

Child Poverty and Deprivation in Uganda

1. Introduction

Why child poverty matters

- Child poverty is poverty experienced by children and young people during their childhood.
- Such children and young people grow up without access to economic, social, cultural, physical, environmental and political resources which are vital for their wellbeing. For example, food poverty (inadequate nutritional) in children contributes to high rates of disability, illness and death.
- Child poverty means that a child grows up with inadequate means or livelihood, opportunities for development, and family and community structures to nurture and protect them. It also leaves children without opportunities for a voice in society
- Because child poverty has significant long-term consequences, focusing on child poverty has important implications for the intergenerational transmission of poverty.
- Children born in poor households are more likely to become impoverished adults and, in turn, to have poor children.

Understanding the measurement of multidimensional child poverty

MEET JANE



She is 3 years and lives in rural Karamoja

She has never been immunized and had an unattended birth

She lives in a one roomed house with her other 6 siblings and parents

She is stunted (too short for her age) and underweight (small for her age)

IS
JANE
POOR?

Poverty is multifaceted



Wouldn't we understand child poverty better if we measured all these dimensions together? Certainly YES

The Bristol Approach (which was adapted for Uganda) directly measures the different deprivations that children face at the same time in different aspects of their life.

Box 1: Dimensions and Indicators of Child Poverty

Dimension of poverty	Ages	Indicator of poverty	Severe deprivation cut-off
Food and nutrition	< 5	Height for age	3 standard deviations below reference median
		Weight for age	OR 3 standard deviations below reference median
		Height for weight	OR 3 standard deviations below reference median
Health	< 5	Immunization	Never been immunized against any diseases
		Attended birth	AND unattended birth
Water	0-17	Source of drinking water	Using water from an unimproved source: open wells/springs or surface water
		Distance to water	AND return trip to collect water of 60 minutes or longer
Sanitation	0-17	Type of toilet	Children having no toilet i.e. using the bush
Shelter	0-17	Overcrowding	More than five people per room
Education	6-17	School attendance	Children of schooling age (aged 6-17) who have never been to school
Information	0-17	radio or television	No possession of radio, television and mobile phone

A child is poor if he/she is deprived in **two or more of the seven dimensions.**



For example JANE is extremely deprived in **HEALTH, NUTRITION** and **SHELTER**

JANE LIVES IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY

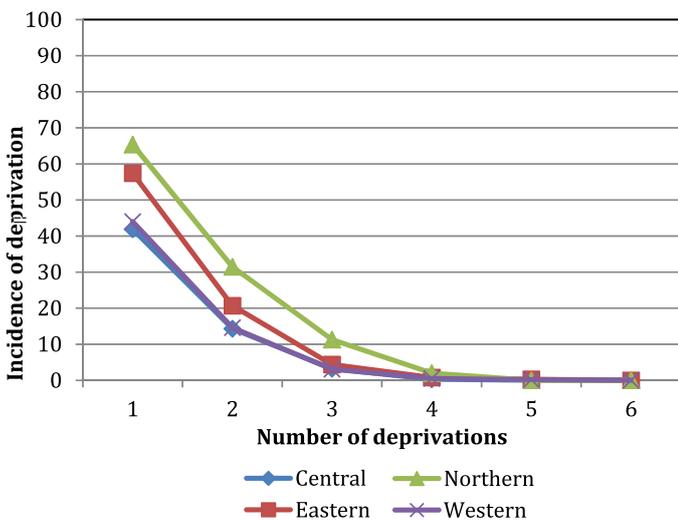
2. Key findings

Figures 1 and 2 give an overview of the rates of multiple deprivations for the four principal regions of Uganda using the severe cut-offs indicated in Box 1, for children aged 0-4 years and 6-17 years using the UDHS 2011 data.

Prevalence of child poverty

- 55 percent of children aged 0-4 years live in child poverty while 24 percent live in extreme poverty/absolute poverty
- Rates of severe deprivation are particularly high in Northern and Eastern Uganda and lower in Western and Central Uganda.
- Roughly 15% of 0-4 year olds in the West and Central regions are severely deprived in two or more two dimensions compared to over 30% for Northern and 20% for Eastern Uganda.

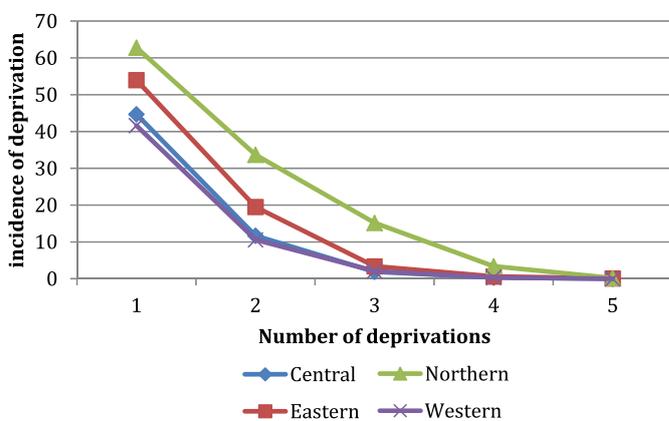
Figure 1: Share of children with severe deprivations (0-4 years) by region (2011)



Source: MoGLSD et al., 2013

- 38 percent of children aged 6-17 years live in child poverty while 18 percent live in extreme/absolute poverty
- Rates of absolute poverty for children aged 6-17 years are lower than 0-4 year olds in the West and Central regions, identical in the East and higher in the Northern region (Figure 2), although the regional ordering remains unchanged.
- In Northern Uganda, at least two thirds of children are severely suffering from one or more severe deprivations.

Figure 2: Share of children with severe deprivations (6-17 years) by region (2011)

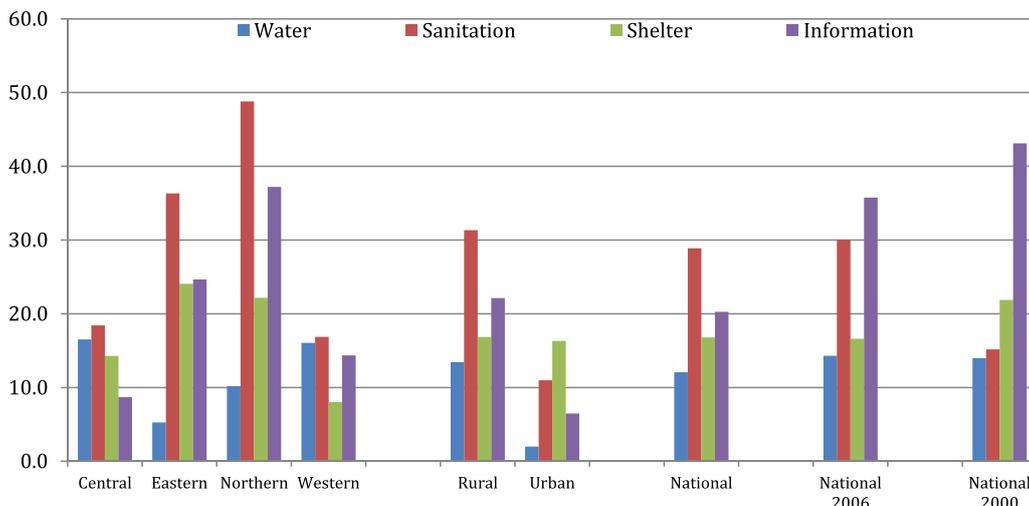


Source: MoGLSD et al., 2013

Most common forms of deprivation

- Analysis of severe deprivation rates for each of the seven dimensions reveals that shelter and information are the most common forms of severe deprivation, affecting around 17 and 20% of 0-17 year olds respectively, while around 12% of children are affected by severe water and sanitation deprivation.
- The highest rates of deprivation are in the Northern and Eastern regions. Deprivation rates are much higher in rural areas, except for shelter where the difference is minimal.

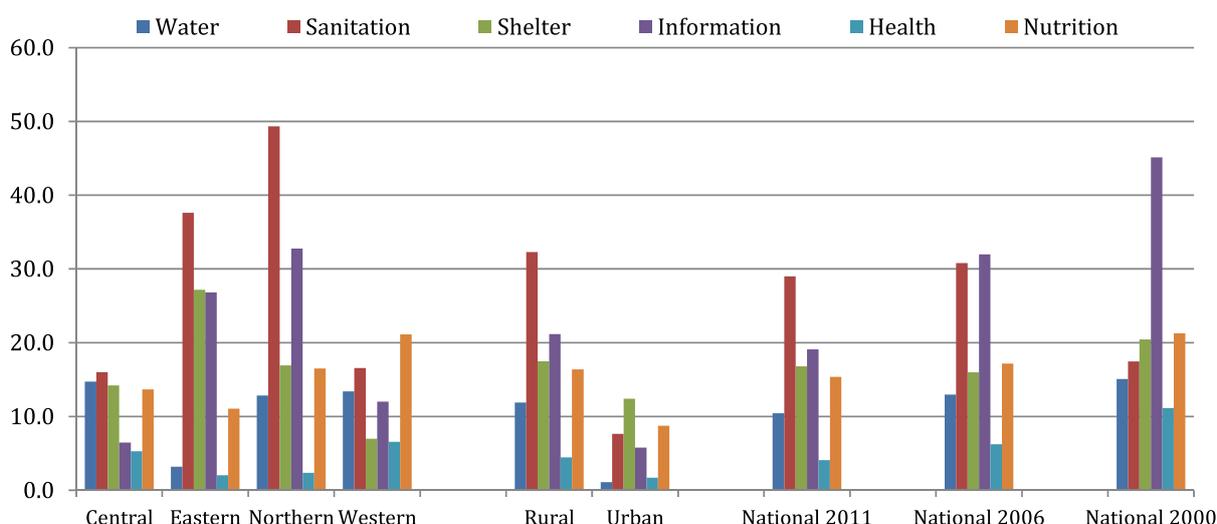
Figure 3: Severe deprivation rates for children aged 0-17 by region (2011)



Source: MoGLSD et al., 2013

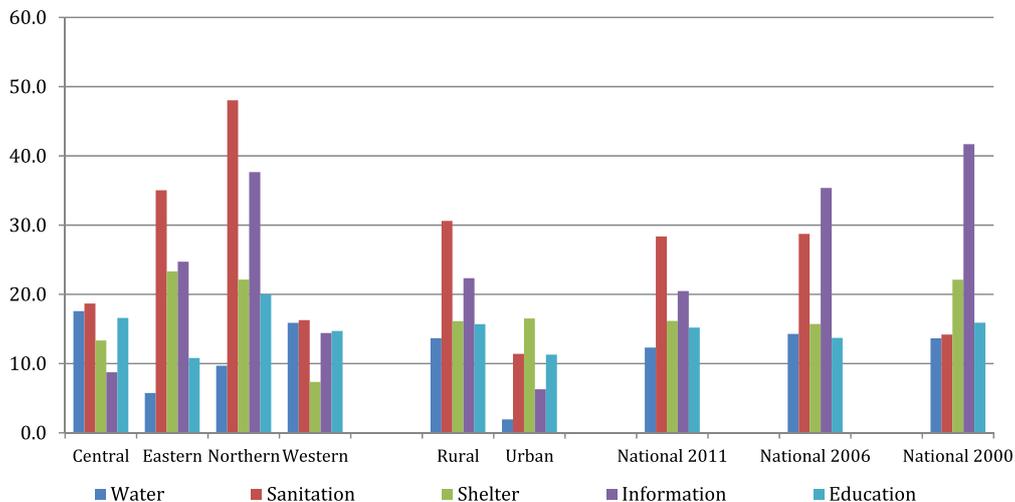
- During 2001-2011, the well-being of children in Uganda improved significantly in all dimensions, especially information. The only exception is shelter, where the severe deprivation rate increased slightly between 2006 and 2011, although it still remains substantially below the rate recorded in 2000.
- For 0-4 year olds, severe deprivation in terms of health & nutrition are also analysed (Figure 4). While shelter and information remain the most common forms of severe deprivation, the results for nutrition are worrying, with around 15% of children suffering from severe deprivation.
- Severe deprivation rates are highest in rural and the North and East regions, with the exception of water and health, which are highest in the Central and West.
- A trend analysis (2000-2011) reveals improvements in all dimensions, with the exception of shelter between 2006 and 2011 (as discussed for children aged 0-17).
- Finally, in the 6-17 age group, the analysis includes severe deprivation in terms of education (never attended school), which affects around 15% of children (Figure 5).
- Severe education deprivation is more common in rural areas and in the North and Central Uganda. The same improvements over time are noted for 6-17 year olds, with the exception of access to water – which deteriorates slightly between 2000 and 2006, only to improve significantly in 2011 – and education – which, after an initial improvement in 2006, returns to 2000 levels

Figure 4: Severe deprivation rates for children aged 0-4 year by region (2011)



Source: MoGLSD et al., 2013

Figure 5: Severe deprivation rates for children aged 6-17 years region (2011)

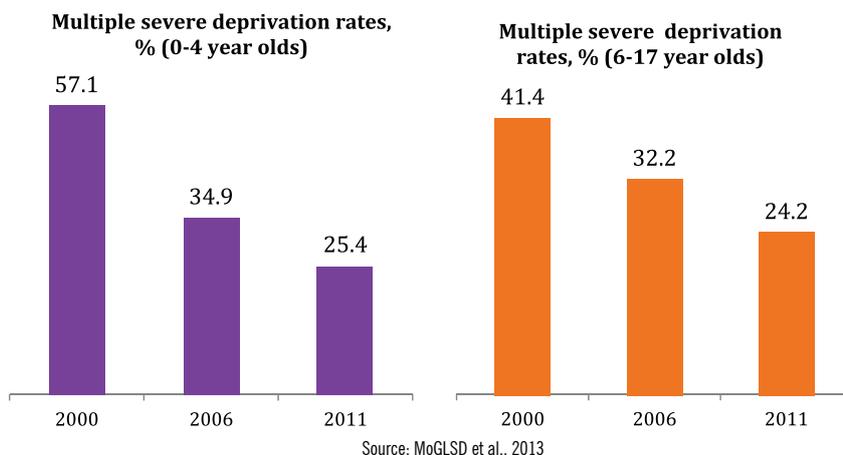


The Good News: Child Poverty has gone down over time!

There has been a significant decline in multidimensional child deprivation over the ten-year period (2000-2011)

3. Policy recommendations

- Ensure that the rights and needs of children are addressed in the budget by mainstreaming children in every aspect of the budgetary process to achieve their well-being.



- Implement responses and interventions aimed at eliminating disparities (regional, gender, socio economic) in access to basic needs and social services.

Reference: The fact sheet is an excerpt from “ Situation Analysis of Child Poverty and Deprivation in Uganda” <http://portal.pep-net.org/documents/download/id/22825>
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