Regional workshop on

Understanding data needs for inclusive development

28 to 30 November 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept note (draft)

I.   Introduction

The Regional Steering Group (RSG) on population and social statistics, in its first meeting held in Bangkok during 28 August to 1 September 2017, finalized a work plan to achieve the three goals in implementing the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific[1]:

> ***Goal 1****: Enabling policy environment to maintain demand for population and social statistics. Supportive and well-coordinated policy environment is in place to ensure effective demand for the production and dissemination of the core set of population and social statistics to support SDG implementation.*
>
> ***Goal 2:*** *Strengthened production of the core set of population and social statistics. Quality, comparable and timely statistics of the core set are available to address national data gaps and meet policy and monitoring requirements for national and international development goals, include the SDGs.*
>
> ***Goal 3****: Enhanced accessibility and use of the core set of population and social statistics. The core set of population and social statistics is accessible to all key users (including governments, civil society, academia and the business sector) and is used to promote evidence-based advocacy and analysis of policies and programmes.*

In order to carry out activities under Goal 1 of the work plan (Annex I), the RSG recognized the importance of providing member states in the region with a generic tool that can be used by National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to actively engage with policy makers for understanding needs for disaggregated statistics. There are existing tools available that are developed for specific policy areas. The generic tool will provide an overarching assessment framework and guidelines for applying the tool in different policy contexts. ESCAP has initiated partnership with research community to explore possibilities for adapting existing policy inclusiveness assessment tools for this purpose. More specifically, through the partnership, ESCAP is to develop a generic tool, under technical guidance of the RSG, that can be used by NSOs to engage their policy counterparts to assess and prioritize the requirements for disaggregated statistics to achieve the "Leave No One Behind" ambition in national SDG implementation. In doing so, ESCAP has conducted three pilot studies that employ an existing policy content assessment tool (Equiframe) in three different policy areas. This workshop aims to bring together international experts and national statisticians as well as senior planning experts from

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[1] https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_.CST(5).3.Implementation_plan.English.pdf

selected volunteer countries to discuss results of pilot studies and put forward recommendations for developing a generic tool.

II.   Objectives

The workshop aims to

- Review the results of pilot studies applying Equiframe in policy areas of women's economic empowerment, poverty eradication, and disaster risk reduction
- Identify challenges in applying Equiframe in other policy areas and proposing recommendations for adapting/revising the tool to be used by NSOs to assess and prioritize needs for statistical information on sub-populations
- Produce a set of recommendations for developing a generic tool and guidelines for its application for identifying needs for disaggregated statistics to achieve inclusive development in all policy areas

III.   Target Participants

- Members of the RSG on Population and Social Statistics of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics from volunteer countries under Goal 1 of the RSG work plan
- Senior planning experts from national planning organization or SDG implementation agency of the volunteer countries that are directly responsible for policy formulation as well as coordinating with sectoral policy programmes
- Invited experts from academia and international experts on the use of official statistics in policy making

IV.   Tentative issues for workshop discussion a

- Introduction to policy inclusiveness assessment tool (Equiframe)
- Review of the pilot studies and discussion on challenges and proposed solutions
- Application of the tool on different policy documents from participating countries
- Recommendations for development and application of a generic tool to assess and prioritize statistical information needs

Annex I: Proposed work plan for the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Activity group
Goal 1: Enable policy environment and maintain demand & support   • Develop and pilot a <u>generic inclusive policy assessment tool</u> for identifying needs for data and statistics on vulnerable population groups   • Assess national and sectoral policy priorities, identify data disaggregation requirements for monitoring national and sectoral plans   • Conduct gap analysis for data and statistics in selected countries looking through existing indicator frameworks / data ecosystem   • Formulate a <u>data improvement plan</u> at the national level engaging all stakeholders   • Produce guidelines for developing/revisiting <u>indicators framework for national & Sectoral plans</u> based on the policy assessment results   • Develop <u>disaggregation strategy</u> as part of the national statistical development policies   • Compile <u>good practices</u> and develop <u>guidelines</u> in applying generic assessment tool   • Develop <u>advocacy tools</u> on use of evidence for making policy formulation and monitoring more inclusive
Goal 2: Improve availability and quality of disaggregated statistics   • Apply statistical methods to produce disaggregated statistics (including subjective areas) that are required by sectoral policies (including data integration, SAE, synthetic population generation, and record linkage)   • Develop <u>guidelines, case studies and good practices on applying statistical methods (based on real experiments at the national level)</u> that increase availability and use of disaggregated statistics, through joint (national and international) research programme   • Develop <u>Training materials/courses</u> (national and regional) on methods and tools for data disaggregation based on application of the guidelines and tools
Goal 3: Data accessibility, analysis, interpretation and use   • Develop <u>a template and guidelines</u> for conducting disparity analysis on PSS   • Conduct <u>thematic disparity analysis</u> on PSS   • Assist countries to establish <u>Integrated dissemination platforms</u> for monitoring national SDGs   • Improve capacity of producers and users on data analysis and interpretation   • Improve communication skills of staff (including senior management) of NSOs   • Improve capacity of NSOs for outreaching the media, public and academia