Role of National Indicator Frameworks in Implementing Inclusive Policies

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Why do we need to monitor progress of policy/plans?

Thought process to generate indicators to monitor a policy/plan

Targets v Outcomes (and the role of Baselines)

Key to effective monitoring of policy/plans
Why monitor the progress of policy/plans?

1. Sound monitoring of the progress against issues being addressed in policies and plans helps **ensure they don't become static documents**

2. **Increases the likelihood of progress** being made if key stakeholders are held accountable

3. Monitoring progress through the life cycle of a policy and plan enables stakeholders to **determine if the progress is on track** to achieve desirable outcomes, or acceleration is required
Thought Process to Generating Indicators in a Plan

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

What “Actions/Activities” is your Plan adopting to address these “Issues”

What “Outcomes” do you want to see achieved in your Plan 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
The situation

A country has a major problem with maternal mortality in rural areas so decides to build more health facilities and train more mid-wife nurses in these areas. The plan is to halve the number of maternal mortality cases in the next 5 years.

Key issue
High maternal mortality in rural areas

Actions/Activities
Build more health facilities
Train more mid-wife nurses

Outcome
Halve maternal mortality in next 5 yrs

Indicator
Maternal mortality rate x urban/rural
Outcomes v Targets

Similarities
Outcomes and Targets are similar in that they both describe what you want to see achieved down the track.

Differences
Outcomes don’t necessarily mention the degree of change which is desired
• Tend to use more vague terms such as “decrease in ..” and “improvement in …”

Targets generally specify the extent to which we hope to see results
• Often use phrases such as “halve by 2025” or “increase to 90% by 2030”
Monitoring progress through indicators – importance of baselines

Monitoring progress through the use of baselines

_We don’t know how far we’ve travelled if we don’t know where we started_

When describing the starting point for indicators, we use the term “baseline”

_Baseline indicators_ are the base figures at the start of the monitoring period for which comparisons are made throughout the duration of the plan cycle

They help determine if the target is on track of being met
## Philippines “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Plan, 2019-2025” – Results Matrix

### Overall Strategic Outcome
Reduced poverty among rural women as a result of increased access to land and capital, access to better jobs and agribusiness opportunities, increased participation in leadership and decision making in the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Issue Statement</th>
<th>Outcome/Result Statement</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Outcome/Result Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Responsible Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High poverty incidence among rural women</td>
<td>Reduced poverty among rural women</td>
<td>Poverty incidence among women, urban and rural, age, and ethnicity</td>
<td>No available data</td>
<td>Decrease by 6-7% by 2025</td>
<td>Accelerate access of rural women to economic resources including decent work opportunities and viable agribusiness opportunities</td>
<td>DA, DAR, DENR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This is only one small part of the logframe for illustration

Key to effective monitoring of policy/plans

1. Monitoring progress should be done **regularly** throughout the life of the plan, and not just the end of the plan cycle. To ensure this happens, it is common practice to undertake **formal mid-term reviews** of plans to check on progress.

2. Effective monitoring can only be achieved through a **sound indicator framework which is relevant and measurable**, to ensure it is populated throughout the course of the plan.

3. The indicator framework developed to guide the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Plan needs to be **owned by both producers of data and the plan owners**, covering all priority issues for action of the plan, and disaggregation requirements that address needs of the most vulnerable.
Indicators are crucial in monitoring progress of your national policy priorities

They help:

• Keep the plans/policies alive
• Keep stakeholders accountable for progress
• Inform planners/policy makers if things are on track

But only if:

• They are well developed (specific, relevant and measurable)
• Are produced through an interactive process with all stakeholders
• Contain baselines and targets where applicable