

### **Developing SDG Indicators: Lessons Learned**

Second Retreat on Migration Indicators for the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda

October 17, 2014

### Overview

- 1. Introduction to SDSN
- 2. Introduction to our data work
- 3. Principles for developing indicators
- 4. Lessons learned on indicator formulation and selection
- 5. Recommendations

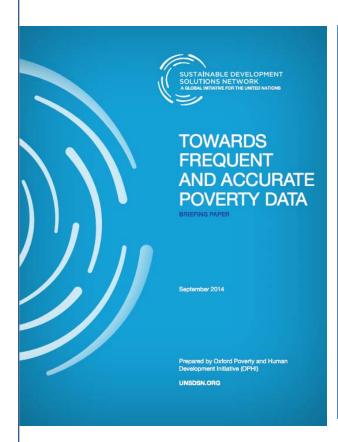


# The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

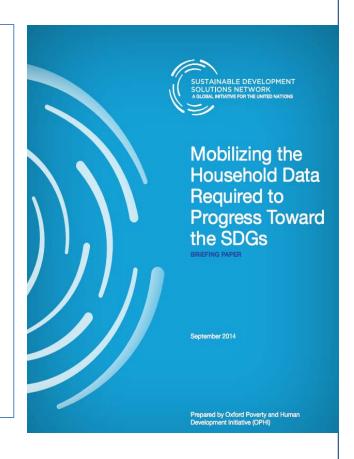
- Launched in 2012 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.
- Mobilizing scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society and the private sector in support of sustainable development.
- Aim to accelerate joint learning to overcome the compartmentalization of technical and policy work.
- Works closely with the UN, multilateral agencies etc.
  - Cross cutting work programs (post-2015, decarbonisation, SDSN.edu)
  - 12 thematic groups
  - National and regional networks
  - Solutions Initiatives e.g. Virtual Open Schools



# Supporting the data revolution









## The Purpose of Indicators

"The purpose of SDG indicators is twofold. First, an indicator should be **a management tool** to help countries develop implementation and monitoring strategies for achieving the SDGs and to monitor progress.

Second, an indicator is **a report card** to measure progress towards achieving a target and ensure the accountability of governments and other stakeholders for achieving the SDGs......"

Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the SDGs. Available at unsdsn.org



# Principles for designing indicators

#### Goals

- One set of goals with a coherent narrative
- 2. Universal application
- Normative standards
- 4. Limited in number and concise
- Motivational and easily understandable
- Operational and applicable to all stakeholders
- 7. Integrated or 'systems-based'
- Coherent with other intergovernmental processes
- 9. Dynamic
- Underpinned by high quality and consistent measuring

#### **Targets**

"SMART" targets that are also:

- Applicable to all relevant stakeholders
- Consistent with existing international frameworks
- 3. Universal but adaptable
- Action-oriented
- Clear on their definition of "zero" deprivation

#### **Indicators**

- 1. Clear and straightforward
- 2. Consensus based
- Broadly consistent with systems-based information
- Constructed from well-established data sources
- Disaggregated
- Universal
- 7. Managed by a designated organization

#### Other:

- High periodicity (annual reporting)
- There is no right or wrong indicator form: Inputs, outputs and outcomes
- Twin with complementary nonofficial metrics

## Lessons learned from SDSN's process

- 1. Keep indicators draft (open for consultation)
- 2. Maintain on-going consultations with expert communities
- 3. Limit the number of indicators (NSO feedback)
- Develop a set of core indicators and a set of country-level indicators that can be adapted
- 5. Much-needed indicators are often either unavailable or lack an adequate data source, e.g.
  - 6: [Percentage of population in extreme multidimensional poverty] to be developed
  - 8: [Percentage of population with shortfalls of any one of the following essential micronutrients: iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, folate, and vitamin B12 ] to be developed
  - 12: [Crop nitrogen use efficiency (%)]
  - 13: [Excessive loss of reactive nitrogen [and phosphorus] to the environment (kg/ha)] to be developed
  - 14: [Access to drying, storage and processing facilities] to be developed



### Additional Recommendations

- Don't shy away from recommending new approaches / computation methodologies or drastic improvements in data sources
- 2. When proposing non-official / third party sources consider harmonisation principles (with UNSD?)
- 3. Propose a practical strategy for setting up / strengthening the information system before the 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission starting in March 2015.
- 4. Cost the approach the July 2015 Financing for Development Conference is the crucial moment to mobilize the means.

