

Task Team 3 on Country-focused Data and Reporting: Inaugural Meeting, 24 August 2018 Minutes

Venue: UNSDG DOCO (Secretariat)

Participants:

1. ECLAC: Alicia Barcena, Pascual Gerstenfeld, Maria Ortiz Perez
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3. UNSD: Francesca Perucci
4. FAO: Dorian Kalamvrezos
5. UNFPA: Alfredo Fort
6. UNESCO: Said Ould Voffal
7. UNODC: Enrique Bisogno
8. UNESCAP: Gemma van Halderen
9. UNHCR: Kim Roberson
10. UNSDR: Ricardo Mena Speck, Rahul Sengupta
11. WHO: Richard Cibulskis
12. UNDP: Serge Kopto
13. UN ECE: Lidia Bratanova
14. OHCHR, Nicholas Fasel
15. UNSDG/DOCO: Alex Warren-Rodriguez, Uyen Huynh (Secretariat)

Take-Aways Related to Task Team Objectives:

Overall objective: To ensure that country teams are able access and apply the regional and global resources such that it supports the SDG data and reporting work at the national level in a coherent manner.

The role of the TT3 is not to provide new guidance but, to make available to UNCTs as many resources and hands-on practical tools as possible. As part of the TT3's proposed deliverables, a web-based data and reporting toolkit is outlined (See Deliverables).

- Ensuring coherent support: In addition to providing tools and better access to them, how can UNCTs work better together at the country-level to produce more meaningful impact? What can the Task Team do to help make UNCT work more coherent and impactful? In what ways can the Team encourage country colleagues to do this without being overly prescriptive from the global level?
- Providing readily available resources: What kind of content, resources and information need to be consolidated and made available to colleagues to the country teams? A lot of work has been done at the global level – i.e., IAEG, CCA, custodian agencies, etc. What are the best approaches to have these elements applied at the country-level?

The UN can play an important leadership role in brokering the knowledge and resources at the global level to the country teams. The focus of the Team will be on to assist and orient country-level colleagues to existing resources.

Inter-Task Team Coordination: The Team will work in tandem with the other three Task Teams, particularly with Task Team on Leave No one Behind (LNOB) and the Task Team on Integrated Policy Support. For LNOB, the Team will identify measurement issues that can inform their deliberations. For Integrated Policy Support, the Team will work to ensure that policy guidance and support is fully informed by and supported by data support.

Scope:

The scope of the Task Team is to respond to *the specific demands related to data and statistics* at the country-level rather than to coordinate all of the efforts across all the stakeholders in a country. There are already mechanisms in place that we can identify and assist colleagues to access more readily. Rather, the Team makes connections and provides international and regional resources to colleagues. Secondly, the team will also need to consider how the work will align with the new generation UNDAFs – to be further discussed. Lastly, the team also recognizes that both RAs and the NRAs provide valuable data support.

Deliverables:

The deliverables must be pragmatic, addressing the UNCT current needs on data and reporting, as well as, have a ‘transformational impact’ –and, building on what has already been developed.

Proposed 3 main milestones for the Task Team’s deliverables:

- **Short-term (Nov 2018):** A short-term deliverable to be ready for the November 6th meeting of the UNSDG is the first pages of the Tool kit, which will be web-based. It will include a page of a set of hyper-links to all relevant SDG data and statistical resources, with guidance on what the users might need to find. There will be an imbedded a *centralized calendar* where agencies can provide information to UNCTs and RCs on the main SDG data-related events (i.e., MICS workshops, thematic workshops, etc.) that are scheduled at the country-level, or at regional level involving that country -- to mitigate the duplication of efforts by other stakeholders. The co-leads for this deliverable are UNICEF and UNSD/DESA.
- **Medium-term (June 2019):** A Best Practices analysis highlighting country-level examples of coordinating and strengthening data and statistical systems. The co-leads are UN Women and UNDP.
- **Longer-term (August 2020):** The longer-term deliverable to be delivered within the two years of the life of the Task Team will be further developed -- based on the short and medium-term deliverables. It will be a web-based toolkit and be continuously iterated as ‘a living document’ which will continue beyond that time. The toolkit will be designed to address the questions that a (resident or non-resident) UNCT member will likely pose, with immediate guidance, as well as links to those who can provide more in-depth support. An expanded menu of web pages (suitably linked to other resources) will include, but not be limited to:
 1. Data portals and databases
 2. SDG meta-data and methodologies
 3. IAEG custodian agency focal point information
 4. Working papers and publications on methodological development
 5. SDG data working groups
 6. Regional and global SDG data and reporting initiatives
 7. UNCT calendar of key SDG data-related events (training events, workshops, missions) NB This includes in-country and regional events relevant for that country
 8. Regional mechanisms on SDG data support
 9. Country SDG reports
 10. SOP on formalizing UN interagency data and statistics groups

11. Global policies, guidelines (IATI, SDMX, etc.) and tools.

Country Needs / Some Current Assessments:

- Of the 73% of partner governments that request support from UNCTs on their national statistical capacity, 44% of UNCTs respond through a formal inter-agency working group focused on data and statistics.
- Regional commissions are currently assessing and monitoring the country-level needs and exchanging ideas for coherent statistical support.
- A recent survey was administered and coordinated by UNCTs that examines the localization of gender looking at processes and bottlenecks in the area of statistics and policy. Government officials served as respondents. Analysis will start in the coming weeks.
- Some published findings from the Second Annual Report on Regional Progress and Challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda which provides dashboards on indicator status and ECLAC country progress are found here:
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43439-second-annual-report-regional-progress-and-challenges-relation-2030-agenda>
- The Team will ensure that all these resources and findings are considered when developing the content of the deliverables.
- There may be a need for aligning the support of this Task Team with the guidance on United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the associated Common Country Analysis, which in particular addresses issues of data availability and national statistical capacity.
- Real-time assessment: To keep a better pulse on what is happening at the UNCT, the use of the Yammer platform can be used to assess perception and crowdsource ideas and feedback from the countries on perceptions and needs. The Task Team will assess whether this platform can be used to provide further information about the current statistical needs at the country-level.

Role of the Regional Commissions:

There are already considerable efforts and mechanisms in place at the regional levels. It is important for the Task Team help to further strengthen the links between the country teams and the regional commissions. This entails articulation of continued support, and SDG data-related resources that are available to the country teams. The *key is to better link* the UNCTs to these regional mechanisms.

The Team will consolidate the collective initiatives and resources that exist at the global and regional level as the basis of the repository of resources on SDG data and reporting. These will be available not only to the UNCTs but, to the Member States as well who serve as the ultimate audience.

Non-Resident Agencies:

Non-resident agencies also serve as custodians and collect valuable in-country data for some of the SDG indicators. In disaster risk reduction, a monitoring system has been developed and is available for member states to follow up on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its global targets and indicators – some of which are linked to SDGs. These are also linked to disaster loss databases that provide data for lives lost, persons affected by disasters, economic losses and damages to critical infrastructure. In this

area, the United Nations Development System is working together on the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which is the key inter-agency mechanism approved by the UN CEB that helps to channel UN system's support to Member States on disaster risk reduction. The question thus, is: How do we plug into the wealth of information that we, as an NRA, have access to, and manage ourselves so that this resource is more directly available to UNCTs?

Next steps:

- Revised TOR that includes inputs from the inaugural meeting; Circulated to the Task Team by August 31st for review with a one week turnaround (Sept 7th).
- Draft and circulate a Concept Note for the short-term deliverable that will include the required contributions from Task Team members.
- The Regional Commissions (ECE, ESCAP and ECLAC) is to provide input and resources to the Team's deliverables.
- Complete the short-term deliverable by the Nov 6th CEB meeting. The Team will need to report by this deadline and most probably, to Achim Steiner and the DSG.

Ways of working

- DOCO to serve as the Secretariat to the Task Team and provide communication and logistical support. DOCO will also scope out the necessary resources to produce the deliverables, particularly the short-term.
- Within the next two Task Team meetings, the team to consider inviting selected RCs and other UNCT members to provide input and feedback to the team's efforts. The Team will consider applying the IAEG model to assure appropriate stakeholder representation.
- TT3 members have been already identified here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QwhurgVMLa4DwbY1L3tSs7LS7EmXUVkAeJf3HmvEXAk/edit#gid=1039123055> Members will not be dropped by the Team, but can withdraw if they are not able to contribute.
- Next TT3 meeting, TBD – ideally at the end of September. Alternatively, Oct 15 and 16th during the next meeting with the Resident Coordinators where there might be a possibility of having a side meeting.