Sustainable Development Goals and Drug Policy Metrics

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- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)

- Transform

Argument

- Aligning the way in which we measure and evaluate drug policies with the Agenda 2030 process will help overcome many of the limitations of our current metrics

Why are the current metrics problematic?

1. Imprecise Metrics
2. Misconceived Metrics
3. Missing Metrics

Why focus on the SDGs?

- Shift of focus away from objectives that only look at market elimination, and towards a reduction of the drug and drug policy related harm.

- Break the silos.

- Increase interest and involvement of UN and government agencies traditionally not concerned with drug policy

- Rethink the way in which development connects with drug policy; moving from alternative development to sustainable development

What do successful drug policies look like?

- Reduce the harms of drug consumption and drug production

- Focus on the impact of drug policies on vulnerable population

- Need not only better data but different data

Why does 2019 matter?

- In 2019, the targets for a significant reduction in or the elimination of the demand and supply of drugs will be reviewed and updated.

- In September 2019 there will be a Summit Level meeting at the UN General Assembly in New York

How do the SDGs and drug policy metrics overlap?

- First, we must see how the new indicators collected to measure the SDGs will help national governments to measure and evaluate in a more accurate way the impact of both the drug market and the drug policies in their communities.

- Second, it will allow national governments to examine if the drug problem and the drug policies are impacting (in a positive or a negative way) the possibilities of achieving the SDGs by the targeted date.

Target 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day

Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location.

2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

How can it help better measure drug policy?

- **Involvement in drug markets**, be it cultivation of illicit crops, production and petty trafficking are often **a symptom of poverty**.

- Help assess the **impact of drug policies on the proportion of population below the international poverty line**.

- The **disaggregated information** can also help asses **impact of drug policy on different vulnerable groups**.

- For example, how does forced crop eradication impact the proportion of the population below the poverty line?

- How does the incarceration of petty traffickers that partake in the drug market for subsistence purposes impact the proportion of the population below the poverty line?

How to evaluate the impact of drug policies on the achievement of Goal 1?

- Many people join the drug market as a strategy to mitigate hunger and food insecurity in the absence of viable licit livelihood opportunities. Goal 1 will only be achieved if the most marginalized communities, which include those involved in illicit crop cultivation, production, and trafficking are given viable alternatives.

Target 3.3 by 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Indicator 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations.

How to evaluate the impact of drug policies on the achievement of Goal 3?

- Monitoring the number of new infections within injection drug users will be key in achieving goal 3.3.

- As such, harm reduction policies, or the absence of these, will have a significant impact on the possibilities of reaching this goal.

Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Indicator 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non discrimination on the basis of sex.

How can it help better measure drug policy?

- This indicator can serve as basis to protect women from the differential impact of the drug problem and drug policies, recognizing that women are disproportionately affected by drug policies.

- A legal framework that, for example, protects the rights of women to due process and guarantees protection from sexual and gender-based violence, can serve as a basis to mitigate the differential impact of the drug problem and drug policies on women.

How to evaluate the impact of drug policies on the achievement of Goal 5?

- Are drug policies impeding or contributing to the enforcement of the legal framework that would guarantee non-discrimination?

- As WOLA has shown, women across the Americas are being incarcerated for low-level drug offenses at an alarming rate. In Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Peru, well over 60 percent of each country's female prison population is incarcerated for drug-related crimes.

- The imprisonment of mothers and caregivers in particular can have devastating consequences for their families and communities.

- The differential impact of the drug problem and drug policies on women makes these particularly pertinent to the development and implementation of a framework to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination.

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause.

Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months.

How can it help better measure drug policy?

Indicator 16.1.2

- Measuring the impact of drug policies on conflict-related death can help us better understand how these policies can feed into existing armed conflicts.

- In places where drug production, trafficking or consumption contribute to conflict, it is unlikely that governments will be able to reach this target unless a drastic change of policy takes place.

How to evaluate the impact of drug policies on the achievement of Goal 16?

Indicator 16.1.2

- Monitoring the number of new infections within injection drug users will be key in achieving goal 3.3.

- As such, harm reduction policies, or the absence of these, will have a significant impact on the possibilities of reaching this goal.

How can it help better measure drug policy?

Indicator 16.1.3

- Recognizing that the drug problem and drug policy interventions can impact violence beyond homicides, this indicator can help us understand more broadly the impact of certain drug policy interventions on violence. By monitoring changes in this indicator, we can examine changes as they relate to certain interventions.

How to evaluate the impact of drug policies on the achievement of Goal 16?

Indicator 16.1.3

- If either the drug problem or the drug control policies in place contribute to an increase of physical, psychological or sexual violence, nation states will be hard pressed to meet this target. Drug policies that purposefully try to reduce the levels of violence, on the other hand, will be coherent with this SDG.