Integrating migration into the implementation framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda



Bela Hovy, Chief
Migration Section, Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
United Nations, New York

GMG/ KNOMAD Retreat on Migration Indicators and Post-2015 United Nations, New York, 21 January 2014

Objectives

- Today's mandate (from: 2013 HLD):
 - > ... human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development which should be adequately considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.
 - ➤ The United Nations system, GMG and SRSG ... to consider migration issues in their contributions to the preparatory process that will establish the post-2015 development agenda.
- Today's goal:
 - > To propose a limited set of indicators
- Today's method:
 - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound

Basis for today's retreat

- United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, esp. on statistics and indicators (July 2013)
- Report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons (May 2013), and national and regional consultations facilitated by UNDG
- 3. The SRSG's informal working group
- 4. KNOMAD/World Bank retreat (April 2013)

Goal, Targets, Indicators

(HLP, Annex III)

Term	How it is used in the HLP report	Example from MDGs
[Goal]	[Expresses an ambitious, but specific, commitment. Always starts with a verb / action]	[Reduce child mortality]
Targets	Quantified sub-components that will contribute in a major way to achievement of goal. Should be an outcome variable.	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

Today's focus

- Propose selected no. of indicators
- Use HLP framework of universal goals and national targets
- Apply rigorous criteria in selection
- Provide essential information for each indicator
- Focus discussions on technical issues, not mandates or advocacy

Working method

- Select SMART indicators from complete listing (see hand-out)
- Review SMART indicators one-by-one using the 'MDG template'
- Prioritize indicators, assess gaps
- Determine next steps

MDG targets – some key lessons

- 1. Targets must relate to each goal and expressed in clear language
- 2. Preferably numerical. Indicators to cover 'sub-concerns'
- 3. Formulate as desired outcomes/results, not process or programme
- 4. Ambitious but realistic, not 'aspirational'
- 5. Numerical targets can specify absolute or relative change desired, taking into account the range of situations in countries
- Targets must indicate desired direction of change, and preferably extent of change sought or numerical status to be achieved
- 7. Targets should have appropriate time frame, allowing for lags in compilation and for typical rate of change in the variable
- 8. New indicators: consideration be given to compiling available data from 2000, but benchmarking progress targets to 2010
- 9. Data limitations in fragile countries should be explicitly addressed
- 10. Targets should take account of different population structures

MDG indicators – some key lessons

- Linked to the target, easy to understand and unambiguous for interpreting change relative to benchmark and target;
- 2. Capacity for data collection must exist at (inter-)national level;
- Limited in number, following agreed priorities expressed in the goals and targets (MDGs: 50 to 75);
- 4. New data will require at least 3-4 years to implement;
- 5. Inter-agency groups have been effective in reaching agreement and harmonizing methods;
- 6. Data collection must be built using harmonized, recognized international recommendations and guidelines, where they exist
- Indicators should go beyond advocacy, providing support for the debate, implementation and assessment of policy;
- Indicators of trends cannot be based on ad hoc data collection or data which do not cover/are not representative of a country;
- 9. For global monitoring, competent agency (-ies) must be agreed,
- 10. Guidance/assistance to countries should be provided.

Requirements for each indicator

MDG Template+		
1. A simple operational definition	6. Periodicity of measurement	
2. Goal and target it addresses	7. Gender and disaggregation issues	
3. Rationale for use of the indicator	8. Limitations of the indicator	
4. Method of computation	9. National and international agencies involved	
5. Source of data and references	10. International agreements (UN, WHA, ILO, etc.)	

Way forward

- 1. Follow-up to this retreat?
- 2. Hold monthly briefings / side events at United Nations between Jan. and June?

- 3. Engage with OWG (FfD, ...)
- 4. Coordinate (who is doing what/when?)