



Virtual Event 15-18 June
2020
**2020 Asia-Pacific
Statistics Week**

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Statistical Capacity to Monitor the FAO-relevant SDG Indicators in the Asia–Pacific Region

Action Area B: Assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics (SB2)
Increasing trust in Official Statistics via transparency on results of quality assessments

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Introduction: FAO's organizational work on SDG indicators

As a custodian agency for 21 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, FAO is responsible for:

- ❑ Leading the **methodological development** and documentation of the indicators
- ❑ Promoting the **adoption of internationally agreed statistical methods/standards** by countries and coordinating **statistical capacity development initiatives** in support of SDG monitoring and reporting
- ❑ Overseeing the **data collection** from national statistical agencies, its aggregation and **dissemination** at regional and global levels
- ❑ Contributing to **monitor progress** at global, regional and national levels (SDG annual global and regional progress reports)
- ❑ Participating in **the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG)** and in the **UN Statistical Commission**





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SDG indicators under FAO custodianship



- 2.1.1 Hunger
- 2.1.2 Severity of food insecurity
- 2.3.1 Productivity of small-scale food producers
- 2.3.2 Income of small-scale food producer
- 2.4.1 Agricultural sustainability
- 2.5.1 Conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture
- 2.5.2 Risk status of livestock breeds
- 2.a.1 Public Investment in agriculture
- 2.c.1 Food price volatility



- 5.a.1 Women's ownership of agricultural land
- 5.a.2 Women's equal rights to land ownership



- 14.4.1 Fish stocks sustainability
- 14.6.1 Illegal, unreported unregulated fishing
- 14.7.1 Value added of sustainable fisheries
- 14.b.1 Access rights for small-scale fisheries



- 6.4.1 Water use efficiency
- 6.4.2 Water stress



- 15.1.1 Forest area
- 15.2.1 Sustainable forest management
- 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover



- 12.3.1 Global food losses

FAO SDG Portal:
<http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>



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Statistical Capacity Assessment for the FAO-relevant SDG Indicators

□ Objective

- To provide an insight about countries' statistical capacity to report on the SDG indicators for which the FAO is the custodian agency.
- To plan capacity development activities and improve the overall SDG reporting and monitoring process. → [First/Preliminary screening](#)

□ **The target respondents** are the National SDG Coordinators or the SDG focal points nominated by the President of the National Statistics Office in each country.

□ Questionnaire

- Developed by FAO and available in all official UN languages (*Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian*)
- Organized in five sections to collect information on the **national coordination mechanisms** for SDG reporting, **data availability** and **the needs for technical assistance**.



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- The questionnaire was sent to UN member and observer countries (195 in total) on December 2018 and in total **114 countries** submitted [the questionnaire](#) (58%).
- The results for regional and global aggregates are **based on the countries that submitted their questionnaires.**

List of Asia–Pacific countries, which submitted their questionnaires (25 in total)

Armenia	Georgia	Malaysia	Pakistan	Tajikistan
Azerbaijan	India	Marshall Islands	Palau	Thailand
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Mongolia	Philippines	Turkey
Bhutan	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Samoa	Uzbekistan
Fiji	Lao PDR	Nepal	Singapore	Viet Nam





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Results: National coordination for SDG monitoring and reporting

Out of the 25 countries participated in the assessment in the region:

- A **national committee** responsible for the coordination of SDG monitoring and reporting has been established in **17 countries** (68%).
- A **national coordinator** for SDG monitoring and reporting has been nominated in **21 countries** (84%).
- An **indicator-specific national focal point** for all the 11 FAO-relevant economic indicators has been formally designed in only 13 countries (52%). In **almost one-third** of the countries, instead, **no indicator-specific national focal point** has not been identified yet.



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Results: SDG indicators reporting and needs for assistance

Figure 1: Current reporting in a national or international database, by SDG indicator

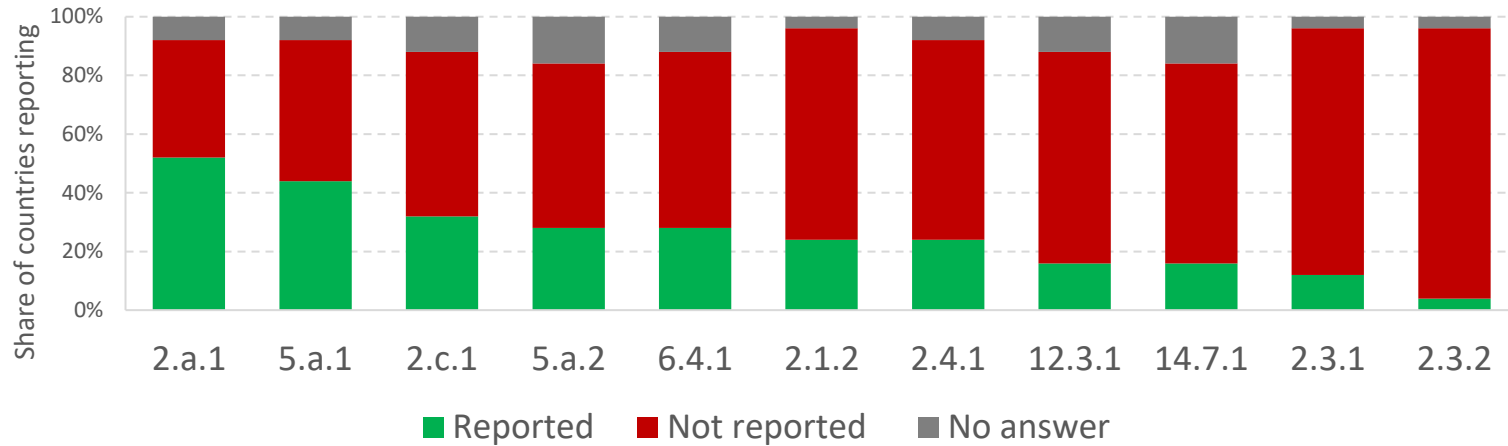
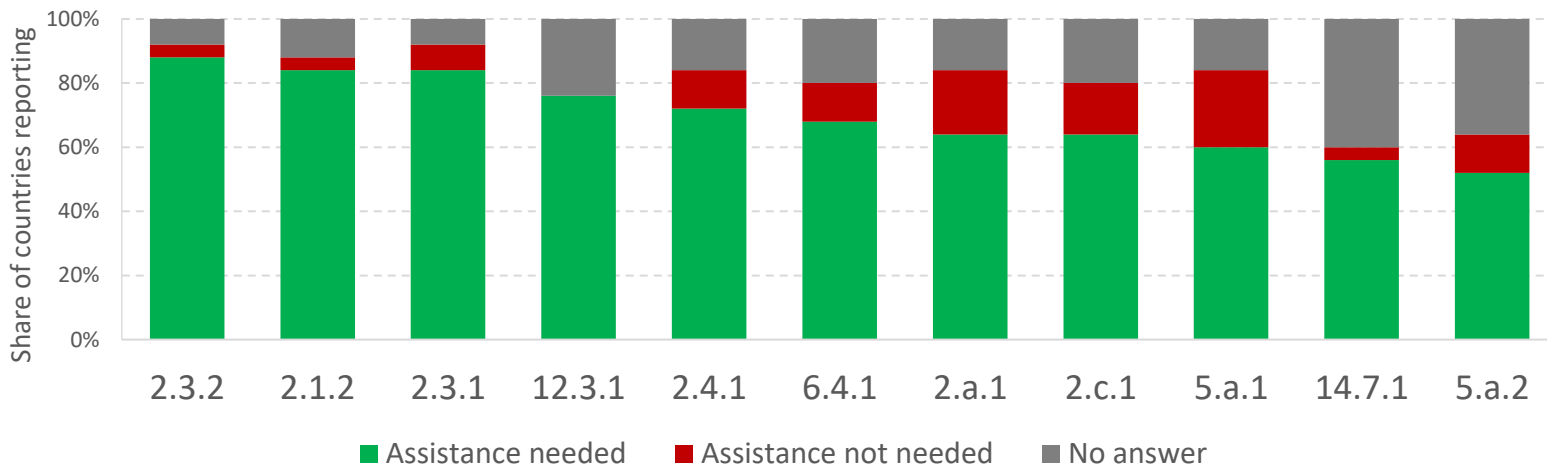
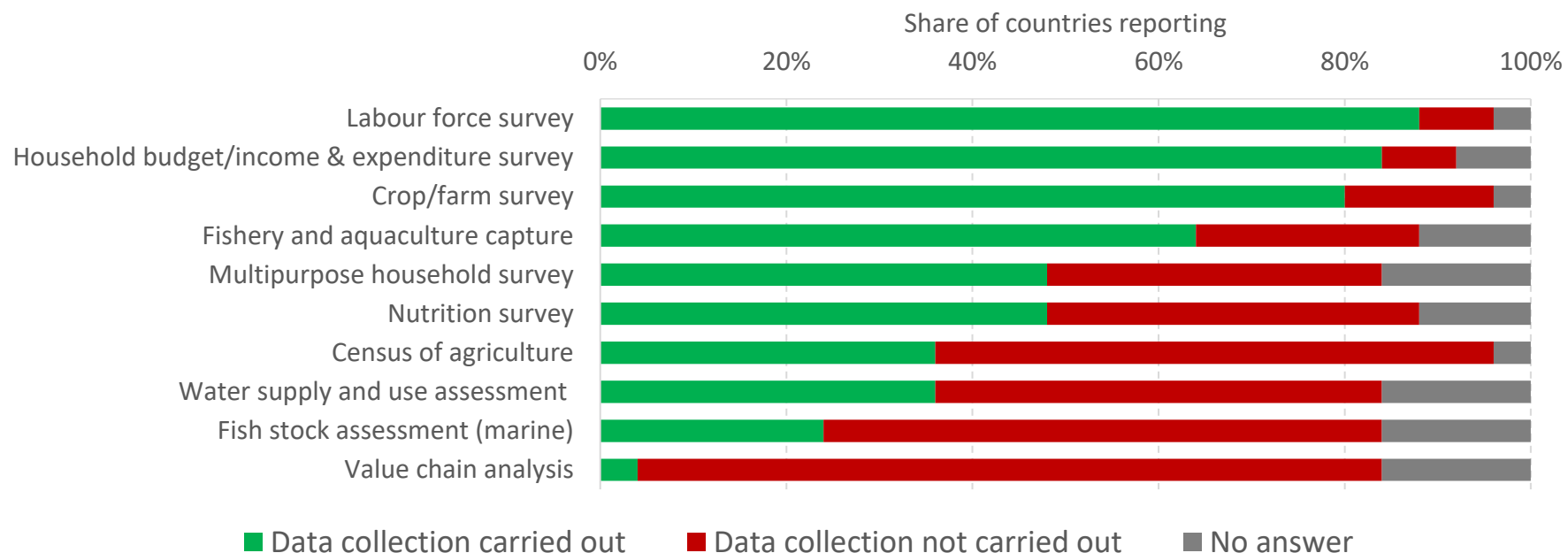


Figure 2: Requests for assistance for producing/compiling



Results: Data availability and needs for assistance

Figure 4: Data collection status during the last five years, by data source



National data collection status and plans signal the limitations on data availability and hence the constraints on the compilation of SDG indicators.

The majority of the countries do not regularly conduct some key data collection vehicles such as multipurpose household surveys, nutrition surveys, and water supply and use assessments.



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Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the 25 Asia–Pacific countries (52%) which participated in the assessment, the survey results showed that:

❑ Data sources:

- Majority of the countries do not regularly conduct some of the key data collection activities that provide main data sources for the FAO-relevant SDG indicators.

❑ Future planning:

- Data collection activities which have not been carried out recently are not fully planned to be carried out in near future.

❑ National coordination:

- Most of the countries seem to establish the required mechanisms for coordinating the SDG reporting and monitoring.
- No SDG-specific national focal point for most of the SDGs in some countries.

- ❑ **Technical capacity:** More than 50% of the countries report that they will require some form of assistance to produce all SDG indicators under FAO custodianship relevant to the economic aspects of food and agriculture.



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Conclusion and Recommendations

- ❑ **High quality data and reliable statistics** are essential for measuring progress towards the SDG targets and enable national statistical systems to inform the design of **evidenced-based policies** for their achievement.
- ❑ Following **COVID-19 pandemic**, now more than ever, investment in the immense power of data is needed to help drive the transformative changes the world needs for ensuring no one is left behind, as advocated by the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- ❑ Some of the actions to be undertaken include:
 - ensuring that national/regional indicators are **aligned with the global SDG indicators**;
 - designing and implementing **national statistical plans** and strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics (SPARS) on the basis of priorities
 - improving the **coordination** among national data producers;
 - increasing **investments** by donors and national governments in SDG data production and use;
 - strengthening the **capacity of national statistical systems** and the technical skills of official statisticians.
- ❑ Targeted interventions of assistance through partnerships among international and national partners are required to overcome the capacity and financial constraints.



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Thank you

For more detailed information and country profiles:

<http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/>

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