



Post-2015 Data Test
country level experiences

Post-2015 Data Test

Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level

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Senegal Workshop Report

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CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE (CPD)
B A N G L A D E S H
a civil society think tank



NSI The North-South
Institute



Southern Voice
2015 On Post-MDG International Development Goals

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CICODEV	Citoyenneté, Consommateurs et Développement
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IPAR	Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale
NSI	The North-South Institute
PASGR	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research

Introduction

1. Introduction

On March 4th, 2014 *Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale* (IPAR) organized the Senegal Workshop of the [Post-2015 Data Test: Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level](#) initiative in Dakar, Senegal.

The Senegal Workshop brought together a range of prominent stakeholders from the public sector, academia, civil society, donors, and international organizations. Annexes 1 and 2 provide an overview of participating organizations.

The workshop aimed to:

- 1) Introduce country level stakeholders to the initiative;
- 2) Solicit feedback regarding national priorities for each potential goal area;
- 3) Conduct an initial scoping of the key issues related to data availability and accessibility at country level; and
- 4) Map stakeholders participating in the data revolution and post-2015 debates at country, and where appropriate, regional-level, and identify key informants and participants for interviews and focus groups.

Opening Ceremony

2. Opening Remarks

The Senegalese Minister of Planning, Mr. Abdoulaye Bibi BALDE, chaired the opening ceremony. Other presenters included: Mr. Vincent Martin, Senegal Representative at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)); Mr. Amadou Kanoute, Executive Director at *L'Institut panafricain pour la citoyenneté, les consommateurs et le développement* ([CICODEV](#)); Ms. Shannon Kindornay, researcher at The North South Institute ([NSI](#)); and Mr. Cheikh Oumar Ba, Executive Director at [IPAR](#).

In his keynote address, the Senegalese Minister of Planning welcomed participants to the Post-2015 Data Test's Senegal Workshop and expressed his gratitude to IPAR for leading this important initiative in Senegal on the data revolution and the Post-2015 development agenda. He highlighted the important development progress made since the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 including successes in poverty reduction, decreasing child mortality and substantial improvements against malaria. Despite these notable changes, the Minister of Planning noted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been criticized for two main reasons. First, they are insufficiently embodied into national policy processes, leading to weaker country ownership. Secondly, data and information available to assess progress against the MDGs has been inadequate, serving as a major limitation.

With regards to the Post-2015 development agenda, the Minister underlined global efforts to identify national priorities and to agree on relevant goals for the Post-2015 framework. He endorsed the call for a data revolution recognizing that good data and statistics are critical for ensuring more evidence-based development policymaking and implementation. A data revolution, he said, would also contribute to strengthening accountability and supporting the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Minister also underscored the need for least developed countries such as Senegal to work towards a greater ownership of the Post-2015 development agenda. The Post-2015 Data Test is timely in Senegal as the Government has just launched an ambitious vision document called [Programme Sénégal Emergent](#) which recognizes the need for a monitoring and evaluation of national policies and strategies. The Minister of Planning concluded that effective government institutions are essential to ensuring the production, availability and accessibility of good data, including disaggregated data, for achieving development goals.

Mr. Vincent Martin, the FAO representative in Senegal, expressed his satisfaction and interest in taking part in the Post-2015 Data Test Senegal Workshop. In his remarks, he also pointed out the progress made in key areas such as poverty reduction and malnutrition but expressed some regret with respect to the slow progress in the fight against unemployment. He questioned the availability of relevant indicators for measuring hunger. In his conclusion, the FAO representative offered to collaborate with IPAR, particularly on issues of food security data.

The Executive Director of CICODEV, Mr. Amadou Kanoute, underscored the need to access data and statistics for the monitoring and evaluation of development progress. To illustrate the importance of data, specifically for better informed decisions, he gave examples related to the water and health sectors. He underlined that 80% of Senegalese are unable to access health care. The data revolution will contribute

to filling the information gap for better implementation and monitoring of policies related to the Universal Health Coverage.

Ms. Shannon Kindornay introduced the Post-2015 Data Test initiative. The collaborative project is led by the [Centre for Policy Dialogue](#) (CPD) based in Bangladesh and the [North South Institute](#) (NSI) based in Canada, in association with [Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals](#). She explained the scope of the initiative, conducted in six countries (Bangladesh, Canada, Peru, Senegal, Tanzania and Turkey) and indicated the collaboration of think tanks of the *Southern Voice* network in these targeted countries. In Senegal, IPAR is the implementing organization. A similar and parallel initiative using the same methodology is underway in Ghana and Sierra Leone under the guidance of the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research ([PASGR](#)), a not-for-profit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya that supports research capacity development across Africa.

Ms. Kindornay indicated that the Post-2015 Data Test's objective is three-fold. Firstly, the Post-2015 Data Test aims to road-test the proposed universal, but also country-determined, post-2015 framework by applying a select set of candidate post-2015 goals to varied country contexts. Secondly, it aims to reveal key data gaps in data availability and accessibility for measuring development progress in an expanded post-2015 framework. Thirdly, it seeks to capture analytical inputs from the global South in post-2015 discussions and deliberations.

In her conclusions, Ms. Kindornay underlined the substantial effort by the United Nations to develop a Post-2015 development agenda informed by national consultations involving citizens in various countries. However, she emphasized that the analysis informing the post-2015 debates is still dominated by experts from the global North; thus there is a need to better integrate Southern expert views in the international policy process shaping the future development agenda.

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Bachir Diop, the President of IPAR, Mr. Cheikh Oumar Ba thanked participants for attending the Post-2015 Data Test Senegal Workshop and reiterated IPAR's commitment to actively participate in the post-2015 debate. He reminded the audience that the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs should be used as lessons to inform the development of the Post-2015 framework.

Mr. Ba also stressed the necessary contribution of research to help break the vicious circle of poverty and unemployment and replace it with a virtuous circle of sustainable growth that would improve the livelihoods of the Senegalese people. In his concluding remarks, he expressed his appreciation to all stakeholders – government, non-state actors and donors – who attended this Post-2015 Data Test Senegal Workshop and emphasized IPAR's commitment to creating a space for dialogue conducive to inclusive policies in Senegal and West Africa.

Post-2015 Data Test

3. Presentation of the Post-2015 Data Test: Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level

IPAR's researcher, Ms. Suwadu Sakho-Jimbira, presented the Post-2015 Data Test based on the methodology guide prepared by CPD and NSI for the country studies. She outlined the context, objectives, and research questions along with the methodology. Then, she presented the selected goals, targets and indicators and the rationale behind their selection.

3.1 Context

As the 2015 target date of the MDGs approaches, there is a need to discuss what comes next. The post-2015 development agenda should not ignore the development progress and lessons learnt from the MDGs. It is crucial that the post-2015 development agenda is goal-based, universal but also country-relevant and based on a data revolution.

3.2 Research Objectives

To inform the post-2015 deliberations and the emerging framework with evidence of how a universal framework can be implemented in a country-specific way and what data and measurement constraints currently exist.

To achieve this objective, a number of research questions are proposed:

1. What is the adequacy of data, including disaggregated data, for measuring post-2015 progress across a select set of goals at the country level?
 - ✓ In the absence of required data, can proxy indicators be used to meet the needs of the post-2015 framework?
 - ✓ What are the implications of this for setting the baseline that is used in the post-2015 framework?
2. How feasible and relevant are select candidate “zero” or “global minimum standard” targets in different country contexts?
3. What are some of the likely challenges of implementing a universal but country-relevant framework of post-2015 goals, targets and indicators, particularly from a measurement perspective? How could these challenges be overcome?
4. Where improvements in data quality, accessibility and transparency have been made, what have been the drivers? Where gaps exist, why?
5. How could technology-enabled and non-traditional modes of data collection support measurement of the post-2015 agenda?
6. What expectations do different stakeholders have for a “data revolution”? What are likely opportunities and constraints?

3.4 Methodology

The Post-2015 Data Test methodology is based on a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods with the following key steps:

- ✓ Literature review;
- ✓ Data mapping and analysis;
- ✓ Focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

The presentation of Ms. Sakho-Jimbira ended with a summary of the goals, targets and indicators selected for this initiative and the criteria used for their selection. The five selected post-2015 candidate goals are: Poverty; Employment, Growth and Social Protection; Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience; Governance and Human Rights; and Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

A working group session followed the presentation of the initiative. Two groups were set up to investigate national priorities regarding the above mentioned post-2015 goals. The first group was assigned three goals while the second group was asked to discuss two goals as follows:

- ✓ Group 1: Poverty; Employment and growth; and Global Partnerships for Development
- ✓ Group 2: Environmental sustainability and disaster resilience; and Governance and human rights.

Post-2015 Goals, Targets and Indicators

4. National Priorities for the Selected Post-2015 Candidate Goals

4.1 Poverty, Employment and Inclusive Growth, and Global Partnership for Development

Discussions within Group 1 focused on the following priorities:

Goal 1: Poverty

- ✓ Reduce disparities between regions;
- ✓ Disaggregate data by occupational category;
- ✓ Reduce vulnerability and consider support towards vulnerable people.

Goal 2: Employment and Inclusive Growth

- ✓ Priority should be given to the informal sector;
- ✓ There is a need to find targets for the measurement of the adequacy between training and employment, entrepreneurship and funding for youth employment support;
- ✓ Ensure the right targeting to allow the reduction of inequalities;
- ✓ Enforce legislation on labor law;
- ✓ Have indicators illustrating the number of sustainable and decent jobs that support production.

Goal 5: Global Partnership for Development

- ✓ Organize at the regional level before targeting the international scene;
- ✓ Establish solid foundations at the local level before going at the global level;
- ✓ Create local mechanisms such as cooperatives that allow exchange of experiences;
- ✓ Bring developed countries to meet their commitments;
- ✓ Strengthen traders capacity;
- ✓ Ensure that donors' conditions are less restrictive.

4.2 Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience, and Governance and Human Rights

Participants in group 2 proposed the following priorities:

Goal 6: Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience

- ✓ Preservation of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation: improve the marine and coastal environment, fight against marine pollution and bushfires, ensure a sustainable management of natural resources, develop and expand best practices, etc.;
- ✓ Climate Change/ Adaptation: given coastal erosion and land salinization, promote clean energy sources, a healthy and sustainable agriculture and improve the resilience of local communities;

- ✓ Improving urban environment: given the frequency of floods and the level of pollution among other factors, examine the choice of infrastructure to avoid having cities that look resemble Dakar.

Goal 4: Governance and Human Rights

- ✓ Consider gender as central to ensure sustainable and fair development;
- ✓ Encourage and strengthen governance in extractive industries by developing corporate social responsibility;
- ✓ Promote participatory budgeting to allow informed citizens throughout the budgetary process;
- ✓ Ensure that transparency is embedded in all policies; and
- ✓ Harmonize governance tools such as the mining and the environment codes.

Data Availability and Accessibility

4. Key Findings

Intense discussions around the availability and accessibility of the data yielded the following key messages:

4.1 Data Must be Available at Both the Local and Sectoral Level

It is widely recognized that major efforts have been made in the past two decades to improve the financial, human, technical and institutional capacities of the national statistics office in Senegal. The statistical office is now autonomous and publishes its data on a regular basis. Economic accounts are up to date and quarterly data are available and published.

Despite these significant improvements, there is however a lack of completeness at the sectoral level. Apart from the progress in education and health, there is a lack of data in many areas such as culture, sport, environment and justice. To address this challenge and ensure regular production of sectoral data and coordination, there is a need to have at least a statistician in each line ministry.

Another challenge identified relates to the lack of disaggregated data at the local level, in spite of the context of decentralization. Policymaking is gaining momentum at the local level but there is no data to ensure a credible process of planning, monitoring and evaluation of decentralized policies. The production of data at the local level is therefore a challenge and resources are needed to meet the increasing requirements of local governments in this regard.

In the implementation of the post-2015 agenda in Senegal, considerable efforts should be made in addressing these sectoral and local challenges regarding the production of data.

4.2 Who Should Pay for Data?

Another subject that has attracted attention is whether the data produced thanks to government funds should be made available to everyone free of charge, including the private sector and international consultants. It was indicated that the statistical office was allowed to charge a fee under certain circumstances and for a set of products to overcome overall finance shortages. What are the implications for accessibility?

Discussions circled around whether or not data was a public good and how it would be financed. Proponents of the fee charge referred to the health and education sectors where similar measures are applied. Health and education are public goods but some of these services are chargeable. Opponents point to the fact that citizens spend time to answer census and surveys questions without payments. Thus, they should have free access to the data they contributed to generate.

4.3 The Obligation of Being Vigilant Towards Technology Risks

Participants explored the possibility of technology to supplement traditional methods of data collection. Even though the benefits of improving technology are substantial, the group recognized that, given infrastructure, energy and connectivity constraints, particularly at the rural level, the potential exists to

lose data when transferring information. Therefore, participants argued for a combined approach, making use of traditional and technological advances where appropriate. For example, at the rural level, both traditional and technological methods (paper and tablets) should be used to collect data. In urban areas, tablets are appropriate given that less constraints exist, and that should data be lost, geocoding enables the national statistics office to retrieve the information from survey respondents easily.

4.4 Concluding Messages

A key message emerging from the workshop is the need for the Senegalese government to make efforts to allocate additional budget funds to ensure the collection and production of data on a regular basis, including the census data.

This workshop is a first step in the process of a future collaboration in the context of a data revolution. Given the engaging debate and enthusiasm from participants, there is a great optimism regarding the next steps.

Annex 1: List of participating organizations

Government / Public Organizations

- ANDS (Statistical Agency) (Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie)
- CEPOD/Ministry of Planning (Centre d'Études de Politiques pour le Développement)
- MEF/DPEE (Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances/ Direction de la Prévision et des Études Économiques)
- DGPSN (Délégation Générale à la protection sociale et à la solidarité nationale)
- CSE (Centre de Suivi Écologique)
- DPN/MP (Direction de la Planification Nationale/ Ministère du Plan)
- Ministry of Planning/Cabinet
- MPBGRI/DGI (Ministère de la Promotion de la Bonne Gouvernance, chargé des Relations avec les Institutions/ Direction de la Gouvernance Institutionnelle)

NGO/CSO

- ONG/Green Act
- Enda Leadef
- CICODEV (Citoyenneté, Consommateurs et Développement)
- Enda Energie
- FONGS (Fédération des Organisations Non Gouvernementales du Sénégal)

Think Tanks, Research and Academics

- Climate Parliament
- CRES (Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale)
- ISE/UCAD (Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement/ Université Cheikh Anta Diop)
- IPAR (Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale)
- ISRA/BAME (Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles/ Bureau d'Analyses Macro-économiques)

United Nations

- UNDP (United Nations Development Program)
- MDG Center
- FAO (Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture)