



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK**
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

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



TOWARDS FREQUENT AND ACCURATE POVERTY DATA

BRIEFING PAPER

September 2014

Prepared by Oxford Poverty and Human
Development Initiative (OPHI)

UNSDSN.ORG



Indicators and a monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goals

Launching a data revolution for the SDGs

A report by the Leadership Council of the
Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Revised working draft
25 July 2014



Mobilizing the Household Data Required to Progress Toward the SDGs

BRIEFING PAPER

September 2014

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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

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

Targets

"SMART" targets that are also:

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

Indicators

1. Clear and straightforward
2. Consensus based
3. Broadly consistent with systems-based information
4. Constructed from well-established data sources
5. Disaggregated
6. 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 non-official 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)
4. 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

1. 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.