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Disaggregation of poverty indicators for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Disaggregation of poverty indicators for the monitoring of the SDGs in the Commonwealth of Independent States: the practice by countries and the outlook

Note by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States*

Summary

Studies show that most CIS countries have achieved significant progress in supporting the SDG monitoring: they have set up national SDG platforms with roadmaps, lists of indicators, metadata and data for certain indicators. That said, statistical services still encounter a series of difficulties, such as the need for new pilot researches and additional modules in the existing researches, the lack of methodologies for certain indicators, the harmonization of national SDG indicators with international standards and the disaggregation of data. This report presents the experience of the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States in monitoring sustainable development under SDGs 1 and 10 and discusses the comparability of data for certain social-demographic groups (children, young people, older people and people with disabilities).

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I. Introduction

1. By the decision of the Council of the Heads of Statistical Services of CIS States, the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)¹ monitors the implementation of the SDGs in the CIS region. The monitoring includes:

- (a) The study of the progress achieved by the countries in organizing and developing the SDG monitoring at the country level;
- (b) The updating of the list of SDG indicators for the CIS region;
- (c) The addition of the section *SDG Statistics: CIS Region* to the CIS Statcommittee's web site <http://www.cisstat.com/sdgs/>;
- (d) The annual publication of the electronic version of the statistical report *The Monitoring of the SDG Indicators in the CIS Region*.

2. In 2019, the CIS Statcommittee carried out a series of researches on various aspects of the SDGs in the CIS countries:

- (a) On the progress in organizing the SDG monitoring at the national level;
- (b) On the status of the implementation of poverty indicators in the national practice to monitor the SDGs;
- (c) On disability statistics in the CIS countries in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

3. Studies show that most CIS countries have achieved significant progress in supporting the SDG monitoring: they have set up national SDG platforms with roadmaps, lists of indicators, metadata and data for certain indicators. That said, statistical services still encounter a series of difficulties, such as the need for new pilot researches and additional modules in the existing researches, the lack of methodologies for certain indicators, the harmonization of national SDG indicators with international standards and the disaggregation of data.

4. Since poverty reduction is one of the key goals of sustainable development, the CIS Statcommittee pays great attention to poverty measurement in the CIS countries as part of its work.

5. To assess the CIS countries' statistical capacity to implement poverty indicators in their national practices, the national statistical services received a questionnaire aimed at collecting the following information:

- (a) What poverty indicators are already used at the national level, and what poverty indicators are planned for the future?
- (b) What poverty indicator disaggregation levels are applied in the present, and what are the statistical services' plans for extending them?
- (c) What welfare indicators are used for poverty measurement at the national level and for international comparisons?

6. The questionnaire used the indicator disaggregation groups recommended by the interagency group of experts on SDG indicators in the document *Data Disaggregation and SDG Indicators: Policy Priorities and Current and Future Disaggregation Plans*. These recommendations were presented at the fiftieth session of the UN Statistical Commission. In addition, the questionnaire requested information on specific population groups, namely children, older people and people with disabilities, because this information is in high demand among users.

¹ The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) includes 11 states (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine).

7. The countries that replied were Azerbaijan (AZ), Armenia (AM), Belarus (BY), Kazakhstan (KZ), Kyrgyzstan (KG), Moldova (MD), Russia (RU) and Uzbekistan (UZ). The collected information served as the basis for this document.

8. *Indicator 1.1.1 The percentage of the population that lives below the international poverty line, disaggregated by sex, age, employment and residence (urban/rural)*

9. Most CIS countries included Indicator 1.1.1 in their national lists of SDG indicators.

	AZ	AM	BY	KZ	KG	MD	RU	UZ*
This indicator is included in the national list of SDG indicators.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
The calculations were performed by								
- specialists from the statistical services	+		+	+	+		+	
- experts of the World Bank		+				+		
- other organizations						+		
Applied limits:								
\$ 1.9 according to the 2011 PPP	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
\$ 3.2 according to the 2011 PPP		+		+				
\$ 5.5 according to the 2011 PPP		+		+				
\$ 2.15 according to the 1996 PPP						+		
\$ 4.3 according to the 1996 PPP						+		

* Uzbekistan plans to change the calculation of its indicator *extremely low income rate* in accordance with the international measurement of extreme poverty (USD 1.9 per day according to the PPP).

10. The main portion of the population in the CIS countries have an income/consumer spending that exceeds the international poverty line of USD 1.9.

Table 1

[1.1.1] The percentage of the population that lives below the international poverty line of USD 1.9 per day (according to the 2011 PPP)* (as percentage from the entire population)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Azerbaijan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Armenia	1.86	1.78	1.35	...
Belarus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kazakhstan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kyrgyzstan	0.06	0.21	0.31	...
Moldova	0.0	0.2	0.1	...
Russia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tajikistan	4.8	...	...	...

* Data for Armenia, Moldova and Tajikistan is offered by the World Bank, data for the rest of the countries is offered by the statistical services based on the World Bank's methodology.

11. The disaggregation of this indicator will help to identify the most vulnerable population groups that live in extreme poverty.

12. The CIS countries disaggregate or plan to disaggregate this data by various criteria and population groups.

<i>Disaggregation of Indicator 1.1.1:</i>	<i>AZ</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>BY</i>	<i>KZ</i>	<i>KG</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>RU</i>	<i>UZ</i>
by sex	◇	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	
by age	◇	◆	◆	◇		◆	◆	
by residence	◇	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	
by workforce status (employed/unemployed)*	◇	◆	◆	◇			◆	
by employment status	◇	◆**		◇		◆		
by the categories:								
children under 18	◇		◇	◇			◆***	
older people	◇	◆****	◇				◆	
people with disabilities	◇		◇					

◆ used in the present ◇ planned for the future

* In Armenia — economically active and inactive, employed, unemployed; in Belarus — employed.

** Employed workers, self-employed.

*** In Russia, children are not counted as a separate group; data is disaggregated by men under 18 and women under 18.

**** Retirees.

13. Despite the use of the World Bank’s methodology and the existence of common boundaries, the CIS countries still struggle with the incomparability of data under the indicator *the percentage of the population that lives below the international poverty line of USD 1.9*.

14. Most national statistical services calculate this indicator on their own, using national welfare indicators with different composition.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Indicator’s name</i>
Azerbaijan	consumer spending
Armenia	consumption aggregation
Belarus	available resources
Kazakhstan	income for consumption
Kyrgyzstan	consumption aggregation
Moldova	consumer spending
Russia	disposable monetary income
Uzbekistan	cumulated income

15. To disaggregate these indicators, the countries use various age groups and categories. For example, Azerbaijan includes 65-year-olds and older people in the group of older people; in Belarus, this age group includes people beyond the official retirement age. In Russia, this group has four subgroups:

- Men aged between 66 and 75;
- Men aged 76 and more;
- Women aged between 66 and 75;
- Women aged 76 and more.

16. *Indicator 1.2.1 The percentage of the population that lives below the official poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age*

17. This indicator is widely used for poverty assessment in the CIS countries. Its calculation is based on the concept of absolute poverty from the monetary perspective. The poor officially include the persons whose income (spending) is below the official national limit. Several countries use the living wage for this, while others use the poverty line, that is the cost of the market basket, which, unlike the living wage, usually includes a more restricted set of goods and services.

18. *The percentage of the population that lives below the official poverty line* plays a central role in the monitoring of the SDGs at the national level.

19. The use of various poverty limits and methodologies in calculating the poverty rate prevents any comparisons between countries.

Table 2

[1.2.1] The percentage of the population that lives below the national poverty line
(as percentage from the total population)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Azerbaijan	4.9	5.9	5.4	5.1
Armenia*	29.8	29.4	25.7	...
Belarus	5.1	5.7	5.9	5.6
Kazakhstan*	2.7	2.6	2.6	4,3**
Kyrgyzstan*	32.1	25.4	25.6	22.4
Moldova*	9.6	...	...	...
Russia	13.3	13.3	13.2	12.9
Tajikistan	31.0	30.3	29.5	27.4
Uzbekistan	12.8	12.3	11.9	11.4

* The calculation uses national equivalence scales.

** From January 1, 2018, Kazakhstan applies a different composition for the living wage.

20. Most CIS countries develop or plan to develop an indicator for various population groups:

<i>Disaggregation of Indicator 1.2.1:</i>	<i>AZ</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>BY</i>	<i>KZ</i>	<i>KG</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>RU</i>	<i>UZ</i>
by sex	◇	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
by age	◇	◆	◆	◇	◆	◆	◆	
by residence	◇	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◇	◆
by the categories:								
children under 18	◇		◆	◇	◆	◆	◆*	
older people	◇		◆	◇	◆		◆	
people with disabilities	◇		◆	◇				

◆ used in the present

◇ planned for the future

*** In Russia, children are not counted as a separate group; data is disaggregated by men and women and by the following age groups: under 1 year, between 1 year and 1.5 years, between 1.5 years and 3 years, between 3 years and 15 years and between 16 years and 17 years.

21. The countries use different age limits to define the group of older people for Indicator 1.2.1:

<i>Azerbaijan</i>	<i>65 years and older</i>
<i>Belarus</i>	older than the official retirement age
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	older than the official retirement age (men — 63 years and older, women — 59 years and older)
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	men — 68 years and older, women — 65 years and older
<i>Russia</i>	men — 60 – 64, 65 – 69 and 70 years and older, women — 60 – 64, 65 – 69 and 70 years and older

22. Most CIS countries publish poverty rate data disaggregated by sex and residence. Child poverty is one of the most stringent issues for the CIS countries. Families with children face the highest risk of poverty, which leads to a higher child poverty rate in comparison with the general poverty rate.

Table 3

[1.2.1] The percentage of the population that lives below the national poverty line*
(as percentage of the corresponding population group)

	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>By residence</i>				
<i>Armenia</i>				
town	29.4	28.8	25.0	...
village	30.4	30.4	26.8	...
<i>Belarus</i>				
town	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.4
village	8.7	10.0	9.8	9.3
<i>Kazakhstan</i>				
town	1.3	1.3	1.2	2,5**
village	4.4	4.4	4.5	6,7**

	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>				
town	29.3	18.6	20.4	20.1
village	33.6	29.0	28.4	23.7
<i>Moldova</i>				
town	3.1	...	...	...
village	14.5	...	...	...
<i>Russia</i>				
town	8.4	8.3	8.1	...
village	27.8	27.1	24.9	...
<i>Tajikistan</i>				
town	...	...	21.6	...
village	...	...	33.3	...
<i>Uzbekistan</i>				
town	9.5	9.2	8.7	8.4
village	15.9	15.1	14.8	14.3
<i>By sex</i>				
<i>Armenia</i>				
men	29.5	28.5	25.0	...
women	30.1	30.2	26.3	...
<i>Belarus</i>				
men	5.6	6.2	6.6	6.0
women	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.4
<i>Kazakhstan</i>				
men	2.7	2.6	2.7	4,4**
women	2.6	2.5	2.6	4,2**
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>				
men	32.7	25.7	26.3	22.2
women	31.5	25.0	25.0	22.5
<i>Moldova</i>				
men	10.6	...	...	...
women	8.8	...	...	...
<i>Russia</i>				
men	13.7	13.6	12.8	...
women	13.2	12.7	12.0	...
<i>Children under 18</i>				
<i>Armenia</i>	33.7	34.2	30.8	...
<i>Belarus</i>	9.9	10.9	11.3	10.4
<i>Kazakhstan***</i>	4.5	4.3	3.8	7,2**
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	40.5	31.5	32.0	...
<i>Moldova</i>	11.5	...	...	...
<i>Russia</i>	27.4	26.7	26.0	...
<i>Tajikistan</i>	...	34.0	...	...

* The calculations for Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova are based on national equivalence scales.

** From January 1, 2018, Kazakhstan applies a different composition for the living wage.

*** For the years 2017 and 2018, children under 16.

23. The indicator *people with disabilities* has particular importance for the disaggregation of poverty indicators because this group is socially most vulnerable in terms of living conditions, access to labor market, access to education services, access to healthcare, etc.

24. The counting of people with disabilities draws on administrative sources and does not offer an accurate picture of all persons with health issues.

25. In some countries, the sampling size applied in the research on households' income and spending is insufficient for a reliable assessment for this population group. As a result, special researches with wider samples are necessary to obtain representative data.

26. As part of the research on disability statistics in the CIS countries in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda, the CIS Statcommittee obtained additional information about the potential for developing poverty indicators for people with disabilities.

	SDG indicators	Is the calculation possible in the present? (yes +/no -)	Are there plans for obtaining this data in the future? (yes +/no -)	Countries' comments
Azerbaijan	1.1.1	-	+	
	1.2.1	-	+	
Belarus	1.1.1	+	+	The indicators can be calculated for those who have the official disability status.
	1.2.1	+	+	
Kazakhstan	1.1.1	-	+	
	1.2.1	-	+	
Kyrgyzstan	1.1.1	-	+	
	1.2.1	-	+	
Moldova	1.1.1	+		In line with global metadata, disaggregation by disability for 1.1.1 and 1.2.1 does not apply.
	1.2.1	+		
Russia	1.1.1	-		Data is not representative.
	1.2.1	+		By persons with disability without further disaggregation.
Tajikistan	1.1.1	-	+	
	1.2.1	-	+	
Uzbekistan	1.1.1	-	+	The calculation methodology is absent.
				For the future, it is planned to calculate this indicator under the following description: extremely low income rate in accordance with the international measurement of extreme poverty (USD 1.9 per day according to the PPP).
	1.2.1	-	+	The national definition of Indicator 1.2.1 <i>low income rate</i> (by regions and residence: town-village)

27. *Indicator 1.2.2 The percentage of men, women and children of all ages who live in poverty in all its manifestations, according to national definitions*

28. Global metadata for this indicator is under development.
29. Currently, the CIS's national lists of SDG indicators include the following indicators:

	<i>AZ</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>BY</i>	<i>KZ</i>	<i>KG</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>RU</i>
Multidimensional poverty index (MPI)	◇	◆	◆	◇	◇	◇	◇
by sex	◇	◆	◇	◇		◇	◇
by age	◇	◆	◇	◇		◇	◇
by residence	◇	◆	◇	◇		◇	◇
Material deprivation index (MDI)	◇	◆	◆*	◆		◇	
by sex	◇		◆	◆			
by age	◇		◆	◆			
by residence	◇		◆	◆			
Index of the risk of poverty and social exclusion	◇		◆*			◇	
by sex	◇		◆				
by age	◇		◆				
by residence	◇		◆				

◆ used in the present

◇ planned for the future

* These indicators are calculated, but not included in the national list of SDG indicators.

30. The implementation status of the multidimensional poverty index in national statistical practice varies across the CIS countries, Armenia releases MPI data since 2016; Belarus is developing the national calculation methodology; Kazakhstan plans to develop this methodology in 2020; and Russia carries out pilot calculations.

31. In addition, the countries mentioned that their national lists for Indicator 1.2.2 contain the following indicators:

<i>Country</i>	<i>Indicator's name</i>
Armenia	Multidimensional child poverty index (MODA)
Belarus	The percentage of men, women and children of all ages who live in poverty in all its manifestations, taking into account the selected quantitative multifactor poverty indicators (the indicator will be calculated based on the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) performed in the current year)
Uzbekistan	The percentage of men, women and children of all ages who have low income in every aspect, according to the national definition

32. *Indicator 1.3.1 The percentage of the population covered by the minimal social protection, level/systems, disaggregated by sex, with a separate indication of children, unemployed, older people, people with disabilities, pregnant women, newborn babies, persons with work-related injuries, poor people and vulnerable people*

33. The minimal social protection levels represent the sets of basic social security guarantees that must be defined at the national level. If possible, they must cover all groups that need social protection or get into hardship.

34. The International Labor Organization (ILO), which is responsible for the development of this indicator, publishes data for the following categories (<https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>):

- (a) The population covered by at least one type of social security benefit;
- (b) Persons of the official retirement age who receive a retirement pension;
- (c) Persons with severe disabilities who receive a disability pension;
- (d) Unemployed persons on an unemployment benefit;
- (e) Mothers with newborn babies who receive a maternity benefit;
- (f) Children covered by social security;
- (g) Poor persons covered by social protection systems;
- (h) Vulnerable persons covered by social assistance.

35. In most CIS countries, Indicator 1.3.1 is still under development. Currently, the national lists of SDG indicators include the following indicators:

Azerbaijan	Weighted share of the unemployed (including men and women) on insurance compensations for unemployment
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of registered persons with disability in the total population - Children aged 0 – 17 with disabilities caused by disease - Percentage of pensioners in the total population - Percentage of families on a family benefit - Percentage of families on a social benefit - Percentage of the beneficiaries of the old-age pension, disability pension and survivor’s pension in the total population - Children aged 0 – 17 in orphanages - Children returning from orphanages to their relatives - Children with disabilities who live in orphanages - Adopted children, including by social groups - Non-working women who receive a maternity benefit - Percentage of poor persons covered by social protection - Percentage of poor persons covered by the poverty relief benefit
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share of pension beneficiaries with the official retirement age in the total population with the official retirement age - Share of children covered by state-paid benefits in the total number of children under 18 - Share of children under 3 who receive the state-paid childcare benefit in the total number of children under 3

	- Social service coverage for persons with disabilities and older persons
Kazakhstan	Beneficiaries of state-paid pensions and benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for childbirth and the care of children under 1 year - layoff compensations - basic pension - old-age pension and years-of-service pension - targeted social assistance
Kyrgyzstan	Percentage of the population covered by at least one type of social security benefit
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of the population receiving a pension by types (old-age pension, disability pension, pension for work-related disabilities or occupational diseases, survivor's pension) in the total population (disaggregated by sex). - Percentage of the population receiving a social benefit (benefit for persons with disabilities under 16, survivor's benefit) in the total population (disaggregated by sex).

36. In Russia, the development of the methodology for this indicator rests with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

37. *Indicator 1.4.1 The percentage of the population living in the households that have access to basic services*

38. Access to basic services, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, education, healthcare, etc., determines the population's quality of life. Access to the information about these services serves as the basis for assessing multidimensional poverty. The main components of this global indicator are defined and offered in the metadata (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>).

39. In most CIS countries, the methodology for this indicator is still under development. The list of services that will be used to assess Indicator 1.4.1 is not fully defined, and currently some of its components are under implementation.

<i>The components of Indicator 1.4.1 recommended globally</i>	<i>AZ</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>BY</i>	<i>KZ</i>	<i>KG</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>RU</i>	<i>UZ</i>
Access to better drinking water	◇	◆	◆		◆	◇	◆	
Access to basic sanitation services: better toilets that are not shared with other households	◇	◆	◆		◆	◇	◆	
Access to basic hygiene accommodation (availability of products for handwashing with soap and water)	◇	◆						
Access to basic mobility (road accessibility in any weather in the villages or access to public transportation in the towns)	◇							◇
Access to the main waste disposal services	◇	◆						
Access to basic healthcare services	◇	◆						◆
Access to basic education	◇	◆						◆
Access to basic information services (broadband access to the Internet)	◆	◆				◇	◆	
Indicators from the national lists								
Percentage of the population that has a dwelling with decent amenities			◆	◆				◆

◆ used in the present

◇ planned for the future

40. The sustainable development indicators are widely covered in the publications of the CIS Statcommittee:

- (a) *Monitoring of the SDG Indicators in the CIS Region;*
- (b) *Monitoring of the Population's Quality of Life Indicators in the Commonwealth Countries;*
- (c) *Youth in the Commonwealth of Independent States: A Statistical Portrait;* and in other publications.

41. Every year, CIS Statcommittee publishes the analytical review *Poverty Indicators in the Commonwealth Countries*.

42. All information is offered to the governing bodies of the CIS countries, the media, representatives of international organizations and is published on the CIS Statcommittee's web site (<http://www.cisstat.com/>).