Understanding the SDG Indicators related to children: analysis and measurement implications

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SDGs and Children

- Broad agenda: 17 goals and 169 targets
- No specific goal for children
- Analysis of relevance of SDG targets to children

Highly Relevant: 48
Somewhat Relevant: 47
Less Relevant: 74
Disaggregation/Equity

- Strong call for “leaving no one behind”
- Chapeau definition of how disaggregation will be done – reference to usual suspects, but also new disaggregates
- Call for data work on “invisible disaggregates”
- Need to think of disaggregation by both indicator and data source – “everything will be disaggregated by everything” is not helpful
- Disaggregation for children “natural” for most targets and indicators
Work on Indicators and Measurement

- So far, work focused on identification of global SDG indicators
  - with language that there will be indicators and reporting on indicators at the country, regional and thematic level
- Global indicators decided by member states, UN agencies asked to collect and compile data from countries and report annually to the UN SG
Development of Global SDG Indicators
Interagency Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG)

Co-chairs: Mexico and the Philippines
Secretariat: UN Statistics Division

- Established: May 2015
- 28 member states representing all regions
- 150 “observers” – UN agencies, regional commissions, academia, civil society

**Chair of UN Statistical Commission:**
- United Kingdom

**Eastern Africa:**
- Tanzania
- Uganda

**Middle and Southern Africa:**
- Botswana
- Cameroon

**Western Africa:**
- Cabo Verde
- Senegal

**Northern Africa:**
- Algeria

**Western Asia:**
- Armenia
- Bahrain
- Egypt

**Central, Eastern, Southern, and South-Eastern Asia:**
- China
- India
- Kyrgyzstan
- The Philippines

**Central and South America:**
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Mexico

**Eastern Europe:**
- Russian Federation

**Southern Europe:**
- Italy

**North America and Northern and Western Europe:**
- Canada
- France
- The Netherlands
- Sweden
New York
Initial list of 300+ indicators compiled by UNSD, with inputs from agencies

Bangkok
Discussion on color-coded indicators – as green, yellow and grey
Result: 159 green and 65 grey indicators

Mexico City
Discussions on compilation of global indicators, establishment of the tier system, disaggregation, methodological work for Tier III indicators

June 2015

October 2015

March 2016

Consultations on grey indicators and further refinement of green indicators
Preparation of IAEG-SDG Report for UN Statistical Commission (submitted 17 Dec, revised Feb 19)
Tiers and custodian agencies defined for (almost) all indicators
Current state, next steps

• Classification of 231 global indicators into 3 Tiers
  ▪ Tier I: Agreed methodology, widely available data
  ▪ Tier II: Agreed methodology, data not widely available
  ▪ Tier III: No agreed methodology, no data

• Discussions ongoing on setting baselines and data flow from national to global level for compilation

• UNSD to liaise with international agencies to update metadata and plans for methods development (Tier III)
Current state, next steps

- IAEG member states will finalize classification of indicators into Tiers I, II & III by July 29;
- IAEG is establishing a sub-group on disaggregation as recommended by UN Statistical Commission (member states only);
- IAEG to establish 3 working groups on SDMX (data exchange), Geospatial and Interlinkages (member states and observers);
Current state, next steps

• First report of SG will be published in July
• UN Agencies have been providing data and storylines to UN Statistics Division, on Tier I and Tier II indicators
Long term next steps

- Indicators list will go to ECOSOC and GA
- IAEG will
  - recommend ‘refinements’ based on concerns raised at Statistical Commission, March 2016
  - present detailed work plan for ongoing 'review and revision' at Statistical Commission, March 2017 (e.g. 1st review in 2020, 2nd review in 2025).
Notes on global indicators

- Disaggregation of indicators is not specified, unless the indicator specifically calls for disaggregation ("by sex", "for children" etc)
- Only global indicators have been identified so far – countries will re-assess their targets, add indicators; regional and thematic indicators will be identified
- Many indicators will need further methodological work
High-Level Political Forum
High-Level Political Forum

- Central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - To conduct national reviews and thematic reviews of the implementation of the Agenda
    - with inputs from other intergovernmental bodies and forums, relevant UN entities, regional processes, major groups and other stakeholders.
- Meets yearly (in July) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every 4 years at the UN General Assembly (GA);
High-Level Political Forum

• Specific theme every year – 2016 (11-15 July) theme: “ensuring that no-one is left behind.”

• 22 volunteer countries have signed up for a national review and report back at the 2016 HLPF:
  ▪ China, Columbia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Turkey, Togo, Uganda and Venezuela

• 2016 review will focus on strategies and policies
Work on child-related SDG indicators
Targets and Indicators for Children

1. Poverty
2. Nutrition
3. Health
4. Education
5. Gender
6. Water & Sanitation
7. Energy
8. Employment
9. Inequalities
10. Cities
11. Climate
12. Peace and justice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Compiling Agency</th>
<th>Other Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population below poverty line</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>National governments</td>
<td>UNICEF, World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men, women, children living in multidimensional poverty</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>National governments</td>
<td>UNICEF, World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stunting</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasting/Overweight</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled birth attendance</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>WHO, UNFPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-5 Mortality</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UN Population Division World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Mortality</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UN Population Division World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of tracer interventions</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Population Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNESCO, OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool attendance</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence against women and girls, by intimate partner</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO</td>
<td>UNSD, UNDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Tier</td>
<td>Compiling Agency</td>
<td>Other Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence against women and girls, by person other than intimate partner</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO</td>
<td>UNSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early marriage</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, UN Population Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM/C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNFPA, WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safely managed water</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF, WHO</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safely managed sanitation and handwashing</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF, WHO</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child labour</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ILO, UNICEF</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child discipline</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence against children</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNSD, UNDP, UNODC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth registration</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNSD, UNICEF</td>
<td>UNFPA, UN Population Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with (a) one or more population and housing census in last 10 years; &amp; (b) 100 per cent birth, 80 per cent death registration</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNSD</td>
<td>UNFPA, IAG on CRVS, UN Population Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

• Household survey programme supported by UNICEF to assist countries in collecting data on child-related indicators and beyond
• UNICEF uses the MICS programme to develop methods for collection of data on children through MICS, other household surveys, and other data collection efforts
• Since 1995 – 5 rounds of surveys
• Collaboration with other household survey programmes, such as DHS
MICS Surveys: 1995-2016

Notes: Countries with at least one MICS survey completed including sub-national surveys
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>No. of Indicators</th>
<th>% out of all SDG indicators</th>
<th>% out of household based indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Already in MICS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tested in Belize/other methodological work</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Covered in some MICS surveys, methodology available</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Possible, desirable, methodological work required</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Possible but questionable relevance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Household survey based but not appropriate/relevant</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Household survey based, possibly not appropriate, further discussion needed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Not household survey based</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>229</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Current work on development of SDG indicators and disaggregates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme/Indicator</th>
<th>Work So far</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Disability</td>
<td>Qualitative/cognitive testing and validation in 15+ settings, recent field-test in Serbia, tested in Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Disability</td>
<td>Tested in Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality Testing</td>
<td>Tested in 4+ national surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>Tested in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Belize, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimization</td>
<td>Tested in Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informed decision making in sexual behavior, FP and RH</td>
<td>Tested in Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Assessment</td>
<td>Tested in Ghana, Belize, next in Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Fuels and Technology</td>
<td>Tested in Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration status</td>
<td>Tested in Belize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Possible future work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Literacy and Numeracy – Adult Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence against Women and Children</td>
<td>Alcohol use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and ICT Skills</td>
<td>Slums/urban poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth participation in education/training/employment</td>
<td>Work with WB/LSMS on poverty-expenditure proxy measurement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Field-testing new indicators: An example

- Hosted by Belize NSO and CO
- November-December 2015
- 600 households, split-sample to test alternative formulations of questions/modules
- Testing of both questions, tools and protocols – including tablet interviews, water quality testing, photos of immunization cards, sanitation and hand washing facilities
- Qualitative data collection: Behavior coding, focus groups, structured interviewer and respondent feedback
- Final synthesis of all findings
Measurement challenges
• **Under-5 Mortality Rate**
  
  - 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
  
  - “Under-five mortality rate”

• Data typically from CRVS, sample registration systems, surveillance systems, censuses and household surveys

• Data from CRVS incomplete in most countries

• Disaggregation to lower administrative levels possible with complete CRVS systems (and innovative methods)

• Robust social, behavioral, economic disaggregates possible through household surveys
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

“Prevalence of stunting (height for age < -2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age”

- Established methodology
- Indicators do not cover the target
• Child discipline
  ▪ 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
  ▪ “Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month”

• Further methodological work needed to extend to 15-17 year old children
• At this point, the current MICS indicator will be used
• Robust data from household surveys, for a variety of characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Agency compiling global indicator</th>
<th>Other agencies</th>
<th>MDG</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early childhood development

- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- “Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial wellbeing, by sex”

Further methodological work needed to improve the indicator, better capture all components, or drop some components

Data may be available from a variety of sources, including household surveys and admin data
- Multidimensional poverty
  - “Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions”
  - Countries may use any “indicator”, “index” (such as the MPI) and include any variable, use any threshold

- Further work may be undertaken for creating a child-specific MPI, or creating various measurement approaches
- Depending on the nature of the “indicator” that will be used, different data sources may be applicable
• Preschool attendance
  - 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
  - “Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex”

• Primarily an admin data based indicator, but other sources of data useful to validate, or when admin data is of low quality
• Behavioral disaggregates may come from household surveys, participatory data, real-time data
To conclude

• The SDGs are a great opportunity for:
  ▪ Revolutionizing our work on data
  ▪ Recognizing the importance of equity/disaggregation
  ▪ Adopting a broad agenda, thinking of interlinkages
  ▪ In data work:
    ▪ Strengthening data/statistical systems
    ▪ Triangulating between data types – for new information, validation, strengthening explanatory power of data, breaking new ground
    ▪ A holistic look at data – to end data silos and address the “data left behind”