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Mapping poverty and aid at the subnational level

Lodewijk Smets, Senior Economist, Inter-American Development Bank

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Why care?

• Improve targeting of aid (Elbers et al, 2007)

• Create awareness and public dialogue (Bedi et al, 2007)

• Improve accountability and learning through research and evaluation (e.g., Dreher and Lohmann, 2015)

• …
Poverty mapping: let a hundred flowers blossom

• Survey-based approaches

• Approaches based on phone records

• Approaches based on satellite data
survey-based poverty maps

- Method: combination of survey and census data
- Advantage: precision
- Challenge: Data deprivation
poverty maps based on phone records

• Method: based on duration, location and volume of call records

• Advantage: low cost and frequent data

• Challenge: access and privacy
poverty maps based on satellite data

• Method: based on nighttime lights and/or daytime imagery

• Advantage: scalability

• Challenge: predictive power
Aid mapping: between a rock and a hard place?

• Document-based aid mapping

• Recent innovations
Aid mapping using project documentation

• Method: based on project documentation

• Advantage: wide coverage

• Challenge: geocoded disbursements, accuracy
Recent innovations in aid mapping

• Method: crowdsourcing

• Advantage: granular data

• Challenge: validity, processing
Final thoughts

• Fast-moving field

• Need for covariate data

• Need for standardization
Thank You

lodewijks@iadb.org