

Guidance Note

United Nations
Development
Programme

Data for Implementation and Monitoring
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

September 2017

This Guidance Note aims to provide UNDP country offices with policy directions and indicative activities for coherent and coordinated support for data and statistics for sustainable development.

It explores options for aligning the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda with national monitoring and evaluation frameworks, prioritizing SDG indicators for national monitoring, strengthening national statistical capacities, and leveraging partnerships and innovations. It is a living document that will be, continuously refined with feedback, lessons-learned and case studies from ongoing efforts to support integrated approaches to SDG implementation and reporting, and scaling up of data innovations.

Table of contents

Overview: Data and Sustainable Development	3
The 2030 Agenda Follow-up and Review Architecture	6
The Global SDG Indicator Framework	9
Work in progress	9
Who does what?	10
What does UNDP do?	11
Tailored, demand-driven approach	13
Suggested Guidance for Country Offices on Supporting Data and Statistical Development	14
A. Availability of SDG data	14
B. Prioritization of SDG indicators for data production:	15
C. Integrated M&E frameworks	19
D. Strengthen national statistical offices and data ecosystems	20
E. Coordination, partnerships and innovation	22
Available resources	24
Acknowledgements	24
Further Reading	25
Annexes	26
Annex 1: UNDP's involvement on specific SDG indicators	26
Annex 2: Standard Template for Integrated MAPS missions	27

Overview: Data and Sustainable Development

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, the international development community has sharpened its attention on the challenges of implementing and monitoring the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 related targets. Already back in 2003, the adoption by the UN System of a set of 48 indicators for the MDGs raised the profile and importance of data and statistics for development, highlighting the significant data gaps, statistical capacity needs and resources constraints of developing countries. Considering a number of factors – the ground-breaking technological progress in recent years, massive increase and commodification of computing capabilities, nearly universal and ubiquitous connectivity, exponential increase in data production – the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for more evidence-based development policy-making and implementation bolstered by enhanced capacity for statistical production, better availability of quality data and statistics, and strengthened accountability of development stakeholders. In other words, they called for a “data revolution for sustainable development.”

The report of the Secretary-General SG’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, titled *A World that Counts* (2014), further took note of the unprecedented technology progress and exponential increase in volume, level of detail, and speed of data available on societies, the economy and the environment. New and traditional data sources are being integrated to produce high-quality, detailed, timely and relevant information to foster and monitor sustainable development. Through greater transparency and openness, the usefulness of data can be increased while respecting privacy and human rights.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) recognizes the central role of national statistical systems supported by the private sector, civil society and academia, and calls for strengthening national capacities, ensuring access to tools, making data standards interoperable, and increasing global data literacy. It also notes that high quality data is essential for smart and transparent decision-making, and can improve policy-making analysis, monitoring and reporting of progress at all levels.

Building on and going further than the Millennium Declaration, the 2030 Agenda enshrines the principle of monitoring development results and the importance of data and statistics for sustainable development. SDG target 17.18 aims to “*increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts*”, while target 17.19 calls for new measures of sustainable development progress beyond GDP.

Taken together, these seminal documents affirm the critical importance of data and statistics for:

- Informing development policies and implementation;
- Leaving no one behind;
- Risk-informed development;
- Accountability, participation and empowerment; and
- Monitoring progress.

The complexity, indivisibility and inter-connectedness of the SDGs will require significant evidence-driven research and analysis to ensure the coherence of implementation efforts and to manage unavoidable trade-offs. The challenges of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and other countries in special situation such as conflict or fragility will warrant special attention. Timely, reliable, open and accessible data not only enables governments and policymakers to be more responsive to the needs of citizens, but it also empowers people to make informed decisions and take action within their communities.

Ultimately, more and better data can contribute to informed advocacy for inclusive development, better policies, better decisions, greater participation and accountability and more empowered people, leading to better outcomes for people and the planet.

With at least 232¹ indicators and counting, an integrated and indivisible framework, and a fundamental principle of “Leaving no one behind” the 2030 Agenda increases by orders of magnitude the scale and scope of data required to implement and monitor sustainable development, challenging even countries with the best statistical capacity. No single stakeholder will be able to meet all these challenges alone. Data from non-official, third-party sources can complement official statistics where gaps exist, while respecting national ownership. Heeding the calls of the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda will require scaling up of resources mobilization and partnerships for statistics, leveraging of technological progress and new data sources, and engaging in innovative partnerships with third party stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and academia.

By mobilizing the international community around measurable indicators, the MDGs set in motion a number of efforts and initiatives by various international development stakeholders to address those issues. UNDP, as well as other UN agencies and development partners, provided support in many areas of statistical development, including: national statistical strategies, capacity building, data collection and surveys, statistical analysis, data dissemination and reporting development results. As the UN’s MDG “scorekeeper” at country level, UNDP collaborated on strengthening of local data collection and analytical capacities, participatory reviews of the MDGs, and the production of regular nationally-owned MDG Reports (MDGRs). UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2014-2017 further commits the organization to continue providing such support in the context of the SDGs.

1. At its 48th session in March 2017, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted a refined list of 232 unique global SDG indicators and endorsed a workplan to further revise the list of indicators by 2020. The official list of global SDG indicators is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>.

UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017 Output 7.2: Global and national data collection, measurement and analytical systems in place to monitor progress on the post 2015 agenda and sustainable development goals.

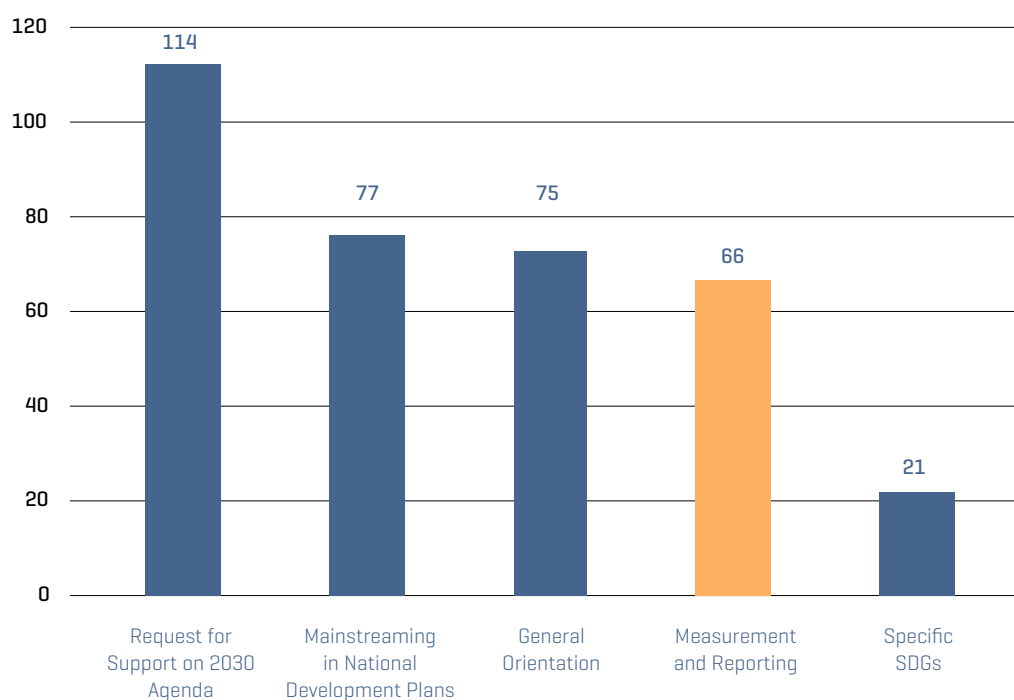
In order to facilitate coherence across the UN system, the UN Development Group (UNDG) adopted a common approach to frame support for SDG implementation, called MAPS. It consists of three main pillars of intervention:

- **Mainstreaming:** Land and contextualize the global development agenda at national and sub-national levels;
- **Acceleration:** Identify bottlenecks, synergies and trade-offs across sectors, for targeted policy interventions and resources allocation; and
- **Policy Support:** Pooled, coordinated and coherent response across different UN entities to countries' requests of policy support.

2. The UNDG Mainstreaming Reference Guide for UN Country Teams includes guidance on indicator development, data collection, data disaggregation and participatory and monitoring systems <https://undg.org/document/mainstreaming-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-reference-guide-for-un-country-teams/>

Strengthening data and statistical capacities is included as a cross-cutting element across all three pillars of the MAPS common approach². Indeed, more than half of the requests for support on SDG implementation received by UN Country Teams in 2016 related to measurement and reporting.

Figure 1: Support requests received from Governments by UNCTs in 2016



Source: UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO)

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3. UNDP's Data Ecosystem Mapping project (report forthcoming) assesses official statistical capacity, legal and policy frameworks for data and statistics, stakeholders and their participation in national data processes, SDG data availability, and the infrastructure requirements for data collection, processing and dissemination.

This Guidance Note aims to provide UNDP country offices with policy directions and indicative activities for coherent and coordinated support for data and statistics for sustainable development. It further aims to provide an understanding of the current SDG indicators and reporting processes at the global to the regional, national and local levels, and to help facilitate consistency and coherence across these levels of follow-up and review. The note explores options for aligning the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda with national monitoring and evaluation frameworks, prioritizing SDG indicators for national monitoring, strengthening national statistical capacities, and leveraging partnerships and innovations. It further draws lessons from past and current efforts to report on the MDGs and to support the data revolution for sustainable development, strengthen national data ecosystems³ and report on development progress. The recommendations included in this Guidance Note should be considered a menu of options that should be tailored to specific country context, focusing on national needs and priorities, and not necessarily in a sequential manner.

Given the innovative, highly dynamic and fast moving nature of the data for development field, this Guidance Note is intended to be a living document, continuously refined with feedback and contributions from colleagues engaged in supporting practical implementation of statistical development policies at national and sub-national levels, case studies from ongoing efforts to support integrated approaches to SDG implementation and reporting, and lessons-learned from scaling up of data innovations.

The 2030 Agenda Follow-up and Review Architecture

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4. A/RES/70/1, Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paragraph 74. <http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

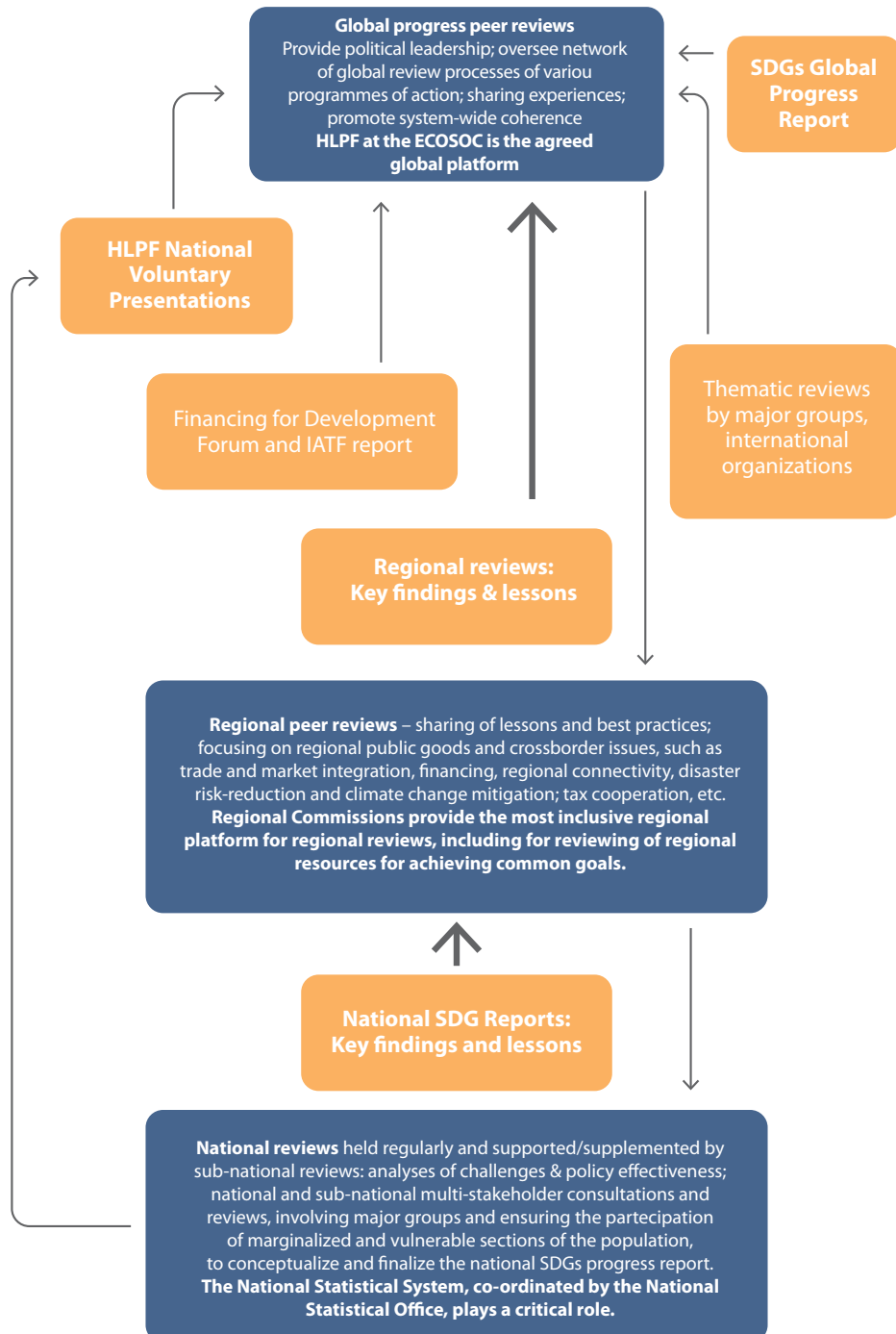
As an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, United Nations member states outlined fundamental principles⁴ for monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of the SDGs at all levels. The follow-up and review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda must:

- Be voluntary, country-led and nationally-owned;
- Respect integrated and inter-related nature of goals and targets, and the three dimensions of sustainable development;
- Be inclusive of all SDG targets, including the Means of Implementation targets;
- Be universal, applicable to all countries and involve all relevant stakeholders;
- Be participatory, inclusive, and transparent;
- Be people-centred, gender-sensitive, based on human rights, with a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind;
- Be rigorous, evidence-based, informed by country-led data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;
- Build on existing platforms and processes.

At the **national and sub-national levels**, member states recommend undertaking regular and inclusive reviews. At the **regional** level, the follow-up and review of the SDGs could con-

sist of peer learning, sharing of best practices, and discussion on shared targets and cross-border issues. At the **global** level, the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) constitutes the apex of the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review architecture. It is mandated to promote better accountability and focus efforts towards action on the ground, review implementation of the SDGs by all member states across the three pillars of sustainable development, and respond to new and emerging development trends.

Figure 2: Follow up and Review architecture of the 2030 Agenda



5. A/70/684, Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level. <http://www.undocs.org/A/70/684>

The HLPF convenes every year at the **ministerial** level under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It brings together ministers covering economic, social and environmental portfolios. UN member states are encouraged to submit voluntary national reviews (VNRs) to the HLPF, following common guidelines proposed by the Secretary-General⁵. Each year, the HLPF will discuss a specific theme, focusing on a sub-set of SDGs for in-depth review (See Table 1). Every SDGs will be reviewed within a four-year cycle, with SDG 17 on Means of Implementation discussed at every HLPF session.

Every four years, the HLPF will meet at Heads of State level at the **General Assembly**, with the intent of keeping sustainable development issues atop the international political agenda. In these summits, Heads of State will negotiate declarations to provide high-level policy guidance and set the level of ambition for action and results. (The next session of the HLPF at the General Assembly will take place in 2019.)

The HLPF considers several reports to inform its deliberations, including:

- A quadrennial **Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)**: Intended to strengthen the science-policy interface at the HLPF, the GSDR will provide an integrated, cross-cutting and evidence-driven analysis of sustainable development policies and their implementation. The timing of the GSDR will coincide with the Heads of State level meetings of the HLPF. The next GSDR (2019) will be drafted by an independent panel of 15 scientists appointed by the Secretary General, and supported by an inter-agency task team composed of the UN Secretariat, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD and the World Bank⁶.
- An annual **SDG Progress Report**: Prepared by the Secretary-General, this report is based on the global SDG indicator framework. Using data produced by national statistical systems, it assesses progress against the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- Thematic reports from ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums, as well as from non-governmental stakeholders.

6. UN Press Release: Experts, Eminent Scientists to Draft Report on Sustainable Development Ahead of Global Review Set for 2019, 3 January 2017, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/envdev1770.doc.htm>

Table 1: HLPF focus in upcoming years

Year	Theme	SDGs to be reviewed in-depth
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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_11998

