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Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation

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New York

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# “Leaving No One Behind” – From a Statistical Perspective

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# [ Leaving No One (or Group) Behind

Leaving no one or group behind: types of data sources designed to

- Capture every unit
- Capture all relevant groups

Identify the most vulnerable for better targeting

“Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by **income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics**, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (General Assembly resolution 68/261).”



## [ Covered in this presentation

- SDG indicators and disaggregation
- Challenges in data disaggregation
- Methodological work
- Comparability
- System approaches, innovative methods
- Data source designs fit for purpose

# [ SDG Indicators and Disaggregation

- Indicators defined with specific groups for disaggregation
- Indicators with no specific disaggregation defined - yet
- And from a data source point of view:
  - Indicators with disaggregates as denominators:  
indicator based on a disaggregate
    - For data sources that collect information on a higher level aggregate (e.g. total population)

# [ The Challenge

More emphasis on disaggregation will lead to challenges in

- Cost to collect and analyze
- Quality
- Pressure to collect more information – stretching the boundaries
- Sample sizes
- Confidentiality
- Politics of data, transparency
- ..... and more

# [ The Challenge

The challenge is not disaggregation alone

The call is for high quality, timely, disaggregated data  
..... for a very broad agenda

More targets, more indicators, more frequently, with more disaggregation

..... faster, deeper and wider

Demand for multi-dimensional disaggregation will increase

- Disaggregating within disaggregates – “child labour in poorest quintile in urban areas” – for better targeting
- Many indicators are based on specific population groups – further disaggregation will be needed

# [ Methodological Work

Methodological work needed for data disaggregation not to be underestimated

- New and/or difficult disaggregates
  - Need methodological work to develop standards, measurement tools and protocols
- Need to take some “*old disaggregates*” more seriously
  - Methodological work still needed
    - Improve quality of data on disaggregates (e.g. age)
    - Set better standards (e.g. residence)



# [ Disaggregation, exclusion

Leaving no one behind, disaggregation, exclusion closely related

If we need to leave no one behind in data work, we need to have disaggregated information for every one or every group, the most vulnerable

Excluded populations are usually the most vulnerable (hard to reach populations, ethnic groups) – exclusion by incomplete coverage

## [ Disaggregation, exclusion

Additionally, exclusion by design leads to absence of relevant disaggregation:

- Household surveys will not include institutional populations
- School based surveys will be confined to children attending school
- Administrative data may cover only those enjoying services

Data sources need to “work together” to build the story

# [Comparability

- Comparability of disaggregates may be more challenging than the indicators
- If progress will be measured by reduction of inequalities, then comparability will be important, over time and within & across countries
  - We may need to aggregate the disaggregates – for example, for national or regional monitoring
- Some disaggregates are more comparable than others (sex, age) while some are problematic although they do not seem to be (urban) – others are “new”
  - Methodological work

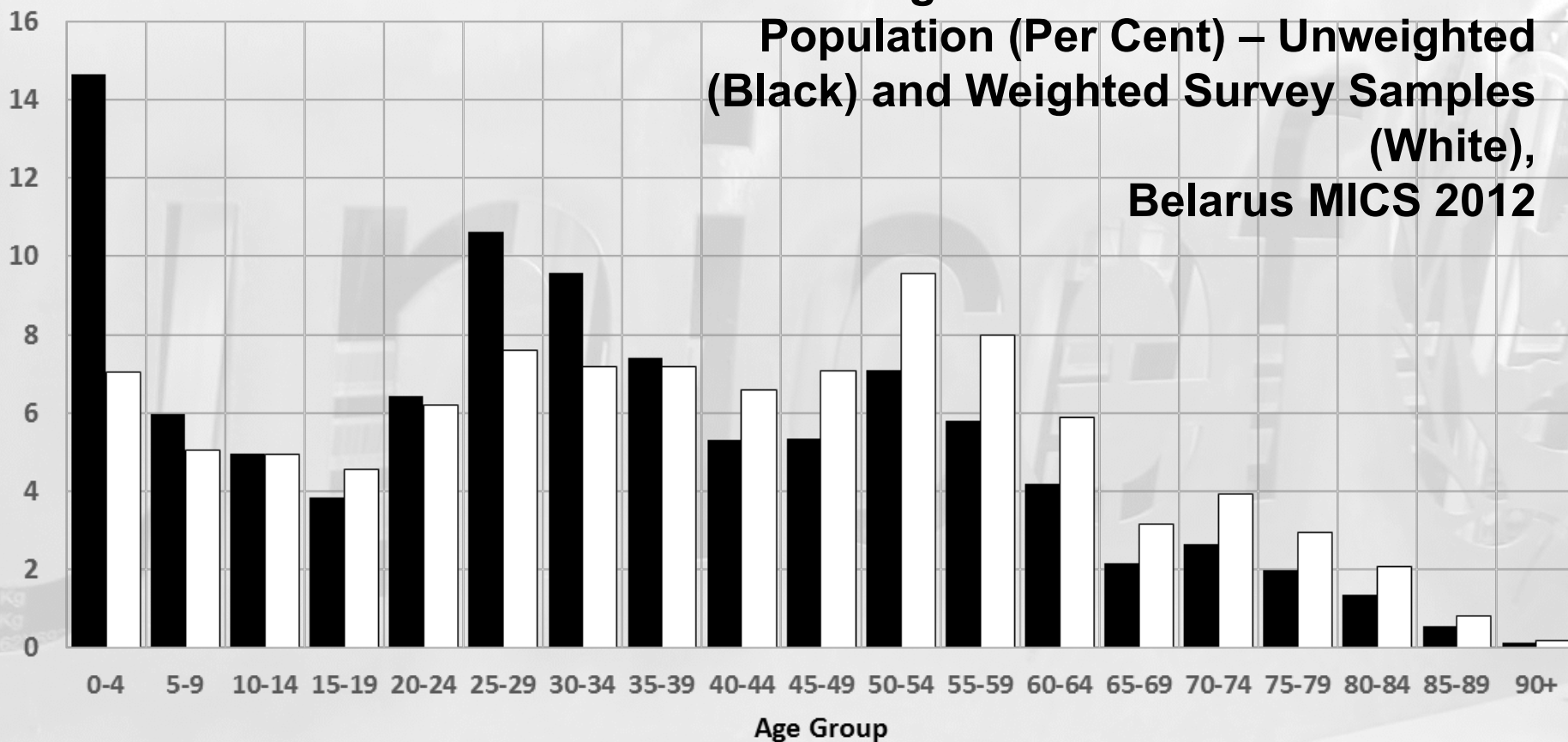
# [ System Approaches, Innovative Methods

Sustainable systems and innovative methods need to be developed and mainstreamed to maximize the effectiveness of data sources

- Sustainable official data systems, admin data using technology
- Triangulation: Cross-walks, data mergers, interoperability, complement with types of new data
  - e.g. census data with population registers, household surveys with facility data
- Analytical methods:
  - e.g. small area estimation
- Data sources designed to fit the purpose

# Survey Sample Fit for Purpose

**Age Distribution of Household Population (Per Cent) – Unweighted (Black) and Weighted Survey Samples (White), Belarus MICS 2012**





Thank you