

Task Team on Information Data Sources for QCPR monitoring

Background

In the second-half of 2013, a working group which was convened by DESA and composed of UNDG members, DOCO and other UN entities, developed a single, streamlined, coherent yet comprehensive QCPR monitoring and reporting framework. This framework, which Member States had requested in ECOSOC resolution 2013/5, will be a key tool for the effective monitoring of the implementation of the QCPR resolution.

However, data sources for the indicators in this framework still needed to be confirmed, existing surveys needed to be aligned to provide the necessary data for the indicators, and other data sources had to be identified to supplement the framework's quantitative information with qualitative information informed by thematic studies, surveys, annual reporting of UN organizations, midterm reviews and other sources of information.

At the meeting of the full QCPR working group on 4 April 2014, DESA requested the services of a small group of colleagues who have the knowledge and information required to be part of a technical Task Team to identify the sources of information for the QCPR monitoring and reporting framework. Colleagues from DOCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, and of course UNDESA made-up the membership of the Task Team.

Outcome of Task Team's work

The objective of the Task Team was to ensure that the required data gathering and analysis sources are identified and are sufficient to provide comprehensive, rigorous and cost-effective monitoring of the implementation of GA resolution 67/226 on the QCPR.

The Task Team met for 3 morning sessions spanning a period of 2 weeks. The Team went through the QCPR monitoring and reporting framework to discuss what would be the best and most cost-effective collection method for each indicator. The resulting outcome can be seen in the revised QCPR monitoring and reporting framework, where a data source has now been identified for all except 2 of the 99 indicators. The table below provides a summary of the different collection methods that were recommended by the Task Team along with the number of indicators each source will provide information on.

The Team also reviewed the timelines of the different collection methods to ensure that information would be available in time to be reflected in the SG's report on the implementation of the QCPR. The main issue in this regard was the Resident Coordinator Annual Report (RCAR) which may not report information in time for the next SG's report. Therefore, where the RCAR is identified as a data source, it was recommended by the Task Team that an ad-hoc DOCO survey should be dispatched in 2014 to address those specific indicators which depend on the RCAR if and when it becomes apparent that the RCAR will not be up and running in time.

The Task Team also recommended that DESA would need to conduct a review of agency annual reports as well as agency strategic plans to obtain the necessary information for a number of indicators. However, it was recommended by the Task Team that the DESA survey to resident coordinators, which had been conducted in both 2012 and 2013, is not necessary for any of the indicators in the QCPR monitoring and reporting framework and therefore can be discontinued.

Table

<i>Source/Collection method</i>	<i># of indicators¹</i>
RC annual report (RCAR)	21
CEB Financial data and reporting system	13
DESA desk review of agency annual reports	13
DESA programme country survey	12
Coordination support survey	12
Desk review by R/UNDG (PSG)	10
DESA UN HQ survey	9
DOCO collection through existing databases	9
DESA desk review of agency strategic plans	5
UNDG/UPN	4
HLCM	3
JIU	2
OECD.Stat	2
CSO Survey	1
Int'l development cooperation report	1
UNISDR	1
MDTF Office web portal	1
Survey of Operations Management teams	1
HACT Advisory Committee	1
SWAP	1
Integration Steering Group	1

¹ The 2nd column adds-up to more than 99 indicators since some indicators require a combination of 2 sources to compute its value.

In addition to these reviews, DESA will carry-out additional studies and collect information that is available across the system on issues related to particular QCPR mandates which require further in-depth analysis beyond what is contained in the QCPR monitoring and reporting framework. The costs of these studies will be covered by DESA, without any notable burden on the other entities of the UN system. However, it was agreed within the Task Team that in order to simplify this process, UN entities would inform DESA of any assessments, evaluations, studies, etc. related to the issues contained in the QCPR which were recently performed or planned in the future that pertain to the current QCPR cycle (post-2012).

There remain 2 indicators for which the data source is still to be confirmed. Indicator #67b was developed at a time when it was expected that a harmonized definition of "in kind" would be decided on in the near future. However, no such system-wide agreement was reached. Therefore the indicator itself will need to be reformulated or deleted. In addition, some Task Team members felt indicator #95 was either unmeasurable or very difficult to estimate. Further work is on-going to determine whether this indicator needs to be reformulated in such a way to keep transaction costs to a minimum.