How data and partnerships can work to ensure no one is left behind

Lessons from South Africa on the implementation of the Child Support Grant

Leila Patel & Lauren Graham
Who is involved in identifying who is left behind and how do they collaborate?

- Excellent data systems that have integrity
- Credible academic institutions
- Govt open to evidence-informed policy making
- Engaged civil society
Poverty monitoring in South Africa

### National Development Plan Goals 2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Development Plan Goals 2030</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2030 Target</th>
<th>Most recent stats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing the proportion of persons living below the LBPL from 39% (in 2009) to zero by 2030</td>
<td>39% (2009)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>40% (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce income inequality from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030</td>
<td>0.7 (2010)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.68 (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The share of income going to the bottom 40% of income earners should rise from 6% to 10%</td>
<td>6% (2010)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8.3% (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce poverty-induced hunger to 0% by 2030</td>
<td>21.4% (2011)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>25.2% (2015)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The 2015 increase in the headcount across all the age groups shows that poverty has not only increased, but based on the poverty gaps we know that those living in poverty are actually worse off than they were in 2011.

In 2015, the youngest age group (0-17) had the highest proportion of people living in poverty.
What does data tell us about structural drivers of poverty?

A practical example: the CSG
To sum up...

Key ingredients to good policy making:
✓ Data integrity and availability
  • Macro picture and micro stories give us the best sense of who is left behind
✓ Capacity to interrogate and make sense of data
✓ Openness of government to use the evidence
✓ Positive engagement between researchers & policy makers
✓ Vibrant civil society that can use data for advocacy
✓ Realization that data alone does not influence the policy outcome - confluence of resources & different actors working together for better outcomes.
✓ Political will & commitment to leaving no one behind