

Ten “lessons” from MDG monitoring...

1. The clarity of the MDG framework improved the use of statistics for better development policy.
2. Data for measuring MDG progress improved over time, but there is a long way to go.
3. Improving national statistical capacity is key: it should not be neglected in favor of data collection by agencies.
4. Indicators should be “fit for purpose”: for example, global progress monitoring is a different purpose to informing national policy.
5. For global advocacy and monitoring, only a handful of indicators really mattered.

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6. The IAEG worked well. But more input from national data and statistics authorities would have helped.
7. Assessing whether the world was “on-track” or “off-track” was tricky. Global targets were not national targets, for example.
8. Is it smart to be SMART? Achievable targets may not have been as useful for mobilizing global effort as ambitious ones.
9. National and international estimates can differ. Knowing why is the important thing.
10. The MDG indicator database (and metadata) is a major achievement. With advances in technology it can be even better.