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# METHODS AND APPROACHES FOR COUNTING STREET CHILDREN

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# Definitions

**Children with street associations:** includes children who depend on the streets to live and/or work alone, with peers or with family; includes a wider population of children who have formed strong connections with public spaces and for whom the street plays a vital role in their everyday lives and identities (General Comment 21)

**Children on the street:** children who work or beg for money on the street and return home at night and maintain contact with their families (UNICEF, 2001)

**Children of the street:** homeless children who live and sleep on the streets in urban areas; they are on their own, living with other street children or homeless adult street people (UNICEF, 2001)

# Methodological considerations

## CHILDREN ON THE STREET

- Likely captured by household surveys
- Survey questions need to be developed and tested to identify such population and define sizes/characteristics of these children

## CHILDREN OF THE STREET

- Missed by household surveys
- Hard to reach and count in part due to their interest to stay hidden and their mobile and transient lifestyle
- Variety of methods and approaches depending on data needs:
  - The enumeration methods (point-in-time counts and observational headcounts) aim to provide a count of the target population
  - The capture-recapture method aims to provide a population size estimation through a series of counts and analysis of the overlap between counts taken at different times
  - Time-location and respondent driven sampling can help identify and build a representative sample of the population of interest and provide the basis for population size estimations
- Still lack of standardized tools and methods

# Roles and partnerships

- Research institutions - targeted studies and methodological testing and development
- Governments - should include street-connected children in their routine data collection efforts
- Civil society organizations - enormous local knowledge of those working closely with street-connected children
- Donors and other international stakeholders - invest resources in the testing and implementation of robust methods



**THANK YOU**

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