

Indicators for the SDGs

Regional Course on
Education-Related SDG Indicators
15-19 Oct 2018, Daejeon, Republic of Korea



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development



Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- The concept of ‘needs’, in particular, the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.



[Our Common Future](#), United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, better known as the Brundtland Commission), 1987

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But, what does that mean?

[United Nations, on YouTube](#)

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The 2030 Agenda ...

... is a **Plan of Action** for

People

Planet

Prosperity

... recognizing that

**Economic
development**

**Social
development and**

**Environmental
protection**

... are

... interdependent
and mutually
reinforcing pillars
of sustainable
development.

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“ ... **eradicating poverty** in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. ”

“ ... to strengthen universal **peace** in greater freedom ... ”

“ All countries and all stakeholders ... to act in ... collaborative **partnership** ... ”



“

... **no one will be left behind** ...

”

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Goals

“

... seek to build on the **Millennium Development Goals** and complete what they did not achieve.

169

Targets

”

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Each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development.



The **most vulnerable** countries:

- African countries
- Least developed countries
- Landlocked developing countries
- Small island developing States, and
- Countries in, or emerging from, conflict

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The Goals

[United Nations Foundation, on YouTube](#)

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The targets

See [United Nations Sustainable Development website](#)


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The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes the need of strengthened **means of implementation**, i.e. policies and interventions, and revitalized global partnerships in achieving the Goals

This is reflected in:


- The 19 targets under Goal 17
- The 43 targets that have a letter in their number (e.g. 1.a) under Goals 1-16

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The remaining 107 targets
constitute – mostly – development
outcomes and results

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Many of the targets embody
multiple concepts

- ▶ Thus requiring multiple
indicators to gauge progress

“

... ensure that all
girls and boys
complete free,
equitable and
quality primary and
secondary
education ...

”

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Data in the 2030 Agenda

The Agenda highlights the need for ...

- ▶ Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to help with measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind
- ▶ The use of data and information from existing reporting mechanisms where possible
- ▶ Intensifying efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries
- ▶ Commitment to developing broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product

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Data-related targets

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries ... **to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts**

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to **develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries**

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SDG global indicator framework



A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders



[Sustainable development Goal indicators website](#)

The mandate to develop and implement such a framework lies with the [United Nations Statistical Commission \(UNSC\)](#)

The IAEG-SDGs ...

- ▶ [Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators](#)
- ▶ Established in March 2015 by UNSC
- ▶ To develop and implement a global indicator framework
- ▶ [Membership](#): 27 member States
- ▶ Relevant regional and international agencies acting as observers

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Global indicator framework

- ▶ Agreed by UNSC in 2017
- ▶ and refined in 2018
- ▶ Current list contains [232 indicators](#)

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The number 232 is ...

Probably not very useful in the context of the development of national SDG indicator frameworks

- ▶ The global framework is intended for **global follow-up and review**
- ▶ Many indicators are **compound** indicators
- ▶ Many indicators require **disaggregation**
- ▶ 9 indicators are **not measured at developing country level**, but estimated by custodian agencies
- ▶ 62 indicators are in **tier 3**

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Indicators within indicators

- ▶ Many indicators embody **multiple concepts**
- ▶ **Separate indicators** are needed to measure each of the embedded concepts

Example

1.5.1 Number of **deaths, missing persons** and **directly affected persons** attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

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Disaggregation

- ▶ Description of many indicators requires **disaggregation**
- ▶ Plus, target 17.18
- ▶ Each category of each dimension of disaggregation entails a **separate indicator**

Example

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line by **sex, age, employment status** and **geographical location** (urban/rural)

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The number of SDG data series to be produced can become very large if the need for disaggregation is not thought through carefully

UNSC has requested IAEG to clearly determine the dimensions and categories of data disaggregation keeping in mind

- ▶ The resources required
- ▶ And the key principle of the 2030 Agenda of no one left behind

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Global indicator tiers

Tier 1

Conceptually clear, internationally established methodology & standards available, data are regularly produced by countries for at least **50% of countries and population in every region where indicator is relevant**

▸ 93

Tier 2

As Tier 1, but data not regularly produced by countries

▸ 72

Tier 3

No internationally established methodology or standards, but are being (or will be) developed or tested

▸ 62

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- The remaining 5 indicators fall under multiple tiers
- The tiers are not important for the development of national SDG indicator frameworks
- UNSC (2018 session) has requested IAEG to consider using proxy indicators for immediate monitoring in cases where Tier 3 indicators are being finalized

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Custodian agencies

International organizations responsible for

- ▶ the methodological development and
- ▶ global compilation of data of SDG indicators

Example

UNESCO-UIS is the custodian agency of almost all Goal 4 indicators

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Follow SIAP at ...

- ▶ www.unsiap.or.jp

or

- ▶ <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13514159>

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