Development Challenges in PNG: insight through Statistics

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Key Development Challenges

- High incidence of Poverty
- High rates of mortality
- Poor health
- Low educational attainment
- Low on HDI
- And many more???
Tackling those challenges must be priority

But

Do we know enough?

Data

Availability and accessibility of recent, quality, data is a development indicator

Absence or deficit of data poses a development challenges (Objective)
Motivation

SDG 17 includes data, monitoring and accountability as a secondary goals. In particular, indicator 17.18 reads

“By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”
Strategy

1. PNG’s statistical capacity assessment
2. General data issues
3. Identification and assessment of SDG data sources
4. Policy Recommendations
Coverage has dropped since 2015

Statistics Coverage Index

Source: Open Data Watch
Worst regional performer in Open Data

Open Data Score (2017) by Statistics Type

- PNG
- Pacific Islands
- Lower-middle income

Source: Open Data Watch
Worst regional performer in coverage & openness

Regional Coverage and Openness Scores (2017)

Source: Open Data Watch
Statistical capacity has not improved

Source: World Bank’s Statistical Capacity Indicators
Region is performing better in Overall Statistical capacity

Statistical Capacity score (Overall average)

Source: World Bank’s Statistical Capacity Indicators
PNG Data Issues

- Non-availability
- Lack of Public Access/Openness
- Poor Quality
- Under-utilization of existing Data: User awareness
PNG Data Issues

- Less Frequent and Irregular collection cycle
- Low Coverage and Large non-response rates
- Comparability across survey rounds and across data sources
- Problem with dissemination: Timeliness in Data Release/Report
Data sharing platforms: Limited
Expensive data collection
Less Producer-Producer and User-Producer Interactions
Exclusion from External Databases
Identification of SDGs Sources
### Key SDGs Data Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Sources</th>
<th>Goals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNPM</td>
<td>All except 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>1-7, 11, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)</td>
<td>12--14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census</td>
<td>1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSO*</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHIS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPNG</td>
<td>8, 9, 10, 16, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIES</td>
<td>1, 2, 8, 10, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Treasury</td>
<td>1, 5, 16, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>3, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>3, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>4, 13</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: Author’s calculations from UNFPA (2017) and other publications
2/3rd of the SDGs indicators come from 9 sources

Source: Author’s calculations based on UNFPA (2017) and other publications
Rest 1/3\textsuperscript{rd} come from over 40 sources

Source: Author’s calculations based on UNFPA (2017) and other publications
Current status: coverage

- Sachs et al. (2017) reported that PNG lacks 22% of the 83 indicators used in the global version of the SDG Index.
- Nearly 50% of the 245 global indicators are either missing or over 5 year older or insufficient to cover SDGs.
- Very poor performance at the disaggregated level.
Source: Unicef (2017)
Current status: collection

- Localisation of SDGs indicators are done (UNFPA(2017))
- DHS (2016) that covers 26 indicators (11%) across 9 SDGs was supposed to be completed in early 2017. Not completed yet.
- HIES (2019/20) is progressing but timely completion is doubtful.
- Census (2021)
- DNPM, BPNG and other departments are still not integrated on SDGs
Is PNG Investing enough?

PNG National Statistics Office Expenditure, 2011-2021

Source: PNG National Budget (2012-2018)
Heavy reliance upon aid partners

NSO Expenditure (as % of total government expenditure and GDP)

Source: PNG National Budget (2012-2018)
Policy recommendations

- 2020 is not far and PNG’s statistical capacity is limited
- Focus on fewer SDGs
- Work on major data sources and priority to timely completion of regular surveys
- More investment in data, monitoring and collection is needed and international aid is crucial
- Timely completion of regular surveys and administrative data is the key
- Better data, Better development, Better life
Thank you!