

Understanding the Economic Lives of Vulnerable Middle-income Households in Latin America and the Caribbean

A Research Network Project

RG-K1198

Summary

Over 1.8 billion individuals worldwide live with daily per-capita incomes between 7 and 10 USD (PPP adjusted), which places them above poverty thresholds but within a range of vulnerability to poverty. Moreover, roughly 31% of households in Latin America and the Caribbean are not poor but vulnerable to sliding into poverty. While multiple strands of research have focused on characterizing the economic lives of the poor and providing evidence on the impacts of policies to alleviate and exit poverty, there is much less empirical assessment of vulnerable non-poor households.

This Latin American and the Caribbean Research Network project aims at filling this gap by financing research proposals that provide evidence on the following areas: i) analyzing whether non-poor but vulnerable households face different economic tradeoffs than poorer households; ii) analyzing whether they are affected by the same economic constraints, frictions, or market failures as poorer households; and iii) analyzing whether non-poor households respond differently to shocks, interventions or policies.

This Call for Research Proposals encourages research that provides rigorous evidence on these areas with the goal of informing policy decisions.