

# PUTTING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES

A GUIDE TO STATISTICS ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN POVERTY





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NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES:  
A GUIDE TO STATISTICS ON  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN POVERTY**

**GUIDE COMMISSIONED BY UNFPA**



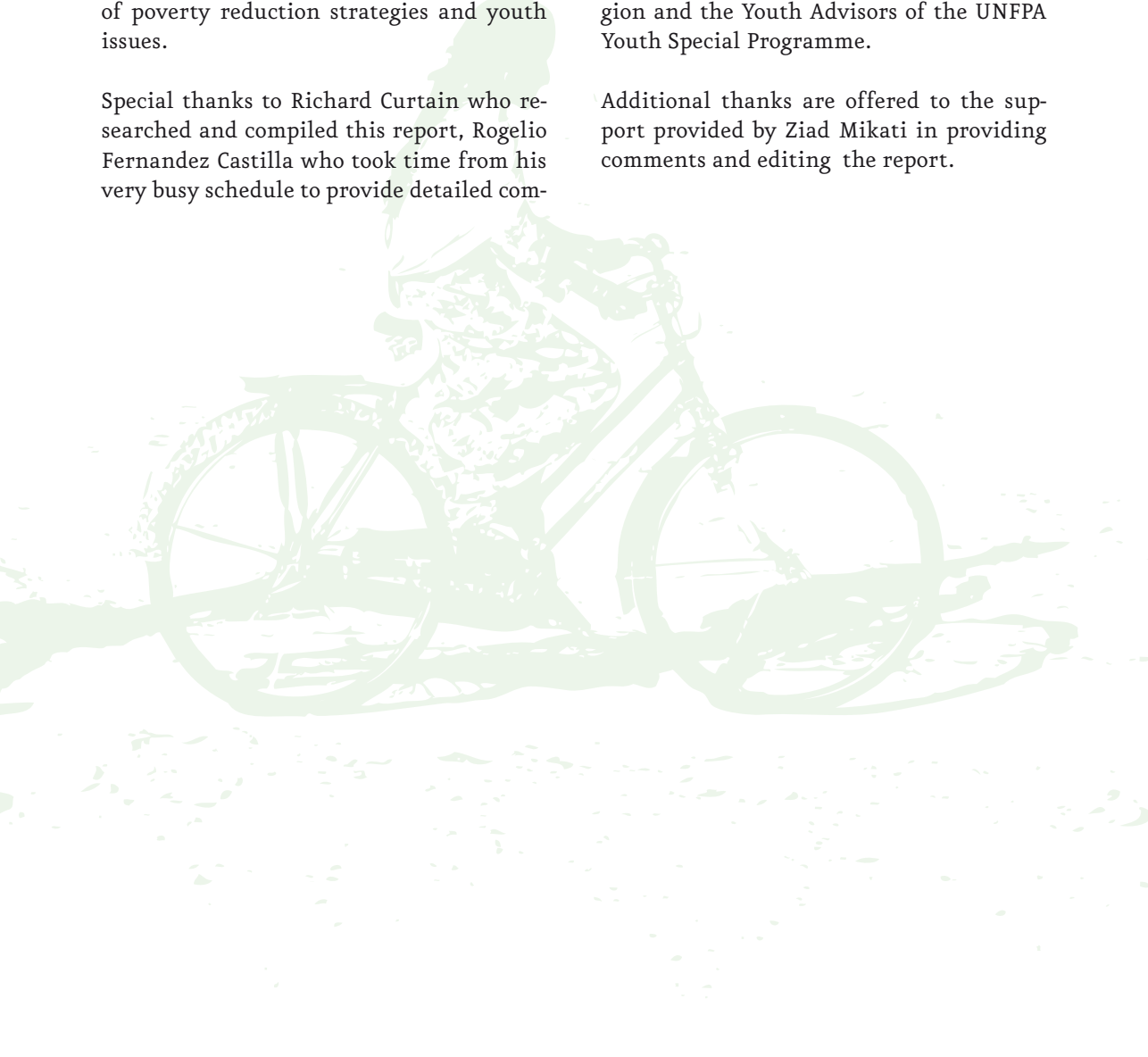
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# KEY STEPS IN THE GUIDE



## STEP 1

### START WITH THE BIG PICTURE

- STEP 1.1** Choose a population data source for your country
- STEP 1.2** Identify the gender/age structure of your country's population for the current year and compile a population pyramid
- STEP 1.3** Identify the gender/age structure of your country's population for a year in the future and compile a population pyramid
- STEP 1.4** Identify scope for a demographic bonus
- STEP 1.5** Identify potential for threat to national security

## STEP 2

### PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN POVERTY USING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL AND RELATED INDICATORS

- STEP 2.1** Highlight the youth focus in the Millennium Development Goals Step 2.2 Pick best data source for country-level MDG statistics on young people
- STEP 2.3** Be aware of the limitations in using the Millennium Development Goals to track poverty among young people
- STEP 2.4** Use MDG indicators on sexual and reproductive health to focus on young people
- STEP 2.5** Show how lowering adolescent fertility can address several MDG goals at the same time
- STEP 2.6** Make use of statistics on the birth rate among young women
- STEP 2.7** Show gender differences in HIV prevalence for young people
- STEP 2.8** Focus on education outcome measures where possible
- STEP 2.9** Use Demographic and Health Surveys to assess literacy attainment

## STEP 3

### USE MORE DETAILED DATA TO IDENTIFY GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN POVERTY

- STEP 3.1** Make use of a measure of household wealth to show inequalities that perpetuate poverty
- STEP 3.2** Use the household wealth measure to develop social vulnerability profiles of young people

# OVERVIEW

Many national poverty reduction strategies overlook the needs of young people. Even where national strategies do have a youth focus, the analysis of their situation is limited because little or no reference is made to readily available data. For those advocating on behalf of young people in poverty, considerable scope exists to make use of simple but reputable statistics to mount a strong case for Governments and civil society to allocate more resources in addressing poverty among this major population group.

The purpose of this guide is to show how relevant statistics on young people in poverty can be easily sourced for use in developing national poverty reduction strategies. The guide shows how to use accessible databases on the Internet to provide individual countries with sophisticated statistical profile of young people in poverty.

## **Use of data at three levels to compile a profile of young people in poverty**

The available data can provide a profile at three levels of young people in poverty. At the broadest level, it is possible to show how significant young people, defined as a specific age group, are in a country's basic demographic structure now and in the future. The second level focuses in on the incidence of young people in poverty, using, for example, national averages based on Millennium Development Goals indicators. A third level of data offers a more differentiated picture of young people in poverty. This involves presenting detailed data, tak-

ing into account young people's differences by gender, rural/urban location, where the data is available, household poverty status.

## **Use of age profile**

The starting point for a profile is to highlight the socio-economic implications of young people as a broad age group in their country's population age structure. A population age pyramid can be used to show young people's place in the total population and their share of the working age population aged 15 years and above. The policy implications of a 'youth bulge' can then explored. This might be in terms of the potential for a demographic bonus. Or alternatively, a large youth share of the adult population may indicate a source of pressure on limited resources such as jobs, increasing, where other conditions are conducive, the risk of civil conflict.

## **Use of national averages**

The guide then shows how statistics can be assembled for a specific county in relation to the youth-oriented Millennium Development Goals. The limits of the MDG indicators are discussed and alternative indicators suggested that better reflect the underlying goals. For example, the lack of a focus in the MDGs on young people's reproductive health is addressed by showing how national data on adolescent mothers aged 15 to 19 years can be accessed.

## **Compiling social vulnerability profiles**

Finally, the guide shows how to use more



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