Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

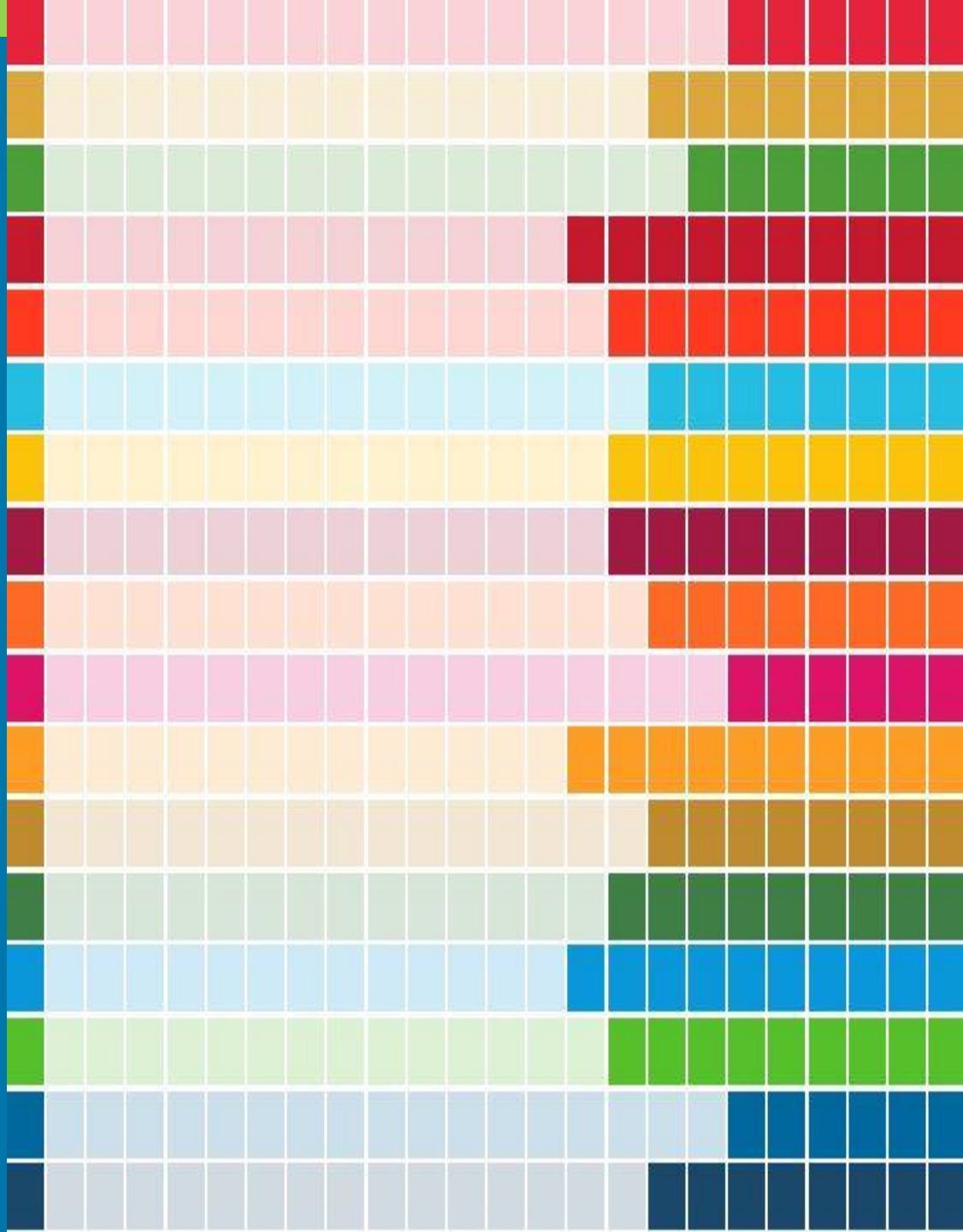
Data 4 the SDGs

Resource Partners Roundtable

Wednesday, 19 June
14:00 - 16:30
Ethiopia room (C285)

Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division

Office of the Chief Statistician



Global data gaps for SDG monitoring

Background – Role of data to achieve the SDGs

- **To achieve the SDGs, high quality data** (relevant, timely, reliable, comparable) are needed in order to:
  - **Determine breadth & depth of the problems and identify affected populations**
  - **Inform the formulation of policies and investment decisions**
  - **Monitor progress** towards the SDGs and **evaluate the impact of policies**

- According to the available evidence (several key indicators are still missing) t**he world is not on track to meeting the overwhelming majority of SDG targets related to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition**. Regression is the norm, with only a few areas reflecting moderate progress. Evidently, the policies implemented are insufficient.

- One key factor is the lack of relevant data. Although the Global Indicator Framework was endorsed by the UN GA in 2017, SDG data gaps are pervasive, for 2 main reasons:
  - **Non-alignment of national/regional indicators with the GIF**
  - **Low investments in SDG data production and use**

Non-Alignment of the indicator frameworks

Non-alignment of national monitoring frameworks and the global SDG indicator framework

- Few countries use SDG indicators systematically in the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** submitted to the HLPF. Annual assessments of the VNRs (Canadian Council for International Co-operation) highlighted that data supporting SDG monitoring, including disaggregated data, are often very weak.

- VNRs reporting on hunger & food security always use **different, incomparable indicators with contradictory results** (Is FS a priority? Should we focus on social protection, resilience or prevention?)

- Analysis of 12 **National Reporting Platforms** (across North America, Europe, Asia and Oceania) highlights that for the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship **only in 12% of cases** the data are consistent with the global SDG database.

Non-alignment of regional monitoring frameworks with the global SDG indicator framework

- **Eurostat's** "Sustainable Development" indicator set diverge from the global SDG indicator framework – even SDG indicators widely available for European countries are not included
- Even after a reconciliation exercise, the **African Union's (AU)** "Integrated Regional Indicators Framework of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063" only includes 9 out of the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship
- Even after a reconciliation exercise, the **Malabo Scorecard** for measuring progress towards the AU's Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural growth includes 10 indicators similar to SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, but for only 3 the methodology is aligned, and data differ.

Main benefits of aligning to global SDG indicators

- Clear, **consistent assessments** of progress towards SDG achievement: => effective and convergent evidence-based policies can be implemented
- Increase countries' **visibility** in global and regional progress reports: => country can benefit from international development assistance
- Allow **benchmarking** national performance with other countries: => key additional element to guide national policy decisions
- Reduce **data requirements: =>** reduce **reporting burden** on population, farms, …
- Reduce and align **capacity development needs: =>** increase the chances to benefit from **technical assistance programs** of international agencies

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Data Gaps for the SDG Indicators under FAO Custodianship

FAO SDG Data Gap Assessment: Preliminary Results

- 111 countries have responded to the FAO questionnaire. The results help FAO identify national priorities and prepare technical assistance plans.

- **Agricultural surveys/Forestry/Fishery assessments not conducted regularly**. 63% of countries required assistance to strengthen institutional & technical capacity to design, collect, analyze and use the data on a regular basis

- **Even when surveys are regularly conducted do not cover many SDG indicators**: 73.4% of countries required assistance to upgrade existing data collection tools or strengthen technical capacities to produce and disaggregate relevant SDG indicators

- **In some cases data available but not reported, analyzed or/and used**:
  - 60.6% of countries required assistance to improve their institutional coordination mechanisms on data reporting
  - 62.4% of countries required assistance on the analysis/interpretation of the SDG indicators

SDG 2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

- The **only** SDG indicator that can provide a direct, timely and comparable assessment of food insecurity, disaggregated by sex and location. Also included in the AUC's integrated framework and Malabo scorecard.
- Only **16** countries currently compile it with national surveys. For the rest, FAO derives data through the Gallup World Poll (GWP), conducted in 140 countries since 2014
- The GWP has allowed to test the method, develop global thresholds, ensure global monitoring of severe and moderate food insecurity. Without new funding the GWP will be **discontinued** in 2020, seriously affecting FAO global reporting capacity
- Adopting the FIES is very **simple**: only 8 questions to be included, already translated in national languages, software for data analysis available
- Potential national official data sources for this indicator **abound**: FAO's SDG Gap Assessment reveals that 96.7% of countries have regular household surveys.
- 58 countries have **requested further assistance** on this indicator. It is therefore **urgent** to scale up support to countries.

SDG 2.4.1: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

- The **only** SDG indicator to provide a comparable assessment of agricultural sustainability across the social, economic and environmental dimensions
- Critical for FAO's work to promote sustainable food and agriculture (SP2)
- However, **no country** produces this indicator yet.
- Many countries conduct some forms of agricultural surveys that could be upgraded to cover this indicator. FAO has developed the AGRIS methodology to help countries in redesigning their farm survey programme and expand its coverage of SDG indicators.
- In addition, the "50x2030" initiative, if funded, should support 50 countries to produce this indicator by 2030.
- 54 countries have requested further assistance on this indicator. It is therefore **extremely urgent** to scale up support to countries to appropriately adapt their agricultural surveys so as to produce SDG indicator 2.4.1.

SDG 5.a.1: Women's access to land

- The **only** SDG indicators that can provide a comparable assessment of women's ownership and secure rights over agricultural land. Also included in the AUC's integrated framework and Malabo scorecard.

- However, **no country** produce either indicator yet.
- Potential national official data sources for this indicator **abound**: Indicator 5.a.1 could potentially be collected either through household or agricultural surveys.

- FAO and the WB have jointly developed a short questionnaire that can be included in any national survey to produce both 1.4.2 and 5.a.1
- Another indicator that can be produced by the "50x2030" initiative, if funded, in 50 countries by 2030.

- 46 countries have requested support for these two indicators. It is therefore **extremely urgent** to scale up support to countries to appropriately adapt their national surveys to produce SDG indicator 5.a.1

SDG 6.4.1 & 6.4.2: Efficiency & sustainability of water use

- The **only** SDG indicators that can provide a comparable assessment of the efficiency and sustainability of water use in a country

- However, **very few countries** produce either indicator yet. In the past, assessments were normally conducted by FAO and validated with national authorities. As this exercise was costly and cumbersome, it resulted in very sparse data (most countries have only 1/2 data points since 2000).

- Since 2018, FAO has been sending an annual questionnaire to countries to generate both indicators. However, in 2018, out of the 84 countries that responded, **only 39** completed all the necessary sections (only 11 countries from high water stress regions - Northern Africa, Central and Western Asia)

- **48** countries have requested technical assistance on these two indicators. It is therefore **urgent** to scale up support to countries in collecting and analysing the necessary data on water use efficiency and sustainability

SDG 12.3.1.a: Food loss index

- The **only** global indicator for systematically measuring food losses in a comparable way across countries. Reducing food losses is also a priority in regional frameworks (EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, AU's Malabo Declaration)

- Up to now, food loss quantities were collected through Food Balance Sheets for **very few countries** and **very few commodities**. Even this limited data was of dubious quality, often based on expert judgement rather than direct measurement.

- FAO has developed a series of Guidelines to design **surveys** to collect all the necessary information along the supply chain for different food groups. However, most countries lack the capacity & resources to carry out these surveys.

- 59 countries have requested further assistance (more than for any other indicator). It is **urgent** to scale up support to countries in designing and implementing the needed supply chain data collection for effectively computing food losses

SDG 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

- The **quintessential** sustainability indicator for marine resources, already used during the MDG process
- However, **the indicator is only available at global and regional level**!
- Only a handful of highly developed countries conduct national fish stock assessments, which are usually conducted on a limited number of species
- It is for this reason that FAO is developing new "simple methods" to allow for country reporting of fish stock sustainability status even in data poor situations, and is preparing a new questionnaire to collect this information
- 50 countries have requested further assistance on this indicator. It is therefore **urgent** to scale up support to countries to identify the suitable stock assessment methods and begin reporting on this indicator at country level

Key Takeaway Messages

- **The policy measures taken by governments and the international community are not sufficient** to ensure we can achieve sustainable food and agriculture by 2030

- A key factor is the **lack of high quality SDG data,** which hampers the formulation and monitoring of effective policies to achieve the SDGs. For 2 main reasons:

- First, often **SDG indicators used at national and regional levels are different from the GIF.** As a result, policy-makers receive contradictory messages and policies cannot be evidence-based

- Second, **investments in SDG data production and use are very low.** As a result, a minority of countries have the capacity to report on the SDGs

- Countries can be enabled to produce and use most of the FAO-relevant SDG indicators at low cost by **upgrading existing surveys & data collection tools**

Measuring the SDGs

Current FAO programs to address the SDG data gaps

- **Measuring the SDGs builds on a series of interventions** implemented over the last 3 years and ongoing programmes of technical assistance on specific indicators
- **FAO Corporate resources** deployed in 2016-17 and 2018-19 to conduct methodological work & pilot testing; organize regional trainings, technical assistance missions, translate e-learning courses and intensify communication and outreach activities
- **FAO technical cooperation projects (TCPs)** at regional & country-levels
- **Sectoral extra-budgetary projects** (Global forest resources assessments; Global Environmental Management Initiative-GEMI phase I & II; Voices of the hungry; AGRIS; Global Strategy)
- **Main limitations** of these programs:
  - **Limited funding** (especially for Statistical capacity development)
  - **Short-term interventions**, covering more urgent needs & selected countries
  - Only targeting a **selected number of SDG indicators**

Measuring the SDGs:
Overall strategy to address SDG data gaps

5 AREAS

1.  **Development, testing and documentation of methods** (e.g. data disaggregation techniques, use of EO data…)

2.  **Data gap assessment and development of Statistics Strategic plans (including budget)** that align with the SDG Indicator

3.  **Supporting implementation of new cost-effective data collection tools (e.g. AGRIS, Remote sensing, stock assessment)**

4.  Upgrading existing data collection tools to **produce FAO-relevant SDG indicators**

5.  Improving **data dissemination, analysis & use of FAO-SDG indicators for decision-making**

Partnerships

1

Methodological development

→ Development of **standard methods** for data disaggregation by **geographical location and population groups**

→ Conducting **additional research and test the use of EO data** to produce and disaggregate SDG indicators

→ Development of **practical guidelines**

Partnerships: SEN4STAT, ESA, 50by2030 initiative, GRAiNS

2 Data gaps assessment and development of Statistics Strategic plans (including budget)

→ Assess **data gaps** and identify **relevant national data sources**

→ Review **national SDG indicators** and support their **alignment with the Global Indicator Framework**

→ **Upgrade national statistical master plans** to ensure that the SDG indicators can be regularly produced in a sustainable way

→ Assist with r**esources mobilization at national level**

→ Support the establishment of the **institutional network of national indicator focal** points for global SDG reporting

Partnerships: 50by2030 Initiative, Regional commissions/organizations, UN country teams, Global Strategy (Phase 2)

3 Support implementation of new cost-effective data collection tools

New cost-effective tools for data collection critical to bridge data gaps without overburdening countries:

AGRISurvey: farm-based modular multi-year survey program (data source for SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1, 12.3.1 (partially))

Use of EO data for statistical purposes: critical source for a number of SDG indicators and for agricultural statistics

- Direct source: Forest cover; Mountain Green Cover; sub-indicator of Land degradation; sub-indicator of Agricultural Sustainability, subnational data disaggregation
- Indirect source: Crop area and production
- Tool to improve the design of agricultural surveys (Area frame)

Partnerships: 50by2030 Initiative, WB (LSMS), WCA, ESA, SEN4Stat, Global Strategy (phase 2)

4 Enable countries to produce and report on SDG indicators and targets

Specific technical assistance programmes on each of the 11 Thematic Areas

- ✓ Food Security
- ✓ Smallholders' income and productivity
- ✓ Sustainable agriculture
- ✓ Women's access to land
- ✓ Plant and animal biodiversity
- ✓ Government Investment in Agriculture
- ✓ Food Price Volatility
- ✓ Water use sustainability
- ✓ Food loss and waste
- ✓ Fisheries sustainability
- ✓ Forests and mountains sustainability

Partnerships: 50by2030 Initiative, WCA, WB (LSMS), IMF, UN-Water, UNEP, Regional Commission/Organizations

5 Dissemination, analysis and use of SDG indicators for decision-making

Promoting open data access

- Help countries to adopt the legal, methodological and software tools to publish SDG-relevant microdata files, indicators and reports

Development of the analytical capacity

- Support the preparation of *Voluntary National Reports* and national SDG progress reports
- Strengthen NSOs' capacity in data analysis and communication
- Service the data use component of other FAO programmes (e.g. FAO SPs, FAO and Agriculture-SDG Policy Assistance…)

Partnerships: FAO Programs, UN Country teams, 50by2030 initiative, Regional commissions/organizations

Implementation modalities

HQ level

Overall coordination and implementation

- Project team (manager, program officer, assistant and one statistician) located in OCS
- Training and technical assistance activities led by experts located in technical units
- Methodological development activities performed jointly by OCS and technical units

Regional & Sub-regional level

Support the adaptation to regional context

- Assist in identifying priorities/opportunities to leverage the production and use of data
- Assist in the delivery of technical assistance and organization of workshops
- Building partnerships with regional commissions/organizations

National level

Ensure coherence and complementary in country-level implementation

- Ensure integration of country-level activities in UNSDCF and FAO CPF and proper coordination/complementary of activities with other FAO, UN and national initiatives
- Facilitate the organization and delivery of country-level activities

Budget

Budget estimates (2019-23)	USD
Coordination of the Programme	2,854,268
Module 1: Methodological development (data disaggregation techniques and use of EO data)	2,290,000
Module 2: Development of 40 strategic plans that align national monitoring frameworks with the SDG Global Indicator Framework	1,930,000
Module 3: Supporting the implementation of new cost-effective data collection tools in 20 countries	2,044,000
Module 4: Enabling 60-80 countries to adapt existing data collection tools to produce and report on FAO-SDG indicators	7,335,377
Module 5: Improving capacity of 20-30 countries to analyse and use of FAO-SDG indicators in decision-making and to make data sets and reports open and publicly accessible	3,390,000
PSC (7%)	1,389,055
TOTAL BUDGET	**21,232,700**

Financing modalities

- Umbrella programme -> possibility to articulate regional or theme-specific projects
- Included in the FMM (Subprogramme 1.3.1)
- Business Development Portfolio

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FOOD SECURITY MONITORING
SDG target 2.1

Food Security Monitoring *(SDG target 2.1 indicators – food access)*

OBJECTIVE: Improve statistics for food security and nutrition policymaking

Two indicators of food access are used to monitor Target 2.1. These indicators provide complementary information on food access based on different methods and sources of data:

- Indicator 2.1.1 – **The Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU):** derived from official national-level information on: food supply and food consumption data; and energy needs

- Indicator 2.1.2 – **The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES):** based on direct interview with survey respondents who reply to questions about their own experiences

Activities conducted to date

- **Methodological development** of the FIES survey module (basis for SDG indicator 2.1.2)
- **Data Collection** through Gallup in more than 140 countries since 2014 (97 in 2018)
- Development of **tools for Capacity Development** (E-learning courses for PoU and FIES methodologies; FIES users' guide; Data analysis tools)
- **Awareness raising** workshops sensitized more than 40 countries over the period 2018/19
- **Technical assistance** was provided at national level to 25 countries over the period 2018/19
- 16 countries already **compiling food security** indicators with national data

Country Capacity Development Strategy

Improve knowledge and technical capacities to guide policies to end hunger and malnutrition

Provide new skills and knowledge to technical staff

Empower national and regional institutions

Build knowledge and consensus at country, regional and international level

Coordination at HQ

+

Deployment of experts in FAO regional offices

Activities: a comprehensive approach

Advocacy

- **Advocacy workshops** to include food consumption and FIES modules in nationally representative surveys
- Advocacy to decision makers on the value of evidence based decision making

Technical assistance for data collection and processing

- Training, on-the-job technical assistance, and online technical collaboration to **design/adapt food security modules**, and collect, **process,** and **disseminate food security data**
- Enhancement of capacity development tool kits: e-learning course, FIES's user guide, open source software for FIES and PoU analysis
- Facilitate and advise on **the realignment of monitoring frameworks** on food security and nutrition

Technical assistance for the use of data

- **Training and technical assistance** to strengthen the capacities of NSOs and Ministries to analyze, interpret and report on food security data

Expected Results

Where we stand

(as of June 2019)

- 16 countries are already **reporting** food security estimates from official national data

- 45 countries are collecting food security estimates and **asking for technical support** for data analysis

Funding Gap

Capacity Development: USD 5 Million 2020-23:

- **USD 2.4 M for capacity development under this project**

- 2.6 M from other sources

Data collection: GWP USD 3 Million 2020-2023

Expected results by 2023

- **50 new countries** reporting food security estimates from official national data

- A total of at least 75 countries reporting food security estimates from official national data

Conclusions

- Without good data to support evidence-based policies and investments, SDG implementation is unlikely to be effective and achieve the desired targets
- **Investing in better data and investing in SDG implementation are not in competition**, rather they are synergetic and ensure that scarce resources are put to good use
- **Investment in statistics has been low** and with only 10 years remaining, we **urgently need to scale up countries' support** to ensure that high quality & disaggregated data for the SDGs are produced and used
- Investing in the « Measuring the SDGs » programme can make a significant difference in achieving the SDGs, by:
  - **Targeting multiple problematic aspects** in the data value chain, including data use, in an integrated way.
  - **Catalysing efforts** across the Organizations and with Partner Agencies.
  - **Targeting countries that are committed** to enhance their statistical system and invest their own resources.

Many thanks to all resource partners who have supported our work so far

Looking forward to renewed and new partnerships!