



Accelerating FAO support on SDG monitoring

Meeting with FAO Representatives and Decentralized Offices
Near East and North Africa Region

8 April 2021 (9:30-11:00) (Cairo time)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

As the custodian organization for 21 SDG indicators and a contributing agency to another five indicators, one of FAO's top priorities is to improve the capacity of Member countries to measure the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With now less than ten years left until 2030, measuring the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship not only allows monitoring countries' progress in the achievement of the SDGs and preparing credible voluntary national reviews, but also supports evidence-based decision-making for sustainable investments and the needed transformation of the food and agricultural sector. Measuring SDG indicators is also essential to raise awareness on the challenges faced in the food and agriculture sector, inform flagship publications (including the "State of the World" collection) and monitor progress in the implementation of other regional and international agendas such as the Malabo Declaration, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Agenda and the regional initiatives. Moreover, in the context of the UN reform and FAO's new strategic framework, SDG indicators are at the center of the performance and impact measurement of UN Development agencies.

Despite their central role, data for the SDG indicators remain scarce. In 2020, **the overall reporting rate for the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship was 46%**, up from 32% in 2017. While the regular production of every indicator is generally challenging in every country, the problem is even more profound for some indicators. For example, no country-level data has yet been produced on two indicators, 2.4.1 (land under sustainable agriculture) and 12.3.1 (Food loss index), while only a limited number of data points are available for indicators 2.3.1/2.3.2 (productivity and income of small-holders), 5.a.1 (agriculture population with secure ownership and tenure rights, by sex), 5.a.2 (Women's equal rights to land ownership) and 14.4.1 (sustainability level of fish stock). The needs for support and capacity development to the production of SDG data are therefore enormous. Indeed, **in the Statistical Capacity Assessment Survey for SDG Indicators conducted by FAO in 2018-19, more than 80 percent of countries expressed the need for some form of assistance in order to produce the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship.**

In order to overcome these challenges, FAO representatives and decentralized offices have a key role to play in scaling up support to countries to ensure that high quality and comparable data for the SDGs are produced and used in support to decision-making and SDG national, regional and global monitoring. In particular, they can promote the production of the indicators at national level, identify capacity development needs in countries, as well as raise awareness and advocate for capacity development initiatives, opportunities for resource mobilization and partnerships for supporting SDG monitoring.

To support decentralized offices in this role, the Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS) has developed a set of guidelines on the potential actions of FAO representatives and decentralized offices for scaling up support to SDG monitoring, and compiled a wealth of relevant information accessible [here](#). The dissemination of these guidelines is an opportunity to discuss with decentralized offices how they could best support SDG monitoring at national level and how the Organization can best assist them in this endeavor.

Objectives

The objective of the meeting is to discuss with FAO representatives and staff in decentralized offices how to better support countries in the production, reporting and use of SDG indicators. In particular, this meeting aims to:

- Raise awareness of FAO representatives and staff in decentralized offices on the importance of FAO's work on SDG monitoring and possible actions at national level in support of this work;
- Increase knowledge of available resources and initiatives which can facilitate concrete actions at country level;
- Discuss the needs of and main challenges faced by decentralized offices in supporting SDG reporting and ways to best address these;
- Identify resource mobilization opportunities and discuss the most effective actions to enable success ;
- Improve the overall coordination of country-level activities in support of SDG monitoring.

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DRAFT AGENDA – 8 April 2021	
Opening	
9:30 – 9:40	Welcome and Introduction <i>Jean-Marc Faures, Regional Programme Leader,, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE)</i>
Role of FAO on SDG monitoring and involvement of decentralized offices	
9:40 – 9:55	Potential actions of FAO representatives and decentralized offices in scaling up support to SDG monitoring <i>Pietro Gennari, FAO Chief Statistician</i>
Presentation of the SDG monitoring toolkit for Decentralized Offices	
9:55 – 10:15	Resources and Initiatives to support Decentralized Offices in accelerating FAO support on SDG monitoring <i>Valerie Bizier, Senior Statistician, Office of the Chief Statistician</i> <i>Nancy Chin, Regional Statistician, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE)</i>
Discussion	
10:15 - 10:55	Do you agree with the potential actions presented? Are the resources presented in the toolkit adequate to support these actions? If not, what additional technical support would you need? Are there opportunities for resource mobilization for SDG monitoring at country level? If yes, what additional support would you need from HQ or the regional offices? What challenges are you facing in supporting SDG monitoring at country level for which you would like to have additional guidance and support? Is the process to request assistance from the regional offices and HQ on SDG monitoring actions clear?
10:55 – 11:00	Wrap-up and conclusions: Pietro Gennari

SDG indicators under FAO custodianship

SDG Indicators	Tier ¹
2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	I
2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	I
2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	II
2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	II
2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	II
2.5.1.a Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium or long term conservation facilities	I
2.5.1.b Number of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium or long term conservation facilities	
2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction	II
2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	I
2.c.1 Indicator of (food) price anomalies	I
5.a.1 (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	II
5.a.2 Percentage of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	II
6.4.1 Change in water use efficiency over time	I
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	I
12.3.1.a Global food loss index	II
14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	I
14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	I
14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries	II
14.b.1 Degree of implementation of legal/regulatory/policy/institutional frameworks which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	I
15.1.1 Forest area as a percentage of total land area	I
15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management	I
15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index	I

¹ Tier I for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available; Tier II for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available; Tier III for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed and data are largely not available