Goal 11

Target number: 11.a

Indicator Number and Name: Indicator 11.a.1: Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city

Agency: UN-Habitat

Has work for the development of this indicator begun? Yes

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

"Initial consultations were held between the Statistical Unit for UN Habitat and the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit of UN Habitat, where National Urban Policies (development, implementation) are being monitored. A draft work plan is being worked on to facilitate a larger stakeholder engagement on the refinement of the indicator. Further development of the methodology for Indicator 11.a.1 will also include expanding the repository of data collection tools, with the aim of the finalization of a fully measurable and agreed upon indicator framework. Several organizations and individuals with expertise in the areas on National and Regional Urban Policy will be invited to form an expert group to refine the proposed methodology and proposed methods.

Strong organizational partnerships for development of this indicator is in place between UN Habitat, OECD, and Cities Alliance in the area of National Urban Policy. The partnership aims to coordinate work on National Urban Policy in order to capitalize on the strengths of each organization. Other organizations participating in dialogues on National Urban Policy include UNECE, UNECA, and UNCRD. Additional national and international experts on National and Regional Urban Policy has been drawn from the pool of 20 experts on National Urban Policy (nominated by UN member states and other international organizations) of the Policy Unit 3 on National Urban Policies, which was gathered in order to support the development of a knowledge base on National Urban Policies for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

UNFPA, has also drawn on their networks in order to include in the group of experts those who have specialized interest in the indicator qualifiers such as; responds to population dynamics, ensures balanced regional and territorial development, and increase local fiscal space.

These existing partnership networks have been used in order to gather experts in the field of urban policy to meet for two Expert Group Meetings (EGM), one initial virtual meeting and one face-to-face EGM, that were used to refine and validate the proposed methodologies and data collection methods.

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?

The proposed work plan for the development of this methodology includes the formation of an expert group which is crucial in the refinement of the methodological approach for this indicator. The team of experts included invitations from representatives of selected National Statistical Agencies with a regional representation. This ensured that NSOs inputs to the methodological framework are captured, in addition to assessing the feasibility/suitability/efficiency to implement the indicator from the perspective of

National Statistical agencies. In addition, the partners organized regional consultation workshops, where all national statistical agencies were invited and trained on the proposed methodology for data collection and reporting on this indicator. Targeted in-country missions to support National Statistical Agencies will be undertaken, especially where UN-Habitat already has on-going projects. Such countries will then become centers of learning or model countries for other countries in the regions in implementing and monitoring on indicator 11.a.1.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator

The final process of methodological development for this indicator was based on a work plan developed and agreed upon by UN Habitat, UNFPA, and other participating organizations. The current work plan outlines the journey in the development of the methodology and data collection. The following key activities have been completed or will be undertaken:

- Proposed work plan validated by participating organizations: completed
- Expert group list finalized and experts invited to participate in expert group: completed
- Virtual EGM held to develop initial draft of methodological framework: completed
- Initial draft of methodology developed in partnership with partner organizations and shared with the expert group in order to gather feedback: completed
- Based on feedback, a second draft of the methodological framework shared with expert group: completed
- Face-to-face EGM to finalize and validate methods and methodological framework: completed
- Pilot testing the methodology: completed in Oct 2017
- Methodology was finalized and submitted to IAEG in November 2017
- Indicator training materials developed and disseminated through workshops, in-country advisory missions, etc: since October 2017
- Data collection continues in many countries to-date.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.

The indicator is premised on a checklist of qualifiers that need to be fulfilled in order to assess the level of implementation/development of National Urban Policies. A tight methodology using score-cards has been proposed, and two EGMs helped to improve on its suitability and appropriateness. Furthermore, an objective methodology for assessing and compiling of the final scores is proposed, which will involve sampling and aggregating scores from various experts on the performance of the National Urban Policies. Finally, UN Habitat has developed a global sample of cities selected from a universe of cities with global representations. This sample is derived from a national sample of representative cities that will be used for reporting city performance at the national level/for all countries.

Briefly, the methodology incorporates a policy evaluation framework that assesses and tracks progress on the extent to which national urban policy or regional development plans are being developed and implemented and satisfy the following criteria as qualifiers:
a)	responds to population dynamics
b)	ensures balanced regional and territorial development
c)	Increase local fiscal space

This indicator places particular emphasis on the aspect of national and regional development planning that support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

The method to quantify this indicator is based on policy analysis evaluation that can be supported by adopted policies, conventions, laws, government programs, and other initiatives that comprise a national/regional urban policy.

A National /Regional Urban Policy is broadly defined as a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term. This standard definition will be extended and adapted to country context and may include where applicable terms such as National Urban Plan, Frameworks, Strategies, etc. as long as they are aligned with the above qualifiers. The policy analysis evaluation will consider the following tools: baseline spatial data mapping, benchmarking, surveys, scorecard, performance monitoring and reporting, gap and content analysis."

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?

The initial draft of methodological work on this indicter was completed in June 2017.

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?

Yes

If yes, please describe:

Baseline data for this indicator is already being collected both by UN Habitat as part of the national urban policy reviews and City prosperity initiative. In addition UNFPA also has been collecting data on policies that reflect population projections. UN Habitat currently is finalizing a global database on National Urban Policy which includes available policy information on National Urban Policy for all countries globally. In addition, UN Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative has collected city level data over the past 5 years which can be used in order to inform the qualifiers proposed for this indicator. Data for many countries is sufficient in order to be representative not just of city level trends, but also national level urbanization trends.

How do you plan to collect the data?

"n/a. "

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.

The indicator involves the review of National and Regional Urban Policies which will be collected directly from each country. The alignment of the policy with the proposed indicators will then be assessed. To reduce the bias of subjectivity in the overall assessment, independent policy evaluation will be undertaken by several evaluators.

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?

Data is updated every three years, based on the new data that becomes available.

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?

Yes

If yes, please briefly describe:

During the refinement of the methodology with participating organizations and the expert group, a process of data validation was developed, and agreed. This is documented in training manuals which are disseminated to all national statistical agencies and relevant government departments.

If you have any additional comments that you believe would be helpful to IAEG-SDG members in analysing the work plan and methodological development of the indicator, please provide them here:

This indicator is based on the notion that the development and implementation of National Urban Policies should support participation, partnership, cooperation and coordination of actors as well as facilitate dialogue.
National Urban Policy (NUP) and Regional Development Plans (RDP) promote coordinated and connected urban development. A coordinated effort from government through a NUP or RDP provides the best opportunity for achieving sustainable urbanization and balanced territorial development by linking sectorial policies, connecting national, regional and local government policies, strengthening urban, peri-urban and rural links through balanced territorial development.

This indicator provides a good barometer on global progress on sustainable national urban policies. It serves as gap analysis to support policy recommendations. The indicator can identify good practices and policies among countries that can promote partnership and cooperation between all stakeholders.
This indicator is both process oriented and aspirational and has the potential to support the validation of Goal 11 and other SDGs indicators with an urban component. The indicator has the ability to be applicable at multi jurisdictions levels, i.e covering a number of areas while taking care of urban challenges in a more integrated national manner.

The indicator has a strong connection to the target, addressing the fundamental spatial and territorial aspects of national urban policy in the context of urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

This indicator epitomises the universality tenet and spirit of the SDGs. It is clearly suitable for all countries and regions and can be disaggregated and/or aggregated by areas of development as explained in the methodology section of this metadata. The indicator will be suitable to assess commitment to address urban policy related challenges and respond to the opportunities that urbanization brings. It clearly responds to Goal 11 harnessing the power of urbanisation for the common good. The indicator is strongly connected to other SDGs goals and targets.

UN-Habitat had undertaken a comprehensive review of urban policies and the methodology used could form the basis for the Global State of Urban Policy and Scorecard to be published every two years. Based on the baseline developed by UN-Habitat, it would be quite doable to routinely assess the status of national urban policies and ascertain progress made by countries to develop and implement policies based on agreed qualifiers. The work will benefit from various on-going initiatives of policies review and diagnostics undertaken by OECD, UN-Habitat and World Bank. Further methodological work would be needed to identify a list of criteria that have to be satisfied in order to attribute a value to the relevant development-oriented policy (i.e. policies supporting job creation, innovation, land-use efficiency, public space, etc.).

Policy Connections:

This Indicator is related to several Goals and Targets, particularly the following:

•Goal1: Poverty Eradication, targets 1.4 and 1.5: land tenure security and resilience
•Goal2: Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture, targets 2.3 and 2.a: land tenure security and urban-rural linkages
•Goal3: Gender, target 5.2: safety and 5.a ownership and control over land
•Goal6: Water, targets 6.1 and 6.2: access to drinking water and sanitation
•Goal7: Energy, targets 7.2 and 7.3: access to renewable energy and energy efficiency
•Goal8: Economic Growth and Employment, targets 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6: job creation, decent work and youth unemployment
•Goal9: Infrastructure and Industrialization, targets 9.1, 9.4 and 9.a: access to and upgrading and financing infrastructure
•Goal10: Reduce inequality – target 10.4 discriminatory laws
•Goal12: Sustainable Consumption and Production, target 12.5: waste management
•Goal13: Climate Change, target 13.1: resilience and adaptive capacity; 13.b capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management
Goal15: On terrestrial ecosystems; 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes,
•Goal16: Peaceful Societies and Inclusive Institutions, targets 16.7 and 16.a: governmental subsidiarity and institutional capacity building, 17.b non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
 Goal17: on means of implementation and partnership for sustainable development; 17.14 Policy coherence for sustainable development; 17.17 Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships"

 (as of July/August 2018)