DATA GAP ANALYSIS FOR SDG 16 IN UGANDA:

An Assessment of Achievements and Challenges

Policy Brief

This brief draws from a study conducted by ISDC – International Security Development Center on behalf of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The brief provides highlights on Uganda's achievements and challenges with regard to data for measuring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a globally accepted framework for tracking development progress consisting of 17 goals with 169 associated targets and 232 indicators. The 17 goals cover all interrelated social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. SDG 16 aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

The SDG 16 Data Gap Analysis is a systematic review of availability and suitability of data for SDG 16 indicators in Uganda. It entails a review of data sources, data producers, data processes, and data gaps. It maps the 23 indicators for SDG 16 versus the data sources and data producers in Uganda. The resulting report reflects current state of data for measuring SDG 16, highlights achievements to date, identifies data and methodology gaps, and suggests practical and indicator and institutional level recommendations on how to close the data gaps.

While quality data can play a vital role in tracking progress on the SDGs, obtaining it for all the goals can be challenging, given the breath of the statistical capacities required at national level. Globally, indicators for SDG 16 have been some of the most challenging to collect. Addressing this challenge requires comprehensive stock-taking of the SDG 16 indicators to facilitate investments in closing the existing gaps. The SDGs demand detailed data to assess progress and thus require the contribution of governments and other national and international data producers. National governments as producers of administrative data face a challenge of systematizing, disaggregating and tailoring the data that were by-products of public service delivery in the past, however these are needed to evaluate the progress of some SDG indicators.

The analysis is envisaged to facilitate readiness for planning and mainstreaming of SDG 16 in the national and subnational development frameworks, identification of potential areas for data capacity development, and support for monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda.

TARGETS

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

Key Findings

Overall: Uganda performed well in most of the SDG 16 indicators. At the same time, efforts are required for improving the remaining SDG 16 indicators. This requires strengthening the capacity of data producers and suppliers in the National Statistical System.

Data Sources: UBOS is the main producer of data for the indicators. The bureau generated data for 11 indicators out of 23 in the past five years. Out of 23 SDG 16 indicators, 21 have full or partial data support, and only 2 indicators lack data. About 50 percent of the indicators are dependent on administrative data sources while the other half are based on individual, household and enterprise survey data. These administrative data are, mostly, generated by public institutions under the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS), in particular the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and its constituent institutions; the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) and institutions affiliated to it; the Ministry of Public Service; and the Parliament of Uganda. Data requirements for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are so significant that traditional household surveys are insufficient to measure progress. Given this shortfall, countries are encouraged to complement survey data with other sources. The role of UBOS in the data supply chain for SDG 16 indicators is central in methodology design, coordination of data supply, and production of data.

Data Gaps: Data gaps are observed for some of the SDG 16 indicators that are partly or mostly available, which makes tracking progress a challenge. These indicators include *16.1.3* on victims of violence and *16.3.1* on underreporting of violence. These indicators are found to lack clarity in terms of methodology, for example, there is currently no international standard on the measurement of psychological violence. For two indicators, *16.4.1* on illicit financial flows and *16.10.1* on violence against journalists, there is currently no data availability in Uganda. Sustained effort in addressing the remaining data gaps for SDG 16 indicators in the medium-term will pave the way to address challenges in building peace, strong institutions and ensuring inclusion in Uganda.

Disaggregation: Only 13 out of the 18 indicators that require gender disaggregation have been disaggregated, but there has been minimal effort to capture disaggregated data for minority groups such as persons with disabilities. Technical support is needed to disaggregate administrative data.

Key Areas of Steady Progress: About 66% of respondents were satisfied by local government services in 2015. Birth registration increased from 29.9% in 2011 to 32.2% in 2016.

Key Areas of Slow Progress: Reporting of sexual violence against young people shows slow progress. About 5.2% of women and 1.3% of men aged 18–29 report having experienced sexual violence. These low figures need exploration whether they are due to a low level of occurrence of such violence or because of underreporting.

Partial Reporting: Uganda can only partially report on SDG 16 indicators, as they are covered at different levels of data availability and, thus, the degree of adjustments needed for data production, processes and relations differ across indicators.

The table provides an overview of the state of SDG 16 indicators in Uganda as of August 2019.

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Notes

these indicators were endorsed to be upgraded from Tier III to Tier II status by the IAEG-SDGs in March 2019.

*** As per the definition of the indicator, this does not apply to Uganda because the indicator is only relevant to countries with UN-recognized ongoing armed conflict.*

Indica-tor	Short title[1]	Overall score 0 (low) – 12 (max)	Data availabil-ity	Type of the main data source	Disaggrega-tion level	Tier sta-tus[2] (I, II or III)
16.1.1	Intentional homicide	9	Fully	Administrative	Individual	I
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths**	7	Partly	Administrative	Individual	II*
16.1.3	Victims of violence	10	Mostly	Survey	Individual	II
16.1.4	Safe walking alone	11	Fully	Survey	Individual	II
16.2.1	Violence against children	9	Mostly	Survey	Individual	II
16.2.2	Human trafficking	9	Partly	Administrative	Individual	II
16.2.3	Sexual violence against young people	11	Fully	Survey	Individual	II
16.3.1	Underreporting of violence	9	Partly	Survey	Individual	II
16.3.2	Unsentenced prisoners	9	Fully	Administrative	Individual	I
16.4.1	Illicit financial flows	0	No data	Administrative	National	III
16.4.2	Arms tracking	6	Partly	Administrative	National	II
16.5.1	Gov. corruption (citizens)	10	Fully	Survey	Individual	II
16.5.2	Gov. corruption (business)	9	Mostly	Enterprise survey	Enterprise	II
16.6.1	Responsible budget spend-ing	12	Fully	Administrative	National/ sectoral	I
16.6.2	Satisfaction with public services	9	Partly	Survey	Individual	II*
16.7.1	Representative politics	6	Partly	Administrative	National/ state institu-tion	II*
16.7.2	Inclusive decision-making	9	Partly	Survey	Individual	II*
16.8.1	Voting rights in international organizations	12	Fully	Administrative	National	I
16.9.1	Birth registration	11	Fully	Survey	Individual	I
16.10.1	Violence against journalists	0	No data	Administrative	Individual	II
16.10.2	Public access to information	11	Mostly	Administrative	National	II
16.a.1	National human rights insti-tutions	12	Fully	Administrative	National	I
16.b.1	Discrimination	10	Mostly	Survey	Individual	II*

Policy Recommendations

1. **Continue to build general awareness and interest in the SDGs**, as engagement and participation is important for success of the 2030 Agenda.
2. **There are different levels of desirability, difficulty and priority in data production.** Setting priority may be needed to produce the most vital data, especially where there is a lack of any data.
3. Countries may have more data than they realize. **For the purposes of the SDGs, multiple sources of data may need to be collected to compile one indicator.**
4. **Gender and other factors of disaggregation are at the core of the measurement of the SDGs. However, the value and cost of producing disaggregated data need to be weighed.**
5. **Recognize and address the challenges of producing and synthesizing high-quality administrative data.** Despite the importance of administrative SDG indicators, most countries have encountered considerable challenges when having to draw from administrative sources.
6. Coordinating different data producers and collecting the administrative data are significant challenges. UBOS needs to **establish a unit specifically commissioned to coordinate administrative data in relation to SDG 16 indicators**.
7. **Data reporting automation and digitization is necessary to meet the needs for disaggregated data.** This is true for most administrative data-producing institutions.