Household Surveys and the Sustainable Development Goals

Designing Household Surveys to Measure Poverty
Perugia, Italy
November 2017
History

- Adopted in September 2015 by the UN member countries
- Following on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- To end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all
Overview

- 17 goals
- 169 targets
- 232 indicators

Themes
- People
- Planet
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Partnerships
Indicators: Three Tiers

• **Tier I:** conceptually clear, methods established, data regularly produced

• **Tier II:** conceptually clear, methods established, no regular data

• **Tier III:** no established methods / methods being developed

• 82 Tier 1, 61 Tier II and 84 Tier III indicators as of April 2017 (+5 with multiple tiers)

• Some updates following IAEG-SDG meeting in Bahrain in Nov 2017.
SDGs and Data Needs

Where will all the data come from to monitor the 232 indicators?

• Administrative data
  • Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)
• Geospatial data
• Big data?
• Censuses
• **Household surveys**
UNSC Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

• Established by the UN Statistical Commission in 2015
• Goal: to foster coordination and harmonization of household survey activities to inform the SDGs
• The group specific objectives are:
  • Promoting the development of household survey methodology
  • Fostering the use of common standards and methods
  • Encouraging documentation and dissemination of survey metadata and data
  • Promoting the use of survey data for research
  • Developing partnerships for capacity development
• On-going mapping exercise “Household Surveys and the SDGs”
SDG Indicators by Goal and Tier

- 77 indicators in total identified as coming from household surveys
- Goal 3 with highest number followed by goals 16, 8, 5, 7, 1 and 2
- About 80% are either Tier I or Tier II, 13 of the indicators are Tier III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Goal:</th>
<th>Tier I</th>
<th>Tier II</th>
<th>Tier III</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: Poverty</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 2. Hunger</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Goal 3. Health</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Goal 5. Gender equality</td>
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<td>Goal 8. Decent work</td>
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<td>Goal 9. Infrastructure</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Goal 17. Partnership</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mitra and Walsh, 2017
Custodian agency totals are broadly in line with the goals.

Tier III indicators are spread widely.

Tier II are more heavily concentrated.

11 are under joint custodianship.

1 has national governments as custodians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier I</th>
<th>Tier II</th>
<th>Tier III</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>WHO</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>World Bank</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>UNESCO/UIS</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>UN-Habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESA Population Division</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITU</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIDO</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNWTO</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Governments</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Custodians</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 32 30 13 2 77

Mitra and Walsh, 2017
### SDG Indicators: Current Coverage through HH Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tier I</th>
<th>Tier II</th>
<th>Tier III</th>
<th>Mixed Tier</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully covered and household survey preferred</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fully covered but alternative source preferred</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially covered and household survey preferred</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially covered but alternative source preferred</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not covered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mitra and Walsh, 2017

- About half of the indicators are fully covered currently
- Another 27 partially covered and 10 not covered at all
- Suggests development work extends beyond the 13 tier III indicators (19+10=29 or which only 12 are Tier III)
Measuring the SDGs

• Distinguish statistical reality from aspiration
• Reconciling national priorities with international reporting
• Need clearer roadmap and prioritization
• Let’s focus on targets 1.1 and 1.2 …
# SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty data availability is better than it used to be...

Figure 1: Number of Poverty Data since 1976

Serajuddin et al., 2016
Deprivation in Household Survey Data

- **92** low/middle income countries do not have a multi-topic survey every 3 years, as per the President’s commitment
  - No data: mainly in EAP and LAC small countries
  - **Only 1 point**: mainly in AFR
  - **77** with “extreme” deprivation (> 5-year interval)
  - Irregular (ad hoc) survey implementation

- But also, beyond data deprivation, issues with:
  - Uncertainty of funding: many more (IDA) countries “at risk”
  - Data quality (reliability, comparability) and accessibility
    - E.g., only 27 of 48 SSA countries have at least two comparable surveys between 1990-2012

Note: number of data deprived countries estimated based on surveys conducted during 2002-2011
Measuring Poverty

• Multidimensional concept

• Non-monetary measures

• Consumption vs. income
Consumption vs. Income
Measuring Consumption

Different Users and Definitions of Food Consumption

- Economists: Food purchases
- Food security analysts: Food available for consumption
- Nutritionists: Food ingested
Poor Harmonization Across All Criteria

Note: The percent meeting all criteria is based on the 93 countries with no missing data.
* Food consumed away from home.
Poor Harmonization of Recall Periods

Figure 2: Recall period for at-home food data collection

Note: N=100 surveys
Do Methods Matter?

Lessons Learned

• Measuring SDGs will require concerted effort and prioritization
• Household surveys are the sole source to measure a large number of SDGs
• Measuring a large number of the indicators presents many challenges
• Methods matter, thus harmonization is key!
Suggested Reading

- Sustainable Development Goals
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- SDGs Indicators List
- Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators
- Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys
- International Household Survey Network: Measuring Food Consumption
- Methods of Household Consumption Measurement through Surveys: Experimental Results From Tanzania
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