



MONITORING OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Call for Action

By Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development
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CONTEXT OF THIS CONTRIBUTION

Discussions and reviews of Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) have been a central part of the post 2015 SDG deliberation concerning accountability. M&R are considered fundamental governance mechanisms necessary to inform the policy makers and the public on progress and impact of implementing the SDGs.

Monitoring is an ongoing process that tracks and traces day-to-day decisions and actions at all levels of public administration and service delivery according to the national SDGs. Using multiple data sources for both monitoring and evaluative processes requires integration of new ICT methods and tools with the implementation of the SDG's and reform of the statistical capacity of the global institutions as well as that of the national authorities. A "common" communication template will serve as the basis to ensure data compatibility across national and sub-national boundaries.

In an increasingly tightly knit global society, achieving the SDGs demand effective actions of the weakest and of the most vulnerable communities of the world. Recent crisis of Ebola epidemic and the plight of migrant boat people amply illustrated this mutual dependencies. Hence global monitoring requires robust infrastructure investment and citizen engagement so that the impact of national policy choice and its impact on local eco-system and communities can be detected in a timely and on-going manner for correction, replication and innovation.

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR AN INNOVATIVE AND RESPONSIVE MONITORING INFRASTRUCTURE

Action #1: Launch the Global SDG Data Hubs

National and international partners need to collaborate to establish a data driven SDG platform in all countries. SDG data hubs should be expected to enhance aggregation, curation and visualization of critical data. The SDG data platform could be designed to ensure:

- authentic and robust multi-stakeholder engagement;
- unified data-driven monitoring and accountability hub,
- enabled broad-based youth & citizen engagement,
- accountability
- positive incentivization of bolder and faster action and impact.

Action #2: Deploying appropriate and state of the art technologies, techniques and tools

New technologies offer more relevant and rapid responses to an increasingly complex development agenda. It is time for increased leveraging of mobile & web-based applications, participatory maps & crowd sourced event data, aerial & satellite imagery, geospatial platforms, advanced visualization, live simulation, and computational & statistical models to power effective monitoring of SDG related activities.

The rise of handheld GPS units, Google Maps, and OpenStreetMap for example, assisted in the early development of "crisis maps", as crowd-sourced data and new users began to make conflict maps for themselves. Over the past few years the world has learned they can share their story about what is

happening to them in real time through SMS, Twitter, and other social media. Other examples and niche tools abound.

Action #3: Linking existing datasets

With appropriate governance, open-sourced data that are generated from multiple sources and at multiple levels of operation can be fully linked: from the local/city level, to country level, to regional level, and ultimately to the global level. Data platforms and standards are needed that ensure inter-operability of both quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources and institutions across the SDG agenda. A unified hub of static and dynamic data can be created that layers major categories of data needed are:

- global reporting systems and surveys;
- country reporting systems and surveys;
- open data from governments, the private sector, and institutions on “commitments to action”;
- dynamic social data;
- citizen-generated data;
- environmental and geospatial data;
- global indices, such as the Human Development Index, the Open Budget Index, etc.; and
- private corporate datasets connected to MNCs’ social responsibility and global compact programme.

Action # 4: Shared Communication and Data Collective Template through A Global Monitoring Standard

Based on the best cases and lessons learnt from different sectors, a standard reference template needs to be developed. For monitoring and cross-sector data integration and analysis, as well as “cross-practice” collaboration, there is a need for a standard data coding processes to share and integrate data. Datasets derived from across the global spectrum of key actors, including national ministries, NGO’s and commercial entities need to be comparable. Presently different local, national, regional and global actors, mandated to collaborate on SDG related issues, *have no common tool or standard to share data. There is no commonly agreed upon mechanism to bring all the diverse datasets together.*

Ingredients of a Monitoring Standard

The proposed monitoring standard could encompass the following ingredients:

1. Data Definition that is based on stakeholder participation to ensure inclusive policy priorities and criteria.
2. Data collection and dissemination procedures for tracking the entire SDG implementation process.
3. Reporting format for collecting, sorting, storing and retrieving data for statistical analysis.
4. Participatory approach to micro-foundational monitoring in order to capture the sub-national diversity and disparities in terms of multidimensional poverty and varied pathways in attaining sustainable development.
5. Visualisation at subnational level for whole system mapping and “at-a-glance” reporting for easy comprehension and priority setting
6. Periods for management review against agreed evaluation criteria.

These ingredients should be streamlined into a monitoring architecture in order to capture the practice and progress of SDG implementation at two levels: global and national.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ECO-NOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CSEND)

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The Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND) promotes equitable, sustainable and integrated development through dialogue and institutional learning. CSEND provides consulting services based on research on development policy especially in the area of trade, human capital development, training and educational quality, aid effectiveness and international negotiations. (www.csend.org, www.diplomacydialogue.org)

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For the full text of this action proposal, please access at

http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/Monitoring_SDG_Infrastructure_Methodology.pdf