
CHAPTER 14

Data constraints
in monitoring
SDGs

Ganga Tilakaratna

World leaders pledged their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, upon reaching the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Under the universally agreed development agenda of the MDGs the world made significant progress in areas such as reducing extreme poverty and improving the provision of healthcare and education services. South Asia, in particular, made considerable achievements in halving extreme poverty, ensuring universal primary enrolment, primary completion and achieving gender parity in primary education (UNDP, 2015).

However, the dividends of this progress have been unequally distributed across the world, as evinced by the existence of marginalized and left-behind groups. The SDG framework, which is both a continuation and an improvement of the MDG agenda, however, presents a more holistic view of development and underlines the adoption of a more inclusive approach. Compared to the eight MDGs, with its incumbent 18 targets and 48 indicators, the SDG framework is considerably more ambitious. It has 169 targets and 244 indicators attached to 17 goals.

The quality of data fed into an effective and appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism is vital for the achievement of a long-term goal-based framework, such as the SDGs. Furthermore, the SDG framework calls for data to be highly disaggregated, as a step towards ensuring that all vulnerable and marginalized groups are reflected when taking stock of the achievements and

progress. To meet the high-quality, disaggregated data requirement for monitoring the SDG implementation, there is a need for South Asian countries to fine-tune and improve their data collection systems.

This chapter analyses the data availability among South Asian countries regarding SDG indicators and how to overcome data constraints to measuring SDG progress in the region. To do so, first, it discusses the importance of data for the SDG framework. Next, it takes stock of current data availability for SDG indicators among the eight South Asian countries. Then it discusses the availability of disaggregated data for SDGs. The analysis of data availability is followed by a discussion of how South Asia could address its data gaps. The possible avenues for cooperation, collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the countries in the region are discussed before concluding.

SDGs' data emphasis

The extensive and comprehensive development agenda presented by the SDG framework necessitates an appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This helps identify the current status and gaps as well as the way forward, especially in terms of pin-pointing national priorities.

Compared to the previous global development agenda—the MDGs—the data requirement for SDGs is significantly higher. The number of SDG indicators is around five times higher than the MDG indicators. In addition, data-related expectations for SDGs are higher than in the case of MDGs. In fact, the MDG agenda is criticized for its failure to become a real-time management tool, given the time-delays associated with MDG data: this has been ascribed to the fact that data and metrics were a mere after-thought during the inception of the MDGs (Schmidt-Traub, 2014).

In contrast, the SDGs assign substantial emphasis to data and monitoring, going so far as to include increasing the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and appropriately disaggregated data

as an SDG target (17.18). Under this, three indicators are allocated to monitor the availability of data, national statistical legislation and national statistical plan.

The 17 SDGs are monitored using 244 indicators that keep track of 169 targets (Table 14.1). Interestingly, the highest number of targets and indicators are associated with SDG 17, which

Table 14.1

Sustainable Development Goals: Targets and indicators

Goal	No. of Targets	No. of Indicators
Goal 01: No poverty End poverty in all its forms everywhere	07	14
Goal 02: Zero hunger End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	08	13
Goal 03: Good health and wellbeing Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	13	27
Goal 04: Quality education Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	10	11
Goal 05: Gender equality Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	09	15
Goal 06: Clean water and sanitation Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	08	11
Goal 07: Affordable and clean energy Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	05	06

continues on next page

Data constraints in monitoring SDGs

continues from previous page

Goal 08: Decent work and economic growth Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	12	17
Goal 09: Industry, innovation and infrastructure Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	08	12
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities Reduce inequality within and among countries	10	11
Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	10	15
Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	11	13
Goal 13: Climate action Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	05	07
Goal 14: Life below water Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	10	10
Goal 15: Life on land Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	12	14
Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	12	23
Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	19	25
Total	169	244

Source: IAEG-SDGs (2017).

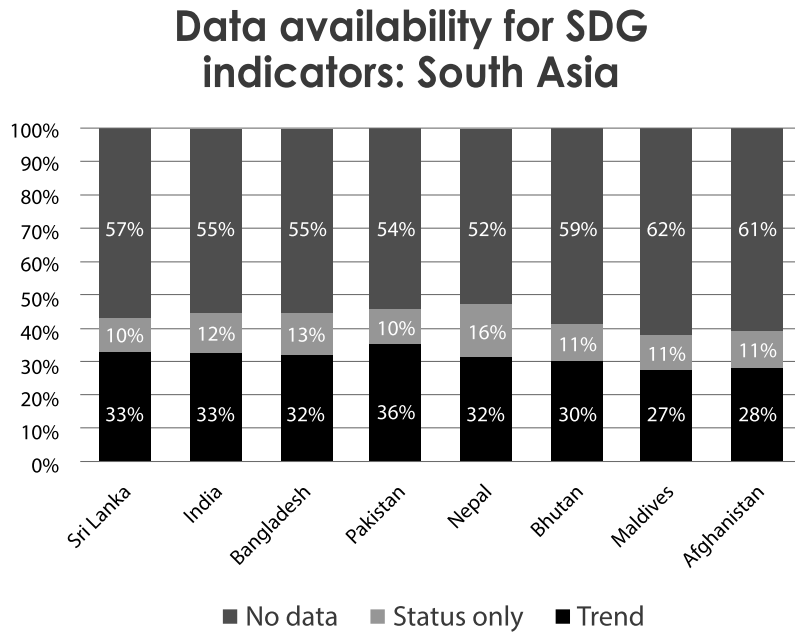
focuses on the means of implementing the other SDGs. These goals present an overarching development framework, which emphasizes the necessary links between the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e., social, environmental and economic pillars. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the inter-linkages among these three dimensions and the need for cohesive action to achieve social and economic development as well as environmental sustainability. These linkages further increase the complexity of the nature of data required to monitor the SDGs. In addition, the underlying principle of “leaving no one behind” has necessitated the need for disaggregated data, especially in terms of measuring the social and economic dimensions of the SDG framework.

Data availability for SDGs

Let us carry out a detailed analysis of data availability for SDGs among the eight South Asian countries. In order to ensure the stock-taking exercise is equal between the countries, this chapter evaluates the data availability based on SDG Indicators Global Database maintained by United Nations Statistics Division.¹ However, it should be pointed out here that the internal/domestic data availability of these countries could be higher than in the global database. The data availability discourse in this chapter examines whether for each indicator a country has “status only” data, “trend” data, or “no data” for the 2000 to 2017 period. “Status only” data means that a country has only one data point for a given indicator during the given time period, while “trend” data means that a country has at least two data points.²

Analysis shows somewhat similar trends across the region, with all eight countries having at least one data point for around 40–50 percent of SDG indicators and trend data for about one third of the indicators. The Maldives records the highest data deficiency with no data for 62 percent of the indicators, followed closely by Afghanistan (61 percent). Nepal reports the least SDG data deficiency, with no data for 52 percent of the indicators, followed closely by Pakistan (Figure 14.1). A detailed analysis of the levels

Figure 14.1



Source: Author's calculations based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>).

of data availability for each of the 17 SDGs for these countries is provided by Figure 14.2.

In the case of SDG 1 (No poverty), Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan have data for 43 percent of the indicators. Out of these, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bhutan have trend data for all the available indicators while Nepal has only one data point (status only) for 21 percent of the SDG 1 indicators. India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are comparatively more data deficient for SDG 1, with no data for about 70 percent of the indicators.

Interestingly, five countries in the region—Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan—are currently capable of reporting trend data for about half of the SDG 2 (Zero hunger) indicators. Bhutan appears to be the country with the least availability of data for this goal, with no data for 54 percent of the indicators.

Almost every country has at least one point of data for 70 percent or more of the indicators for SDG 3 (Good health and wellbe-

ing) with trend data available for over 50 percent of the indicators. Even in the case of the only exception, the Maldives, data availability is only slightly less, with trend data present for 48 percent of the indicators.

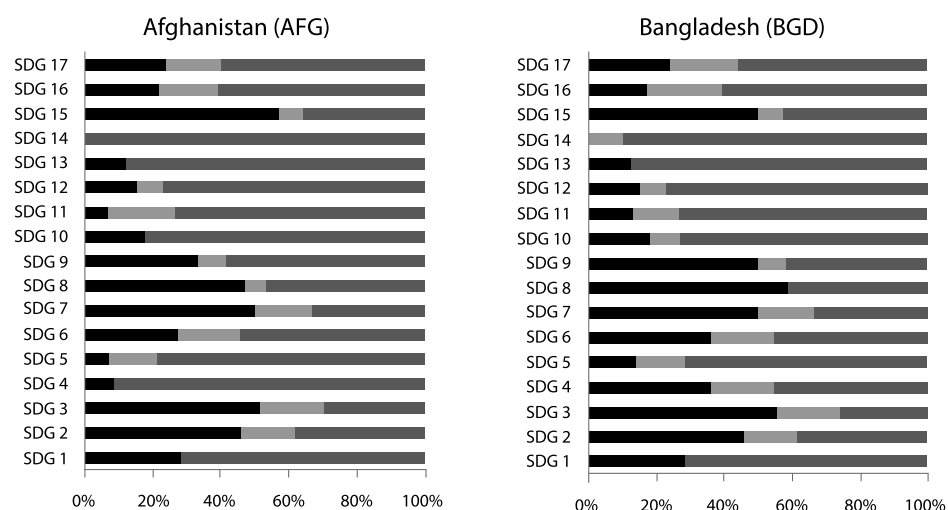
SDG 4 (Quality education), on the other hand, appears to be among the more data-deficient goals in the region. Except for Nepal and Bangladesh, where at least one data point is present for 55 percent of the indicators, all other countries have 45 percent or less of the data requirement under the goal. In fact, in the case of Afghanistan, data is available only for 9 percent of the indicators.

It is important to note that SDG 5 (Gender equality), which represents a cross-cutting theme significant for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, is an area where the South Asian region appears to be lagging behind in terms of data. Most countries have no data for more than 70 percent of SDG 5 indicators.

The situation is somewhat more favourable in the case of SDG 6 (Water and sanitation), with a majority of the countries having at least one data point for 55 percent of the indicators. In the case of SDG 7 (Clean energy), all eight countries in the region have at least

Figure 14.2

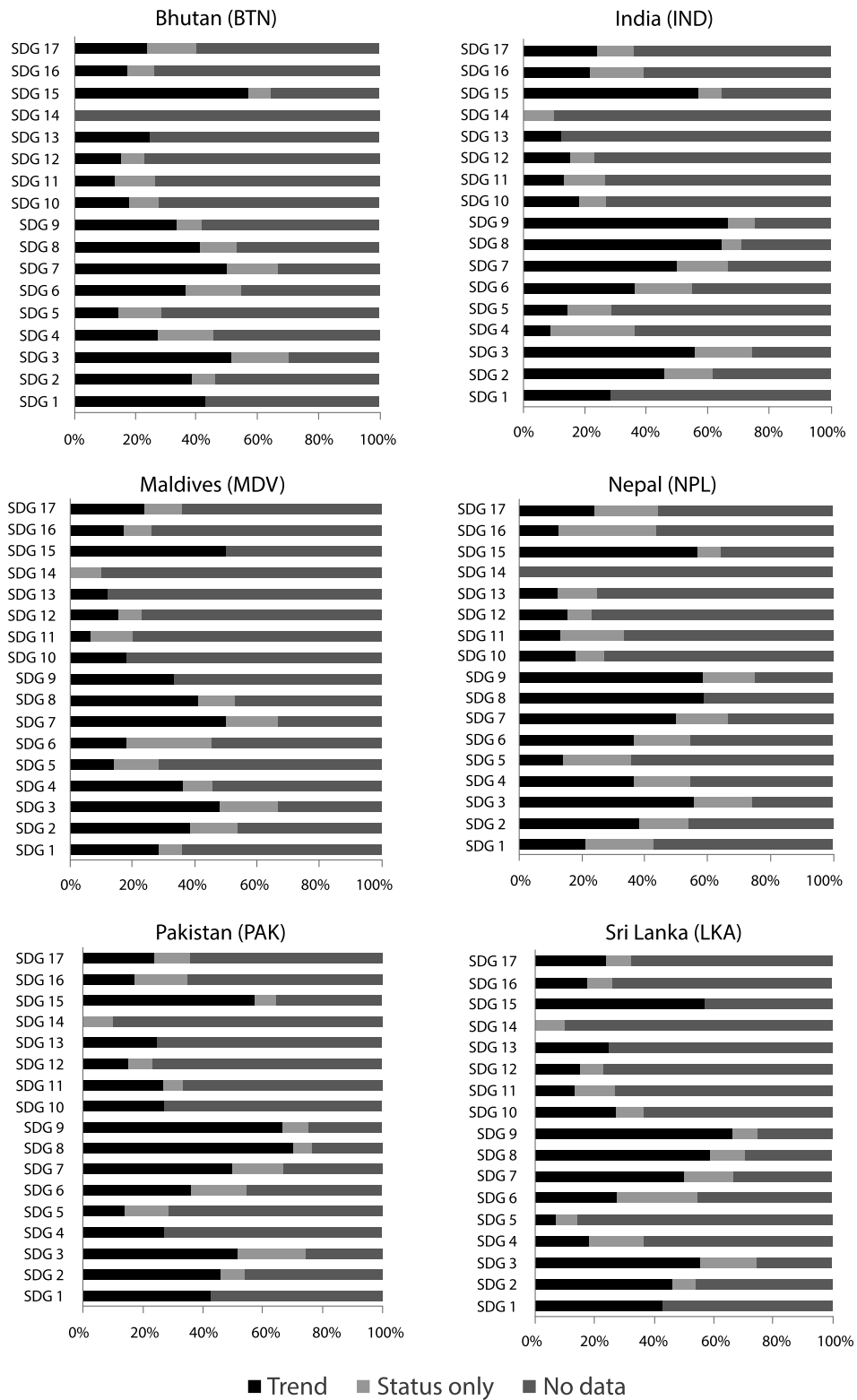
Data availability for SDGs by countries



continues on next page

Data constraints in monitoring SDGs

continues from previous page



Source: Author's calculations based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>).

one data point for 67 percent of the indicators. SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) is another goal for which South Asia's data availability is comparatively more favourable. All countries have at least one data point for over 50 percent of the indicators, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan having trend data for over 30 percent of the indicators. Similarly, in the case of SDG 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure), a majority of the countries (except for Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan) have data for over 50 percent of the indicators, with Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and Nepal being currently capable of fulfilling 75 percent of the data requirement.

SDGs 10 (Reduced inequalities), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 12 (Responsible consumption and production) are among the goals for which data availability is considerably low across South Asia. All countries, except Sri Lanka, have no data for over 73 percent of the SDG 10 indicators. Sri Lanka has no data for 64 percent. In the case of SDG 11, all countries have no data for 67 percent or more indicators. All countries have no data for 77 percent of indicators under SDG 12.

SDG 13 (Climate action) is another significant theme of the SDG Agenda for which data availability is low across the region. All countries have no data for 75 percent or more indicators under this goal.

SDG 14 (Life below water) can be identified as the goal with the least data availability in South Asia. Understandably, landlocked countries—Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal—have zero data availability under this goal. However, even in the small island nations (Sri Lanka and the Maldives) as well as the other South Asian countries with access to marine resources (i.e., India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) are currently meeting only 10 percent of the data requirement, with only one data point. In contrast, all countries are meeting 50 percent or above data requirement under SDG 15 (Life on land).

In the case of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), the South Asian data availability for at least one data point ranges from 25 percent to 43 percent, with the highest data availability reported from Nepal and the lowest from Sri Lanka, Bhutan and

the Maldives. Although SDG 17 is significant in terms of promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, data availability for this goal in South Asia is somewhat low, ranging from 32 percent to 44 percent.

Availability of disaggregated data

The SDG framework underlines the principle of “leaving no one behind.” As such, the SDG indicator framework is designed to capture and monitor the situation of not only the nation as a whole, but also of various sub-segments of a country via disaggregated data. Many indicators explicitly require data disaggregation at the levels of gender, age-group, employment status, location, race and ethnicity, disability and migrant status.

Table 14.2 provides an overview of South Asia’s availability of data disaggregated by gender, a key cross-cutting theme of the 2030 Agenda. This includes a list of SDG indicators, where gender-disaggregated data is specifically required as per the global indicator framework, developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as other indicators (marked by *) for which at least one data point of gender-disaggregated data is available

As shown in Table 14.2, there are considerable gaps in gender-disaggregated data in South Asia. In particular, such data is lacking across South Asian countries for many indicators related to SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (Peace and justice) for which gender-disaggregated data is specifically required.

Moreover, as discussed earlier, SDG 5 (Gender equality) indicates considerable data deficiency across all South Asian countries, with around 70 percent of the indicators lacking the required data. For example, of the 14 indicators related to SDG 5, only four seem to have the required data for the majority of South Asian countries. These include Indicator 5.2.1 (Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence), Indicator

Table 14.2

Availability of gender-disaggregated data for selected indicators

Indicator	AFG	BGD	BTN	IND	MDV	NPL	PAK	LKA
1.1.1 International poverty line	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
1.2.1 National poverty line								
1.2.2 Multidimensional poverty								
1.3.1 Social protection floors/systems								
1.4.2 Land rights								
2.3.2 Agricultural income								
3.3.1 HIV infections	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
3.4.1 Mortality rate of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease*	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate*								
3.9.1 Mortality rate from air pollution*	√							
3.9.2 Mortality rate from unsafe water and sanitation*	√							
3.9.3 Mortality rate from unintentional poisoning*	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3.a.1 Tobacco use*		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
4.1.1 Reading and mathematics proficiency of children and young people								
4.2.1 Learning and wellbeing of children under 5								
4.2.2 Organized learning before primary entry age		√			√			
4.3.1 Formal, non-formal education and training						√		

continues on next page

continues from previous page

4.6.1	Literacy and numeracy skills																				√
4.c.1	Organized teacher training*							√													√
5.4.1	Unpaid domestic and care work																				√
5.a.1	Agricultural land ownership																				
5.b.1	Ownership of a mobile phone																				
8.3.1	Informal employment																				√
8.5.1	Hourly earnings of employees																				√
8.5.2	Unemployment rate			√						√											√
8.6.1	Youth not in education, employment or training*																				√
8.7.1	Child labour			√																	√
8.8.1	Occupational injuries																				
10.2.1	Median income																				
11.2.1	Access to public transport																				
11.7.2	Victim of harassment																				
16.1.1	Intentional homicides																				
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths																				
16.2.2	Human trafficking																				
16.2.3	Young women/men experiencing sexual violence																				
16.7.1	Participation in public institutions																				
16.7.2	Belief in inclusive decision-making																				
16.10.1	Violence against media, unionists and human rights activists*					√															√
Total				10	12	10	13	10	10	13	10	13	10	13	14	14	12				12

Source: Author's calculations based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>).

Note: * Indicators which do not specifically require gender-disaggregated data according to the global SDG indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

Table 14.3

Availability of location-disaggregated data for selected indicators

Indicator	AFG	BGD	BTN	IND	MDV	NPL	PAK	LKA
1.1.1 International poverty line								
1.2.1 National poverty line*	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
1.3.1 Social protection floors/systems								
5.4.1 Unpaid domestic and care work								
6.1.1 Access to safe water*		√	√	√		√	√	√
6.2.1 Access to sanitation*	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
7.1.1 Access to electricity*	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
11.6.2 Air quality*	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
Total	4	5	5	5	3	5	5	5

Source: Author's calculations based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>).

Note: * Indicators which do not specifically require location-disaggregated data according to the global SDG indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

5.3.1 (Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18), Indicator 5.5.1 (Proportion of seats held by women in (i) national parliaments and (ii) local governments), and Indicator 5.5.2 (Proportion of women in managerial positions).

In addition to gender-disaggregated data, spatially disaggregated data is key to addressing regional disparities and ensuring inclusiveness according to the 2030 Agenda. Table 14.3 provides an overview of the availability of location-disaggregated data for South Asian countries based on Global SDG Indicators Database. The gaps appear less, compared to the gender-disaggregated data. For example, spatial data related to national poverty lines and access to basic services like, safe water, sanitation and electricity is available for almost all countries in the region. This is because of the periodical household-level national surveys conducted by these countries, covering these socio-economic aspects.

In order to identify vulnerable groups and to ensure that no one is left behind, the availability of data disaggregated by age, ethnicity as well as disability is important. Although such information could be computed from the household surveys, many countries do not have readily available disaggregated data regarding persons with disability, ethnic groups, etc.

Addressing data gaps and constraints

The foregoing analysis reveals significant SDG data gaps among South Asian nations, especially in key areas such as education, gender equality and climate action. The monitoring of these can be key to formulating evidenced-based policies aimed at inclusive development, which can be further fine-tuned with disaggregated data. Table 14.4 overviews the statistical capacity of national statistical systems of South Asian countries. The capacity is based on the assessment of three dimensions, i.e. methodology, periodicity and timeliness, and source data. India ranks highest in terms of overall statistical capacity, followed by Sri Lanka. Afghanistan and the Maldives rank the lowest in the region.

Collaborative action is demanded by the 2030 Agenda, including in SDG data collection. Official statistics, produced by government entities, will continue to be the primary source of data. However, it is essential to engage other stakeholders in order to meet the comprehensive data requirements of SDGs. Even within government entities, there needs to be higher levels of coordination and involvement of agencies that were not traditionally part of the national statistics system. Their expertise will be needed to collect data on specialized indicators, for example, when collecting data on highly technical indicators in the environmental sector.

In terms of involving non-state stakeholders in data collection, one avenue that South Asia can explore is “big data” (Box 14.1) as a supplement to traditional statistics. Private sector com-

Table 14.4

Statistical capacity in South Asia

Country	Methodology assessment of statistical capacity (scale 0–100)	Periodicity and timeliness assessment of statistical capacity (scale 0–100)	Source data assessment of statistical capacity (scale 0–100)	Statistical capacity score (Overall average)
South Asia	65	89	68	74
Afghanistan	40	73	40	51
Bangladesh	50	90	70	70
Bhutan	50	77	70	66
India	100	93	80	91
Maldives	60	57	40	52
Nepal	50	90	80	73
Sri Lanka	80	90	80	83

Source: World Bank (2017).

Box 14.1

Big data for SDGs

Big data is a source of up-to-date, real time information that has been recognized for its potential to support the monitoring of the SDGs via enhanced timeliness and relevance. Big data is expected to improve countries' ability to meet the need for highly disaggregated data for more effective, evidence-based policymaking and has the capacity to make the data cycle match the decision cycle.

However, the usage of big data is associated with many challenges. There are legislative issues concerning access to data. There are privacy issues with regard to managing the public trust. Big data is further associated with financial issues in terms of maintenance and storage of colossal volumes of data. Especially in the case of a developing region such as South Asia, there are significant methodological issues as well as a need for better knowledge and expertise on dealing with big data.

panies are now producing massive volumes of information as a by-product of electronic transactions and records. In addition, new technology has made it far easier for individuals and groups to produce valuable new information. They can employ social media to quickly assemble masses around an event or an idea. Increasing access to and popularity of the internet around the world is causing this flow of data to grow very swiftly. Governments need to explore the potential of such new but non-traditional avenues that can complement official statistics to provide a more dynamic picture. Such collaborative data collection needs all data producers to replace outdated and dissimilar computer systems and work more closely together to adopt standards for efficient data exchange (UNDP, 2015).

Data collection should lead to data presentation in such a manner that all users can access and visualize the data in a user-friendly and convenient manner. The ideal platform for this is via

Box 14.2

Bangladesh SDG tracker

The SDG Tracker of Bangladesh is an online data repository for monitoring the implementation of SDGs, available at <http://www.sdg.gov.bd>. The two major components of the SDG Tracker are SDG Portal and Dashboard. SDG Portal aims at enabling all stakeholders to track the annual progress of each target and compare it visually against performance thresholds. The resulting dashboard highlights areas where greater focus will be required in achieving the 2030 Agenda. This is an interactive tool which allows the user to view data at the national or the sub-national level and even provides for comparison among indicators.

Source: World Bank (2017).

online databases and other electronic formats that allow the extraction of information based on users' queries (*ibid.*). A good regional example is Bangladesh's SDG Tracker (Box 14.2).

This discussion is related to the need to encourage active data users, which is a key step in harnessing the data revolution for SDGs (Box 14.3). Government entities and politicians must use data when making resource allocation decisions. Other institutions investigating specific groups or issues need to be able to manipulate the available data as necessary. The media and advocacy groups can use data to inform the public. As such, it is important to improve statistical literacy. This involves improving awareness on the nature and quality of data available as well as education on the skills to analyse and interpret data (UNDP, 2015).

Increasing the credibility of statistics is also essential to encourage active data users. It is of utmost importance to ensure that official statistics are free from political interference. Official statistics producers must aim at building a reputation for unbiased reporting through transparent actions and adherence to professional codes and international standards. A key step towards this would

be to publish the “metadata” that details exactly how the statistics were produced (*ibid.*).

Improving the multi-stakeholder recognition and usage of data is an effective way to mobilize domestic funding (*ibid.*). A country which is cognizant of the need for high-quality, disaggregated data to guide an effective development agenda could more easily bring together all relevant stakeholders in improving its data collection systems.

South Asia needs to further explore the potential of regional organizations such as SAARC in strengthening regional coopera-

Box 14.3

Harnessing data revolution for SDGs

Data revolution can be defined as an “explosion in the volume of data, the speed with which data is produced, the number of producers of data, the dissemination of data and the range of things on which there is data, coming from new technologies such as mobile phones and the ‘internet of things’ and from other sources, such as qualitative data, citizen-generated data and perceptions data.” This is accompanied by a growing demand for data from all parts of society.

The data revolution for SDGs refers to the integration of such new data to produce high-quality, timely and relevant information to nurture and monitor sustainable development. This is expected to ultimately result in more empowered people, better policies, better decisions and greater participation and accountability and eventuating better outcomes for people and the planet.

In order to mobilize the data revolution for SDGs, it is necessary to develop a global consensus on principles and standards so that the disparate worlds of public, private and civil society data and statistics providers can be brought together to build trust and confidence among data users.

Source: IEAG (2014).

tion for improving statistical capacity. This could further provide a platform to develop common standards and methodologies at the regional level. Given that statistical capacities vary across the eight South Asian countries (as shown in Table 14.4), there is much scope for sharing knowledge and experience among them. South Asian countries could build regional-level databases and other data related infrastructure. Moreover, they can engage in collaborative research on data-related issues and come up with regional solutions to overcome their data constraints regarding SDGs. There are opportunities for technological cooperation among South Asian nations.

Conclusions

Given the large number of targets and indicators associated with the 17 goals, the data requirement for SDGs is significantly higher than what was required to achieve the MDGs. Moreover, the SDG framework calls for highly disaggregated data, particularly in terms of gender, age, location, race, ethnicity and disability, in order to ensure that no one is left behind. The three pillars of sustainable development—i.e., social, economic and environment and their inter-linkages—and the 17 SDGs further increase the complexity of the nature of data required for monitoring.

The preceding analysis, based on the Global SDG indicator database, shows that all countries in the region lack data for more than 50 percent of the SDG indicators, with the Maldives and Afghanistan lacking data for over 60 percent of the indicators. A detailed analysis of the levels of data availability in South Asian countries for each of the 17 SDGs has revealed that the availability of data varies considerably across the 17 goals and among the eight countries.

The availability for SDG 3 on Good Health and Wellbeing is comparably more favourable. All eight countries have data for over 70 percent of the indicators. SDG 7 (Clean water) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) are the other SDGs that show relatively favourable data availability.

On the other hand, SDGs 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 14 (Life below water) are among those for which data availability is considerably low across South Asia. It is important to note that SDG 5 (Gender equality), which represents a cross-cutting theme in the SDG framework, also lags behind in terms of data availability. Most South Asian countries lack data for over 70 percent of the indicators of the above SDGs.

An analysis of availability of disaggregated data for SDGs reveals considerable gaps in gender-disaggregated data in South Asia. However, the gaps related to spatially disaggregated data appear to be smaller, compared to the gender-disaggregated data.

Given these data gaps, it is important to improve the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and appropriately disaggregated data for SDGs. This requires improving the statistical capacity of these countries as well as strengthening partnerships among various stakeholders. There is much scope among these countries for strengthening regional cooperation on improving statistical capacity and sharing their knowledge and experience among themselves.

Notes

- ¹ UN Statistical Division, Global SDG Indicators Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.
- ² The methodology adopted was based on UNESCAP (2017).

References

- IAEG-SDGs. (2017). Revised list of global Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2017/2) - Annex III. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/official-revised-list-of-global-sdg-indicators.pdf>.
- IEAG (Independent Expert Advisory Group). (2014). A world that counts: Mobilising the data revolution for sustainable development. Report prepared at the request of the United Nations Secretary General. <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf>.
- Schmidt-Traub, G. (2014). Why data and metrics are essential for future develop-

ment goals to be met. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/jul/04/data-metrics-millennium-sustainable-development-goals>.

UNDP. (2015). Making it happen: Technology, finance and statistics for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report 2014/15. www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/mdg-reports/asia-pacific.html.

UNESCAP. (2017). Measuring SDG progress in Asia and the Pacific: Is there Enough Data? Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2017. <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/ESCAP-SYB2017.pdf>.

World Bank (2017). Statistical capacity indicators online database. <http://data-bank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=statistical-capacity-indicators#>.