VNRs that Leave No One Behind
Mainstreaming LNOB Evidence to the VNR of Samoa

Srinivas Tata
Social Development Division
15 March 2024
Apia
What is ESCAP LNOB Analysis?

• An empirical analysis of inequality and gaps in access to key services and opportunities with an exclusive emphasis on SDG indicators.

• An efficient disaggregation tool that captures intersectionalities among individual/household circumstances that leave people behind.

• Driven by data that are nationally representative and ideally conducive to subnational disaggregation.

• Based on a machine learning algorithm within Classification and Regression Tree Analysis (CART) and Dissimilarity Index.
Why is LNOB analysis important?

Find which SDGs have the most "Left Behind"
SDGs are not equal in terms of the size and composition of groups left behind in their achievement.

Uncover who are the "Left Behind" in specific SDGs
Unique combinations of individual and household circumstances identify who are left behind and where.

Monitor gaps and inequality in SDG achievements?
The groups that are furthest left behind change over time across SDGs both for the good and the bad.
ESCAP LNOB Platform

- Highlights **inequalities** in SDG indicators at **national** and **subnational** levels **countries** in Asia and the Pacific in **2010-2022** period.

- Identifies groups that are **furthest behind** in **19** SDG **indicators** by an efficient **disaggregation** methodology that captures intersectionality of contingent circumstances.

- Helps policymakers understand **whom to prioritize for interventions** to reduce inequality of opportunity.

- Monitors gaps and inequality in SDG achievements and supports **Voluntary National Reviews**.
Role of LNOB in VNRs

Contents

A. Getting started: how to initiate a review ............................................. 1
B. Organisation and Preparation of the Review ....................................... 4
C. Multi-stakeholder participation ....................................................... 9
D. Key building blocks for preparing the review ................................... 12
E. Monitoring and Review ................................................................. 34
F. Preparatory workshops and submission of VNRs ................................. 37
G. Presentation of the VNR at the HLPF ............................................. 40
H. After the presentation ....................................................................... 44

Annexes ................................................................................................ 34
Annex 1: VNR preparation checklist .................................................... 45
Annex 2: Secretary-General’s Voluntary common reporting guidelines for VNRs ......................................................... 48

Leaving no one behind

Countries could set out actions they have taken to mainstream the principle of leaving no one behind in the implementation of the SDGs. This could include actions to prioritise outcomes for vulnerable groups, as well as looking beyond population averages to identify who they are, where they are located and what their specific needs may be. Countries are encouraged to go beyond social policies and include macroeconomic policies and technology that impact the situation of those who are furthest behind. Particular attention should be placed on efforts to empower women and girls. Starting points for addressing the area of ‘leaving no one behind’ could include actions to end extreme poverty, policies aimed at reducing inequalities and policies aimed at overcoming discriminatory barriers, including those arising from geography, as well as efforts to ensure inclusive and effective participation in its implementation. The impact of multiple and overlapping inequalities—for example the challenges of women with disabilities living in rural areas—could also be considered.

Some questions that could be considered include the following:

- How are vulnerable groups and those furthest behind being identified?
- Who is being left behind and what are the underlying reasons for their vulnerability?
- What disaggregated sources of data are available and what are the data gaps?
- What actions are being taken to determine the needs of the vulnerable and furthest behind?
- What is being done to support the empowerment of vulnerable groups?

Country examples

Ireland took an open draft approach to their second VNR and allowed non-governmental participants to review and contribute to the VNR report. Key national stakeholder groups representing a variety of sectors were invited to contribute a chapter for inclusion in the VNR.
LNOB in the VNR of Fiji (2023)

A detailed analysis conducted at the national level in Fiji reveals significant disparities in access to clean fuels, particularly among certain marginalized groups. The findings indicate that only 13% of poorer households, specifically those in the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution, residing in rural areas have access to clean fuels. In contrast, 25% of wealthier households, belonging to the top 20% of the wealth distribution and with tertiary education as the highest level of education attained, have access to clean fuels.

When examining access at the divisional level, the gap becomes even wider in the Central division. Here, 25% of wealthier urban and tertiary-educated households have access to clean fuels. However, upon considering additional factors such as the language spoken by the head of the household, a new group emerges as the most disadvantaged, with a low access rate of 11%. This group consists of poorer households with secondary education or lower and whose native language of the household head is Fijiana.

The availability of basic sanitation also follows a similar pattern, influenced by both household wealth and place of residence. The top 60% of the wealth distribution has the highest access rate at 90%, while those in the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution living in urban areas face the greatest challenge, with the lowest access rate to basic sanitation. A detailed analysis conducted at the national level in Fiji reveals significant disparities in access to clean fuels, particularly among certain marginalized groups. The findings indicate that only 13% of poorer households, specifically those in the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution, residing in rural areas have access to clean fuels. In contrast, 25% of wealthier households, belonging to the top 20% of the wealth distribution and with tertiary education as the highest level of education attained, have access to clean fuels.

When examining access at the divisional level, the gap becomes even wider in the Central division. Here, 25% of wealthier urban and tertiary-educated households have access to clean fuels. However, upon considering additional factors such as the language spoken by the head of the household, a new group emerges as the most disadvantaged, with a low access rate of 11%. This group consists of poorer households with secondary education or lower and whose native language of the household head is Fijiana.

The availability of basic sanitation also follows a similar pattern, influenced by both household wealth and place of residence. The top 60% of the wealth distribution has the highest access rate at 90%, while those in the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution living in urban areas face the greatest challenge, with the lowest access rate to basic sanitation.

Access to clean cooking fuel in Fiji exhibits significant regional disparities, with the Eastern division having the lowest access rate at 19%. The Northern division follows with a slightly higher access rate of 43%, while the Western division fares better with 51%. In contrast, the Central division stands out with the highest access rate of 95%. These figures highlight the pressing need for concerted efforts to improve access to clean cooking fuel, particularly in regions with lower access.
Mainstreaming LNOB across Asia-Pacific
An Overview of Gaps in SDGs

**Source:** Samoa (MICS 2019-2020)
Zooming into Furthest Behind

SDG 7.1.2: Access to Clean Fuels

Data legend

- Furthest ahead
- Other terminal nodes
- Furthest behind

Source: Samoa MICS (2019-2020)
LNOB and Regional Disparities

SDG 7.1.2: Access to Clean Fuels

Rate of the furthest behind group in access to clean fuels

Source: Samoa MICS (2019-2020)
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
Reducing multiple dimensions of inequality

http://lnob.unescap.org