Data Gaps and Strategy at the UN in India

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Data Gaps – is it a challenge? – an overview

- 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;
• 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;
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