

# National monitoring framework: metrics for universal targets and national specificity



**SAKIKO FUKUDA-PARR**

**PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
THE NEW SCHOOL**

**UNSD SIDE EVENT: TOWARDS NATIONALLY  
OWNED MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE SDGS  
NEW YORK, 27 FEBRUARY 2015**

# Monitoring framework: critical view of global goals and lessons of the MDGs



- National monitoring frameworks require:
  - data, and capacity for data collection, but also
  - *appropriate criteria for success: achieving the target or pace of progress*
- Accountability frameworks require:
  - monitoring with quantitative data, but also
  - *appropriate standards of performance: one size fits all target for diverse national conditions?*

# Issue one: biased criteria for success



- Lessons of the MDGs: MDGs set unrealistic targets for LDCs, SSA countries, conflict affected countries (Easterly 2009; Clemens et al 2007)
- Criteria: Evaluates performance by level achieved – targets “achieved”, “on track”, “off track” – not **pace of progress and its improvement. Off track countries are ‘trailblazers’ by pace of progress (Hailu 2011; Fukuda-Parr et al 2013)**
- One size fits all targets ignore starting points - biased against countries starting far behind. (Poverty rates: early 90’s Mali 86%; Brazil 18%. late 2000’s Mali 50%; Brazil 6%)

# Universality vs country specificity



Two contradictory principles in Rio+20 outcome document:

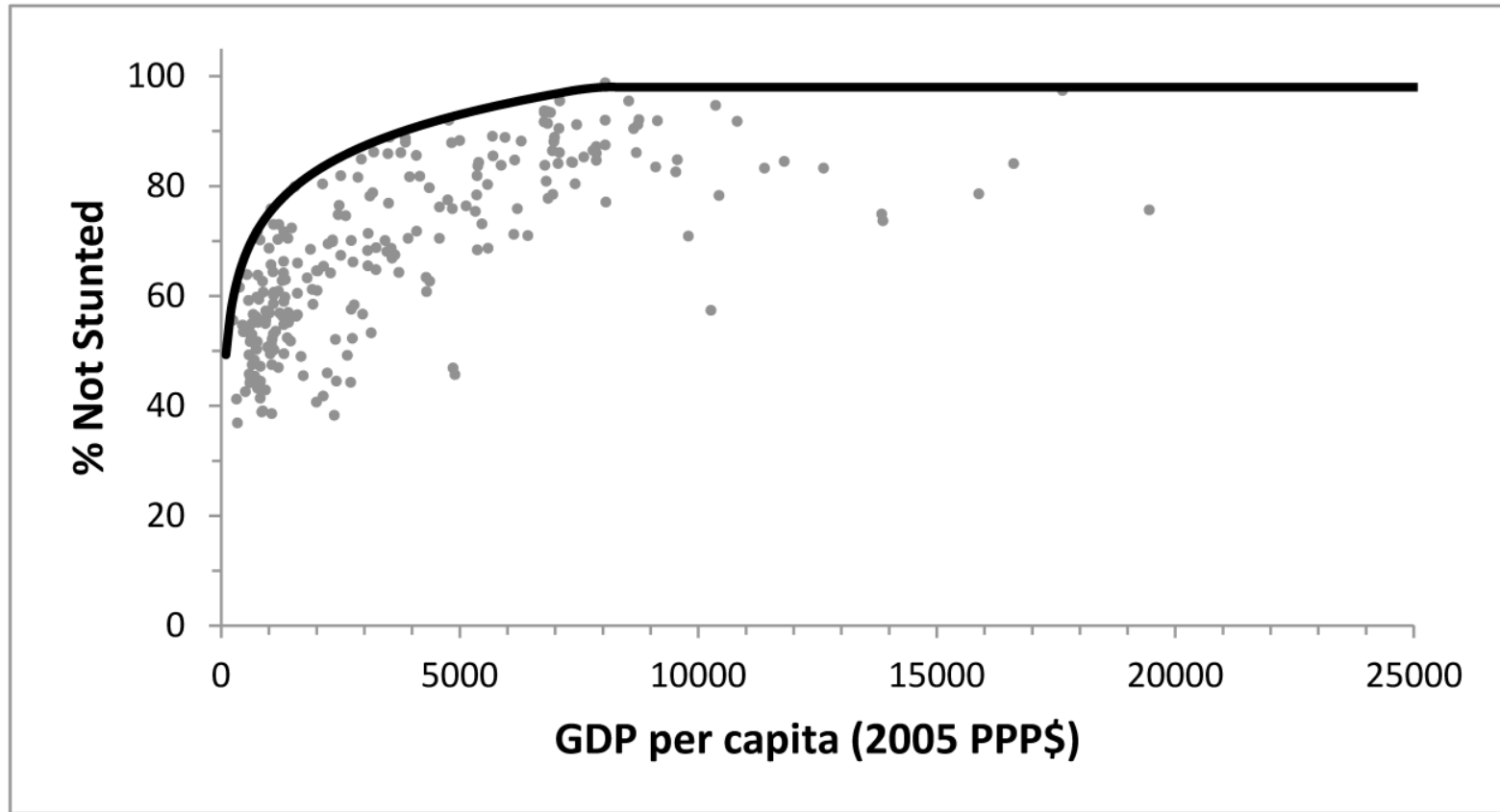
- “the SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and **universally applicable to all countries**, and focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development;”
- “the need to assess progress towards the achievement of the goals, accompanied by targets and indicators, while **taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development**”

# Proposal: achievement possibilities frontier, an empirically grounded relative standard



- Achievement Possibilities frontier method
- Gathers data on achieved levels for countries over 25 years and corresponding per capita income level
- Estimates highest possible achievement for each given income level
- Sets benchmarks according to highest level achieved historically.

# Achievement Possibilities Frontier (AFP)



# Benchmarks by income category



Per capita GDP (2005 PPP\$)	% Not Stunted
\$500	67.3
\$1000	75.0
\$2000	82.8
\$4000	90.5
\$6000	95.1

# Issue 3: Criteria for indicator choices



## **Weaknesses of many MDG choices (Power of Numbers research project):**

- used as planning targets
- inconsistent with international human rights standards
- mis-aligned with development priorities
- impossible to disaggregate
- potential for creating perverse incentives

## **Core issue: criteria for indicator selection**

- Problem with reliance on data availability: favour old agendas, donor priorities, reductionism
- Consider: potential for disaggregation, creating incentives, international human rights standards



# Issue 3: Goals and Targets for monitoring vs communications and programming

	Communication for political mobilisation	Monitoring progress	Monitoring for Human Rights accountability	Programming
<b>GOALS AND TARGETS</b>				
<b>Scope</b>	Simplicity (memorable but narrow)	Selective proxies for broader objectives	Selective proxies for broader objectives	Broad objectives and comprehensive dimensions
<b>Level</b>	Ambitious and aspirational	Realistic and benchmark (evidence based)	Ambitious but realistic, and benchmark (evidence based)	Realistic (evidence based)
<b>Quantification</b>	Concrete, measurable	Concrete, measurable	Concrete, measurable/quantifiable and non-quantifiable/qualitative	Qualitative and quantitative objectives
<b>Focus</b>	Outcome focus (easy to understand)	Outcome focus	Human outcomes, social/legal arrangements and effort (e.g., budget, policy)  Linked to international standards/norms	Outcomes, institutional arrangements, policy reforms

# Desirable Characteristics of Indicators

	Communication for political mobilisation	Monitoring progress	Monitoring for Human Rights accountability	Programming
<b>INDICATORS</b>				
<b>Policy relevance</b>	<p>Policy relevant</p> <p>Not subject to perverse interpretation and perverse secondary effects</p>	<p>Policy relevant; frequently measurable</p> <p>Not subject to perverse interpretation and perverse secondary effects</p>	<p>Policy relevant</p> <p>Not subject to perverse interpretation and perverse secondary effects</p>	<p>Policy sensitive (disaggregation/distribution)</p>
<b>Data availability and reliability</b>	Data availability and reliability	Data availability or promote data creation	Frequently measurable to hold specific administrations accountable; data availability	Data availability and promote data creation
<b>Level of aggregation</b>	Global aggregate, Inter-country comparability	<p>Global aggregate, Inter-country comparability</p> <p>Subject to disaggregation/distribution qualitative as well as quantitative</p>	<p>Linked to international standards; subject to disaggregation/distribution along gender, ethnicity, race, etc. (“prohibited grounds”) as well as income quintiles; comparable across time/countries</p> <p>Subject to local assessment/ evaluation through transparent methodology</p>	<p>Country and location-specific</p> <p>Subject to disaggregation/distribution; comparable</p>
<b>Measurable, quantitative or qualitative</b>	Quantitative	Qualitative and quantitative information	Qualitative and quantitative information	Qualitative and quantitative information

# Data selection and use in post-2015 agenda



- Limitations of the goals approach – reductionism, simplification, ill-suited to transformative, human rights based agenda
- Monitoring and accountability – local process and adaptation of targets
- Criteria for indicator selection - create incentives for data collection
- Criteria for goals/targets/indicators – appropriate for use (monitoring, programming, mobilizing)

# Thank you



**POWER OF NUMBERS, JHDC 15:2-3 SPECIAL ISSUE 2014**

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**[FUKUDAPS@NEWSCHOOL.EDU](mailto:FUKUDAPS@NEWSCHOOL.EDU)**