

Designing indicators for DRR and SDGs

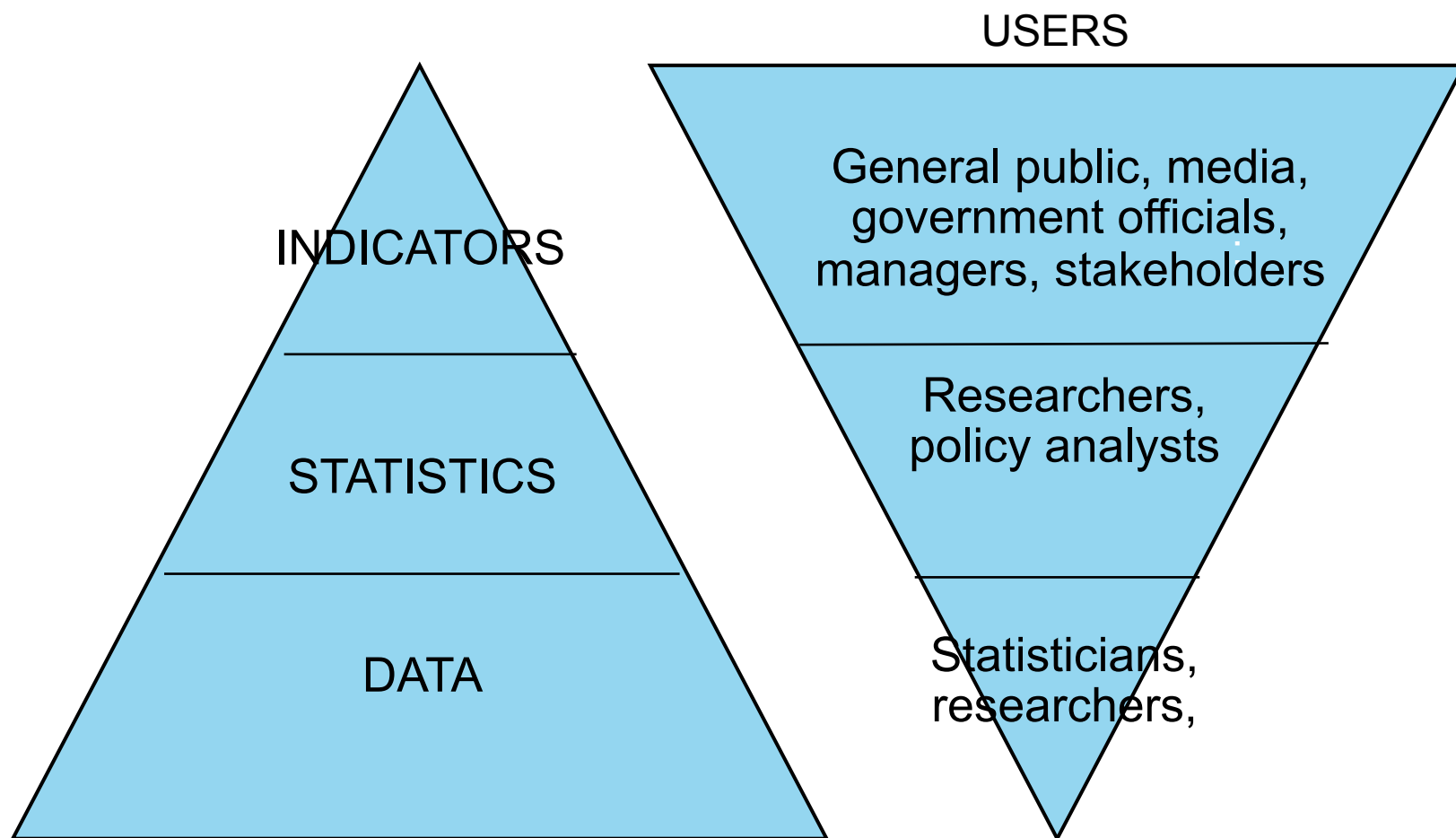
UNISDR technical briefing on indicators (8 September 2015, Geneva)

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Data – statistics - indicators



- A statistical indicator is a summary measure related to a key issue or phenomenon and derived from a series of observed facts

Types of indicators

- Different kinds of indicators
 - Descriptive (describe situation or trend) / performance (progress towards a target)
 - Economic cycle: leading, coincident, lagging
 - Environment protection: driving force, pressure, state, impact, response
 - Project framework: input, output, outcome, impact
 - Policy-derived frameworks: headline, operational, explanatory, contextual
 - Direct, proxy
 - Objective, subjective
 - Quantitative, qualitative
- Describing complex phenomena
 - Set of indicators
 - Dashboard, scoreboard
 - Composite indicator
 - Advantages: facilitate communication – often attractive to media
 - Disadvantages: construction difficult (weights of components arbitrary), may be misleading and over-simplistic

Quality criteria

- Quality refers to institutional environment, statistical production processes and output
 - Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, mandate to produce data, commitment to quality
 - Sound methodology, appropriate procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents, cost-effectiveness
 - Relevance, accuracy, reliability, timeliness, coherence, comparability, accessibility, clarity
- **Quality criteria for an indicator set**
 - Relevant and useful for users
 - Methodologically sound
 - Measurable in cost-effective and practical manner, data collection mechanism within reasonable cost, updated at regular intervals
 - Indicators consistent and complementary, limited in number

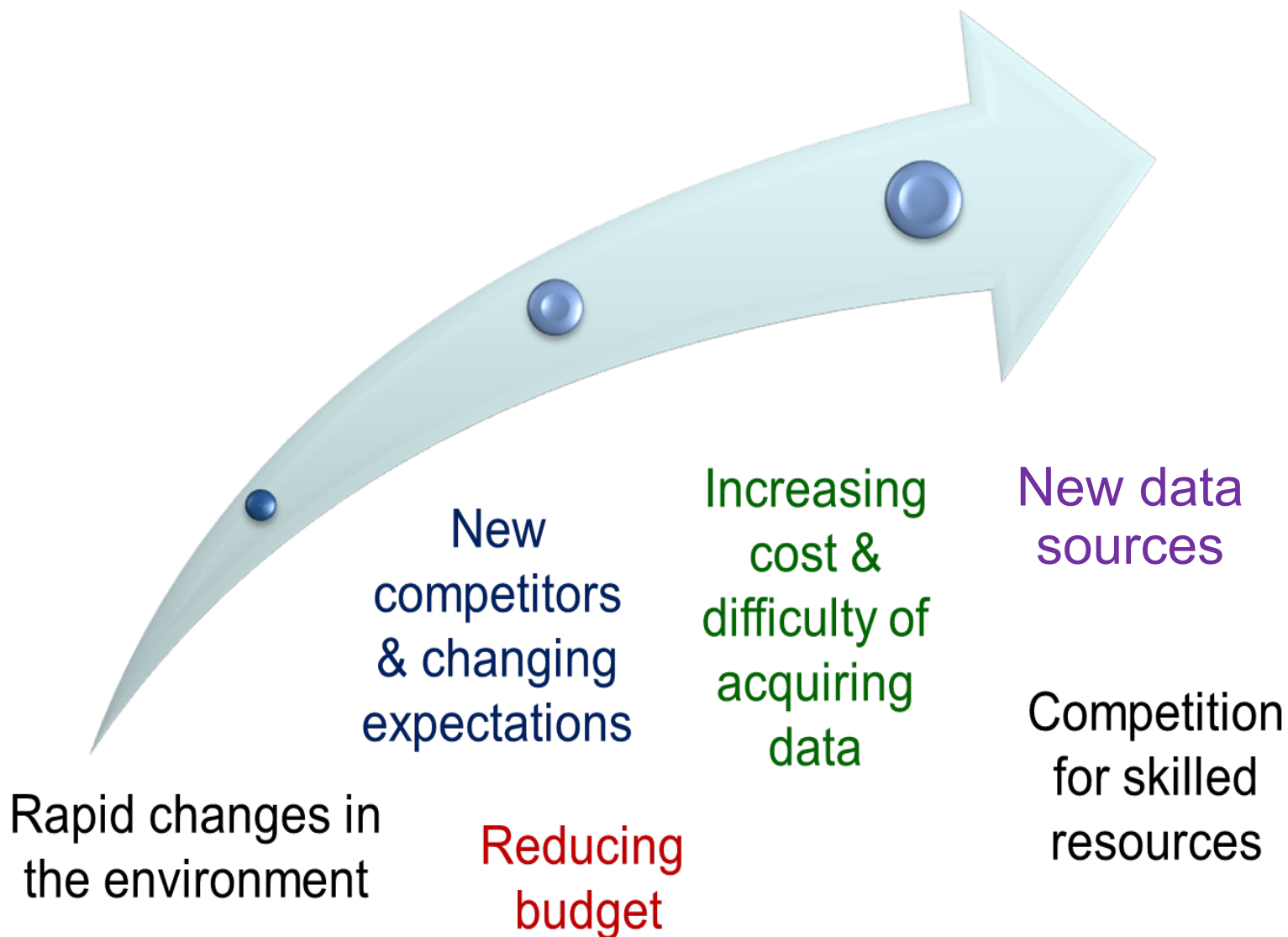
Development of SDG indicators

- United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) to develop a proposal for indicators for SDGs and targets
- UNSC established **Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG)**
 - **Develop an indicator framework and a list of indicators for the monitoring of SDGs at the global level,**
 - Provide support for the implementation of the indicator framework until 2030, review capacity building, report on progress towards SDGs and targets
 - **Country led process**, 28 countries are members, all other countries and international organizations are observers
 - For UNECE region: *CES Recommendations for measuring sustainable development* (2013) a good basis
- **UN Summit 25-27 September 2015 to adopt the outcome document - final wording of goals and targets**
 - **Indicator list to be ready by end-Nov. 2015, to be approved in March 2016**

Challenges in developing SDG indicators

- Scale
 - MDGs: 8 goals, 21 targets, 60 indicators, for developing countries
 - SDGs: 17 goals, 169 targets, ~170 indicators (?), for all countries
- Complexity
 - indicators must directly respond to the targets, not undermine or re-interpret the targets, not introduce new issues; cover all targets and give equal weight to all targets;
 - targets often multidimensional, the number of global indicators should be limited, too many indicators – difficult to comprehend and communicate
- No overarching view
 - Overlapping, linked, trade-offs
- Reporting burden and level of disaggregation
 - providing data on these challenging even for developed countries
 - data collection and reporting mechanisms still to be worked out
- New areas of statistics
 - Peace, security, governance, human rights
- Global- regional – national level

The challenges for statistical producers



Criteria for selecting SDG indicators

- Relevance
 - Linked to the target, policy relevant, applicable to all countries
- Methodological soundness
 - Existing internationally agreed definitions, classifications and methodologies
 - Coherent and complementary
- Measurable
 - Measured in cost-effective and practical way, sustainable, managed by a responsible agency, possibility to disaggregate
- Easy to communicate and access
 - Interpretability
- Limited in number, focused no outcomes

Links to more information

- *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on Measuring Sustainable Development (2013)*

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34522>

- *Towards a harmonized methodology for statistical indicators (2014)*

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-14-011>

- *Getting messages across using indicators (2014)*

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-12-001>

Thank you!

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