

gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022 Panel: Evaluation of SDGs in the Region

Challenges with Monitoring and Evaluating the SDGs

CARICOM Caribbean Community
A Community for All

Caribbean Evaluators International

clear
Regional Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Research

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June 02, 2022
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM EST

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gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022 The United Nations 2030 SDGs Agenda

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health & Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equity
6. Clean Water & Sanitation
7. Affordable & Clean Energy
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption & Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace & Justice Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships to Achieve the Goals

Source: United Nations (n.d.)

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gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022 Challenges with Agenda— as Conceptualized

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS **AGENDA 2030** **CHALLENGES**

17 Goals
169 Targets
231 Indicators

- Overly ambitious for projected time line
- Quite vague in many instances
- Apply to all countries regardless of developmental status
- Does not address tradeoffs needed
- All goals portrayed as equally important
- Too many targets and indicators
- Does not address structural factors that have led to disequilibrium between developed and developing countries
- Goals are highly interconnected but interconnection poorly conceptualized

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gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022 Challenges with Agenda—Example of Poorly Conceptualized Interconnection

Goal 1 End poverty in all forms everywhere
Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth
Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Indicator 1.1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)

How does a minimum standard for poverty ensure healthy lives and well-being?

How does a minimum standard for poverty reduce inequality within and among countries?

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gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022 Challenges with M&E the SDGs

AGENDA 2030 **CHALLENGES**

VALID
RELIABLE
SENSITIVE
SIMPLE
USEFUL
AFFORDABLE

- Weak evaluative culture in the region. Need financial resources to develop and sustain
- Already woefully inadequate national statistical systems will be overwhelmed
- Tier 1—50% (only ½ of signatories collecting); Tier 2—41% (irregularly produced)
- Primarily quantitative indicators
- Duplication of indicators raises questions related to quality
- Many indicators are not specific

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gLOCAL EVALUATION WEEK 2022 Challenges with M&E the SDGs Continued

AGENDA 2030 **CHALLENGES**

Issues to Keep in Mind to Construct Reliable Indicators

Phrasing must be:

- Clear
- Specific
- Unambiguous (understood in same way by all involved in data collection)

Indicator must include:

- Unit being measured (e.g., percentage of, number of)
- Subject being measured
- One result statement

- Data triangulation compromised
- Multiple results statements in many targets
- No standardization of adjectives
- Many targets/indicators constructed in negative
- Many big picture promises weakened by small picture promises
- Targets set too far into future

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Internal and External Factors that Can Directly Influence the SDGs

External Factors

- Open markets
- Heavy reliance on luxury products
- External financiers conditionalities
- Signatures/commitments to policies
- Climate induced events

Internal Factors

- Corruption
- Mismanagement/waste of public funds
- Disregard of certain groups
- Inequity/injustice
- Discrimination
- Policies in isolation of proper data
- Overlooking data-driven knowledge
- Retention of power through aggressive actions

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Holistic Systems Approach Needed for Developmental Planning in Region

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References

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United Nations. (n.d.). 17 goals. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

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