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IARIW-World Bank

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Left Behind?

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Left Behind?

Abstract: The Sustainable Development Goals make many references to the aim of "leaving nobody behind." Rights-based theories of justice and ongoing debates on social policy also make frequent reference to similar ideas. Yet, as the presentation argues, our current poverty measures do not adequately capture this aspect of development. Supplementary operational measures are proposed and illustrated empirically. Then an overall assessment is provided of the effectiveness of current development policies from this perspective. Implications for more effective social policies are considered.