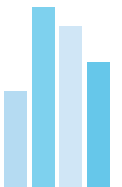**ESA/STAT/AC.320/16**

Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation
27-29 June 2016
New York

Improving Data Disaggregation by a Wider Use of Administrative Registers in Data Production
By Niels Ploug

DANMARKS
STATISTIK

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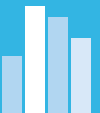
Tuesday 28 June 2016
UNICEF, New York

Niels Ploug

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A recent report from the ODI showed that

- An estimated 250 million of the world's poorest and most marginalized people are estimated to be left out from surveys and censuses

- Data do not exist for particular disadvantaged groups such as slum dwellers, indigenous people and disabled children

- And around 70 countries across the world do not have high quality data on child mortality for the past five years

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Essentiality of disaggregation of indicators

'Leaving no one behind' leaves no one in doubt about the essentiality of disaggregation of indicators.

Many goals in their essence require disaggregation, including many by age.

Example of SDG indicators where disaggregation by age is a prerequisite:

1.2.2 – proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

3.2.1 – under five mortality rate

3.7.2 – adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

MDG data

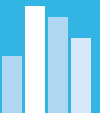## Population below national poverty line, total, percentage

- Data for developing countries - mainly from the WB's Poverty Assessments - derived from household surveys conducted by NSI's or private agencies and for developed countries from national poverty reports.

Under five mortality rate

- Household surveys - the primary source of data in developing countries - limits to their quality. (Vital registration systems are the preferred source of data - though lack of fully functioning vital registration systems).
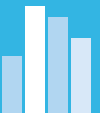
Adolescent birth rate

- (a) For civil registration data - country-reported data from the UNSD or regional Statistics Divisions.

- (b) For survey data - surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys, the Reproductive Health Surveys, and other nationally sponsored surveys.

- (c) For census data - preferably directly obtained from census reports.

Improving the data basis

- Wide context – a unique opportunity for improving statistical coverage and disaggregation in relation to the SDG and national statistics in general through a well-targeted capacity-building;

- Many different administrative registers exist in individual countries;

- The best point of departure is a unique identifier across the registers – not always available;

- However, it is possible to base statistical production on registers not connected to each other by a unique identifier;

- Not a huge technological challenge – in Denmark the system was launched in the 1960s and 70s;

- Nevertheless a top-down approach – political support is a prerequisite.

Priority issues

Capacity-building in applying administrative registers in statistical production.

Mapping of the existing administrative registers in individual countries.

Access to registers – legal issues (biggest obstacle?).

Less experience in advocating for a wider use of registers in statistical production – lot of experience with the technical aspects of statistical work with registers.
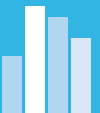
We do not have to start from scratch

- Many countries have registers that can be used in statistical production.
  - Ecuador – statistical access to population data
  - Vietnam – 2015 - adoption of Statistical Law giving access to administrative data for statistical use
- Understanding the role that administrative data can play in statistical production could be one of the important elements of harnessing the data revolution.

Questions on improving the data coverage/ disaggregation by a wide use of administrative register in production of data

- Awareness of decision-makers
  - Absolutely essential – statistical community is active in raising this awareness, what else can be done in this respect?
- Cooperation between countries on better data disaggregation
  - What can be done concretely and how far we can go? Can the whole world be saved?
- Use of basic administrative registers in statistics can provide major leaps for data disaggregation
  - How do we reach the most vulnerable in other ways – keeping costs in mind?
- Technological approach
  - Often a simple mobile phone is enough

Thank you