

Survey: Macro Indicator Usefulness

Macro indicator problems

Indicators overload. Is it the case that the development world should get rid of superfluous indicators as new indicators come into the arena? There are more than 270 relevant indicators in the Health and Agriculture sector that come from the household surveys, specifically the Demographic and Health Surveys and the Agriculture Census. This indicator overload may result in data quality as interviewers have to go through long surveys and many households.


Timeliness. Indicators are not being measured often which results in outdated information. It might be true that representative indicators are costly to measure as they rely on household surveys, but determining who will use the information should become a priority. For example, policy advocated might need representative data every year, while people on the ground might need non-representative information every month.

Indicator usage. It seems that organizations responsible of measuring macro indicators do so thinking that the main use will be to feed into advocacy, policy or programs. Therefore, indicators are created with the assumption that the main users will be policy makers and advocates when in fact, indicators should be made and presented as simple as possible so that people on the ground can understand and potentially use them. Even though it might be true that there are differences in the demand of indicators at the policy advocates and on the ground level, the level of disaggregation and representativeness different users might require should be noted. For instance, a policy advocate might only need national or municipal level data to determine needs and solutions while for on the ground users disaggregation and representativeness might not be as important as the timeliness of data.

A survey, considering macro indicator demands dependant on user, needs, usage, and disaggregation should be of importance in the development arena.

Survey Questionnaire¹

General questions

1. What is your age? (# or age range)
2. What gender do you most identify with? (F/M)
3. Please specify your country of origin  Please specify the country in which you reside in (drop-down menu)
4. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (No schooling completed/Elementary school/High school/Trade, technical or vocational training/Associate degree/Bachelor's degree/Master's degree/Professional degree/Doctorate degree)
5. What is your current household income in U.S. dollars? (range <- should start relatively low for developing countries)
6. Which of the following best describes the location you live in? (Urban/Suburban/Rural)

¹ Based on the Study "Open Financial Data: Demand, Capacity, and Citizen Engagement in Online and Offline Communities" by Samuel S. Lee - World Bank Group Open Finances.

7. Which of the following categories best describes your primary area of employment? (unemployed/student/homemaker/retired/agriculture, forestry, fishing/ arts, entertainment, or recreation/broadcasting/education/construction/ finance and insurance/government and public administration/health/international development/services/military/mining/retail/other(specify))

Indicator usage

8. Have you **ever** accessed **any** data and/or indicators? (Y/N)
9. Are you familiar with **any** health and agriculture development indicators? (Y/N)
10. Do you know where to look or who to ask for the indicators you might want? (Y/N)
11. If yes, how do you **mostly** get this information? (SMS/Internet/Newspaper/Radio/TV/Print Materials/Community Meetings/Sign Board/Government Office/Not Interested/Other)
12. Did you get to find most indicators you were looking for? (Y/N)
13. If no, what was the main problem? (indicator did not exist/data was not available for the country of interest/outdated information/other (specify))
14. If "indicator did not exist", which indicators would you say were missing?
15. Have you **ever** accessed data and/or indicators from the agriculture sector? (Y/N)
16. If yes, at what level did you use the data? *Check all that apply.*
(Personal/Academic/Professional/Other)
17. Have you accessed datasets in any of these health areas?

| Areas in the health sector | N= I have not accessed data from this specific area | Y= I have accessed data from this specific area |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Addictions | | |
| Children | | |
| HIV | | |
| Hospitals Infrastructure | | |
| Immunization | | |
| Maternity | | |
| Mortality | | |
| Nutrition | | |
| Parental Planning | | |
| Sanitation | | |
| Tuberculosis | | |
| Other (specify) | | |

18. Have you ever accessed data and/or indicators from the agriculture sector?
19. If yes, at what level did you use the data? *Check all that apply.*
(Personal/Academic/Professional/Other)
20. Have you accessed datasets in any of these agriculture areas?

| Areas in the agriculture sector | N= I have not accessed data from this specific area | Y= I have accessed data from this specific area |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Agricultural Production | | |
| Agricultural Labor | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Land area and quality | | |
| Livestock (animals, veterinary or fishery) | | |
| Natural Disaster/Climate | | |
| Road infrastructure | | |
| Water, irrigation, or fertilizers | | |
| Other (specify) | | |

Indicator demand

21. Do you **wish** to access information on health and agriculture indicators?
22. Do you intend to use any indicators related to health and agriculture? (0-4) (0=No chance / 1=Slight chance / 2= Good chance / 3= Strong Chance / 4= For Certain)
23. At what level do you plan to use the data? *Check all that apply.*
(Personal/Academic/Professional/Other)
24. At what level of disaggregation would you prefer the data?
(National/Province(state)/Municipal (county))
25. Which indicators in the health sector are of great relevance to you? *Check all that apply.*

| Areas in the health sector | N= I have not accessed data from this specific area | Y= I have accessed data from this specific area |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Addictions | | |
| Children | | |
| HIV | | |
| Hospitals Infrastructure | | |
| Immunization | | |
| Maternity | | |
| Mortality | | |
| Nutrition | | |
| Parental Planning | | |
| Sanitation | | |
| Tuberculosis | | |
| Other (specify) | | |

26. Which indicators in the agriculture sector are of great relevance to you? *Check all that apply.*

| Areas in the agriculture sector | N= I have not accessed data from this specific area | Y= I have accessed data from this specific area |
|--|---|---|
| Agricultural Production | | |
| Agricultural Labor | | |
| Land area and quality | | |
| Livestock (animals, veterinary or fishery) | | |
| Natural Disaster/Climate | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Road infrastructure | | |
| Water, irrigation, or fertilizers | | |
| Other (specify) | | |

27. How would you prefer to get the indicators/information?
 (SMS/Internet/Newspaper/Radio/TV/Print Materials/Community Meetings/Sign Board/Government Office/Not Interested/Other)
28. Are you familiar with the term "Open Data"?