



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
INSTITUTE
FOR
STATISTICS



TECHNICAL
COOPERATION
GROUP



Population data for SDG indicator calculation

Friedrich Huebler, UIS

Seventh meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 –
Education 2030

27 October 2020



Background

- **Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (2007):**
 - a. *“All agencies should use the population estimates from the World Population Prospects, which are produced by the UN Population Division every two years, for the production of indicators included in the MDG database.*
 - b. *All agencies should revise the indicators according to the most recent population estimates at the same time.”*
- **Main uses of UNPD population estimates:**
 1. Population denominator for national indicators.
 2. Weights for regional and global aggregates.
- **UIS uses UNPD data for all countries, except:**
 - Countries for which UNPD does not produce data (e.g. small countries).
 - Countries for which UIS uses national data to ensure consistency between education data and population data.

UIS options: source of population data

UIS option 1: Preferred use of UNPD population estimates

- Advantages:
 - Single source of population data.
 - UIS can maintain current data production process.
 - Consistent indicator values across countries and years.
 - UIS indicators are consistent with those produced by other agencies.
- Disadvantage:
 - National population estimates may be more accurate.

UIS option 2: Country-by-country selection of population estimates

- Advantage:
 - May have more precise population data and thus more precise indicator values.
- Disadvantages:
 - UIS must develop methodology for selection of population data.
 - UIS data production process must be revised.
 - UIS indicator values may not align with indicators produced by other agencies.
 - Duplication of effort among SDG custodian agencies.
 - Additional reporting burden for countries.

Next steps

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

- “Task team on the use of population data for the global monitoring of progress toward the SDGs” will make recommendation about preferred source of population data and possible exceptions.

UNPD

- UNPD has revised its model: production of annual population estimates by single year of age instead of 5-year age group, starting 2021.
- UNPD will improve documentation of data sources and assumptions.

UIS

- No change for September 2020 data release.
- UIS will review UNPD population estimates in 2021.
- UIS will follow guidance of custodian of global indicator framework.

TCG and IAEG-SDGs

- TCG could form expert group on this topic.
- IAEG-SDGs could give guidance to UN agencies on source of population data.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
INSTITUTE
FOR
STATISTICS



TECHNICAL
COOPERATION
GROUP



Friedrich Huebler

Head, Education Standards and Methodology Section

UNESCO Institute for Statistics

f.huebler@unesco.org

<http://uis.unesco.org>

 @UNESCOstat