Strategy to improve data availability

TAG on Demographic and social statistics

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Outline

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3. **The UN-ESCWA Regional initiative**
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The international context

- **The commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND"**

- **It requires a new approach, one that is based on counting people, and takes into account the factors that contribute to their exclusion.**

- **Data challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda need to:**

  - **Consider the potential of existing data sources**

  - **Explore new sources of data**

  - **Increase data disaggregation for country diagnostics aiming at improving the targeting of scarce resources.**

  - **Scale-up new data initiatives**

  - **Mobilise greater investment in data and national statistical systems as prerequisites for meeting and monitoring the pledge to LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.**

What is the current situation in the Arab region?

❑ **Consensus on challenges**

- ➢ **Lack of reporting capacities for SDG indicators**
- ➢ **Lack of disaggregated demographic and social data**
- ➢ **Need for improved national data collection procedures,**
- ➢ **Need for enhanced data processing**
- ➢ **Need for analysis and estimation capacity, and**
- ➢ **Need for better statistical dissemination systems**

What is the current situation in the Arab region?

❑ **Specific impact on national statistics systems in the Arab region**

➢ **The effects of local conflicts**

➢ **Instability and forced displacements**

➢ **Measurement challenges associated with large labour migration flows**

UN-ESCWA Regional initiative

The Development Account Steering Committee decided to:

- ✓ **Conduct regional studies on data gaps**

- ✓ **Assess the lack of data disaggregation in household surveys for**
  - o **Different population subgroups : age, gender, disability, ethnic group, migrants**
  - o **Geographical areas : urban / rural areas, municipalities, cities**

- ✓ **Assess the requirements to overcome data gaps**

- ✓ **Making recommendations for narrowing the gaps.**

UN-ESCWA Regional initiative

- ❑ **Literature review**
- ❑ **Develop a Core and Secondary list of demographic and social indicators relevant to the region**
- ❑ **Design a Data Gap Survey to check data availability against benchmark indicators**
- ❑ **Questionnaire addressed to country Delegates**

The Data Gap Survey

Questionnaire

❑ **Data sets by source**

❑ **Data gaps towards SDG indicators in 7 domains**

1. Population 2. Health 3. Housing 4. Employment	5. Education 6. Poverty & Living Standards 7. Culture

❑ **National capabilities**

❑ **Areas for improvement, options, challenges**

Summary findings from the Data Gap Survey

Results

- 14 countries out of 18 answered to the survey (14/12/2018)

- Most countries identified gaps towards the SDG indicators as a benchmark, but some referred to the UN-ESCWA Core list of indicators

- Some countries in conflict-situation reported currently missing most Demographic and Social Statistics

- Many countries stated that methodology for producing some SDG indicators is not very clear

- Couple of countries stated that Tier III SDG indicators are difficult to produce

- Most countries reported lacking data on Migration, Refugees, Disability, and Culture

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Data Sources

Country	Nb. of data sources	Time range
Bahrain		
Egypt	62	1882-2017
Iraq	74	1995-2018
Jordan	20	2016-2017
Kuwait		
Lebanon		
Libya	10	2007-2013
Mauritania	7	2000-2018
Morocco	14	1994-2018
Oman		
Palestine	24	1994-2018
Qatar	18	1980-2018
Saudi Arabia	9	1998-2017
The Sudan	15	1973-2017
The Syrian Arab Republic	7	2001-2009
The United Arab Emirates	38	2014-2017
Tunisia	8	1924-2018
Yemen	19	1991-2014

Why are there data gaps?

Data Gaps

- Data are not collected at all by national producers
- Data are collected but not compiled by source
- Data are collected but methodology is inadequate (sampling, questionnaire…)
- Data are collected but output not reliable
- Data are collected but output not validated by authorities
- Data are collected but output not disseminated to users
- Data are collected but not disseminated at relevant levels of disaggregation

Why are there data gaps?

Data Gaps

- **SDG indicators' concept are not clear**
- **Data collected are inadequate to generate SDG indicators**
- **National concepts and definitions are not aligned with international standards**
- **National indicators are not comparable with other countries**
- **Changes in methodology and definitions limit time and space comparisons**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Data Gaps

1. **Population**
2. **Health**
3. **Housing**
4. **Employment**
5. **Education**
6. **Poverty & Living Standards**
7. **Culture**

Data Gaps

1. Population

- ❑ **Household composition, distribution**
- ❑ **Fertility and of adolescents**
- ❑ **Marital status by type of marriage**
- ❑ **Under 5 mortality rates**
- ❑ **Vital registration**
- ❑ **Equity and non-discrimination based on age, sex, women's rights**
- ❑ **Harmful practices (violence) against women and children**
- ❑ **International migration, migrants**
- ❑ **Refugees**
- ❑ **Growth rates**
- ❑ **Sub-national distribution**

Data Gaps

2. Health

- ❑ Maternal mortality
- ❑ Vaccines covered
- ❑ Disability
- ❑ Causes of death
- ❑ Diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria hepatitis
- ❑ Heart diseases, Road accidents
- ❑ Food insecurity, Obesity, Smoking, Substance abuse, Use of alcohol
- ❑ Conflict-related injuries and deaths
- ❑ Vulnerability to climate-related extreme events
- ❑ Mortality by air pollution, unsafe WASH, natural disasters
- ❑ Access to sexual and reproductive health,
- ❑ Share of spending in HH expenditure
- ❑ Coverage of essential health services, including health insurance
- ❑ Government spending on health and social protection

Data Gaps

3. Housing

- ❑ **Use of safe drinking water, Sanitation services**
- ❑ **Change of level of freshwater stress**
- ❑ **Water and sanitation management**
- ❑ **Access to electricity, clean fuels and technology**
- ❑ **Rural population living close to all-season road**
- ❑ **Urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing**
- ❑ **Access to public transport**
- ❑ **Cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning**
- ❑ **Built-up area of cities that is open space for public use**

Data Gaps

4. Employment

- ❑ **Informal employment in non-agriculture employment**
- ❑ **Unemployment for persons with disabilities**
- ❑ **Youth not in education, employment or training (NUUT)**
- ❑ **Children engaged in child labour**
- ❑ **Level of national compliance with labour rights**
- ❑ **Jobs in sustainable tourism industries**
- ❑ **Labour share of GDP (wages, and social protection transfers)**
- ❑ **Distribution of positions in public institutions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities, population groups)**

Data Gaps

5. Education

- ❑ Children and young people literacy
- ❑ Government spending on education, research and development
- ❑ Children under 5 who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being
- ❑ Participation in formal and non-formal education
- ❑ Participation in public and private education
- ❑ Youth and adults with ICT skills
- ❑ Parity indices (F/M, R/U, wealth quintile, disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected), for all education indicators
- ❑ Mainstreamed global citizenship education and education for sustainable development
- ❑ Schools that are child, disability, gender sensitive
- ❑ Scholarships
- ❑ Integration of mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into school curricula

Data Gaps

6. Income & Living standards

❑ **Population living below the national poverty line, in all dimensions**

❑ **Population covered by social protection floors/systems**

❑ **Population living in households with access to basic services**

❑ **Government spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups**

❑ **Household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 % of the population**

❑ **People living below 50 % of median income**

Data Gaps

7. Culture

❑ **Most countries reported large data gaps**

❑ **Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage**

❑ **Internet broadband subscriptions**

❑ **Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements**

❑ **Number of visitors to public libraries (Core list)**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

- ❑ **Frequency gaps**
- ❑ **Disaggregation gaps**
- ❑ **Capacity constraints**
- ❑ **Funding constraints**

Frequency Gaps

❑ **Most SDG indicators related to population and social statistics require to be up-dated on a yearly basis**

❑ **Population and housing censused are carried out on a 10-year basis.**

❑ **Most thematic Household Surveys are carried out on a 5-year basis.**

❑ **Many Household Surveys are carried out on an Ad-hoc frequency, subject to funding.**

❑ **Some/rare Household Surveys are carried out on a yearly basis**

❑ **Some countries are increasingly carrying out Population censuses and Household Surveys on a yearly basis, from administrative records, to produce data on Vital events, Education, Health, Labour, Income/expenditure, Migration, etc.**

Disaggregation Gaps

❑ **Lack of baseline data (countries in war/internal conflict)**

❑ **Census is the only source that provides data at all geographic levels. Sub-national disaggregation could be challenging between two census rounds**

❑ **Survey data may be available at global level, but no breakdown by geographic and administrative levels (due to sampling frame)**

❑ **Data can be disaggregated for primary characteristics, but may not be available for combined characteristics**

❑ **Data is available at individual level, but not at household level**

❑ **Population breakdown by detailed characteristics**

❑ **Population dynamics: vital events, fertility, mortality, marriage, migration, growth, distribution**

Primary disaggregation levels

Charac-teristics

- ✓ **Age: single, small and large age groups, individual, household head**
- ✓ **Sex**
- ✓ **Household composition, distribution**
- ✓ **Marital status**
- ✓ **Geographic location, urban/rural, primary census units**
- ✓ **Administrative level: national, province, governorate, municipality, village**
- ✓ **Nationality, place of birth, residency status**
- ✓ **Educational status, education level, type of school, private/public**
- ✓ **Health condition, disability, health facilities**
- ✓ **Economic activity, economic status, employment situation, occupation, industry, economic sector**
- ✓ **Standards of living, household income, expenditure, vulnerability**
- ✓ **Migratory status, place of origin, place of destination**
- ✓ **Housing by geographic location, urban/rural, living quarter, type of tenure**
- ✓ **Public services by economic sector, location, energy, transport, water, sanitation**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Disaggre-gation gaps

1. **Population: nationality, age groups, municipalities, migration, disabilities, urban/rural**
2. **Health: sex, age groups, nationality, sub-national levels, urban/rural**
3. **Housing: sex, age groups, urban/rural, municipalities,**
4. **Employment: sex, age groups, nationality, economic sector, , industries, formal/non-formal sectors**
5. **Education: migration, household income, disability**
6. **Poverty & Living Standards: Household, individual, gender of HH head, age of HH head, educational level of HH head, marital status of HH head, HH size, nb. of children in household**
7. **Culture: most indicators and characteristics**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Capacity constraints

1. Methodological issues

- Many countries expressed no concerns,
- But for some others
  - Need to clarify methodology for education, health, housing indicators
  - Need for harmonisation throughout the region
  - SDG indicators Tier III are difficult to produce

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Capacity constraints

2. **Means for data production & dissemination**
   - **Need to strengthen data production and computer equipment for monitoring SDGs, with data providers and NSO**
   - **Need to expand the use of tablets for data collection (LFS, HIES, Pop. Census)**
   - **Maternal Mortality indicators require surveys with large sample size and important funding**
   - **Need for better coverage of non-governmental education**

3. **Human resources constraints**
   - **Need for strong capacity building**
   - **The increasing number of retirees (usually highly skilled staff) creates deficit in knowledge transfer**
   - **High turn over due to staff leaving NSO for other corporations**
   - **Lack of technical knowledge for designing HIES and analyzing results**

4. **Training needs**
   - **All countries expressed strongly the need to continuous training**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Funding constraints

❑ **National sources**
  ➢ **Mixed picture**
  ➢ **Need for a case-by-case approach**
  ➢ **Lack of funding for Maternal Mortality related surveys**

❑ **Complementary sources**
  ➢ **Engaging the private sector**
  ➢ **Bilateral and multilateral sources.**

✓ *In general, NSOs who rely too closely on external funding experience a weakening of their ability to provide data on a continuous and timely basis.*

✓ *But, the reverse is also true: NSOs who have difficulties providing data on a continuous and timely basis, rely too heavily on external funding.*

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Potential actions

1. **Institutional reform:**

   ➢ **Most countries need reforming the Statistical Act**

   ➢ **Designing and implementing National Strategies for Development of Statistics**

2. **Enhance statistical literacy**

   ➢ **Most countries wish to up-scale statistical literacy with policy-makers, journalists, the general public**

   ➢ **Need to use latest technologies for disseminating statistical literacy through social networks**

   ➢ **Include SDGs in educational curriculum in secondary and higher education**

3. **Improve concepts and standards**

   ➢ **Many countries highlighted ongoing efforts in the area of Education, Labour, Housing**

   ➢ **Need for better coordination and partnerships for discussing methodologies specifically for Goal 2 and Goal 6. But there is need for additional work.**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Potential actions

4. **Support evidence-based policy makings and monitoring**

➢ **All countries agreed that supporting evidence-based policy is a crucial mandate that NSOs have to meet**

5. **Develop partnership agreements between data producers and users**

➢ **Most countries stated that dialogue between producers and users is currently underway**

➢ **Nevertheless, this dialogue needs to be strengthened for better determining priorities and monitoring challenges**

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Potential actions

6. Improve data collection methods

➢ All countries agreed that methods need to be improved for social statistics

7. Undertake additional data collection

➢ Migration surveys

➢ Data on disabilities (Washington Group)

➢ Data on gender issues

➢ Time Use surveys

8. Provide better field equipment for data collection

➢ Many countries have introduced tablets for collecting and transferring data for Population and housing census, LFS

➢ Tablets are also to be used for other complex surveys: economic census, income and expenditure,

Findings from Data Gap Survey

Potential actions

9. **Strengthen data processing capabilities**
   - ➤ **All countries agreed that data processing and analytical methods need to be improved for social statistics**

10. **Explore new data sources**
    - ➤ **All countries agreed that new sources have to be explored, such as data big data, phone data, street data,**
    - ➤ **However, statistical legislation has to be introduced to:**
      - ✓ Protect personal records, privacy
      - ✓ The use of new sources should be better regulated and monitored at the national level

11. **Other suggestions**
    - ➤ **Learn data collection methods from developed countries**
    - ➤ **Harmonisation of methods, definitions and concepts between all data producers**

What to do?

Challenges

❑ **At the regional level**

➢ **Develop a regional vision for strengthening national capabilities to monitor economic and social well-being**

➢ **Design a Regional Statistical for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)**

❑ **At the national level**

➢ **Formulate national vision for the production, analysis and dissemination of national statistics and indicators**

➢ **Set up and implement National Strategies for the Development of Statistics**

➢ **Report on Regional indicators set by UN-ESCWA: Core list and secondary indicators**

➢ **Report on Global indicators set by the UN: SDG indicators**

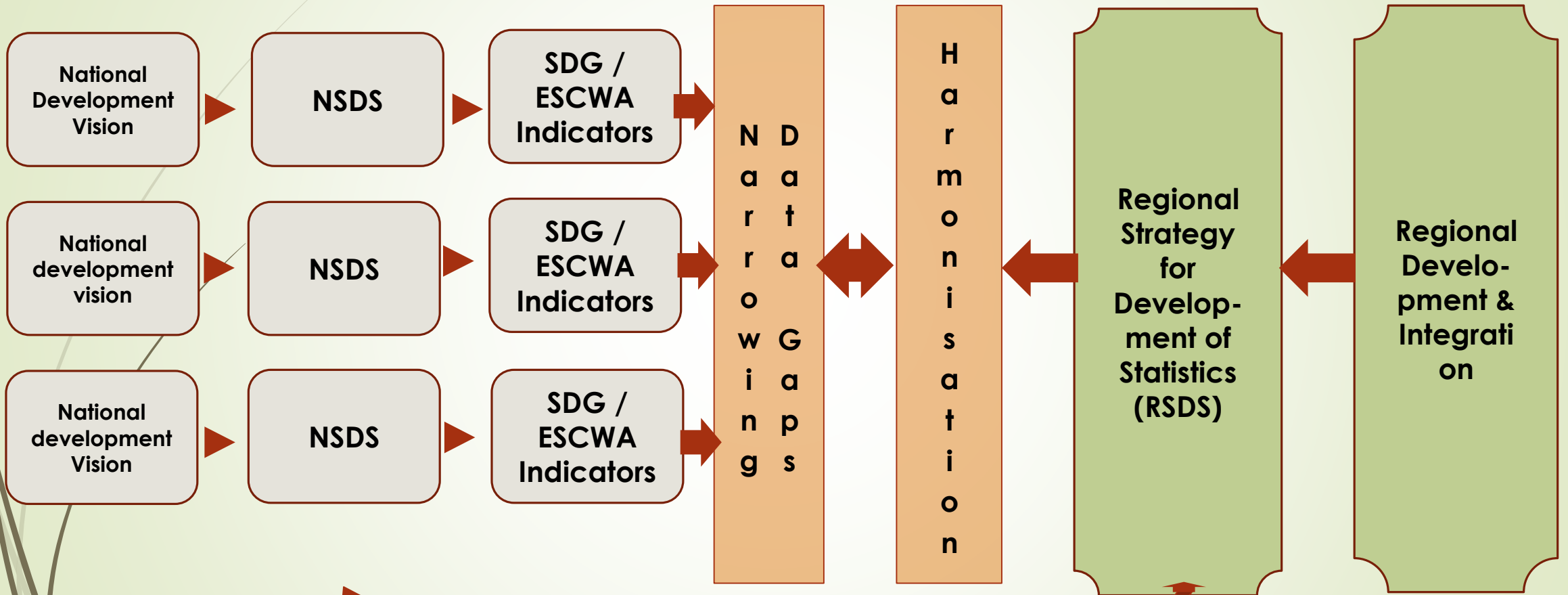# What is a Regional Strategy for Development of Statistics (RSDS)?

Features

❑ **Masterplan for regional statistical development**

❑ **Linkage to national and regional priorities**

❑ **Consistency with National SDS of member States**

❑ **Responsive to specific regional policy objectives**

Strategy process

But this would take another presentation

Thank you for your attention