

Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0

UNESCO: Identifying regional capacity gaps ensures no one is left behind

Description

SDG indicators must be continuously monitored and sufficiently disaggregated to show the specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups like minorities, migrants, women and those of lower socio-economic class. The localisation of the SDG framework and disaggregation of data at various scales are part of the solution to identifying the furthest behind. Data disaggregation highlights countries' most pressing needs, a necessary first step in promoting evidence-based action and accountability¹.

A statistical capacity mapping exercise² was therefore conducted across the South-East Europe (SEE) region to determine where capacity lacks at national and regional level in terms of monitoring 17 of the 33 SDG 4 indicators that are disaggregated by gender³. The report highlighted that disaggregated data at both national and regional level were limited – at least four of the indicators⁴ which called for disaggregated data had either no data whatsoever or had only aggregated data available. The report also highlighted that none of ten countries assessed had data fully available for all SDG 4 indicators.

Regular collection of accurate, comparable and transparent data disaggregated by gender constitutes the foundation for evidence-based decision and policy making, and adequately informs UN regional statistical offices where best to allocate human and financial capacity at regional and country level. While our exercise assessed only data availability on SDG 4, it has proven to be a strong framework to inform UN regional offices and the UN Country Teams about where capacity building is more urgently required across all SDGs, thus ensuring no one is left behind.

¹ Menno J. Kraak, Britta Ricker and Yuri Engelhardt, "Challenges of Mapping Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Data", *International Journal of Geo-Information*, vol. 7, No. 12 (2018).

² *Mapping the Availability of Data to Monitor Progress toward SDG4 in South-East Europe* (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization publication, 2018, VNI/2018/PI/H/4). Available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000266028>

³ *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (UN Women publication, 2018). Available at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>

⁴ For more information on indicators 4.2.1, 4.6.1, 4.c.1, and 4.c.6 please see: *Quick Guide to Education Indicators for SDG4* (UNESCO publication, 2018). Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/quick-guide-education-indicators-sdg4-2018-en.pdf>