Assessment of poverty in the Republic of Belarus: experience, problems, prospects

Budva, Montenegro, 26-27 September 2017
Assessment of poverty (low income)
Sample household living standards survey (1)

✓ Sample size 6,000 private households – 0.2% of the general population

✓ General population – the total number of households living in the Republic of Belarus, excluding institutional households, student residences, and homeless persons

✓ Rotation – 50% households

✓ Principles: voluntary participation of households; confidentiality of primary information
Sample household living standards survey (2)

### Annual periodicity
- 1-δx (base) «Questionnaire for the base interview»
- 1-δx (welfare) «Questionnaire on the study of the level of welfare of households»
- 1-δx (ICT) «Questionnaire on the study of households access to ICT»

### Quarterly periodicity
- 4-δx (diary) «Food expenditure diary»
- 4-δx (questionnaire) «Quarterly household expenditure and income questionnaire»

### Monthly periodicity
- 12-δx (journal) «Journal of monthly expenditures and incomes»

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Assessment of poverty

Poverty concepts

- Absolute poverty
- Relative poverty
- Subjective poverty
- Deprivation poverty
Absolute poverty (1)

- **National poverty line** – minimum subsistence budget

- **Law «On the minimum subsistence budget in the Republic of Belarus» (06.01.1999):**
  
  *low-income individuals (families) are individuals (families) with average per capita income below the minimum subsistence budget (for objective reasons)*

- **Minimum subsistence budget** is the value of the minimum set of food products and non-food goods and services the value of which is defined as a fixed proportion of the value of a minimum set of food products, that are essential to maintain human health and vital activity
Absolute poverty (2)

Disposable resources

Money funds

Value of consumed food from subsidiary farming

Value of in-kind benefits and payments

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Absolute poverty in 2016

### Absolute poverty of households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Total households</th>
<th>Urban households</th>
<th>Rural households</th>
<th>Households without children</th>
<th>Households with children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural households</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Absolute poverty of the population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Urban population</th>
<th>Rural population</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural population</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Relative poverty

✓ **Relative poverty line** –
  60% of the national average per capita
  aquivalised median disposable resources

✓ **Relative poverty line is 1.4 times higher than absolute poverty line**
  (2016)

✓ **National equivalence scale:**
  1.0 – for one of the household members aged 18 and above;
  0.8 – for the rest of the household member aged 18 and above;
  0.9 – for children aged 6 to 18;
  0.7 – for children aged 3 to 6;
  0.5 – for children aged under 3
Relative poverty in 2016

Relative poverty of households
(% of total households of corresponding group)

- Total households: 9.1%
- Urban households: 7.6%
- Rural households: 13.3%
- Households without children: 5.4%
- Households with children: 16.8%

Relative poverty of the population
(% of total population of corresponding group)

- Total population: 11.5%
- Urban population: 9.4%
- Rural population: 17.7%
- Men: 12.3%
- Women: 11.0%
Subjective poverty

«completely dissatisfied with money income»

«assess the material well-being as «very low»

Subjective poverty line
Subjective poverty of households in 2016

(\% of total households of corresponding group)

completely dissatisfied with money income

- Total households: 15.7
- Urban households: 16.5
- Rural households: 13.8
- Households without children: 14.2
- Households with children: 18.9

assess the material well-being as «very low»

- Total households: 4.5
- Urban households: 4.8
- Rural households: 3.9
- Households without children: 4.3
- Households with children: 4.9

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Deprivation poverty

Material deprivations (14 indicators)

- Material well-being deprivations (8 indicators)
  - Housing conditions deprivations (3 indicators)
  - Deprivations of households with children (3 indicators)
Deprivation poverty of households in 2016

(% of total households of corresponding group)

- Urban households: 2.1%
- Rural households: 2.2%
- Households without children: 1.9%
- Of which consisting of 1 person: 1.6%
- Of which consisting of 2 and more persons: 0.6%
- Households with children: 3.0%
- Of which with 1 child: 2.5%
- Of which with 2 and more children: 4.2%

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Assessment of poverty and inequality

☑ Share of the population with disposable resources below:
  $1.25 \text{ USD per day (PPP)}$
  $1.9 \text{ USD per day (PPP)}$
  $2.5 \text{ USD per day (PPP)}$, etc.

☑ Poverty risk index (by type of households)

☑ Indicators of inequality:
  Gini coefficient;
  ratio of disposable resources by quintiles and deciles, etc.
Improvement of poverty statistics

Assessment of multidimensional poverty

Indicators of poverty and inequality for SDGs

Harmonization of poverty statistics in the CIS countries

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Thank you for attention!