

How do children experience poverty? Do girls and boys experience poverty in the same way?



unicef
for every child

Child poverty and gender equality

PROBLEM

Children are invisible and missing in household poverty estimates. SDG Target 1.2.2 calls for reducing, by 2030, multidimensional poverty for “men, women, and children.”

How many poor children are in your country?

Children experience poverty differently from adults. Their needs (in terms of schooling, nutrition, health, etc.) are different and the impacts (often irreversible) last a lifetime. Moreover, money cannot always purchase what children need. For example, in a rural area lacking medical facilities, income does not provide access to health services.

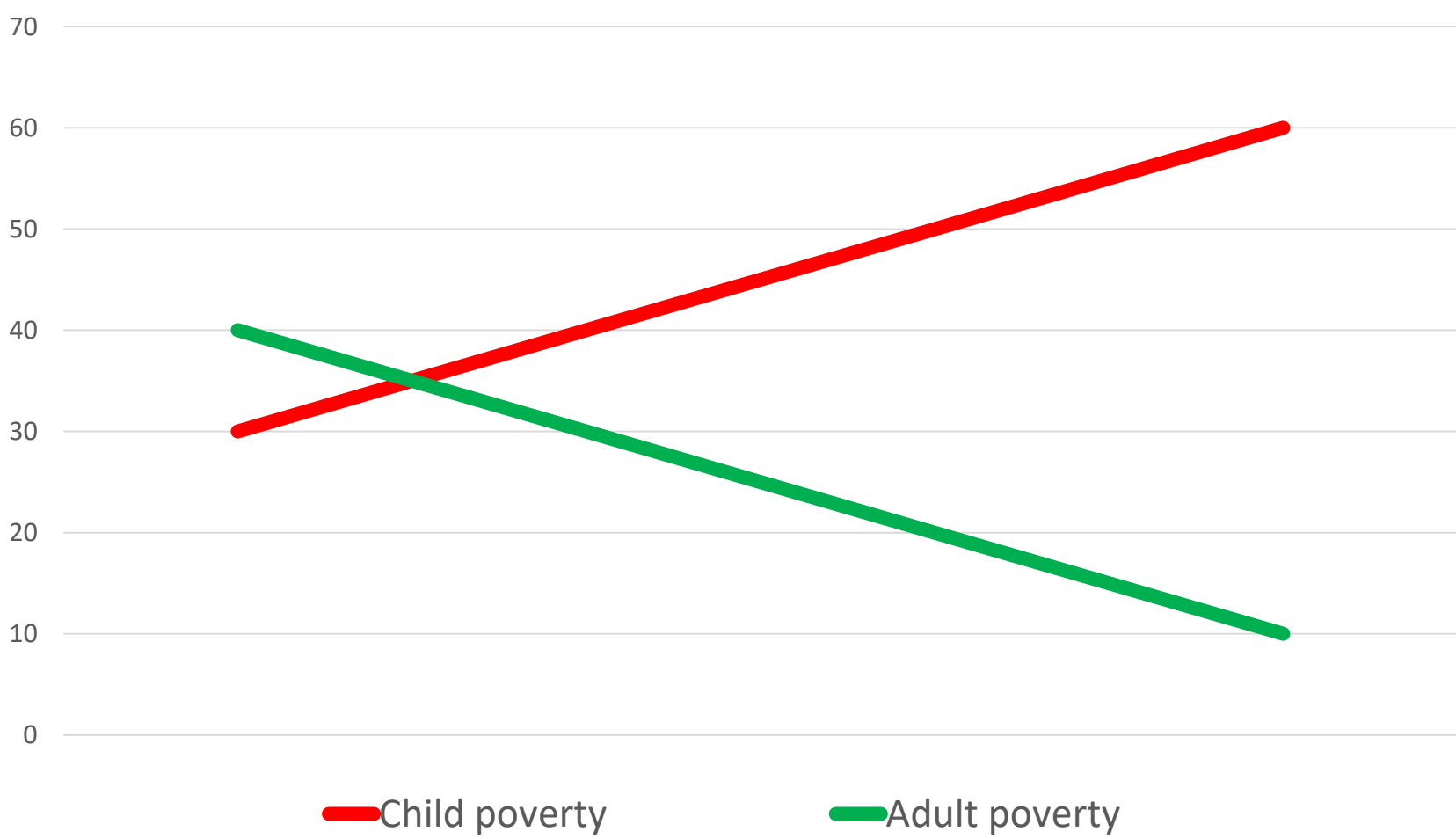
As children experience poverty differently from adults and may experience poverty differently from one another, measuring poverty at the household level is not sufficient. A further limitation of household-based measures (whether monetary or multidimensional) is that they fail to reveal gender differences.

In the graph it can be observed that the situation could be improving for adults (green cells for improvements in adult unemployment and years of schooling) in the household but declining for children (red cells showing a worsening malnourishment and immunisation status). However, overall, the household seems to be better off than before. Perhaps, we no longer count these children as poor!

We could incorrectly conclude that poverty is declining in the country while the child population (almost 50 per cent of the total) could be lagging behind.

	Adult 1	Adult 2	Child 1	Child 2
Unemployment				
# of school years				
Malnourishment				
Immunisation				

Trends in adult and child poverty do not necessarily move together



SOLUTION

UNICEF has developed a child poverty monitoring framework which allows countries to measure child poverty based on internationally agreed criteria using individual-level data from existing household surveys. Moreover, while maintaining scientific standards and rigour, it allows for country specificity and flexibility. It also addresses ways to capture gender disparities, and include the differential needs of girls, in the poverty measure.

Check the map to find out if there are data on child poverty in your country!

