1. Introduction

TranMonEE is a decades-old regional partnership initiative among the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) that aims to strengthen the quality, accessibility and use of data on children, across a breadth of areas relevant to children’s wellbeing, aligned to respond to the priorities of the 2030 Agenda. The TransMonEE regional database and website are useful tools for capturing and disseminating a vast range of data on social/economic issues affecting children. The annual regional meeting serves as a platform where UNICEF, NSOs and other key partners can discuss and reflect on child-related data that is collected or ought to be collected by National Statistical Systems.

The 2030 Agenda sets the ambitious objective of eliminating inequities among people on the planet. Its achievement, though, as stated in the Inclusive Data Charter, is hindered by inadequate, unreliable or non-existent data and information, as well as the lack of skills, funding and/or support to use data. Availability of disaggregated data is critical to accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This year’s meeting zooms in on the importance of age and gender, and its relevance to the vulnerabilities and distinctive needs of different age groups of children, and of male and female children.

Disaggregation of data by sex and age is quite standard - sex-disaggregated data has helped policy makers identify and address gender inequalities, while age-disaggregated data has allowed them to understand, for example, the health and nutrition needs of children under 5, as well as education needs for children in their middle years. Despite its straightforwardness, however, disaggregating data by age and sex reveals important gaps. For example, data on adolescents is in surprisingly short supply and/or can be one-sided. Indicators and published analysis often lump adolescents in with youth and adults or only focus on one sex. Moreover, some of the indicators for this age group are critical to realizing child rights as well as contributing to gender equality: for example, child marriage, sexual violence, children in conflict with the law, and adolescent participation and empowerment.

Following on the successful 2018 TransMonEE meeting, held in Astana and co-hosted by UNICEF and the Government of Kazakhstan, this year’s TransMonEE event continues to explore good practices related to the generation of statistics against a set of indicators pertaining to SDG 16.2 (end abuse, exploitation, trafficking an all forms of violence against and torture of children) as well as SDG 5 (gender equality), looking at topics such as minimum legal age, child marriage and violence against children.

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1 http://www.data4sdgs.org/initiatives/inclusive-data-charter
2 For example, “Harmful use of alcohol aged 15 years and older” (SDG 3.5.2)
3 For example, “Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods” (SDG 3.7.1)
2. Purpose of the TransMonEE Partnership

In 2017, the Conference of European Statisticians launched a Roadmap on Statistics for the SDGs, which is aligned with IAEG-SDG⁴ objectives and more broadly with the HLG-PCCB⁵ and PARIS21 ones. It outlines what needs to be done, by who and when, identifying the stakeholders to statistics and opportunities for cooperation. Within the strategy’s six substantive sections, a chapter is devoted to capacity development, starting with the need for a systematic assessment of capacity building needs.

Within that frame, the TransMonEE partnership seeks to enhance the generation, systematization and integration of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence, as they are instrumental to improve the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes aimed at fulfilling the commitments on the rights of women, children and adolescents assumed by all the countries of the region. The partnership contributes to:

- Enhancing technical and methodological capacities for the regular compilation of indicators for monitoring the progress with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in relation to children and adolescents.
- Promoting the disaggregation of data (by sex, disability, migratory status, geographic location, socioeconomic status, ethnicity or other possibilities) to shed light on disparities in childhood- and adolescence-related access to services and entitlements.
- Support governments in improving accessibility, dissemination and use of quality data and statistics on SDGs for children to drive effective public policies and investments for children.
- Identifying possible areas of synergy between the statistical institutes, leading institutions for childhood and adolescence, international organizations and the academic world, and promoting greater collaboration among them to strengthen their capacity for measuring the situation of children in all the countries in the region.

3. Objective of the TransMonEE Meeting 2019

This year’s TransMonEE Meeting 2019 starts with an analysis of national capacities to generate age- and sex-disaggregated data. A synthesis of reports submitted by NSOs will set the stage for more detailed discussions of challenges and solutions related to specific indicators relevant to SDG targets for children, adolescents and young people. The meeting will allow for an exchange of experiences with data collection for proposed gender-responsive child protection indicators.

The overarching objective of the meeting is the validation of a set of key indicators, including definitions and methodologies, that would bolster national child protection monitoring systems and facilitate the fulfilment of gender equality commitments.

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⁴ Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
⁵ High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB)
During the meeting, participants will:


b) Have an update from five countries participating in the IAEG-SDG on Violence Against Children with respect to methodological developments (SDG 16.2.1, 16.2.3, 16.3.1 and 16.3.2).

c) Discuss child protection national data, including indicators, approaches and methods used, that serve to monitor child and adolescent well-being, as well as gender equality and women and girls empowerment (specific focus on SDG 5.3.1 - child marriage).

d) Agree on a final set of indicators to be embedded in the national child protection system monitoring.

4. Audience

The participants (80-100) will include delegations of 3-4 persons per country, including:

- Representatives of National Statistical Offices (Social Statistics) and relevant Ministries
- Gender and adolescent statistics experts
- Partners, researchers, academics, ombudspersons and civil society (FRA, UNECE, UN agencies, OSCE)
- UNICEF Child Protection, Youth, Gender and Monitoring Specialists from programme countries
- UNICEF global and regional statistics experts.

5. Format

The TransMonEE network meeting will take place on 26-27 November 2019, and will include expert and panel presentations, group discussions and plenary sessions. A full agenda and administrative note will be circulated in due course.

6. Logistics and budget

The meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria. Cost of travel is to be borne by participants. Lunch will be provided throughout the 2-day event.

Should you have any questions please contact ecarodata@unicef.org.