

# ***Poverty Data Disaggregation: Experiences and Suggestions of China***

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# ***Disaggregated poverty data is important for most of the Countries***

## **■ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- Pledge: No one will be left behind
- 17 Goals and 169 targets
- *“Sustainable Development Goal indicators Should be disaggregated, where relevant, by **income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (General Assembly Resolution 68/261).**”*

# ***It is especially important in China***

- 2020 poverty alleviation objective of China
  - To insure all people in rural area with enough food and clothes, basic education and medical care, and housing safety
  - To insure all poor people in rural area living under the current rural poverty line ( 2300yuan a year= 2.3 USD a day) to be out of poverty
  - To narrow the gaps in income and basic public service between poor rural areas and the average level of rural China
  - To insure all poor counties to be out of “poor” ( poverty headcount rate <2%)

# ***It is especially important in China***

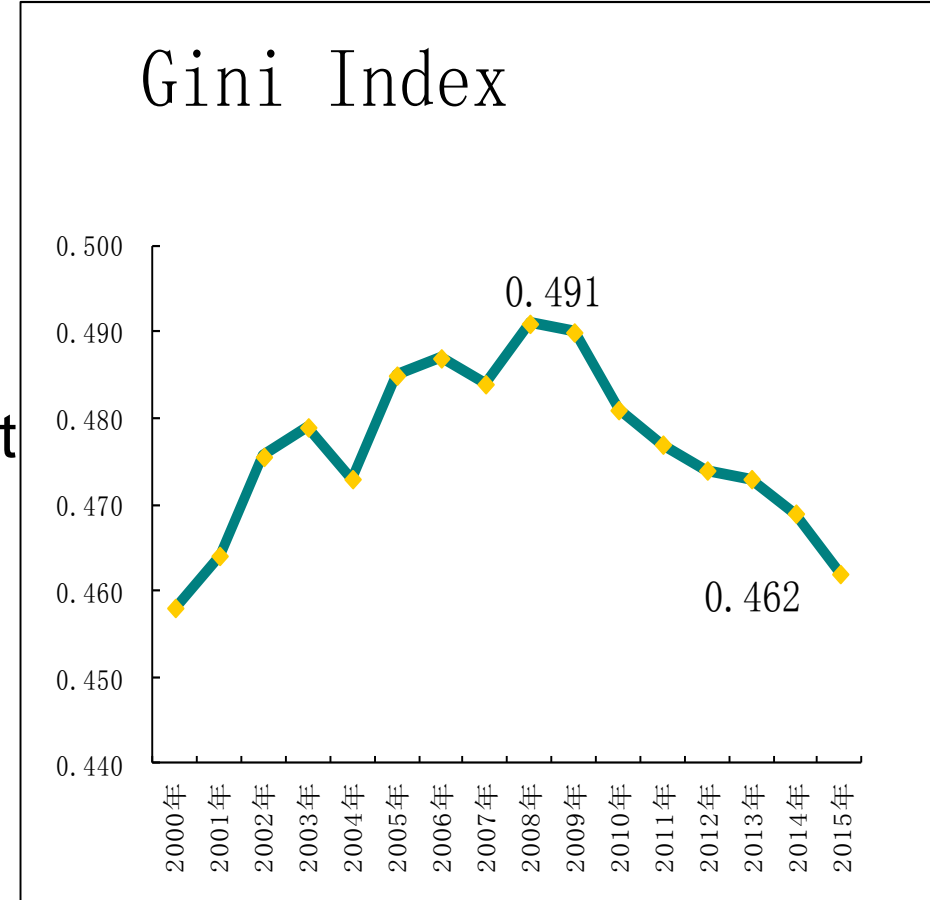
- Huge population: 1.37 billion persons
- Rapid urbanization and huge size of migrant population:  
169 million rural migrant workers
- 56 ethnic groups
- 6 administrative levels:
  - National level
  - Province: =31
  - Prefecture-level city: > 300
  - County/district : >2,800
  - Town/township: >40,000
  - Villages/communities: > 700,000

# *It is especially important in China*

## ■ Large income equality:

2015 per capita disposable income

- Income ratio between urban residents and rural residents: 2.73:1
- Regional income ratio among east, middle, west and northeast area: 1.67:1.09:1:1.24
- Income ratio between the highest 20% and the lowest 20% : 10.5:1
- Gini index: 0.462



# Concerns in poverty data disaggregation

- 1. What do we have?
- 2. What do we need?
- 3. What could we do? And how to do?

# ***What kind of the disaggregated poverty data do we have –China***

## **Household Income and Expenditure Survey(HIES)**

annually provides/could provide following data by province, rural/urban, income group, sex, age, occupation, educational attainment, household type

- Income/consumption poverty index
- Rate of household in different types of dwellings
- Rate of household with living facilities/owned durable goods/access to public facilities or services
- Rate of persons with certain educational attainment and above/skill training /medical care/pension program
- .....
- Enrolment rate of Children
- Proportion of households with access to financial services
- Proportion of household participating in decision-making on community affairs?

# ***What kind of the disaggregated poverty data do we have? –China***

- Mortality rate of infants/children below 5 years old
  - Population census (every 10 years): detailed disaggregated data by household and individual characteristics and by region
  - Administrative data: annual data only by large regions
  - National Children Sampling Survey(1990)
- Data on health or diseases
  - National Health Services Survey
  - Administrative data: by province
  - –Ministry of Health and Family Planning
  - Once in 5 years
- Data on family violence
  - Special survey/interview
  - -Women federation/NGO
  - Not periodically



# *The demand for more disaggregated data ....*

## ■ Poverty size and headcount rate

### ➤ Need more disaggregated data by household characteristics and demographic characteristics

- ❑ by farmer household/household with combined occupation/non-farmer household
- ❑ by ethnicity
- ❑ by educational attainment
- ❑ by disabilities
- ❑ .....

### ➤ By sex, age, ethnicity in poor areas

### ➤ By lower administrative level

- ❑ by county
- ❑ by village

National level

Province:

=31

Prefecture-level city:

> 300

County/district :

>2,800

Town/township:

>40,000

Villages/communities:

> 700,000

# *The demand for more disaggregated data ....*

## ■ Housing condition, children schooling

- By native residents/rural migrant workers
- By location of migrants
- .....

# How to improve data disaggregation?

- By improving the current surveys
- By establishing new data sources
  - Sampling surveys
  - Administrative data
- By improving the utilization of current raw data

# *Example:*

Poverty size, poverty headcount rate, living condition

Solution 1: improve the HIES

Solution 2: built new surveys

Solution 3: built new administrative data collection system

Solution 4: adopt new tools or methods

# ***Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)-NBS***

- Periodicity: Annually
- Sample size: 160,000 households covering all the districts and more than 1/3 counties in 31 provinces of China
- Data collecting:
  - ✓ income and expenditure information is collected through diary-keeping of surveyed households in the whole year
  - ✓ Characteristics information of individual/household/community is collected through questionnaire interview at the end of quarter and year.

# ***Solution 1: improve the HIES***

- Do we involve the target groups in HIES?
  - Vulnerable groups
  - Ethnic groups
  - Migrant labors

# ***Vulnerable groups***

## ■ Illiteracy /disabled persons ...

- It is difficult for them to keep diary or respond to the self-administered questionnaire

## ■ Solutions adopted

- An assistant interviewer in each sample village was employed to assist them keep diary on income and expenditure
- In some urban areas, the surveyed households could send voice message or call directly to county-level survey team office instead of keeping diary by themselves

# ***Ethnic groups***

- All the members of surveyed household can not speak Chinese or Mandarin
- Solutions adopted:
  - A local interviewer of the same ethnic group is employed to facilitate communication



# *Migrants*

- Most of migrants migrate from rural area to urban area.
  - It is difficult to involve them in the sample for a whole year, due to frequent mobility of rural migrants.

# ***Solution 1: improve the HIES***

## ■ How to make target groups visible in the household survey?

### ➤ Proper variables and indicators

- ❑ Comprehensive
- ❑ Comparability
- ❑ Relevance for policy
- ❑ Burden of respondents

### ➤ Enough sample size

- ❑ Cost
- ❑ Manpower

# ***Reform of HIES since 2013***

- Improve sampling method to better cover migrants
  - Dwelling sampling method was adopted instead of household sampling method.
- Improve data collecting method to better grasp income and expenditure information of migrants
  - ✓ Questionnaire interview instead of keeping diary for part migrant household .
- Add variables about ethnicity, disability....
- Add the sample size of 40,000 households to improve the reliability of disaggregated data

# ***Could HIES of post-reform satisfy the demand for the disaggregated data ?***

## Poverty size and poverty headcount rate

### ■ **By more characteristics of household/person**

- by farmer households/households with combine occupation/non-farmer household -----Y
- by ethnic groups-----Y for main groups
- by educational attainment-----Y
- by disability -----the reliability of disaggregated data need to be evaluated

### ■ **By sex, age, ethnicity of poor areas -----N**

### ■ **By lower administrative level:-----N**

- by county
- ...
- by village

# ***Could HIES of post-reform satisfy the demand for the disaggregated data ?***

Housing condition, children schooling----- N

- By native residents/migrants
- By location of migrants
- .....

# ***Solution 2: built special household surveys--NBS***

- National Poverty Monitoring Survey-NBS(from 1997 to now)
  - Add 40,000 sample households in poor areas on the basis of HIES.
  - Provide disaggregated data by household characteristics and individual characteristics for poor areas
  - Compare the difference between poor areas and the average level of the national/province
  - Insure enough sample size in poor areas
  - Collect data related with poverty alleviation program

# ***Solution 2: built Special household surveys***

- Special Survey on Rural Migrant Workers-NBS (from 2015)
  - ✓ New survey with the sample size of 40,000 rural migrant workers in urban area
  - ✓ To provide detailed disaggregated data for migrants
  - ✓ To reflect the issues concerned by migrants, such as employment, housing, children education, integration with native urban residents

# ***Solution 2: built Special household surveys***

- Monitoring Survey for mini-ethnic group--- National Commission of Ethnic Affair
  - ✓ To collect related data from 2119 villages of mini-ethnic groups



# ***Solution 3: built new administrative data source***

## ■ Poverty alleviation information system

- Since 2014
- Administrative data used for the implementation of targeted poverty alleviation program
- By Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation of State Council
- The objective is to involve every poor household/person

# ***Solution 4: Adopt new tools or methods***

## ■ Poverty mapping

- Second National Agricultural Census + HIES
- Poverty headcount rate by county

## ■ Integration of administrative data system

- Poverty alleviation information system
  - Low-income group information system
  - Disabilities information system
  - Citizen ID registration system
- Began from 2016



# ***Suggestions to international statistical community***

- Specify required and optional disaggregated indicators for 2030 agenda
  - Required disaggregated indicators: for international comparison
  - Optional disaggregated indicators: for domestic comparison
  - Suggestions about data source
- Unify the classification and definition of disaggregated indicators
  - Disability
- Develop new tools for data disaggregation and promote the use of new tools



Thank you !