

SDC Water Team Day

SDGs and SDG Monitoring- group work feedback - Group 3

1. What is the current status of capacities in the field for monitoring?

- Overall capacities are very different depending on:
 - Country and regional variation
 - Differences in country capacity between the 11 indicators under SDGs (eg more familiar indicators 6.1 and 6.2 linked to MDG have higher capacity)
 - Complexity of monitoring methods (eg some require new in-situ data (eg 6.3.2), other are self-assessment questionnaires (6.5.1))
 - Useful periodicity of data collection and reporting (ie longer timeframe may be sufficient for less variable indicators (eg 5yrs for 6.4) shorter timeframe may be appropriate for indicators that will change more rapidly (eg 6.1 and 6.2))
 - Capacity of custodian agency for each indicator
 - Ability of civil society to contribute to monitoring
- There is existing high levels of capacity in household surveys (eg DHS, MICS, national census) but household surveys are not a relevant data collection method for many indicators.
- All countries seem to need capacity assistance to develop baseline and interpret data into meaningful national targets for their priority indicators.
- There is capacity within academia and civil society but it is unclear what role they may play in global monitoring. This is exacerbated by a trust gap between civil society and governments in many places.

2. What are training and coaching needs (shift from MDG- to SDG monitoring)? How to assess them?

- The priority areas of training and coaching support needs are:
 - understanding and applying monitoring methods in national monitoring processes
 - harmonizing definitions and methods to avoid duplication and confusion between global regional and national monitoring
 - setting appropriate national targets for each indicator
 - Building national ownership of data collection, use of data to inform programed and policy, and interfacing with regional and global for a with comparable data.
- Strengthening support to countries to ensure that results are used for context specific policy decisions.
- Increasing civil society capacity to support data collection and interpret result into programming.

3. How are these needs addressed? Especially how can capacity development for monitoring at country level be organized with synergies between support organizations (especially Swiss ones)?

- Support to SDG monitoring should be considered “support” rather than ‘control” (KM: my interpretation of this is that the wanted to see flexible country driven approaches rather than top down inflexible SDG monitoring)
- Capacity development for monitoring should not only strengthen capacity for data collection and reporting but also strengthen institutions service delivery and regulatory capacity (e.g for sanitation and wastewater data in there is a need to strengthening utility and FSM service provider data collection and independent regulatory verification of data. But there is also a need for formalized service delivery and strengthened regulation in general for sanitation and wastewater. SDG monitoring can be a catalyst for this programmatic change)
- There is a need for data sharing agreements

4. What are resources available and needed to monitor SDG 6?

- How much will this cost / who pays?
- If country ownership of the SDGs is high countries national institution (in developed, middle and some low income countries) can cover cost though regular budget. If not methodologies may be too complex.
- Custodian agencies have very limited capacity for in country capacity building so there is a role for all actors in capacity development.
- By Kate Medicott-sanitation and wastewater team leader, WHO