

Post-2015 Data Test

Initial Findings from Turkey

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OVERVIEW: ENGAGEMENT ON POST-2015

In Turkey, post-2015 discussions have been taking place at the governmental level under the leadership of the Ministry of Development and in parallel participatory processes, led by the United Nations Development Programme on the basis of the “My World” consultation approach devised by the United Nations Development Group. Both processes identified rights-based, equitable and sustainable development as well as gender equality as priorities.

Data availability is recognized as an issue for Turkey, more in general terms than in the specific context of the post-2015 data revolution. The Post-2015 Data Test exercise has helped draw attention to the particular aspects of data needs post-2015. Improvements are desired for better conversion of administrative information into statistical data and for wider use of statistics in policy making and monitoring.

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL POST-2015 PRIORITIES

Turkey's priorities are mostly consistent with those identified by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development. However, differences emerge at the country level that reflect the position of Turkey as a relatively advanced developing country trying to avoid and escape from a middle income trap. In general, differences in development levels and the consequent divergence in priorities that emerge are the principal challenges for the implementation of a universal post-2015 agenda at the global level. Given their respective development positions, countries, including Turkey, will perceive different targets as more important than others and will focus their efforts accordingly.

The zero targets and global minimum standards examined under the Post-2015 Data Test, such as ending extreme poverty or ensuring equal pay for equal work, are relevant and mostly achievable in Turkey.

DATA AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

Data availability in Turkey for basic information requirements is satisfactory. Disaggregated micro-data are available in the case of surveys carried out by the Turkish Statistical Institute but less so for data coming from other sources. Disaggregation is either impossible or can only be indirectly and inadequately estimated for issues such as ethnic origin. Rural urban disaggregation is also imperfect, and has become impossible with a new law defining urban areas in administrative terms.

The most important institutional challenge to pursuing a data revolution in Turkey is getting administrative information converted into statistical data, widening the sources of data generation.

So far the most important driver of improvements in Turkey has been through the process of cooperation with the European Union and the adoption of European Union procedures and standards in data collection in various areas. International cooperation that fosters the implementation of improved standards may be crucial in the data revolution.