

Multi-level monitoring and reporting of Sustainable Development Goals



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Overview of presentation

- Background
- Aim and Method
- Results
- Conclusion & Recommendation

Background

- The Millennium Development Goals (**MDGs**) were set in 2000 as part of the Millennium Declaration.
- Clear **targets** and **indicators** were set to measure poverty reduction, education, environmental degradation, maternal health, gender equality, and to achieve success in combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases by 2015.
- An important area that was **not** addressed in the declaration was how to best harness the power of information (data) for development towards achieving MDGs, except for:

“To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies... are available to all.”

Source:

UN, 2000. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. Available at:
<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>



Background-Monitoring MDGs

- Reports on MDGs indicated that monitoring and reporting (data) are indispensable elements of any development agenda
- Many countries realised that tracking progress, toward the MDGs was **data-intensive**
- **Reliable** and **timely** data was essential, both nationally and internationally
- Despite progress in many countries, there is still a huge gap in the nature of information needed to accurately monitor and report on SDGs

Sources: The Challenges of Monitoring and Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals in Africa by 2015 and Beyond

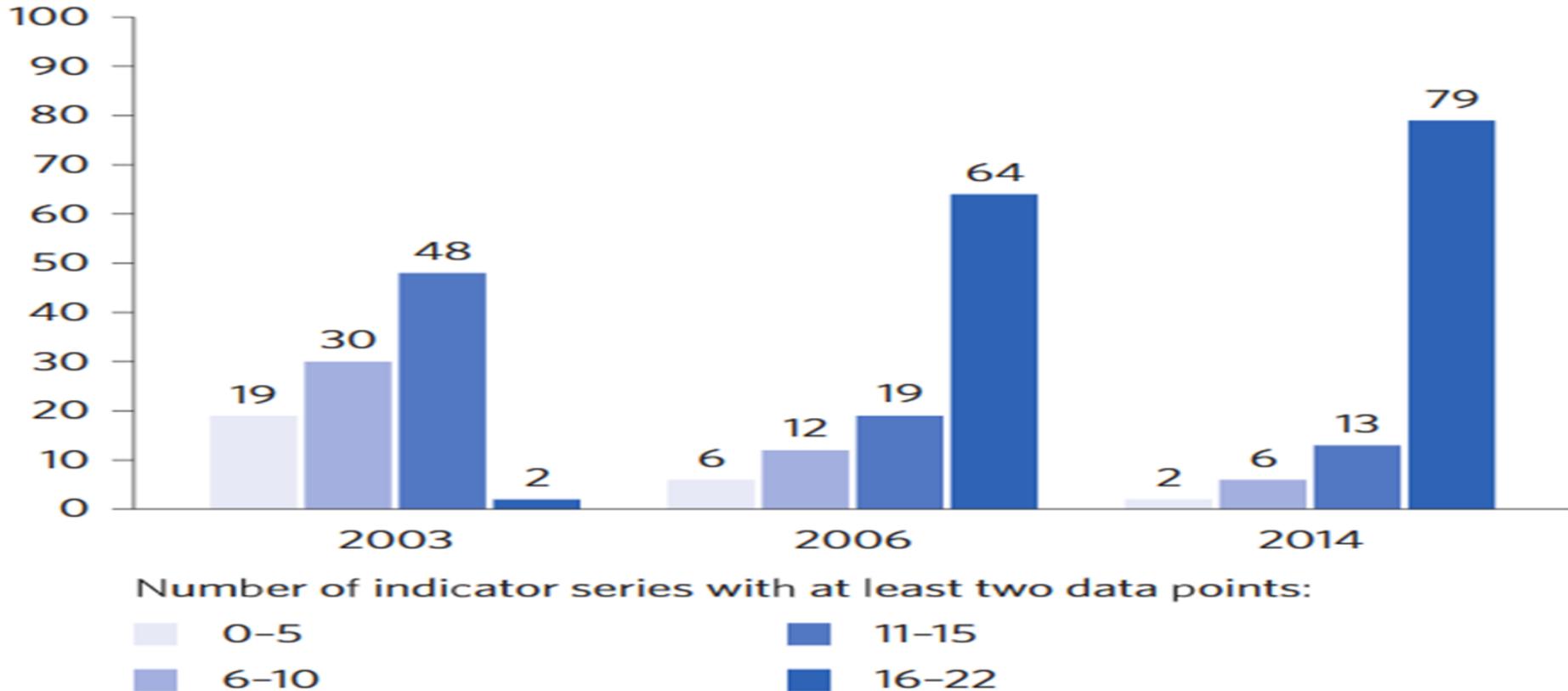
2) UN Development Group MDG Task Force Accelerating Progress on the MDGs: Country Priorities for Improving Performance

3) Measuring Progress Towards Millennium Development Goals by Province in Populous Countries

4. Lord Kelvin in his Lecture in Electrical Units of Measurement (1883); Popular Lectures, Vol. 1, page 73



Percentage of countries and territories in developing regions with at least two data points for 22 selected MDG indicators



Source: UN. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*

Background-Monitoring and reporting on SDGs

- The agenda laid out by the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in July 2014 was the main basis for the post 2015 inter-governmental processes
- In September 2015 the Heads of State adopted the Sustainable Development (SD) along with the SDGs which the *UN secretary general* hailed as a “universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world”
- However the large number of SDGs indicators are cutting-across different goals and this is likely to pose tracking challenges, in a multi- level monitoring system with disintegrated information (data) systems

Sources: Measuring Progress on the SDGs: Multi-level reporting
UN news centre-<http://www.un.org/>: Accessed 2 May 2015

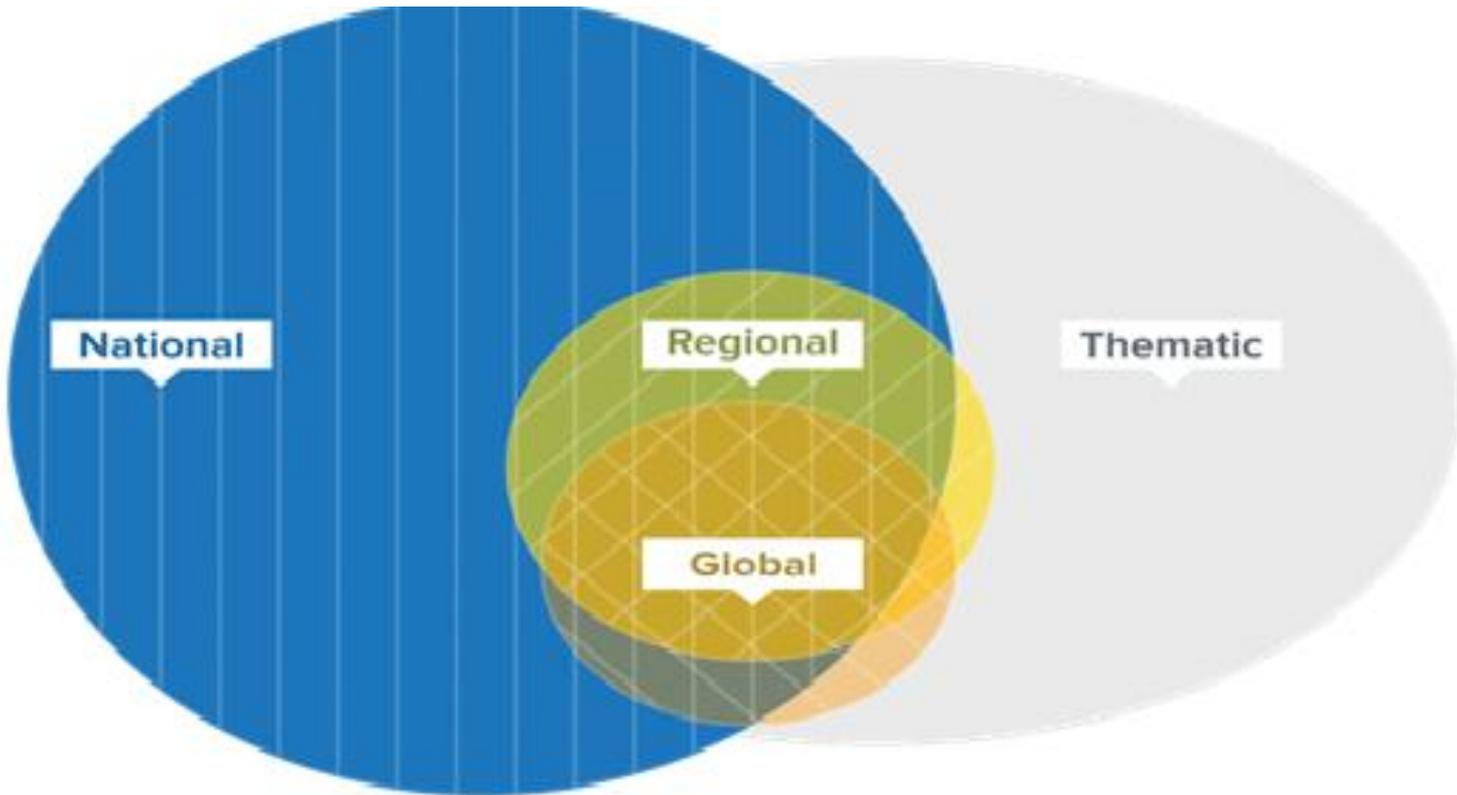
Background-SDGs



On 25 September 2015; A 193 –Member UN adopts new Global Goals, charting sustainable development for people and planet by 2030

Source: United Nations - The Road to Dignity by 2030:Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General On the Post-2015 Agenda; UN news centre-<http://www.un.org/>: Accessed 2 May 2015

Background-Levels of monitoring SDGs



Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals Launching a data revolution for the SDGs A report by the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Source: <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/150320-SDSN-Indicator-Report.pdf> accessed 1 May 2016

Description of monitoring & reporting levels

National	Global	Regional	Thematic
<p>Is the prerogative of each national government</p> <p>Each country decides on number and nature of national indicators which follow national standards and may not all be internationally comparable</p> <p>A limited set of global monitoring may also be integrated into national efforts.</p>	<p>Global monitoring is based on a set of indicators harmonized to common global standards and would form basis for review at high level political forum</p> <p>GMIIs will be predominantly drawn from official data and are generally applicable to all countries</p>	<p>Regional monitoring provides a platform to foster knowledge sharing, peer review and reciprocal leanings across the region.</p> <p>Regional indicators comprise, Global monitoring indicators. Complementary national indicators and possibly a small number of indicators targeting specific regional priorities</p>	<p>Thematic monitoring comprises specialist indicators reported on by epistemic communities</p> <p>They can include input and process metrics as helpful compliments to official indicators</p>

Source: Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals Launching a data revolution for the SDGs: A report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network . <http://unsdsn.org/DSN-Indicator-Report.pdf> accessed 1 May 2016

Aim & Method

Aim

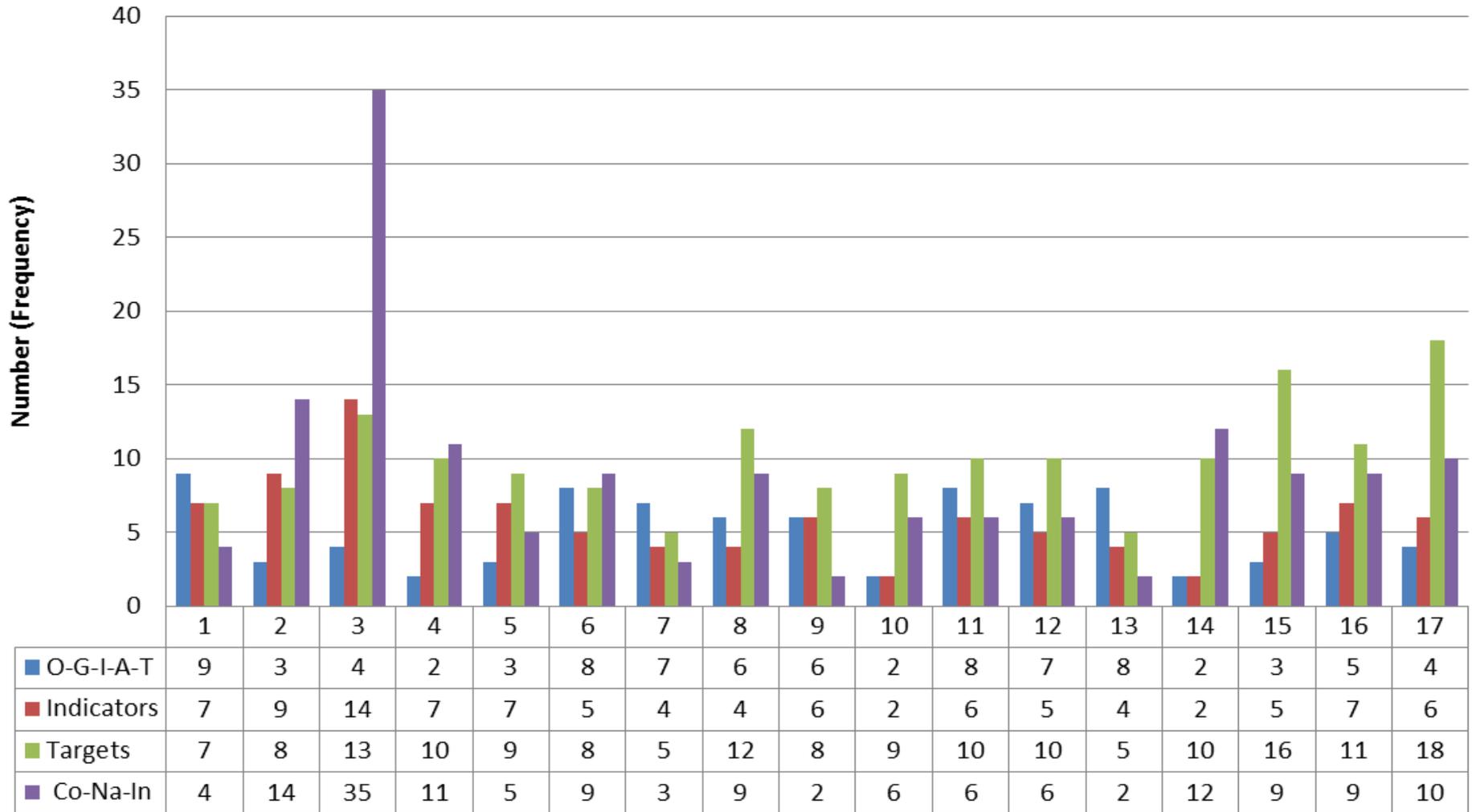
- The study aims to describe the SDG indicators and how they cut across different goals; as well as highlight the possible monitoring and reporting linkage challenges

Method

- A narrative literature review was conducted to assess the capabilities to monitor and report progress towards SDGs given disintegrated information systems
 - Published peer-reviewed reports and articles were reviewed focusing on indicators and how they cut across different goals
- The following were synthesised and quantified :
 - Goals; Indicators; Other goals where the indicator applies to (O-G-I-T); Complementary National indicators (Co-Na-in) ; Targets
 - Possible monitoring and reporting inter-linkage challenges

Results

Distribution of Indicators and targets across 17 Goals



O-G-I-T= Other Goals Indicator Applies To; CoNa-in = Complementary National Indicators

Summary of Indicators Goals, Targets & Cross Cutting Issues

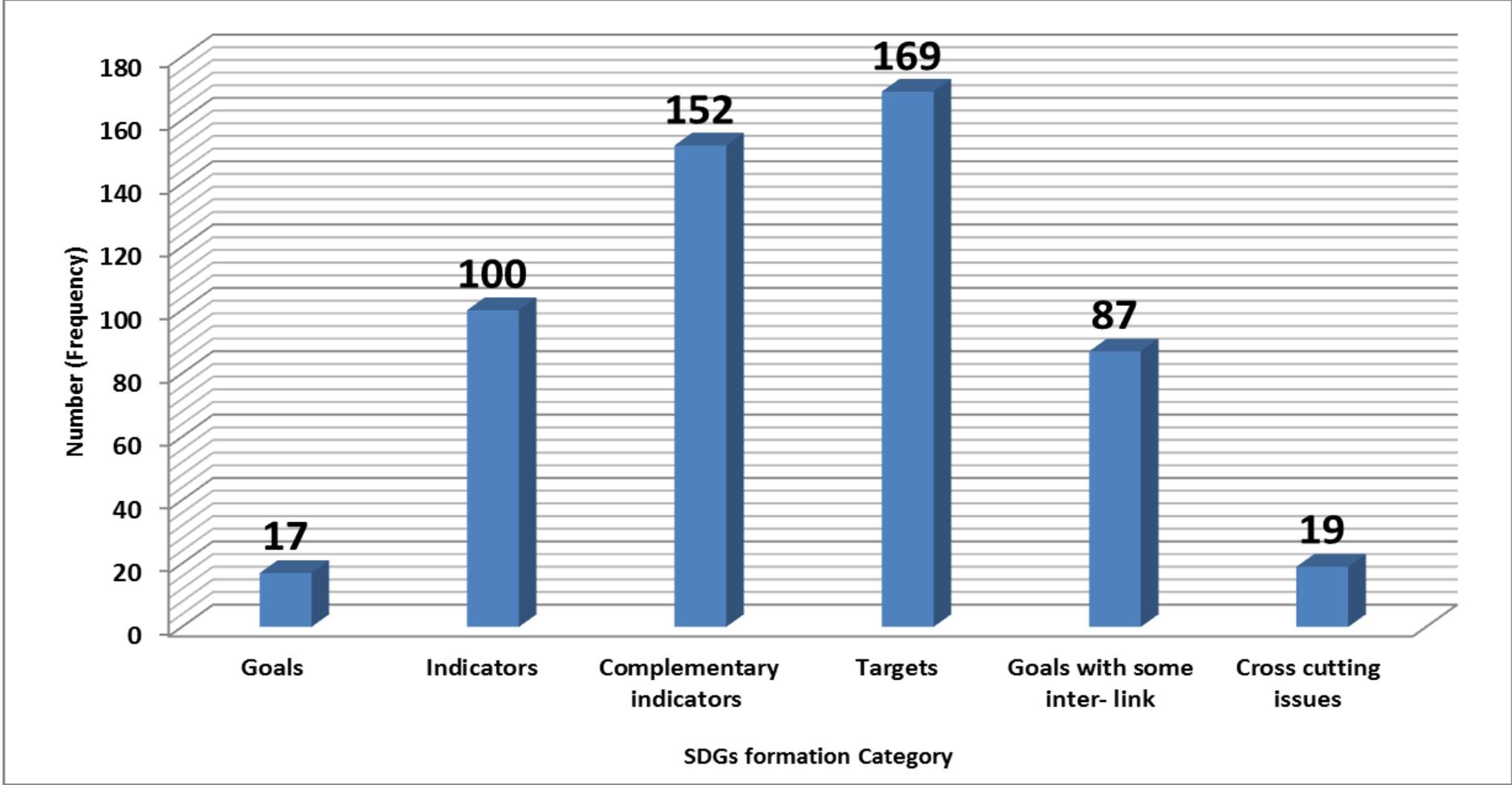
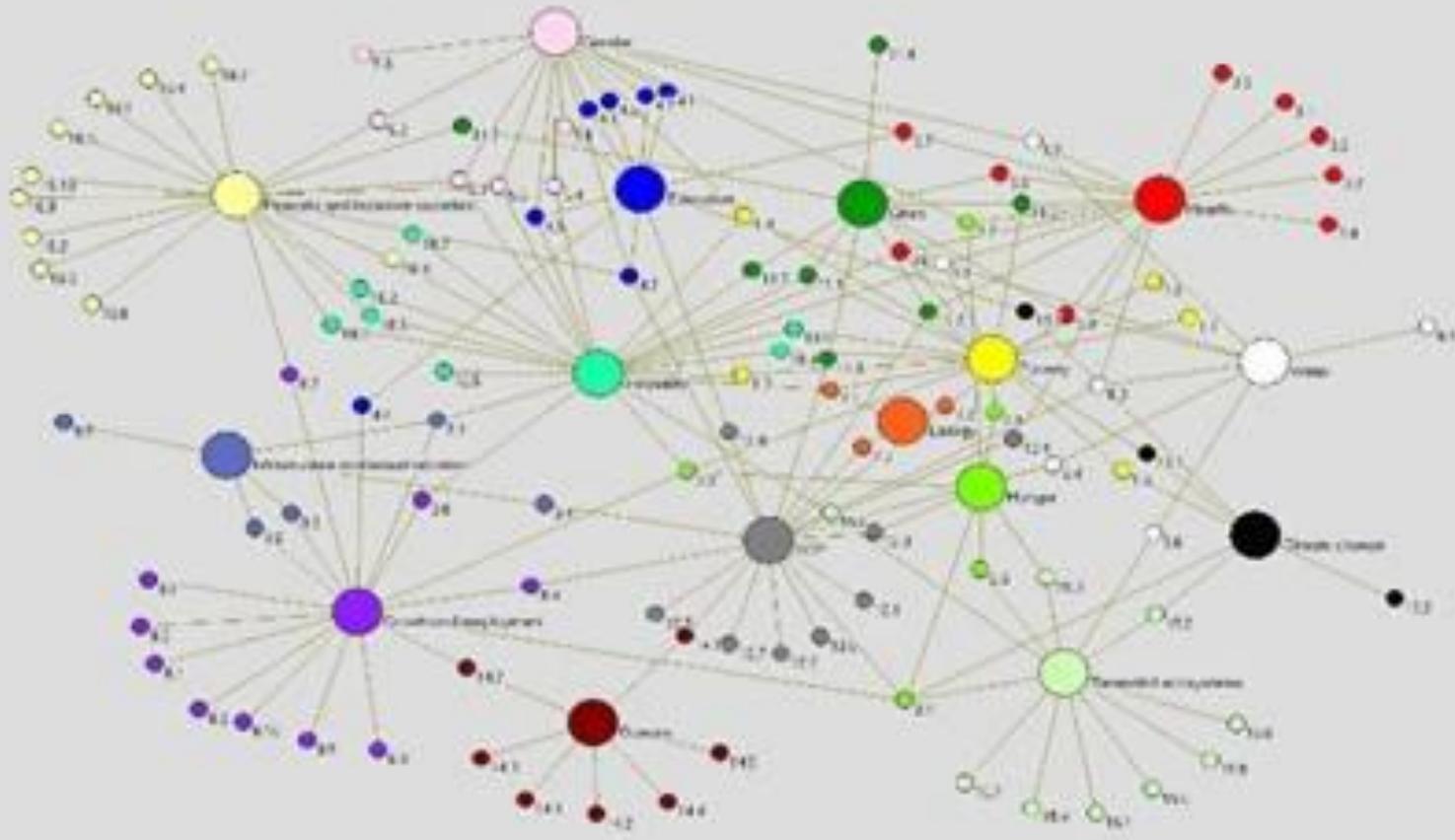


Illustration of possible challenges of inter-linkages



Targets are figured by smaller circles and have the colour of the goal under which they fall

Sources: UNDESA (2015b): *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Interim Reference Guide to UN Country Teams United Nations Development Group* 7 October 2015;
Interactive Dialogue on multi-level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 Agenda

Proposed SDGs M&E Framework

- According to the Framework, the SDGs are integrated, through the inter-linkages
 - Many important issues, such as gender equality, health, sustainable consumption and production, and nutrition, cut across different goals and targets
- Similarly, the goals and targets are interdependent and must be pursued together since progress in one area often depends on progress in other areas (eg. Health, housing)
- Although the SDGs M&E Framework recommends integration, the challenge of monitoring cross - cutting issues is not clearly addressed
- How could a multi-level systems-based monitoring and report strategy effectively address the cross-cutting issues?

Monitoring cross-cutting issues: Possible challenges

- In many African countries, statistical and information systems are weak and the underlying empirical data are aggregated and of poor quality
- Information systems are fragmented at national and regional level
- Therefore a number of the SDG indicators will be monitored and reported with associated significant uncertainty, as statistical modelling and other techniques will be used to fill data gaps
 - In particular the contribution of indicators to different goals and associated targets

Pointers for Monitoring & Reporting SDGs -2030

Sustainable development demands a data revolution to improve:

- Availability, accessibility, relevance, timeliness and integrated systems
- Strengthen global, regional and national accountability and reporting
 - This can be achieved through integrated information systems
- Disaggregation of data to its lowest level in an effort to support intervention changes and development
- Digitalisation of information systems best practice sharing across regions

However this needs to be accompanied with substantial investments in country data systems

Conclusion & Recommendation

Conclusion

Integrated, systems-based approaches to implementation will be needed to support monitoring of cross cutting indicators through statistical modelling

Recommendation

There is a need to promote analytic and statistical modelling capacity building in the country. This can be achieved through the establishment of a specific institution for SDGs monitoring and reporting with experts in statistical modelling and estimation in preparation for handling the contribution of cross-cutting indicators for different goals



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Thank you



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