

Session 4: The use of data for policy making

Moderator: Peter and Rhiannon

Session 4.1: Monitoring the progress of MDGs in Asia and the Pacific

1. Importance of participation of national governments in international indicator estimation processes, in order to promote ownership of data used for international comparison.
2. Need to encourage policy analysis to feed back into the cycle of evidence-based policy making for national development priorities.
3. Importance of using disaggregated data to identify geographic, socioeconomic and other forms of disparities, in order to promote achievement of MDGs/national targets with equity, yet recognition of need for mechanisms to enhance standards and quality of such data.
4. The methodological challenges in the measurement of some results indicators at the national level may make it more appropriate to concentrate of progress indicators at sub-national level. Operationally, it also makes more sense for sub-national planners to focus on outputs rather than outcomes.

Moderator: Mr. Nyi Nyi Thaung

Session 4.3: Advancing Education for All: EFA Info, the Mid-Decade Assessment and use of data for education planning

Using data in evidence-based decision-making: Launch of DevInfo version 6.0 in Asia and the Pacific: Education Parallel Session, 3 February 2010

Active, genuine and sustained coordination among and within line ministries as well as with National Statistics Offices and relevant institutions is essential for improving quality of data and promoting their use for evidence-based policy making and result-oriented programme implementation. With the effective and efficient coordination all concerned stakeholders can mutually benefit for the best use of quality data from all relevant sources to informed decision making.

Efforts of line ministries on use of Household surveys and Census data should be strongly encouraged. International development partners should work together to facilitate this effort by providing necessary financial and technical support including dissemination of innovative practices in the implementation of DevInfo. Good practices and experience, such as the Asia and Pacific EFAInfo should be shared among all potential stakeholders.

Effective and sustained capacity development on data analysis linked to policy planning is fundamental to the successful use of data for informed decision making. Relevant national capacity must be developed not only at central level but also expanded to the sub-national and local level from which the data originates. In this regard, effective and simple feedback mechanisms must be part of the capacity development process.

These recommendations are addressed to the national governments and its central statistics bureau and line ministries, as well as the development community, including international agencies, bilateral/multi-lateral donors and civil society organizations.