## Growth still is good for the poor

David Dollar, Tatjana Kleineberg, and Aart Kraay Presented at World Bank Shared Prosperity Days December 2013

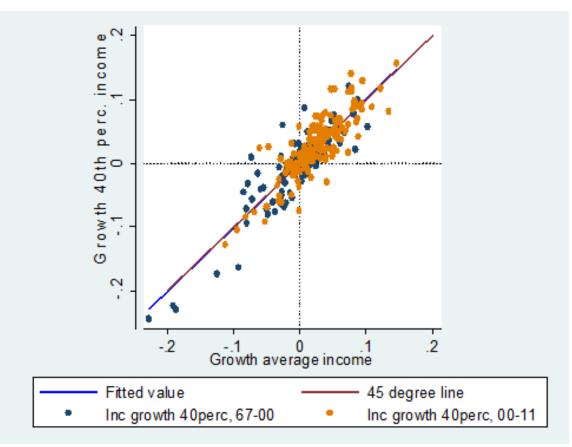
- twitter <u>@davidrdollar</u>
- *blog and papers at <u>http://www.brookings.edu/experts/dollard</u>*

# Growth of mean income and income of the bottom 40%

		Su	Survey mean growth rate			Growth rate of bottom 40% share					
				(percent per a			nnum)				
	Number	of									
	observat	tions									
Minimum five-	-										
year spells	299			1.4				0			
1980-89	86			-0.3				0.2			
1990-99	205			0.5				-0.3			
2000-10	174			3				0.1			

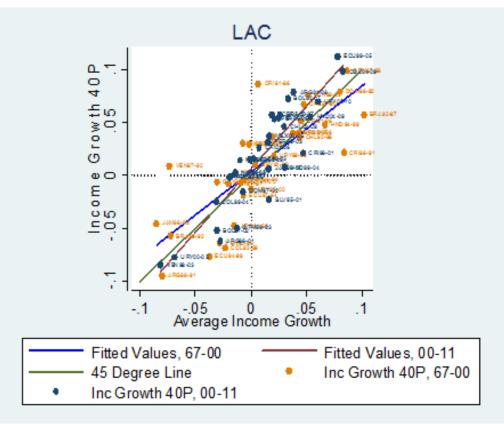
## Changes in quintile shares uncorrelated with growth

- Correlation between average income growth and income growth in the Bottom 40% is robust over time
  - Slope ~1 in both time periods (1967-2000 and 2000-2011)



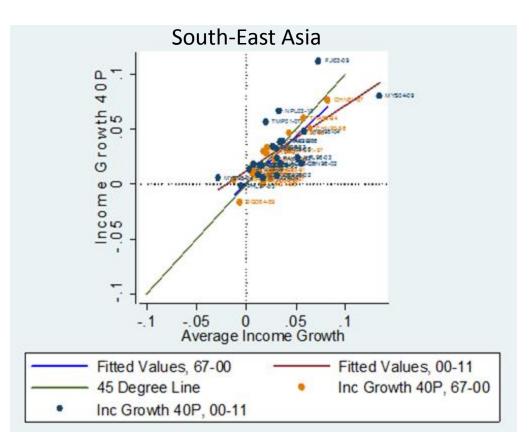
#### Interesting exceptions: pro-poor growth in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Correlates average income growth and growth in Bottom 40%
  - Shows slopes over time (1967-2000 and 2000-2011)



#### Interesting exceptions: pro-rich growth in South and East Asia

- Correlates average income growth and growth in Bottom 40%
  - Shows slopes over time (1967-2000 and 2000-2011)



#### "Policies": Summary of Results, Bottom 40%

	Distributio	-	Significance of Estimated Slopes		
	_ <u>5th perc.</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>95th perc.</u>	Signif > 0	<u>Signif &lt; 0</u>
Δ Average income	0.915	0.963	1.006	100.0%	0.0%
Δ Financial depth (M2 % GDP)	-0.001	0.000	0.000	0.0%	0.0%
Δ Inflation rate	0.044	0.137	0.275	32.1%	0.0%
∆ Budget Balance	-0.080	0.019	0.112	0.0%	0.0%
∆ Trade Openness	0.025	0.039	0.062	1.5%	0.0%
Δ Population growth	-0.009	0.004	0.027	0.0%	0.0%
Δ Life expectancy	-0.023	-0.012	-0.006	0.0%	41.5%
Δ Assassinations per pop.	-0.033	0.025	0.071	0.0%	0.0%
Δ Revolutions per pop.	0.077	0.122	0.145	0.1%	0.0%

#### "Policies": Summary of Results, Bottom 40%

∆ Civil Liberties / Democracy	-0.001	0.003	0.008	0.0%	0.0%
Δ Internal conflict (dummy)	0.029	0.046	0.065	2.5%	0.0%
	0.050	0.000	0.020	0.00/	0.00/
Δ War participation (dummy)	-0.050	-0.029	0.020	0.0%	0.0%
∆ Fin. openness (Chinn-Ito)	-0.002	0.004	0.011	0.0%	0.0%
	-0.002	0.004	0.011	0.070	0.070
Δ Primary school enrollment rate	-0.001	-0.001	0.000	0.0%	0.0%
Δ Education Gini	-0.430	-0.246	0.044	0.0%	0.0%
Δ Gov Expend Educ (% GDP)	-0.020	-0.009	0.002	0.0%	0.4%
	0.000		0.046	0.40/	0.00/
Δ Gov. Expend Health (% GDP)	0.000	0.007	0.016	0.4%	0.0%
∆ Agriculture (% GDP)	0.059	0.088	0.122	10.9%	0.0%
	0.035	0.000	0.122	10.370	0.070
Distribution of Sample Size	122	164	234		
Distribution of R-squared	0.671	0.709	0.756		

## **Research findings**

- No worldwide trend in bottom 40% share in either direction
- Change in quintile shares uncorrelated with growth
- Growth explains 77% of the variation in income of the bottom 40%
- No institutional or policy variables are robustly correlated with change in quintile share
- LAC and Asia present interesting contrasts

## **Implications for World Bank**

- Economic growth must be central to the agenda
- Does not imply an exclusively macro agenda
- Sources of growth include institutional change and improvements in infrastructure
- Human capital is key: interventions such as ECD support income of the poor and overall growth
- Emphasis should be on building up assets of the bottom 40% and their access to markets so that they can participate in growth