Goal 10. Reduce inequalities

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# The bottom 40

Goal 10 aims to lessen inequalities within the citizens of a nation, promoting wealth and sustained wellbeing for everyone. On that line, the fastest-growing incomes should be the ones of the most vulnerable. In 52 out of 90 countries, with enough data, this is true, in these nations the earnings of poorest 40 per cent of the population grew over the national average.

Besides the considerable improvement in several countries, inequalities persist in many others. The income of the bottom 40 increase was less than the national average in 38 countries, of which in 9 their income decreased, while the average did not. Interestingly, out of the 13 countries with an average decrease in incomes, in 5 the bottom 40 were more harshly hitten, meanwhile in 5 they achieved a welfare increase.

In a regional perspective, the bottom 40 of most of the countries of East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean increased their income over the average; meanwhile, in South Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-saharan Africa, and Other High Income countries their income improved less than the national average, being 100%, 75%, 66.67% and 54.55% of their countries exhibiting such behaiviour, respectively.

An overview by income groups is largly meanigfull. The 57.14% and 79.17% of Upper middle income, and High income’s bottom 40% increased their income more rapidly than de average, accordingly; Whereas, for the Low income, and Lower middle income countries the bottom earners experienced a lower expansion of their wellfare compared to the average, with only 33.33% and 45.45% of the countries, in the respective income group, with the bottom’s growth out-performing the average.

It can be valuable to check the how the countries have performed across time. Comparing the current growth rates (2012-2017) with the ones between 2008-2013, we found broad changes in the countries behaivior. For both growth rate windows, the following figure shows how the contries rank form the one with the fastest growth of the bottom compared to the average, to the one with the slowest.