

Roadmap for a monitoring framework for the post-2015 development agenda

OWG on Sustainable Development Goals
Informal meeting on measuring progress (17 December 2013)
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How can the statistical community contribute?

- Assist decision-making based on (certified) evidence at the global, regional and national level
- Advise on measurement issues
 - on the measurability of the proposed targets (no measurability, no accountability)
 - on monitoring frameworks
 - on the selection of sound targets and the appropriate indicators

Prerequisites of successful monitoring

- Country ownership, national capacity building
 - needed for the successful implementation of the development agenda as well as for the monitoring of the implementation
 - measurement and monitoring needs to be (progressively) integrated into the **national official statistical systems**
 - sustainable development requires sustainable statistics
 - standard methodologies, standard production procedures, quality assurance, international comparability

Build on lessons learned from the current MDG monitoring process from a measurement perspective (IAEG-MDG Task Team)

- Strengths
 - concept of monitoring concrete goals with statistically robust indicators
 - improvement of statistical capacity and data availability
- Weaknesses
 - targets and indicators perceived in many countries as an internationally driven top-down initiative
 - some inconsistencies between goals, targets and indicators
 - some targets too ambitious or not adequately specified
 - distinction between global, regional and national targets not always emphasized
 - baseline year sometimes too early
 - national statistical capacities still limited in some countries

Many concerns about the current MDG framework are related to target setting ...

- From a monitoring perspective
 - targets should have a clear connection with the goals and be easy to understand
 - targets should be consistent and coherent with existing targets or commitments
 - to the extent possible, targets should be quantifiable and time-bound
 - numerical targets should be realistically set and be based on assessments of global, regional and national historical and current trends
 - national statistical capacities, data quality and availability should be taken into account in the new development framework

... and to the selection of indicators

- Relevance
 - linked to the target and provide a robust measure of progress towards the target
 - sensitive to policy intervention
- Conceptually sound, methodologically documented
 - based on internationally agreed definitions, standards, recommendations, best practices
- Measurable
 - the indicator has to be measured in a cost-effective and practical manner (regular data collection mechanism involving the official statistical system)
- Easy to understand
 - policy-makers, general public, all other stakeholders

What could be the role of the international statistical community?

- Statistics is part of the governance related to the implementation of the development agenda; part of the background mechanisms supporting the implementation of the development agenda
- Build on experience in cooperation between statistics and policy at the national and international level
- UN Statistical Commission: focal point for statistics in the UN system
 - has been providing guidance in monitoring progress in MDGs
 - elaboration of methodologies, standards, guidelines
 - focuses on the implementation of statistical standards
 - contributes to national statistical capacity building, together with other UN bodies and agencies and member countries

Possible interaction between the OWG and the statistical community in the coming months

- We propose a participative process (Columbia: how can we keep statisticians in the room?)
- Statistical notes related to the issue briefs of the OWG: complete the series; provide higher visibility for statistical notes
- Rapid response corps of the UN Statistical Commission in cooperating with the OWG: Friends of the Chair on measuring progress
- 45th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, 4-7 March 2014
 - „Friday Seminar” (28 February 2014)? Other event?

Goals, targets, indicators: a hierarchy from general to specific

	Description	MDG example
Goals	Expresses an ambitious, but specific commitment	Reduce child mortality
Targets	Quantified sub-components that will contribute in a major way to the achievement of goal	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Indicators	Precise metric from identified databases to assess if target is being met (often multiple indicators are used)	Under-5 mortality rate Infant mortality rate Proportion of 1-year olds immunised against measles