Developing National Indicators

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Definition of a statistical indicator

**Tweaked Definition for National Monitoring**

A **statistical indicator** is a measure which provides meaningful evidence to monitor progress against key national issues for which improved outcomes are desired.
Thought process in generating good indicators for plans

What are the “**Key Issues**” you wish to address within your respective Sector Plan

What “**Actions/Activities**” are your Sectors adopting to address these “Issues”

What “**Outcomes**” do you want to see achieved in your Sector with respect to these “Issues”, often as a result of implementing “Actions/Activities”

What “**Indicators**” can be generated to assess the status (and monitor progress), against these “Key Issues”, to assess if progress towards the desirable “Outcomes” is being achieved
### Different types of Indicators

**Input** Indicators: Measures what may be needed to go in to a “strategy/activity” in order to achieve an “outcome”
- Human resource (personnel)
- Finances in the form of money
- Machinery such a vehicles, etc.

*(NB: They make it possible for strategies/activities to achieve their results)*

**Output** Indicators: First level results
- Direct immediate term results associated with a strategy/activity
- What the strategy/activity has achieved in the short term

**Outcome** Indicators: Second level of results
- Usually relate to the desirable “outcome”
- Often something you want to track longer term
What indicators should Sectors focus on?

For inclusion in the **SDS**?
Focus on (but not necessarily limit to) “Outcome” Indicators

For inclusion in **Sector Plans**?
Encouraged to include all types of Indicators – “Input”, “Output”, and “Outcome”

Alignment between SDS and Sector Plans?

- If time frames overlap there should be strong alignment between the SDS and Sector Plans indicators (especially with respect to the outcome indicators)

- Sector Plans will be more detailed in addressing strategies and required inputs and short-term outputs to achieve outcomes
  - SDS indicators will thus look somewhat like a subset of the Sector Plan Indicators
An example of the process in Samoa

- In Samoa there is still too high a rate of Infant Mortality taking place, especially in the rural communities, which can be addressed by increasing the proportion of babies fully vaccinated at 18 months to at least 90% for all vaccines on schedule within 5 years.

**Issue:** High infant mortality rates

**Strategy:** Increase vaccinations across the country with a focus on rural communities

**Outcome:** Halve the infant mortality rate from 11/1000 live births to 5/1000

**Potential Indicators**
- Infant mortality rate
- Proportion of babies fully vaccinated at 18 months
Disaggregation

• Rather than focusing on only national figures, it’s important to know which groups may be more at risk than others (vulnerable groups), so focused policies can address these groups

• Example: Samoa may be experiencing high levels of NCDs across the countries which need to be significantly reduced. In order to develop policies to address this issue, it’s important to know which people in particular are most effected
  • Gender related
  • Specific age groups
  • Urban/Rural

• Disaggregation requirements are poorly lacking in the current SDS and Sector Plans
What constitutes a good indicator?

- It’s measurable
- Disaggregation requirements addressed
- Clearly defined what is being measured
- Unit of measurement clear
- It’s relevant to the issue which you wish to monitor
Examples of some SDS Indicators - Tourism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Outcome</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Data/Information for Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination promotion quality and marketing methods improved: - tourism arrivals to grow more than 5% annually; - occupancy rate to increase to 60%; - international connectivity and internet access improved and linked tourist information sites developed;</td>
<td>Visitor satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: The indicator could be useful, but needs much greater explanation on how this will be measured. I’m guessing the reason the “data/information” column is blank is due to the indicator not being defined clearly. The information here is most likely coming from a visitor exit survey, so the indicator description can be improved by:

i) stating how visitor satisfaction is defined,
   a. Satisfied with what? Activities, value for money, friendliness of Samoa people, etc?
   b. There are probably a few category levels of satisfaction (eg, highly satisfied, satisfied, etc) – what is defined as satisfied?

ii) clarify if disaggregation breakdowns are required (eg, by country, age group, sex)

iii) clarify what value is required – is it total number or proportion that were satisfied?
Examples of some SDS Indicators – Law & Justice

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<tr>
<td>Crime prevention enhanced: - implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy; - professional standards of Police services increased</td>
<td>Professional standards of Police services</td>
<td>2016/2017 overall public complaints received against police officers (40% decreased)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: The indicator provided is more the outcome, and the data/information then seems to clarify what indicator you could include to measure this, so information appears to be there and just needs to be placed in the right spot. The indicator description can be improved by:

i. Replacing the current indicator description with something like “number of complaints received against police”

ii. Review if other measures can be produced to monitor police standards

iii. Clarify unit of measurement – number each year, percentage change, both, etc
Examples of some SDS Indicators – Health

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<tr>
<td>Safety/Quality of health care service: - number of health professionals increased, - patients sent for overseas treatment reduced by 5%; - waiting time in emergency department, general outpatient, triaging reduced; - 100% compliance of healthcare workers with professional standards; - health information system implemented; - access to health products and services increased;</td>
<td>Access to health products and services</td>
<td>2016/17-2017/18: Children 0-15 years: receive service free of charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pension age of 65+ receive free service and medical supplies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: The indicator looks OK but could be strengthened based on what data is currently being reported. Are you looking to monitor an increase in access to health products and services, or the affordability for children and pensioners? The issue for access can cover numerous things beyond affordability such as sufficient health facilities within reach of all Samoan people, availability of the needed health products and services, and so on

The indicator description can be improved by:

i. Clearly stating which aspect of “access” you wish to address (affordability, distance, availability, etc)
ii. What sub-populations you wish to focus on (are persons who aren’t children or pensioners of interest?)
Examples of some SDS Indicators – Energy

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<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy investment and generation increased: - 100% capacity for renewable energy electricity by 2017</td>
<td>Electricity supply (Access, reliability, affordability)</td>
<td>2017/18: 61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: This indicator needs to be better clarified and separated out, as it’s addressing a number of issues – “access”, “reliability” and “affordability”, of which it looks like data is currently available for “access”. The type of indicator for each aspect could also be quite different. The indicator description can be improved by:

i. Separating in to the relevant aspects of measuring electricity supply
ii. Deciding the most appropriate way to monitor each
   • Access – could be “percentage of households with access to main electricity grid in Samoa”
   • Reliability – could be “number of power cuts by geographical region each year”
   • Affordability – could be similar to what is collected in the CPI on costs to households
Examples of some SDS Indicators – Transport

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<tr>
<td>Roads, Ports and airports are 100% compliant with International Safety,</td>
<td>Roads, ports and airports capacity, safety, security, access inclusiveness</td>
<td>Construction designs of all transport systems and EIAs conducted before actual construction started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security and Construction Standards</td>
<td>and linkages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: Doesn’t look like a typical indicator, so needs to be better clarified what is actually being measured here. Given there are a range of transport systems being assessed/monitored (ie, roads, ports and airports), you might need different indicators for each to assess how they are meeting certain standards. The indicator description can be improved by:

i. Clearly stating what is being measured, and how

ii. Probably addressing separately for each transport system

iii. Stating the measurement