

Work Plan (2018/19)

Introduction

The Terms of Reference of the Working Group outlined its primary objective of the Working Group, that is to ensure from a statistical and geographic location perspective that the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to leave no one behind, is reflected in the global indicator framework. The Terms of Reference also listed a series of tasks as follows:

1. Provide expertise and advice to the IAEG-SDGs and the larger statistical community as to how geospatial information, Earth observations and other new data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the indicators;
2. Review options and provide guidance to IAEG-SDGs, as to the role of NSOs in considering geospatial information and earth observations, as well as other Big Data, as a means to contribute to and validate datasets as part of official statistics for SDG indicators;
3. Review the agreed indicators and metadata through a 'geographic location' lens and identify existing geospatial data gaps, methodological and measurements issues;
4. Consider how geospatial information can contribute to the indicators and metadata: a) as a direct indicator in itself; b) to support and augment statistical data; c) to improve the production process of statistical data; d) to validate national statistical data inputs; e) to communicate and visualize the geographic dimensions and context of the indicators where appropriate; and f) to provide granularity and disaggregation of the indicators where appropriate;
5. Provide national and regional level experiences and best practices in geospatial data production to measure leaving no one behind; and
6. Propose strategies for undertaking methodological work on specific areas for improving disaggregation by geographic location concepts for national and sub-national reporting, including to the HLG and to the Statistical Commission.

United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/71/313 dated 6th July 2017 adopted the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The preambular of the Global Indicator Framework annexed to the resolution states that:

*"Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics"*¹

In the foreword of The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017, the Secretary General, United Nations wrote:

"This report provides a snapshot of our efforts to date. It stresses that high-level political leadership and new partnerships will be essential for sustaining momentum. It also underscores the need for reliable, timely, accessible and disaggregated data to measure progress, inform decision-making and ensure that everyone is counted."

¹ Resolution 68/261

The Working Group at its 4th Meeting at UNHQ New York in December 2017 agreed to establish two Task Streams to address -

- disaggregation by geographic location and aggregation of geocoded unit level data; and
- appropriate means to allow for NSOs to uptake appropriate analysis or production ready satellite time series data contributed by space agencies that includes feasibility study, pilot projects, guidance on methodology and training.

Activities

For this period, the Working Group will focus and seek to –

a) Provide expert advice and guidance to IAEG-SDGs, and the larger statistical community as to how geospatial information, earth observation and other data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the production of indicators;	b) Provide national and regional experiences and good practices including case studies in geospatial data generation to monitor “leaving no one behind”.	c) Propose strategies for undertaking methodological work on specific areas for improving disaggregation by geographic location. In particular with a focus on national and sub-national reporting, in this regard, to report to the High-Level Group, Statistical Commission and Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	d) Review options and provide guidance to IAEG-SDGs on the role of National Statistical Offices in considering and applying geospatial information and earth observations primarily as a means to contribute to and validate data as part of official statistics.
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For item c) above, the Working Group will seek to work together with the Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

The Working Group has established two Task Streams to accomplish the objectives and task before the Working Group.

Scope of Task Stream #1

Task Stream #1 will address disaggregation by geographic location and aggregation of geocoded unit level data.

Background

National statistics can be acted upon when the data is broken down to focus on specific categories of interest or locality. While data is usually disaggregated across people-centric variables—such as gender, age, income, education, race, ethnicity, and disability— the global indicator framework has specified that it is equally important to be able to analyse data across different geographic locations. By disaggregating data across both demography and location, NSOs and NMAs can support policy and decision makers to better understand how sub-national, national and SDG indicators reflect relationships between people



and places at both the national and sub-national levels. A place-based framework allows NSOs to aggregate information to geographies suitable for reporting, allowing them to deliver statistics in an anonymized manner.

The Working Group has concluded that geospatial information management, and its data, methodologies and processes are able to provide enabling methodologies and processes for data to be disaggregated by geographic location. It observed that the disaggregation of national statistical data is considerably strengthened through the lens of geospatial information. The reporting needs of the global indicator framework consider 'disaggregated' data, from the sub-national to national level, while also allowing for 'aggregated' global reporting that builds directly on the national data developed by countries as well as that from the custodian agencies.

Scope of Task

This task will be guided by the Five Principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), as endorsed by Statistical Commission and Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). As the GSGF so far mainly gives guidance on how to aggregate statistical and geospatial data (a "bottom-up" approach) the task also includes looking at disaggregation techniques involving different sources including earth observations (a "top-down" approach). Additionally, the Task Stream will also be guided by UN-GGIM adopted Minimum List of Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes.

This Task Stream seeks to develop and provide guidance on disaggregation by geographic location, by documenting and providing national experiences and identifying exemplars, develop good practices guides including referencing national exemplars and case studies.

Scope of Task Stream #2

Task Stream #2 will leverage partnerships with space agencies active in EO4SDG initiative of GEO to develop appropriate means to allow NSOs to uptake appropriate analysis or production ready satellite earth observation time series data contributed by space agencies and will include feasibility study, pilot projects, guidance on methodology and training.

Background

The Working Group had over its near two years of existence, deliberated extensively issues around data availability vis-à-vis for the production of indicators: i) what and where are useable and applicable data sets (in particular satellite earth observation time series); ii) how to ensure such data for the production are nationally led?; iii) is there a need for a 'demonstration project' on the availability and applicability of geospatial information and satellite earth observation?; and iv) what are the means to engage NSOs and ensure an uptake of these data can could be freely and openly available.

Data availability remains one of the bigger challenges though there is an increasing realization that the availability and application of geospatial information and satellite earth observation for the production of a specific indicator may require specialist capacities and expertise that are not readily available at the local levels. Space agencies (particularly those active in EO4SDG initiative of GEO) represented in the Working Group have the expertise, resources and willingness to contribute and to make available appropriate analysis or production ready dataset to support NSOs to produce indicators, and are also



engaged in a number of programmes involving both NSOs and custodian agencies. These include feasibility studies; pilot projects, demonstration projects; and training initiatives

Scope of task

This task seeks to build broader understanding - by working with all members of the Working Group and may include feasibility studies, demonstration projects, pilot projects, guidance on methodology and training - on the application of analysis-ready satellite earth observations (data processed to a minimum set of requirements and organized into a form that allows immediate uptake with minimum additional user effort), technologies and tools for the production of SDG indicators, and to inform sustainable development, planning and decision making at the national level.

This Task Stream seeks to i) develop expert advice and guidance to IAEG-SDGs and the larger statistical community; ii) document national experiences and good practices including case studies; and iii) provide recommendation on the role of NSOs on the uptake of analysis-ready satellite earth observations.

This Task Stream will focus on six indicators, namely, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.6.1, 9.1.1, 11.3.1 and 15.3.1.

Membership

Both Task Streams are activities of the Working Group and will be participated by all members comprising expert representatives from national statistical, national mapping/geospatial information agencies, United Nations system and international organizations including international experts invited by the Working Group.

The co-Chairs of the Working Group may nominate co-Leads for each of two task streams. Co-Leads will engage members and coordinate the work within each of the two task streams.

Organization of work

The workings within each of the task streams will primarily be through electronic exchanges, online meetings and only when opportunity presents, face-to-face meetings. The work will be conducted in an open and participatory manner, and the co-Chairs may invite additional subject matter experts to participate in the task streams.

Deliverables

Each of the Task Streams is expected to develop and prepare –

- Primers that promote understanding, provide expert advice and guidance related to the respective scope of tasks to IAEG-SDGs and the larger statistical community
- Report on national experiences, case studies that demonstrate good national (and regional) practices; and
- Recommendations including rationales on the role of NSOs on disaggregation by geographic location and on the uptake analysis-ready satellite earth observation data.



A deliverable specific to Task Stream #2 is –

- A toolkit of effective methods, including statistical practices and uses of geospatial information and analysis-ready satellite earth observation data, and examples of use cases, for six SDG indicators within 2018, for inclusion in the Working Group's report to the IAEG-SDGs.

Reporting

The Working Group is cognizant of the following reporting opportunities –

- a) Seventh Meeting of IAEG-SDGs, 2018;
- b) 8th Session of UN-GGIM, 1 – 3 August 2018, New York;
- c) Eighth Meeting of IAEG-SDGs, 2018;
- d) 50th Session of the Statistical Commission, March 2019, New York;
- e) Ninth Meeting of IAEG-SDGs, 2019;
- f) 9th Session of UN-GGIM, August 2019, New York; and
- g) Tenth Meeting of IAEG-SDGs, 2019.

Additionally, the Working Group is also aware of opportunities to conduct side events and workshops at –

- h) United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, November 2018, Deqing, China
- i) 50th Session of the Statistical Commission, March 2019, New York; and
- j) 9th Session of UN-GGIM, August 2019, New York

Review

The co-Chairs with the support of the Secretariat, will undertake a stock-take of this work plan at the end of the biennium, review and thereafter revise the work plan for the ensuing period.

(March 2018))

