Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Indicator 1.4.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

Institutional information

Organization(s):

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Concepts and definitions

Concepts and definitions:

The following key concepts were defined to support the indicator in the context of poverty eradication.

Basic Services refer to public service provision systems that meet human basic needs including drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, energy, mobility, waste collection, health care, education and information technologies.

Access to basic services implies that sufficient and affordable service is reliably available with adequate quality.

Access to basic drinking water services refers to drinking water from an improved source is available with collection time not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing. Improved sources include; piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water. This definition is based on SDG indicator 6.1.

Access to basic sanitation services refers to the use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households. Improved facilities include flush/pour flush to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets or pit latrines with slabs. This definition is based on SDG 6.2.

Access to basic hygiene facilities refers to availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water. Handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy-taps, and jugs or basins designated for handwashing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent, and soapy water but does not include ash, soil, sand or other handwashing agents. This definition is based on SDG 6.2.

Access to basic mobility refers to having access to all-weather-roads in a rural context (SDG 9.1.1) or having access to public transport in an urban context (SDG 11.2.1). The computation of “Access to Basic Mobility” shall therefore be a combination of the above.

Rural context:

To synergize with SDG indicator 9.1.1 “Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road”, it was suggested to use the Rural Access Index (RAI)[1] that measures the percentage of the population <2km from an all-season road (equivalent to a walk of 20-25 mins).[2]

To eradicate poverty, communities need to be connected to socio-economic opportunities by roads that are passable all season and attract reliable and affordable public transport services. In many areas, safe footpaths, footbridges and waterways may be required in conjunction with, or as an alternative, to roads. For reasons of simplification, specific emphasis was given to roads in this definition (based on the Rural Access Index - RAI)[3] since road transport reflects accessibility for the great majority of people in rural contexts. In those situations where another mode, such as water transport is dominant the definition will be modified and contextualized to reflect and capture those aspects.

Access to mobility has shown some of the largest impacts on poverty reduction and has a strong correlation to educational, economic and health outcomes (“transport as an enabler”).

The existing RAI methodology relies on household level survey data – however, is currently being revised into a GIS-based index that exploits advances in digital technology with the aim to create a more accurate and cost-effective tool.

As a basic underlying assumption, it is understood that women and men equally benefit from access to all-weather roads.

Urban context:

The urban context of access to transport is measured utilizing the methodology of SDG 11.2.1 –the proportion of the population that has convenient access to public transport by sex, age and persons with disabilities”.

The metadata methodology is available (UN-Habitat being the custodian agency) and uses a combination of spatial and qualitative analysis. A 500 m buffer around each public transport stop is used and overlaid with socio-demographic data – in order to identify the population served. We know that measuring spatial access is not sufficient and does not address the temporal dimension associated with the availability of public transport. Complementary to the above, other parameters of tracking the transport target related to street density/ no. of intersections, affordability, or quality in terms of safety, travel time, universal access, are all tracked.

Access to basic waste collection services refers to the access that the population have to a reliable waste collection service, including both formal municipal and informal sector services. A 'collection service' may be 'door to door' or by deposit into a community container. 'Collection' includes collection for recycling as well as for treatment and disposal (so includes e.g. collection of recyclables by itinerant waste buyers). 'Reliable' means regular - frequency will depend on local conditions and on any pre-separation of the waste. For example, both mixed waste and organic waste are often collected daily in tropical climates for public health reasons, and generally at least weekly; source-separated dry recyclables may be collected less frequently.

Access to basic health care services refers to access to services that cover in and out-of-area emergency services, inpatient hospital and physician care, outpatient medical services, laboratory and radiology services, and preventive health services. Basic health care services also extend to access to limited treatment of mental illness and substance abuse in accordance with minimum standards prescribed by local and national ministries of health.

Access to basic education refers to access to education services that provides all learners with capabilities they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies and enhance individual well-being. For this indicator we examine access to education services in the school going age of 5 – 21 years of pupils.

The right to education is a multi-faceted right that has at least two dimensions that need to be fulfilled:

(a) quantitative (for everyone), and

(b) qualitative (right to what education, for how long, provided by whom and for whom and also leading to full development of the human personality fundamental to the fulfilment of other rights, freedom and maintenance of peace.

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights (1948) note that: *Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.*

Access to basic information services refers to having a broadband internet access. Broadband is defined as technologies that deliver advertised download speeds of at least 256 kbit/s. The main types of broadband services are: 1) Fixed (wired) broadband network, such as DSL, cable modem, high speed leased lines, fibre to- the-home/building, powerline and other fixed (wired) broadband; 2) Terrestrial fixed (wireless) broadband network, such as WiMAX, fixed CDMA; 3) Satellite broadband network (via a satellite connection); 4) Mobile broadband network (at least 3G, e.g. UMTS) via a handset and 5) Mobile broadband network (at least 3G, e.g. UMTS) via a card (e.g. integrated SIM card in a computer) or USB modem.

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1 http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/transport/brief/connections-note-23 ↑

2 https://www.ssatp.org/sites/ssatp/files/publications/HTML/Gender-RG/Source documents/Tool Kits & Guides/Monitoring and Evaluation/TLM&E7 Access Index TRB 06.pdf ↑

3 http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/transport/brief/connections-note-23 ↑

Rationale:

Poverty has many dimensions. It is not only a lack of material well-being but also a lack of opportunities to live a tolerable life. The international extreme poverty line was updated in 2015 to 1.90 USD per day using 2011 purchasing power parity (WB 2015). Living under the extreme poverty line often encompasses deprivations of safe drinking water, proper sanitation, access to modern energy, sustainable mobility to economic resources, information technology, healthcare, education, etc. Poverty is also a manifestation of hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. In other words, poverty is multidimensional and covers many aspects of life ranging from access to opportunities, livelihoods and means of survival.

Among the different aspects of poverty, this indicator focuses on 'access to basic services'. Providing access to basic services such as safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, sustainable energy and mobility, housing, education, healthcare etc, helps to improve the quality of life of the poor. The lack of basic services provision and the lack of empowerment and involvement of local governments in basic service delivery undermine the economic growth and quality of life in any community. Adequate basic service delivery systems promote socio-economic improvements and help to achieve economic growth, social inclusion, poverty reduction and equality. More specifically, improved basic services can help to raise well-being and productivity of communities, create jobs, save time and human effort in transporting water, support food security, better use of energy, production of essential commodities, improve health (by making medical care, clean water or solid waste collection available) or enhance the level of education.

In the Quito implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda adopted in Habitat III conference, member states commit to "promoting equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health care and family planning, education, culture, and information and communications technologies" . They further commit to "ensuring that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, and to those of others in vulnerable situations".

Basic service delivery must move towards a demand-driven approach, which is appropriate for the local needs – and hence able to respond to the concept of “Access for all” – as stated in the NUA. Basic services are fundamental to improving living standards. Governments have the responsibility for their provision. This indicator will measure levels of accessibility to basic services and guide the efforts of governments for provision of equitable basic services for all to eradicate poverty.

Comments and limitations:

Different local characteristics of what constitutes as basic service around the world by some concerned authorities and stakeholders compelled the team to work on modules and global guides for this indicator. This draws on definitions available for many other SDG indicators. For example, elements of basic services are measured under indicators 3.7.1 (health), 4.1.1 (education), 6.1.1 (water), 6.2.1 (sanitation), 7.1.1 (energy), 11.2.1 (public transport), etc.

Finally, many countries still have limited capacities for data management, data collection and monitoring, and continue to struggle with limited data on large or densely populated geographical areas. This means that complementarity in data reporting in a few exceptions is needed to ensure that both national and global figures achieve consistencies in the final reported data for access to basic services.

Methodology

Computation method:

There are two computation stages that we have applied depending on the level at which data is collected. Step 1 is getting proportion of population that have access to ALL the basic services mentioned above from primary data sources such as household surveys and census.

$$\text{Proportion of Population with access to basic services} = 100\left[\frac{\text{No. of people with access to ALL the basic services}}{\text{population}}\right]$$

Example:

	HH 1	HH 2	HH 3	HH 4	HH5
HH size	4	7	5	6	3
Drinking water service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sanitation service	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hygiene facilities	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electricity	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Clean fuels	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Mobility	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waste collection	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Health care	4	3	5	No	3
Education	2	3	2	3	3

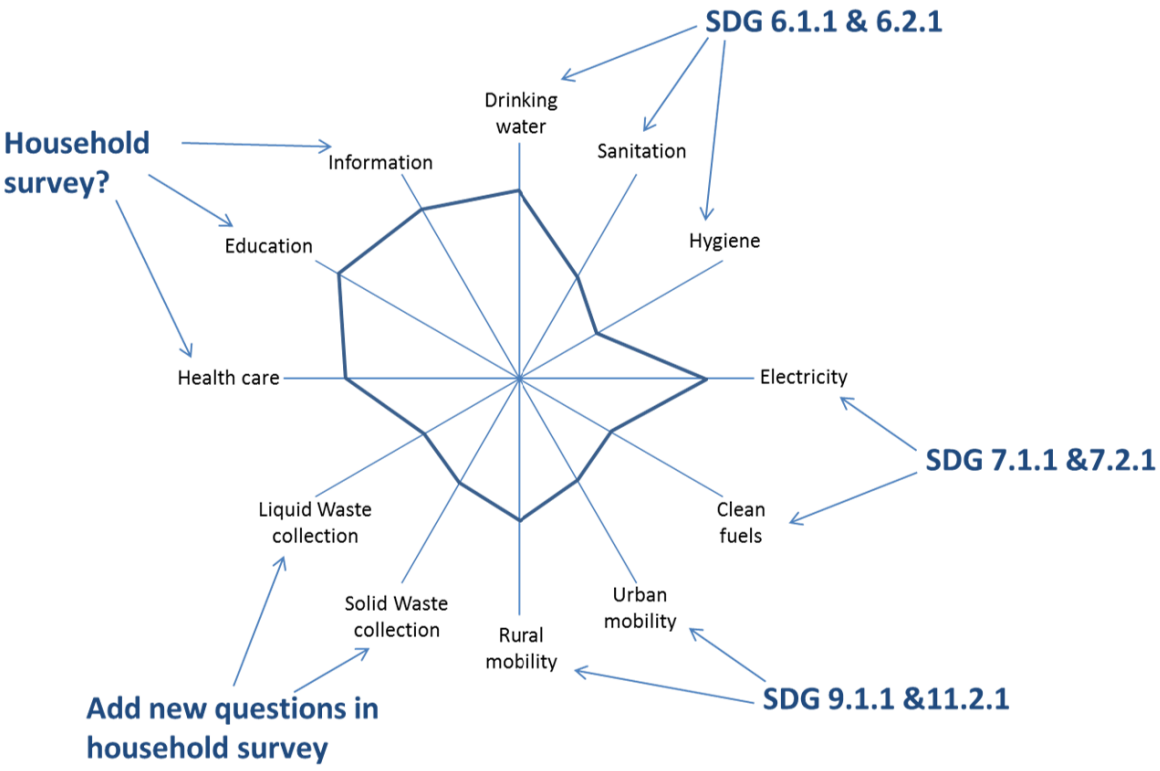
Broadband internet	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Total population with access to ALL BS	0	0	5	0	0

Proportion of population with access to (all) basic services = 5/(4+7+5+6+3) x 100 = 20%

This step is essential when countries have primary data at the household levels for all the types of basic services. This is then followed by computations of metrics for other components that are not measured at the household level such as access to health, education, transport, etc. For example, access to mobility for households is measured through GIS data rather than household survey. Individual components of access to basic services are computed first, followed by an aggregation of the components with no weights. From pilots, having an aggregated value showing access to ALL the basic services works as the best measure to inform policies of regions where the most deprivations are prevalent, but is not actionable. Instead, it's the individual component measures that point rightly to areas of improvements or investments.

Data presentation:

Data for this component-based indicator is now modelled and presented or visualized as a spider web of the achievement of access to different basic services in a country through plotting the various components of the indicator which also doubles as other SDG indicators. In this way policy makers can be informed of most needed intervention areas. This data presentation methodology does not necessarily have a single aggregated value against 'proportion of population with access to basic services'. The figure below is an example of the outcomes.



Treatment of missing values:

- ***At country level:***

Information is currently not available.

- ***At regional and global levels:***

Information is currently not available.

Regional aggregates:

Information is currently not available.

Sources of discrepancies:

Information is currently not available.

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:

Information is currently not available.

Quality assurance:

Information is currently not available.

Data sources

The main source of data for this indicator remains household surveys including DHS, MICS, LSMS, World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP, the censuses and administrative data. These data sources are also described in the various metadata for the constituent SDG indicators. A lot of the pre-processed data is also derived from the SDG indicators that form this indicator. data sources can be other SDG indicators monitoring results as well as additional data from household survey.

Collection process:

Information is currently not available.

Data availability

Data for a large set of sub-indicators such as water and sanitation, energy, information are readily available and already included in different international household survey framework. Refinement of definitions of different types of basic services and inclusion of the newly developed survey items in the existing household survey was completed. Data compilation has shown that already more than 100 countries have data at the national level.

Time series:

Information is currently not available.

Disaggregation:

Data for this indicator can be disaggregated at the city and town levels.

- Disaggregation by urban /rural
- Disaggregation by gender
- Disaggregation by age
- Disaggregation by formal/informal settlements

Calendar

Data collection:

The monitoring and reporting of the indicator can be repeated at regular intervals of 3 to 5 years each. Measurement and reporting need to be feasible on a global basis, i.e. not so expensive that the costs are unreasonable particularly at country level.

Data release:

Information is currently not available.

Data providers

UN-Habitat and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Data compilers

National statistical agencies and city management teams lead the compilation and reporting at a national level. Global and regional reporting is led by UN-Habitat. The collection of the data is supported by collaborative efforts of several international institutions (UN-Habitat, UNEP, The World Bank, AfDB, IDB, EBRD and ADB) and bilateral donors (JICA, GDZ, etc.).

References

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Related indicators as of February 2020

Access to	Related SDG indicators
Safely managed drinking water services	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
Safely managed sanitation services	6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
Waste collection	11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities
Mobility and transport	9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Modern energy	7.1.1 Percentage of population with access to electricity 7.1.2 Percentage of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
ICT	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology
Education	4.1.1 Percentage of children/young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics.