

Monitoring inequalities for the SDGs with a focus on WASH: the critical role of NSOs

Consultation with African and other Chief Statisticians

8:30-10:00, Landmark room, One UN Plaza (29th floor, West Tower)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underpins 'leave no one behind', and the global leaders in adopting this agenda vowed that no target will be deemed met until it is met for all. Therefore the global indicator framework being developed stresses that all SDG indicators to be disaggregated where relevant by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location or other characteristics of national importance. Water Supply and sanitation is crucial for positive SDG outcomes:

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply and sanitation (JMP), would like to share with National Statistical Offices, the critical role NSOs can play in monitoring human rights to WASH, and other basic services in monitoring inequalities. Since such monitoring would require the use of various data sources, NSOs need to play a coordination role of various actors across national statistical systems. The inequalities work can be a great example of how this can be replicated across other areas for this reason we invite you to a breakfast meeting:

Venue: Landmark room, One UN Plaza (29th floor, West Tower)

Date: 10 March 2016

Provisional Agenda:

08:00 – 08:30 Breakfast

08:30 – 08:45 Welcome remarks by Dr Pali Lehohla and other dignitaries

08:45 – 09:00 Inequalities monitoring: a JMP perspective: Rifat Hossain (WHO), Tom Slaymaker (UNICEF)

09:00 – 09:05 Short intervention by UN Water on integrated monitoring of the water goal – Lis Bernhardt

09:05 – 09:30 Priorities set by NSOs across the room: interventions by selected NSO representatives

09:30 – 10:00 Implement the priorities: a dialogue, chaired by South Africa (the aim of this dialogue is to identify proposals from NSOs, to be incrementally implemented in selected countries and also how to bring this to SDG monitoring at scale)

For discussion we recognize that all global monitoring efforts focus on various levels of disaggregation. Further importance and a systematic approach need to be adopted by all monitoring mechanisms with the above backdrop. A solid evidence base highlighting inequalities in various SDG targets, including access to basic services, like water and sanitation, is therefore key to the implementation of the SDG framework, and hence its achievement.

With twenty five years of monitoring the WASH sector, with increasing focus on equity, a dedicated work stream on Equity and non-discrimination for its post2015 monitoring, and the successful conclusion of prioritization of activities by its Task Force on monitoring inequalities for drinking water sanitation for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply and sanitation (JMP), would like to share with National Statistical Offices, the critical role NSOs can play in monitoring human rights to WASH, and other basic services in monitoring inequalities. Since such monitoring would require the use of various data sources, NSOs need to play a coordination role of various actors across national statistical systems. The inequalities work can be a great example of how this can be replicated across other areas.

'Leave no one behind' within the SDGs, will have a clear focus on Africa, and other parts of the world that we 'left behind' in the MDGs. The Statistical Commission meetings of 2016 provides an excellent backdrop to have such discussions, and therefore this meeting aims to bring NSOs, and global monitors on a shared understanding how the latter could help national statistical systems in fulfilling the SDGs mantra of 'leave no one behind' in its implementation of monitoring inequalities coordinated by the former at the national level.