



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Statistical Capacity Assessment and Capacity Development Programmes for the FAO-SDG indicators

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STATISTICAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE FAO-SDG INDICATORS



Introduction:

FAO's organizational work on SDG indicators

As a custodian agency for 21 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, FAO is responsible for:

- ❑ Leading the **development of new statistical methodologies** and coordinating the **dissemination** of the relevant documentation
- ❑ Overseeing the **data collection** from national statistical agencies, its aggregation and **dissemination** at regional and global levels
- ❑ Promoting the **adoption of internationally agreed statistical methods/standards** and coordinating **statistical capacity development initiatives** in support of SDG monitoring and reporting
- ❑ Participating in **the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG)** and in the **UN Statistical Commission**
- ❑ Providing inputs for the preparation of **annual global and regional progress reports**

Introduction:

Importance of FAO's work on SDG Indicators

The Measurement of SDG indicators under FAO custodianship is key to:

- ❑ Monitor progress in the **implementation of the SDGs** at global, regional and national level
- ❑ Support **evidence-based decision-making** for sustainable investments and the transformation of the food and agricultural sector
- ❑ Assess **the impact of FAO and UN development system** (i.e. SDG indicators embedded in UNSDCF and FAO results framework)
- ❑ Raise awareness on the **challenges faced in the food and agriculture sector** (e.g. through the State of the World collection)
- ❑ Monitor progress in the implementation of other **international and regional initiatives** (e.g. Malabo Declaration, Aichi Target and post-2020 targets on biodiversity, Agenda 2063,...)
- ❑ **Mobilize all stakeholders** on the achievement of the SDGs

SDG indicators under FAO custodianship



2.1.1 Hunger

2.1.2 Severity of food insecurity

2.3.1 Productivity of small-scale food producers

2.3.2 Income of small-scale food producer

2.4.1 Agricultural sustainability

2.5.1 Conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture

2.5.2 Risk status of livestock breeds

2.a.1 Public Investment in agriculture

2.c.1 Food price volatility



5.a.1 Women's ownership of agricultural land

5.a.2 Women's equal rights to land ownership



14.4.1 Fish stocks sustainability

14.6.1 Illegal, unreported unregulated fishing

14.7.1 Value added of sustainable fisheries

14.b.1 Access rights for small-scale fisheries



6.4.1 Water use efficiency

6.4.2 Water stress



15.1.1 Forest area

15.2.1 Sustainable forest management

15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover



12.3.1 Global food losses

FAO SDG Portal:
<http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>

Statistical Capacity Assessment for the FAO-relevant SDG Indicators Survey

❑ Objective

- To provide an insight about countries' statistical capacity to report on the SDG indicators for which the FAO is the custodian agency.
- The results are used to plan capacity development activities and improve the overall SDG reporting and monitoring process.

❑ **The target respondents** are the National SDG Coordinators or the SDG focal points nominated by the President of the National Statistics Office in each country.

❑ Conducted by **the Office of the Chief Statistician**, FAO.

❑ The questionnaire was sent to all UN member and observer countries (195 in total) on December 2018 and in total **111 countries** submitted [the questionnaire](#) (57%) as of May 2019 (Annex).

❑ The results for regional and global aggregates are **based on the countries that submitted their questionnaires.**

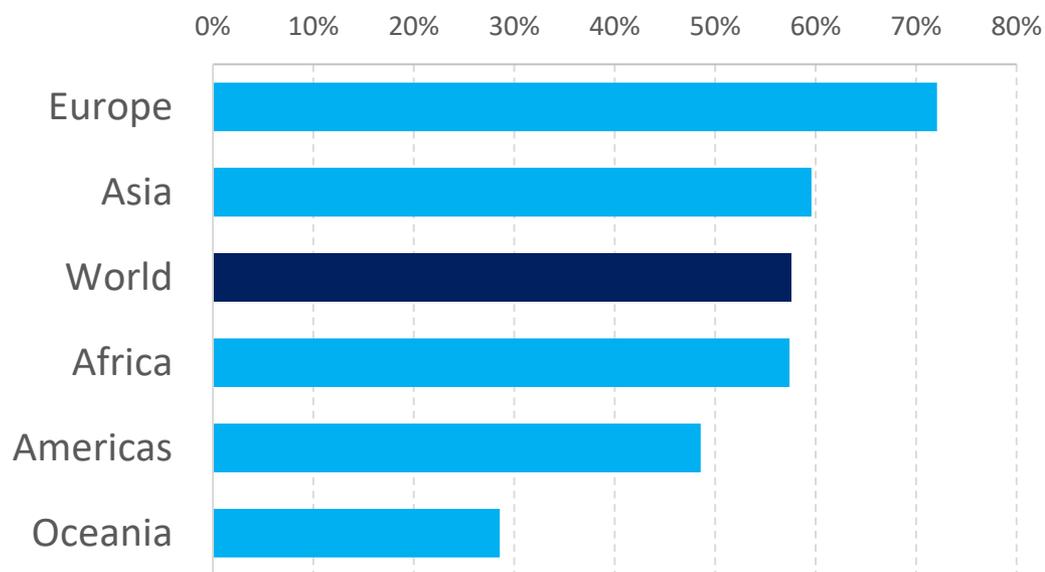
Statistical Capacity Assessment for the FAO-relevant SDG Indicators Survey

- ❑ **Questionnaire** is developed by the OCS at FAO and available in all official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian).
- ❑ Organized in five sections to collect information on the **national coordination mechanisms** for SDG reporting, **data availability** and **the needs for technical assistance**:
 - **Section 1 – Cover**
 - **Section 2 – Instructions**
 - **Section 3 – SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance**
 - **Section 4 – Data availability and statistical methods**
 - **Section 5 – Respondent feedback**
- ❑ A **pilot survey** is conducted prior to the actual survey on November 2018 during “Regional Course on SDG Indicators under FAO Custodianship” at UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

Results

- ❑ As of May 2019, **111 out of 195 (57%) countries** submitted their questionnaires (Annex).
- ❑ Overall, **Europe** has the highest response rate (72%) while **Oceania** has the lowest (Figure 2).
- ❑ The estimates in this section are based on the countries **that submitted their questionnaires**.

Figure 2: Response rate by region

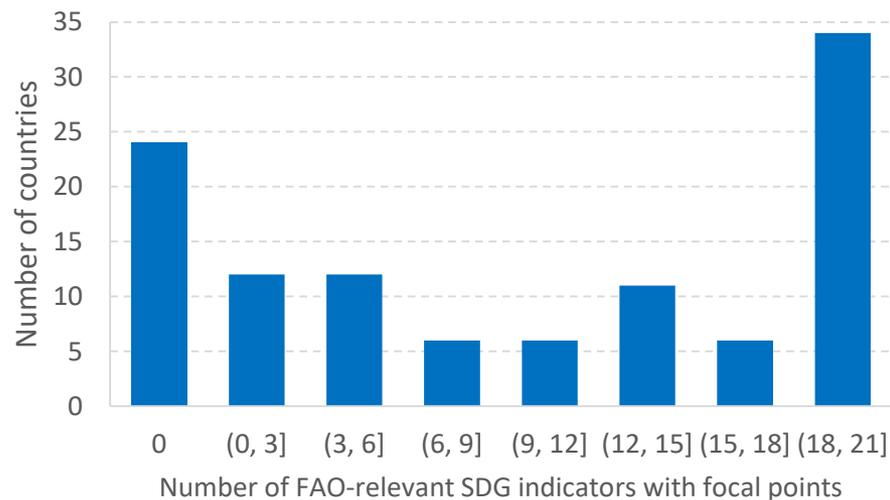


Results: National coordination for SDG monitoring and reporting

Out of the 111 countries that submitted their questionnaires:

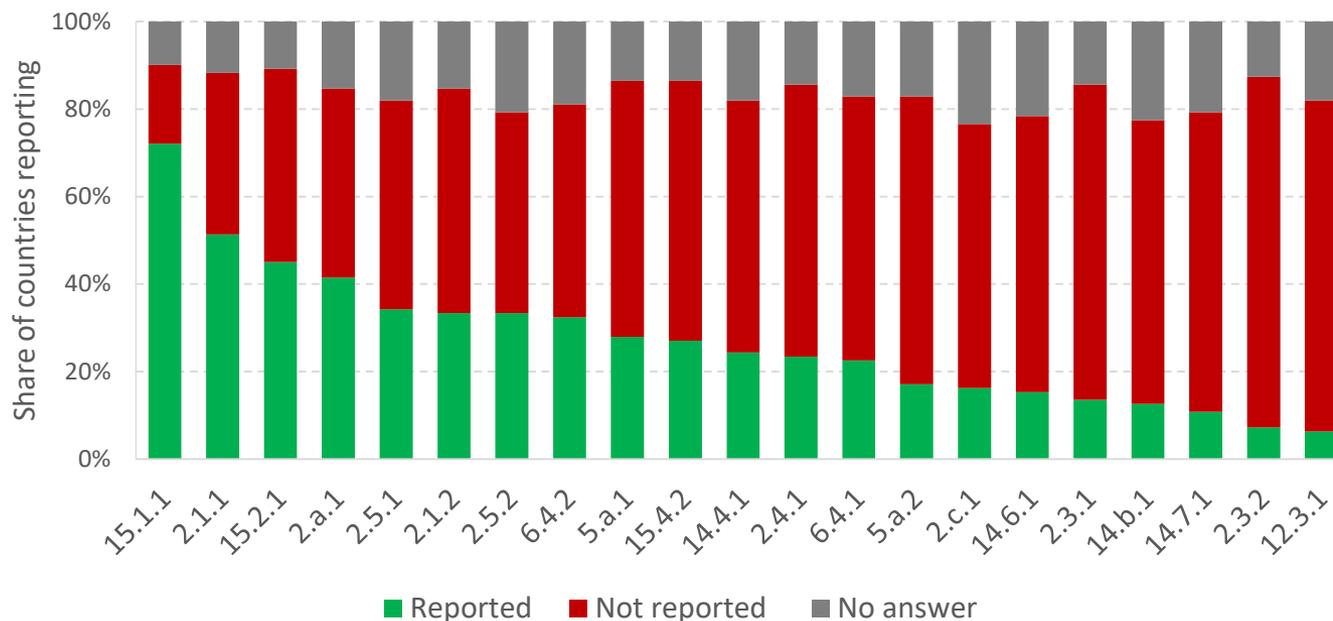
- ❑ A **national committee** responsible for the coordination of SDG monitoring and reporting has been established in **71 countries**.
- ❑ A **national coordinator** for SDG monitoring and reporting has been nominated in **73 countries**.
- ❑ **Only 34 countries** were able to identify **an SDG-specific national focal point** for most of the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship (Figure 3). An SDG-specific national focal point has not been assigned yet for any of the FAO-relevant indicators in 24 countries.

Figure 3: Number of countries with SDG-specific national focal points



Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

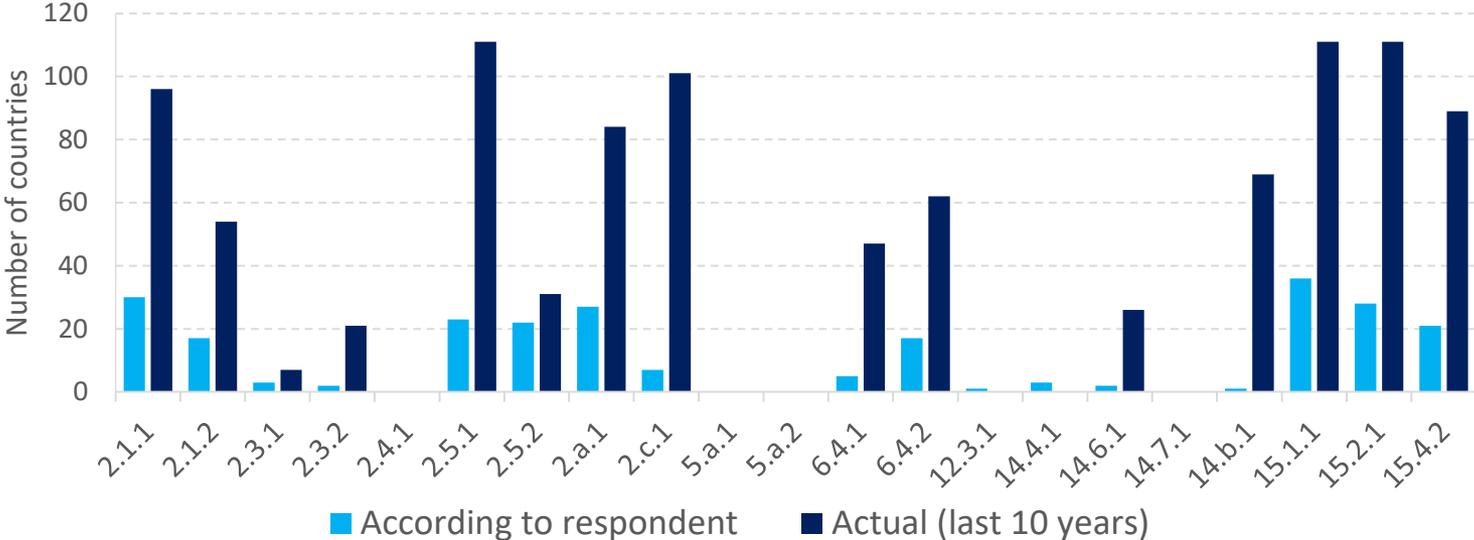
Figure 4: Current reporting of SDG indicators in a national or international database, by indicator



- ❑ More than 50% of the countries report that indicators 15.1.1 and 2.1.1 are currently (i.e. within the first half of 2019) published in national or international databases.
- ❑ On the contrary, reporting rates on 13 indicators are below one third.
- ❑ The recent updates in Tier classifications could explain some of these findings. Indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 12.3.1 and 14.7.1 have all been updated as Tier II just before or even after the data collection has started, which is in line with the low data reporting share for those indicators.

Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

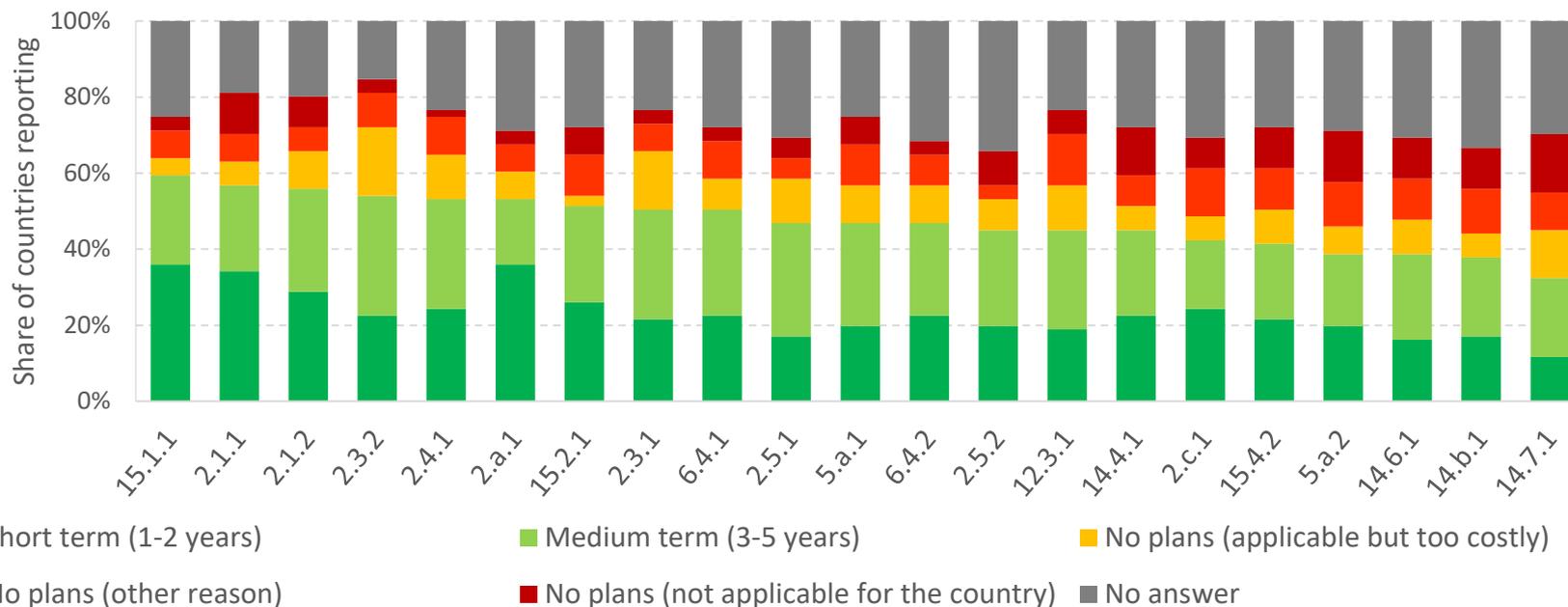
Figure 5: Reporting in UN global SDG database, by indicator



☐ Most of the countries did not report that they publish the indicators in the UN Global SDG Indicators Database although data are available there.

Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

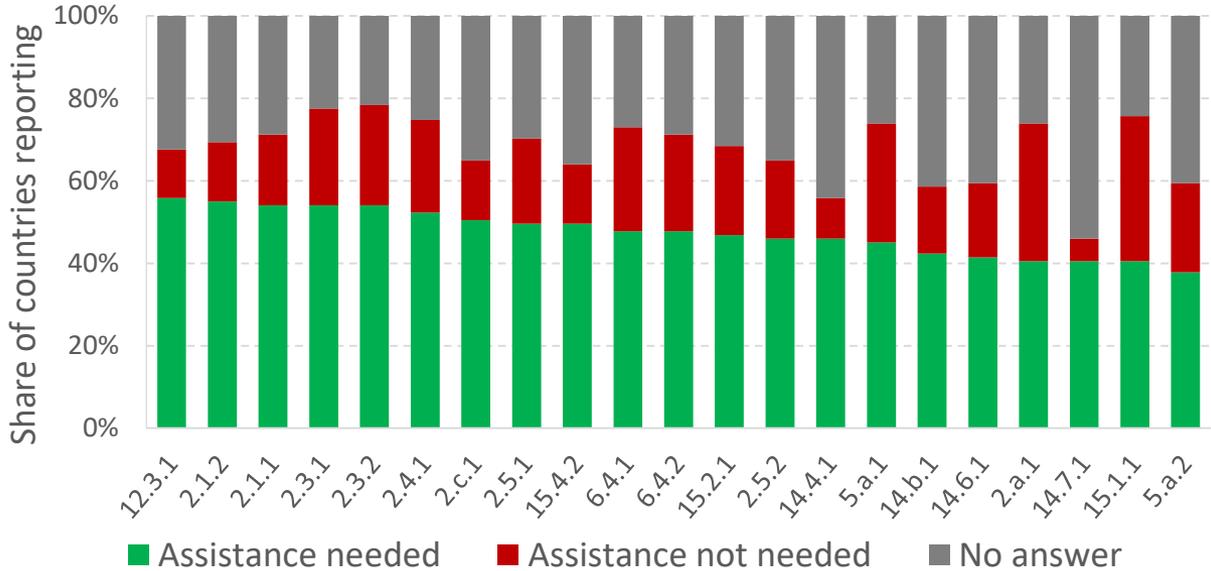
Figure 6: Time horizon of SDG indicators production planning, by indicator



- More than 50% of the countries have plans for producing 9 FAO-relevant indicators in the medium term, while for 4 indicators less than 40% of the countries have plans for future.
- Although the indicators are currently published, future data publication plans are crucial to ensure sustainable data reporting; e.g. indicator 2.1.1 – published and planned: more than 50%, indicators 5.a.2, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1 – published and planned in the short term: less than 20%
- For the indicators which are not currently published, future plans could still give hints about the progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; e.g indicator 2.3.2 – not published: 80%, plans: ≈ 55%

Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

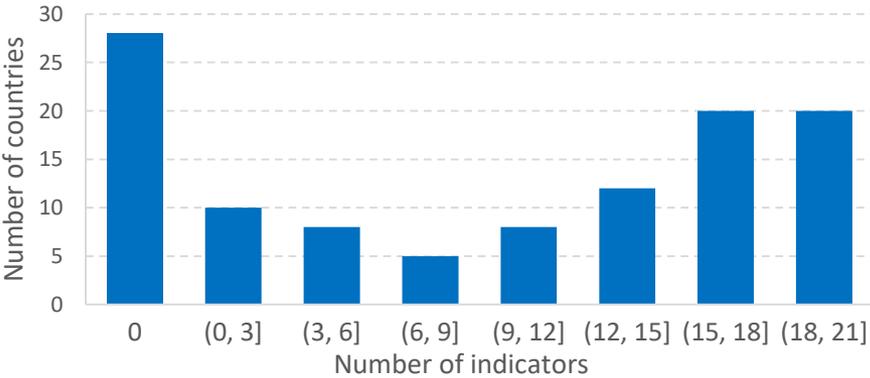
Figure 7: Requests for assistance for producing/compiling SDG indicators, by indicator



For each indicator, **at least around 40%** of the countries request technical assistance.

In fact, **83 countries (75%)** request assistance for at least one indicator, but the actual share might be even higher given the significant non-response rate.

Figure 8: Requests for assistance made by countries



Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

Figure 9: Number of requests for assistance for producing/compiling SDG indicators, by type of assistance (multiple requests can be made for any type of assistance)

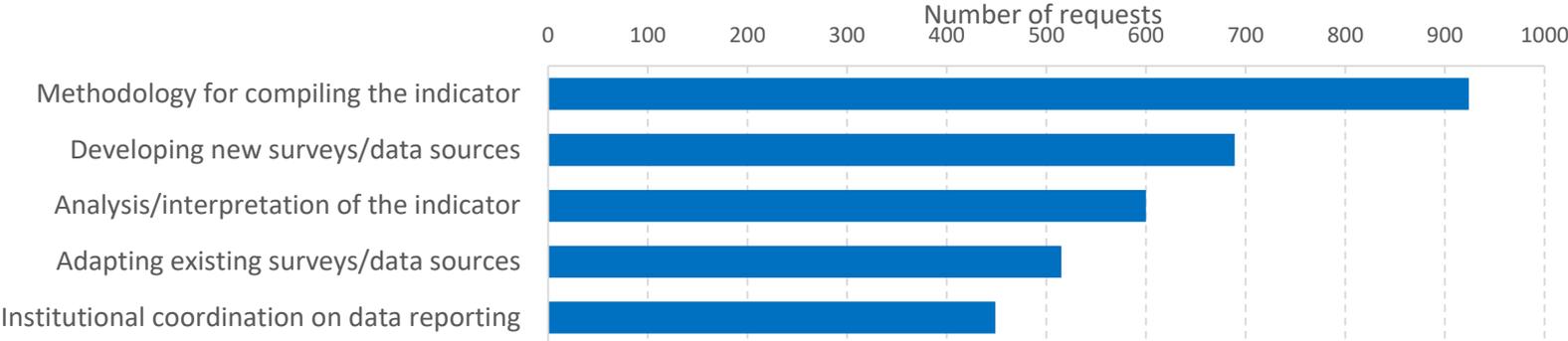
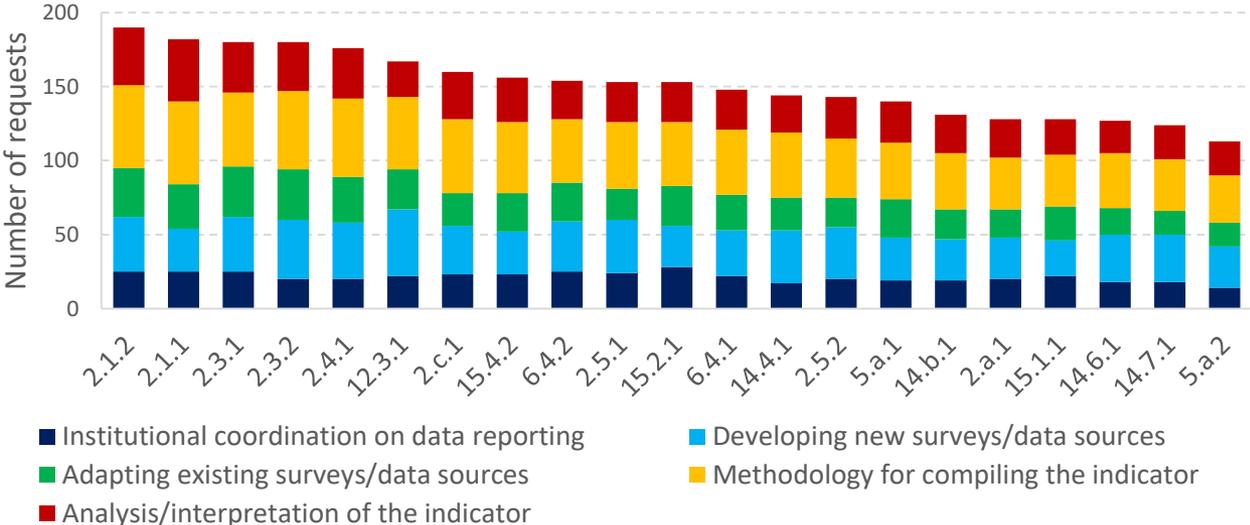
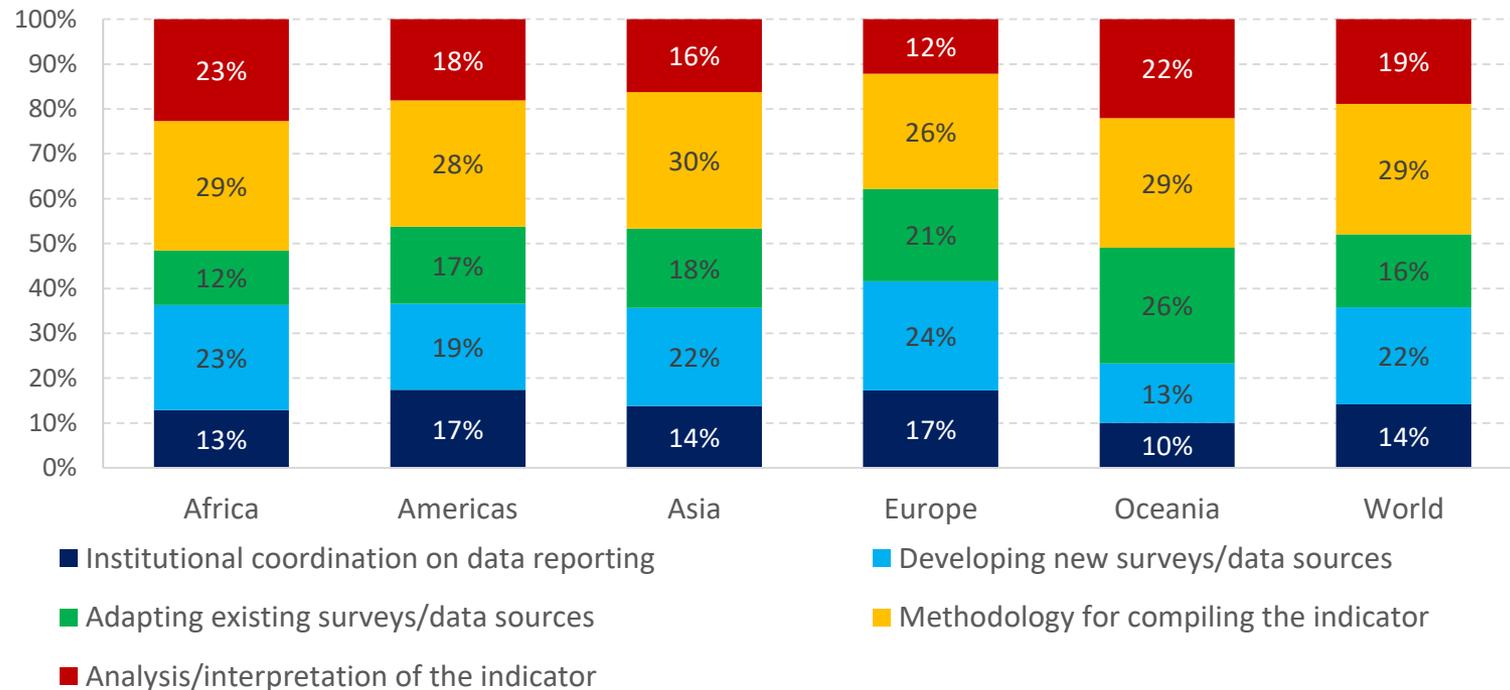


Figure 10: Number of requests for assistance for producing/compiling SDG indicators, by indicator (multiple requests can be made for any indicator)



Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

Figure 12: Types of assistance requested by region



- ❑ The regions also show some discrepancy regarding the type of assistance requested.
- ❑ For instance, countries in Oceania are more interested in receiving assistance on adapting existing surveys/data sources than on developing new surveys/data sources.
- ❑ Such differences in regions should be considered while planning the technical assistance activities at the regional level (for example through regional conferences).

Results: Data availability and needs for assistance

- ❑ National data collection status and plans signal the limitations on data availability and hence the constraints on the compilation of SDG indicators.
- ❑ For this reason, the evaluation of most relevant statistical data sources, i.e. censuses (i.e. Census of Agriculture) and selected surveys (e.g. Household Budget Survey/Income & Expenditure Survey, Crop/farm survey) are incorporated in this assessment:

Table A.1: Mapping data sources with the SDG indicators, by degree of relevance

Data sources	2.1.1	2.1.2	2.3.1	2.3.2	2.4.1	2.5.1	2.5.2	2.a.1	2.c.1	5.a.1	5.a.2	6.4.1	6.4.2	12.3.1	14.4.1	14.6.1	14.7.1	14.b.1	15.1.1	15.2.1	15.4.2	
Census of Agriculture			Alternative	Alternative						Alternative												
Crop / Farm survey			Best	Best	Best					Best				Best								
Livestock survey							Best															
Fishery and aquaculture capture															Best			Best				
Fish stock assessment (marine)															Best			Best				
Water supply and use assessment												Best	Best									
Forestry Inventory Assessment																				Best	Best	
Household Budget/Income & Expenditure survey	Alternative	Alternative								Alternative												
Labour Force survey		Alternative								Alternative												
Multipurpose household Survey		Best								Best												
Nutrition survey	Best	Best								Alternative												
Value chain analysis														Best								

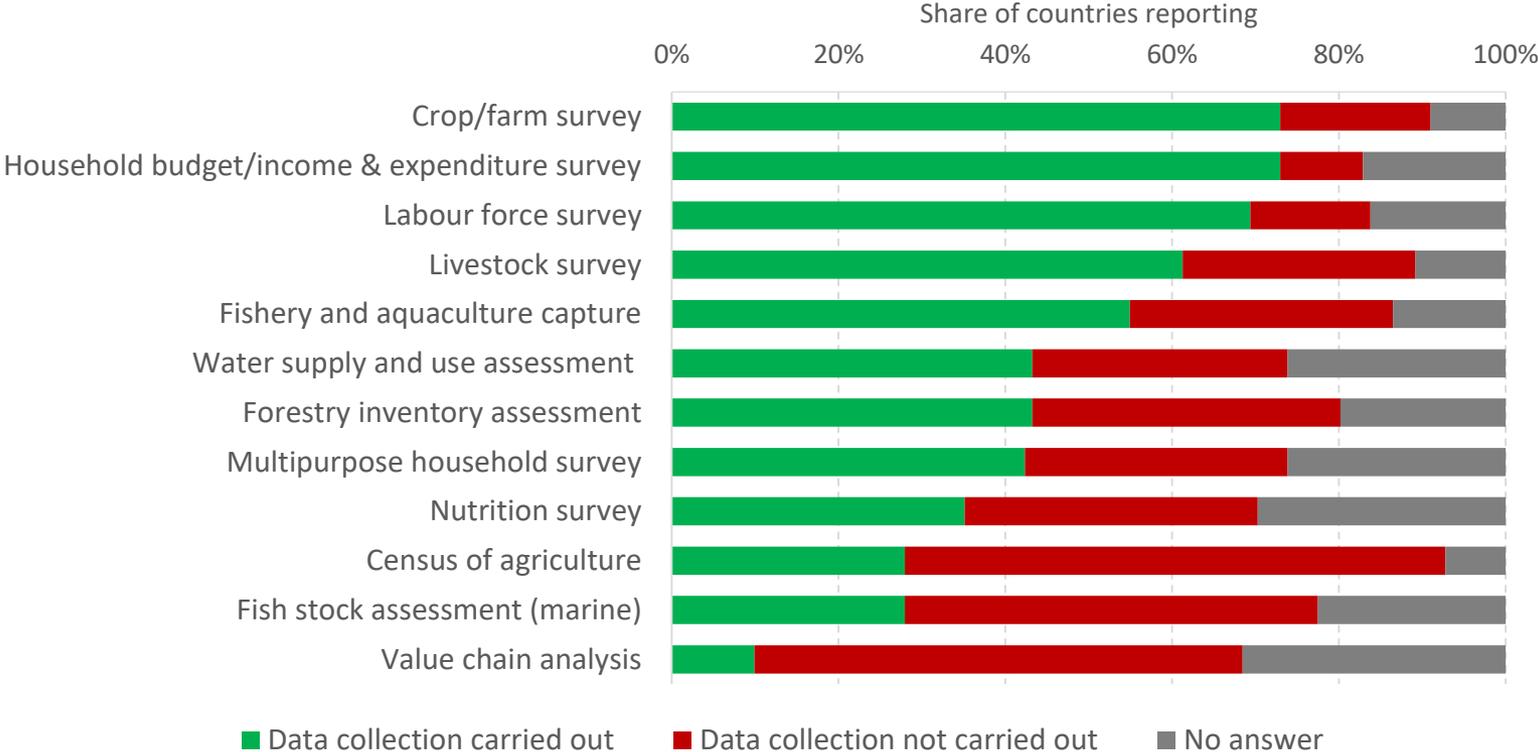
 Best data source

 Alternative data source

Results: Data availability and needs for assistance

- ❑ The majority of the countries do not regularly conduct some key data collection vehicles such as nutrition and multipurpose household surveys, forest inventories, and water supply and use assessment.

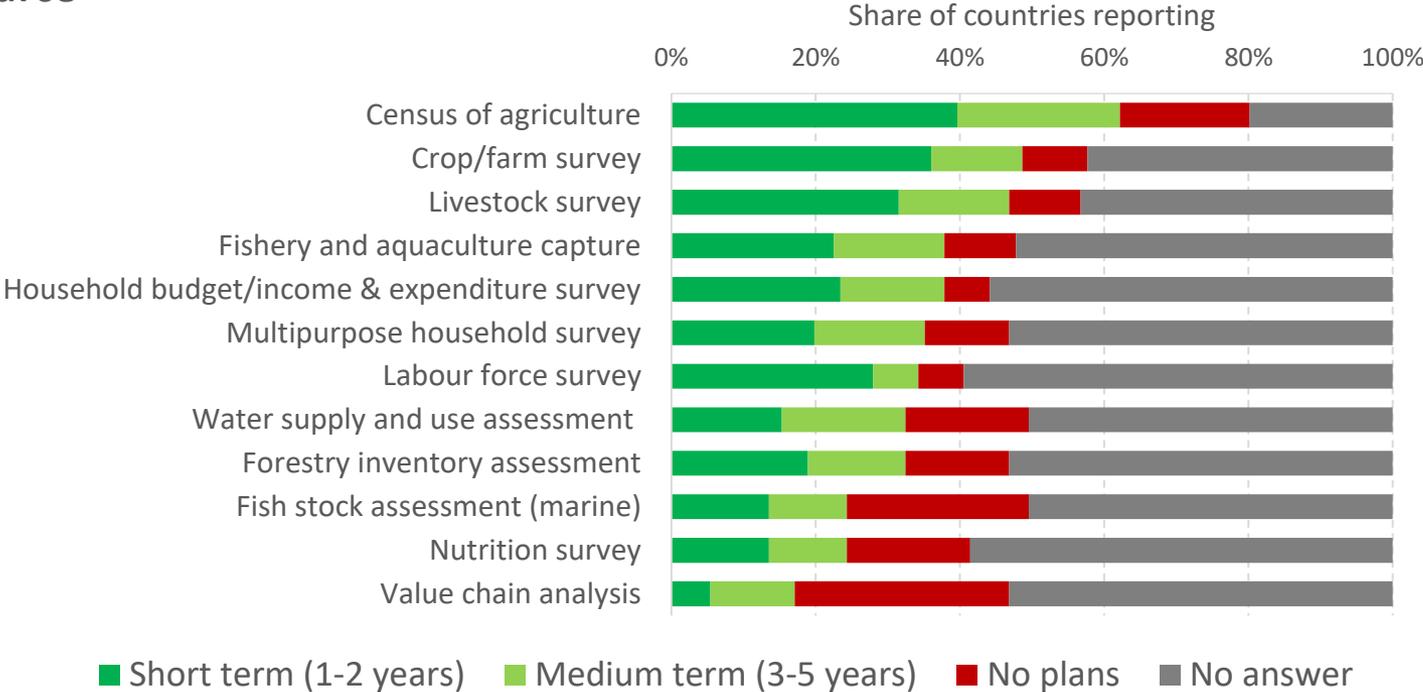
Figure 13: Data collection status during the last five years, by data source



Results: Data availability and needs for assistance

❑ The data collection vehicles which have not been carried out recently (i.e. during the last 5 years) are not fully planned to be carried out in the short (1-2 years) or medium (3-5 years) terms . This puts a continuing pressure on data availability for the compilation of specific SDG indicators which are heavily relying on such data sources.

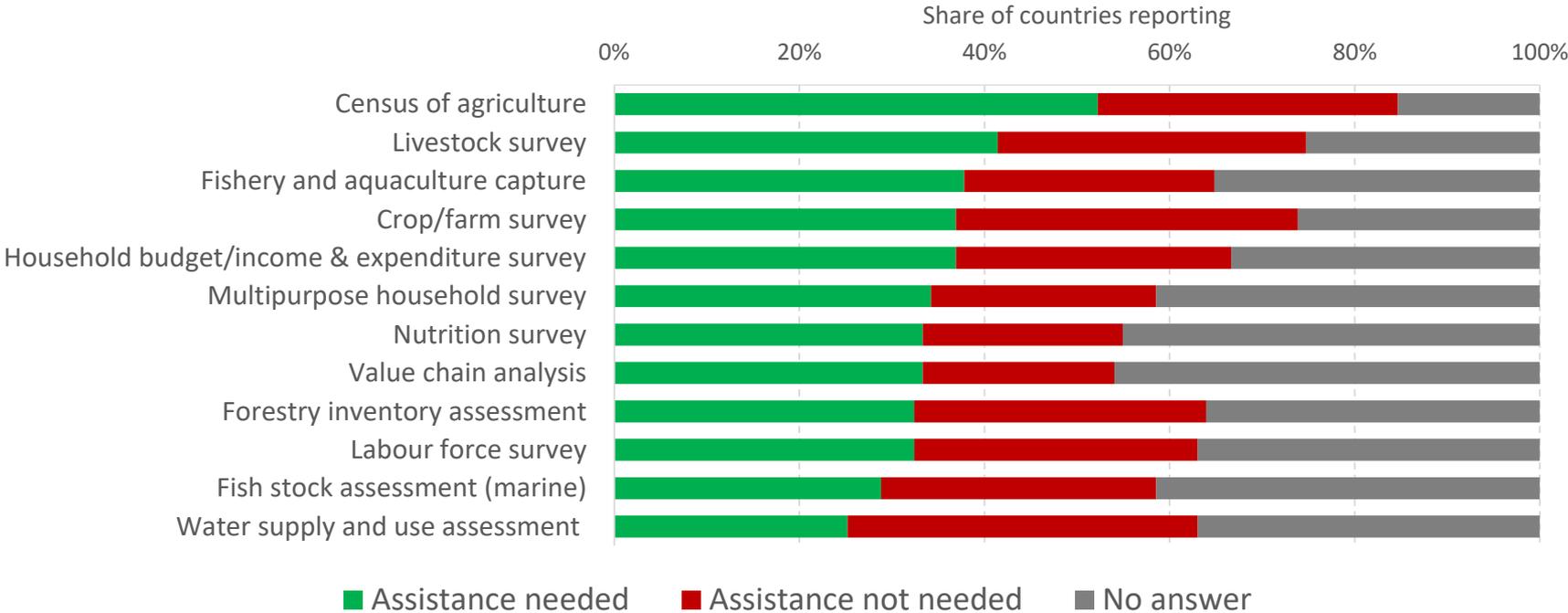
Figure 14: Time horizon of data collection plans in the next five years, by data source



Results: Data availability and needs for assistance

- ❑ Many countries request technical assistance for some key data sources: for example, more than 50% of the countries request technical assistance for census of agriculture.
- ❑ This dependency is worrying since those key data sources are key for the production of statistical data necessary for the compilation of SDG indicators and the countries signal a significant need for improvement.

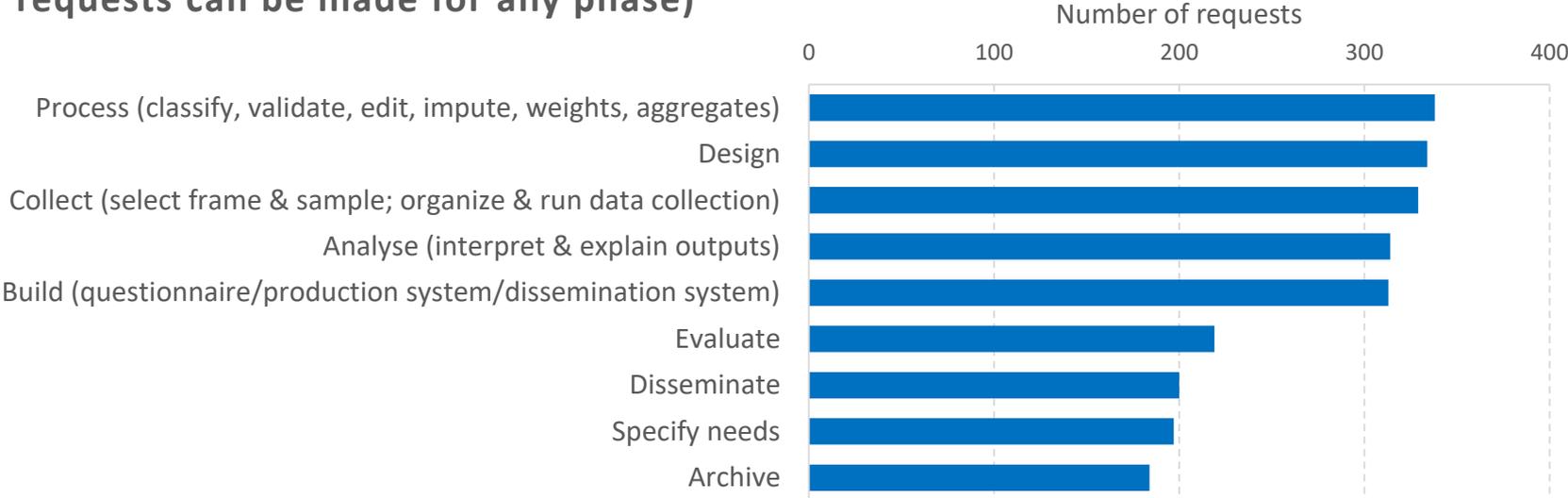
Figure 16: Share of countries needing assistance for data collection, by data source



Results: Data availability and needs for assistance

- ❑ There are nine phases of the statistical business process according to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM):
 1. Specify Needs;
 2. Design;
 3. Build;
 4. Collect;
 5. Process;
 6. Analyse;
 7. Disseminate;
 8. Archive;
 9. Evaluate.
- ❑ Phases 1-3 are regarded as preparatory, **phases 4-7 correspond to the “obvious” production**, phase 8 is a saving for the future (of essential data and metadata), and phase 9 summarizes and formulates an action plan.

Figure 17: Number of requests for assistance for data collection, by phase (multiple requests can be made for any phase)



Conclusion

A total of 111 countries (57%) participated in the assessment, and the survey results showed that:

❑ **Data sources:**

- Most of the key data collection activities are not conducted regularly in most of the countries.

❑ **Future planning:**

- Data collection activities which have not been carried out recently are not fully planned to be carried out in near future

❑ **National coordination:**

- Most of the countries seem to establish the required mechanisms for coordinating the SDG reporting and monitoring.
- No SDG-specific national focal point for most of the SDGs in many countries.
- Discrepancy between the data available in Global UN SDG Database and the information reported by the countries

❑ **Technical capacity:** 75% of the countries report that they will require some form of assistance to produce for at least one SDG indicator under FAO custodianship.



STATISTICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE FAO-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 Framework

3



Supporting implementation of new cost-effective data collection tools (e.g. AGRISurvey, 50by2030 Initiative, 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**

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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, Regional Statisticians



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 resources 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), Private sector



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, Voices of the Hungry, WCA, WB (LSMS), IMF (Government expenditures), UN-Water, UN-Women, UNEP, Regional Commissions/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

Role of the FAO Country offices in addressing data and capacity gaps on SDGs and resources

- ❑ Promote FAO's work on SDG monitoring and the importance of aligning SDG national indicator framework with the global indicator framework

Resources: Global SDG indicator framework, SDG package for decentralized offices, FAO SDG portal, narratives (under development)

- ❑ Identify data and statistical capacity gaps during the CCA process and include UN coordinated data collection and statistical capacity development activities in UNSDCF and CPF

Resources: Country profiles, upcoming additional guidance on mainstreaming statistics in CCA, UNSDCF and CPF, results of the SDG gap assessment

- ❑ Support FAO data collection process by facilitating the identification of and communications with national focal points and by following up to data requests

Resources: Calendar of FAO data collection (soon on FAO statistics website), Country profiles, List of FAO SDG focal points

Role of the FAO Country offices in addressing data and capacity gaps on SDGs and resources

- ❑ Formulate projects and support resources mobilization at country level for the implementation of data collection and capacity development activities related to statistics and the SDGs (e.g. TCPs, Umbrella programme on Measuring the SDGs, 50by 2030 Initiative, Country-level funding mechanisms...)

Resources: BDP 2-pagers, Project formulation support from statisticians in SROs, ROs and HQs, Upcoming webinar on 50 by 2030 Initiative (January 2020), Inventory of FAO statistical capacity development programmes (under development – new webpage), TCPs (e.g. Georgia TCP/GEO/3702/C1, Armenia TCP/ARM/3604/C3), Project formulation support from statisticians in SROs, ROs and HQs

- ❑ Communicate countries' needs and facilitate pilot testing of new methodologies (e.g. data disaggregation for SDG indicators, use of GIS, food loss estimates)

Resources: Specific country's needs can be communicated to OCS (Chief-Statistician@fao.org)

- ❑ Promote FAO's SDG indicators-related products

Resources: Capacity development programs, SDG Portal, E-learning courses, SDG newsletters, Publications, Events, Generic presentations on the STN workspace



Thank you

For more detailed information on the results of the capacity assessment:

<http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>

Contact: Ayca.Donmez@fao.org

Annex: : List of countries which submitted their questionnaires

No	Country	No	Country	No	Country	No	Country
1	Albania	29	Fiji	57	Malaysia	85	Sao Tome and Principe
2	Algeria	30	Finland	58	Mali	86	Saudi Arabia
3	Angola	31	France	59	Marshall Islands	87	Senegal
4	Argentina	32	Georgia	60	Mauritius	88	Serbia
5	Armenia	33	Germany	61	Mexico	89	Seychelles
6	Azerbaijan	34	Greece	62	Mongolia	90	Sierra Leone
7	Belarus	35	Grenada	63	Mozambique	91	Singapore
8	Belgium	36	Guinea	64	Myanmar	92	Slovakia
9	Bhutan	37	Guyana	65	Namibia	93	Somalia
10	Bosnia and Herzegovina	38	Hungary	66	Nepal	94	South Sudan
11	Botswana	39	India	67	Niger	95	Spain
12	Brazil	40	Iraq	68	North Macedonia	96	Sudan
13	Bulgaria	41	Ireland	69	Norway	97	Suriname
14	Burundi	42	Italy	70	Oman	98	Sweden
15	Cabo Verde	43	Jamaica	71	Pakistan	99	Switzerland
16	Canada	44	Japan	72	Palau	100	Tajikistan
17	Chad	45	Jordan	73	Palestine	101	Thailand
18	Colombia	46	Kazakhstan	74	Panama	102	Turkey
19	Congo	47	Kenya	75	Paraguay	103	Uganda
20	Costa Rica	48	Kyrgyzstan	76	Peru	104	Ukraine
21	Côte d'Ivoire	49	Lao PDR	77	Philippines	105	United Republic of Tanzania
22	Croatia	50	Latvia	78	Poland	106	Uruguay
23	Czechia	51	Liberia	79	Portugal	107	Uzbekistan
24	Ecuador	52	Liechtenstein	80	Qatar	108	Viet Nam
25	El Salvador	53	Lithuania	81	Romania	109	Yemen
26	Equatorial Guinea	54	Luxembourg	82	Russian Federation	110	Zambia
27	Estonia	55	Madagascar	83	Saint Kitts and Nevis	111	Zimbabwe
28	Eswatini	56	Malawi	84	Samoa		