SESRIC – UN-HABITAT Webinar on Measurement Methods for SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda in the OIC Countries

Introduction to the National Sample of Cities and Urban Observatories Models

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Outline

Part 1: The National Sample of Cities

- Rationale
- Objective
- Constructing an NSC
- Conclusion

Part 2: The Urban Observatory Model

- Background
- What is an urban observatory
- Why urban observatories
- The UO architecture
- Setting up and maintaining urban observatories



1. The National Sample of Cities





Rationale

SDG 11 indicators should be computed at city level, and reporting done at national level (urban aggregated value)

Not a problem to produce data on all cities / urban areas for smaller countries

For big countries / those with many urban areas, it's NOT possible, and perhaps NOT necessary to consider all cities to monitor national trends on urban SDGs

The **National Sample of Cities (NSC)** was developed to help these countries;

- Create a consistent set of cities that are representative of a country's urban context
- Aggregate data collected at city level to national level



Objective of NSC



Facilitate reporting at regional and global levels on locally produced urban SDGs indicators data.

- Assist countries in measuring national progress in a systematic and scientific manner
 - Sample that reflects systems of cities
- Facilitate low-cost monitoring and reporting in countries where resources are a big constraint.











STEP 1: Compiling the national sampling frame of cities

Identify and compile a complete listing of all the cities in a given country.



STEP 2: Defining and localizing the selection criteria

Ensure final sample is consistent and representative of a given country's territory, geography, size, history, and systems of cities.







Step 3: Selection of the Sample of Cities Defining city clusters/combinations

Country X where 3 criteria have been determined:

- Geographic location: 6 categories (North, South, West, East....)
- City population size: 4 categories (Less than 10k, 10k-30k, etc.)
- City area size: 3 categories (Less than 3000 km2, 3000-7500, 7500+)
- =># of boxes/cells will be: 72 (=6 x 4 x3).



Step 3: Selection of the Sample of Cities: *Defining city cluster / combinations*





Step 3: Selection of the Sample of Cities: *Random sampling within clusters*

Procedure for sampling within clusters



Determine the total population in each box/cluster



Determine the percentage of the population in each box as a percentage of the total population in universe

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Determine the total number of cities in each box/cluster



Determine the size of the sample to be drawn in each box/cluster, in rough proportion to the total population in each box (as determined in b)).

For each box, randomly pick the calculated number of cities

Parameter	Calculation
Population in Box 811 (A)	14,992,779
Total Population in Universe (B)	829,516,078
% of Box 811 in total population (C)=(A)/(B)*100	2%
Total cities in Box 811 (D)	320
Number of cities to be randomly sampled from Box 811 (E)= (D)*(C)	6

Total sample = Sum of all sampled cities in each box





STEP 4: Weights calculation

Each city in the sample represents a group of cities in the universe

- Weight that is proportional to the share of the population of this group in the total population of the universe.
- Weight for each city used to calculate SDG 11 indicators and other urban attributes of interest
 - Access to public open spaces, Access to public transport, air quality, etc.



Parameter	Calculation	
Population in Box 811 (A)	14,992,779	Every resident in the cities in the sample in Box 81
Total Population in Universe (B)	829,516,078	represented 10 residents in the universe of cities in
% of Box 811 in total population (C)=(A)/(B)*100	2%	Box 811.
Total cities in Box 811 (D)	320	
Number of cities to be randomly sampled from Box 811 (E)= (D)*(C)	6	1 city represents 53 cities
		FOR A BETTER URBAN



STEP 5: Testing of the NSC

Test sample for monitoring and reporting using SDGs Indicators.

- Look at population growth rate as an indicator to test the representativeness of the sample.
- compare the average population growth rates during a certain period in all the cities in the universe with both the city-based and population-based weighted averages of the cities in the sample during the same period.

STEP 6: Preparation of regional and global reports

• Involved all relevant stakeholders





In conclusion...

Application of the approach is not a straightforward process

Countries with many cities are expected to experience more complications in the selection of cities than countries with few cities.

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Make practical decisions considering context

NSO has a key role but VERY important to involve other stakeholders Important for countries to have wide consultations involving all relevant stakeholders during the process of developing an NSC.

Adopting NSC approach is a choice that a country must make after weighing the options available for national level monitoring of all cities to report for SDG indicators. Technical support available



2. The Urban Observatory Model





Background

- Cities / human settlements are complex systems, requiring multi-level monitoring
- Clear understanding of conditions, situations, vulnerabilities and opportunities for all populations and areas through urban data is key for sustainable, inclusive and collective development
- Most places face acute data challenges at local city level
 - > 60% of local authorities recognize that they don't have appropriate capacities, means and tools to understand urban dynamics and challenges with accurate data and information. (UN-Habitat urban indicators database)
- Many cities face major disconnects in use of data to inform decision making processes
 - Lack of or too much information that is not well linked, complexities in data presentation for informed decision making.





What are urban observatories

A local network and integrated system for producing, analyzing, disseminating data across indicators and its use for informed decision making



Objectives of urban observatories

- To create *sustainable* urban monitoring systems in support of local planning and management processes, linking data to policy;
- To strengthen local *capacity* for the development and use of urban indicators that facilitate the collection of disaggregated data at city and subcity levels;
- To promote local *ownership* of urban indicator systems and a culture of monitoring and assessment in the

urban sector.

Different observatories are housed at different places

LUOs - existing city department, non-governmental organization or university.

NUOs - statistical offices, ministry in charge of planning / urban development, research institute

RUO – Commissions

GUO – UN-Habitat



Why urban observatories?

1. Dynamic, multi-layered, easy to use and adapt monitoring system that:

- Supports and guides collection and collation of relevant, accurate and up to date data
- Supports analysis of urban data and its translation into simple to understand information
- Supports production of data-backed reports to inform decision making processes

pt	 2. A feedback system in the planning cycle Assess current situation; Formulate policies and programs, prioritize objectives and set targets; Monitor implementation; Provide feedback to make mid-course changes; and Communicate results 	3. Urban observatories promote data-informed local decisions and actions, and link local priorities to national and global agenda
orts		





The Urban Observatory Architecture





Setting up and Maintaining an Urban Observatory







UN-Habitat Coordinates and Supports Urban Observatories Globally

Technical guidance



Provide Technical guideline to LUO, NUO and RUO

Facilitate learning



Share Best practice and lessons learnt

Guide policy formulation

Guidance in informed policy formulation

Facilitate partnerships



Facilitate partnership agreement

Certifies



Evidence Generation



Information to Knowledge

Example of Al Qassim urban observatory products





THANK YOU!







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