

Improving the information base for measuring MDGs in PNG

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Background

The dimensions of well-being expressed in MDGs are simply addressing the concept of human development .

Millennium Development Goals;

- Have become a universal framework for development,
- Means for developing countries and their development partners to work together in pursuit of a shared future for all.

Government policies and the MDGs

- Government policies support improved data basis for developmental planning and also for measuring MDGs;
 - The overarching Vision 2050,
 - MTDP 2011-2015,
 - PNGDSP 2010-2030,
- Sectoral policies and plans;
 - National Education Plan/Universal Basic Education,
 - National Health Plan.

The MDGs

Dimensions of well-being expressed in MDGs;

- 1.Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger,
- 2.Achieve Universal Primary Education,
- 3.Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women,
- 4.Reduce Child Mortality,
- 5.Improve Maternal Health,
- 6.Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases,
- 7.Ensure Environmental Sustainability,
- 8.Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

[UN 2013]

The global view

- Consensus among international and national observer's that official statistics in many developing countries are inadequate and unreliable (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat 2011).
- Data revolution - improve tracking of economic and social indicators in developing countries (United Nations 2013),
 - Programmes to improve data production at the national level,
 - Expansion of survey data collection efforts,
- Governments to disseminate data under open data protocol (Sandefur and Glassman 2014).

The PNG data situation

(DNPM & UNDP 2010)

- Dearth of complete and reliable data in PNG, many global set indicators remain un-measurable ,
- PNG database for measuring the MDGs at the national level is poor and at the sub national levels often almost non-existent,
- A proper framework for data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination and utilisation is not in place,
- PNG's weak database is an impediment for the achievement of all MDGs.

Data Sources and their uses in PNG

- 1. Civil Registration System,
 - Vital statistics and their subsequent analysis and interpretation are essential for setting targets and measuring progress [*ideal for measuring MDGs*],
 - Despite the importance of vital statistics, there is universal acknowledgement of the urgent need to improve their availability, timeliness and quality.
- 2. Services Statistics,
 - collected by means of recording or registration. These are events that are recorded within a short time of span after they occur.

Data Sources and their uses cont..

- 3. Population Censuses,
 - Collect and store periodic data. They provide stock statistics that provide snapshot of a population in a particular point in time.
- 4. Sample population surveys.
 - Also collects data on periodic basis and also produce statistics for a specific point in time.

[In theory, these data sources should provide most of the information required for MDGs]

MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

MDG 2	Target	Indicator	Data Source
Achieve universal primary education	2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Net enrolment ratio in primary education	EMIS (updated regularly) /Census – (estimated school age population based on the last census)
		Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary schooling	EMIS (NDoE)
		Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men	Census

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

MDG	Target	Indicator	Data Source
Reduce Child Mortality	National (MTDS 2005 -2010) MDG 4: Reduce the under 5 mortality rate to 72 per thousand by 2015 [current U5MR – 75 IMR – 57 per 1,000 live births]	Infant mortality rate	Census / DHS
		Under 5 mortality rate	Census/ DHS
		Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles	National Health Information System (DHIS)

Data Limitations

- **Civil Registration**

- Remains incomplete, vital statistics cannot be used meaningfully,

- **Service Statistics**

- The education management information system is restricted to at school population but with Censuses and surveys measures MDGs (2 & 3),
- Contribution of National Health information system to measure MDGs [4,5 & 6] remains restricted,

Limitations cont..

- **Service Statistics**

- Labour force, employment and unemployment statistics has no framework for data collection and therefore is dependent on censuses and surveys,
- Absence of complete, accurate and up-to-date data from PNG forest Authority, DAL, Dept of Minerals and Petroleum to measure MDG [7, and 1 for land use]
- Limited data from Police reporting system remains an issue for measuring MDG [3],

Limitations cont..

- **Population censuses**
 - [main sources base for measuring MDGs]
 - Conducted every 10 years,
 - Censuses costly in PNG,
 - Delays in data processing, and dissemination for users,
- **Population specialised surveys**
 - Demographic and Health Surveys,
 - Do not provide information that is valid below the regional level,
 - Household Income and Expenditure Survey,
 - Underutilised data

Government responses

- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2015 – 2024,
 - Acknowledgment of lack of available data,
 - Accessibility issue,
 - Capacity,
 - Collaborations with all stakeholders,
 - Dissemination, and advocacy.
- PNG NID (Improvement of Civil Registration System)

Some suggestions

MDG 1- 7 are reported as off track (PIFS 2013).

- Major improvements needed in Data sources;
 - Improve statistical capacity for data collection and analysis and dissemination of data.
 - Assessments on coverage in censuses and other specialised surveys needed; and
 - Understand the complimentary roles of service statistics and specialised surveys,
- Increased funding and better technology is needed to improve data sources for measuring MDGs in this country.
- Groups such as this to support government;
 - By participating in government's initiatives in development agendas,
 - Form new dynamic partnerships.

References

- Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, 2013, 2013, Pacific Regional MDG Tracking Report, PIFR, Suva.
- Government of PNG and United Nations in Papua New Guinea, 2010, A report on Data availability, completeness and accuracy for Monitoring MDGs and Human Development in PNG, Waigani, Port Moresby.