

CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC POLICIES (CRIA): A Case Study from Bosnia and Herzegovina

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For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



PRESENTATION OUTLINE:

- 1. Why CRIA of economic policies?**
- 2. CRIA methodology/pilot results**
- 3. Challenges & recommendations**
- 4. Alternative economic policies?**
- 5. Extent of CRIA influence**
- 6. Conclusions**

WHY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC POLICIES?

BiH socio-economic context

- Low middle-income country
- Post-conflict
- Socio-economic transition
- IFI and EU policy prescriptions/ restrictions and opportunities

Child rights/well-being

- MDGs satisfactory (*MICS3*)
- Ethnic/racial discrimination
- Increasing inequalities
- Development and inclusion and agendas evolving

Economic reform agenda dominates

- Children invisible
- Child rights & well-being advocacy impossible without engaging in economic/ fiscal policy dialogue

How to put children on agenda?

- Impact assessment - tool to promote evidence-based policy
- CRC recommended, few examples (*Belgium/Sweden/UK*)
- Child rights approach to PSIA

Make children visible in socio-economic reforms

CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EX-Ante Methodology

- Choice of policy
- CRC indicator framework
- Mixed approach (*existing data analysis, qualitative/quantitative research, iterative analysis*)
- Child participation
- Focus on effects on education, health and child protection service providing institutions
- Impact on children *within households*
- Cost-effectiveness & sustainability

BiH CRIA pilot results

1. Electricity price increase:
 - Result in household strategies negatively impacting children (*education - drop out, reduced quality; health - hygiene, nutrition, medical services; time use; child labour, gender*)
 - Reduce access and quality of services (*layoffs, only minimum access & quality, closing down*)
2. Require mitigating measures (*life-line tariffs/social assistance*)
3. Income and expenditure baseline (*further analysis on impact and coping*)

**Negative impact of electricity price rise /
economic shocks on children**

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHALLENGES

1. Partnership, ownership and utility – what do we do with evidence?
2. Progressive realisation of child rights vs. economic and development discourses
3. Mitigation vs. economic policy options debate

RECOMMENDATION

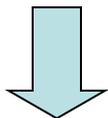
1. Better analysis & development of partnerships; research-policy links (*CRC, economics, development monitoring and research agenda*)
2. Political arguments based on analysis of:
 - macroeconomic framework
 - fiscal space & cost projections for mitigation
 - economic & social policies trade-offs
 - accountabilities

Strengthen research-policy link

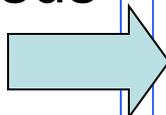
ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES?

IFI/EU policy prescriptions

Post-Washington Consensus dominates

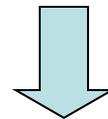


- Neo-liberal agenda still
- Social safety nets are added on to deal with market failures of the SAPs (*unemployment, inequality & poverty*)



BiH CRIA pilot

No discussion of policy alternatives; ex-ante CRIA focus on one policy



Recommended mitigating measures

But

Fiscal restraint in social sectors limits government's ability

No alternatives - focus on mitigating measures

LIMITED EXTENT OF CRIA INFLUENCE

Evidence-aware at most:

- No direct influence
- Economic agenda not receptive
- Limited to social policy making (*Social Inclusion Strategy/EU accession*)
- Evidence is only one imperative - policy making is inherently political

But:

- Social Inclusion & Development Strategies linked
- Potential to integrate into existing monitoring systems

First step in linking economic and social policies

BIH CHILD RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT PILOT

- Showed impact
- First step in linking economic & social policies
- Influence social policy development

What's missing:

- Evidence of impact not enough to influence economic policy making; need alternatives
- Monitor policy processes, decisions, budgets - to further link economic and social reforms
- Processes for holding government accountable (child impact monitoring mechanisms not enough)