UN ECOSOC Dialogue on UNDS and Middle-income Countries

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3 distinct objectives for global public financing [e.g. health]

1. Save as many lives** as possible (**MDG/SDG)

2. Provide global public goods with externalities (e.g. pandemic avoidance)

3. Provide solidarity with countries facing special needs beyond their own control (e.g. HIV/AIDS, falciparum malaria)
4 interconnected challenges

1. Prioritize global efforts towards populations with greatest needs (including vulnerable groups)

2. Prioritize global efforts towards populations with limited ability to pay

3. Prioritize resources towards countries that can achieve best outcomes

4. Incentivize domestic resource mobilization to meet local needs
Limits of basing financing policies on GNI per capita

1. Imperfect measure of underlying need
   - Social outcomes not necessarily correlated with income per capita
   - Averages mask inequalities across populations

2. Imperfect measure of government financing capacity
   - Provides limited information on domestic resource mobilization
   - Provides little information on a government’s budgetary prioritization

3. Implementation challenges
   - Income-based eligibility thresholds may cut off countries in need
   - National accounts are subject to revision
Example: GNI per capita vs Under-5 mortality (log scale)

Source: author based on WDI
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Example: GNI per capita vs Under-5 mortality (log scale)

GNI per capita, Atlas (current US) 2014

Source: author based on WDI
Implications of policies based on a single indicator

High burden countries ineligible under upper middle-income threshold
High burden countries ineligible under lower middle-income threshold
LIC & LMIC countries ineligible under disease threshold (DALY34,000)

*DALY 34,000 is the median for all countries up to UMIC

Source: Equitable Access Initiative
Logic of Targeting
SDG 2 : EndingRuralHunger.org

Needs

Policies

Resources

Source: endingruralhunger.org
Linking Needs, Policies & Resources

![Graph showing the relationship between needs and policies in LIC and LMIC countries, with resources per rural capita in Ag.](endingruralhunger.org)
Discussion