To disaggregate or not to disaggregate…

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Data disaggregation is a human rights issue

Producing - or not - disaggregated data is not a norm or value neutral exercise and bears substantial opportunities as well as risks for the respect, protection and fulfillment of people’s rights.
A Human Rights Perspective to Data Disaggregation

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Outline

- Data disaggregation and HR in 2030 Agenda
- Data disaggregation: HR obligation
- Data disaggregation and grounds of discrimination prohibited by IHRL
- Need for HRBA to data disaggregation practices
HR and Data Disaggregation in 2030 Agenda

- 2030 Agenda is to be implemented in line with the rights and obligations of States under international law
- leave no one behind, ..., reach the furthest behind first, ...eliminate discrimination, ... reduce inequality
- Target 17.18: disaggregation by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other relevant characteristics (A/RES/70/1)
Data Disaggregation: a Human Rights Obligation

- International human rights instruments, including ratified treaties, compel to data disaggregation to monitor inequalities and discrimination

- CRPD (Art. 31): Statistics and data collected shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, to help assess implementation of obligations under the Convention and identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights

- International human rights mechanisms urge data disaggregation by grounds of discrimination prohibited by IHRL
Prohibited grounds of discrimination

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights (Art. 1)
- Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
Grounds of discrimination & disaggregation

SDG Target 17.18

- Income
- Gender/sex
- Age
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Migratory status
- Disability
- Geographic location
- And other relevant characteristics...

- Indigenous peoples
- People of African Descent
- Religion
- Minorities
- Youth/older persons
- Undocumented migrants
- Refugees, IDPs
- LGBTI
- Persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Homeless persons
- Street children
- People living in slums
- Nomadic populations
- Prisoners
- sex workers
- (…)


Human rights guidance for data disaggregation and collection efforts

- “vulnerable groups” are those more at risk of not enjoying their human rights or being left behind
- International human rights instruments and recommendations from human rights mechanisms (Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures) provide authoritative guidance to identify vulnerable groups
- Data disaggregation efforts supported by Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBD)
“The Agenda’s promise to leave no-one behind means dismantling the structural injustice that holds back women, minorities, indigenous people, and so many millions of others… The solutions for these people, embodied in the 2030 Agenda, lie in rights-based approaches”

United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda
Participation

- “Nothing about us without us”
- In indicators definition, data collection and dissemination
- Retain trust in official statistic
- Do no harm
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda

- **Data disaggregation** in reference to grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law
- **Self-identification**: freedom to self-identify or not, in particular when touching personal identity
Human Rights-Based Approach to Data to leave no one behind in the 2030 Agenda

- **Transparency:** people’s right to information (freedom of expression, ICCP, Art. 19; Principle 1 of FPOS) and transparency in methods

- **Privacy:** data protection and confidentiality (Art. 17)

- **Accountability:** data collection for accountability, and accountability in data collection
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The essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this context that professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial.