveys</td>
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<td>Data and analysis rich but dissemination?</td>
<td>Child-friendly report templates for MICS Development of adolescent indicator analysis and reporting templates</td>
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<td>Quality of age data (heaping, transfers, etc.)</td>
<td>Improve field work practices (supervision, electronic data capture and immediate checking); MICS manuals</td>
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Priority issues

• Disaggregate depends on **good quality age data**
  – Mechanisms such as improved registration systems can help

• Define disaggregates explicitly on a case-by-case basis:
  – Use where sensible
  – Single months/years, categories of months/years?
  – Consequences to data collection (cost, sample sizes, etc.)
  – Larger age categories may permit better cross-dimensional analysis
  – Note: Indicators defined for certain age groups will by definition lead to exclusions of the remaining population

• Link data sources to indicators to ensure reasonable fit between data needs and data gathering
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June 2016

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