

DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR METADATA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Background note

3rd meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

Agenda item 8: Metadata compilation for global SDG indicators

1. Goals and Targets addressed

- Linkage with Goals and Targets.

2. Definition and method of computation

- **Definition:** Precise definition of the indicator, including references to standards and classifications, preferably relying on international agreed definitions. The indicator definition should be unambiguous and in expressed in universally applicable terms. It must clearly express the unit of measurement (proportion, dollars, number of people, etc.).
- **Concepts:** Precise definition of all different concepts and terms associated with the indicator, also including reference to any associated classifications.
- **Method of computation:** Explanation of how the indicator is calculated, including mathematical formulas and descriptive information of computations made on the source data to produce the indicator (including adjustments and weighting). This explanation should also highlight cases in which mixed sources are used or where the calculation has changed over the time (i.e., discontinuities in the series).

3. Rational and interpretation

- Description of the purpose and rational behind the indicator, as well as examples and guidance on its correct interpretation and meaning.

4. Disaggregation

- Specification of the dimensions and levels used for disaggregation of the indicator (e.g., income, sex, age group, geographic location, disability status, etc.)

5. Sources and data collection

- Description of all actual and recommended sources of data, as well of the methods used for data collection. This description should include, when applicable, the sample frame used, the questions used to collect the data, the type of interview, the dates/duration of fieldwork, the sample size, the response rate, and any changes of the data source over time, details of denominator (if from a different source) and any other relevant information related to the origin of the source or indicator. Similar details should be given for administrative sources.

6. Comments and limitations

- Comments on the feasibility, suitability, relevance and limitations of the indicator.
- The concept of comments and limitations also includes data comparability issues, presence of wide confidence intervals (such as for maternal mortality ratios); provides further details on additional non-official indicators commonly used together with the indicator.

7. Current data availability / indicator tier

- Classification of the indicator into one of the following three tiers:
 - Tier 1: The indicator is conceptually clear and standards are available. Data is regularly produced by countries, and there is current data available;
 - Tier 2: Indicator conceptually clear, standards available and data not regularly produced by countries;
 - Tier 3: Indicator for which standards need still to be developed and data not regularly produced by countries.
- In addition, for indicators classified as Tier 1, information on the number of countries that have currently data for the indicator available on a regular basis.

8. Responsible entities

- Identification of national data provider, specifying the organization responsible for producing the data at national level.
- Organisations responsible for compilation and reporting on this indicator at the global level.

9. Data collection and data release calendar

- Dates when source collection is next planned.
- Expected dates of release of new data for the indicator, including the year (or, ideally, the quarter/month when the next data points associated with the indicator will become available)

10. Treatment of missing values

- Description of the methodology employed for producing estimates for the indicator when country data are not available, including any mathematical formulas and description of additional variables used as input into the estimation process.
- **Global/International context only:** Description of how missing values for individual countries or areas are imputed or otherwise estimated by international agencies to derive regional or global aggregates of the indicator.

11. Sources of differences between global and national figures

- Explanation on the differences between country produced and internationally estimated data on the indicator, highlighting and summarising the main sources of differences.

12. Regional and global estimates & data collection for global monitoring

- Description of the methodology, including any mathematical formulas, used for the calculation of the regional/global aggregates from the country values. Description of the weighting structure used for aggregating country indicator values to regional and global levels.
- Additional methodological details describing how the data from countries or areas is assembled by custodian international agencies to provide regional and global aggregates. This is distinct from the method of computation section (under point 2), which looks at how the indicator is compiled at a national level.

- Description of the mechanism for collecting data from countries, including: (i) the official counterpart at the country level; (ii) description of any validation and consultation process; (iii) description of any adjustments with respect to use of standard classifications and harmonization of breakdowns for age group and other dimensions, or adjustments made for compliance with specific international or national definitions.

13. References