

How the scale and nature of urban poverty are under- estimated

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The problems with US \$ 1 a day

Consider three problems:

- Prices are higher in urban areas
- More essential goods are marketed in urban areas
- Health consequences (and related costs) of living at high densities with poor services need to be considered

Look briefly at what to do...

Prices are higher

- How much higher?
- Not consistently higher – the nature of urban settlements differs
- Should be said immediately that not always higher...

More goods are marketed

- The urban poor are, almost universally, dependent on labour and commodity markets
- More essential goods are marketed in urban areas
- What kinds of goods: shelter, transport, water...

Additional and higher costs

- Poverty lines are intended to measure deprivation and well-being
- Need to recognise the very high health costs in some urban areas because of high densities and lack of services

What next?

There are no simple solutions

- Study expenditure patterns
- Develop a methodology
- Test the methodology
- Build a consensus around an alternative method

Finally

- The discussion has placed great stress on monetary indicators
- It has to be recognised that there are other aspects to poverty that are hard to measure
- Lack of political voice and representation, discrimination, vulnerability.....