Title: A multidimensional child poverty indicator proposal for Brazil using Brazil's National Household Survey (PNAD Continua)

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Theme: Measurement issues related to child well-being and understanding children's lives
Sub-theme: Poverty, deprivation, material well-being and inequality
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Thematic importance: Multidimensional child poverty measurements have historically been conducted using household surveys. Some countries have official measurements used for policy decisions and better public resources allocation for social sectors, such as Argentina and Mexico. IBGE tested some multidimensional approaches in experimental publications, however, these efforts ceased in 2018, leaving only the monetary poverty measurements in place. Multidimensional child poverty analysis is appropriate for understanding children's deprivations and wellbeing, as their families may not be able to procure the goods and services that are essential for children's development even if their families have more money than an arbitrary poverty line.

Introduction and objectives: Earlier work done by UNICEF in Brazil, using the annual household survey (Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Contínua - PNAD) up until 2015 found that 49,7% of Brazilian children lived in multidimensional poverty in 2015. We aim to replicate the methodology using the more recent PNAD Continua from 2016 to 2019 (2020 if available). However, since the survey changed some of its questions, sampling strategy (from 1,100 municipalities to 3,500), and went from a single annual collection to a continuous collection, changes will be needed to maintain some degree of comparability. Also, further analysis will be conducted using the synthetic indicator, in order to understand multidimensional poverty by gender, race, geographic location and other life conditions pertaining to the household.

Method: The methodology used is based on the aforementioned UNICEF and Bristol University study, within a child rights approach as a theoretical framework (Multi-Dimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA)). A matrix of poverty dimensions is defined with different thresholds for intermediate and extreme rights deprivations. The dimensions were chosen from a framework pertaining to the Conventions on Rights of the Child (CRC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the national legislation (ECA – Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente). Each dimension was constructed from variables that are available in the Brazilian household survey (PNAD Contínua). The proposed dimensions for the present study will be: education, information access, water access, sanitation, living conditions (overcrowding, construction materials). The feasibility of the inclusion of other dimensions will be explored, such as child labor.

Results: Results from 2016 to 2018 demonstrated a reduction from 51,1% to 47,8% of prevalence of at least one dimension of non-monetary poverty among children and adolescents in Brazil. Results also showed a large gap when disaggregating by race, with white children having significantly less deprivations than black and indigenous children.

Conclusions and implications: Multidimensional poverty trends change slowly over time, as for a child to be considered not poor, all their basic rights must be fulfilled. Also, this measurement provides a pathway for public policy, guiding public resources to where the investment would have a greater impact on reducing non-monetary poverty. Moreover, the numbers seem to be consistent with the 2018 study from UNICEF using previous PNAD surveys.