

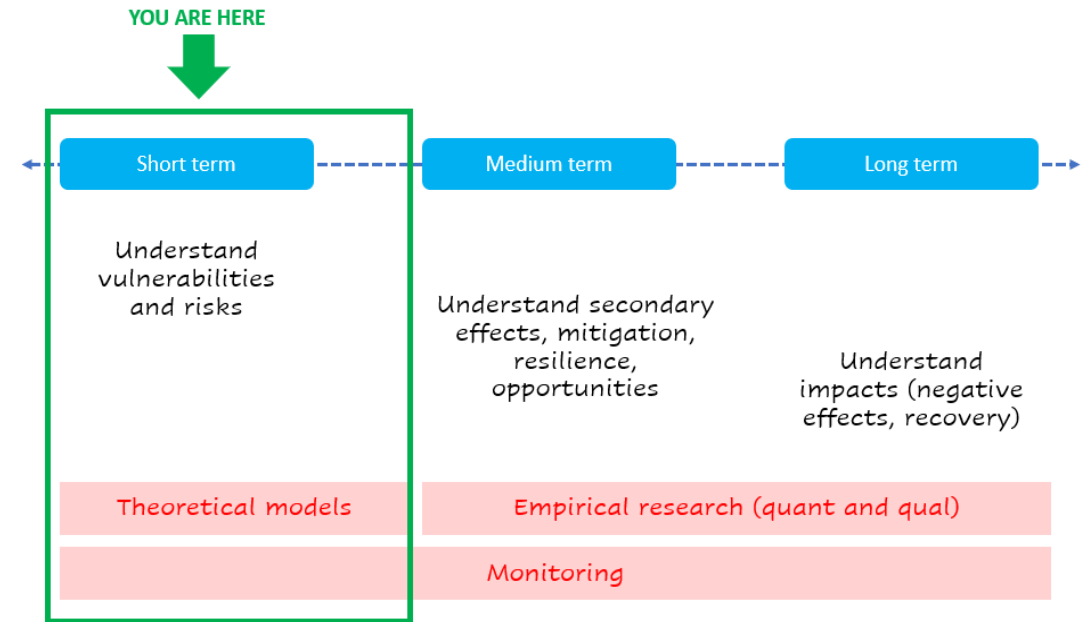
# Overcoming Child Poverty in Myanmar

Investing in human capital as a response to COVID-19


# Overview

## Three-tiered exercise:

- Rapid monitoring of household-level changes
  - Work/income situation and changes in consumption (including child feeding)
  - Knowledge and behaviors around Covid-19 prevention
  - Psychosocial wellbeing and coping strategies
  - Household dynamics and gender roles
- Modeling socio-economic impact of Covid-19
  - Profiling child poverty and vulnerability
  - Modeling the effect of Covid-19 on household income and consumption
  - Simulating the impact of social protection responses
- Understanding the experience of families
  - Case studies / human interest stories of families and children impacted by Covid-19



**Modular report**, presenting (1) an analysis of child poverty pre-COVID and (2) forecasts it post COVID-19; (3) microsimulation of social protection response; (4) complementary insights from families across the country; and (5) a call to action on investing in human capital

Objective and scope	Methodology & status	Selected prelim findings	Partnerships / Contributions
<b><u>1. Rapid monitoring of household-level changes</u></b>			
<b>Objective: tracking changes to inform and focus advocacy and programmes</b> Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work/income situation and changes in consumption (including child feeding)</li> <li>• Knowledge and behaviors around Covid-19 prevention</li> <li>• Psychosocial wellbeing and coping strategies</li> <li>• Household dynamics and gender roles</li> </ul>	Third Party Monitoring with 120 households, in 6 states/regions Panel exercise, 4 rounds  3 rounds completed, 4 rounds planned (by end July)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half of respondents reported changes in their working situation</li> <li>• Almost half reported increased prices</li> <li>• Most are aware of main preventative measures</li> <li>• 94% reported being stressed or worried</li> <li>• 73% of females said their share of household work had increased</li> </ul>	Inputs from UNDP, UNWOMEN
<b><u>2. Modeling socio-economic impact of Covid-19</u></b>			
<b>Objective: predicting and modelling answers to programmatic questions; informing programme/advocacy asks</b> Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profiling child poverty and vulnerability</li> <li>• Modeling the effect of Covid-19 on household income and consumption</li> <li>• Simulating the impact of social protection responses</li> </ul>	Secondary analysis of MLCS 2017 data  Analysis completed and validated; report being edited and designed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child poverty rate (31.2%) is higher than the national poverty rate (25%)</li> <li>• About a third of the children in Myanmar (34%) are considered to be non-poor insecure.</li> <li>• Child poverty expected to increase – invert recent decreasing trend</li> <li>• Cash transfers can mitigate this effect</li> </ul>	Partnership with UNDP, CSO Quality assurance of Child Poverty methodology from World Bank
<b><u>3. Understanding the experience of families</u></b>			
<b>Objective: to better understand the human side of what monitoring and prediction data are saying</b> Scope: Case studies / human interest stories of families and children impacted by Covid-19	Interviews conducted, stories being edited and released weekly on UNICEF website		

# Some findings and key messages

- Despite good progress, child poverty and vulnerability were very high before COVID-19 (31.2 percent and 34 percent respectively)
- COVID-19 will make child poverty increase, returning to 2015 levels
- Vertically and horizontally expanded cash transfers can help mitigate this. The biggest effect is achieved by focusing on households with children (MCCT + child allowance)
- Families have seen their incomes reduced and worry about their livelihoods, especially those with unstable / informal jobs or self-employed
- Initially reported increases in prices, now not so much
- High levels of stress among parents: families now worry about the education of their children; on the other hand, young children are reportedly happier than before
- Women are reporting to have to do more work in the house as a result of COVID-19