METHODS AND APPROACHES FOR COUNTING STREET CHILDREN

Claudia Cappa, Data & Analytics, UNICEF NYHQ
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)
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