Open Working Group

Mexico’s Experience Monitoring Millennium Development Goals

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The main challenges in MDG monitoring at different stages were...

• At the beginning:
  – Marginal presence of the NSO (before the first report).
  – First report was produced in 2005.

• Currently:
  – Work hand in hand with the President’s and several ministries’ offices.
  – Active participation of concerned ministries.
  – Detailed methodology revisions and data quality assurance.
  – Set up a national website for Mexico’s MDG monitoring.
How have the MDG indicators been used in policy making?

• Public policies have had and impact on the MDG targets, but they are usually designed in terms of the current administration’s political agenda.

• However, the indicators provide the dimension of specific problems and call the government’s and society's attention.
How have the MDG indicators been used in policy making?

• MDG indicators have been used as an early warning system in the evaluation and follow up of public policies.

• As the year 2015 nears, MDG have gained awareness among the population and the mass media; MDG and the post-2015 agenda have become increasingly present in the public discourse, both at the national and the sub-national levels.
Role of ministries in monitoring MDG targets and indicators

- Propose supplementary indicators, linked to public policies.
- Recommend methodologies for specialized subjects matters.
- Produce and update data and indicators.
- Incorporate indicators in their medium term Sectorial Programs.
- Contribute to the **National Catalog of Indicators**.
What criteria were used in selecting supplementary indicators?

- Supplementary indicators:
  - Constitutional and other legal mandates.
  - Challenges set by the original targets were not adequate for the country’s development level.
  - The aspirations and objectives of public policies are beyond MDGs.
  - Moving from quantitative to qualitative issues: 2.4 *Terminal efficiency in primary education.*
  - Availability of reliable data.
Development indicators help to:

- Understand the country dynamics: the regions; emerging topics; population groups; environmental issues; economy…
- Diagnosis → objectives → targets → indicators → evaluation.
- Locate problems in space and time applying geographic information tools.
Development indicators help to:

- Articulate public policies.
- National, sectorial and local planning.
- Accountability and transparency.

- Communicate with society.
The role of National Statistics Offices

• Motivate dialogue with users: identify needs; what data is available; what data can be produced and what is not feasible.
• Conduct the coordination of the National Statistical and Geographic Information System.
• Provide support in the debate related to the post 2015- development agenda.
• Support and strengthening the building of statistical capacity at the sub-national level.
The role of National Statistics Offices

- Support public policies by measuring:
  - Emerging phenomena: broader measures of progress, including subjective well-being.
  - Critical topics such as crime and victimization statistics jointly with our judiciary authorities and the UNODC.
  - The impact of cross-cutting topics: environment, gender, productivity.
  - Standardization of data and metadata: supporting international and national assessments.

- Check for consistency and quality of basic data: sources, concepts, classifications. Look at behavior of indicators relative to other data and available information.
National statistical capacities and data availability

• **Main challenge: administrative records**
  – In many cases they have been properly collected and exploited for statistical purposes, but…
  – We need to strengthen the capacity of ministries and local governments to take advantage of administrative records.
  – Quality data at the sub-national level is a ¿?.. Heterogeneity.

• **Another challenge: Statistical knowledge and skills.**
Conclusions

• Establish a permanent producer-user dialogue.
• Set up a coordination mechanism for the National Statistical and Geographic Information System.
• Getting involved from the beginning in the design of new targets and indicators.
• Review indicators in the context of national circumstances.
• Use of geographic information tools.
• Develop an effective communication plan.
Thank you!