Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals with census microdata from IPUMS-International

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Introduction & Objectives

Objective: In this study, we use IPUMS International data to measure indicators from four SDG goals as operationalized by the United Nations, demonstrating their utility for the establishment of baseline measures and ongoing monitoring.

High-density census microdata samples:
- Highly representative of national populations
- Collected at regular intervals
- Include characteristics required for SDG indicator disaggregation
- Part of the existing statistical infrastructure of developing countries

IPUMS value added:
- Harmonized variable coding
- Spatially consistent units in the microdata
- Corresponding GIS boundary files

SDG indicators should measure progress among different demographic and social groups at various levels of sub-national geography.

Urban Population Living in Slums: Mexico 2000-10

Urban slum population in Mexico through time (Goal 11.1): Slum household: group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following housing conditions:
- Population in slums stagnated or increased from 2000 to 2010 in 133 municipalities (10%)
- Slum-dwelling remained high/increased in southeastern Mexico, particularly in the state of Tabasco (inset)

Electricity Access in Rural Areas: Cambodia 2008

Percentage of population with access to electricity in urban and rural areas of Cambodia (Goal 7.1):
- High % of urban population with access to electricity
- Surrounding rural areas of major cities (e.g. Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Poipet) have better access to electricity than northeast and northwest parts of country

Women’s Empowerment & Technology: Ghana 2010

Gender disparities in cell phone ownership in Ghana (age 12+): Goal 5.6:
- Cell phone ownership is more common in urbanized south among both sexes
- Gender disparities exist and gaps are less pronounced in urban centers

NEET by Age & Gender: Argentina 2010

NEET: proportion of youth (15-24) not in education, employment, or training (NEET) (Goal 8.6):
- NEET (no school or work): Female 25.3, Male 19.5
- School attendance: Male 92.6, Female 94.8
- NEET population (%): Female 15.4, Male 11.7

Summary & Conclusion

- IPUMS International data are suitable for monitoring several SDG indicators, disaggregated by geography, gender, age, and urbanization
- Harmonized variables and spatially consistent geographic units provide monitoring agencies and national governments with reliable data for the establishment of disaggregated baseline-metrics for several SDGs
- As new census data are collected and integrated in IPUMS, SDG progress can be measured against these baselines according to methods presented in this study


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