



Data Disaggregation and the SDGs: An Overview

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Leaving no one behind

- Progress is not equally shared.
- Due to age, socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity and geography, vulnerable groups tend to be excluded from access to good education, health care, electricity, safe water and other critical services
- Member States have pledged to leave no one behind



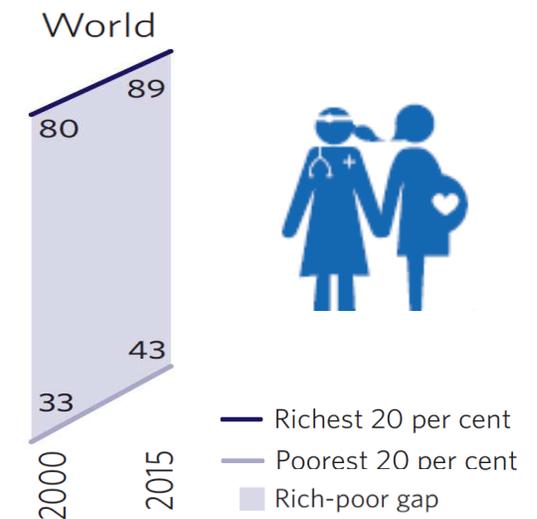
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The most vulnerable are being left behind

- 80% the world's poor live in rural areas
- Half (385 million) of people living in extremely poor households were under 18
- In 2015, 85% of urban population used safely managed drinking water services, compared to only 55% of rural population.
- Youth were nearly three times more likely than adults to be unemployed.

Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)





Opportunities in the SDGs

specific groups mentioned in the targets

Target 2.3	by 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers , including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
Target 5.4	by 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations
Target 8.8	protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants , and those in precarious employment

Issues of
disaggregation

Population
groups





Counting the uncounted

- Those who are the furthest behind are often uncounted.
- The identification of people suffering from deprivation therefore requires sufficiently detailed data across multiple dimensions





Counting the uncounted

Exclusion by design leads to absence of relevant disaggregation:

- Incomplete coverage (hard to reach populations, ethnic groups)
- Household surveys will not include institutional populations
- School based surveys will be confined to children attending school
- Administrative data may cover only those enjoying services
- Data sources need to “work together” to build the story



Data disaggregation and the SDGs: Challenges

More emphasis on disaggregation will lead to challenges in:

- Cost to collect and analyze
- Quality
- Pressure to collect more information – stretching the boundaries
- Sample sizes
- Confidentiality
- Politics of data, transparency
- and more



Data disaggregation and the SDGs: Challenges

The challenge is not disaggregation alone

The call is for high quality, timely, disaggregated data
..... for a very broad agenda

More targets, more indicators, more frequently, with more disaggregation
..... faster, deeper and wider

Demand for multi-dimensional disaggregation will increase:

- Disaggregating within disaggregates – “child labour in poorest quintile in urban areas” – for better targeting
- Many indicators are based on specific population groups – further disaggregation will be needed



Methodological work on data disaggregation

Methodological work needed for data disaggregation not to be underestimated

- New and/or difficult disaggregates
- Need methodological work to develop standards, measurement tools and protocols
- Need to continue work on some “old disaggregates”
- Improve quality of data on disaggregates (e.g. age)
- Set better standards (e.g. residence)



Methodological work on data disaggregation

Comparability:

- Comparability of disaggregates may be more challenging than the indicators
- If progress will be measured by reduction of inequalities, then comparability will be important, over time and within & across countries
- We may need to aggregate the disaggregates – for example, for national or regional monitoring
- Some disaggregates are more comparable than others (sex, age) while some are problematic although they do not seem to be (urban) – others are “new”



Data sources for disaggregated data

Traditional Sources:

- Census
- Civil registration and vital statistics
- Administrative records
- Surveys



Data sources for disaggregated data

New Sources and technologies:

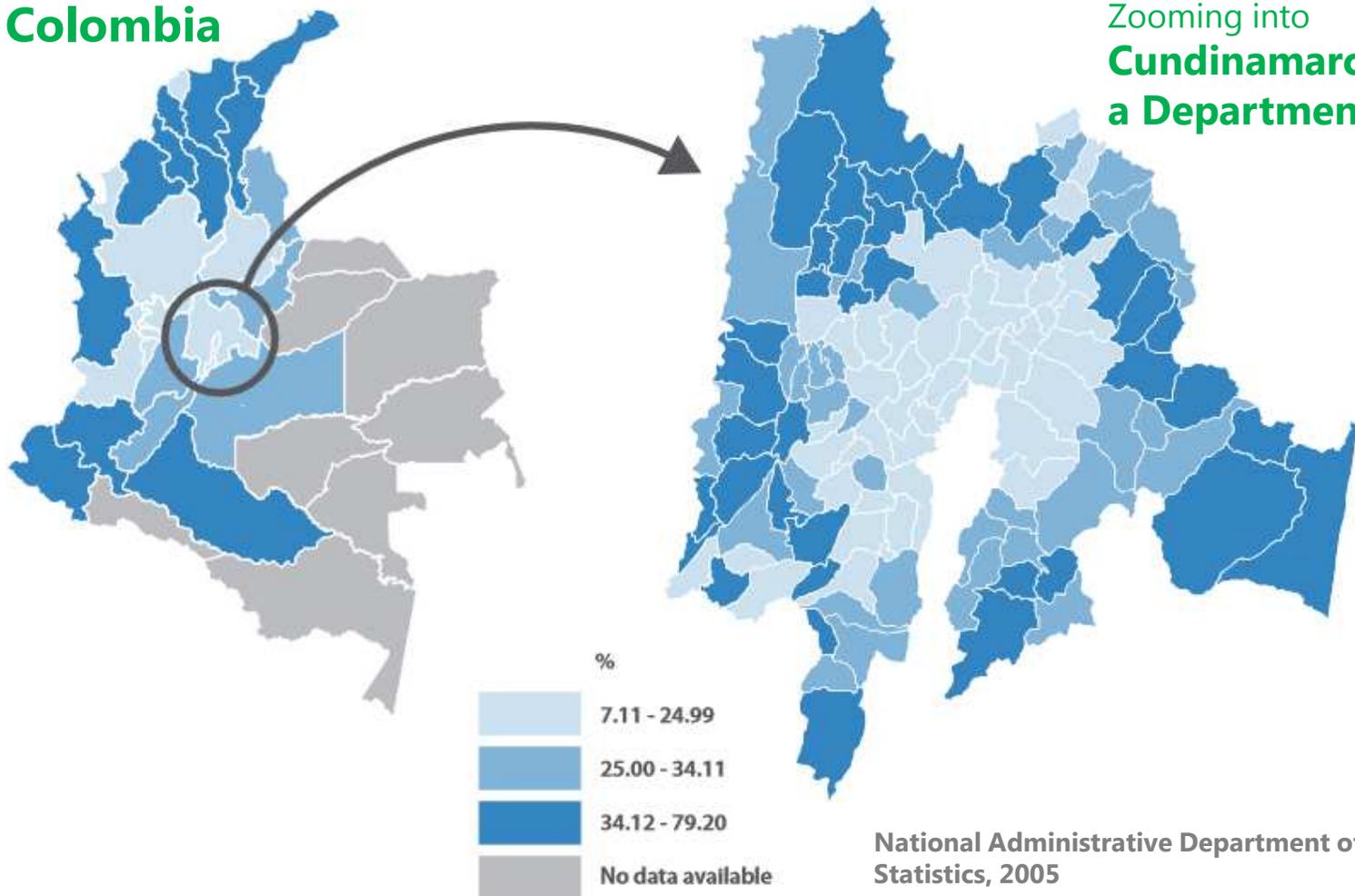
- Integration of geospatial information with statistics and other data.
- Mobile devices,
- Earth observations,
- other sensors and social media
- Citizen-generated data

Example: Data disaggregation

Share of households per « Basic Unmet Needs » index, Colombia

Colombia

Zooming into
Cundinamarca
a Department





SDG indicators and data disaggregation

- The adopted global SDG indicator framework has an **overarching principle of data disaggregation:**

“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 (General Assembly resolution 68/261).”



IAEG-SDGs work on data disaggregation

Decisions of the Statistical Commission:

- The 47th Statistical Commission decision 47/101 (n) requested the IAEG *“develop the necessary statistical standards and tools, including by establishing a working group to work on data disaggregation as a subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group.”*
- The 48th Statistical Commission decision 48/101 (j) *“welcomed the work stream on data disaggregation to ensure that the indicators respond to the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind”*



IAEG-SDGs work on data disaggregation

Definition of Disaggregation:

“Disaggregation is the breakdown of observations within a common branch of a hierarchy to a more detailed level to that at which detailed observations are taken. With standard hierarchical classifications [...] categories can be split (disaggregated) when finer details are required and made possible by the codes given to the primary observations.”

Disaggregation dimensions – the characteristics by which data is to be disaggregated (by sex, age, disability, etc.)

Disaggregation categories – the different characteristics under a certain disaggregation dimension (female/male, etc.)



IAEG-SDGs data disaggregation work stream (1)

IAEG-SDGs work plan has three workflows for its work stream on data disaggregation:

Workflow A: Data availability for initial starting point for disaggregation

- Analyze data availability for the dimensions for the initial starting point for disaggregation and develop an indicator classification system based on data disaggregation availability.

Workflow B: Harmonization

- Clarify the definition of the dimensions identified at the initial starting point for disaggregation and consult experts from different statistical domains and working groups in order to define harmonize categories.

Workflow C: Tools and Methods

- Analyze the results of Workflow A. Propose strategies for alternative data sources. Propose strategies for undertaking methodological work to improve data disaggregation and for implementation of disaggregation tools.



IAEG-SDGs data disaggregation work stream (2)

What has been achieved so far:

- **Stocktaking**

- Analysis of data availability of disaggregation in the global database
- Analysis of **disaggregation dimensions stated in the target and indicator name** (“minimum disaggregation” -> to start with) as well as additional dimensions
- **Overview** of existing and possible standards of disaggregation
- Identifying key challenges on which to focus



IAEG-SDGs data disaggregation work stream (3)

Recommendations and findings:

- Disaggregation has to happen (in general) on national level
- “Minimum disaggregation” is starting point
- Decide what disaggregation dimensions and categories are really needed for the time series at global and national level
- If no global aggregate is required, categories do not necessarily be harmonized across countries
- Treat every indicator separately
- Do not change categories if an int. established breakdown already exists to harmonise across SDG indicators
- If no breakdown exists, see if a break down for a related indicator exists and use that
- Keep in mind the economic use of limited resources



IAEG-SDGs data disaggregation work stream (4)

The Way Forward:

- Co-chairs of the disaggregation work stream will engage with custodian agencies and specialized groups to establish collaboration/consultation mechanisms
- A document on the proposed IAEG-SDG guidelines on data disaggregation will be shared as a background document for the 50th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2019.

Thank You!

Questions?

