

Civil Society statement on Data Disaggregation at the 3rd meeting of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators in Mexico city from 30 March to 1st April, 2016.

Delivered by Verity McGivern, HelpAge International - Thursday, 31st March 2016.

Thank you Co-Chair. I speak on behalf of civil society on the cross-cutting question of disaggregation.

Data disaggregation is more than just a technical discussion. It goes to the heart of the human rights approach to development and the commitment to leave no one behind. It determines how some specific targets and goals will be made meaningful. Reliable information is needed on all relevant social and economic groups to know when policies are not working and to identify successful policies that should be scaled up.

We urge IAEG members to ensure that the commitment to disaggregation, as outlined in target 17.18, is made explicit across the entire indicator set.

We wholeheartedly welcome the establishment of a subgroup of the IAEG-SDGs on disaggregation. It should be recognised that this group has been entrusted with preserving the ambition of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first.

Disaggregation across the life course will not only enable us to look at the experiences of specific people, it will illuminate the multiple and intersecting experiences of inequality and discrimination experienced by people, cutting across a groups approach and improving policy making as a result.

The Washington Group questions provide an internationally comparable methodology for disability measurement. Disaggregation by disability will illuminate the exact nature of barriers faced by no less than one seventh of the world's population, a group of people who have consistently been shown to experience higher rates of poverty and exclusion.

Data must be disaggregated by sex and age in two year intervals until the age of 19, and after that in 5 year age bands across the life course. For people in older age catch-all cohorts of 60 or 65+ must be rejected. Where data is not yet collected in older age groups action must be taken. We mentioned violence against women yesterday, and the challenges posed by age restricted surveys. The same is true of data on hypertension and diabetes collected through DHS and STEPS. These priorities must be supported by clear funding frameworks.

Progress towards disaggregation by indigenous status relevant to national realities is essential. Indigenous identifiers are essential in national censuses, household surveys and other data gathering efforts.

We trust that the new sub group will be able to cross reference the relevant commitments of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples with Agenda 2030.

The lack of attention to disaggregation by income group is a concern. We recall that the overarching commitment is to eradicate poverty in all its forms.

We would like to reiterate that civil society has contributions to make to the discussion on disaggregation. We urge the IAEG-SDGs to make specific commitments to consultation and transparency in the data disaggregation sub group's terms of reference. This group must operate in the same spirit of consultation and transparency that has characterised the process to date.

The challenge ahead of us is significant;

- To maintain statistical accuracy, oversampling will be necessary for certain population groups, for example when we want to disaggregate results to subnational areas, or for smaller groups like migrants, older persons, young people or persons with disabilities.
- As surveys are to be relied upon for key indicators, they will need to be expanded or new surveys developed to ensure that they capture the full life course. The question of how to cover groups living outside of households must also be addressed.
- Administrative data will need to be further developed and disaggregated and support will be needed to develop civil registration and vital statistics in all countries to ensure that the basic facts of the population structure are in place.

All of this **will** require significant investment and capacity building. We cannot shy away from that. The High Level Group has a critical role to play here and we look forward to engaging with the group's discussions.

To conclude, the litmus test for the success of the SDGs is that all people across their life course and regardless of sex, disability, age, ethnicity or other status will be reached. The policies needed to achieve the goals cannot be developed and their eventual success measured without increasing the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data.

Thank you