



The data revolution: Opportunities and challenges

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High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

A Call for:

- An independent and rigorous monitoring system
- A **data revolution for sustainable development** to improve quality of statistics and information available to people and governments



“A true data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems.”

The Report of the High-Level Panel of
Eminent Persons on the Post-2015
Development Agenda, 2013



Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution

- 29 August 2014 - The UN Secretary-General establishes the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development to:
 - ✓ Advise on how to close the data gaps and **strengthen national statistical capacities**
 - ✓ Assess new opportunities linked to **innovation, technical progress**, and the surge of **new data providers**
 - ✓ Utilize the **data revolution for sustainable development**
- 25 Experts from civil society, the private sector, academic, governments and international organizations → including five heads of NSOs



IAEG on Data Revolution

Challenge of invisibility

Millions of people of all ages in low- and middle-income countries are denied basic services and protection of their rights because they are absent from official records

The challenge of inequality

Many people are excluded from the new world of data and information by language, poverty, lack of education, lack of technology infrastructure, remoteness or prejudice and discrimination



Key ideas of the data revolution

More and better data covering the broad scope of SDGs

Harnessing new and non-traditional sources of data

Broader and systematic data disaggregation

Use new data technology and innovations

Strengthening national statistical capacity for better
accountability and decision-making



Key ideas of data revolution

But also:

Data timeliness

New data literacy

Public transparency and information sharing

Open access to data, while never compromising on the obligation to protect the right to privacy

Data protection and privacy

Governance and independence

Data rights: right to be counted, right to an identity, right to confidentiality



Recommendations

- ✓ Fostering and promoting innovation to fill data gaps
- ✓ Mobilizing resources to overcome inequalities between developed and developing countries and between data-poor and data-rich people
- ✓ Leadership and coordination to enable the data revolution to play its full role in the realization of sustainable development
- ✓ A global effort to improve cooperation between old and new data producers



The UN system working to implement the data revolution

- CEB Working Group

Goal: Develop a comprehensive UN system response to the data revolution

- Internal coordination of activities that strengthen the UN system's capacity to utilize existing, new and emerging sources of data
- UN Statistical Commission will develop a plan for the implementation of the data revolution



4 “quick win” initiatives

- Expand the capacity to drive data innovation (UN System Data Innovation Lab – focus is on country-level work)
- Strengthen data exchange and communication capabilities (Data visualization and Dashboard)
- Create and strengthen partnerships for coordination and capacity-building in data-driven sustainable development (World Forum on Data)
- Promote greater use of existing data assets within the UN System and by the public (UN System Data Catalogue)



Ageing and the data revolution

- The post-2015 development agenda
 - ✓ no one and no group left behind
- Identifying the right indicators
 - ✓ Need for data disaggregation
 - ✓ Need to identify indicators that address issues relevant to specific groups



How do we measure it?

- Censuses – best source for data disaggregation? (only every 10 years, fewer variables)
- Household surveys – more variables but limited coverage (age groups, geographical units, different population groups)
- Administrative records (limited availability & quality, can't cross tabulate)
- Civil registration systems & vital statistics
- Explore non-traditional sources



Challenges

- Surveys with limited coverage of age ranges
 - Focus on reproductive ages: 15-49 years of age
 - Even when above age 49, all 60+ or 65+ clumped together
- Need to adapt questions to capture relevant aspects of the lives of older persons?



New opportunities

New non-traditional sources

Existing sources

Important actors:

National statistical systems: Ensure that data are validated

Private sector: partnerships with data producers

Civil society provide feedback to data producers



Exploring new sources: challenges

- Digital information is generated through: GPS devices, automated teller machines, scanning devices, sensors, mobile phones, satellites and social media
- Need to identify new tools to capture and process these data
- Need to ensure that no bias is introduced (particular users' groups)
- Need to validate data (Fundamental Principles): these data are collected for non-statistical purposes and do not meet statistical standards



Opportunities in the SDGs

Ageing and older persons are mentioned in the targets

Target 10.2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
Target 11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
Target 11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Issues of
disaggregation

Population
groups



Opportunities in the SDGs

Ageing/older persons not mentioned in the targets

Target 1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.
Target 1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
Target 1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable .
Target 1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable , have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.
Target 1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Issues of
disaggregation



What will it take?

- Dialogue with data producers on key policy priorities on ageing and older persons
- Extending age limits in Demographic and Health Households Surveys
- Exploiting existing data sources (censuses, HHS) by expanding tabulation by sex and age
- Exploring the use of big data and new non-traditional data sources
- Partnerships with private sector, academia, etc.
- Improving analysis and presentation



THANK YOU