

# MONETARY POVERTY AND NON-MONETARY DEPRIVATIONS IN ARGENTINA /

Universidad Nacional  
de General Sarmiento 

 **ielde**  
INSTITUTO de ESTUDIOS LABORALES  
y del DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO

 **Equity for Children**  
THE NEW SCHOOL

**unicef**   
para cada niño

# MONETARY POVERTY AND NON-MONETARY DEPRIVATIONS IN ARGENTINA /

**Editorial direction:**

Sebastián Waisgrais | UNICEF Social inclusion and monitoring Specialist

**Authorship:**

Jorge Paz, Luis Beccaria, Diego Born, Alberto Minujin, Sebastián Waisgrais and Ana Laura Fernández

**Review of contents:**

Carolina Aulicino  
María Fernanda Paredes

© United Nations Children's Fund, November 2018.

**Monetary poverty and non-monetary deprivations in Argentina.**

November 2018

First edition

Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Editorial coordination:** Matías Bohoslavsky

**Coordination, graphic production and design:** Gomo | Design studio

The total or partial reproduction of the texts published here is authorized, as long as they are not altered, the corresponding credits are assigned and they are not used for commercial purposes.

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

[buenosaires@unicef.org](mailto:buenosaires@unicef.org)

[www.unicef.org.ar](http://www.unicef.org.ar)

# CONTENTS

Summary .....	6
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>2. GENERAL AND CHILD POVERTY IN ARGENTINA</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>3. POVERTY PROFILES</b> .....	<b>19</b>
A. Monetary poverty (MP) .....	21
B. Non-monetary deprivations (NMDs) .....	27
<b>4. STRUCTURE</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>5. TEMPORAL EVOLUTION</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>6. INTEGRATED METHOD</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>7. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS</b> .....	<b>42</b>
Data sheet .....	46

# TABLES AND CHARTS

Table 1. Dimensions, indicators, articles of the CRC and associated SDGs - Children .....	15
Table 2. Dimensions, indicators and associated SDGs - General population .....	16
Table 3. Incidence of monetary poverty according to gender and additional characteristics. Argentina, first semester of 2018 . . . .	21
Table 4. Incidence of monetary poverty according to type of household. Argentina, first semester of 2018 .....	24
Table 5. Incidence of NMDs in households with and without children and adolescents. Argentina, first semester of 2018 .....	27
Table 6. Incidence of NMDs in households according to age of children. Argentina, first semester of 2018 .....	27
Table 7. Incidence of NMDs according to type of household. Argentina, first semester of 2018 .....	29
Table 8. Monetary poverty and NMD in Argentina, first semester of 2018 .....	40
Chart 1. Deprivation gradients .....	17
Chart 2. NMD in Argentina. Total population, children and adolescents according to accumulated deprivations. First semester of 2018 .....	18

Chart 3. Profiles of MP in Argentina. Children and adolescents according to characteristics of the head of household. First semester of 2018. ....	23
Chart 4a. Effects of grants on monetary poverty levels in Argentina. Children and adolescents according to characteristics of the head of household. First semester of 2018 .....	25
Chart 4b. Effects of grants on extreme monetary poverty levels in Argentina. Children and adolescents according to characteristics of the head of household. First semester of 2018 .....	26
Chart 5. NMD profiles in Argentina. Children and adolescents according to characteristics of the head of household. First semester of 2018. ....	28
Chart 6a. Incidence of NMDs in Argentina. Children and adolescents according to place of residence of household. First semester of 2018. ....	32
Chart 6b. Structure of NMDs in Argentina. Children and adolescents according to place of residence of household (percentages). First semester of 2018 .....	33
Chart 7. Temporal evolution of the incidence of MP and NMDs. Argentina, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 (first semester, in all cases). ....	36



# SUMMARY



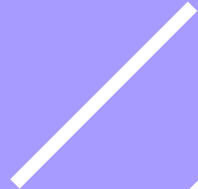
This document presents and discusses estimates on monetary poverty and non-monetary deprivations in Argentina for children as well as in the general population. The latest official information, which corresponds to the Permanent Household Survey (EPH) of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC) and is from the first semester of 2018, was used. It is noted that approximately 38% of the Argentine population, and 48% of its children, are deprived in at least one of the non-monetary aspects considered basic for their well-being, though it should be noted there is another series of aspects that cannot be addressed due to the absence of information in the EPH (health, nutrition, recreation, etc.). This figure complements the monetary poverty data that accounts for an incidence of 27% for the total population and 42% for children and adolescents.


The integration of monetary poverty and of non-monetary deprivations reveals that 16% of the population and 27% of children have both types of deprivations. Deep disparities between population groups, defined by age, sex, level of education and occupational insertion are observed, which account for the existence of inequalities in access to basic goods and services required for biological and social functioning. There has also been a reduction of poverty during the last decade, but levels continue to be high and require strong policy actions to move closer towards the objective committed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is to eradicate extreme poverty and substantially reduce poverty by 2030.





# INTRO- DUCTION





Poverty is  
more than  
the scarcity  
or insufficiency  
of income  
that affects  
people or  
households.



Poverty is much more than the shortage or insufficiency of income that affects people or households. This is especially relevant when addressing child poverty, since it has specific characteristics that give it a sense of urgency, considering that the risk of becoming permanent is higher than in the case of adults and its consequences may be irreversible.

Experience poverty during childhood means not attending school or learning, skipping a meal or going to sleep hungry, not having shoes or decent clothes, being deprived of medical assistance and being exposed to illnesses, living in a home without potable water, electricity, in unsafe spaces and in overcrowded conditions, and facing many other shortcomings. These realities have negative consequences, in addition to the likelihood of reproducing them over following generations, threatening present and future of the girls and boys who endure them, as well as compromising the economic development and social welfare of the country.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to which Argentina granted constitutional status in 1994, establishes that all signatory States must adopt all administrative, legislative and other measures to comply with the rights recognized in the Convention utilizing maximum resources at their disposal. This instrument of international law acknowledges children as subjects of rights and is legally binding on governments.

Argentina as a signatory of the Sustainable Development Agenda and has undertaken the commitment to carry out actions to comply with the goals outlined in the SDGs. Among these, the first objective is: “to reduce -at least by half- the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions” (Goal 1.2).

In the pursuit of this objective, many countries in the region and of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have adopted different methodologies, based on multidimensional perspectives, to define a baseline that allows the monitoring of progress towards achieving this goal. In addition, they have developed estimates, diagnoses and analyses on the manifestation of monetary and non-monetary poverty in the entire population, and specifically for the case concerning children and adolescents.

With this in mind, and in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has developed a series of reports (2016, 2017)<sup>1</sup> on the measurement of multidimensional and monetary poverty in children and adolescents in Argentina. This document is the third in the series and has been developed, in this case, with the support of researchers from the Institute of Labor Studies and Economic Development (IELDE) of the National Universi-

---

1. UNICEF (2016), *Welfare and poverty in children and adolescents in Argentina, 2012-2015*, Buenos Aires. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/argentina/informes/bienestar-y-pobreza-en-ni%C3%B1as-ni%C3%B1os-y-adolescentes-en-argentina>. UNICEF (2017), *Monetary poverty in childhood and adolescence in Argentina*, Buenos Aires. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/argentina/informes/la-pobreza-moneteria-en-la-ni%C3%B1ez-y-la-adolescencia-en-argentina>

ty of Salta, from the Institute of Sciences of General Sarmiento University and from Equity for Children (Equidad para la Infancia). This collaboration aims to propose a methodology to capture the manifestations of poverty from different angles, to present an updated analysis that accounts for the magnitude and progression of the phenomenon and to provide a characterization of the profile of the population in poverty, specifically of the children and adolescents in the country.

It should be noted that this study is methodologically inscribed in the line drawn by the University of Bristol (Gordon et al., 2003) with support from UNICEF and applied by UNICEF/ECLAC in the research carried out for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNICEF/ECLAC, 2010)<sup>2</sup>.

In Argentina, substantive progress has been made towards full compliance with the rights of children and adolescents through various legislative reforms, such as the sanction of Law 26,061 on the Integral Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, and the implementation of national policies for the eradication of poverty of high territorial scope and broad population coverage, such as the Universal Child Allowance (AUH) and other sectoral programs at national and provincial levels. Nevertheless, important challenges still persist and today, 48% of children are poor from a non-monetary perspective, which implies 10 percentage points more than the adult population.

In this context, the poverty measurement methodology proposed in this study is based on the rights approach, encompassing the monetary and non-monetary dimensions. This approach is a tool to support the design and improvement of intersectoral public policies and holistic interventions for their eradication. It also highlights the need to define an official methodology based on periodic statistics, that are agreed upon and endorsed by academics, international organizations, research centers and government actors.

In the current macroeconomic environment the country is experiencing, it is essential to have evidence and rigorous information to guide decision-making and to seek that economic and political measures take into account their effects on the most vulnerable households, with an emphasis on those in which boys and girls live. It is an essential task to protect their present and offer them equal opportunities that allow them a full and prosperous development for their future life.

The work is structured as follows. Subsequent to this introduction, the second section presents an analysis of general and child poverty in Argentina to establish a benchmark and compare the differences in the dynamics of poverty between adult and child population. Then, the

---

2. Gordon, D.; Nandy, Sh.; Pantazis, Ch.; Pemberton, S. and Townsend, P. (2003). *Child Poverty in the Developing Countries*, The Policy Press, Bristol; and UNICEF/ECLAC (2010). *Child poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago, Chile.

third section delves into the profiles of poverty by income, and in the fourth section non-monetary poverty is characterized. In the fifth section, the structure of poverty is observed, which implies pondering the contribution of each deprivation to total non-monetary poverty. Later, the temporal evolution of non-monetary deprivation indicators is explored. Finally, the advances and challenges that persist in terms of social policy and compliance with the rights of children and adolescents are presented.

SDG Goal 1 establishes:  
“ reduce at least by  
half the proportion  
of men, women  
and children  
of all ages living  
in poverty in all its  
dimensions according  
to national definitions”



**GENERAL  
AND CHILD  
POVERTY IN  
ARGENTINA**

In Argentina  
48% of children  
are poor from  
a non-monetary  
perspective



In Argentina, 48% of children are poor from a non-monetary multidimensional perspective. The concept of poverty used in this case is the deprivation in the exercise of at least one of the following rights stated in the CRC: education, social protection, adequate housing, basic sanitation, access to safe water and a safe environment (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1. DIMENSIONS, INDICATORS, ARTICLES OF THE CRC AND ASSOCIATED SDGS - CHILDREN**

DIMENSION	NOT DEPRIVED	MODERATE DEPRIVATION	SEVERE DEPRIVATION	CRC	SDG
<b>Education</b>	(4-17) Attends without delay	(9-17) Attends with delay	(4-17) Does not attend (7-17) Never attended	28 (1 a, b and e)	4
<b>Social protection</b>	(0-17) Is not eligible or is eligible and receives help and (5-17) does not work	(0-17) Is eligible and receives social protection program, but (5-17) works	(0-17) (0-17) Is eligible and does not receive help	32	8
<b>Adequate housing</b>	Housing without overcrowding, with adequate floor and roof and secure tenure	(0-17) Housing with overcrowding or substandard floor and roof or unsettled tenure	(0-17) Housing with critical overcrowding or substandard floor and roof or unsettled tenure	27	11
<b>Basic sanitation</b>	Has adequate bathroom for own use	(0-17) Has inadequate bathroom or shared bathroom	(0-17) Has inadequate and shared bathroom. Does not have a bathroom	24 (2 c)	6
<b>Access to safe water</b>	Has access to water supply from grid inside house	(0-17) Has water outside home or from unsafe source	(0-17) Has water outside home and from unsafe source	24 (2 c)	6
<b>Safe environment</b>	Lives in area far from landfill and not floodable	(0-17) Lives in a flood zone	(0-17) Lives near landfill and in a flood zone	27	1

Source: own elaboration.

The incidence of non-monetary poverty among children and adolescents stands ten percentage points above the number corresponding to the general population: 38% of people in the country are multi-dimensionally poor, always considering non-monetary dimensions which, in this case, are illustrated in Table 2.



**TABLE 2. DIMENSIONS, INDICATORS AND ASSOCIATED SDGS - GENERAL POPULATION**

<b>DIMENSION</b>	<b>DEPRIVATION</b>	<b>SDG</b>
<b>Education</b>	(4-17) Does not attend. (9-19) Attends with delay. (18-24) Did not complete secondary school and does not attend.	4
<b>Social protection</b>	(0-17) Does not receive assistance being eligible. (5-17) Works (market and domestic) and should not (60/65+) Not covered by Social Security (all "states": employed, unemployed or inactive).	8
<b>Adequate housing</b>	(All) Housing with overcrowding (All) Substandard floor and ceiling (All) Unsettled tenure	11
<b>Basic sanitation</b>	(All) Has inadequate bathroom or shared bathroom (All) Has inadequate and shared bathroom (All) No bathroom	6
<b>Access to safe water</b>	(All) Has water outside home or from unsafe source (All) Has water outside home and from unsafe source	6
<b>Safe environment</b>	(All) Lives near landfill or in flood zone	1

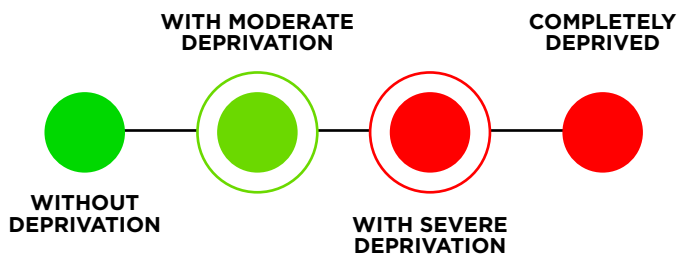
Source: own elaboration.

In the case of children certain deprivation gradients have been distinguished, which imply a continuum that ranges from "non-deprivation" to "total deprivation" or "absolute deprivation", as illustrated in Chart 1.

This way of conceiving poverty comes from the conceptual framework developed by Townsend (1979)<sup>3</sup>, who defines it as a state to which individuals arrive after experiencing diverse and varying degrees of deprivation. The selection of indicators, as well as the levels at which the thresholds of moderate and severe deprivations are fixed, depend crucially on the available data.

3. Townsend, P. (1979). *Poverty in the United Kingdom: a survey of household resources and standards of living*. Univ. of California Press.

## CHART 1. DEPRIVATION GRADIENTS

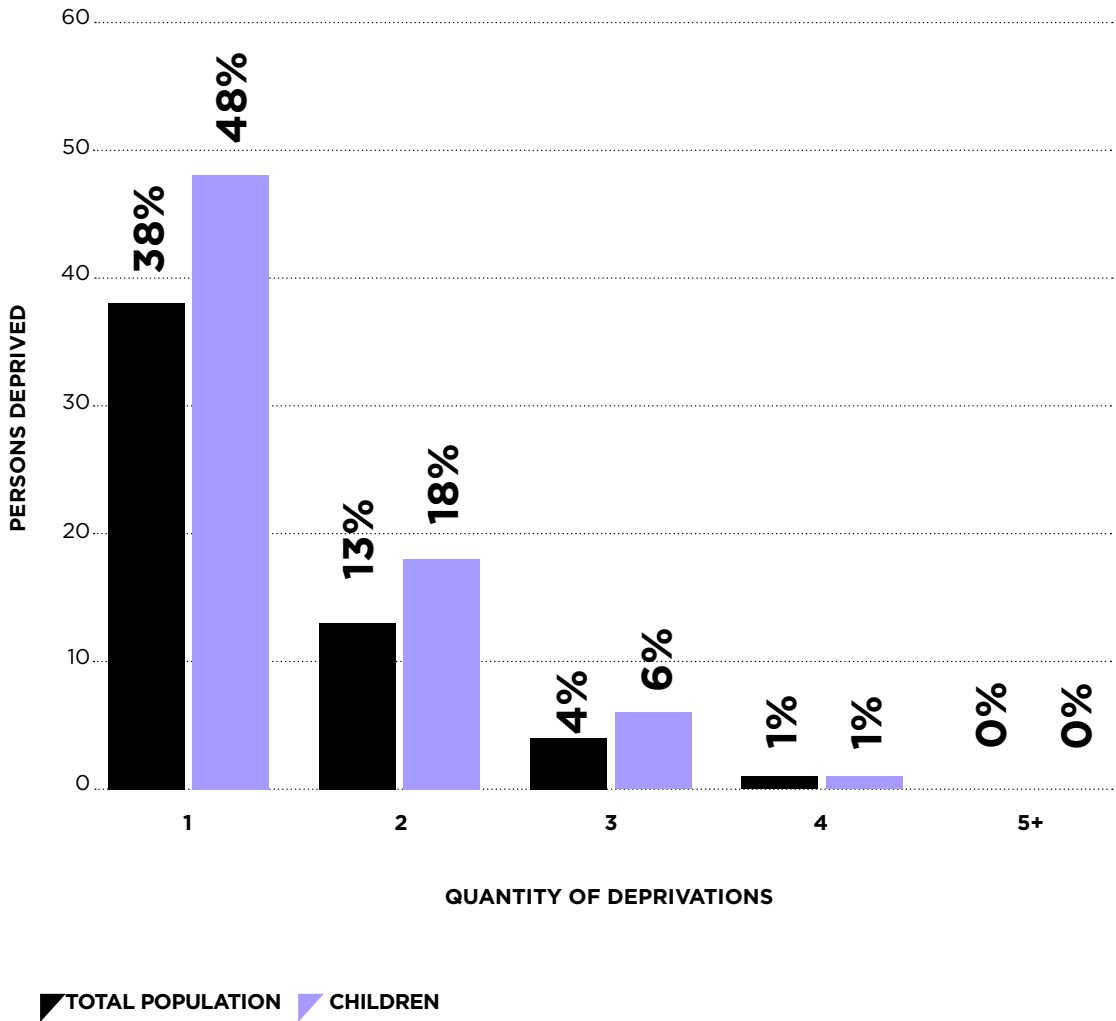


According to this classification of deprivations, around 48% of children and adolescents between 0 and 17 years of age in Argentina currently suffer from deprivations in at least one of the six dimensions considered in this study. Of that 48%, 20 percentage points correspond to those that can be classified as severe deprivations.

In turn, monetary poverty also affects a significant percentage of children and general population: 42% of children in Argentina reside in households whose income does not cover a basket of basic goods and services; and more than 8% in households with incomes that do not cover the basic food basket. These figures clearly contrast with those of the general population: 27.3% and 4.9%, respectively. Thus, a well-known phenomenon is revealed: child poverty is higher than adult poverty, and this is true whether monetary or non-monetary deprivations are taken into account. More children live in poor households than in those that do not suffer this problem.

If instead, the group that has two or more deprivations is considered, the percentages drop significantly, falling to 18% in girls and boys compared to 13% of the population in general, decreasing the gap that separates childhood and adolescence from the total population. Chart 2 compares the percentage of population classified in each of the groups. The indicators mentioned above stem from official data obtained through the EPH -the survey conducted by the INDEC- and correspond to the first half of 2018.

**CHART 2. NMDS IN ARGENTINA. TOTAL POPULATION, AND CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO ACCUMULATED DEPRIVATIONS. FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**

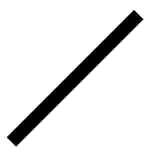


Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

The image features a white background with several abstract geometric shapes. A large, irregular purple shape dominates the left and center. To its right, there is a smaller purple triangle pointing right. Below the main purple shape, there is a black diagonal line. On the far left, a thin vertical black line runs down the page. The text 'POVERTY PROFILES' is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a vertical black bar to its left.

**POVERTY  
PROFILES**

...there  
are strong  
inequalities  
that are found  
within specific  
subgroups  
of population...



Though the above considerations provide a description of the situation of both monetary and multidimensional poverty in Argentina, they all refer to population averages. That is to say, they are the levels that reach the representative individual of the population, whether a girl or a boy, an adult man or woman, or an elderly person. By concentrating on children, the study tried to capture the situation of this specific group, but always staying within the averages.

In this sense, there are strong inequalities found within specific subgroups of the population. Taking these disparities into account is central to formulating public policies, since it allows the identification of populations in situation of vulnerability. For example, the intuition that households with heads with low educational level have a greater risk of being poor is correct, it is not clear in this presumption how much that difference is, nor is it possible to decide whether that gap is as wide, or wider, than the one generated by the occupational insertion of the adults present in the home.

This section presents the differences between groups, starting with monetary poverty (Section A) and continuing with non-monetary deprivations (Section B).

## A. MONETARY POVERTY

Table 3 shows the situation of monetary poverty differentiated by gender for the entire population (Panel A) and for children and adolescents (Panel B). For the general population, a distinction is made between households with and without children, and for child poverty specific age groups are differentiated. Always in these types of deprivations, there will be a distinction between “poverty” and “extreme poverty”, trying to differentiate two situations of insufficient family income: the situation in which income fails to cover the cost of a basic basket that includes food and other goods (poverty), or the cost of a basket consisting exclusively of food (extreme poverty).

**TABLE 3. INCIDENCE OF MONETARY POVERTY ACCORDING TO GENDER AND ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS. ARGENTINA, FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**

	POVERTY			EXTREME POVERTY		
PANEL A   TOTAL POPULATION	MAN	WOMAN	TOTAL	MAN	WOMAN	TOTAL
Households with children	42.6%	40.5%	<b>41.6%</b>	8.6%	7.6%	<b>8.1%</b>
Households without children	21.9%	22.1%	<b>22.0%</b>	3.7%	3.7%	<b>3.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
PANEL B   CHILDREN	MAN	WOMAN	TOTAL	MAN	WOMAN	TOTAL
0-4	38.6%	36.9%	<b>37.8%</b>	8.8%	6.4%	<b>7.7%</b>
5-12	44.5%	42.0%	<b>43.2%</b>	8.8%	7.6%	<b>8.2%</b>
13-17	43.2%	41.5%	<b>42.3%</b>	8.1%	8.5%	<b>8.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>40.5%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

As mentioned, 27% of the population in Argentina lives in households with insufficient income;

however, Table 3 shows there is a gender difference in poverty levels: poverty among men is somewhat higher than among women, and the same may be said regarding extreme poverty<sup>4</sup>.

Both poverty and extreme poverty are higher in households in which children and adolescents reside, compared to households without them. Regarding extreme poverty, differences are particularly strong in households with children. Boys, in turn, have a higher level of monetary poverty than girls, and there are fewer contrasts between different age groups, though poverty is higher the higher the age of girls and boys.

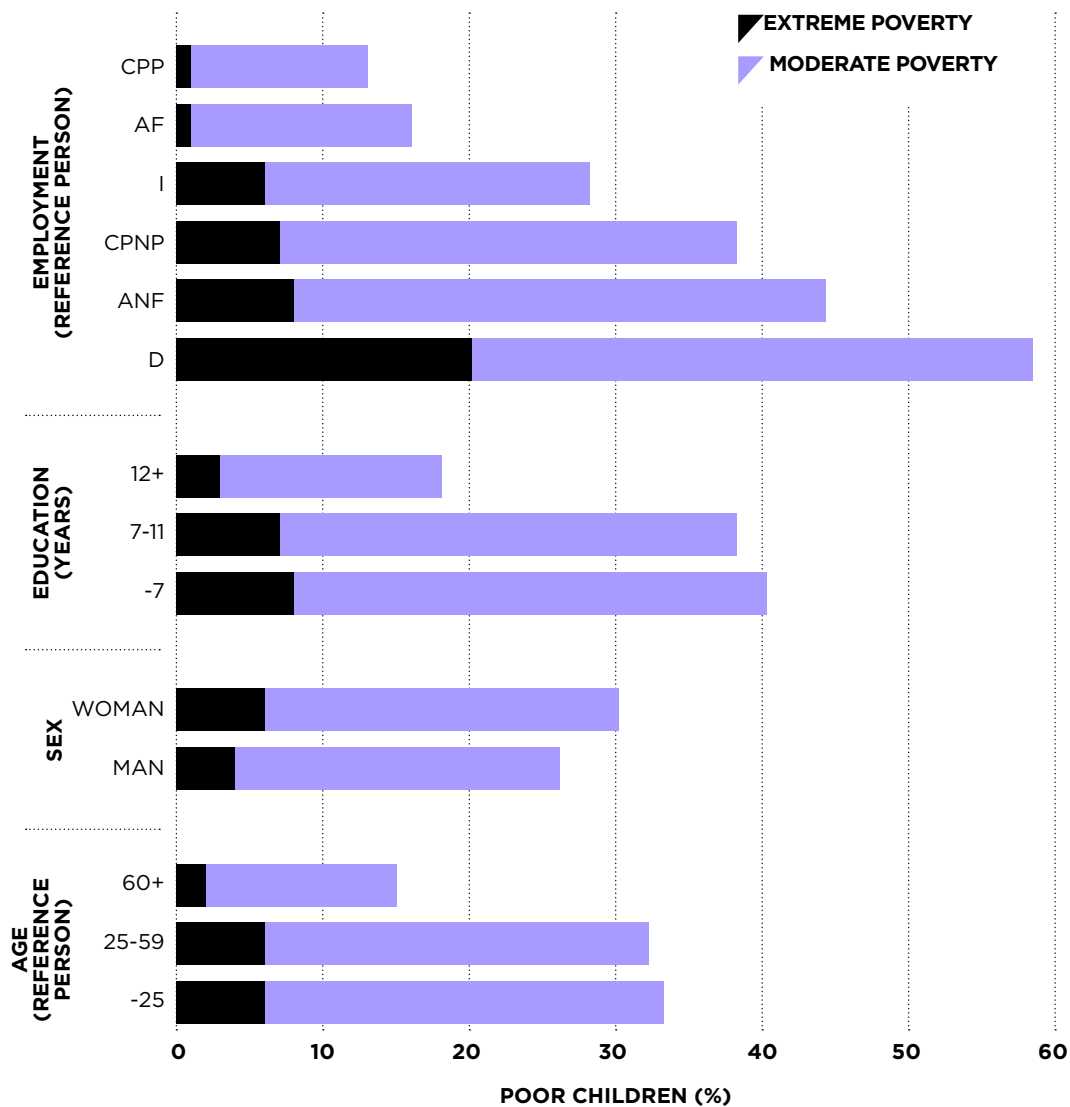
Another type of disparity is observed according to the characteristics of the household's reference person (known as head of household). Chart 3 shows the profiles of monetary poverty classifying the child population by age, sex, educational level and the occupational insertion of the head of household.

Child-poverty levels are higher among single-parent households that only have one income provider, who must also take on domestic and care tasks.

---

4. The differences are very scarce and probably not significant from a statistical point of view.

**CHART 3. PROFILES OF MP IN ARGENTINA. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**



Note: AF (Formal Salaried Employee), ANF (Non-Formal Salaried Employee), CPP (Self-employed Professional), CPNP (Non-Professional Self-employed), I (Inactive), D (Unemployed). The formality of salaried employees is detected with the question regarding the contributions to social security made by the employer, and the difference between professional and non-professional self-employed workers with the qualification required by the task performed according to the International Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

Source: own construction with data from INDEC, EPH.

Children and adolescents living in households whose reference person is an adult between 25 and 59 years old, or a young person (under 25), or a woman, or has intermediate to low educational level, or is unemployed or working informally, have more possibilities of being poor, compared to the population that live in households headed by a man, aged 60 or older, who has at least



completed secondary education and works in the formal sector of the economy. Note the contrasts are very striking. A child in a household whose reference person is unemployed is 3.2 times more likely to be poor compared to a child who resides in a household whose reference person is employed in the formal sector of the economy.

Having a job does not seem to be a sufficient condition to be out of poverty. A child living in a household whose head is as an informal worker or self-employed worker in low-skilled occupations, has 3 times higher probability of being in poverty (only slightly lower than the case of the unemployed worker) than a child who resides in a household whose head is a formal worker. The quality of labor insertion matters and a precarious insertion in the labor market generates similar situations, in terms of welfare, to those caused by the lack of employment.

The type of household in which people live also appears as a differentiating element concerning the risk of being in poverty, as shown in Table 4. In this case, family organization is a proxy of the number of income contributors to the household and the capacity to generate such income, which is closely linked to a person’s educational level, to their experience in the labor market and to the structure of employment.

**TABLE 4. INCIDENCE OF MONETARY POVERTY ACCORDING TO TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD. ARGENTINA, FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018**

ALL	POVERTY		EXTREME POVERTY	
	ALL	CHILDREN	ALL	CHILDREN
Single-parent household	6.8%	Na	3.1%	Na
Nuclear without children	6.1%	Na	1.4%	Na
Nuclear with children	29.1%	36.5%	5.0%	6.9%
Single-parent	33.4%	52.0%	9.5%	16.4%
Extended	34.7%	48.4%	4.7%	7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

Note: Na, Not applicable..

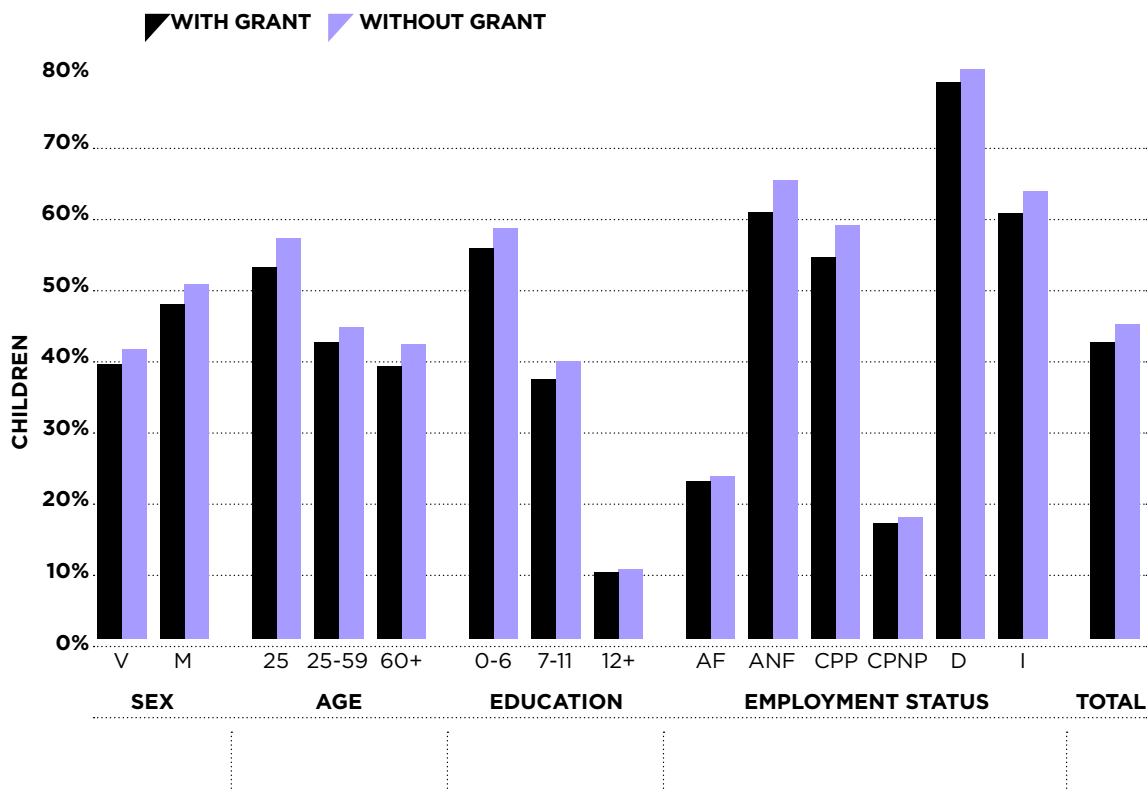
Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

The highest incidence of monetary poverty for the total population is observed in extended households, and child poverty is much higher in single-parent households. Note that in the latter, extreme poverty doubles the average poverty rate of 8%. As mentioned before, single-parent households have a single (or only) income provider, who must also take on domestic and care tasks, having to accept in some cases precarious and intermittent labor insertions, many of which are

carried out in the informal sector. The limited capacity to generate income, combined with the number of adults in the household, makes this type of family organization a situation of economic vulnerability.

Hence the importance in certain cases of non-labor incomes, for example, those from social protection programs. In addition to being a central aspect that highlights the role of the State in situations of crisis, they have special relevance from the perspective of current poverty-reduction policies in Argentina. Indeed, this is very clear when analyzing the impact exerted by monetary grants made by the State on poverty levels shown in Chart 4a (on total poverty) and 4b (on extreme poverty).

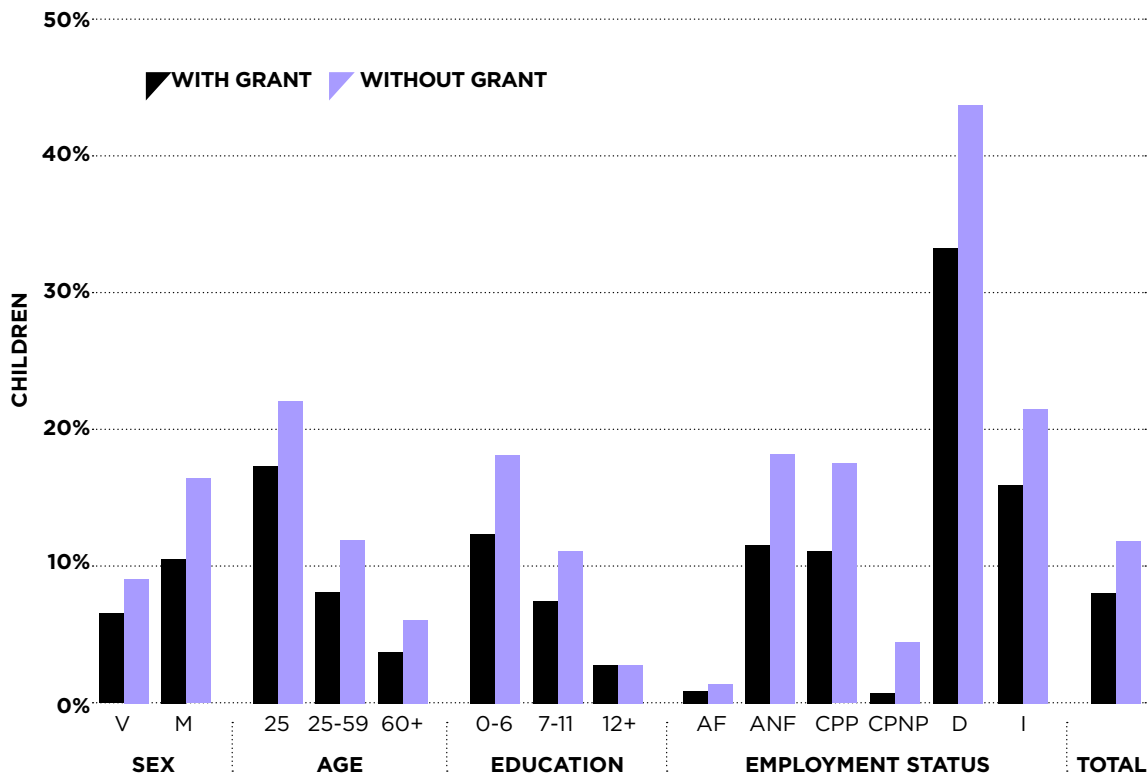
**CHART 4A . EFFECTS OF GRANTS ON MONETARY POVERTY LEVELS IN ARGENTINA. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**



Note: AF (Formal Salaried Employee), ANF (Non-Formal Salaried Employee), CPP (Self-employed Professional), CPNP (Non-Professional Self-employed), I (Inactive), D (Unemployed). The formality of salaried employees is detected with the question regarding the contributions to social security made by the employer, and the difference between professional and non-professional self-employed workers with the qualification required by the task performed according to the International Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

**CHART 4B. EFFECTS OF GRANTS ON EXTREME MONETARY POVERTY LEVELS IN ARGENTINA. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**



Note: AF (Formal Salaried Employee), ANF (Non-Formal Salaried Employee), CPP (Self-employed Professional), CPNP (Non-Professional Self-employed), I (Inactive), D (Unemployed). The formality of salaried employees is detected with the question regarding the contributions to social security made by the employer, and the difference between professional and non-professional self-employed workers with the qualification required by the task performed according to the International Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

Independently from the characteristics of the household in which children and adolescents reside, it is observed that monetary grants have a particular effect on the probability of living in poverty, this being more marked in some groups than others and far more intense in extreme poverty than in total poverty. For example, they reduce by more than 7% the level of poverty in children living in households whose reference person is under 25 years old or an informal salaried employee, against the average 5%. But notice the effect on extreme poverty: they reduce on average 31% children living in extreme poverty, against 5% of total poverty. Although in these cases there is a statistical issue of denominators too small to evaluate the magnitude of the effect, Charts 4a and 4b are nevertheless illustrative of the importance of income grant programs, mainly to reduce the levels of extreme monetary poverty, that is, of those households whose income is not enough to cover the food basket.

## B. NON-MONETARY DEPRIVATIONS

In this section, the inequalities -for children and adolescents- in the probability of experiencing non-monetary deprivations (NMDs), according to a set of characteristics, is analyzed. The first group of inequality addresses the general population and classifies it according to whether the households are with or without children. As in the case of monetary poverty, non-monetary deprivations have a higher incidence in households with children (Table 5). The differences in this case amount to almost 16 percentage points when deprivations are considered in one dimension or more and to 10 percentage points when considering 2 or more deprivations.

**TABLE 5. INCIDENCE OF NMDs IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. ARGENTINA, FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**

ALL POPULATION	ONE OR MORE DEPRIVATIONS			TWO OR MORE DEPRIVATIONS		
	MAN	WOMAN	TOTAL	MAN	WOMAN	TOTAL
Households with children	50.2%	49.1%	<b>49.7%</b>	21.0%	19.5%	<b>20.3%</b>
Households without children	34.2%	33.7%	<b>33.9%</b>	10.7%	10.2%	<b>10.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.8%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>38.1%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

The differences between sexes do not seem transcendental in this case. Focused specifically on the population of children, Table 6 points out disparities by sex and age groups.

**TABLE 6. INCIDENCE OF NMDs IN HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO AGE OF CHILDREN. ARGENTINA, FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**

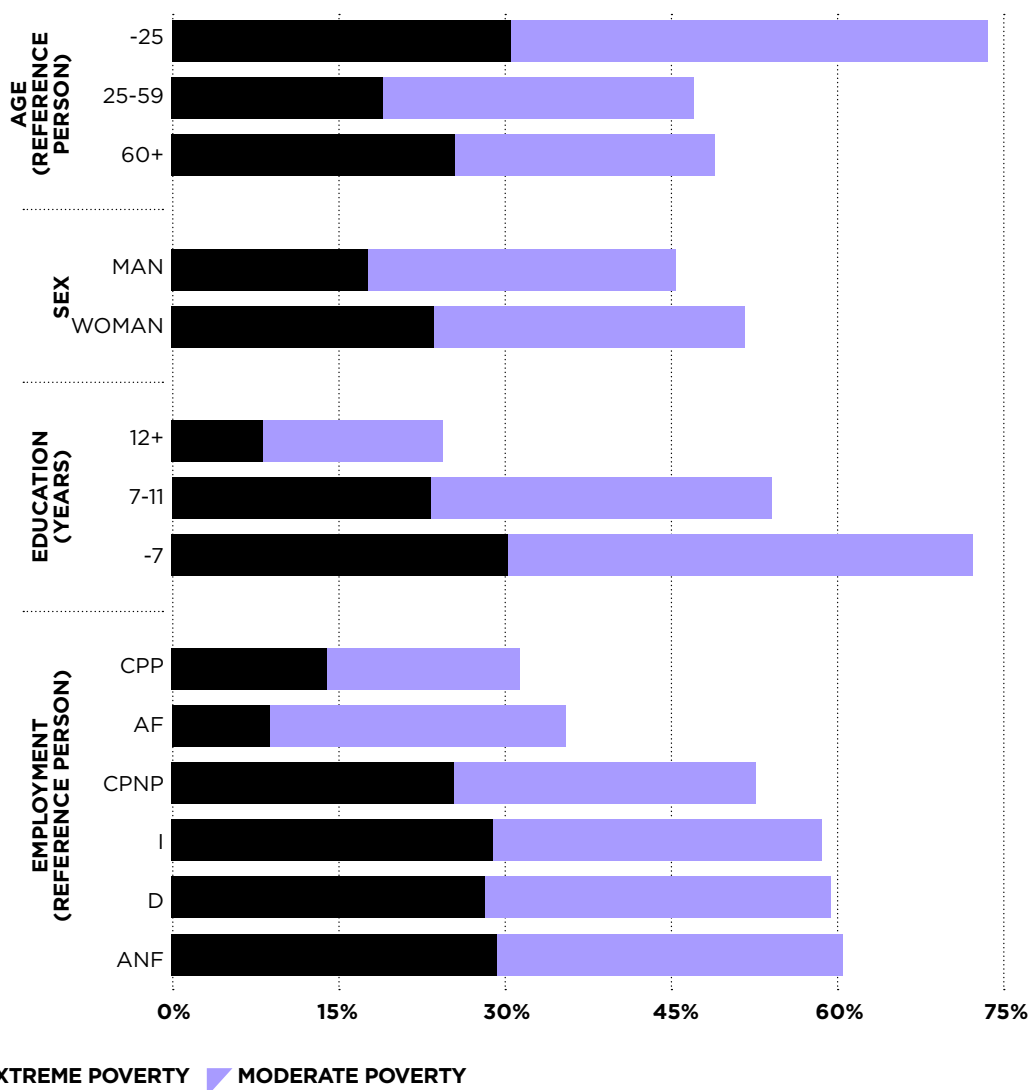
AGE GROUPS	DEPRIVATION GRADIENTS					
	TOTAL			SEVERE		
	NIÑOS	NIÑAS	TOTAL	NIÑOS	NIÑAS	TOTAL
0-3	46.0%	43.7%	<b>44.9%</b>	17.7%	16.4%	<b>17.1%</b>
4-12	44.3%	44.6%	<b>44.4%</b>	18.4%	17.1%	<b>17.8%</b>
13-17	51.9%	51.4%	<b>51.7%</b>	23.0%	23.1%	<b>23.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.2%</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

The variables age and sex of the child, do not show significant differences. In consistency with other studies, it is a fairly common result in other countries of the region, such as Brazil (UNICEF, 2018). There are however certain differences in the group of children between 13 and 17 years old compared to the rest, being verified for both sexes and independent of the degree of deprivation considered.

Inequalities in levels of deprivation according to characteristics of the household's reference person, seen in Chart 5 are very significant.

**CHART 5. NMD PROFILES IN ARGENTINA. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD. FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**



Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

The education of the head of household is perhaps the most notorious. A child living in a household whose reference person has not completed the primary level has 3 times higher probability of being deprived in at least one of their basic and fundamental rights, as compared to a child who resides in a home whose reference person has completed secondary school. The occupational insertion of the household's reference person is also very important, with disparities that reach almost 100%. It is particularly noteworthy that this last case corresponds to children who reside in households whose head is an informal salaried employee. Having a job with a precarious employment placement is not a sufficient condition to free children from the state of non-monetary poverty.

Another factor that introduces strong differences is the type of household in which children reside, Table 7.

**TABLE 7. INCIDENCE OF NMDS ACCORDING TO TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD. ARGENTINA, FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**

TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD	ALL	CHILDREN	
		TOTAL	SEVERE
Single-parent household	26.0%	Na	Na
Nuclear without children	27.3%	Na	Na
Nuclear with children	36.3%	42.7%	16.0%
Single-parent	37.8%	49.7%	23.4%
Extended	47.1%	56.9%	26.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.1%</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>


Nota: Na: Not applicable.

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

Again, as in the case of income poverty, extended households and in second place single-parent households are yielding the highest incidence of poverty for the general population. For children, these types of households also present the highest likelihood of poverty. Note that this is true for both total and severe deprivations.

The image features a white background with several abstract purple geometric shapes. In the top-left, a purple triangle points downwards. Below it, another purple triangle points upwards. To the right, a large purple rectangle is partially visible. At the bottom-left, there is a purple rectangle. At the bottom-right, a purple shape with a diagonal cut-off corner contains a white diagonal line. A thin black vertical line runs down the left side of the page. A thick black vertical bar is positioned to the left of the word 'STRUCTURE'. A black diagonal slash is located above the word.

# STRUCTURE



Knowledge of  
the structure  
of poverty  
allows to establish  
priorities in  
the formulation  
and implementation  
of public policies.

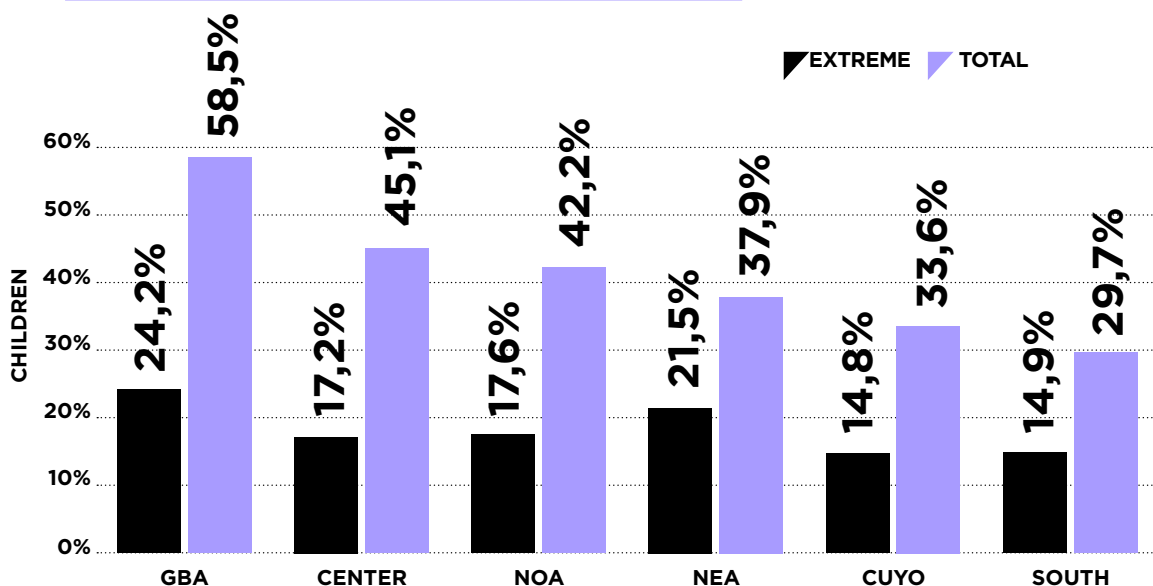


So far, it has not been specified how important each deprivation is in determining the general level of deprivation (or non-monetary poverty). This aspect of the analysis is crucial, as an is evidence to define public policies aimed at reducing poverty. Knowledge of the structure of poverty allows, among many other things, to establish priorities in the formulation and implementation of such policies.

The structure of deprivation means the contribution of the deprivations in each dimension to total non-monetary poverty. This is, to what extent education, protection, etc. contribute to swelling total non-monetary poverty summarized in the adjusted multidimensional poverty measurement, MO<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, the profiles allow comparing groups and determining differences in the weight or importance of each factor in each of these groups. For example, it allows us to know if the structure of poverty among children with an unemployed mother or father is similar to the structure of parents who are employed. That importance or weight can be expressed as “the percentage of total poverty accounted for by ...” and hence appears the possibility to prioritize certain policy actions.

As an example, the incidence of non-monetary deprivation in children and adolescents by region of Argentina (Chart 6a) and the structure of deprivations -also by regions- (Chart 6b) are presented. Statistical regions are defined in the same line as the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC).

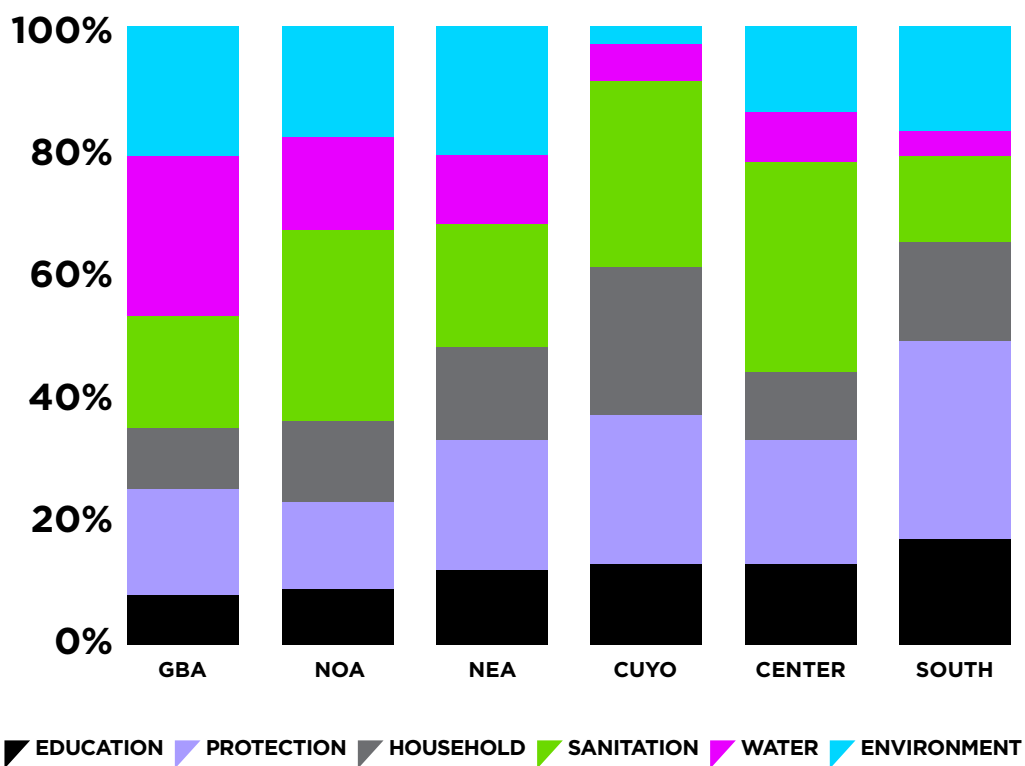
**CHART 6A. INCIDENCE OF NMDS IN ARGENTINA. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF HOUSEHOLD. FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**



Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

5. For details, see data sheet at the end of this report.

**CHART 6B. STRUCTURE OF NMDs IN ARGENTINA. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ACCORDING TO PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF HOUSEHOLD (PERCENTAGES). FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018.**




Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

Note that, although NMD levels of the Center and NOA regions are not too different, structure differs markedly between the two regions. In the Central region, deprivations in protection are heavier, while in the NOA access to safe drinking water has a strong preponderance. It can also be seen that in those regions with low levels of NMDs, privations which could be termed “shared deprivations” have less weight; that is, those that have more to do with characteristics of the household than with the girls and boys individually considered, such as education and social protection. This also allows to understand why when the levels of deprivation are high, the possibilities of improving the situation are greater. Investments in sanitation, in water or in safe environments simultaneously reach a greater number of children than those that imply a defined individual directionality.



# TEMPORAL EVOLUTION

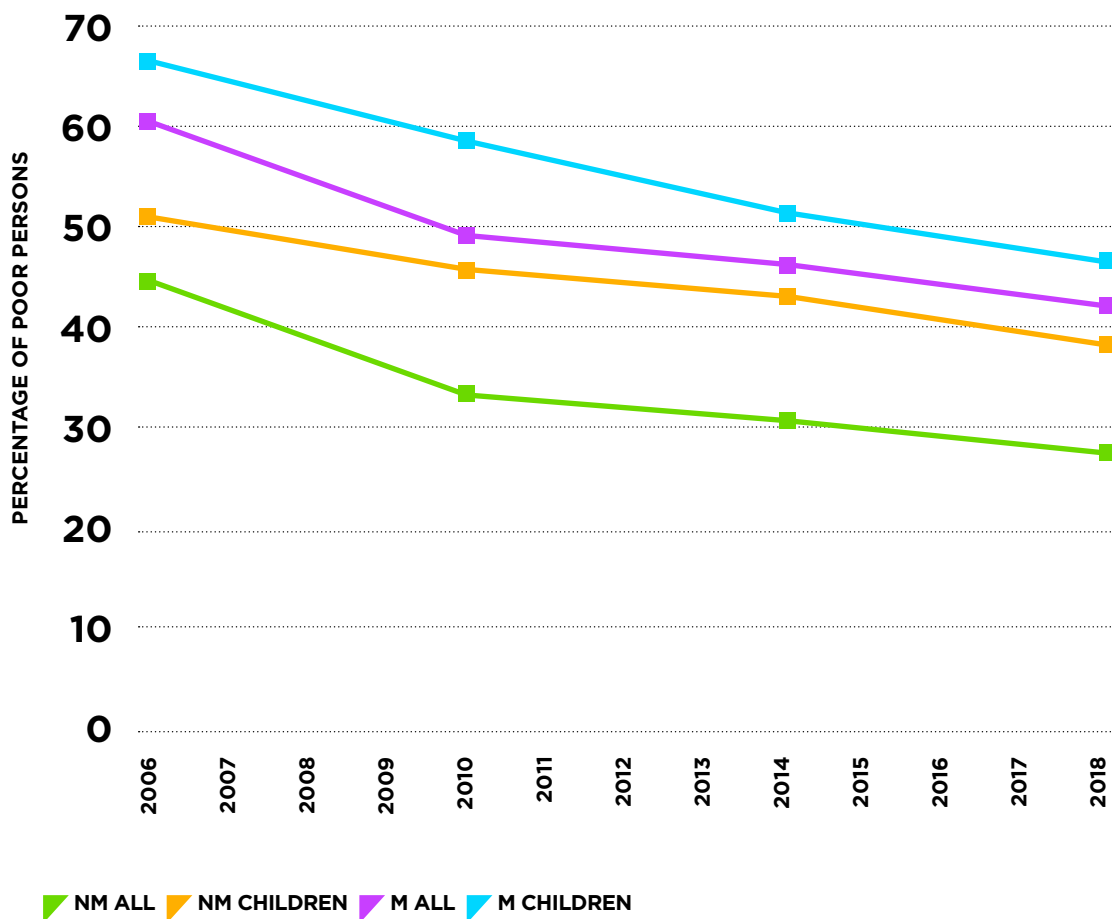




There is  
a decrease  
in all monetary  
and non-monetary  
poverty indicators  
between 2006  
and 2018, but  
levels remain high.

A final aspect to highlight has to do with the temporal evolution of monetary poverty and multiple non-monetary deprivation indicators . Chart 8 provides data that allows to follow this evolution with a temporal space of four years between observations, with the purpose of identifying trends and not simply focusing attention on temporal variations due, for example, to macroeconomic turbulences.

**CHART 7. TEMPORAL EVOLUTION OF THE INCIDENCE OF MP AND NMDS. ARGENTINA, 2006, 2010, 2014 AND 2018 (FIRST SEMESTER, IN ALL CASES).**



Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.

First, there is a decrease in all monetary and non-monetary poverty indicators between 2006 and 2018 (Chart 7). In the case of general monetary and child poverty, the most marked reduction occurred between 2006 and 2010, to continue with a slight decrease in the following years.

A similar trend is observed for the incidence of non-monetary deprivations, though the decline is more systematic than in the case of monetary poverty. This shows that although the population's income stopped increasing when the economic recovery -started at the beginning of the last decade (2003-2010)- ceased, improvements in the non-monetary indicators of welfare continued to manifest as at the beginning, regardless of the general scenario.

A notorious difference between both types of deprivations, is the gap between the general population and children and adolescents. It is observed that, while the disparity remains stable for monetary poverty (around 16 percentage points), that gap corresponding to non-monetary deprivations reduced by almost half, going from 15 percentage points in 2006 to 8 percentage points in 2018 .

This is due to the fact that in the period between 2010-2014, non-monetary deprivations in childhood continued at approximately 3% per year. That is to say, they continued diminishing at the rate they had been during the previous period, and that they continued to do so in the subsequent period. During this period, the decline in non-monetary deprivations of the general population slowed, causing a reduction in the disparity that is very important in historical terms.



# **INTEGRATED METHOD**

It is estimated that in 2018, about 27% of the total of children and adolescents in Argentina suffer monetary and non-monetary deprivations at the same time.



This study examined the results obtained when computing poverty from both monetary and non-monetary perspectives. It remains to be assessed what part of the country's population and of children is affected by deprivations in both aspects, what part of non-monetary poverty is made invisible by measures that only take into account income and what part of monetary poverty is invisible due to the measures that only take into account non-monetary deprivations (the multidimensional assessed in this report, as well as others, such as traditional poverty due to unsatisfied basic needs, UBN).

The two panels of Table 8 show data that clearly illustrate these aspects.

**TABLE 8. MONETARY POVERTY AND NMDS IN ARGENTINA, FIRST HALF OF 2018.**

<b>(A) TOTAL POPULATION</b>			
<b>NON-MONETARY DEPRIVATIONS</b>	<b>INCOME</b>		
	<b>NOT POOR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Not poor	49.4%	11.0%	<b>60.3%</b>
Poor	23.4%	16.3%	<b>39.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>(B) CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS</b>			
<b>NON-MONETARY DEPRIVATIONS</b>	<b>INCOME</b>		
	<b>NOT POOR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Not poor	36.1%	14.7%	<b>50.7%</b>
Poor	22.3%	26.9%	<b>49.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.4%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: own elaboration with data from INDEC, EPH.


It is estimated that in 2018, about 27% of the total of children and adolescents in Argentina suffer monetary and non-monetary deprivations at the same time. Taking into account the total population of children in the country (about 13 million), this would be just over 3.5 million. On the other hand, Table 8 shows that 22.3% of girls and boys are not poor by income, but they experience at least one deprivation in the non-monetary aspects considered here: education, protection, housing, etc.

In absolute terms, this implies almost 3 million children who do not appear as deprived if only monetary deprivations are considered. As can be seen from the above, measurements that take into account both aspects help to more fully assess the phenomenon of multiple and overlapping deprivations.

And 22.3% of girls and boys are not poor by income, but they experience at least one deprivation in non-monetary aspects. This implies almost 3 million children who do not appear as deprived if only monetary deprivations are considered.

The image features a white background with several overlapping purple geometric shapes. A large purple triangle is on the right side, pointing towards the bottom-left. Another purple shape is on the left side, partially overlapping the white space. A thin black vertical line runs down the left edge. A short black diagonal line is located in the upper-left purple area, and a short white diagonal line is in the lower-right purple area. The text 'FINAL CONSIDERATIONS' is centered in the white space, written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**FINAL  
CONSIDERATIONS**



It is essential  
to have proper  
measurements  
of deprivations  
that capture  
the multifaceted  
nature of  
poverty

This work addressed the problem of material deprivations of the population in general and of children in particular with the idea that poverty is more than the scarcity of income that affects people or households. In regard to children and adolescents, to live in poverty during the first stages of life means not attending school or doing it late, not having decent clothes, and being deprived of access to drinking water, electricity and living in unsafe and overcrowded spaces, or facing many other deficiencies. These realities have negative consequences, in addition to the likelihood of reproducing them over following generations, threatening the present and future of the girls and boys who endure them, as well as compromising the economic development and social welfare of the country.

This study concludes that about 42% of children in Argentina live in homes with insufficient income and that 48% experience violations of some of their basic and elementary rights related to education, sanitation, social protection, etc. These figures far exceed those shown by the incidence in the total population: 27% and 38%, for monetary poverty and for non-monetary deprivations, respectively. There were also large inequality gaps between population groups, and also within these groups. Children and adolescents who reside in a household whose head has a low educational level and precarious insertion in the labor market have much higher levels of deprivation than those who reside in homes with heads of households with more years of schooling and a more stable condition of employment.

In absolute terms, extrapolating the results obtained to the national population total, this means that around 17 million people have deprivations in at least one of the dimensions considered in this study, and 6.3 million children suffer the effective violation in the exercise of at least one of their rights. On the income side, approximately 12 million people live in households with insufficient incomes, and there are 5.5 million children and adolescents who are in this situation.

Extended and single-parent households increase the risk of children suffering high rates of poverty and it can be observed that cash grants are effective instruments to reduce the risk of income poverty. Some groups, such as children who live in households whose head is a self-employed worker, are positively affected by money grants of programs such as the Universal Child Allowance (AUH). However, the impact could be more important if some design details were calibrated, such as the conditionalities required to the beneficiary population, that were already addressed by UNICEF in other documents (for example, UNICEF, 2018a and 2018b)<sup>6</sup>.

Poverty (monetary and non-monetary) has decreased over the last decade, but levels are still very high and with a certain resistance to change during the last few years. This is particularly

---

6. UNICEF (2018a). Analysis of proposals and improvements to expand Universal Child Allowance. Buenos Aires. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/argentina/informes/an%C3%A1lisis-y-propuestas-de-mejora-para-ampliar-la-asignaci%C3%B3n-universal-por-hijo>. UNICEF (2018b), Universal Child Allowance, Conditionalities, Buenos Aires. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/argentina/informes/asignacion-universal-por-hijo>.

important in an economy that finds itself in serious problems regarding economic growth and with an inflation that undermines purchasing power of the most vulnerable sectors of the population.’

When implementing the Integrated Poverty Measurement Method (IPM) it is observed that almost 3.5 million children and adolescents experience non-monetary deprivations and , at the same time , live in households with insufficient income. In the case of the general population, more than 7.2 million people are in that situation. Thus, using the IPM, it is possible to affirm that 44% of the poor, considering both insufficient income and the violation of basic human rights, are children and adolescents.

The report also warns that, as a result of the official method of measuring poverty by income, 23% of children and adolescents and 22 % of the total population are left invisible. This means that nearly 3 million children and adolescents and more than 10 million people, live in households with sufficient income (they are not poor considering income), but suffer the violation in the exercise of at least one of their rights.

Finally, it is essential to have proper measurements of deprivations that capture the multifaceted nature of poverty. SDG number 1 speaks of poverty “in all its forms” recognizing the multidimensional character of this phenomenon. Although the importance of this type of deprivation was estimated here, the available data source is insufficient to form a thorough idea of poverty “in all its forms”. The EPH is a great source of data for the analysis of the labor market and for certain phenomena that have to do with the welfare of the population, but it does not cover central aspects such as health and nutrition, among others, necessary to be able to advance in the knowledge of poverty in the broadest sense of the term.

# DATA SHEET

**Conceptual framework.** The Rights Approach is used. This allows solving the problem of determining the second cut point, typical of multidimensional indicators. Human rights are indivisible since they constitute an intrinsic whole to the human condition. This implies that certain human rights cannot be respected while violating others, and leads to a clear decision of what is the level of tolerance regarding the number of dimensions that admit deprivation. If it is achieved that each dimension corresponds to a human right, then the deprivation in a single dimension is enough to consider that a child or adolescent is deprived. In the terminology of multidimensional poverty literature this implies that the so-called “union approach” is adopted (Alkire and Foster, 2011)<sup>7</sup> and this is the approach that has been used in poverty measurements for unmet basic needs. It should be noted that the association between the indicator or indicators of each dimension and the associated human right is not strict and achieving perfect compatibility is a very complicated task (Pemberton et al., 2012)<sup>8</sup>.

A further limitation is related to the fact that the rights contemplated by, for example, the CRC, go beyond those that can be measured by household surveys. In this sense, it can be said that the list provided in Tables 1 and 2 are a sample (in a statistical sense) of a universe of rights that they cannot cover. In addition, it should be noted that the calculated synthetic measurements are sensitive to the number of dimensions (Boltvinik, 1992)<sup>9</sup>, so the estimate that can be made with a household survey will always be underestimating the level of deprivations, which supposedly exceed those that can be measured.

**Data used.** The data used come from the EPH, an operation organized and coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC), and carried out by the statistical offices of the provinces of Argentina. In this case, work was mainly carried out with information from the first semester of 2018, and also with the first semesters of the years 2006, 2010 and 2014. The complete base of 2018 (first and second quarter) has 115,786 observations (persons) representing 27,734,243 inhabitants of the most populated urban centers of the country, where approximately

7. Alkire, S. and Foster, J. (2011), “Counting and multidimensional poverty Measurements” *Journal of Public Economics*, 95: 476-487.

8. Pemberton, S.; Gordon, D. and Nandy, S. (2012), “Child rights, child survival and child poverty: the debate”. In Minujin, A. and Nandy, S. (Ed.): *Global Child Poverty and Well-being*. The Policy Press, London: 19-38.

9. Boltvinik, J. (1992). “Integrated Poverty Measurement Method. A proposal for its development.” *Journal of Foreign Trade*, 42(4): 354-365.

62% of the total population resides. Of the total number of observations, 31,559 correspond to children or adolescents; this is a population between 0 and 17 years old. These observations represent 7,383,140 girls and boys living in Argentina (27% of the total population).

**Method, poverty by income.** The results correspond to the current measurement methodology, implemented by INDEC since 2016<sup>10</sup>. In this methodology, the household is classified and the condition of poverty or indigence is common to all its members. To calculate the monetary poverty profiles, the poverty lines provided by INDEC's press reports were used. Equivalent adult scales listed in these reports were also used. It should be noted that, for this indicator, in 2018, only households with declared income are considered. For the years prior to 2016, the poverty lines arise from moving the official figures of this year according to the variations of a consumer price index calculated from information coming from the statistical offices of some provinces.

**Method, multidimensional non-monetary poverty.** Synthetic measurements of multidimensional poverty were calculated. By synthetic measurements (or summary) of multiple deprivations it is understood an indicator that synthesizes the main elements of the analysis for the population studied: the deprivation-non-deprivation condition of each unit of analysis and the number of privations of the deprived population.

Once the units of analysis have been identified and classified, it is possible to calculate the three most elementary synthetic measurements of the multidimensional analysis: the incidence rate (or H), the relative amount of deprivations (A) and the rate of incidence or adjusted count (MO). The latter is known as the measurement of Alkire and Foster in the multidimensional poverty literature.

10. INDEC (2016), The measurement of poverty and indigence in Argentina, Buenos Aires. Available at: [https://www.indec.gov.ar/ftp/cuadros/sociedad/EPH\\_metodologia\\_22\\_pobreza.pdf](https://www.indec.gov.ar/ftp/cuadros/sociedad/EPH_metodologia_22_pobreza.pdf).





