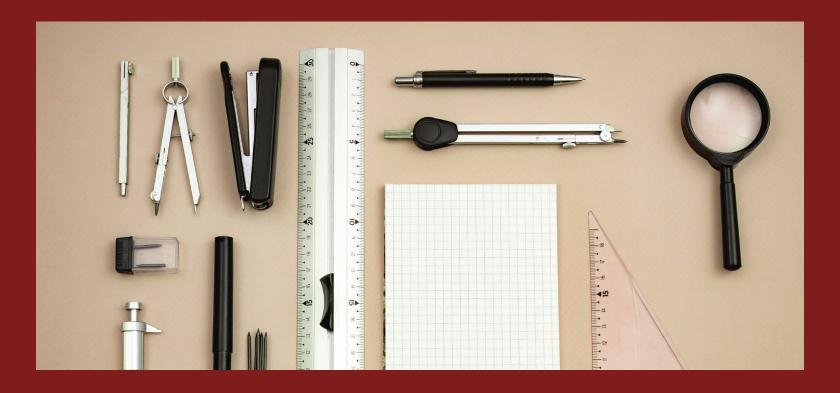
# INTERROGATE 04 WORKING WITH INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS



In this final note of the Decoding Injustice Interrogate module, we analyze how to give answers to the questions posed by the OPERA Framework. Activists and changemakers will learn how indicators, benchmarks and data aid in understanding the relations between different elements in unjust economic systems.

#### **Key Questions**

What are human rights indicators? What are benchmarks?

What questions can indicators and benchmarks help to answer?

How can we identify indicators and benchmarks?

What criteria should we use to judge them?



## INTERROGATE 04

## WORKING WITH INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS

#### Introduction

Indicators effectively frame questions in more specific and measurable ways. Often, they answer a question using quantitative data. For example, if the question is "How many girls are enrolled in school, compared with boys?", the indicator would be the male-to-female enrolment rate. The data might be 1:1 or 2:1. Benchmarks are important because they give us something to compare the data against.

As discussed in Interrogate 3 - The OPERA Framework, each dimension of the OPERA Framework includes a checklist of useful questions when interrogating what's causing a particular problem more systematically. Indicators are simply a way to help answer the questions posed in each dimension. This note introduces the concept of human rights indicators and benchmarks, explaining how they can be used to measure specific human rights norms within each dimension of the OPERA Framework.

## Indicators, Data And Benchmarks: What's The Difference?

At its most basic, an indicator is a category of information; it's a thing that indicates a particular state or level. In other words, an indicator gives us a gauge or a signal about a situation, at a particular place and point in time. A good analogy is the dashboard of a car. By looking at the dashboard, it's possible to get a snapshot of what the car is doing at a particular moment. It provides us with indicators such as what gear the car is in, how much fuel is left, the distance it has gone and the speed it's traveling at. Remember, however, that an indicator only suggests, gets close to or approximates a particular situation; it is never an exact measure.

Indicators are often quantitative. They use numbers, ratios or percentages. In other words, they tell us "how much", "how many" or "what percentage". Examples of indicators can include the number of people receiving retirement pensions or the percentage of the population living in poverty. Indicators can also be based on qualitative information; for example, the date of entry into force of a particular law or a customer satisfaction rating.

Another important distinction is between fact-based and judgment-based indicators. Fact-based indicators can be directly observed or verified, such as the height of a child or the level of toxins in a water sample. Judgment-based indicators record people's views, feelings and opinions. These judgments are sometimes categorized and then converted into quantitative indicators; for example, the percentage of parents who are satisfied with the quality of their child's education.

Data, which we look at more closely in other modules, tells us the *value* of an indicator in a particular case. For example, if the *indicator* being examined is "the number of people receiving retirement pensions", the *data* will tell us if it is 100,000 or 500,000 or 1,000,000 people.

It's important to remember that data by itself is just a piece of information. To judge whether it's high or low, good or bad, getting better or getting worse, we need to know how the information *compares* to a reference point. A benchmark gives us that reference point.

A benchmark can be thought of as one of the following:

- · An identified goal or target
- An agreed norm for judging behavior
- A set standard for performance.

This document is organized according to an innovative method for collecting, analyzing and presenting evidence around three steps:



#### **INTERROGATE**

Map the problem in depth using OPERA to identify indicators and benchmarks.



#### ILLUMINATE

Spotlight the underlying issues by collecting, analyzing and visualizing data.



#### INSPIRE

Take action to build power and hold decision-makers accountable.





We can look at the difference between indicators, data and benchmarks by going back to the example of the car. This time, we're looking at the speedometer, shown above. Say we want to answer the question: "Is the car driving too fast?"

The image provides the information necessary to answer this question:

- Indicator: Kilometers per hour
- Data: Car traveling at 107 km/hour
- Benchmark: 100 km/hour speed limit

On the basis of this information, we can conclude that the car is going faster than the speed limit.

#### What Are Human Rights Indicators?

Human rights indicators are indicators used as proxies to measure the standards and principles set out in human rights law. By breaking down abstract concepts into measurable components, human rights indicators can help clarify what different human rights standards and principles mean in particular contexts. There has been increasing interest in using indicators to measure human rights over the years:

- "To strengthen the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, additional approaches should be examined, such as a system of indicators to measure progress" (Vienna Declaration, 1993)
- "Information and statistics are a powerful tool for creating a culture of accountability and for realizing human rights" (<u>Human Development Report, 2000</u>)
- "Systematic use of human rights indicators brings greater objectivity and transparency in human rights assessments and makes human rights monitoring more evidence-based" (OHCHR, 2011).

#### **What Are Human Rights Benchmarks?**

Benchmarks, as noted above, give us something to compare data against. The <u>International Human Rights Internship Program describes</u> human rights benchmarks as:

Targets established by governments, on the basis of appropriately consultative processes, in relation to each of the economic, social and cultural rights obligations that apply in the state concerned ... They will be linked to specific time frames. And they will provide a basis upon which the reality of 'progressive realization' ... can be measured.

But there's much less agreement on how to identify human rights benchmarks on human rights indicators. The <u>Covenant on Economic</u>, <u>Social and Cultural Rights</u> provides little guidance on benchmarks. Efforts to identify benchmarks that can help us to interpret data about human rights have tended to draw on comparisons, negotiations or recommendations.

Comparative benchmarks simply compare data across different categories. Relevant categories might include different population groups, different municipalities or different countries (e.g., with similar levels of GDP). For example, if data suggests that malnutrition rates are particularly high in one part of a country compared with others, this is a red flag that suggests deprivations of the right to food. If a particular country is spending a lot less on healthcare than its neighbors, even though it has a high mortality rate, this is a red flag that suggests it is not dedicating its maximum available resources to ESCR. Comparisons between spending on education and on other sectors within the budget that do not support the realization of ESCR (e.g., military spending when there is no legitimate security threat) might support a similar conclusion.

Comparative benchmarks are a simple and straightforward way to judge indicators. However, it may not always be possible to find an appropriate comparator. For example, if sewerage connection rates in a country were only 40%, we would not want to interpret this outcome as "good" simply because it was at a similar level in neighboring countries.

**Negotiated benchmarks** have been agreed through some kind of consultative process. Such consultations might happen between governments (regionally or internationally) or between governments and other stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions, etc. Some examples include:

- International goals (and accompanying indicators):
   The most widely known of these are the <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u> (SDGs). Other examples include the <u>Education for All goals</u>, and the commitment by <u>Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</u> (OECD) countries to <u>allocate 0.7% of their GNP</u> to official development assistance.
- National commitments: These include national development plans or human rights action plans. Government strategies in specific sectors often include targets or key performance indicators.

Negotiated benchmarks are useful because they generally have a certain amount of political "buy in". However, because negotiated benchmarks tend to be the result of compromise between different interests, they may not be ambitious enough, or fully reflect the complexity of the issue.

**Recommended benchmarks** are those that come from groups with particular expertise on a topic, including human rights experts such as special procedures mandate holders, treaty bodies, civil society groups and communities whose expertise comes from their lived experience. These groups also include experts from outside the human rights field but from a relevant sector, such as public health, education, economics, or water and sanitation. For example:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that at least five emergency obstetric care facilities, including at least one comprehensive facility, should be available for every population of 500,000.
- The <u>internationally recommended minimum investment</u> in education is 4-6% of GDP.
- The <u>Food and Agriculture Organization</u> (FAO), <u>UNICEF</u>, <u>UNESCO</u> and other international bodies publish guidelines on topics related to their mandates.

Costing estimates supplied by economists and other experts, such as a methodology used to calculate the resources that a particular rights-focused policy would require, are another type of recommended benchmark.

The challenge with recommended benchmarks is that it can be hard to get buy-in from the governments and other actors that are expected to meet them.

## What Indicators And Benchmarks Are Relevant For OPERA?

Interrogating a situation involves mapping out a system. This means identifying its elements, seeing how they interconnect and interact and, finally, understanding how they create the particular dynamics that sustain injustice. The questions suggested in the OPERA Framework can assist in this kind of mapping. Indicators and benchmarks can help us answer these questions by providing standardized units of measurement that can be analyzed in different ways. This can reveal different patterns and trends, and helps us to interpret them through a human rights lens.

The kinds of indicators that can be used to measure human rights standards that fall under each of the dimensions of OPERA include:

#### **OUTCOMES**

**Minimum core obligations:** Identifying indicators helps to give greater clarity to what minimum essential levels of a particular right are. For example, measuring the percentage of eligible children enrolled in primary education can help to assess primary education as an essential part of the right to education.

**Non-discrimination:** Disaggregating indicators can help identify the groups that are not enjoying a right to the same level as other groups, or the population as a whole. This is an important way of uncovering hidden patterns of disadvantage. In particular, indicators can be disaggregated on the basis of more than one characteristic (commonly called a variable).

#### **EXAMPLE: GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES IN UGANDA**



In 2014, CESR partnered with the <u>Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)</u> in Uganda to analyze a range of ESCR issues facing the country. <u>Data on wellbeing indicators</u> — disaggregated by different social groups — showed pronounced inequalities in relation to living standards. For example:

- Of the rural population, 70.2% remained poor or at risk, compared with 38.5% in urban areas.
- Over half of the population of Northern Uganda lived in huts with thatched roofs and dirt floors.
- Only 10.3% of households in rural areas used electricity for lighting, compared with 51.4% in urban areas.
- One-quarter of female-headed households were food insecure, compared with one-fifth headed by men.



This makes them valuable in understanding how intersecting grounds of discrimination affect people. For example, we might want to look at the literacy rate among older migrant women, or the unemployment rate among people with disabilities in urban areas.

**Progressive realization and non-retrogression:** By looking at how data on an indicator has changed over time, we can determine whether things are improving, staying the same or getting worse. We can also consider whether progress is taking place fast enough to meet a defined benchmark. For example, if we see that children's literacy rate has decreased over the past 10 years, it suggests that there may be retrogression in the realization of the right to education.

#### **POLICY EFFORTS**

**Obligation to take steps:** Identifying indicators that relate to the different international commitments a State has made, and that analyze the provisions of relevant laws and policies against international standards, can help us to judge whether they're adequate. So, for example, we can look at indicators such as whether a country has signed on to human rights treaties and whether it's adopted related standards into its own laws.

**AAAAQ:** Having laws and policies in place is not enough on its own. We need to be able to see that they are working to realize human rights. Different kinds of indicators can show what goods and services (such as healthcare, affordable housing and social assistance) are available, where, and who is accessing them. AAAQ, also known as 4A criteria of Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Adaptability, and Quality can help us assess how successful these policy interventions have been.

Participation, transparency and right to remedy: Human rights focus as much on how laws and policies are developed as what they say. Indicators such as whether members of marginalized groups are represented in law-making processes, or if certain kinds of information are publicly available, can help us assess whether the ways in which laws and policies are made comply with human rights standards.

#### **RESOURCES**

**Resource generation:** Indicators can be useful in determining how much money a government is generating and the sources it is coming from. For example, some relevant indicators and their sources are set out in the table below.

Indicator	Potential data source
Government revenue as a percentage of GDP	World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI); OECD
Tax revenue as a percentage of government revenue	Finance ministry
Tax effort (the ratio between the actual tax collection and taxable capacity)	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Volume of illicit financial flows	Global Financial Integrity (GFI)
Corporate tax revenue as percentage of total tax revenue	Finance ministry

We can also use indicators to figure out whether the way resources are being generated is fair. For example, we may look at different groups to see what percentage of their income they pay in tax. Such information can help identify whether everyone is paying their fair share, or if the poorest households are the most unfairly burdened by taxation.

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION EXPENDITURE AND ALLOCATION RATIOS (TO MONITOR MINIMUM CORE OBLIGATION OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION) **Public Expenditure Ratio Education Allocation Ratio Primary Education Primary Education** Government Education Share of **Priority Ratio Expenditure Ratio** Primary Education Share of GDP Government Spending Primary Education Share of Education Spending Share of GDP

Resource allocation: Calculating ratios (i.e., determining how much something is as a share of something else) can give an indication of whether a government is really dedicating the maximum available resources to achieving minimum essential levels of rights enjoyment. As shown in the graphic above, calculating ratios is simply a matter of dividing a smaller pool of money by a larger pool of money, in order to see what percentage it comprises. The example here calculates the percentage of the budget dedicated to primary education, as a percentage of the overall economy. In this case, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is used as an indicator to represent the size of the overall economy.

Allocations "per capita" (i.e., per person) or "per region" (i.e., across different states or provinces) are indicators that can help uncover discriminatory patterns in the budget. Even when these indicators aren't possible to calculate, it's still possible to compare budget items and work out who is benefiting. For example, if allocations in the urban sanitation sector currently prioritize and subsidize waterborne sanitation (i.e., sewerage pipes), poor households in informal settlements will not benefit from this budget allocation, as they mainly rely on on-site sanitation such as pit latrines.

Resource expenditure: indicators can also show the degree to which allocated funds are actually spent. Examples include: the number of ministries that receive a "clean" audit, and the percentage of the budget that remains unspent at the end of the financial year.

Participation, accountability and transparency: Some degree of public participation in budget-making is necessary to ensure that budgets adequately reflect community concerns. There are numerous initiatives that seek to measure this. For example, the <a href="Open Budget Partnership">Open Budget Partnership</a> uses a range of qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess how open different governments' budgets are.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

Indivisibility and interdependence: Rights are interlinked, and often one right is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of another. Looking at the relationships between different indicators can help to assess degrees of interdependence and indivisibility. Sometimes, these relationships (often called correlations) are obvious — between levels of air pollution and respiratory illness, for example. Sometimes, however, they're less so.

Obligations to respect and protect: governance indicators can be used to better understand State constraints. For example, the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) report aggregates individual governance indicators for six dimensions of governance: (1) Voice and accountability; (2) Political stability and absence of violence; (3) Government effectiveness; (4) Regulatory quality; (5) Rule of law; and (6) Control of corruption. These aggregate indicators combine the views of a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents. Similarly, the Resource Governance Index (RGI) scores and ranks countries based on the degree of transparency and accountability in their oil, gas and mining sectors. Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer is another useful tool. It is the world's largest public opinion survey on corruption, collecting the views of tens of thousands of people around the world on corruption in their countries.

While these indicators can be helpful in some cases, it is also important to bear in mind that terms such as "rule of law" and "regulatory quality" are complex concepts that are open to different interpretations and different perspectives. By summarizing these concepts in a number, a lot of important factors will remain hidden, especially biases and assumptions about what makes "good governance".



#### EXAMPLE UGANDA'S NATIONAL POVERTY LINE



In the example described above, the national poverty line was one of the key indicators used in the CESR and ISER study. It showed that the number of people in Uganda living in poverty had decreased notably. However, the official definition of the indicator was difficult to source. Eventually, we found out that it was defined as the equivalent to 1 USD per day. This was much lower than the internationally used poverty line of 1.90 USD per day. Using 2 USD per day, which is much closer to the international definition, showed that almost two-thirds of the country (21.4 million people) were living in poverty.

#### **Selecting Indicators**

There are a variety of ways to identify the most appropriate indicators and benchmarks to use in your research. There may already be indicators that your government has committed to track, as part of a national development plan, for example. Alternatively, you might want to take a more "bottom-up" approach and develop indicators through a community consultation process with affected groups. It may also be helpful to look at the indicators recommended by experts and decide which ones are most relevant. Regardless of how the indicators and benchmarks are identified, there are a number of important factors to consider when deciding which ones to select.

First, in line with the principle of transparency, indicators should be *clearly defined* and true to the standard they seek to measure. For example, there is a lot of debate about <u>the indicator that the World Bank uses to measure poverty</u>, which is the number of people living on less than 1.90 USD per day. It has been criticized as being far too low to cover the cost of even the most basic items we need to survive. Using this indicator to measure how many people are deprived of their right to an

"adequate standard of living" would certainly underestimate the scope and scale of the problem.

Second, indicators should be capable of being measured. If it isn't possible to source secondary data or collect primary data for the indicator, the indicator won't be of much use. But just because an indicator is hard to measure doesn't mean we shouldn't use it, because important issues will otherwise be overlooked. It's important to think creatively about how an indicator might be broken down into more measurable parts. For example, "level of corruption" is a very difficult indicator to collect data for. However, "the percentage of the population that reported paying a bribe in the last month" may be easier. Data for a particular indicator should ideally be gathered frequently enough to show changes over time.

Third, indicators should be seen as *relevant and legitimate* by *rights holders*. In line with the principle of participation, the views of rights holders should be sought when identifying the indicators and reflected in the indicators selected.

Assessing a potential indicator against these factors can help us to judge its quality:

Crite	erion	Accuracy	Authority	Added Value	Popular Support
Definition		How closely does the indicator relate to the right being measured?	Does the indicator relate to a specific recommenda- tion from an international or national authority?	Does the indicator tell us something new about how government actions impact the right?	What would ordinary people think of the indicator?
SCORE	Green sure of the right. connected to a	Indicator is directly connected to a recommendation.	Indicator directly improves our understanding of how actions impact rights.	Indicator is meaningful to ordinary people and has broad support from them.	
	(2) Orange	Indicator is a reasonable, well-established proxy of the right.	Indicator is moder- ately connected to a recommendation.	Indicator duplicates other indicators and adds little new insight.	Indicator enjoys moderate support from ordinary people.
	(3) Red	Indicator is only vaguely connected to the right.	Indicator is not connected to a recommendation.	Indicator is not directly related to government action.	Indicator is not meaning- ful to ordinary people.

It's important to note that there can sometimes be tensions among these criteria. For example, an indicator might be very important to rights holders but difficult to measure, or it might have a lot of buy-in from the government but not be as targeted as civil society would like.

#### HOW MANY INDICATORS TO USE

There is no right answer when deciding on whether to use a focused or a broad approach to selecting indicators. The scope of the monitoring activity will determine the depth of analysis that it is desirable (and possible) to undertake. For example, selecting fewer indicators will allow a deeper analysis of those particular factors. Including multiple indicators will give a broader but more general overview of the issues being studied. The latter approach may be a more useful one for an overall audit of a situation across the country.

#### **Selecting Benchmarks**

Like indicators, benchmarks should be specific and measurable. Because they have a more normative dimension to them – in other words, they set out what the data for a particular indicator *should be in the future* – they need to be ambitious but realistic, as well as time-bound. In short, they need to be "SMART", as outlined in the box opposite.

Carefully selecting benchmarks is a critical part of the process of evaluating a State's human rights performance. Benchmarks are the manifestation of the right in practice. However, international human rights law provides little in the way of concrete guidance for selecting benchmarks. This is especially true with respect to quantitative benchmarks, of which there are very few. In most cases, we will need to look to other authoritative and compelling sources to identify these benchmarks.

There are numerous potential sources for human rights benchmarks, particularly for socio-economic indicators. For example, international targets and commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goal targets, or World Health Organization guidance, may serve as good sources from which to select benchmarks. Other sources could include targets that have been advocated for by civil society groups or social

## **SMART**

S – Specific

M - Measurable

A - Ambitious

R — Realistic

T — Time-bound

Туре	Explanation	Quantitative Experience	Qualitative Experience
Best Value Ideally	Benchmark is the best value theoretically possible	Zero maternal deaths in 100,000 live births	Maternal health legislation fully encompasses every component of a human rights-based approach
Best Value in Practice	Benchmark is the best value actually found in the world	Two maternal deaths in 100,000 live births	Maternal health legislation takes a human rights-based approach that reflects best practice globally
Best Value in a particular class	Benchmark is best value in the designated class, e.g. countries with similar GDP	Lower middle-income countries: 150 maternal deaths in 100,000 live births	Maternal health legislation reflects best practices in lower middle-income countries
Average Value in a particular class	Benchmark is the average value for a particular class, e.g., countries in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	ESCWA countries: 95 mater- nal deaths in 100,000 live births	Maternal health legislation reflects most commonly used practices in ESCWA countries
Other value agreed as "reasonable"	Benchmark is a value that falls somewhere in upper range of a top class, e.g., in top 10% or top 20%	Fewer than 70 maternal deaths in 100,000 live births (which is the SDG Global Target)	Maternal health legislation includes most components of a human rights-based approach



movements. In some cases, it may be necessary to identify an entirely new benchmark. Some ways to go about doing this for quantitative indicators are shared in the table above.

Recommendations and guidance from international bodies can be used to define qualitative benchmarks. For example, say you have an indicator how effective a particular piece of legislation is. You can define a benchmark by identifying recognized elements of effective legislation for a particular issue; legislation is judged according to how many of these elements are present.

## EXAMPLE BENCHMARKING ACTION TO COMBAT FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN EGYPT

In designing the Egypt Social Progress Indicators (ESPI), CESR and its partners set out measurable criteria for evaluating the government's Action to Combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which was one of its indicators for measuring policy efforts in regards to right to health. Even though FGM is usually measured quantitatively, the ESPI team strategically chose to build a qualitative indicator, since Egypt had hit a plateau when performing against quantitative indicators. Do to so, they looked at a number of recommendations made by international bodies, including the Committee on the Right of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). From these authoritative sources, they identified five criteria that action should meet in order for the government to be evaluated as achieving "good progress".

Regardless of the source of a quantitative or qualitative benchmark, researchers will need to rely on their judgment to determine whether what's been identified is a "suitable" benchmark. When doing so, there are two major factors to keep in mind.

The first factor to consider is how well the benchmark reflects human rights standards. That is to say, how "accurate" it is in terms of human rights. This isn't a straightforward task, however, because most human rights standards do not provide very clear direction or guidance on benchmarks.

The second factor to consider is what the objective is in selecting a particular benchmark. This reflects the "strategic" dimension: How effective will the benchmark be in producing the change you want to see? How persuasive an argument does it build? In order to be a human rights benchmark, it must strike an appropriate balance between the receptiveness of duty bearers and the demands of rights holders.

Because the general goal is to determine what is "reasonable" conduct with respect to ESCR realization, there's always an element of negotiation in selecting a benchmark. This doesn't mean watering down or diluting human rights standards, but it does mean thinking realistically about what certain kinds of standardsetting exercises or comparisons can achieve. For example, human rights standards propose reducing maternal deaths to zero — and of course that should ultimately be our goal. However, not even the world's best-performing countries have no maternal deaths. So setting a benchmark of zero does not help us to better evaluate whether a low-income country that is currently seeing well over 100 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, is performing well relative to whatever resource and other constraints it is currently facing in tackling this problem. But comparing that country to another low-income country with a much lower maternal mortality rate can be illuminating for advocates and also for officials.

The point here is not to be overly prescriptive; it will generally be impossible for us to say that exactly X% of a government's budget must be allocated to health or exactly Y% to social security. There may be valid reasons for allocations to deviate from a particular benchmark. Nevertheless, a notable variation from the benchmark can be a red flag that suggests there is cause for concern about whether a country is in compliance with its international human rights obligations. This can help when bringing pressure to bear on the government to explain and justify its allocation decisions.

## EXAMPLE USING COUNTRY COMPARISONS TO MEASURE SOCIAL PROGRESS IN EGYPT

A number of the Egypt Social Progress Indicators (ESPI) are benchmarked against the performance of lower-middle income countries (LMIC). This includes the enrollment rate in pre-primary education, and well out-of-pocket expenditure on health. Specifically, 'Good Progress' was benchmarked against the top five performers in the group on a particular indicator, in order to set a benchmark that is sufficiently ambitious, but realistic for a country in Egypt's position. 'No Progress' was equivalent to the bottom 25%. In the case of the indicator on public expenditure on pre-university education, however, Egypt had been performing far lower than its LMIC peers. So the benchmark was set strategically at a "reasonable" value" that made reference to the best performing LMICs and balanced this the state's own constitutional commitment to spend at least 4% of GDP on education, together with its SDG targets.

### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

Indicators help us frame our questions in more specific and measurable ways. Benchmarks give us something to compare against. As discussed in this note, there are various sources of indicators and benchmarks that can help answer the questions set out in OPERA.

However, for indicators to really be useful in answering the questions you have identified by mapping the economic system using OPERA, it's important that they are clearly defined, capable of being measured, and relevant and legitimate for the community or communities you're doing research with. Consulting with rights holders, government stakeholders and other experts can be very helpful in selecting indicators and benchmarks that meet these criteria.

As mentioned at the start of this note, data can help to answer the question posed by an indicator. There are a number of different types of data and different ways to collect and analyze it. The notes in the <u>Illuminate Module</u> explore this in greater detail.

