



From MDGs to SDGs
Unpacking the 2030 Development Agenda and its Implications for
Child Indicator Research

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Millennium Declaration

In September 2000 the governments of 189 countries adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved to “*spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty*”.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Progress

Are we there yet?		
Target	Then	Now
Poverty: halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty	1990 36%	2010 18%
Hunger: halve the proportion of hungry people	1990 25%	2012 15%
Education: ensure all children can complete primary school	1990 82%	2012 92%
Gender equality: end gender disparities in schools	1990 0.88	2012 0.97
Child mortality: cut under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) by two thirds	1990 87	2012 50
Maternal mortality: cut maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) by three quarters	1990 380	2013 210
HIV & AIDs: halt and begin to reverse the incidence of HIV & AIDS	1990 0.10	2012 0.06
Water: halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water	1990 24%	2012 11%
Sanitation: halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation	1990 51%	2012 36%
http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf		

SDGs and Child Poverty

The current proposal for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes a target to reduce child poverty:

“1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.”

This idea has been made feasible by UNICEF’s pioneering Global Study of Child Poverty and Disparities (2007 to 2011)

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_45357.html

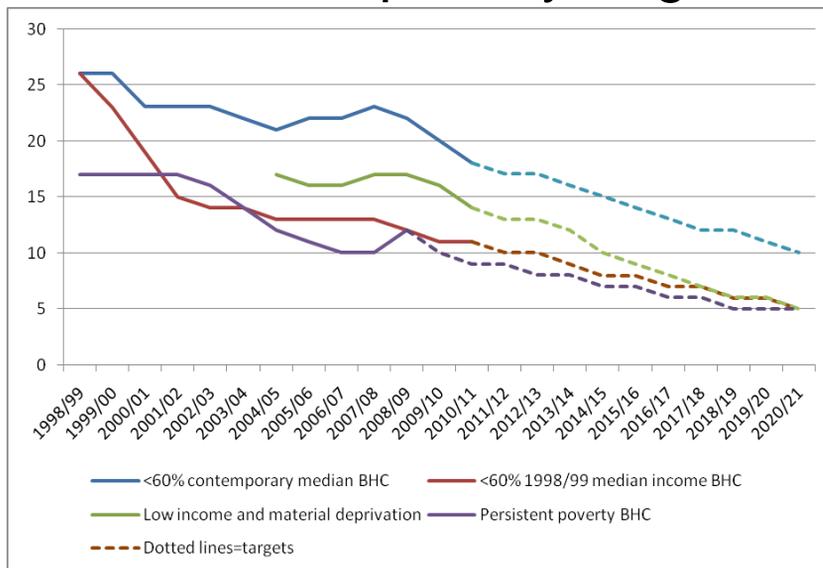
Child Poverty in the UK

The UK Government is legally committed to tackling the problem of child poverty. In March 1999, the then Prime Minister Tony Blair set out a commitment to end child poverty forever:

“And I will set out our historic aim that ours is the first generation to end child poverty forever, and it will take a generation. It is a 20-year mission but I believe it can be done.”

In 2010, the Child Poverty Act enshrined this policy commitment in law and **mandated four target indicators to measure progress.**

UK Child poverty targets



UK Child Poverty Targets: What Happened Next?

Progress towards meeting the child poverty targets faltered as a result of austerity policies

In July 2015, the UK Government decided to repeal the Child Poverty Act and **abolish the child poverty target indicators.**

National vs International Indicators/Targets

Advantage

National targets and indicators are likely to be more appropriate to the country context and have national ownership

Disadvantage

The Government can (and will?) 'move the goalposts' if it does not like the results produced by the indicator.

Neither national or international SDG indicators are likely to be 'joined up' they are more likely to be programmatic.

Who will Pay for the Data Revolution?

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Years	1990-1995	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2011-2015
DHS & MICS datasets	DHS 2 (1988-1993)	DHS 3 (1992-1997)	DHS 4 (1997-2003)	DHS 5 (2003-2008)	DHS 6 (2008-2013)
	DHS 3 (1992-1997)	DHS 4 (1997-2003)	DHS 5 (2003-2008)	DHS 6 (2008-2013)	MICS 4 (2009-11)
		MICS 2 (2000/01)	MICS 3 (2005/06)	MICS 4 (2009-11)	MICS 5 (2011-15)
TOTAL AVAIL.	37	70	47	79	43

The robust measurement of equality usually requires survey data not administrative statistics. Who will pay to collect the new survey data?