

Post-2015 Data Test

Senegal Case Study in Progress

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In-Progress Note No. 6

Date: 27 May 2014

CURRENT STATUS: SENEGALESE CASE STUDY

Progress to date

The Senegal case study is being conducted by [Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale \(IPAR\)](#), a research think tank based in Dakar. IPAR organized an inception workshop at the Terrou Bi hotel in Dakar on March 4th 2014 to launch the Post-2015 Data Test. Prominent stakeholders attended the workshop with representation from the government, civil society, academia, donors, international organizations and UN agencies. Opened by Mr. Abdoulaye Bibi Baldé, Senegalese Minister of Planning, the workshop garnered significant national media attention on the Post-2015 Data Test initiative.



Source: IPAR 2014

In addition to the workshop, the IPAR team has conducted a number of key informant interviews and is organizing focus group discussions for nearly all of the goal areas. For each focus group, a small group of relevant stakeholders have been asked to participate. For example, the first focus

group was held on the goal “Ensuring Quality Education for All” at the Ngor Diarama hotel on April 25th 2014. It was attended by ten education experts from various institutions that included academic and research organizations, the World Bank and two government agencies – namely the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) and the Directorate for Planning and Reform in Education.

Prior to the focus group, a contextual note examining national priorities, data availability and targets and indicators for the appropriate goal area was sent to participants. In the case of the focus group on education, this note was written by a consultant with expertise in this area, under the supervision of IPAR.

In addition to focus group discussions and ongoing interviews, the research team is complementing these efforts with a literature review on the post-2015 framework and the data available at the national level.



Source: IPAR 2014

SUBSTANTIVE FEEDBACK TO DATE

Targets and indicators

Participants did not have time to examine at the inception workshop specific targets and indicators in great detail. However, they provided researchers with feedback on key national priorities for Senegal across goal areas. The feedback demonstrated the importance of flexibility in the post-2015 development agenda – a wide variety of issues specific to Senegal were raised. The priority areas identified in the inception workshop have been used to inform the subsequent focus groups.

With respect to specific targets and indicators, the focus group on education provided a number of insights. The group highlighted that there is a need to ensure a clear distinction between goals and targets. Participants felt that some of the potential targets suggested by reports on the post-2015 agenda are in fact goals, and would need to be reformulated for use in the Post-2015 Data Test.

The group also highlighted the need for flexibility on indicators, pointing out that a number of additional indicators would be needed in the Senegalese context while others were not relevant. For instance, at the time of the focus group, the indicator proposed for the target on “Technical and Vocational Education and Training” focussed specifically on adults. However, the group noted that this would need to be subdivided into two indicators – one to represent the adult population and another for youth.

Data availability and accessibility

During the inception workshop, a number of key themes arose relating to data availability and accessibility. Participants recognized efforts made by ANSD to improve the quality and availability of data at the national level. That being said, many pointed out the scarcity of complete data at the sectoral level, particularly for the ministries related to environment, culture, sport and justice. A key recommendation from the group was to ensure that each line ministry has at least one statistician.

Participants also noted that obtaining disaggregated data is a key challenge in Senegal. Though the country is undergoing a process of decentralization, local governments do not have the necessary capacity to collect data at the local level. Decentralization of responsibilities has not been coupled with a decentralization of statistical capacity. Participants identified this as a significant issue. Without adequate data at the local level, it will not be possible for policymakers

to establish a credible process to plan, monitor and evaluate decentralized policies. With the implementation of the post-2015 agenda in Senegal, considerable efforts must be made to overcome sectoral and local challenges for producing adequate data.

Further discussion at the inception workshop emphasized the necessity to distinguish between free and restricted data and identify the type of resources utilized for data production. Some participants argued that not all data should be freely available, recognizing that although data is a public good, in Senegal, very few public goods, such as health or education, are free. Others felt that if data collection and production is supported by government funding, it should be made available to everyone free of charge, including the private sector and international consultants. They pointed out citizens provide information to the government and as such, should have access to the data generated.

NEXT STEPS

During May, the Senegal study team will organize the remaining focus groups on the following goal areas: Poverty, Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience, Energy and Infrastructure, Employment and Inclusive Growth, and Governance and Human Rights. Additional key informant interviews will be conducted during the first and second week of May.

For all of the focus group discussions, consultants recognized as experts on each related goal area are currently working on contextual notes. The use of consultant inputs and focus group discussions will help overcome the challenges associated with the timelines and resources available for this project. Moreover, collaborating with experts and consultants will strengthen the validity and impact of this research at the national level.