Data and information for action and accountability

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Monitoring child health and wellbeing in the SDG era

- More comprehensive view of health and development
- Data needs for children are larger: including education and protection indicators
- Reporting requires collation of diverse data sources beyond the health system and multiple levels of disaggregation
Understanding SDG monitoring for children

• Review of indicators and meta data from the UN Statistical Commission, UNICEF and other SDG databases.

• Understand gaps in information on 47 child-related SDG indicators

• Categorized countries according to data availability on child-related SDG indicators (reporting since 2015)
Unicef classification of child related indicators

- Survive + thrive
- Learning
- Protection
- Environment
- Fair chance
SDG indicators relevant to children

Majority of child-related indicators either not regularly produced by most countries or no established methodology for collection.
Enormous data gaps exist
A future for the world’s children

Child protection

Not a single indicator that more than half of LMICs have produced data for since 2015
A future for the world’s children

- 70% of child-related indicators sourced from national household surveys
- Issues of timeliness, data availability
- 6% of indicators use data from routine country information sources
- Many indicators not suited to collection through routine systems (e.g. intimate partner violence, child poverty)
- Lack of capacity and poorly functioning routine information systems in the most vulnerable settings
Levels of information collection and utilization

### Tools and mechanisms for collecting and monitoring data
- UN databases
- Countdown to 2030 and Global Strategy
- Periodic household or special surveys, with subnational district or regional disaggregation
- Census
- CRVS
- Routine information systems (eg, DHIS2)
- District and council routine reporting
- CRVS
- Service availability mapping
- Household level CHW data and community mapping
- Youth reporting
- Citizen report cards and CBM
- Civil society group advocacy

### Strategic goals
- Global SDGs
- National
  - National strategies and budgetary allocations

### Impact indicators
- Operational decisions
  - Subnational
    - Operational plans, implementation guidelines, and monitoring
  - Process indicators
    - Public mobilisation, mechanisms of accountability, and citizen action
  - Community

### Type of information collected
- Country reports based on existing available secondary data sources
- Modelled estimates
- Household survey data
- IPV and abuse
- Child nutrition and feeding
- Mortality data
- Poverty data
- Environment and transport
- Routine health services
- Social welfare systems
- Early organised learning
- Population and schools with access to WASH
- Health facility stock outs of essential medicines
How to ensure that lack of data doesn’t lead to lack of action by 2030

• Recognizing that progress on many of the SDGs for children requires transformational change at the level of households and communities
• Rights-based approach to data and information is required, that places citizens at the center of monitoring efforts
• Covid-19 has increased the urgency for monitoring and reporting approaches. Currently DHS data collection activities in 13 low income countries are paused due to the pandemic.
How to ensure that lack of data doesn’t lead to lack of action by 2030

- Case studies of large-scale initiatives (community-based monitoring in Maharashtra, UNICEF U-Report)
- Potential in social media and mobile communication for youth monitoring and reporting
Conclusion

• Scarcely data about the situation of children constrain efforts to achieve the SDGs.
• Investment in and strengthening of global health metrics initiatives has not been matched with similar investments in national information systems and capacities.
• Vast data gaps necessitate different approaches to ensure continued progress.