

ACCELERATING POVERTY REDUCTION IN LAC TOWARDS A POST-2030 AGENDA



AUGUST 2024

Diego Zavaleta Reyles

Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme

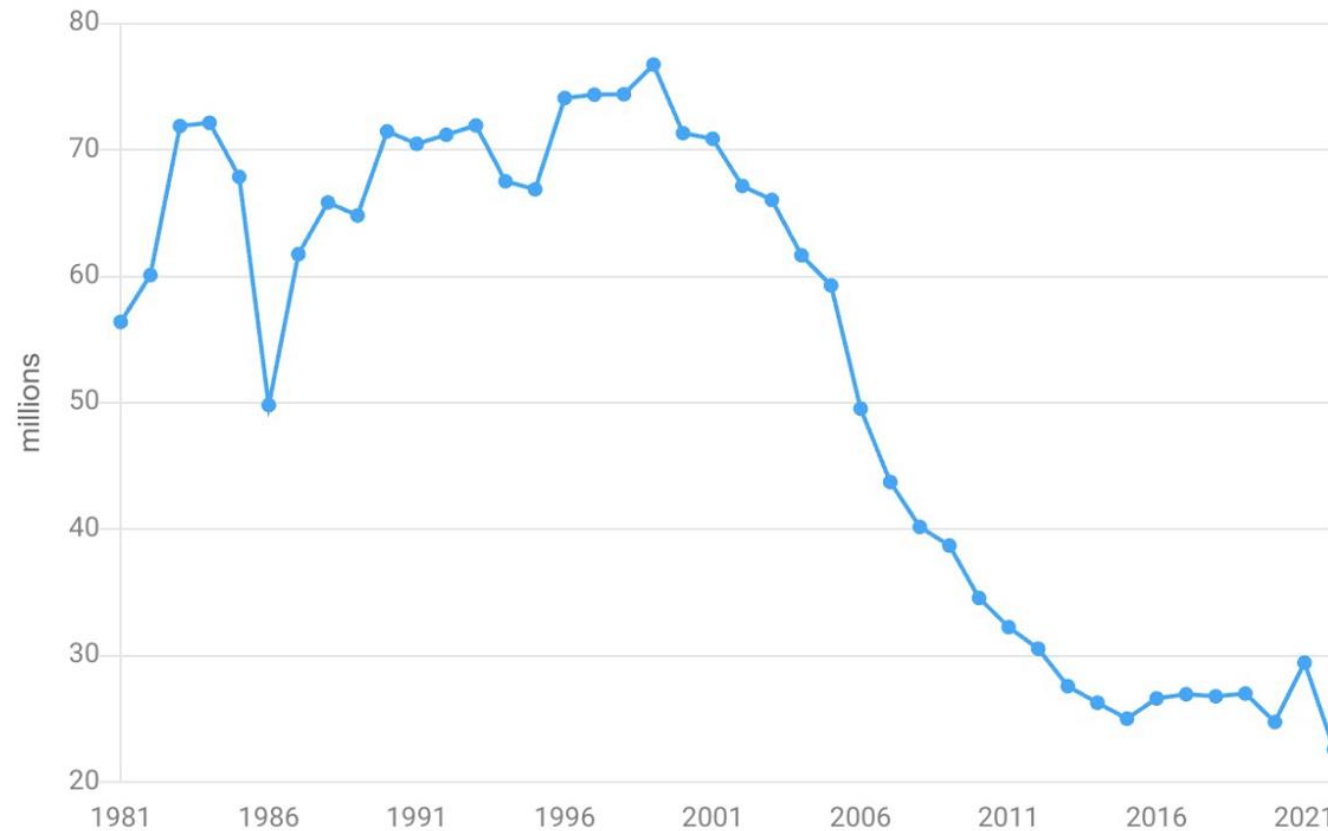
Strong progress in the first decade and a half of the century



Explained by growth and innovative policies - conditional cash transfer schemes.

Yet a worrying decline in poverty reduction rates in recent years.

Population living in poverty, millions \$2.15
Population living below the poverty line (2017 PPP)

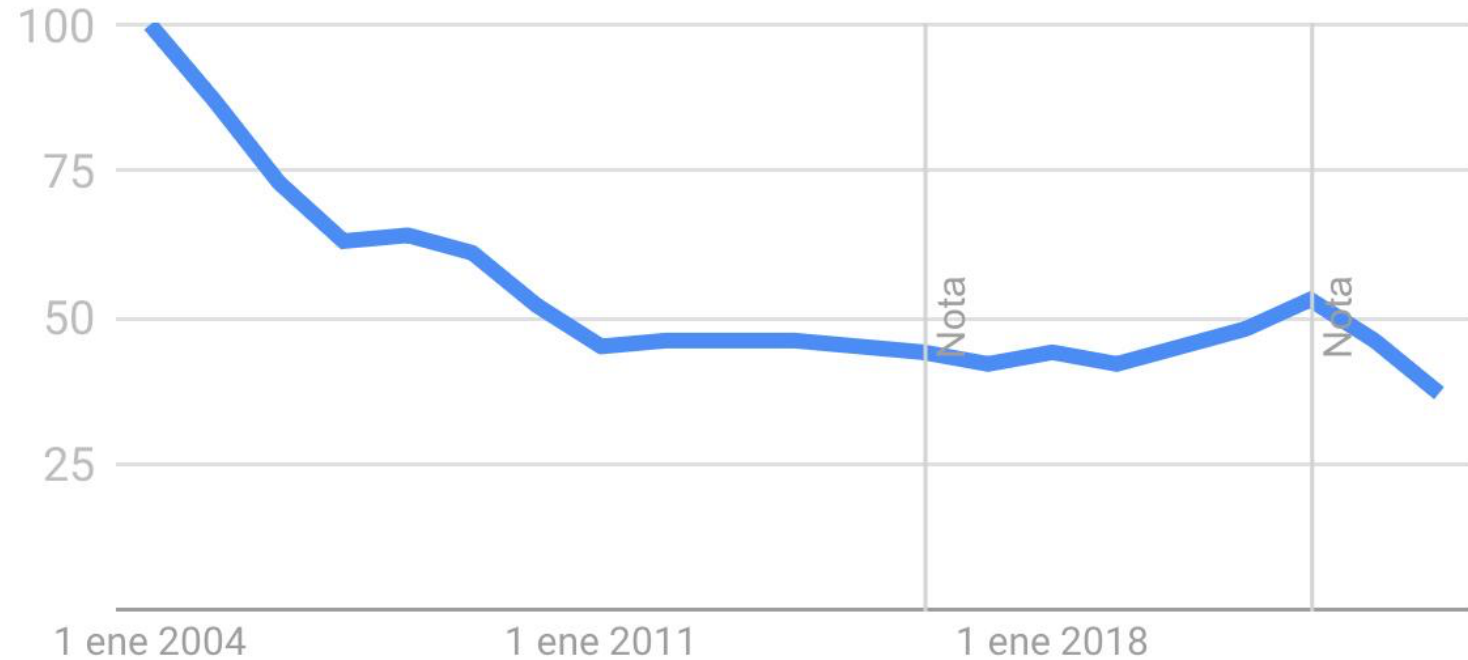


Source: World Bank based on SEDLAC (CEDLAS and the World Bank).

Decline in public debate on poverty

A series of crises took center stage in public debates across LAC in the last years that eclipsed the debate around poverty.

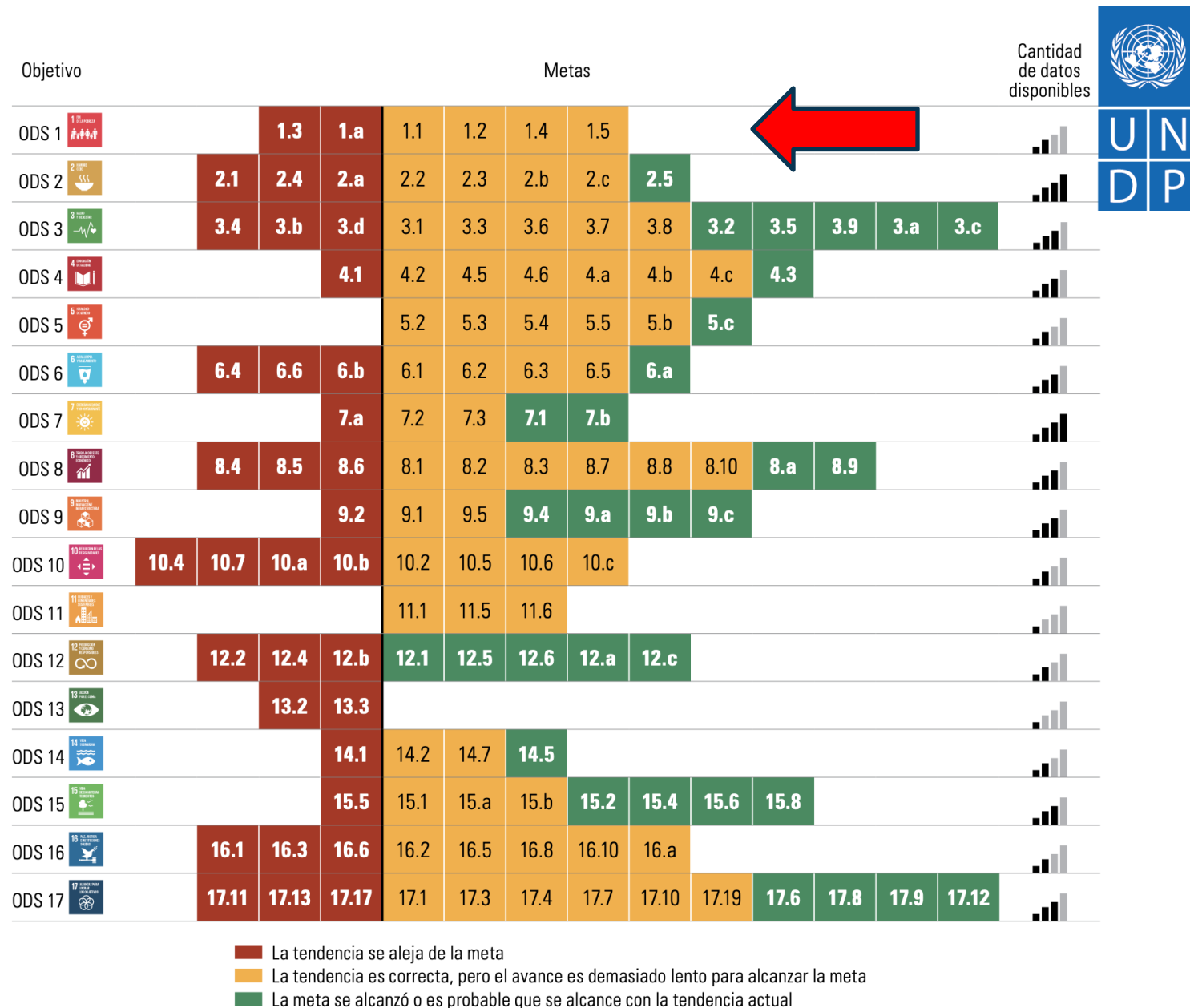
Number of searches of the term “poverty” in Google in LAC (% of base number in 2004)



Source: Google

Falling behind the SDG targets

In SDG 1, progress is either negative or in the right path but too slow to reach the target.



Fuente: Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL).

UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025

One of three moonshots for 2025:

“to help empower 100 million poor, marginalized, and excluded populations to escape persistent multidimensional poverty and vulnerabilities.”

LAC is a particularly active region on this topic, for various reasons.

12 countries with official measures:

México, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay, Belize

3 more actively working on developing their national measures:

Perú, Uruguay and Brazil,

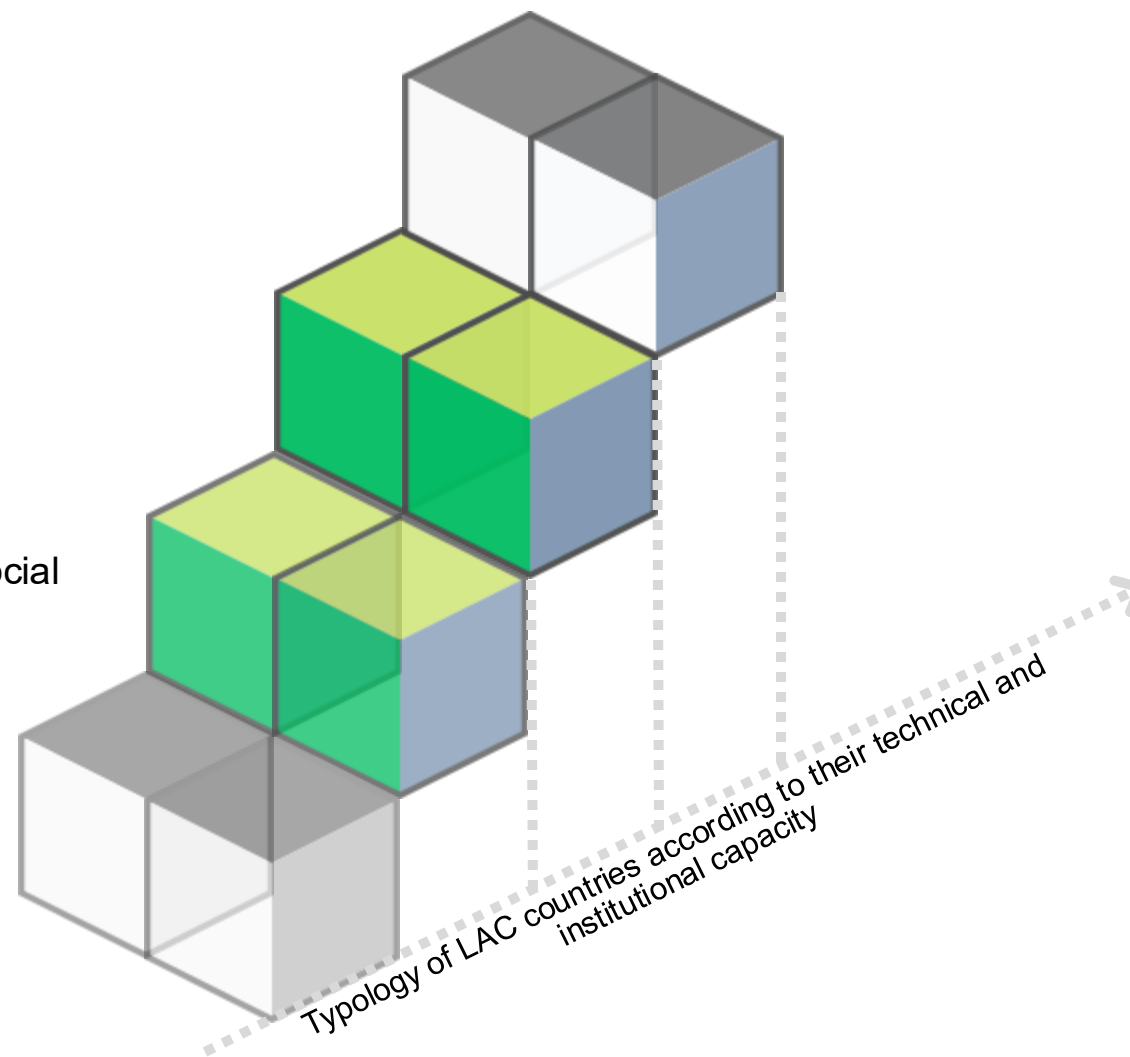
High innovation:

- Using income as a dimension/non-income
- Participation for the definition of dimensions and indicators
- Use for public policies
- Non-traditional indicators
- Business MPI

RBLAC MD poverty reduction strategy main aims



- 4** Design of specific applications
Design of planning instruments, targeting, and policies or programs based on multidimensional analysis.
- 3** Acceleration strategies through indirect links and new sectors
MPI reduction strategies based on poverty reduction acceleration strategies and budgeting through establishing links to “non-conventional” national policies (energy, productivity, climate change, urban development)
- 2** Acceleration strategies via “conventional” social policy
MPI reduction strategies based on poverty reduction acceleration strategies and budgeting through the basic core of social policy (education, health, housing, child development, etc.)
- 1** Regional and national MPIs
Design of a regional MPI for LAC and support to countries in the development of national measures.



How?

1. Strategic partners and new way of engaging with them
– new model that can serve as a basis for a post-2030 agenda



- CAF/UNDP Annual Conference on Poverty in LAC
- Country support
- Training for UNDP/CAF staff and public sector specialists
- Incentives for think-tanks and research centers engagement with policy design

How?

2. Strengthening of internal capacities – upcoming RBLAC’s Poverty Hub.

3. Advocacy – bringing “poverty” back to the center stage of public debate.

4. More and better data **but also new and more policies** – we need to bring innovation back and be able to design the new “cash transfer schemes”.

↳ big push **from measurement to policy**

↳ “building a measurement and evaluation system is a **political challenge**, with technical elements, not the other way around” –

Gonzalo Hernández

How?

5. More and better data, yes INCLUDING a big push for missing dimensions of poverty data.
6. How to address poverty within indigenous groups?