

Do we need a new MDG target on social security?



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The MDGs: a quantitative initiative not always in sync with human rights

- MDGs: Monitoring and evaluation of development on the basis of empirical data
- Tensions with the human rights approach
 - Content of some targets does not reflect the corresponding human rights standards
 - Lack of legally binding accountability mechanisms
 - Top down and technocratic nature of MDGs
 - Focus on national averages

What is social security?

SOCIAL SECURITY

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graph TD; A[SOCIAL SECURITY] --- B[SOCIAL INSURANCE]; A --- C[SOCIAL ASSISTANCE]; A --- D[LABOUR MARKET REGULATION];
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SOCIAL INSURANCE

- Pensions
- Health insurance
- Unemployment insurance

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Cash or in-kind transfers
- Subsidies
- Employment-related emergency programmes

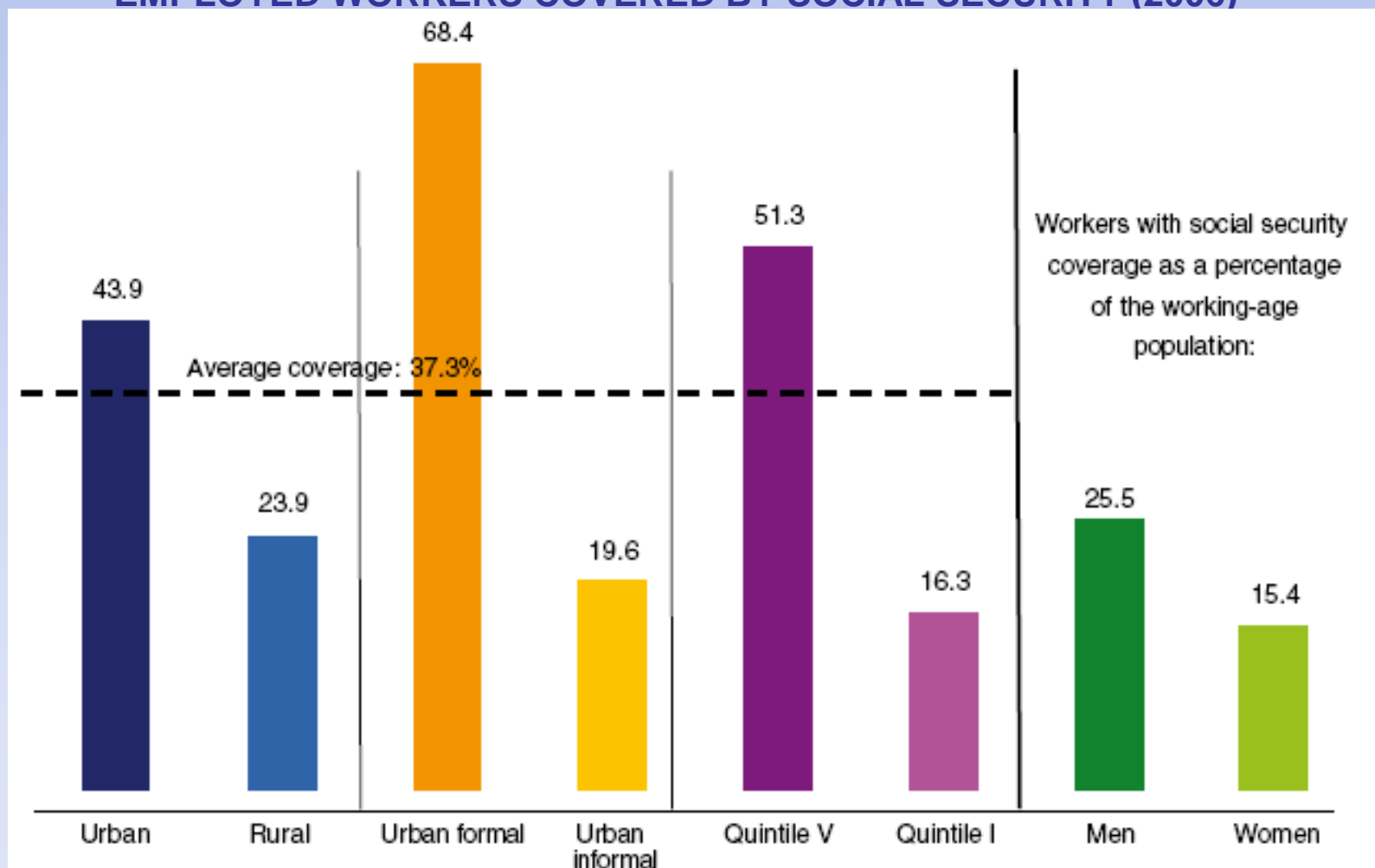
LABOUR MARKET REGULATION

- Labour standards
- Labour rights

Social security in Latin America (1)

Employment in the informal sector, a key feature of Latin American labor markets, goes together with a limited coverage by social security

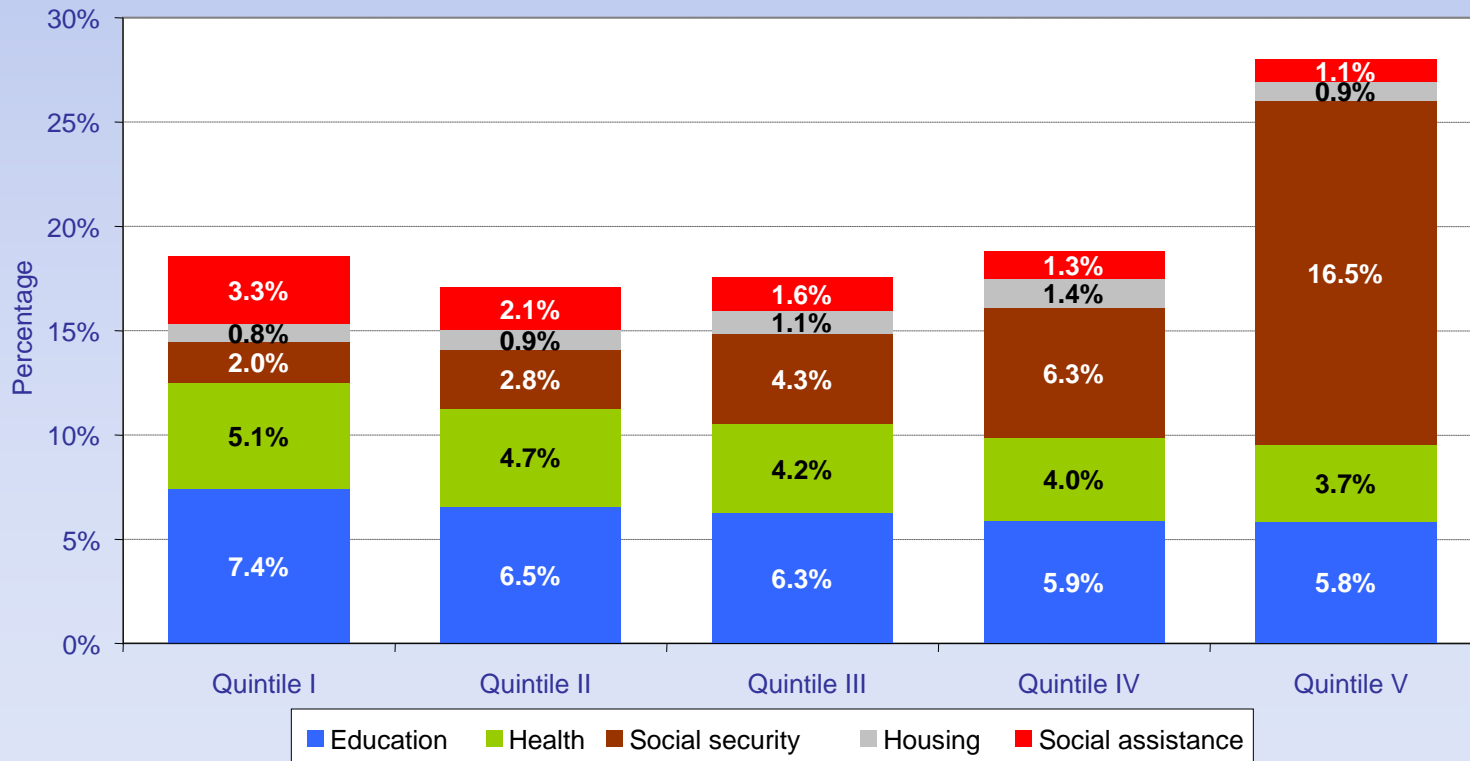
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: EMPLOYED WORKERS COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY (2006)



Social security in Latin America (2)

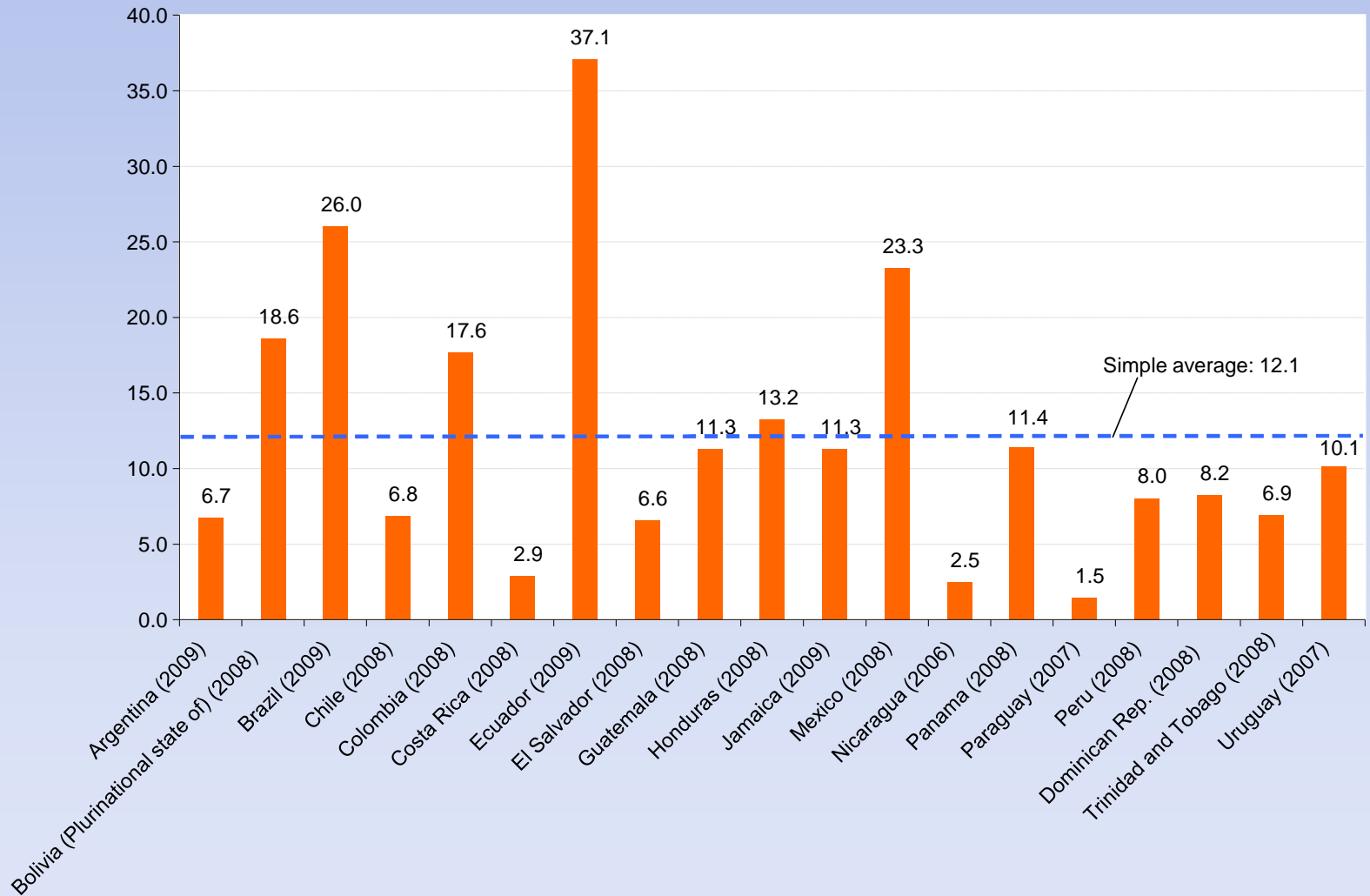
Higher-income groups get the greatest proportion of Governments' social spending in the form of social security

LATIN AMERICA: DISTRIBUTION AND SECTORAL BREAKDOWN OF SOCIAL SPENDING, BY HOUSEHOLD PER CAPITA PRIMARY INCOME LEVELS, around 2004
(total social spending = 100, and percentages a/)



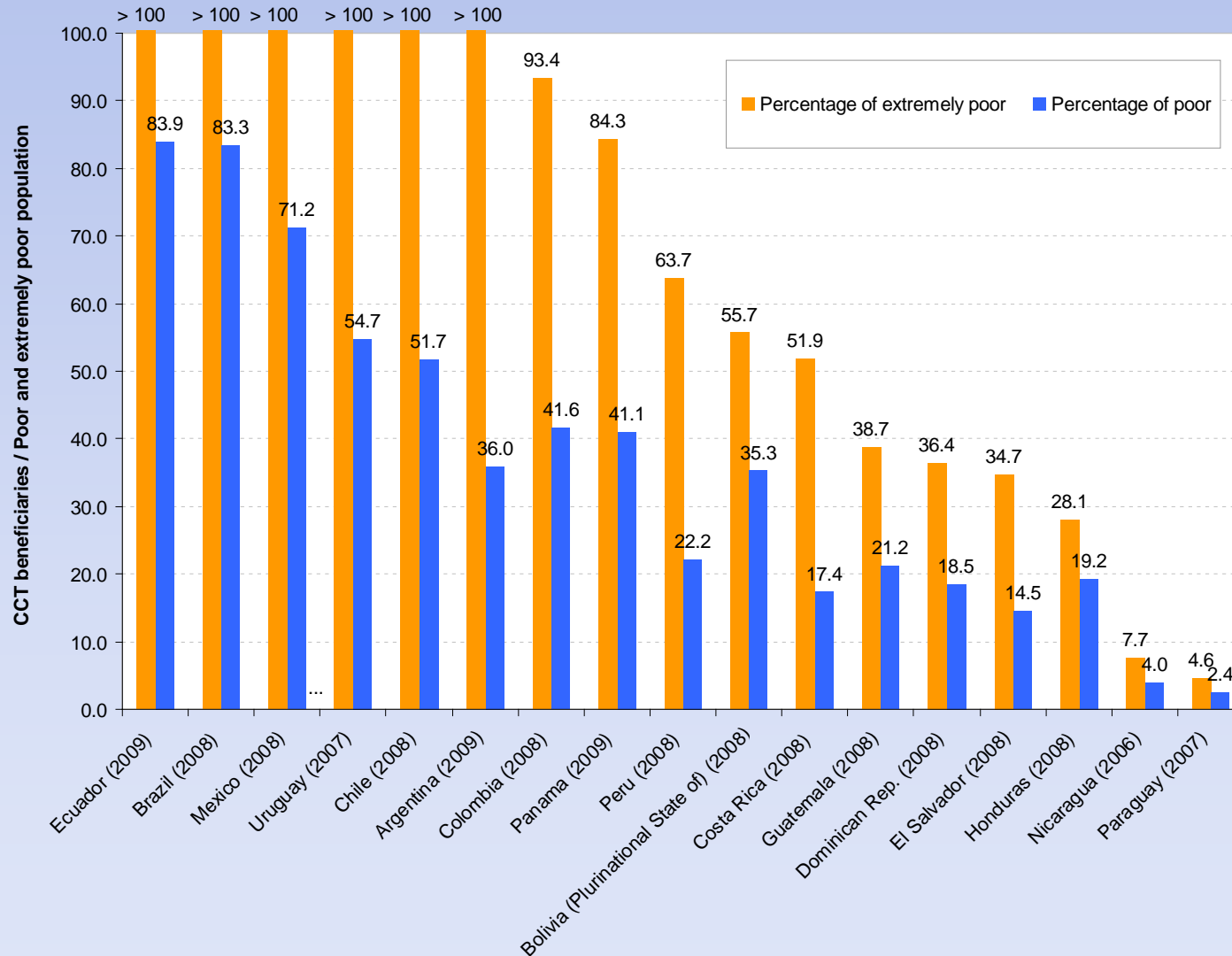
Social assistance in Latin America (1)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: BENEFICIARIES OF CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION (2006/2009)



Social assistance in Latin America (2)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: BENEFICIARIES OF CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES AS A PERCENTAGE OF POOR AND EXTREMELY POOR POPULATION (2006/2009)



How to deal with lack of social protection?

- ILO: “Basic social security floor”
- HelpAge International: “Universal pension for older people”
- Basic Income Earth Network: “Guaranteed minimum income”
- Chronic Poverty Research Centre: “Access to basic social protection for all poor and vulnerable people”
- ECLAC: “Rights-based social protection covenant”

Some points for discussion

- Should we think about the MDGs or a “post-MDG” scenario?
- Should a new target refer to social assistance or, more broadly, to social protection?
 - Focus on the poor or also on the vulnerable?
- What would be a concrete target?
 - What indicators can we measure and thus use to monitor the target?
 - What are the sources of information?
- What would be the leading UN agency?