

Child Poverty and Deprivation in Bosnia and Herzegovina: National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA)

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Introduction

This report presents the results of the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). MODA is a tool developed by UNICEF to identify the extent and nature of material deprivation and monetary poverty experienced by children. It draws on the international framework of child rights to construct dimensions of child well-being in the domains of survival, development, protection and social participation.

The analysis uses data from two recent nationally representative household surveys conducted in BiH. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2011-2012 is used to analyse the situation of children aged 0 to 4, while the Expanded Household Budget Survey (EHBS) 2011 is used for children aged 5 to 15. The dimensions analysed for children under five are: Nutrition, Health, Child Development, Violent Discipline, Information Access, and Housing. For older children we analysed seven dimensions: Nutrition, Clothing, Educational Resources, Leisure, Social Participation, Information Access and Housing. For older children, this study also analyses the overlapping of deprivation and monetary poverty, using the consumption-based absolute poverty line of 238 BAM per capita per month.

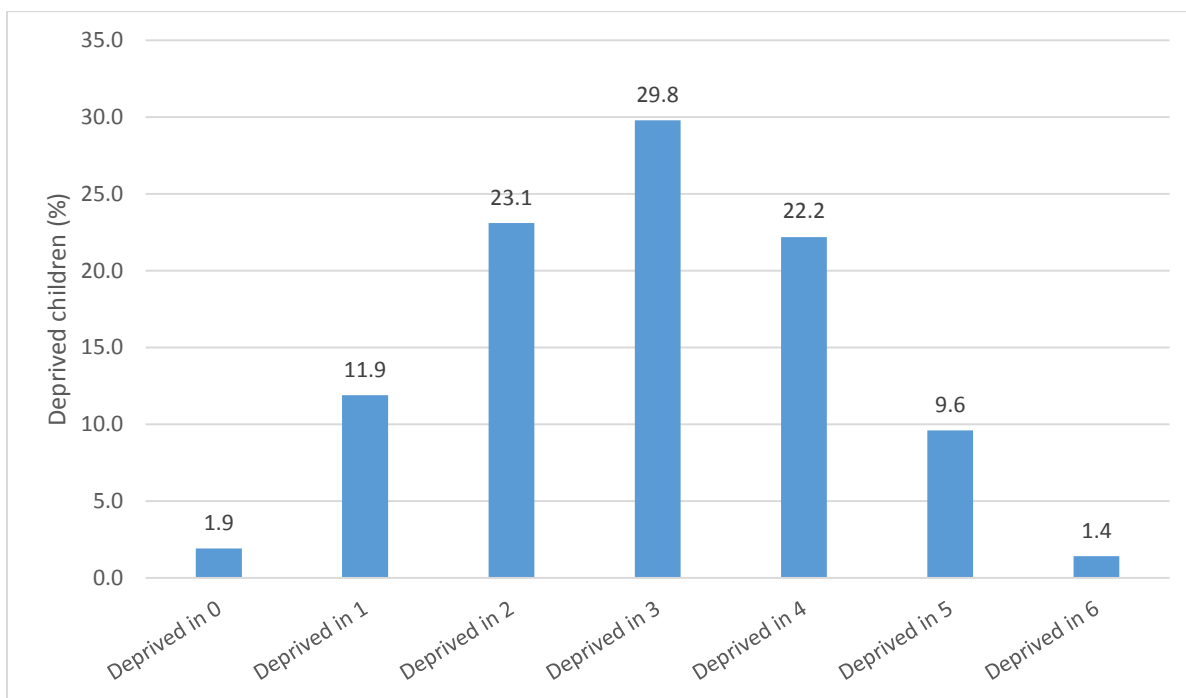
Findings

This study shows that almost all children aged 0 to 4 (98.1%) are deprived in at least one dimension, and a third (33.2%) are deprived in four or more dimensions at a time. Younger children are most likely to be deprived in Nutrition (71.8%), Child Development (65.7%), Information (53.4%) and Violent Discipline (48.7%). Children in rural areas are more likely to be deprived in Information and Housing (mostly driven by lack of proper sanitation) than urban children, suggesting infrastructural problems. Having a mother with no or only primary education increases the probability of being deprived in all dimensions except Nutrition and Housing. The study also finds a high degree of overlap across dimensions, especially between Nutrition, Child Development, and Information, with 27.6% of under-fives deprived in all three simultaneously.

Almost three out of four children aged 5 to 15 (73.8%) are deprived in at least one dimension, while fewer than one in four (22.8%) are deprived in three or more dimensions. Older children are mainly deprived in Information, Leisure and Housing. Deprivation in Information is rooted in the lack of an internet connection, while Housing is driven by overcrowding (rather than sanitation). This may be due to supply-side infrastructural problems, i.e. no internet connectivity in the area, and in the latter case lack of spacious housing. Education and activity of the head of household as well as the number of children in the family are highly correlated with the probability of being deprived in three or more dimensions. In particular, having a lower educated head of household increases the probability of being deprived in any dimension.

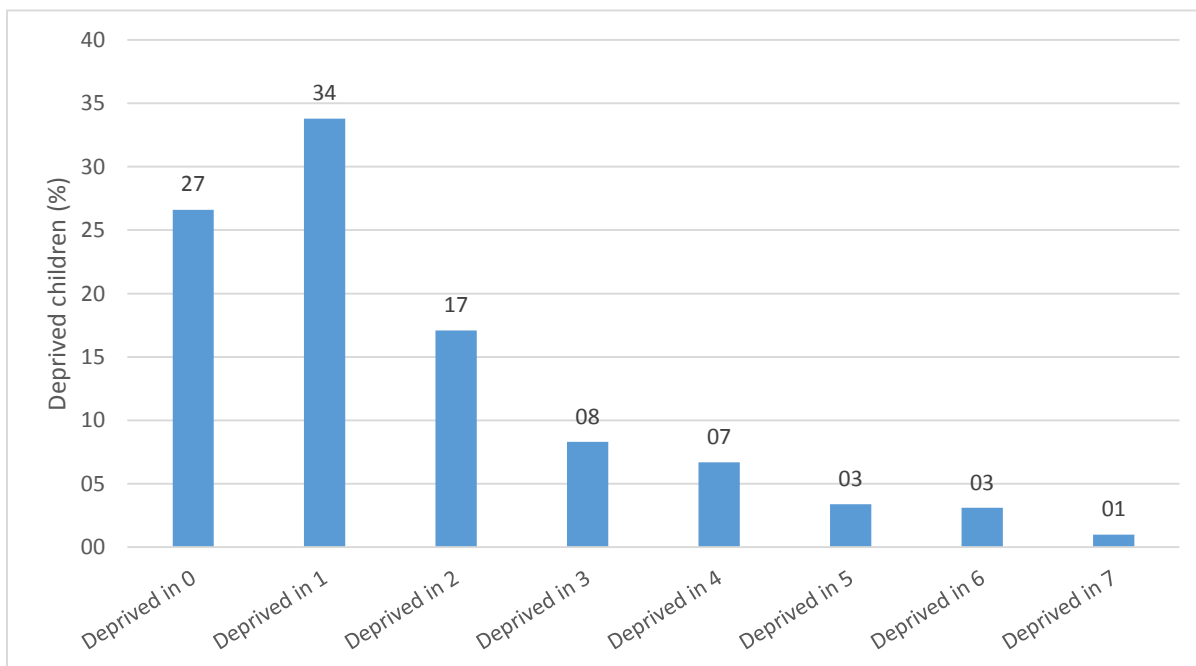
Figure 1 *Distribution of dimensions, by age group*

Children under 5



Source: MICS 2011-12. Base: Children under 5.

Children aged 5-15

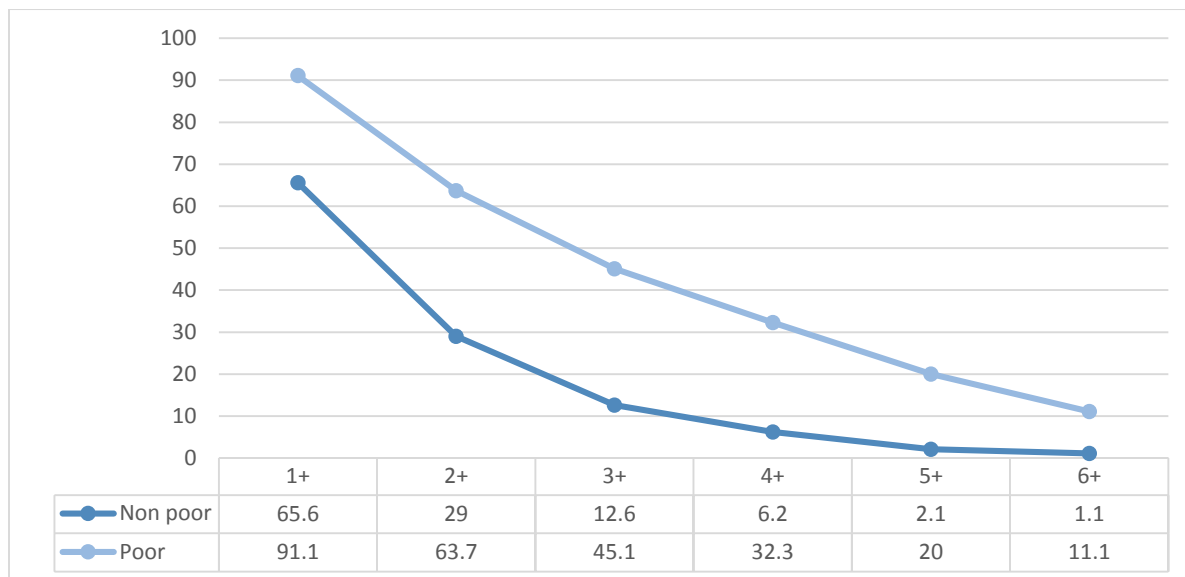


Source: EHBS 2011. Base: Children aged 5-15.

Almost a third (30.6%) of children aged 5 to 15 are poor in BiH, using the absolute monthly consumption poverty line of 238 BAM per capita established by the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS). Poor children are more likely to be deprived in any of the dimensions studied and in any number of dimensions simultaneously. They are also more likely to experience a higher intensity of deprivation. Living in a larger family (with three or more children), having a

household head who has no secondary education and who does not work, are positively correlated with the probability of being both poor and deprived in three or more dimensions. However, the degree of overlap between deprivation and poverty is moderate, with only 13.8% of 5-15-year-olds both poor and deprived in at least three out of seven dimensions studied. Some deprivations show a higher degree of sensitivity to household consumption (e.g. clothing and nutrition), while others are not as readily amenable to increasing household expenditure (e.g. information and housing). Therefore, policies aimed at reducing child poverty and deprivation need to improve both the spending power of households and the availability of services/infrastructure in local areas.

Figure 2 Deprivation headcount rates at different cut-offs, by poverty status



Source: HBS 2011. Base: Children 5 - 15

Conclusion

The results of this study show that the majority of children in BiH are deprived in at least one dimension. Deprivation is more intense for younger children (age 0 to 4), with one third deprived in four to six dimensions at a time. To tackle deprivation effectively for this age group, policy should focus in particular on Child Development, Nutrition and Violent Discipline, given their high prevalence rates and a high degree of overlap. The older age group (5-15-year-olds) is mainly deprived in Information, Leisure and Housing. In general, a policy aimed at reducing deprivation for children aged 5 to 15 should focus both on ways to increase households' disposable incomes and on making services more easily available and accessible.

The study finds no significant differences in multidimensional deprivation rates between consumption-poor children aged 5-15 in rural and urban areas. In contrast, non-poor children in rural areas are substantially more likely to be deprived in three or more dimensions at once than their counterparts in urban areas. This indicates that rural children suffer from a lack of access to services and infrastructure important to their well-being even if they come from better off households. Meanwhile, deprivation among urban children may be more susceptible to targeted monetary interventions. Overall, these results call for a multifaceted policy approach targeting both the demand and supply of children's goods and services.