Welcome to the SDG 16 info digest – edition 4!

This fourth edition of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 info digest shares information on many of the SDG 16 related initiatives and focuses attention on a proposed UNDP led SDG 16 Knowledge Portal. Colleagues, both within and outside UNDP are invited to participate in a feasibility and design survey which is being launched with the objective of getting inputs widely on whether such a portal is needed and how it should look. In this digest you will also find information on SDG 16 related cutting edge resources, knowledge products and tools, etc.

The SDG info digest updates on recent events and activities within the UN System and outside; and shares information about resources including publications, articles, blogs, tools and upcoming events. We invite you to share any SDG 16 related information and resources that we can feature in future editions of this update with Aseem Andrews.

RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS – Updates from UN / UNDP:

UNODC and UNDP co-organized Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on corruption measurement
12-14 October 2016.

UNODC – UNDP co-organized an EGM with participants from several National Statistical Offices (Indonesia, Mexico, Cape Verde) and representatives of the Praia Group and international organizations (OECD, World Bank, EU) as well as academia / consulting companies (Price House Water Cooper), etc. The main objective of the EGM was to standardize corruption measurement by using crime victimization surveys to provide guidance on two global SDG indicators: 16.5.1 and 16.5.2 (proportion of persons and businesses) who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months. With the active engagement of this EGM, UNODC-UNDP plan to publish a manual by the end of August 2017 to provide guidance on corruption measurement. More information can be found here.

The Sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, Helsinki, Finland,
24 to 26 October 2016

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with Statistics Finland, organized the 6th Global Forum on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme and guidance from the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). The Forum brought together national statisticians and other governments’ officials, women’s advocates and policy experts, statistical experts from regional and internal organizations and researchers from academia and
think thanks to take stock of progress towards the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment and to review data availability, data challenges and countries’ capacities to measure and monitor gender relevant issues.

In line with recommendations from previous Global Forums and other relevant meetings, and to address the increased demand for gender statistics, the 6th Global Forum followed up and reviewed the SDGs indicators framework, from a gender perspective. In particular, the Forum served as a platform to take stock of innovative approaches, methods and initiatives to produce, analyse and use data to measure and monitor gender equality and women’s empowerment in the following areas of concern: women’s economic empowerment (indicators for SDGs 1, 5, 8); violence against women (indicators for SDGs 5, 11, 16); time use statistics and unpaid work (indicators for SDG 5); women’s political participation (indicators for SDG 5); and women’s health (indicators for SDG 3, 5). More information on the 6th Global Forum can be found here.

How firearms destruction contributes to SDG 16.4

Providing support for the destruction of firearms is one of the many ways that UNDP SEESAC contributes to SDG Target 16.4 Reducing illicit flow of arms flow and combating organized crime, as the physical destruction of firearms eliminates any possibility that they will ever be misused again. International Gun Destruction Day in the Western Balkans serves as an opportunity for UNDP SEESAC to promote this target across the region. This year, over 4,500 pieces of small arms and light weapons (SALW) were destroyed in three events. In Montenegro, with the funding provided by the European Union, SEESAC supported the destruction of 1,140 pieces of SALW. In coordination with other UNDP offices SEESAC supported the destruction of 1,008 pieces of SALW in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as 2,382 pieces in Kosovo. The firearms destroyed in all three events were confiscated by police during their law enforcement activities, while those in Montenegro were collected during their recent legalization and collection campaign, also supported by UNDP SEESAC. Since 2002, UNDP SEESAC has assisted the authorities of South East Europe to destroy over 300,000 pieces of small arms and light weapons.

UNDP contributing to SDG 16 – Target 16.2 on Ending Trafficking

The Governments of Cambodia and China finalized a draft bilateral agreement to fight human trafficking, which will be signed before the end of 2016. As part of the process, the UN Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT), a regional UNDP project, worked with civil society to bring together government officials, managers of victims shelters and volunteers supporting victims. The shelter managers, volunteers and officials from China held meetings with Cambodian counterparts and interviewed victims and their families in shelters and their villages in Kampong Cham, Cambodia, a major source region of marriage migrants to China. Forced marriage is an important concern for the two countries, an issue on which UN-ACT recently released a report.

The information gathered contributed to the development of the bilateral agreement, which took place in Siem Reap, Cambodia (24-26 August) and UN-ACT provided support to ensure that the agreement was in line with international standards.

You are invited to contribute! Crowdsourcing feasibility and design for UNDP led SDG 16 Knowledge Portal

UNDP is leading efforts in developing an SDG 16 Knowledge portal for which it is currently running a survey whose results will help gauge the feasibility of having such a portal focusing on SDG 16 as well as help in crowdsourcing ideas on its design.

The proposed SDG 16 global portal is intended to be a one stop knowledge portal to facilitate the capture, analysis and deployment of knowledge on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It will serve as a platform for communicating on SDG 16 and ensure that knowledge and learning in one context is available to others through a community based interaction model. The portal shall help to share experiences of Member States, drawing on - but not limited to - the rich collaboration of UNDP on the country level. The content is intended to be incrementally gathered by its partners (UN agencies, civil society and private sector, academia, etc) demonstrating their co-ownership of the platform. Being aware of other initiatives, the portal is planned to provide an integrated knowledge platform linking with other related online platforms/initiatives avoiding
duplication while ensuring coverage of the extensive knowledge of all stakeholders working on the implementation, measurement and reporting on SDG 16. It shall serve as a learning and knowledge exchange platform for the public and donors to search for and share information on SDG 16 and ultimately get a picture of the impact of everyone's work in this area.

The main domain areas of the portal are planned to be implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16, including best fit solutions from the national level, voices from the ground, information about governance statistics (indicators literature; links to governance databases/indices etc.). The intended audience for this portal is covering UN as well as external partners, representatives from Member States, civil society, academia, researchers, donors, media, private sector and the public at large. For any questions / comments about the survey or the portal please write to: aseem.andrews@undp.org

#SDG16 Talk during UNDP’s Governance & Peacebuilding KM / Comms Week:
6 October 2016

As part of the recently organised UNDP Knowledge Management and communications week, the Governance and Peacebuilding cluster, BPPS organised a Brown Bag Lunch on the current developments on implementation, measurement and reporting on SDG16 at the global, regional and national level. Colleagues from the cluster provided short inputs on the overall UNDG and UNDP approach, the status of the global programming and tools, and newly launched initiatives and knowledge management products and tools. For more information on the #SDGTalk and the KM/Comms week please contact Jana Schuhmann and/or Aseem Andrews

Brown Bag: The Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI): Goal 16 Measures at the National Level

2 November, 2016

This event focussed on the Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Index (PAPI), and how with its comprehensive coverage, provides a set of national indicators that help measure Viet Nam’s progress in Goal 16. It also focussed on the flagship empirical research by UNDP Vietnam and its national partners conducted over the past eight years (www.papi.org.vn).

PAPI is the largest time-series policy monitoring tool in Viet Nam that captures the provincial performance in governance and public administration and has captured and reflected the experiences in participation, government-citizen interactions and use of public services of nearly 75,000 citizens. PAPI provides important means of verification to track Viet Nam’s progress in various SDGs, in particular Goal 16 regarding inclusive, responsive and accountable institutions. PAPI covers 6 dimensions, 22 sub-dimensions and more than 90 indicators about national and local governments’ performance in governance and public administration. PAPI looks into (i) participation at the local levels; (ii) transparency in policy making; (iii) vertical accountability towards citizens; (iv) control of corruption; (v) public administrative procedures; and (vi) public service delivery. For more information please write to Jairo Acuna-Alfaro

RESOURCES – publications, tools, blogs and videos:

Integrated Planning through ISDG Model

The ISDG model enables policy makers and planning officials at all levels of governance to understand the interconnectedness of policies designed to achieve the SDGs and test their likely impacts before adopting them, essential to successfully addressing complex development issues balancing social, economic and environmental development. The model simulates the fundamental trends for SDGs until 2030 under a business-as-usual scenario, and supports the analysis of relevant alternative scenarios. It also traces the trends beyond the SDGs’ time span to 2050. The ISDG model is especially useful both in the early stages of policy design, to support scenario exploration, and in its advanced stage, when specific interventions designed for various sectors can be jointly simulated to assess their combined effect and the emerging synergies. The model is structured to allow
for rapid expansion to support the analysis of other country-specific development issues beyond the SDGs. Its user-friendly desktop interface allows various stakeholders to use it, and a portable version is also being developed.

The ISDG model was constructed starting from the Threshold21 (T21) model, covers all the 17 Goals including 78 SDG indicators, and supports a better understanding of the interconnections of the goals and targets, in order to develop synergetic strategies to achieve them. It includes a broad variety of tools that support the in-depth analysis of simulation results, and their visualization in different formats.


The IISD just launched a new knowledge hub on the SDGs. The value of the hub lays in the depth of information it contains on each SDG, as well as the breadth of knowledge across all elements of the integrated 2030 Agenda. Content is organized and searchable according to the 17 SDGs. Information is also categorized according to actors, focusing on intergovernmental bodies, agencies and funds within the UN system, as well as national governments, major partnerships, stakeholders and non-state actors. In addition, content is searchable by seven regional groups as well as three regional groupings of small island developing States. A comprehensive calendar provides details on events that address SDG policy and practice. IISD accepts relevant guest articles by topic experts so UNDP colleagues are encouraged to send articles ideas to Faye Leone, content editor at faye@iisd.org

UN System Staff College (UNSSC) Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development

To be able to equip the UN with a clear roadmap to harness and transfer cutting-edge knowledge for sustainable development is a key objective of the UNSSC for which, with support from the Federal Government of Germany, it has opened, the "Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development" in Bonn on 1 January 2016. This centre acts as a vehicle to deliver on the learning agenda pertaining to Agenda 2030 and supports the policy and operational work of the UN through the development of learning tools, platforms for interaction and a mature set of learning offerings. It also serves as a catalyst and convener prompting dialogue and knowledge sharing on issues relevant to the vision and mission of the United Nations between UN staff and a diverse set of stakeholders from academia, the private sector and civil society. While primarily focusing on the capacities, skills and competencies of UN staff in the field of sustainable development, several learning events and courses will also be open to a non-UN audience. This with a view to enhancing essential partnerships for sustainable development, and to support genuine national ownership of the development agenda. To subscribe to alerts on news and events on sustainable development, please send an email to sustainable-development@unssc.org

Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal

The Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal which supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security is now live! This portal serves the needs of young peacebuilders, decision-makers, development practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders, by providing a one-stop-shop for generating, accessing and sharing knowledge to promote and support young people’s participation in peacebuilding and is therefore a key resource supporting SDG 16 implementation. Apart from the latest news, events, and resources, the portal offers the opportunity to create a profile to take part in online consultations, showcase results, best practices & lessons learned, create new content and connect with other members to trigger new initiatives and collaborate on common projects. The portal is a new multi-stakeholder partnership between UNDP, PBSO, SFCG and UNOY, working together through the Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding and is hosted by UNDP Youth-GPS with support from the Oslo Governance Centre. For more information please visit www.youth4peace.info or contact at info@youth4peace.info.
The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs

The Guide illustrates the human rights anchorage of the 17 goals and provides concrete links between the 169 targets and the range of human rights instruments and labour standards. Thereby, the Guide reaffirms that human rights instruments and the 2030 Agenda are tied together in a mutually reinforcing way: human rights offer a legally-binding framework as well as guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In turn, the SDGs can contribute substantially to the realization of human rights. For more information see here.

No one left behind! Evaluating SDGs with an equity-focused and gender responsive lens

The purpose of this guidance is to help integrate an equity-focused and gender-responsive (EFGR) approach to national evaluation systems that should inform national SDG reviews. The purpose of this guidance is: to provide guidance on how to integrate an equity-focused and gender responsive approach to national evaluation systems generally, and to propose a step by step process for country-led evaluations that are equity-focused and gender-responsive as well as a strategy to integrate equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations to inform national SDG reviews.

Gender statistical analysis and disaggregated indicators, while essential, will need to be complemented by EFGR evaluation approaches to ensure no one is left behind. The guidance is expected to primarily serve national evaluation systems, the UN system, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, academic institutions, including specialized research centres and think tanks, private foundations, the private sector, and voluntary organizations of professional evaluators.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)
15-18 November, 2016: Geneva, Switzerland

Hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the IAEG-SDG will meet from 15- 18 November in Geneva (IAEG-SDGs members meeting 15 – 16 November, plenary session including observers 17 – 18 November). The objectives of this meeting are to finalise the initial tier-system for global SDG indicators; establish a process for the refinement of indicators; review work plans for Tier III indicators; discuss options for those indicators that do not have a proposed custodian agency and review data flows from national to regional and global level and discuss best practices for the delivery of these data. For more information please see here.

Registration open for the 2016 Open Government Partnership Global Summit
December 7-9, 2016: Paris

Every two years’ representatives of government, academia, civil society, multilateral organizations, press, and others meet at the OGP Global Summit to exchange experiences, best practices, and progress on open government initiatives and implementation. This year the OGP is being hosted by France. Registration is now open and information can be found here. UNDP will lead and coordinate sessions on Goal 16 monitoring, legislative openness and open data, among others.
The OGP 2016 Global Summit will focus on building new alliances between governments, civil society, and other reformers. The objectives of the Summit are to promote exchanges, inspire reformers to raise their level of ambition, and for all stakeholders to collectively push the open government agenda forward to address new challenges and ultimately improve the lives of citizens around the world. SDG 16 and the OGP both provide for complementary frameworks of inclusive dialogue and cooperation between government and non-governmental actors to strengthen transparency, responsiveness and accountability in public institutions and it is expected that the Summit will also focus on the contribution of the OGP’s processes and mechanisms to strengthen SDG implementation and accountability.

Participate in the first UN World Data Forum, Cape Town, South Africa, 15-18 January 2017

The first UN World Data Forum will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15-18 January 2017, hosted by the Government of South Africa and Statistics South Africa. The Forum will bring together key experts from governments, businesses, civil society and the scientific and academic communities to discuss opportunities and challenges and showcase the latest innovations to improve data and statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Information on the Forum is now available at http://undataforum.org. You can also follow updates and information via the twitter handle @UNDataForum. Pre-registration for the Forum can be accessed here. The deadline to pre-register is 2 December 2016. For any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to dataforum@un.org.

Focus SDG16: Youth Peace and Security Global Forum - WFUNA Youth Seminar
30 November - December 3, 2016

The 5th Youth Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will bring together members of the WFUNA Youth Network, namely United Nations Associations and United Nations Youth Associations from around the world. In this seminar participants will learn, discuss and design projects to support the implementation of the SDG 16 and share ideas on successful youth programs and enable cooperation on issues of common interest for a stronger WFUNA Youth Network. They will participate in workshops – such as project management and social media management – aimed at building their capacities to support, monitor and evaluate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 at the national level. The WFUNA Youth Seminar: Kuala Lumpur will also explore the linkages between the recently adopted resolution UN SCR 2250 and SDG16. By the end of the Youth Seminar, participants will develop a project proposal based on Goal 16 to implement in their countries of origin.