

Monitoring selected SDG indicators in Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States

Online Course based on contributions from the Pacific Community, UN Statistics Division, ESCAP, WHO, World Bank Group and PFTAC - IMF

Course Syllabus

Course duration: 19 December 2019 – 30 June 2020



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Background

This e-learning course was developed further to a series of regional workshops conducted in the Asia-Pacific region for Small Island Developing States in September 2019. The e-course aims to strengthen the capacities of these countries to organize national processes to monitor and inform the reporting on SDG indicators, as well as to fill in their identified selected priority data gaps that were not yet addressed through other capacity development programs.

Target audience

This course is open to everyone interested but is primarily targeted towards the National Statistical Offices, other parts of National Statistical Systems as well as key data users within the Governments of Small Island Development States.

Participants can follow the course at their own pace, and can earn a certificate provided they have met the certification requirements described in the “Certification and feedback” section.

Learning objectives

It is expected that, by the end of the course, participants will be better positioned to:

- 1) Describe ways to build national SDG indicator frameworks to track progress on SDGs at the country level in accordance with national priorities;
- 2) Define practical ways to address some of the challenges faced by SIDS on SDG monitoring and data disaggregation by better leveraging various data sources;
- 3) Identify key components of the monetary poverty measurement methodology used by the World Bank and possible non-monetary approaches to poverty measurement applicable in the context of the Pacific SIDS;
- 4) Describe how SDG 3 indicators are computed and how they can inform better policies;
- 5) Describe how selected SDG indicators pertaining to budget implementation, and resource mobilization and use under Goal 17 are computed and how they can inform better policies.

Structure

Module 1. Mapping SDG indicators to national processes

Module 2. Measuring poverty and hardship in the Pacific

Module 3. Monitoring health-related SDG indicators

Module 4. Finance-related SDG indicators

Learning methodology

This self-paced course consists of four modules developed around the overall learning objectives, as well as second-level learning objectives specific to each module. The modules will be rolled out progressively. The estimated learning time per module ranges from 2 to 5 hours. Modules can be followed separately if a participant is only interested in catching up on some specific issues. Modules comprise case studies and learning videos that aim to help retain better the presented information and appreciate the application of theory in practice. Each module is followed by an objective multiple-choice assessment (summative assessment).

Module 1. Mapping SDG indicators to national processes

Module 1 will help participants to improve their understanding of the home-grown processes to map SDG indicators to national frameworks and data sources and identify those indicators that can help inform policies and work in response to national priority areas and specific circumstances of each country. The module will also address some of the key challenges related to data collection on SDGs, including the need for disaggregated data reflecting the situation of specific groups within a population, including the most vulnerable, and the specificity of this challenge in the context of small island developing States, and highlight possible solutions to some of these challenges. Data collection on small or vulnerable populations is an ongoing challenge in the Pacific since a low prevalence of some variables (such as disability) means that these groups may have limited representativeness in survey sample frames, which exacerbates their vulnerabilities and exclusion in monitoring and reporting. Additionally, confidentiality issues may arise with some data disaggregation tabulations so that reporting cannot be done. The module will look at different data sources, both administrative data source and new data sources, to explore how they can be used to improve data availability for SDGs. Case studies from several countries and sectors will be used to showcase good practices.

Learning objectives

It is expected that, by the end of the module, participants will be better positioned to:

1. Describe ways to build national indicator frameworks encompassing SDGs and regional agendas to track progress in accordance with national priorities;
2. Recognize the importance of data disaggregation for better policies and specific challenges of SIDS;
3. Define practical ways to address some of the challenges faced by SIDS on SDG monitoring and disaggregated data by better leveraging various data sources.

Structure

Chapter 1. Introducing national monitoring of progress on SDGs

Chapter 2. Challenges and opportunities to ensure data availability for SDGs in Asia-Pacific SIDS

Module 2. Measuring poverty and hardship in the Pacific

This module will combine an introduction to both monetary and non-monetary poverty measurement and provide an overview to four indicators under SDG1. Monetary poverty measurement requires two key pieces of information: a consumption or income aggregate and a poverty line. In the Pacific, the data to construct the aggregate comes from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), and in all countries in the region except Fiji, the aggregate is based on household consumption. Consumption data itself is composed of data from many parts of the HIES: food and frequent non-food spending from the household expenditure section, food consumed outside the household from individual spending sections, spending on health and education from sector modules, etc., as well as two values which are calculated using economic models: use value of durables and the implied cost of housing. These values are aggregated, and an adjustment factor is then applied to account for the different costs of living in different parts of the country. When the total value is put into per capita terms, it becomes

the final consumption aggregate. For the poverty line, the international poverty line can be used, which is US 1.90 per person per day adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity (SDG 1.1.1), or a national cost of basic needs line can be calculated based on local caloric requirements and spending patterns from the HIES (SDG 1.2.1). Whichever line is used, the poverty headcount is determined by the weighted share of population living in households with consumption below the poverty line. This will be complemented by the presentation of emerging recommendations for the Pacific islands. Non-monetary poverty, or multi-dimensional poverty, considers concepts of well-being beyond income and consumption. One specific methodology based on the consensual approach and applied by Tonga will be introduced in the module showing how the population can be involved in both defining poverty and providing information on their status with regards to this definition. In addition, a methodology related to the indicator on access of households to basic services will be presented.

Learning objectives

1. Identify key components of the monetary poverty measurement methodology used by the World Bank;
2. Explain describe emerging recommendations for the Pacific SIDS reviewed by the Pacific Statistical Board Methods;
3. Provide an example from the region of a possible approach to multidimensional poverty measurement.

Structure

Chapter 1. Monetary poverty measurement by World Bank Group and recommendations for the Asia-Pacific region

Chapter 2. Multidimensional poverty measurement in the Asia-Pacific

Indicator/group of indicators	Tiers	Custodian agency
1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	Tier 1	World Bank
1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Tier 1	World Bank
1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Tier 2	National Governments
1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	Tier 2	ILO
1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	Tier 2	UN-Habitat
1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure	Tier 2	UN-Habitat & World Bank

Module 3. Health-related SDG indicators

Monitoring SDG indicators is critical to tracking progress at both national and global levels. Accurate, consistent quality and robust data remain critical also for health-related SDG indicators. Ensuring that operational processes to collect, collate, transmit, report, analyse and use SDG indicators and the underlying datasets are effective and efficient remain a challenge and priority in the Pacific. This Module describes status quo, challenges, and opportunities to act. It will also provide an introduction into selected health indicators related non-communicable diseases, coverage of essential health services, and health worker density and distribution.

Learning objectives

1. Discuss the current status of health data in the region against relevant SDG indicators;
2. Identify the key components of the methodologies for the computation of selected health-related indicators under the SDGs;
3. Identify possible data sources for some of the above indicators relevant in specific country context.

Structure

Chapter 1. Data availability situation in the Pacific SIDS on SDG 3 and health-related indicators

Chapter 2. Computation of selected SDG health-related indicators.

Indicator	Tier	Custodian agency
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	Tier 1	WHO
3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate	Tier 2	WHO
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	Tier 1	UNICEF
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Tier 1	DESA Population Division
3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	Tier 1	WHO
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access)	Tier 1	WHO
3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	Tier 1	WHO
6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated	Tier 3	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD

Module 4. Finance-related SDG indicators

Module 4 will cover selected indicators related to personal access to financial services, budget implementation and revenues raised under Goals (8, 16 and 17). It will provide key definitions such as those for the government sector, the central budget and various types of government expenditure and revenues, necessary to derive SDG indicators under goals 16 and 17. Discussions on national level

budgetary indicators will assist countries in reporting on government budget reliability, types of revenue raised, and economic stability.

Learning objectives

1. Provide definitions for key components (variables) necessary to compute key finance-related SDG indicators such as those on budget implementation, government revenue as a share of GDP per type and share of budget funded through domestic taxes;
2. Describe the computation method for the above indicators and indicator on personal access to financial services.

Structure

Chapter 1. Key definitions for finance-related SDG indicators

Chapter 2. Computation of selected finance-related indicators

Indicator	Tier	Custodian agency
16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	Tier 1	World Bank
17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	Tier 1	IMF
17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	Tier 1	IMF
17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	Tier 1	World Bank
8.10.2 - Proportion of adults (aged 15+) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with mobile-money service provider	Tier 1	World Bank

Certification and feedback

Each of the four modules is followed by an objective multiple-choice assessment or a quiz. Three attempts are allowed per quiz. The attempt with the highest score is retained as the grade for the module. Each attempt proposes 3-5 questions drawn at random from the respective question bank. For each question, the correct responses add up to 1 point. Each incorrect response is penalized individually by -0.1 point. Participants would need to obtain a minimum of 7 points out 10 points for the module quiz to complete the assessment requirements.

Participants interested in obtaining a certificate of completion for the course would need to meet the above requirement for all of the 4 modules. Those participants who complete the requirements for at least 3 out of 4 modules are entitled to a certificate of participation.

Participants will be requested to provide feedback on the course by filling in a feedback form which can be accessed in the 'Course Evaluation' section on the course home page.

Technical requirements

Browser:

- The course works best with Firefox 3.6 or higher (download for free at <http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/firefox>)
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome (download for free at <https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/>)
- It is not recommended to use Internet Explorer for technical reasons
- Note JavaScript & Cookies must be enabled

Software:

- Adobe Acrobat Reader (download for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>).
- Adobe Flash Player (download for free at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer>)
- Microsoft Office (Windows or Apple version) or Open Office (download for free at <http://www.openoffice.org>)

Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X

Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space

Modem: 56 K