Indicators on Adolescents

UNICEF and Partners Agree on a Set of Indicators to Monitor Adolescent Development and Well-being

Along with the increased attention to adolescents' development and wellbeing, over the past three decades, there has been significant progress in collecting and synthesizing adolescent-focused data. However, there continues to be a need for more systematic and comprehensive measurement of progress for this period of the life-course\(^1\), because what we don’t measure we don’t do.

UNICEF, in collaboration with key partners\(^2\), is facilitating the development of a results framework\(^3\) and a proposed set of indicators that will provide a common platform to identify, measure and track the progress of adolescent development and wellbeing across a variety of sectors and domains that reflect the ways in which national governments are usually organized: health, education, protection, livelihoods and participation. These indicators will form the basis of a tool that will incorporate core policy and programme elements that have been agreed upon in previous international consensus meetings; build on, synthesize and strengthen existing adolescent initiatives; and support advocacy and action at global, regional and national levels.

The tool will also be helpful for defining priorities, supporting advocacy, focusing action, strengthening accountability and mobilizing resources at national, regional and global levels. The data collected through these indicators will have an impact on adolescent’s rights, opportunities and transitions to adulthood.
In early October 2015, UNICEF brought together, a number of organizations including UN Organizations, NGOs, research institutes, bilateral organizations and development foundations to review and refine a proposed set of indicators. During this two-day consultation meeting partners agreed on the necessity to enhance universality of outcomes to be illustrated in the tool, strengthen country ownership and link the interpretation to a data-driven bottlenecks analysis to improve outcomes for adolescents. The proposed indicators will then be field tested in a few countries, to explore the feasibility and usefulness of the tool in low, middle and high-income settings. A final list of indicators will then be prepared for wider dissemination and endorsement in 2016.

Notes
1. The need for a core set of globally comparable indicators measuring adolescent development and wellbeing was articulated in UNICEF’s Progress for Children: A report card on adolescents (2012), the Lancet Series on Adolescents (2012) and most recently WHO’s Health for the World’s Adolescents report (2014)
2. Governments, UN organizations, NGO, bilaterals, foundations
3. Maximize the health and wellbeing of adolescent girls and boys; Educate and provide formal and non-formal learning opportunities for adolescent girls and boys; Ensure the safety and protection of adolescent girls and boys; Adolescents are prepared for sustainable and non-exploitative, productive livelihoods; Provide space and opportunities for adolescent boys and girls to be socially and civically engaged