



Plenary Meeting

5th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

Agenda Item 12 & 14. Data Disaggregation

30-31 March 2017

Ottawa, Canada

Commission decisions on data disaggregation

- The 47th Statistical Commission decision 47/101 (n) requested the IAEG “develop the necessary statistical standards and tools, including by establishing a working group to work on data disaggregation as a subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group.”
- The 48th Statistical Commission decision 48/101 (j) “welcomed the work stream on data disaggregation to ensure that the indicators respond to the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind”

Discussion on data disaggregation at the 4th IAEG-SDG Meeting

- The IAEG agreed that they would address data disaggregation in the following manner:
 - Review each type of disaggregation (sex, age, location, income, etc.) separately in order to achieve a consistent terminology across the framework.
 - Work on Tier I indicators first, as they are those indicators that already have the widest data coverage and on which work on data disaggregation can begin.
 - Draft a more detailed work plan for the work stream on data disaggregation that will be discussed at the 5th IAEG meeting.

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation: *Disaggregation Strategy: General Requirements and Future Steps*

- The IAEG formed a data disaggregation work plan drafting group that developed the draft work plan
- This group held several virtual meetings, conducted business via email exchange, and held a physical meeting on the side of the UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa
- The draft work plan is being presented for discussion and comments

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

Definition of Disaggregation:

Disaggregation is the breakdown of observations within a common branch of a hierarchy to a more detailed level to that at which detailed observations are taken. With standard hierarchical classifications [...] categories can be split (disaggregated) when finer details are required and made possible by the codes given to the primary observations.”

Disaggregation dimensions – the characteristics by which data is to be disaggregated (by sex, age, disability, etc.)

Disaggregation categories – the different characteristics under a certain disaggregation dimension (female/male, etc.)

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

References to Disaggregation in the 2030 Agenda

Resolution 70/1 para 74 (g):

*“They will be rigorous and based on... data which is high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by **income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics** relevant in national contexts.”*

Report of the IAEG-SDGs to the 48th session of UNSC, para 11:

“Activities will include reviewing each type of disaggregation (sex, age, location, income, etc.), and working on the harmonization of the categories for data disaggregation across the indicator framework.”

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

Proposal: Initial Starting Point for the disaggregation of each indicator

- The initial starting point for disaggregation consists of the dimensions stated in the accompanying target as well as the dimensions stated in the indicator name itself
- The work at this *initial starting point for disaggregation* will take place in three workflows:
 - Workflow A: Data availability for initial starting point disaggregation
 - Workflow B: Harmonization
 - Workflow C: Tools and Methods

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

Workflow A: Data availability for initial starting point for disaggregation

The work in this workflow consists of:

1. Analyze data availability for the dimensions for the initial starting point for disaggregation. Should start with Tier I indicators since data should already be widely available. At national level, Tier II indicators with data availability could also be used.
2. Develop an indicator classification system based on data disaggregation availability. Each *dimension* for every indicator would be classified into one of three groups based on data availability
3. After Workflow B is completed, the classification system for data availability would be complemented by an additional “*” category, reflecting data availability along the harmonized categories
4. Corresponding results would be an input for the joint sub-group of the IAEG-SDGs and HLG on capacity building

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

Workflow B: Harmonization

The work in this workflow consists of:

1. Clarify the definition of the dimensions identified at the initial starting point for disaggregation
2. Consult experts from different statistical domains and working groups in order to identify categories used for different dimensions
3. Define harmonized categories for future capacity building. These should take international standards into account, as well as accounting for diversity. Some dimensions may have a fixed number of categories, while others may have an open range of categories. The categories may also vary according to the subject

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

Workflow C: Tools and Methods

The work in this workflow will commence once the previous two workflows are completed for a given indicator/dimension. The work will consist of:

1. Analyze the limits of statistical/register tools for providing disaggregated data, based on, inter alia, the results of Workflow A. Propose strategies for alternative data sources.
2. Discuss methodological questions when national laws prevent certain types of disaggregation from being collected or when providing data at national level is impossible due to questions of confidentiality. Provide guidelines for proxy disaggregation in these cases for reporting at the Regional and Global level.
3. Analyze consequences of the results of Workflows A and B for these tools to obtain disaggregated data (i.e. population censuses, household surveys, registers, etc.). Propose strategies for undertaking methodological work to improve data disaggregation and for implementation of disaggregation tools.

Work Plan on Data Disaggregation

Step 2: Extended Disaggregation

- After the dimensions for the initial starting point on disaggregation have been identified/implemented, disaggregation should be extended to cover more dimensions mentioned in UN Resolution 70/1 para 74 (g). These additional dimensions would need to be analyzed and other relevant dimensions for each indicator identified.
- For indicators that focus on people, a starting point should be the dimensions stated in Agenda 2030
- This work can follow the same workflows proposed in step 1.