

Post-2015 Data Test

Peru Case Study in Progress

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In-Progress Note No. 5

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CURRENT STATUS: PERUVIAN CASE STUDY

Progress to date

On April 7th 2014, the Peru study team held the first in a series of small workshops on the Post-2015 Data Test. The workshop examined goal areas for poverty, education and employment and inclusive growth. Held in Lima, the workshop was attended by stakeholders from different sectors including policymakers from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance, academics from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru and representatives of international agencies such as UNDP and UNICEF. During the meeting, the following points were discussed with the participants:

- knowledge of nationally representative datasets that could be utilized for post-2015 monitoring;
- relevance of proposed targets and indicators for each goal area;
- other country relevant indicators that could be included in the study; and
- the level of disaggregation available for indicators.

Additionally, the team has been conducting a series of in-depth interviews with different key stakeholders to learn more about the dynamics of data collection in the last ten years and the availability of relevant data for the post-2015 development agenda. The first of these interviews was conducted with the National Director of Census and Surveys from the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics. The main topics discussed during the interview were:

- perceived changes in data quality and availability in the last ten years;
- extent to which the government has utilized the data collected by the institute (now and before);
- main difficulties faced by the institute during data collection;
- main improvements achieved in data collection during the last ten years; and

- possible ways to continue improving data collection and availability.

The Peru study team has mapped all the possible sources of data for the elaboration of the different indicators. It was possible to identify several nationally representative datasets (mainly household surveys) that allow for not only calculation of national averages but also disaggregation of the indicators by different groups based on their place of residence, gender or ethnicity. Along with the mapping of data sources, the Peru team reviewed all the indicators suggested in the initiative's methodology guide for each goal and target, and selected those that could be built with the data available. After this exercise, a shorter list of indicators was obtained for each of the goals included in the post-2015 framework and presented in the aforementioned stakeholder meetings.

SUBSTANTIVE FEEDBACK TO DATE

Some of the challenges pertaining to the selection of targets and indicators were highlighted in the stakeholder workshops.

Caution when setting targets

Stakeholders noted difficulties in relation to setting the targets' baseline. Some of the targets for the current Millennium Development Goals were accomplished before commitments were made partially due to the baseline year (which was set for 1990). For post-2015 development goals to be meaningful, targets should be based on appropriate baselines that prompt policy action.

Capturing quality

Stakeholders cautioned the Peru team to be mindful of their selection process for specific indicators, especially since some of these indicators may not reflect real problems on the ground. A key example provided here was in relation to access to water. The stakeholders explained that though the majority of the population in Peru has access to piped water, the quality of service is very poor. As a result, the focus here should be more on the number of hours per days or days per week the service is available to the public. It is necessary to take into account quality dimensions for some indicators in order to make real changes in people's lives.

Selecting the right data

Stakeholders expressed caution in the selection of appropriate data sets to monitor Post-2015. They pointed out that the Peruvian National Census from 2007 was not a sufficient dataset to report on labour, particularly child labour indicator. A more relevant dataset for this purpose would be the National Household Survey, which includes a specialized category for labour.

Data disaggregation: representativeness

A substantial portion of the discussion at the workshop focused on data disaggregation. An important feedback in this area was related to representativeness. Stakeholders expressed that researchers needed to be careful when disaggregating data since not all available data in Peru are representative of all groups. As an example, one stakeholder explained that for measuring chronic malnutrition on children under three years of age by region in Peru, the national Demographic and Health Surveys did not have enough cases every year to report – making it necessary to pool more years for this study. They also noted that the sample size for many minority groups was not sufficient to be fully representative. It is important to be aware of what data “can do” or “can't do” when generating indicators.

Data disaggregation: relevance

Participants also noted that in some issue areas, disaggregation of indicators for all groups is not always relevant. For instance, there are no differences in access to schooling by gender in Peru but there are by place of residence (urban and rural). Some development challenges pertain more to some groups than others – the push for disaggregated data should be informed by this reality.

Post-2015 priorities and public policy go hand and hand

Policymakers at the workshop noted that an indicator will be embraced by a sector only if it is viable for public policy. It is critical to ensure that post-2015 targets and indicators reflect country level, sectoral realities if they are to be relevant from a policymaking and programming perspective.

Stakeholders also cautioned that for the post-2015 agenda to be viable in Peru, it will require commitment across political parties in Peru as elected officials will change over the 2015-2030 time period. A key challenge will be obtaining political buy-in from all parties and maintaining necessary political support for the agenda over the 15 years that will follow the creation of the Post-2015 agenda.

NEXT STEPS

During the following weeks, the Peru team will be organizing two more workshops as well as in-depth interviews with key informants about the data revolution in Peru. The two workshops will be divided thematically. One workshop will be held on environmental sustainability and disaster resilience as well as global partnership for sustainable development. The second workshop will focus on quality education.

In the month to follow, the Peru team will work towards preparing a preliminary draft of the Peru country report for the initiative. Researchers plan to share the preliminary draft with key experts by mid-June in order to validate the findings.