

Data Gaps and Strategy at the UN in India

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Data Gaps – is it a challenge? – an over view

- Considering the vast SDG mandate with 169 targets, among National & State Governments, there is now **significant ‘thinking’** for bridging evidence gap;
- That SDG monitoring is **NOT** about monitoring a selected set of indicators **but monitoring programmes and schemes understood– an approach being followed largely by national or state Governments;** **there are however risks;**
- **In last 3 years integrated approach to SDG understood and therefore need for additional information felt;** (integrated MIS systems, integrated dashboards; etc., looking for technology;)
- **More real demand** for disaggregated information by policy makers; **would entail methodological issues;**
- Emerging slowly that **this is an opportunity to address challenges** of the data eco-system – **known but not yet targeted by the system** ; more demand from Government

Data Gap – in multiple areas and interrelated

- Evidence gaps in policy formulation matters;(Ex: migration, children, adolescents, violence etc.) and the situation;
- Evidence gaps in assessing the inter-linkages of the development / growth (ex: how nutrition supplementation programmes affecting improvement of learning achievements, transitions, employments, etc.)
- Lack of data for monitoring programmes especially at output and outcome level; **especially at lower geographies;**
- Right frequency and Timeliness of data availability;
- Very few private **apolitical data producers** for such a vast country; major data producer is Government; **too much dependence on survey based data;**
- Low interaction between producer and users;

SDG reporting - India

- Of the 306 national indicators, for close to 137 indicators metadata development is under process; needs review, piloting, coordination by NSO
- UN Agencies in the country are closely working with NSO and other line Ministries, especially those in Tier II of national indicator frame;
- Need for a coordinated approach and an action plan to work with data producers;

SDG and UN Support

- UNRCO is leading the UN support on SDG monitoring and reporting;
- Support by UN is needed at both at national and state level;
 - In areas of – development of SDG Vision statements, national and State monitoring framework and identifying the data gaps;
- Closely working with NSO and other UN Agencies, UNICEF is supporting in enhancing capacity to monitor and report at national and state levels; trying to build knowledge base and institutionalizing training programmes;

Some strategies – broad plan

- **Increase Data Advocacy** with data producers, policy makers by undertaking analytical work with focus on equity, human rights and multidimensionality of deprivation;
 - Encouraging Government's attention to additional evidences for 'leaving no one behind'
- **Developing an Investment Plan** : With limited resources, there is need for a consistent and comprehensive Investment plan (jointly with all UN Agencies);
- **More focus on what is critical need for the country** (example on child protection, climate change, disaster;)
- **Encourage supplementation of data sets**; Move away from such areas of data generation where Government is competent and quality data being produced regularly;
- **Improving user-producer's interactions**

Questions!

- THANK YOU