Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation for the 2030 Agenda: Discussions and Recommendations

27-29 June 2016
Co-convened by UNSD and UNICEF, New York

Loretta E. Bass

Department of Sociology

University of Oklahoma

Meeting Focus:

Consistent with the 2030 Agenda, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) agreed upon a chapeau on disaggregation to be applied when relevant across all indicators, in addition to population groups specifically mentioned in the targets themselves.

"SDG 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."

In attendance:

- 9 experts from National Statistical Systems

- 2 experts from civil society

- 25 experts from International Organizations

- 9 experts from academia and the private sector

Core Objectives of the 14 Sessions of Expert Group Meeting:

1. Discuss the overall concept of leaving no one behind and how data disaggregation can contribute to achieving this goal.

2. Review principles, norms, standards, statistical tools and methodologies during data collection, analysis, and dissemination of disaggregated data.

3. Identify gaps and priorities to be addressed to support the production and use of disaggregated data for the SDGs.

4. From working groups, inform a list or toolkit of existing resource materials and statistical standards and survey tools, such as questionnaires, modules, and methodological guidelines for each disaggregation category.

!

2. *Methodological work - Statistical tools & methods*

- Need for standards on methods protocols to ensure high quality, timeliness, & comparability in monitoring 2030 Agenda:

  - Protocols and training on how to operationalize the SDG indicators
    - Economic status, rural/urban, indigenous, migratory status, refugee status, race, ethnicity (e.g., mixed race, ethnic self-identification), disability status (e.g., Washington Group on Disabilities Question Set)
    - How to monitor in a consistent manner within and across countries

  - Protocols and training on disaggregating measures
    - Techniques for handling small sample sizes (e.g., oversampling, not publishing results with unweighted counts less than 25; publishing standard errors for estimates)
    - How to treat outliers
    - How to adjust for non-response

  - Protocols and training on analysis and monitoring the SDG indicators
    - Need for capacity building at the NSO level, so that the SDGs are monitored in a consistent way that is comparable across countries

3. Tools work – Data availability and coverage

- Need for increased availability and accessibility of data with greater coverage that can be disaggregated to monitor SDGs

  - Specialized surveys, oversampling of certain groups, and larger samples may be needed to obtain coverage of marginalized population groups and to allow for data disaggregation.

  - Integrating different data sources, such as administrative records with survey data or new types of data (e.g., project data and big data), should be explored to increase data coverage to include the most vulnerable population groups.

More Tools Work - Working Group Discussions

5 Working Groups

Household Surveys → →

Census Data

Administrative Records

Population Estimates

Complementary Data Sources

	Suitability	Strength/ Potential	Weaknesses/ limitations	Existing initiatives	Specific actions	Priorities
Sex	Yes	Can decide what data are collected at individual level				Short term: exploit existing data to produce baseline disaggregated data by sex (at least)
Income/ economic status	Yes (main source)	Relevant surveys conducted in most countries	Info collected at the hhld, not individual level. Not easy to get accurate income/expenditure data. No standard measure (income? Exp? Wealth index? Relative or absolute? → limited comparability		Keep improving tools and methods for generating small area estimates (fusion with other data sources)	Produce indicators on poverty by sex and specific age groups (e.g., ECLAC feminity poverty index)
Disability	Yes		Sample frames / size is a limitations	Washington Group		
Age	Yes		Quality of information in some countries. Having a variable "age" is not a sufficient condition for relevance of a survey. Some surveys do not cover all ages.		Specialized modules, or even specialized surveys are needed to obtain information relevant for specialized analysis. Recommend to collection of date of birth, not only age.	
Ethnicity/ race	Yes		Only for large groups (rely on census for more refined disaggregation). Possible political issues			
Migratory status	Possibly					
Location/ geospatial	Yes (with limitation due to sample sizes)	Is a required input for small-area estimates. Can focus on specific areas.	Must be complemented by other sources of data. No standard definition of urban/rural.	WorldPop, CIESIN, others (not hh surveys, but complementarity)	Include geo-referencing (hhld or cluster) in all surveys	
APPLIES TO ALL:		Flexibility/adaptability (can be specialized/thematic) Critical input for models (survey to survey, poverty mapping, etc.) Control of timing and frequency, Experience/capacity New technology (CAPI) is a game changer to improve quality and cover larger samples International survey programs help global monitoring	Multi-variate analysis requires large(r) samples. Does not cover all populations (old people in institutions, homeless, ...). Lack of standards in some areas. High expectations from international survey programs. Surveys are designed for a specific purpose – limitations to repurposing. Limited accessibility to microdata/confidentiality issues. Comparability across countries.	ISWGHS and other coordination mechanisms	Develop more standards / best practice. Design, test and implement specialized survey instruments for purposes that cannot be served by DHS/MICS (not just modules). Promote CAPI technology. Build capacity in data analysis, and advocacy for more disaggregated analysis	Develop quality guidelines for each stratifier Produce clear definition and instructions for all SDG indicators (incl. required disaggregations). Data integration (consistency across sources) Promote more open access to microdata.

4. *Dissemination Work – Link monitoring to policy*

- Need for continuous monitoring of the SDG indicators at the national level to allow for evidence-based policymaking.

    – Help to fund data collection and analysis in low-income countries

    – Foster dialogue between policymakers and statisticians at the national level
        - There are real differences in what they need.
        - Data availability for monitoring should be part of the dialogue.

    – Re-examine who is not captured in national-level data sources and be innovative in terms of methods and processes to include them.

Informing a Toolkit – 2030 Agenda

Data Disaggregation

- List of existing conceptual and statistical standards, survey and data tools, and resource materials

- List of standards, survey and data tools, and resources needed to be developed

Thank you!