



Statistical Considerations in Setting goals and targets

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**Expert Group Meeting on Goals and Targets for the World programme of Action for
Youths: "Youth in Civil Society" and "Youth and Well-being" 19-21 May, New York**



Outline of Presentation

- ❑ Why the need for statistical consideration?
 - ❑ Common data sources
 - ❑ Monitoring and evaluation of goals & targets
 - ❑ Desirable properties
 - ❑ Examples
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Why the need for statistical consideration?

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- ❑ Statistics can be defined as the process of collecting, analyzing, interpreting and presenting data
 - ❑ There is need to choose goals and targets that can quantitatively be monitored and/or evaluated
 - ❑ This implies having realistic goals and targets
 - ❑ In this respect the problem is not the impossibility of monitoring goals under consideration, but avoiding the weakness of the measures or indicators used to objectively and reliably monitor the goals & targets
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Why the need for statistical consideration? (cont.)

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- ❑ The question is how well to we measure the underlying construct of the goals and targets of interest?
 - ❑ In this case we should clearly define what we want to measure so that we can obtain reliable quantitative information and minimise content errors
 - ❑ The challenge is to define goals and targets for which indicators can easily or readily be developed to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the above
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Common data sources

- Censuses
 - Surveys
 - Administrative record systems
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Population Censuses

- ❑ Total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating demographic and socio-economic data at a specified time
 - ❑ Information collected for each individual
 - ❑ Covers the whole country
 - ❑ generate data on size, composition & spatial distribution population together with demographic and socio-economic characteristics
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Census (cont.)

■ **Limitations**

- relatively expensive
 - limited number of topics and detail
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Household Sample Surveys

- ❑ A part of the population is selected whose results can be generalised to the population of interest
- ❑ Topics can be covered in detail

Pros:

- Usual to use more experienced field staff in the case of face-to-face interviews
 - More flexible
 - Relatively lower cost
 - More accurate and reliable results
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Household Surveys

Cons:

- Results may not be inferred at small administrative area levels owing to sample size limitations
 - At times complex to design and analyse results
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Administrative records

- ❑ Statistics may be compiled for various administrative records e.g. health, employment and vital statistics
 - ❑ Reliability of statistics depends on completeness and consistency of concepts and definitions
 - ❑ **Caution:** while very cost-effective, the systems are not well developed in most developing countries
 - ❑ In many cases, limited in statistical content as they are kept mainly for administrative or legal purposes
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Monitoring and evaluation of goals and targets

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- ❑ The goals and targets are usually of normative interest about major aspects of society
 - ❑ Need for direct and valid statistical measures which may monitor levels and changes overtime in fundamental concerns of youths
 - ❑ If the targets are met, that means the youths are better off, then we can assume that the goal is being achieved
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Some desirable qualities of a goal or target

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- ❑ The targets should be measured or monitored by a **limited** yet **comprehensive** set of **coherent** and **significant** indicators which can be monitored overtime and disaggregated to the level of the relevant social unit or subgroup
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Some desirable qualities of a goal or target

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- ❑ **Limited:** they should be understood, not very detailed, lengthy or complex
 - ❑ **Comprehensive:** so that the most salient and critical aspects of the goal and target are included
 - ❑ **Coherent:** The indicators measuring of monitoring the goal and target should hang together in some form that would shade accurately the existing situation under study
 - ❑ **Significant:** In addition to the above there should be of direct normative interest in the goals and targets
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Example: well-being

- ❑ Social indicators which will monitor goals and targets, are indeed measures of well-being
 - ❑ Well-being is an outcome of consumption including the state of health and other goods and services
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Example: of a goal & targets

- ❑ **Goal** : reverse the deterioration of the natural environment
 - ❑ **Targets**
 - 1.1: by 2015 reduce carbon dioxide emission to-----
 - 1.2: between 2008 & 2015 increase, by ----- per cent, the number graduating from environmental education & training programmes
 - 1.3: between 2008 & 2015 increase, by --- per cent, the number of youths participating in the protection , preservation and improvement of environment
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Example: of a goal & targets (contd.)

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- ❑ Make sure the goal is measurable by identifying relevant targets
 - ❑ The targets should be such that all the components can be measured, e.g.
 - In the case of target 1.2 it is assumed that the total number of youths is known, perhaps by sex and number of graduating youths from various training programmes on environment
 - it may be necessary to have data for each year between 2008 including 2015 such that you can measure progress or lack of it
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Conclusions

□ **Goals:**

- The sequence of selecting goals and targets is cascading
 - One tends to be more general in specifying goals
 - Make sure that the goal can quantitatively and reliably be measurable
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Conclusions (cont.)

❑ **Targets**

- Select a reasonable number that will capture the most part of the normative intent of the goal
 - Ensure availability of relevant data for producing relevant statistical indicators to monitor and verify targets
 - Carefully explore the feasibility of attaining the targets and reliably monitoring the goals
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THANK YOU
