How to Read an PBMEF Indicator Reference Sheet

PBMEF indicators each have an indicator reference sheet (IRS) or an abbreviated IRS with standard fields completed. These fields are derived from USAID-specific requirements for IRS and may vary from country or mission-specific requirements, which should be adhered to. However, to whatever extent possible, the definition, numerator, and denominator fields should be applied as they are written in the PBMEF guide to maintain standardization with globally established indicators. Figure 1 below details the contents of a PBMEF IRS.

Figure 1. PBMEF Indicator Reference Sheet Fields

% Indicator name	INDICATOR_SHORT_NAME: Indicator name	
Definition	*Standard indicator definition; definition wording should be used as written.*	
Numerator	*Standard numerator definition; definition wording should be used as written.*	*Names the PBMEF data element and provides any external (WHO, PEPFAR, etc.) indicator equivalencies.*
Denominator	*Standard denominator definition; definition wording should be used as written.*	*Names the PBMEF data element and provides any external (WHO, PEPFAR, etc.) indicator equivalencies.*
Category	*Describes which USAID strategy area this indicator applies most to (Reach/Cure/Prevent/Innovate/Sustain)*	
Indicator type	*Describes whether this is an output vs outcome indicator.*	
PBMEF level	*Describes the prioritization level assigned within the PBMEF (Core, Core Plus, National level, Subnational level, extended)*	
Unit of measure	*Describes the units in which this indicator should be reported; examples include number of people, percent of people, and number of tests.*	
Data type	*Describes the expected format for the indicator; examples include integer or percentage.*	
Disaggregate by*	*Provides categories recommended for disaggregating indicator data. Depending on requirements, disaggregates of an indicator may be reported as disaggregates of one indicator, or separately as standalone indicators.* *The PBMEF includes some indicators that could be reported as disaggregates of other indicators. These indicators are marked with a colored flag at the top of the reference sheet, and the indicator from which they are derived is provided in this field.*	
Reporting level*	*Indicates the level of granularity (national, subnational, etc.) recommended for data collection and reporting.*	
Reporting frequency*	*Indicates the frequency recommended for data reporting.*	
Data source(s)	*Suggests data sources where these data elements may be recorded.*	
Importance	*Details the importance of this indicator.*	
Data use and visualization	*Describes data use and potential visualizations for the indicator.*	
* Note the choice of what to enter for these fields will depend on specific goals and requirements for activities. See the reporting section below for USAID-specific requirements in these fields		

Some characteristics of indicators correspond to colors in reference sheets, as summarized in Figure 2 below. Indicators that are calculated (i.e., have a numerator and a denominator) have a different color header than those that are not calculated (i.e., have no denominator). Additionally, PBMEF indicators that could be reported as a disaggregate of another indicator are marked with a colored icon 🥧 as shown below; the disaggregate field of the reference sheet will also clarify the relationship to other indicators. Disaggregated values may be reported as a standalone indicator to emphasize the importance of a disaggregated datapoint (ex. number of childhood TB notifications reported as a separate indicator from the total number of TB notifications). Disaggregates reported as standalone indicators may also be preferred depending on national priorities, data availability or other considerations. The PBMEF includes options to report values as either disaggregates of one indicator, or independently as standalone indicators.

Figure 2. PBMEF Indicator Reference Sheet Color Codes

Calculated indicators:

% Indicator name	INDICATOR_SHORT_NAME: Indicator name

Non-calculated indicators:

# Indicator name	INDICATOR_SHORT_NAME: Indicator name

Disaggregate calculated indicators:

🥧 % Indicator name	INDICATOR_SHORT_NAME: Indicator name

Disaggregate non-calculated indicators:

🥧 # Indicator name	INDICATOR_SHORT_NAME: Indicator name