

Assessing and including the impacts of COVID-19 in Myanmar

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Outlines

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Myanmar's SDGs Status

Myanmar Central Statistical Organization is performing as a national coordinator in producing the data of SDG indicators.

- 1) SDG Data Assessment Report:** Readiness of Myanmar's Official Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals (May, 2016);
- 2) SDG Indicator Baseline Report:** Measuring Myanmar's Starting Point for the Sustainable Development Goals (August, 2017)

The processes are conducting with the support of UNDP.

It can be searched on www.mmsis.gov.mm www.csostatat.gov.mm

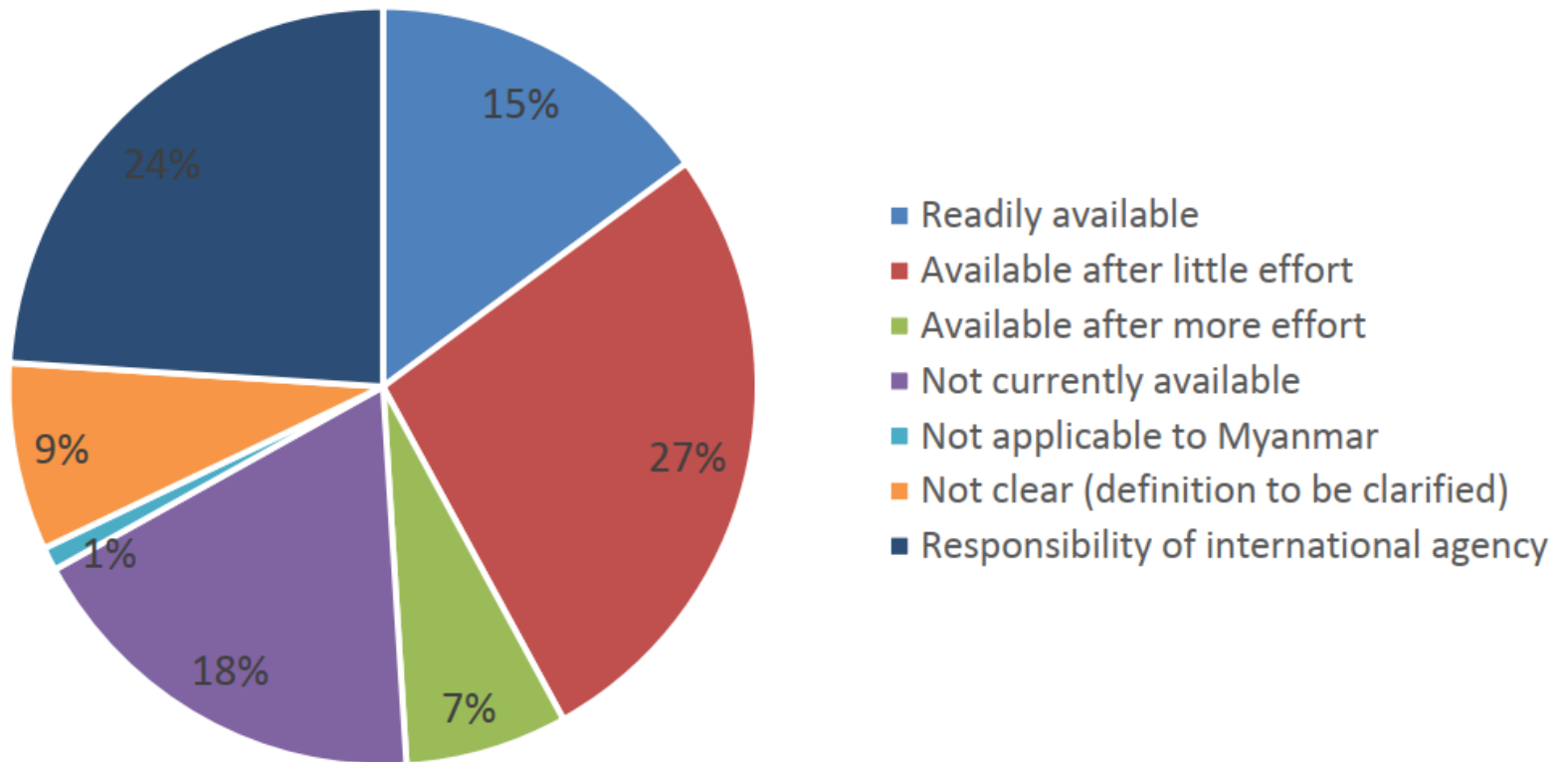
SDG Data Assessment Report

The main findings of the SDG data assessment make us very clear that how we can make the categories for improving our national data to calculate the SDGs indicators.

- 1) Indicators are readily available : 15.3%
- 2) Indicators are available after little effort : 27.1%
- 3) Indicators are available after more effort : 6.6%
- 4) Additional data collection required: 18.4%
- 5) Indicator non applicable in the case of Myanmar: 0.3%
- 6) Not clear: 8.7%
- 7) Responsibility of international institutions: 23.6%

SDG Data Assessment in Myanmar

Summarizes the findings



SDG Indicator Baseline Report

- Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry formulated this SDG indicator baseline report and it is fundamental tool to measure the progress of Myanmar's SDGs implementation.
- Global SDG indicators adoption: 196 indicators are presented in this baseline report out of the total 320 “split” indicators. Hence, 61 % of SDG indicators are available for Myanmar. Indicator availability is lowest for goals 13 and 14 (30% and 37.5%, respectively). Indicator availability is highest for goal 8 with 85%.
- It gives a summary of indicators' availability for Myanmar and then organized along the SDG goals.
- The chapters compare the data available for Myanmar with regional South-Eastern Asia and the World aggregates.

COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar

- Myanmar currently has a confirmed case load of 132,260 patients as of 13rd January, 2021.
- But continued risk of spread particularly in densely populated urban areas and on account of the return of an estimated up to 100,000 migrant workers returning from abroad.
- Even as the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis, preliminary analysis has highlighted the sudden, unprecedented and prolonged negative and differentiated socio-economic impacts across sectors, vulnerable groups including elderly, women, Internally Displaced Persons, rural and urban poor, states and regions in Myanmar.

COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

- On 2020 April 27, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MOPFI) released the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)(MOPFI 2020).
- CERP contains measures to mitigate the range of COVID-19 effects on our economy
- CERP consists of 7 Goals, 10 Strategies and 36 Action Plans, covering a broad range of extraordinary fiscal measures, combined with a set of human-focused and common-sense policy responses.
- These are aligned with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan which is firmly aligned with the SDGs.

COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

- CERP Goal: 1 “Improve macroeconomic environment through monetary stimulus” and CERP Goal: 3 “Easing the impact on labourers and workers” are aligned with SDG Goal: 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.
 - Under goal 1, there are one strategy and five action plans
 - Under goal 3, there are one strategy and two action plans

COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

- CERP Goal: 1 Improving macroeconomic environment through monetary stimulus: Government plans to provide a monetary stimulus via several different pathways:
 - Lowering bank deposit and lending rates by 3 percent (completed by Central Bank in April),
 - Lowering minimum reserves requirements by banks (completed by Central Bank), and
 - Conducting credit auctions to inject more liquidity into the banking and financing sector.
- CERP Goal: 3 Easing impact on labourers and workers: The government plans to extend labor benefits to unemployed Social Security Board (SSB) members (completed by MoLIP on March 13) and implement labor-intensive community infrastructure projects for laid-off workers and returning migrants.

COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

- CERP Goal: 6 “Healthcare Systems Strengthening” is fully aligned with SDG Goal: 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.
 - Under goal 6, there are one strategy and five action plans.
CERP Goal: 6 Strengthening healthcare systems:
 - Under immediate plans, the government will improve quarantine facilities, import key medical products required for COVID-19, and improve preventive healthcare measures.
 - For long-term plans, government will improve capacity building for the health care sector and upgrade existing health and medical facilities.

COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

- Ministry of Education is striving to reopen all primary school with the aim of improving the quality of education for all school-aged children based on SDG Goal: 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.
- If the basic education high school will be reopened, COVID-19 protection and prevention tips issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS), such as- wearing mask, sitting at a specified distance, hand washing and fever measurement must be strictly followed in every school.

COVID-19 Survey Plan

- Myanmar has planned to do
 - ✓ High-Frequency monitoring survey of COVID-19 impacts on household welfare and firm activities and
 - ✓ Socio-economic assessment of the impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar.
- The household component of the high-frequency phone survey (HFPS) will focus on assessing the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on households in urban and rural areas.
- Socio-economic Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar will include Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Key Vulnerable Groups and Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Entrepreneurs and Digital Transformation.

COVID-19 Survey Plan

- Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Key Vulnerable Groups will focus on identification and monitoring of the major socio-economic impacts need further iterative assessments at regular intervals but are known to be felt across the various economic sectors, states and regions but more particularly so in key vulnerable population groups who lack productive assets and savings, access to insurance and assured public health services.
- Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Entrepreneurs and Digital Transformation will focus on the impact of COVID19 on entrepreneurs particularly young, women owned and led businesses as micro-small enterprises.
- Myanmar Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has been working with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to create COVID-19 High Frequency Dashboard and will publish during this month.

COVID-19 Survey Plan

- Regarding COVID-19, Household Vulnerability Survey (HVS) was conducted and the data from the 2000 households from all States and Regions including Nay Pyi Taw Council were collected.
- Central Statistical Organization and UNDP are working together with line Ministries to produce timely official statistics on Myanmar Statistical Data Dashboard (MMSDD) to measure COVID-19 pandemic and its affects.
- The Myanmar Statistical Data Dashboard (MMSDD) will describe the socio-economic indicators regularly released by Central Statistical Organization and the indicators which can monitor and evaluate the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP).

COVID-19 Survey Plan

- Moreover, High-Frequency monitoring Survey of COVID-19 impacts on household welfare and firm activities and Socio-economic Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 has conducted jointly with World Bank and CSO.
- Moreover, the high-frequency phone survey (HFPS) will focus on assessing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on households in urban and rural areas.
- The results from the surveys will be described with Myanmar COVID-19 Monitoring Platform.
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/myanmar/brief/myanmar-covid-19-monitoring-platform-deeping-myanmar-informed-amid-uncertainty>

Preparation of the VNR in Myanmar

- Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is formulated by the Ministry of Planning and Finance to be aligned with the SDGs, the 12 Points Economic Policy of Myanmar and various regional commitments.
- In order to monitor and evaluate for the implementation of MSDP, as a National Statistical Organization, the Central Statistical Organization has been identifying the National Indicator Framework (NIF) with the support of all stakeholders, especially with the support of UNDP and line ministries of Myanmar.
 - As a draft, 289 indicators are included in the NIF and, among them the share of SDG indicators is 39%. The report will be published in 2021. The data report will also be released in every year.
 - Have a plan to upgrade SDG Indicator Baseline Report in every 5 years.

Preparation of the VNR in Myanmar

- Currently, Myanmar started to prepare for Voluntary National Review (VNR) jointly with Planning Department as a secretary and Central Statistical Organization as a co-secretary.
- For preparing the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to summit in time in High Level Political Forum-HLPF, the Working Group and the Core Group are formed in Myanmar.
- The Planning Department will be performed as a focal organization and the Central Statistical Organization and other related department/ ministries has been collaborating and supporting as a co-partner by participating as a member in the working group and core group, respectively.

Challenges

- Data shortage for monitoring of SDGs and available of high data quality, reliable data, timeliness, and disaggregated data
- During COVID-19, weakness of the cooperation with government and public in operational level, technical level, networking level and communication level to get data for SDG monitoring
- Capacity of statistical units needs to be strengthened
- The line ministries or departments also take initiative in generating administrative data related to SDGs

Thank you for your kind attention!