



United Nations  
**Human Rights**

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

# Indicators to Promote and Monitor the Implementation of the Right to Health

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# OHCHR's work on human rights indicators - Background

- *References to indicators / statistical information not new in the human rights normative framework and UN treaty bodies system*
- Request from International Human Rights Treaty Bodies (monitoring mechanism) to OHCHR
- First outline of conceptual and methodological framework in 2006
- Endorsement by the Treaty Bodies in 2008
- By 2010, process of identification and validation of indicators on 12 selected human rights & 2 cross-cutting issues

# OHCHR indicators lists and “meta-data sheets”

## 14 tables of illustrative indicators:

- Right to life
- Right to liberty and security of person
- Right to adequate food
- Right to health
- Right to participate in public affairs
- Right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Right to education
- Right to adequate housing
- Right to work
- Right to social security
- Right to freedom of opinion and expression
- Right to a fair trial
- Non-discrimination and equality
- Violence against Women

Development of “meta-data sheets” on each indicator: Definition, rationale, method of computation, data collection and source, disaggregation level, periodicity, comments and limitations (see OHCHR/MC/2008/3)

The right to health, and other related human rights such as food, housing or freedom from torture are part of several UN human rights instruments

# International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**« The right to the enjoyment of the  
highest attainable standard of health»**

## **Article 12**

In the year 2000 an authoritative understanding of the right to health emerged from the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, with the adoption of General Comment No. 14

# Why do we need indicators for human rights assessment?

1. Make policy planning and implementation of human rights obligations more efficient and transparent
2. Assist States to assess their own progress in implementing human rights
3. Support narrative and qualitative assessment, including (quasi-)judicial evaluation
4. Help clarifying and communicating the practical content of human rights in concrete situations

# Human rights indicators are

Specific information on the state of an event, activity or an outcome

- that can be related to human rights norms;
- that address and reflect the human rights concerns and principles; and
- that are used to assess and monitor promotion and protection of human rights

# Methodological framework

Focus on two kinds of data-generating mechanisms for all human rights:

1. "socio-economic and other administrative data"; official statistical and administrative information
  2. "events-based data on human rights violation"; HR organisations and non-governmental sources
- (+ "household opinion and perception surveys" and "data based on expert judgements")

# Conceptual framework

Human Rights Norms & Principles

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graph TD; A[Human Rights Norms & Principles] --> B[Attributes of a right]; A --> D[Indicators on cross-cutting HR norms & principles]; B --> C[Structural Indicators]; C --> E[Process Indicators]; E --> F[Outcome Indicators];
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*Attributes* of a right

*Structural* Indicators

*Process* Indicators

*Outcome* Indicators

Indicators on cross-cutting HR norms & principles

# I. From standards to indicators – The Right to Health

The right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of physical and mental health (UDHR, art. 25, ICESCR, art.12)

Sexual and reproductive health	Child mortality and health care	Natural and occupational environment	Prevention, treatment and control of diseases	Accessibility to health facilities and essential medicines

# Conceptual framework

## ***Structural indicators***

- reflect ratification and adoption of legal instruments and existence of basic institutional mechanisms deemed necessary for facilitating realisation of human rights

## ***Process indicators***

- relate state policy instruments (public programmes and specific interventions) with milestones; reflect the implementation of policy measures and help capture efforts, progressive realisation and accountability

## ***Outcome indicators***

- capture attainments, individual and collective, that reflect the status of realisation of human rights in a given context

## The right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of physical and mental health

	<b>Sexual and reproductive health</b>	<b>Child mortality and health care</b>	<b>Natural and occupational environment</b>	<b>Prevention, treatment and control of diseases</b>	<b>Accessibility to health facilities and essential medicines</b>
<b>Structural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ International human rights treaties, relevant to the RTH, ratified by the State</li> <li>■ Date of entry into force and coverage of the right to health in the Constitution or other forms of superior law</li> <li>■ Estimated proportion of births, deaths and marriages recorded through vital registration system</li> <li>■ Time frame and coverage of national policy on sexual and reproductive health (attribute 1)</li> </ul>				
<b>Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Proportion of children immunised against vaccine-preventable diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Proportion of targeted population that was extended access to an improved drinking water source</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Proportion of population applying effective preventive measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Proportion of population covered by health insurance</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Maternal mortality ratio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Under-five mortality rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prevalence of deaths, injuries, diseases caused by unsafe natural environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Death rates associated with and prevalence of communicable diseases</li> </ul>	

# Cross-cutting human rights norms & principles

***Non-discrimination & equality***

***Progressive realisation / obligation to take steps***

***Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality***

***Respect, protect and fulfil***

***Participation***

***Access to remedies***

***No retrogression***

***Accountability***

***Indivisibility of HRs***

# Indicators

Disaggregated by prohibited discriminations

Special attention to worse-off regions and to groups particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged

Configuration of *structural*, *process* and *outcome* indicators

Attention to “accessibility” more than “availability” indicators

Private & public actors

Handling of RtH complaints

Rights to food, housing, work, education, social security, not to be tortured, participation etc.

For information and feedback on  
OHCHR's work on indicators:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indicators/index.htm>

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