Measuring Tenure Security: SDG Indicator 1.4.2 – Opportunities and Challenges

UCD UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Research Seminar Series

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UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

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The urban challenge to the eradication of extreme poverty

Approx. **62%** of those living on less than **$1.25 per day** will be living **in fragile states** by 2030.

Up to **325 million extremely poor** people are likely to be living **in the 49 most hazard prone countries** by 2030.

- Last forty years the urban population in lower income and fragile countries has increased by 326%
- Key driver of urban vulnerability and poverty: **tenure insecurity**

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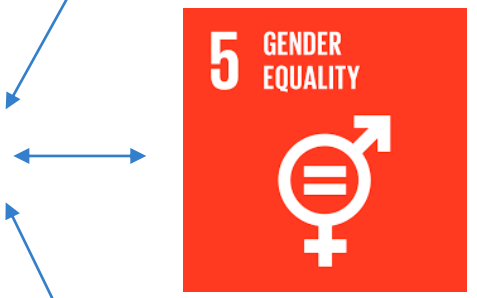
- **Target 1.4:** By 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as **access to** basic services, **ownership, and control over land and other forms of property**, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

- **Indicator 1.4.2:** Proportion of total adult population with:
  - 1) secure tenure rights to land,
  - 2) with legally recognized documentation; and
  - 3) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure



Why does SDG1 focus on tenure security?

Legalised tenure security

De facto tenure security

Perceived tenure security

Tenure Security

Outcomes

Hygiene and Sanitation
(Scott et al. 2013 Parsa et al. 2010)

Quality of housing
(Huchzermeyer 2008; Nachamura 2015; van Gelder 2009)

Access to services
(Nachamura 2015; Parsa et al. 2010)

Cost of Housing

Indicator 1.4.2– moving towards SDG Tier 1 Indicator Status

Indicator 1.4.2

- Part (A):

$$\frac{People\ (Adult)\ with\ \textbf{legally recognized documentation}\ over\ land}{Total\ adult\ population}\ X\ 100$$

- Part (B): $\frac{People\ (adult) who\ \textbf{perceive their rights as secure}}{Total\ adult\ population}$ x 100

Indicator Custodian Agencies:
UN Habitat & World Bank

Tier I	Tier II	Tier III
Conceptually clear	Conceptually clear	-
Established methodology and standards available	Established methodology and standards	NO established methodology and standards
Data regularly produced by countries	Data NOT regularly produced by countries	Methods / standards being developed and tested

Source: UN Habitat

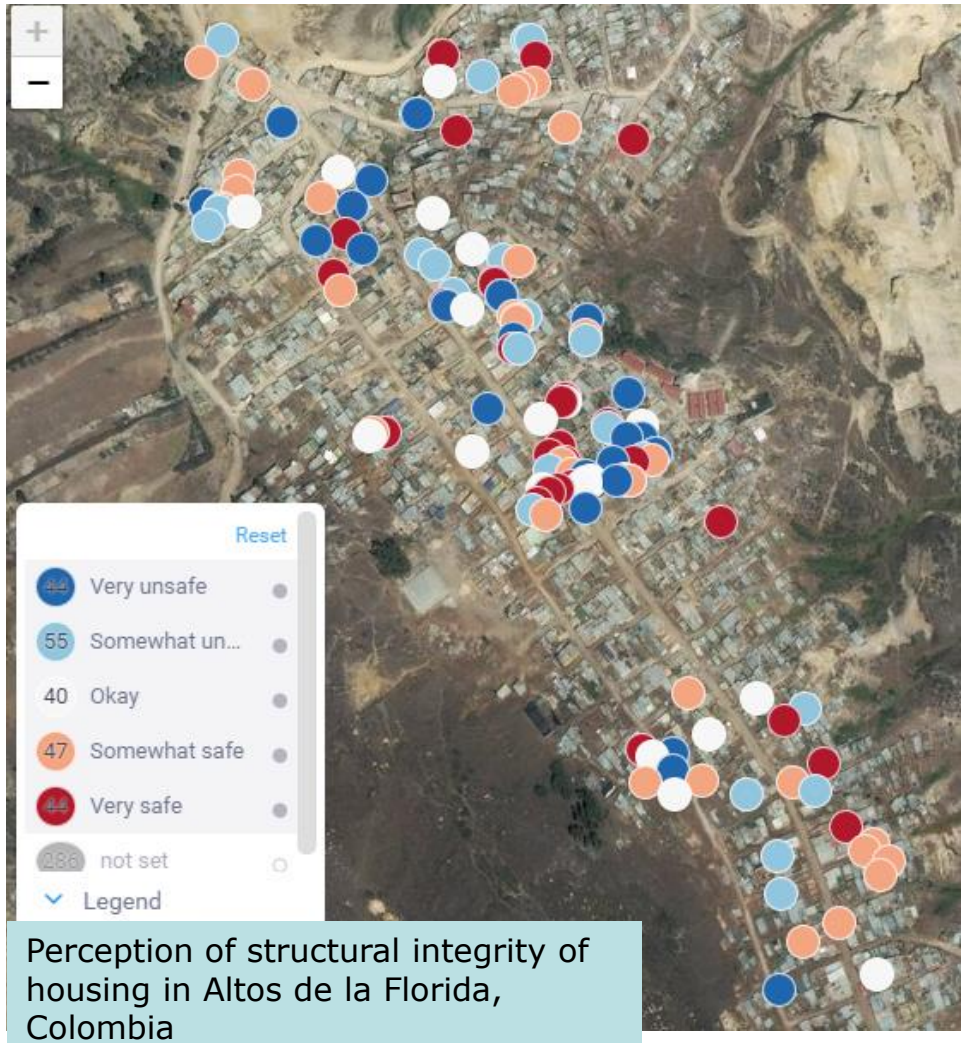
Relative consensus…:

- Tenure security a complex concept featuring the following dimensions:
  - *Legal dimension*
  - *Factual dimension*
  - *Perceived dimension*
- Strong relationship between tenure security and welfare outcomes (i.e. poverty reduction, access to resources, services..)
- Importance of gender disaggregated data

Altos de la Florida, Colombia

1 NO POVERTY

… but contestation & silence:



Perception of structural integrity of housing in Altos de la Florida, Colombia

- How each of the dimensions of tenure security (legal, factual and cognitive) influence welfare outcomes
- Lack of sufficiently rich cross-national and intra-national comparative case studies
- Precision of indicators v understanding complex relationships between tenure security components themselves and between tenure security and other outcomes
- Tier 1 indicator and monitoring ought to be complemented by further in-depth studies

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Preparedness and Resilience to address Urban Vulnerability