

Workshop on Statistics for SDGs

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Session 2: Discrepancies between national and regional/global data

**Application of ESCAP Methodology to Assess SDG Progress at Thematic and
Subnational Levels in Ukraine**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2020 the State Statistics Service of Ukraine – in partnership with VoxUkraine and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ukraine – developed a national progress assessment¹ of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the United Nations ESCAP's methodology² based on the Voluntary National Review (VNR). The pilot successfully provided a helicopter view of the progress so far, identifying targets that need acceleration and highlighting issues to be addressed in the implementation of the SDGs in the country³.

2. The Government used the results of the 2020 SDG progress assessment in drafting the National Economic Strategy 2030. Moreover, the analysis provided evidence-based inputs to the UN Joint Programme 'Promoting Strategic Planning and Financing for Sustainable Development on National and Regional Level in Ukraine' to improve strategic planning at national and regional levels.

3. The 2021 SDG progress assessment measured 116 out of 183 national SDG indicators with target values for 2030 approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine⁴. This represents an increase from the 110 indicators used in the previous year, thus expanding the assessment's coverage and accuracy.

II. THEMATIC PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

4. The assessment results can be aggregated and visualized at indicator, target, and goal levels, allowing for a flexible analysis – from goals at the national level to drilling into specific thematic areas. Therefore, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and VoxUkraine, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine applied the methodology to measure national and global indicators under Goal 3 on good health and well-being.

¹ http://ukrstat.gov.ua/csr_prezent/ukr/ukr4/index.html

² <https://data.unescap.org/resource-guides/progress-assessment-methodology>

³ O. Shevtsova, "SDGs Progress Measurement in Ukraine Based on UNESCAP Methodology", UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs, 2021

⁴ "Issue of Collecting Data for Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals Implementation" dated 21.08.2019 #686-p

Figure 1
Progress based on National System of Indicators under SDG 3

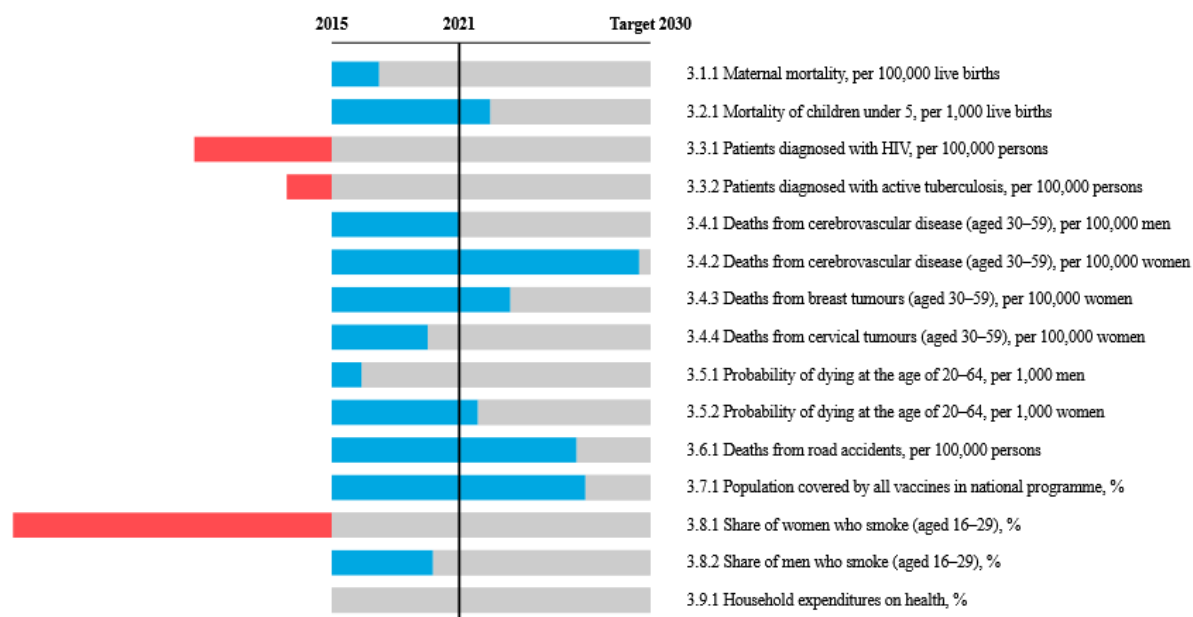
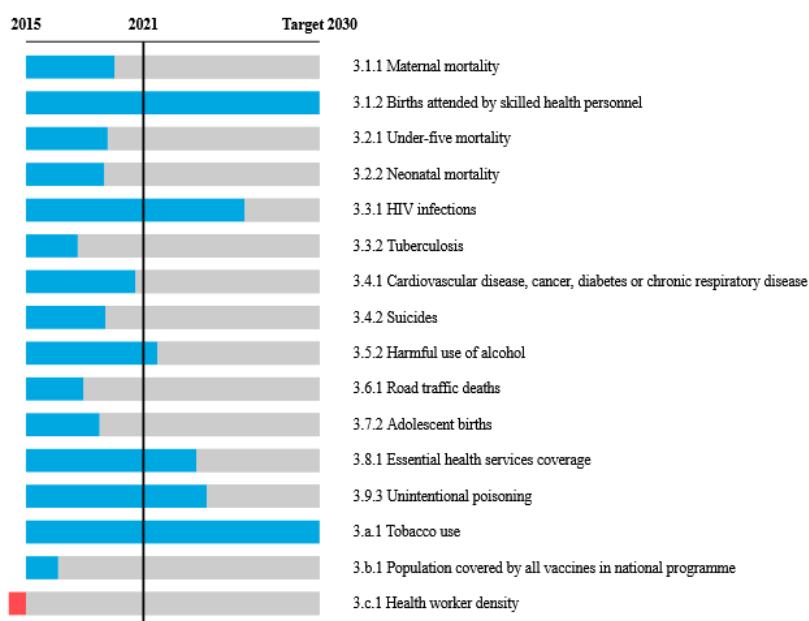


Figure 2
Progress based on Global System of Indicators under SDG 3



5. Figure 1 shows the progress based on national indicators and data adopted under SDG 3, while Figure 2 is based on globally comparable data from the official SDG indicators. It is observed that:

- National indicators provide a realistic and more relevant assessment based on the country's context, while global indicators help compare progress with other countries and country groups.

- Although some global indicators may not be relevant to Ukraine’s context, many could be considered for inclusion into the National System of Indicators, particularly those with available data.
- The methodology permits combining national and global SDG indicators for a more relevant and clearer picture of progress towards 2030 targets at the national level.

III. SUBNATIONAL PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

6. While VNRs play a vital role in the SDG implementation follow-up and review process, governments are increasingly interested in subnational assessments – also known as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). Therefore, Ukraine has leveraged its experience assessing SDG progress at the national level to localize it even further at its primary administrative units (oblasts). This effort was supported by UNDP Ukraine and VoxUkraine, using the ESCAP methodology.

7. The results calculated by VoxUkraine (Table 1) show the diversity of regional progress. This can be used to analyze how certain regions have succeeded in advancing in certain SDG targets and to identify which geographical areas need further acceleration. The following lessons were drawn from this pilot exercise:

- National target values may not be applicable across all subnational areas. Therefore, a comprehensive target-setting exercise should occur. Subnational targets can be set using the champion area approach⁵ and consultation with subject-matter experts.
- The analysis depends on the availability of indicators disaggregated by area. Although a core set of 20 indicators was approved by the government, not all of them have target values set. This exercise highlights the importance of these data.
- As more data becomes available, the progress assessment methodology is helpful in tracking areas that have made significant progress and identifying those that might be left behind.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

8. Ukraine’s experience using the United Nations ESCAP progress assessment methodology proves its flexibility and efficiency. It was used at the national level for an overall view of the implementation of SDG, at the subnational level for tracking each administrative unit, and as a thematic analysis of the performance of national and global indicators.

9. Moreover, the partnerships conceived within this project proved an example of implementation of Goal 17 on Partnerships for the Goals. National and regional development partners worked hand-in-hand with the Government and the private sector to assess SDG progress. It shows that there are no borders in partnering for the sake of sustainable development.

⁵ ESCAP “[Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021](#)” Annex 2 Technical Notes

Table 1
SDG progress for selected indicators at oblast level in Ukraine, 2020 (calculated by VoxUkraine)

<i>Oblast</i>	<i>SDG target</i>									
	<i>2.1.1</i>	<i>2.1.2</i>	<i>2.1.5</i>	<i>3.3.1</i>	<i>3.4.1</i>	<i>3.4.2</i>	<i>3.4.3</i>	<i>3.4.4</i>	<i>8.5.1</i>	<i>9.6.1</i>
AR of Crimea										
Cherkaska										
Chernihivska										
Chernivetska										
Dnipropetrovska										
Donetska										
Ivano-Frankivska										
Kharkivska										
Khersonska										
Khmelnyska										
Kirovohradska										
Kyiv city										
Kyivska										
Luhanska										
Lvivska										
Mykolayivska										
Odeska										
Poltavska										
Rivnenska										
Sevastopol city										
Sumska										
Ternopilska										
Vinnytska										
Volynska										
Zakarpatska										
Zaporizka										
Zhytomyrska										
Ukraine										

■ MAINTAIN progress ■ ACCELERATE progress ■ Reverse trend ■ Cannot be measured

Note: Data exclude the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and part of the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
