

# Monitoring Urban Children's Inequalities: Two Complementary Approaches



Gabriel Crespo, Program Manager  
Alberto Minujin, Executive Director



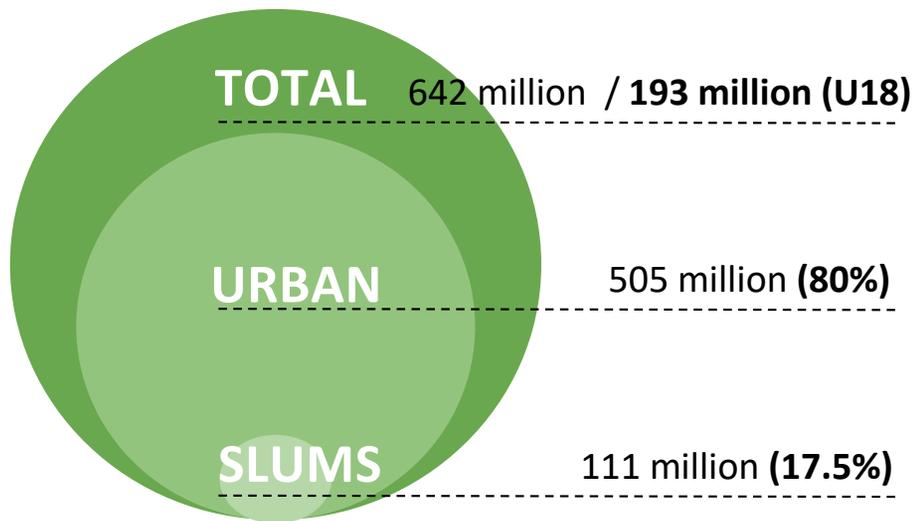
# About



- Research and Advocacy Center on Multidimensional Child Poverty **at The New School, NY**
- **Child's rights-based** approach (CRC'89)
- Promote **voice** and **participation** of youth and children
- **Lat. Am.** focus
- Seek to translate academic knowledge into useful tools:
  - ✓ Measure the **multiple dimensions of child poverty** and **urban inequities**
  - ✓ **Produce evidence** to inform advocacy, programs and public policies that affect the wellbeing of a child



# LAC: An Urban and Unequal Continent



- LAC is the second most urbanized region in the world
- 30% of children grow in **highly deprived households**
- Advantage of Urban life? **uneven access** to services and rights

# Equity for Children's Two Complementary Experiences

## A. Measuring Urban Inequalities

- Study on **Household Deprivations** for Urban Children in Latin America (UNICEF LACRO 2016).
- **Diagnostic of Urban Childhood** UNICEF LACRO (to be published 2020)



## B. 5-Step Social Monitoring Model

- 8 Colombian Cities (2015 - present)
- Cordoba – Argentina

Measuring and Monitoring  
Child Wellbeing and  
Inequality at the Local Level  
– Implementation Phases



## Unpacking information for action

### A. Measuring Urban Inequities Household Deprivation:

**Sources:** National Household Surveys, Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys & Demographic and Household Surveys

**Advantages:** Standardized, comparable in time and location.  
The relation between household deprivation and children's wellbeing indicators reveal inequalities.

**Limitations:** Difficult to localize geographically by borough or zone. Averages can blurr problems.

### B. Social Monitoring 5-step Model

**Sources:** Local census, admin. records, local surveys, citizen opinion polls, focus groups, interviews with community, etc...

**Advantages:** Geographically localized, link city information with local data, contextual. Participatory, a network is developed with local government and civil society organizations.

**Limitations:** Not homogeneous data, lack of comparability. Difficult to sustain over time, linked to political transitions. Not official.

## A. Measuring Urban Inequities - Household Deprivation:

The Intraurban disparities in Latin America and the Caribbean included stem from prior analysis of **household surveys**:

<b>National Household Surveys*</b>	<b>17 Countries:</b> Argentina (2010), Bolivia (2007), Brazil (2009), Colombia (2010), Costa Rica (2009), Chile (2009), Ecuador (2009), El Salvador (2008), Guatemala (2006), Honduras (2009), Mexico (2008), Nicaragua (2005), Panama (2009), Paraguay (2009); Peru (2009), Dominican R. (2009), Uruguay (2009)
<b>Demographic and Household Survey (DHS)**</b>	<b>5 Countries:</b> Bolivia (2008), Colombia (2010), Honduras (2005-2006), Peru (2008), Dominican Rep. (2007)
<b>Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS) Round 3***</b>	<b>3 Countries:</b> Belize (2006), Guyana (2006-2007), Suriname (2006)

\*With the exception of Argentina, this study uses databases homogenized provided by SITEAL.

\*\*Haiti was not included, as all available data was pre-earthquake.

\*\*\*Results for these countries are included in the totals but are not shown separately due to the small sample size. Jamaica (2005), Cuba (2006) and Trinidad and Tobago (2006) were not included, given that databases do not provide sufficient information for the purposes of this analysis.

# Household Deprivation: Methodology

*Variables for the classification of households*

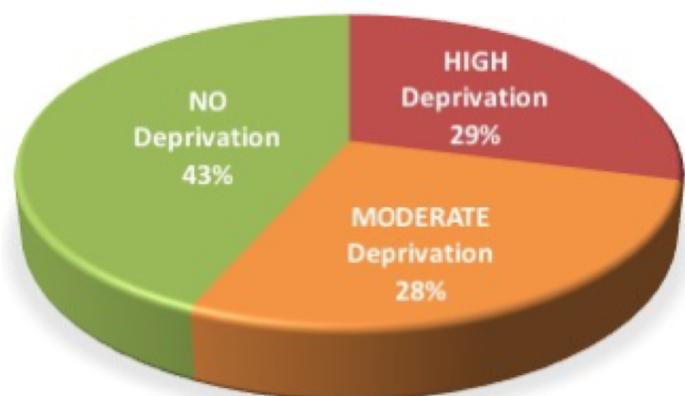
VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
Housing Condition	Three possible deficiencies: 1. Inadequate housing materials 2. Limited access to water 3. Overcrowding (more than 3 persons per room)	<b>Severe:</b> two or three deficiencies <b>Moderate:</b> one deficiency <b>No:</b> no deficiencies
Parents Education	Average years of schooling	<b>Low:</b> < 6y <b>Average/High:</b> > = 6y
Monetary Poverty	Comparison between family income and national poverty line	<b>Poor:</b> Family income below the poverty line <b>Non poor:</b> Family income above the poverty line

		Monetary Poverty		Non-Poor	
		Poor	Non-Poor	Poor	Non-Poor
Parent's Education		Low	Average/High	Low	Average/High
Housing Conditions	SEVER Deficiency	HIGH DEPRIVATION	MODERATE DEPRIVATION	MODERATE DEPRIVATION	NO DEPRIVATION
	MODERATE Deficiency				
	NO Deficiency				

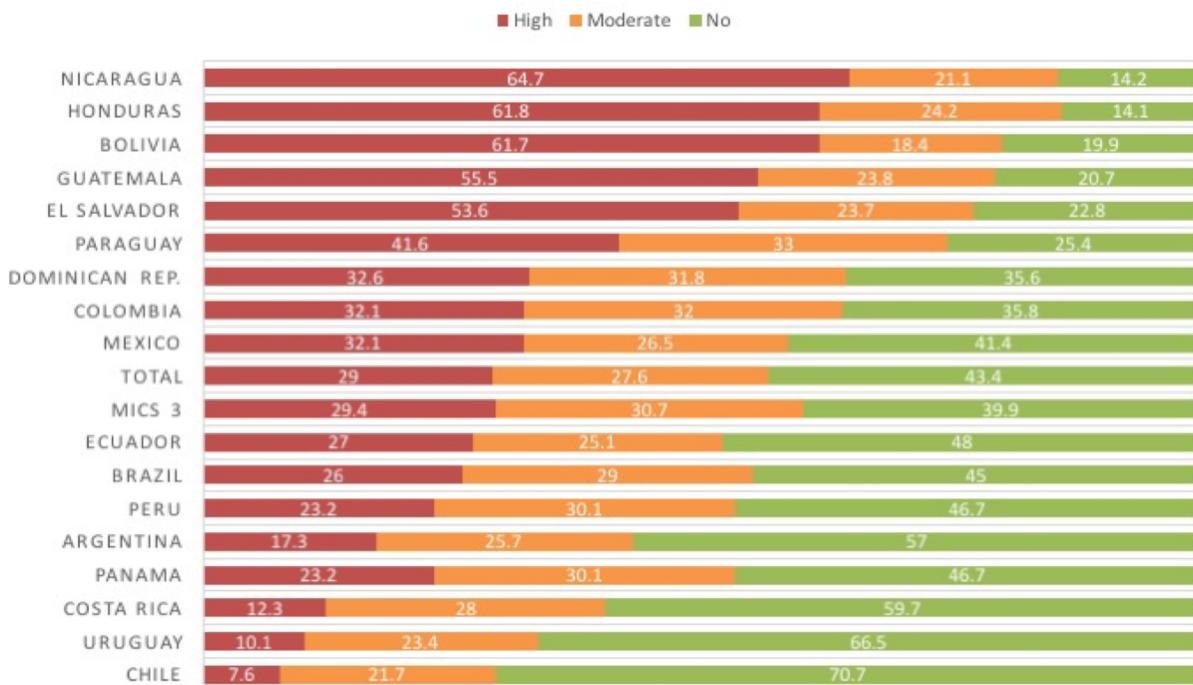
Further classification of the household according to the level of deprivation

# Results

## Total Household Deprivation Levels



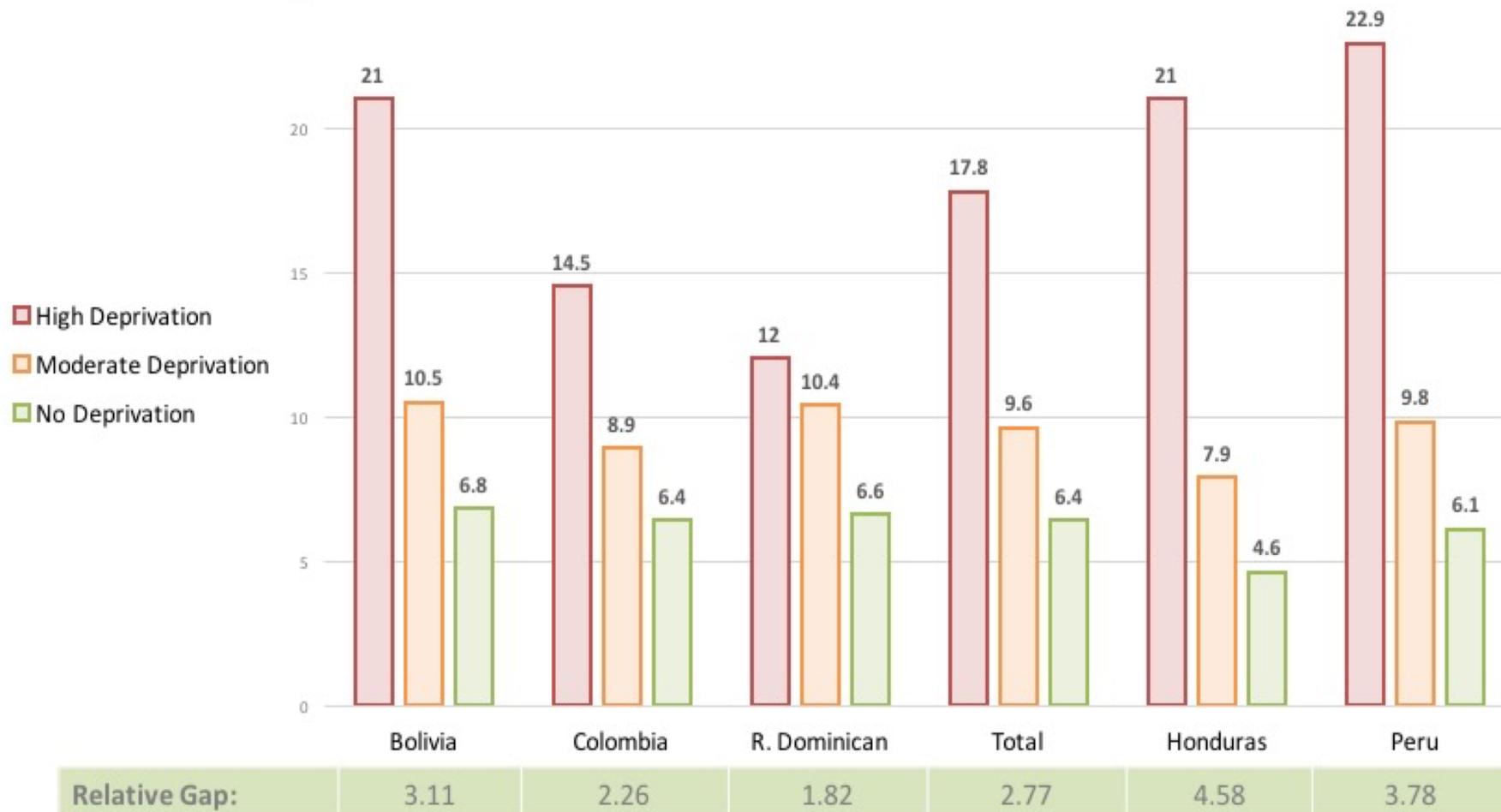
## Household Deprivation Levels by Country



**More than half** of LAC children live in high or moderate deprived households

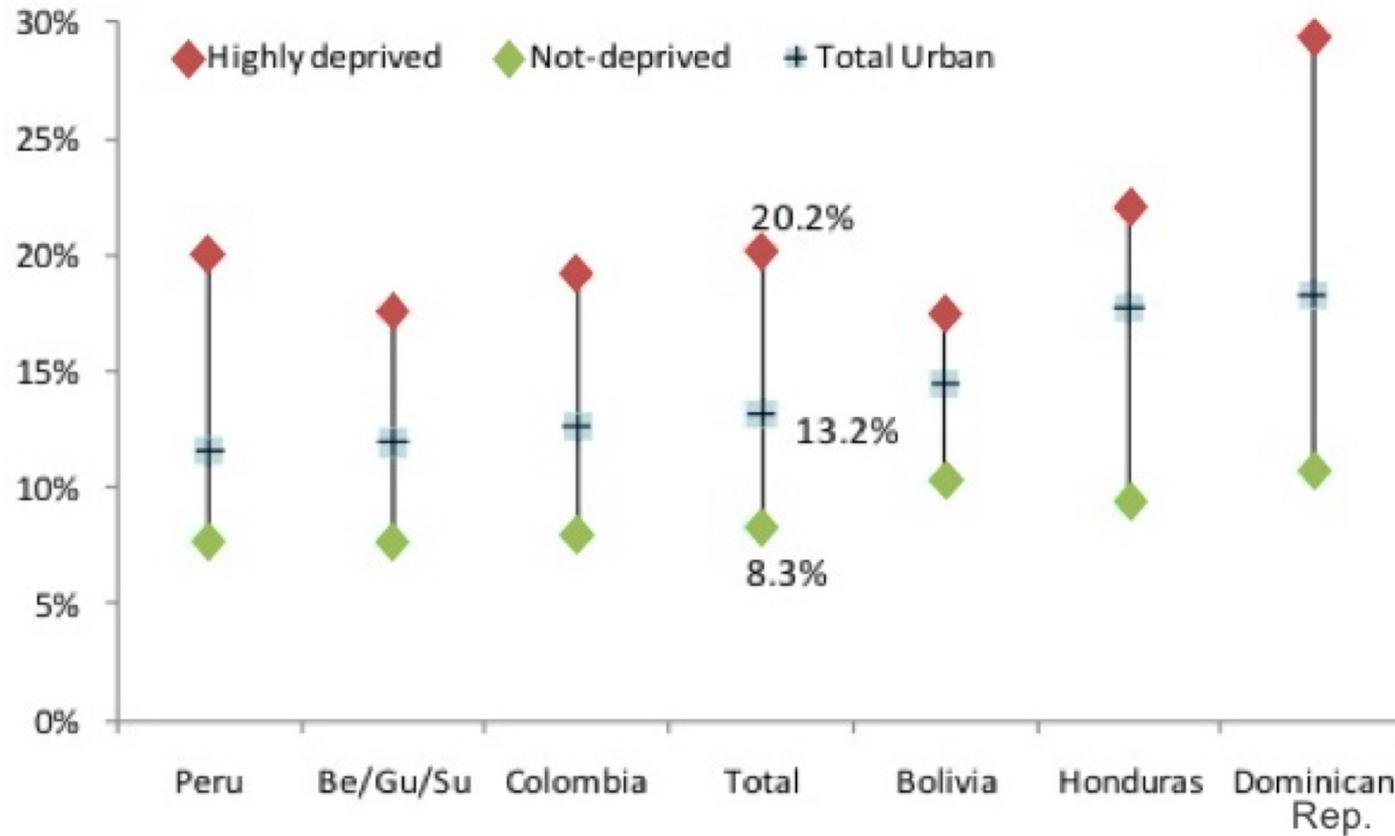
**1 out of every 3** children lives in households with **high deprivations**

## Malnutrition by Household Deprivation (%)



Definition: Percentage of children under five with moderate or severe deficits (2 or more standard deviations below the international benchmark Note: The total includes results from Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

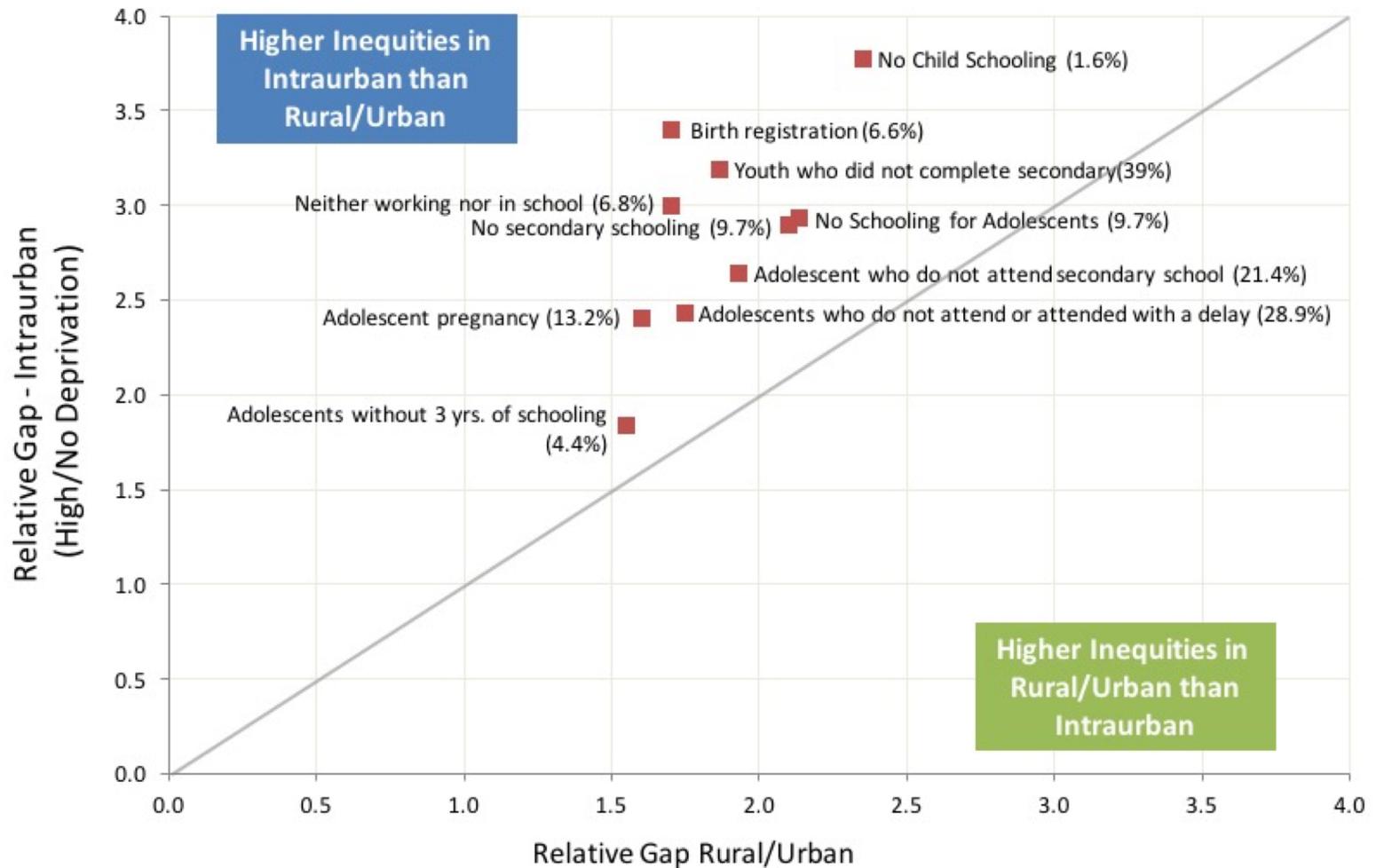
## Adolescent Pregnancy (Females 15-19 yrs-old)



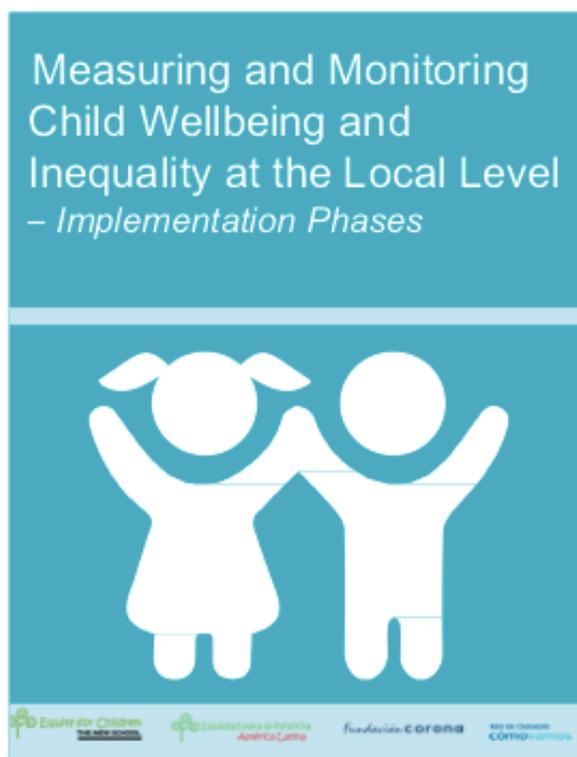
Relative Gap:	2.59	2.29	2.40	2.42	1.69	2.34	2.74
---------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Note: The total includes results from Belize, Guyana and Suriname. Source: DHS (Bolivia Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Dominican Republic) and MICS 3 (Belize, Guyana and Suriname), 2010.

## Urban-Rural v. Intra-Urban Disparities



## B. Five-Step Model for Social Monitoring



### What is it?

- Framework designed to **measure** the living conditions and inequities affecting children at the local level
- A **manual for action** → Five-Steps **process** to implement a social monitoring and civic accountability system in cities

### Objectives

- To raise awareness and establish a **child and equity-centered perspective** within local governments and civil society
- Aims to **improve institutions** and **services** that guarantee children rights
- To result in policies and programs that are **sensitive to the local context** and, thus, effective

## Social Monitoring

Rests on  
Two Pillars

Data Disaggregation

Social Accountability

## Five-Steps

### Viability & Requirements

- Public Policy & local government institutional diagnostic
- Identify information sources
- Stakeholder mapping & partnership opportunities

### Set in Motion

- Team roles and operationalization
- Establish agreements
- Define technical committees & experts

### Measurement & Analysis

- Define set of indicators
- Collection of information
- Process and analyze data
- Prepare report on findings & results

### Communication

- Define strategy
- Implement

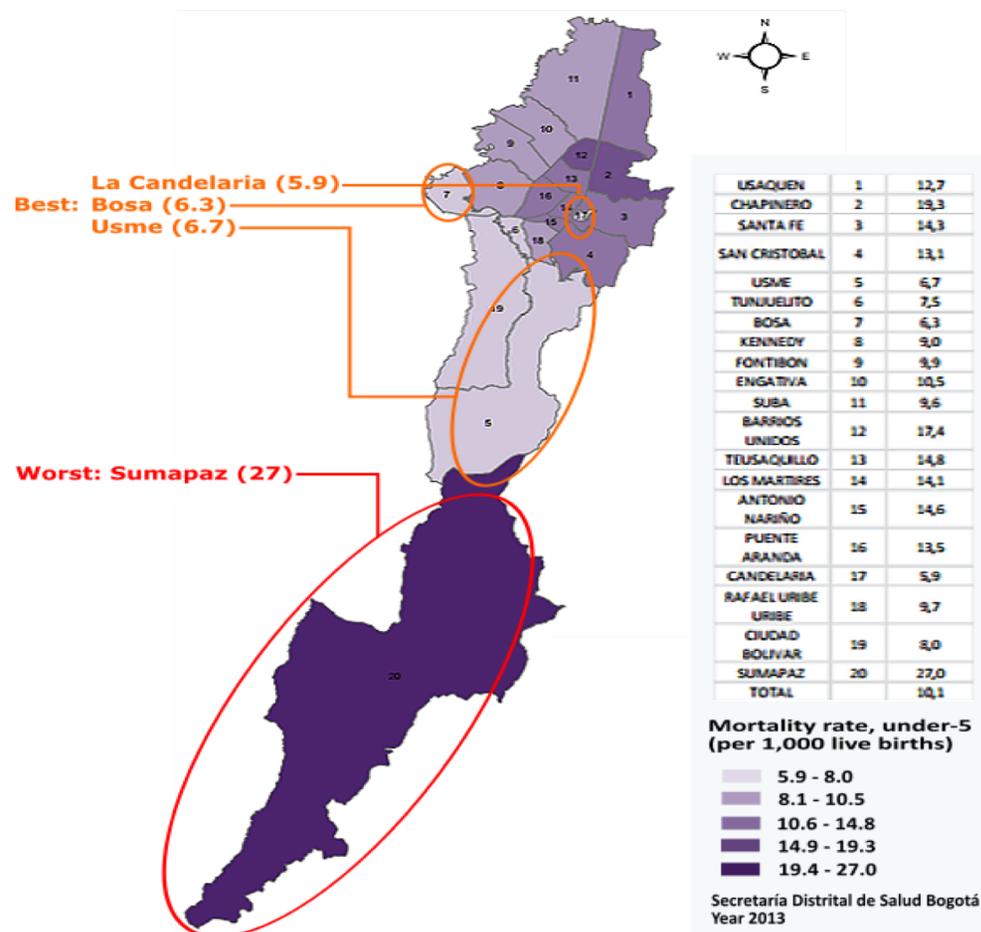
### Monitoring & Participation

- Define advocacy & social accountability strategy
- Community participation

## Results

- **Monitoring system** detected data gaps on Early Childhood (U5).
- [Cómo Vamos Network](#), and local and municipal authorities to find out how were children U5 doing? Early Childhood module included in the surveys
- Battery of **wellbeing indicators**: 8 dimensions, 22 components and 29 indicators to measure the living conditions
- **Inequality in Bogota**: U5MR more than 6 times higher in Sumapaz than in Candelaria
- **Inequality in Cali**: 80% of children age 3 - 5 do not visit early childhood education centers

## Bogotá



# Keys to Success of the 5-step model in Colombia

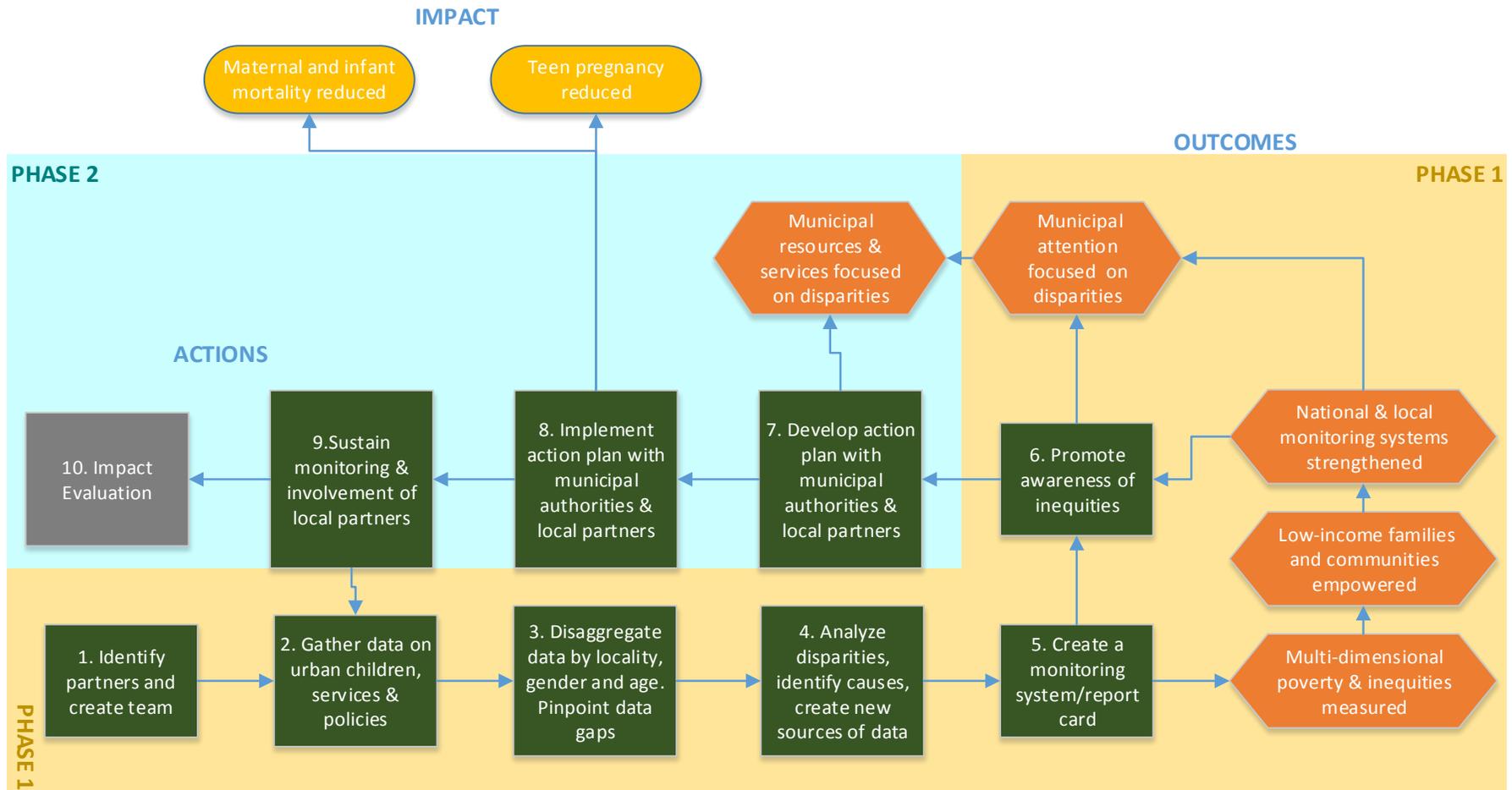
- Established **robust partnerships** with ample local capacities Local Admin., Civil Society, Academia, NGO, Private Sector
- High level of **decentralization** of Colombian cities
- **Detect and fill data gaps** - **Early Childhood** Questionnaire in citizens perception survey
- **Geographically localized data** on the neighborhoods where inequality concentrates.
- Municipal authorities' **attention and resources** focused on disparities. [eg. Bogota – U5MR reduced, Cali – quality public pre-schools in the most underserved areas]
- **Continuity and political will** from different administrations to sustain monitoring

RED DE CIUDADES   
**cómo vamos**



*Fundación*  
**Corona**

# Social Monitoring – Theory of Change Diagram





## Recommendations

- 1 Create and utilize reliable quantitative and qualitative evidence to understand the drivers of urban childhood poverty and inequality, in order to guide policy
- 2 Set social accountability mechanisms that generate action and monitoring between policymakers and their constituents - the children, their families and direct service providers
- 3 Foster local action - bottom-up approach, local knowledge and solutions that come from within
- 4 Think and act politically, connecting decision-makers from local and national government agencies with those within communities, in order to scale up effective and sustainable initiatives

# Thank you!

[www.equityforchildren.org](http://www.equityforchildren.org)

