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ABSTRACT

Title	Poverty with a gender perspective: objective measurements and intersectional impacts on subjective well-being
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Author Organization	Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)
Session	Emerging topics and data gaps

According to Colombia's latest Population and Housing Census (2018), 40% of the households declared having a female as their head. Therefore, DANE has focused on generating official information to provide objective and subjective elements to analyze the feminization of poverty.

DANE has tailored a dissemination strategy by producing statistical briefs to inform the population how data sets can provide insights on complex social and economic phenomena. In September 2021, DANE published a brief on poverty with gender perspective. One of its conclusions is that households headed by women evidence higher prevalence of monetary and multidimensional poverty, meaning an objective gender bias in poverty measures.

On the other side, by using a subsample from the Great Integrated Household Survey, the official source to measure monetary poverty, DANE created a new statistical operation entitled the Social Pulse Survey (EPS) that enables to obtain subjective well-being measures of people who live in households considered as poor, including gender issues.

Based on expert Caroline Criado Pérez book "Invisible Women" (2019), official statistics around the world have a vacuum over the experience of menstruation and its effects on women's lives. Therefore, as the EPS was collected by phone, it allowed to include private questions regarding access to menstrual hygiene products, interruption of daily activities, and access to clean and private bathrooms. By including them, DANE was able to publish information which highlighted that gender effects of poverty are also prevalent in subjective well-being measures, such as difficulties in accessing menstrual hygiene products. The EPS also provided evidence on the perception that women have regarding issues such as insecurity, work overload and violence.

The dissemination of these results has prompted national debates. As an example, the Colombian Congress is debating a draft bill to supply free elements necessary for menstrual health to poor and vulnerable women.