



Policies, politics and the right to child health in South America



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South America

Characterization of a region in transition

- **Countries:** 12
- **Latin American countries:** 10
- **Constituent countries:** 4
- **Total population:** 416 million
- **Main languages:** Spanish, Portuguese, English, Dutch, French and...
- ...more than **300 indigenous languages**
- **Legacy of the neoliberalism:** social inequity and exclusion



Epidemiologic transition

- IMR and U5MR reduction
- Causes of Infant Mortality

Countries with high IMR:

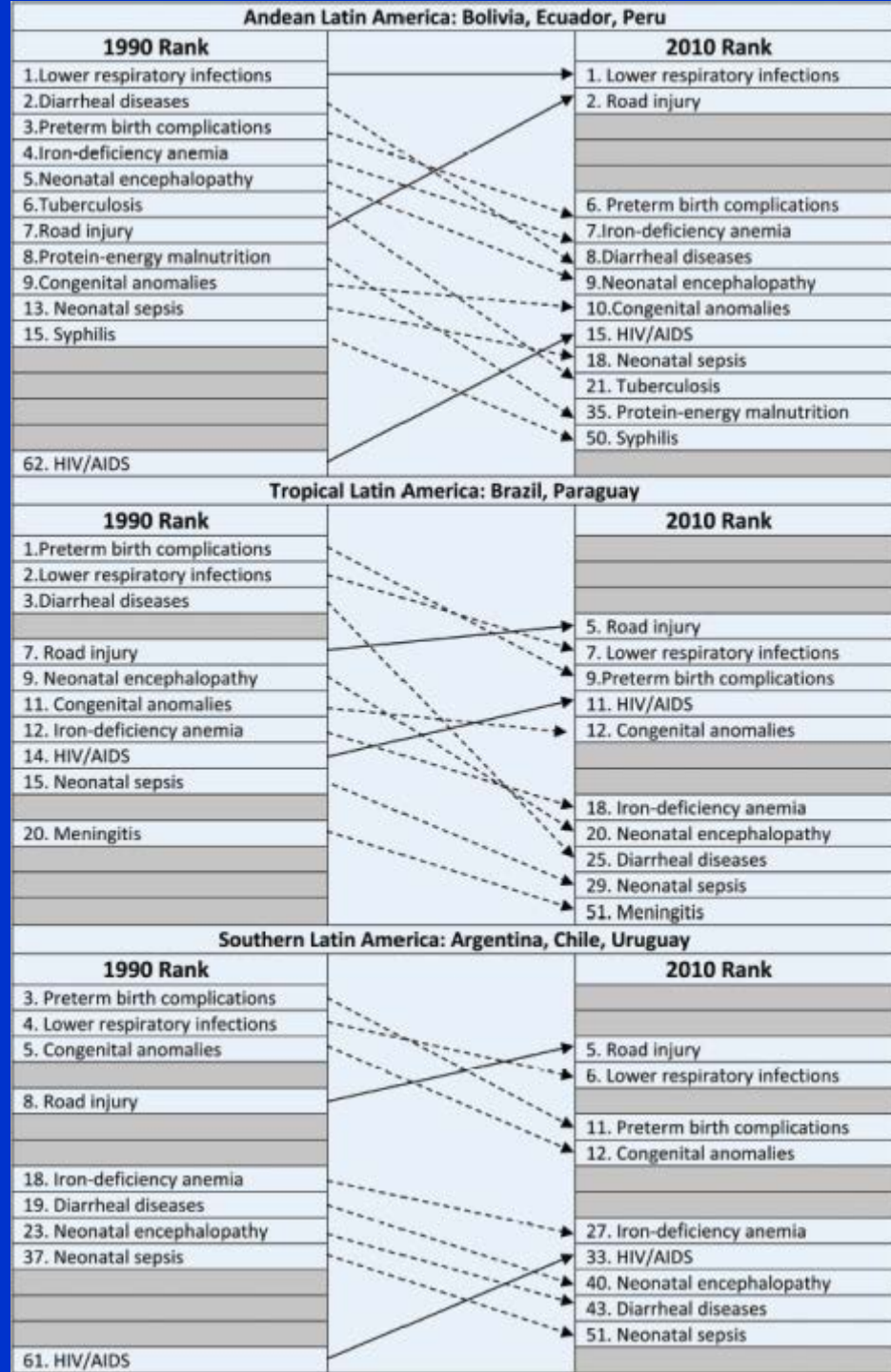
- Perinatal health problems
- Acute respiratory infections

Countries with low IMR:

- Prematurity
- Congenital malformations

- Variation in trends of first ranked health problems by subregion (Andean, Tropical, Southern LA)

See arrow diagram 



Rights transition

Stages of learning

1. Pedagogy of the catastrophe

Learning through their violation

2. Social pedagogy

Learning through their protection

Progress on rights

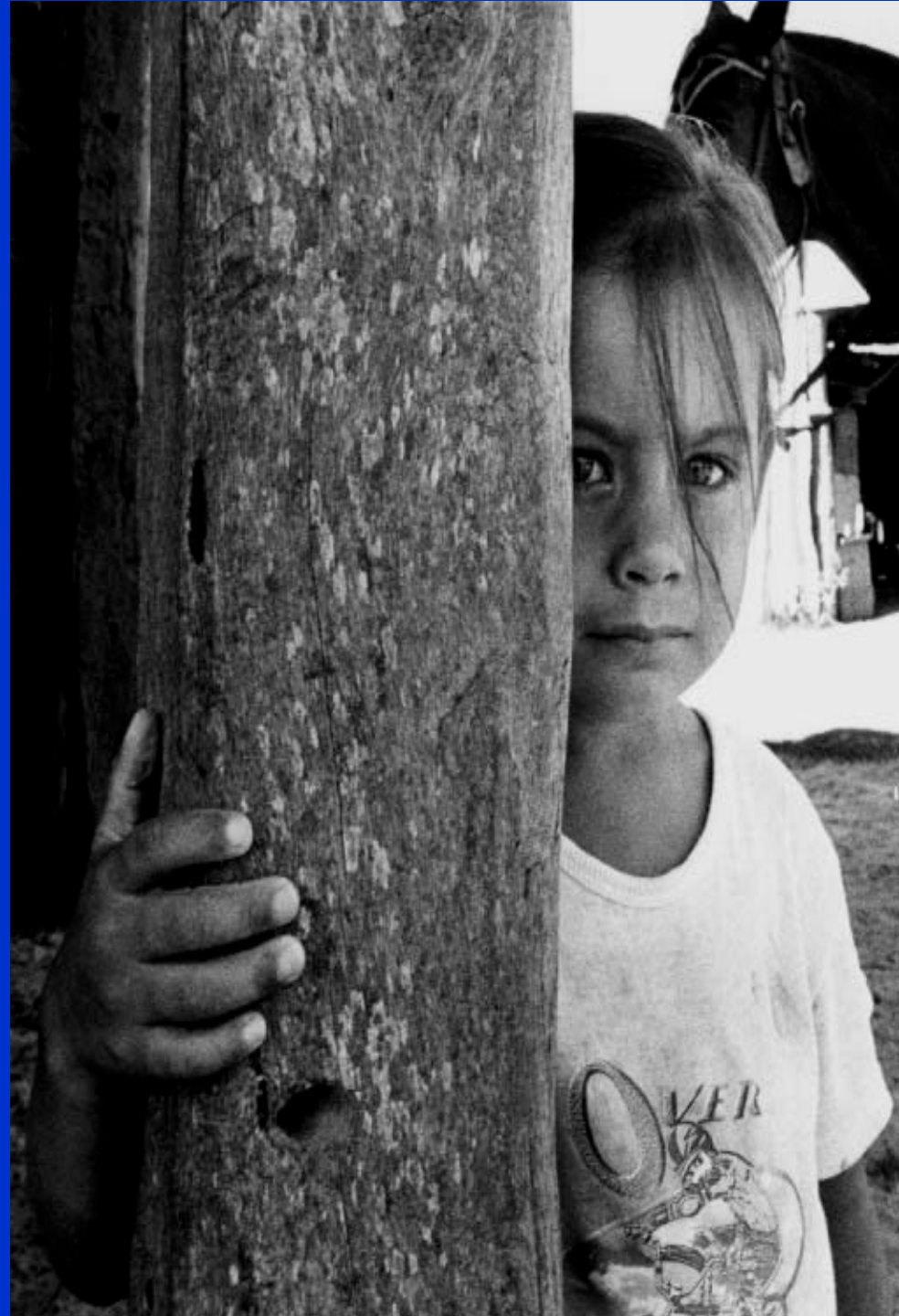
South America is a region of hope if we consider the advance in ensuring rights and progress in legislation



Priority concerns

Health system and services

- Health services privatization
- Marketization of vaccines and essential products
- Low PHC coverage



Priority concerns

Health problems

- Chronic malnutrition, anemia
obesity, low birth weight
- Congenital problems
- ARI, Acute diarrheal disease
- Oral health problems
- Developmental/MH problems
- Disabilities
- Early teen pregnancies
- STI's



Priority concerns

Adverse child conditions

- Abandonment
- Child labour
- Slavery
- Begging
- Street life
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Linking criminal gangs/armed groups
- Abduction
- Trafficking and use in the production and trade of narcotics
- All forms of discrimination, including gender stereotyping



Global concerns

When it comes to child rights, there are no borders

Window of opportunities

- Role of states in social policies
- National child policies
- Moving from child survival to child well-being
- Moving from needs to rights



Photos: Xavier Kriscautzky



Thank you