Session 2: Indicators

Measuring the Road to

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AFPPD October 2021

Roadmap

1. Why do Indicators Matter?
2. Indicators – 5 characteristics (SMART)
3. Types of indicators
4. Challenges of indicators
5. Working with SDGs and indicators
6. Questions and Answers

Why do indicators matter to Parliamentarians?

- Part of the **common language** for the global work on SDGs

- The best way to **keep score** of outputs, outcomes

- Easy way to **identify problems** as they develop

- Beyond the SDGs, it is helpful to **design national indicators**

- Great indicators feed a **successful communications strategy**

- Poor indicators can lead to **confusion**

SDGs with Aging aspects include…

SDG #2: Maternal Mortality example

Legend
Click on a country to see its performance.

- 🟢 SDG achieved
- 🟡 Challenges remain
- 🟠 Significant challenges remain
- 🔴 Major challenges remain
- ⚪ Information unavailable

Description

The estimated number of women, between the age of 15-49, who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, per 100,000 live births.

http://worldbank.sdgsdashboard.org/home.

Without Indicators… Are we winning?

2. Indicator Characteristics…

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**dequate
- **R**ealistic
- **T**argeted

- Sustainable (politically)

What Indicators help you to do

Make policy decisions in a timely way based on evidence that is collected consistently by trained staff

- **Policy decisions** – strategies, laws, regulations, national plans
- **Timely Way** – evidence loses its value as events change
- **Evidence** – proof of completed activities, outputs, outcomes (photos, signed documents, survey results, new laws passed and published)
- **Collected consistently** – so we can compare across months, years
- **Trained staff** – so we can rely on them for accurate information

An Example of Using Indicators

Make policy decisions in a timely way based on evidence that is collected consistently by trained staff

The UNFPA sends you an e-mail asking for a national plan to control Malaria and Dysentery, especially for vulnerable segments (rural women, youth, children under 5 years)

1. Without indicators, can you develop a national plan?
2. What indicators might be useful to have?

Is This Indicator SMART? (Vote soon)

"Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied"

- **Specific?**

- **Measurable?**

- **Adequate?**

- **Realistic?**

- **Targeted?**

Poll Everywhere Vote Time:
Does Indicator meet at least 4 SMART tests?

Join -- QR Code download…

OPTION 1 to VOTE -- With cell phone:
Pollev/yokokagawa498

OPTION 2 to VOTE -- With texting:
Text YOKOKAGAWA498 to 22333 to join

Example of the VOTE screen text

- Specific
- Measurable
- Adequate
- Realistic
- Targeted

Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied

- **Does the indicator meet at least 3 SMART tests**

- YES
- MAYBE
- NO
- NOT SURE

Is This Indicator SMART?

"Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied"
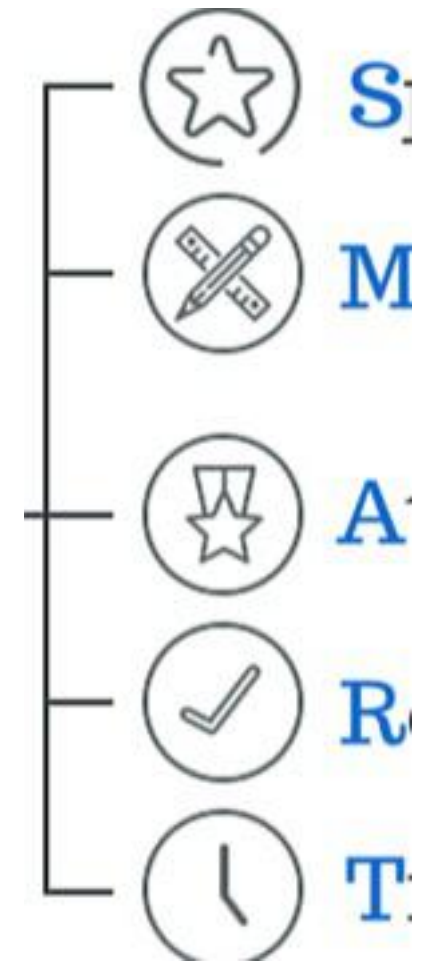
Is it Specific?
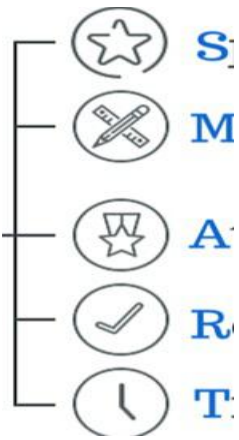
- All women? – what age group?

Is it Measurable?

- Is there a baseline – assumption that information already collected in a useful and regular format

Is it Adequate?

- Do we want to include traditional methods like herbs and potions?

Is This Indicator SMART?

"Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied"
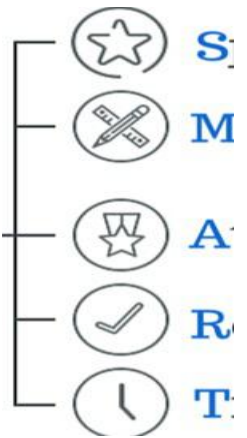
Is it Realistic?

- Assumes uniform monitoring at the national level

Is it Targeted?

- Do we want to focus on groups most in need? What are the implications for monitoring capacity and indicators?

How can we make this indicator SMART?

Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied

WHO? Proportion of women **ages 15 to 49** who have their need for family planning satisfied
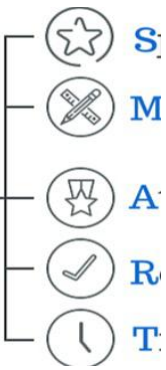
OR…

WHO? Proportion of women **ages 15 to 49 AT LEAST SIX FEET TALL** who have their need for family planning satisfied

HOW? Proportion of women ages 15 to 49 who have their need for family planning satisfied **using modern methods**

How can we make this indicator SMART?

Proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied

FROM WHOM? Proportion of women ages 15 to 49 who have their need for family planning satisfied using modern methods **from trained health care professionals**

OR

FROM WHOM? Proportion of women ages 15 to 49 who have their need for family planning satisfied using modern methods **from trained health care professionals trained in France**

WHERE? Proportion of women ages 15 to 49 who have their need for family planning satisfied using modern methods from trained health care professionals **in rural areas**

Now to Define Key Terms…

Proportion of women ages 15 to 49 who have their need for family planning satisfied using modern methods from trained health care professionals in rural areas
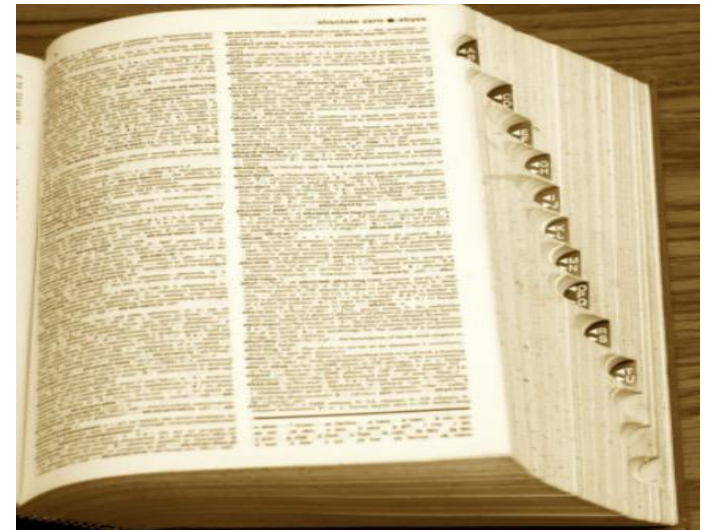
- Need for family planning "satisfied"
- Modern methods
- Trained health care professionals
- Rural areas

Terms Defined – Now Monitoring Needs

Proportion of women ages 15 to 49 who have their need for family planning satisfied using modern methods from trained health care professionals in rural areas

QUESTION: What do YOU think the requirements are to monitor this indicator in your country?

Monitoring Needs: How to Generate Evidence

For monitoring to work reliably

- Staffing
- IT systems
- Budget
- Templates and Manuals
- Reporting Frequency
- Maybe Partnerships (NGOs, other Ministries, IT providers, local authorities, other stakeholders)
- Understanding, updating the decision maker's needs

Baselines and Projections – Baseline Now, Targets through 2030

SDG Indicator 3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49) who have their need for family planning satisfied by modern methods

Surveys for baseline – Positive Aspects, Risks

- **Positive?** Real household/health center data

- **Risk?** Not necessarily comparable definitions, and closest year to 2016 as baseline. Are surveys planned, budgeted for 2030?

- **Projections** are based on trends, but assumptions can be complex, unrealistic – COVID-19, typhoons, shocks

Targets for Indicator 3.7.1 (Reproductive…)

Target:

By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, the integration of reproductive health care services into national strategies and programs

Definition Specifics:

"Access to and use of an effective means to prevent pregnancy helps enable women and their partners to exercise their rights to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so."

Definitions and Calculations matter

2.1.2 Unmet need for family planning

The unmet need for family planning measures the gap between women's reproductive intentions and their contraceptive behaviour. It is defined as the proportion of women who want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using any method of contraception. In this dataset, it is reported as a percentage of the women of the respective marital status and age group.

$$\text{Unmet need for family planning} = \frac{\text{Number of women of respective marital status and age group who have an unmet need for family planning}}{\text{Number of women of respective marital status and age group}} \times 100$$

The standard definition of unmet need for family planning includes in the numerator women who are fecund and sexually active, and who report not wanting any (more) children, or who report wanting to delay the birth of their next child for at least two years or are undecided about the timing of the next birth, but who are not using any method of contraception. The numerator also includes:

- Pregnant women whose pregnancies were unwanted or mistimed at the time of conception; and
- Postpartum amenorrheic women who are not using family planning and whose last birth was unwanted or mistimed.

https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesa_pd_2021_wcu_fp-indicators_documentation.pdf

Summary: Indicators Characteristics

1. A clear definition of numerators, denominators
2. Methodology for collecting information needed in a timely way
3. A clear definition of the key terms and activities
4. Responsibility for collecting raw data
5. System in place to adjust raw data into usable information
6. Targets (preferably annual, semi-annual)
7. Targets and indicators important to decision makers
8. Acting as an early warning sign as needed
9. Links to theory of change (evidence to show attribution)
10. Benchmarks (using acceptable regional indicators)

3. Types of Indicators

Types of Indicators

- Output
- Outcomes
- Quantitative
- Qualitative
- Process (reforms)

A Review: Output vs Outcome Indicators

Output – easy to count

- Number of kilometers of road repaired
- Number of health posts offering maternal health care services
- Number of students graduating from high school
- Percentage of graduating high school students who are female

Outcome – changes in access, behavior, skills, systems

- Improved travel times for getting products, people to cities
- Decrease in maternal mortality
- Improved school curriculum offered by trained teachers
- Improved access to job opportunities for female graduates

Qualitative vs Quantitative Indicators

Qualitative:

- **Targets** presented as how good, how useful, how easy to access, what quality

- **Examples:** Transactions are easier, faster, less bureaucratic (access); People are more satisfied with services

- **How to collect evidence?** User Satisfaction interviews, traffic studies

Qualitative vs Quantitative Indicators
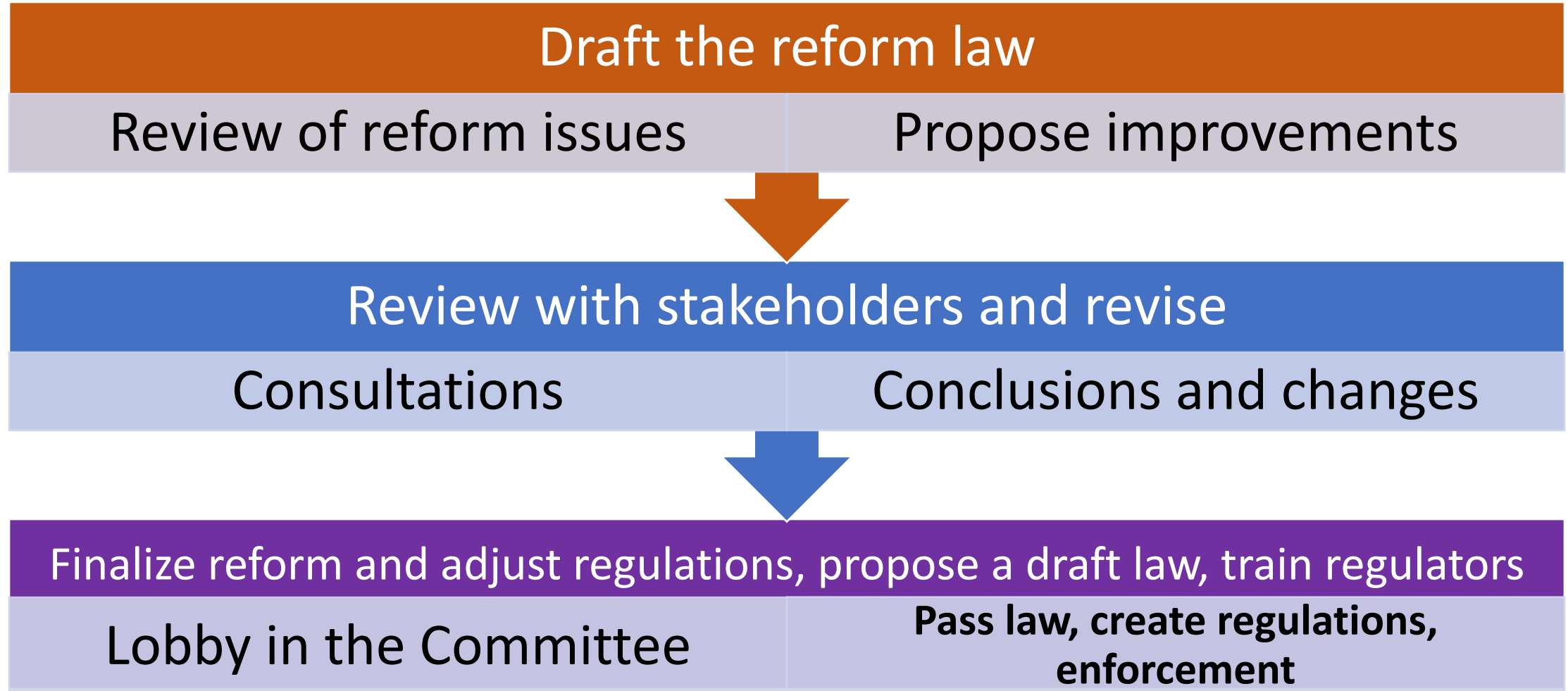
Quantitative:

- **Targets stated** in how many, share that are women, share that are rural, share that are "X"

- **Examples:** Number of people trained in a skill; number of people provided with a service (housing, medicine, vaccines, etc)

- **How to find out?** Surveys, records

Process Indicators and Reforms

Phase 1
Draft Legal Framework

Phase 2
Legal reform approved by national legislature

Phase 3
Regulations to put the law into practice

Process Indicators: Typical for reforms

Draft the reform law	
Review of reform issues	Propose improvements

↓

Review with stakeholders and revise	
Consultations	Conclusions and changes

↓

| Finalize reform and adjust regulations, propose a draft law, train regulators	
Lobby in the Committee	**Pass law, create regulations, enforcement**

4. Challenges of Indicators

How do Indicators Interact?

One indicator can tell you what might be going right or wrong in other indicators/areas

- If there is an increase in early marriage...

- Fertility rate?
- Girls dropping out of school?
- Maternal mortality?
- Women 15-49 getting modern methods of population services information?
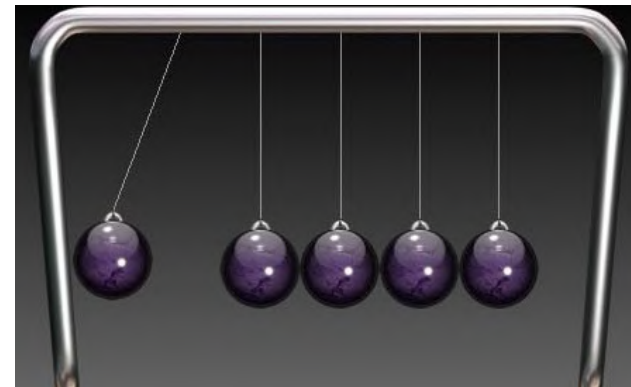
What to do with Indicators

Communications strategy

- Let the public know how population issues are improving

- Let UN system know for SDG indicator tracking

- Learn from the outputs and outcomes, improve in the future

- **Inform specific stakeholders – who are they?**

Stakeholders: Odd chorus, not one voice

Unpacking GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Presidency
Cabinet
Ministry of Finance
Line Ministries
Agencies
Regulators
Subnational
Governments
Municipal Governments

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Parliament
Committees

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Commercial courts
Criminal courts

The BIG THREE… with Multiple Voices

Government

President & Cabinet
Ministry of Finance
Sectoral Ministries
Ministry Public Admin.
Subnational Govts
Central Bank
Municipal Govts
Legislature
Courts

PRIVATE SECTOR

International firms
Medium size firms
Small firms
Microbusinesses
Banks, financial institutions
NBFIs, MFIs
Traders
Associations, cooperatives
Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Industry

CIVIL SOCIETY

International NGOs
National NGOs
Local NGOs
Special interests
Women's groups
Sectoral organizations
Unions
Community leaders
Households

What goes wrong – Top 10

1. **Zero baseline and % increase** (100% increase of 0 or 0% is still 0!)
2. **Undefined key terms** in indicator so different ways to calculate
3. **Indicators not captured well** by the monitoring system
4. **Reliance on others to track indicators** (Doing Business in WB)
5. The teams **don't keep disaggregated records**
6. Indicators (baseline, targets) **overly optimistic**
7. **Hidden assumptions** lead to hidden risks, poor performance
8. **Attribution** -- Clear link between activities and indicators
9. **No intermediate targets** so can't adjust activities, inputs
10. **Definitions and methodology change** over time

CHECKLIST

Poll Everywhere Vote Time:
Get Ready to VOTE!

Join -- QR Code download in just one minute...

OPTION 1 to VOTE -- With cell phone:
Pollev/yokokagawa498

OPTION 2 to VOTE -- With texting:
Text YOKOKAGAWA498 to 22333 to join

Vote for A, B or C: Which one works?

Zero baseline with increase over time

|	Indicator	Baseline	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2021	Final December 31, 2022
A	% of health care workers trained in new COVID protocols	0%	10%	30%	50%
B	Increase in number of health care workers trained in new COVID protocols	0	10%	30%	50%
C	Increase in number of health care workers trained in COVID testing	0	100	260	330

Examples of Indicator Issues

Is the data available? Do we agree on key term definitions?

Number of women between ages 15-49 who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, per 100,000 live births

- Would all agree on the definition of "pregnancy-related causes"?
- Do local health posts monitor women up to 42 days after termination of pregnancy?
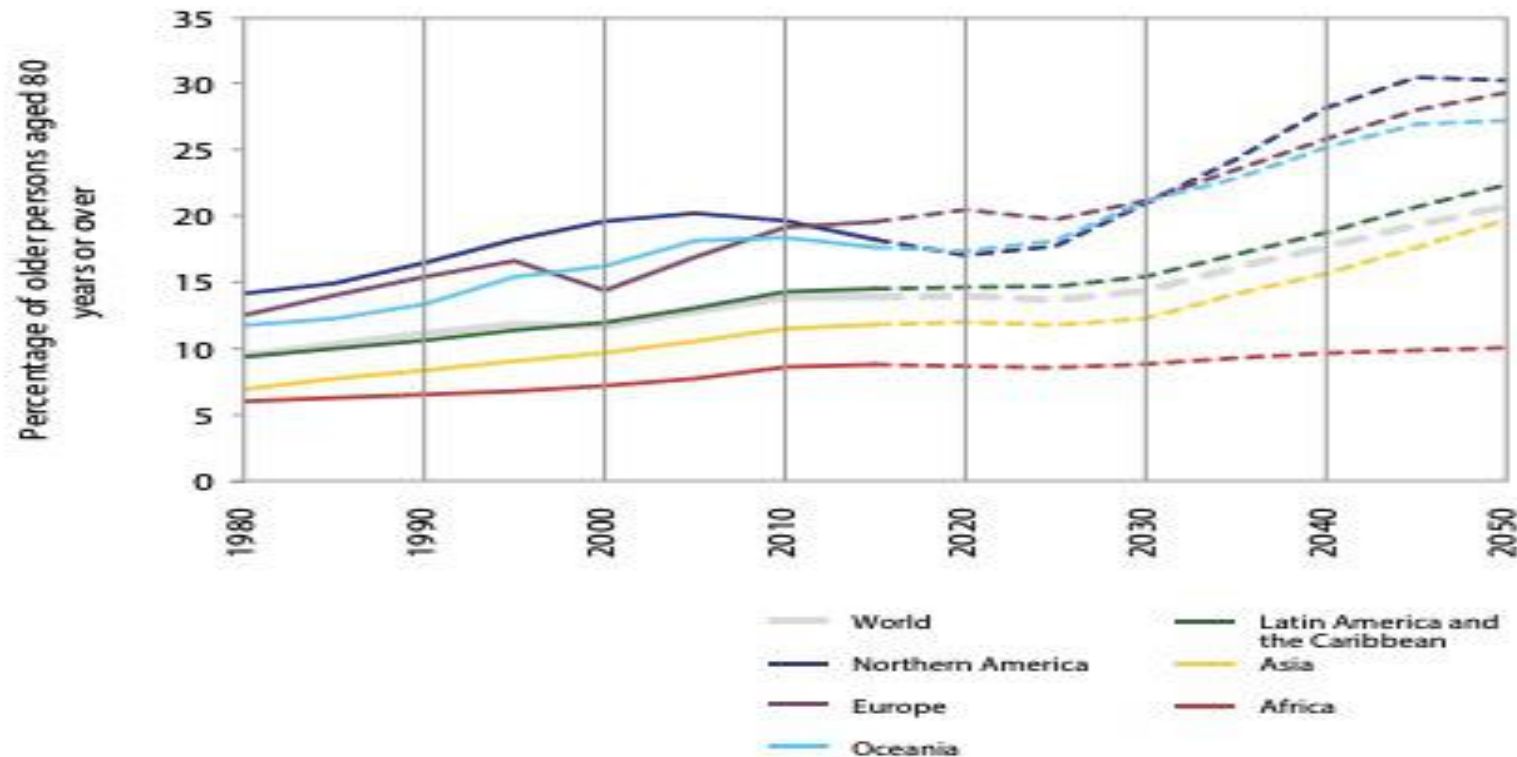
Projections: UN System for Monitoring Indicator 3.7.1
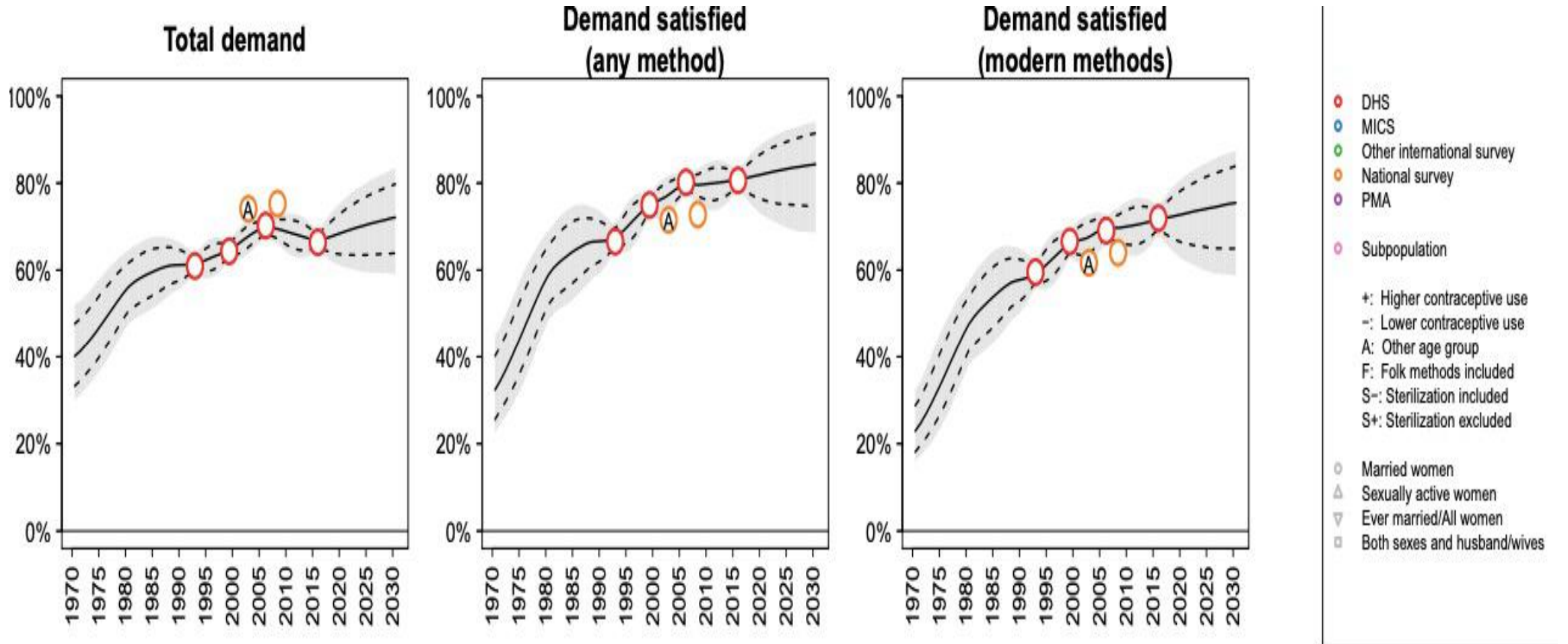
Mini-Case -- Asian population aging (Purple line)

Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Figure 1   **The growing share of the population aged 60 years or over in all world's regions**

Source: UNDESA (2015a)

Mini-Case Study: Indicators in 2014

It is September 2014

- **SDG design team going to meet** to develop indicators for SDGs
- **UNFPA – the elderly are part of "vulnerable populations"**
- **All UN agencies are asked** to "Encourage national and local policy development and implementation to be human rights-based, age-sensitive and all-age-inclusive, with measurable indicators to track progress on the situation of older persons."

The UNFPA asks – **what indicators do you want to track aging?**

Elements of a complex indicator on aging…

Indicator	Overall contribution to wellbeing
Creative and cultural participation	5.75
Physical activities	5.12
Thinking skills	4.61
Mental wellbeing	4.50
Level of education	4.39
Has diagnosed health condition(s)	-4.21
Personality / Openness	4.19
Long-standing illness or disability	-4.00
Social participation	3.86
Mental health	3.86
Personality / Conscientiousness	3.58
Home owned outright	3.46
No means-tested benefits	3.21
Civic participation	2.95
Level of pension income	2.90
Personality / Extraversion	2.79
Married	2.78
Have friends	2.78
Neighbourliness of local area	2.71
Level of financial wealth	2.34

6 Takeaways

1. You are part of a **global monitoring system for SDGs**
2. Some **indicators** are pre-defined, but does your monitoring system use them?
3. **SMART indicators** are the most useful for (i) policy-making, (ii) project implementation and (iii) communications to stakeholders
4. It is easy to make **mistakes** with indicator definitions
5. Be careful with **zero as a baseline**, watch your math!
6. **Balance ambition with the reality** of indicators and monitoring

Session 3: Monitoring and Evaluation System

Question & Answer Time