UNECE

Case study for *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0*
Armenia: Coordination of capacity development for SDG statistics in Armenia

Description

In 2018, the Task Force on SDGs has been established to coordinate capacity-building efforts in the area of SDGs data and to share information and discuss ways to strengthen the data ecosystem in Armenia. The members are UN agencies, Armenia National SDG Innovation Lab, Government and Armstat. The main purpose was to identify capacity gaps, discuss challenges and actions aimed at strengthening statistical capacity, to mobilize resource partners, expand the cooperation and perception framework and increase the coordinating and leading role of Armstat.

In 2019, a multiparty Task Force on SDG Goal 16 has been established with participation of UNDP, UNICEF, Armenia National SDG Innovation Lab, Government, relevant ministries and institutions, Human Rights Defender's Office and Armstat. The main objective was to put together multidimensional efforts, expertise and experience to advance data mapping, collection and visualization of SDG 16 related data, and fill in the data gaps through innovation to efficiently monitor Armenia`s commitment to achieving SDG 16 targets and indicators.

In 2020, the Task Force on SDG Goal 6 has been established to support the Government in localization of SDG 6 targets and development of implementation strategy and monitoring mechanisms. In particular, to strengthen capacity through the knowledge sharing, expert support, workshops and training to identify weaknesses and develop the gap analysis report that will be the baseline paper for the development of the Strategy and Action Plan towards achievement of SDG Goal 6. The members are UNDP, Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Water Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Armstat and "National Water Cooperation" Environmental NGO.

Advantages

Task Force on SDGs: Technical and advisory services (funded by UNFPA and IOM) required to improve the existing National Reporting Platform on SDGs Statistics have been provided to Armstat. Together with UNICEF, UNDP also supported Armstat in the development of child-related SDG baseline indicators. Task Force's support to create awareness, share knowledge and coordinate efforts in this area was very appreciated by relevant stakeholders.

Task Force on SDG Goal 16: Following the Task Force efforts, mapping and collection of SDG Goal 16 related data has been conducted from conventional and non-conventional sources. Data has been collected from over 13 institutions. Furthermore, artificial intelligence was applied to extract data from social media platforms (namely Facebook and E-draft (the official website for the publication of draft legal acts)). The analyzed data will be available in an online platform to be created by the end of 2020, which will visualize a progress wheel marking Armenia's progress towards achieving each of SDG 16 indicators.

Task Force on SDG Goal 6: The result of the Task Force work will be a SDG Goal 6 Strategy paper and Action Plan with recommendations for implementation of targets.

Challenges	Task Force on SDGs: Lack of adequate financial and technical resources available to meet statistical production needs (technical and methodological support, pilot surveys; training on methodologies, compilation/production of indicators, data disaggregation, conducting new surveys or introducing new modules in existing surveys; strengthening capacity of administrative registers; use of administrative registers and non-traditional sources: Big data, geospatial information; institutional infrastructure).

Task Force on SDG Goal 16: The primary issue in implementing this solution concerns the development of a stable data ingestion pipeline. The official API's made available by Facebook do not provide the necessary depth of data that is necessary to carry out relevant analysis. On the other hand, developing data scraping bots is relatively challenging, as it requires developers to maximize operational efficiency while at the same time ensuring that practices are in line with fair use standards set by Facebook.

Task Force on SDG Goal 6: To maximize the overall work effectiveness, each output includes activities that fix present water-related issues, which require more efforts and time to address in terms of responsibility. |
| **Future steps** | Task Force on SDGs: To prioritize capacity development needs, continue to negotiate and make a lobbing for Armstat.

Task Force on SDG Goal 16: This initiative is a major step forward in using non-conventional data sources to fill in the data gap for SDG 16. Not only does it lay the foundation for possible scale up for other SDG 16 targets, indicators and data sources (media, court decisions published online, etc.), but it also provides the possibility to explore other SDGs and use the same approach in gathering data for a wide range of targets and indicators. It is planned to build an online platform with an interactive dashboard/progress wheel marking the progress of achievement of indicators as a whole and specific targets separately with real-time data on SDG 16 and SDG 16+ broader framework.

Task Force on SDG Goal 6: The implementation of the Recommendations requires (i) coordinated actions between state water authorities responsible for implementation of the integrated water management (ii) the streamlining of the activities mentioned in the Strategic Action Plan (iii) relevant capacity in government structures and agencies. Building on strong national and trans boundary water management priorities, the Task Force will be focused on the activities that directly address the water efficiency and sustainable water management. |
| **More information** | https://www.am.undp.org/content/armenia/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/localization-of-sdg6-in-armenia.html |