

Decent Work in the Era of Sustainable Development

Finn Tarp, Director of UNU-WIDER

Questions asked

- Considering Finland's engagements related to the SDGs and decent work:
 - How will the international community monitor progress?
 - How will monitoring results help Finland and other countries with implementation?
- What are the biggest challenges of the SDGs? What kind of fears do different actors have regarding to the implementation?
- What kind of expectations do you have regarding SDGs?
- What kind of action is needed now by different actors? How will the SDGs be achieved?

General background

Key bodies

- The key coordinating body is the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), created by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2015: tasked with creating a proposal for a global indicator framework, agreed in March 2016
- Global monitoring should be based, to the greatest possible extent, on comparable and standardized national data, obtained through well-established reporting mechanisms from countries to the international statistical system
- The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat the secretariat of the Expert Group

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

17 goals:



+ 169 targets + 230 indicators

+ Leave no one behind

Goal 8 and a critical note

- Goal 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Data availability not considered during goal and target selection

Universality

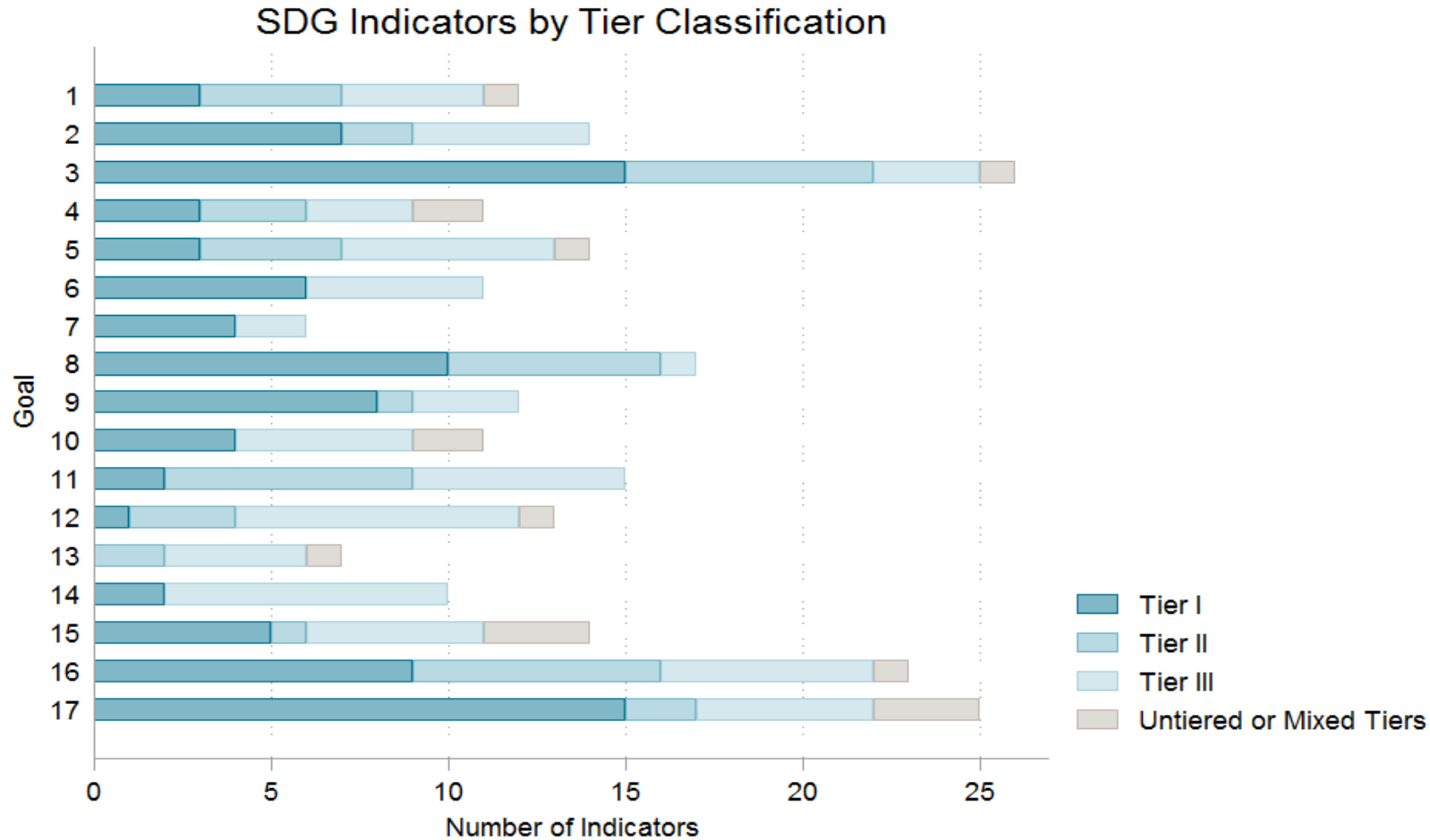
- SDGs are meant to be global goals with relevance to both developed and developing countries; but major variation in how they apply across countries
- Obvious with respect to country targets regarding ‘levels’ (e.g., what makes sense for Finland in terms of goals for average hourly earnings will be different to what makes sense for the same in Tanzania)
- There is also very considerable variation regarding monitoring: the data available in a country like Finland is much better and finer grained than that generally available in poorer countries

Three tier system and data availability

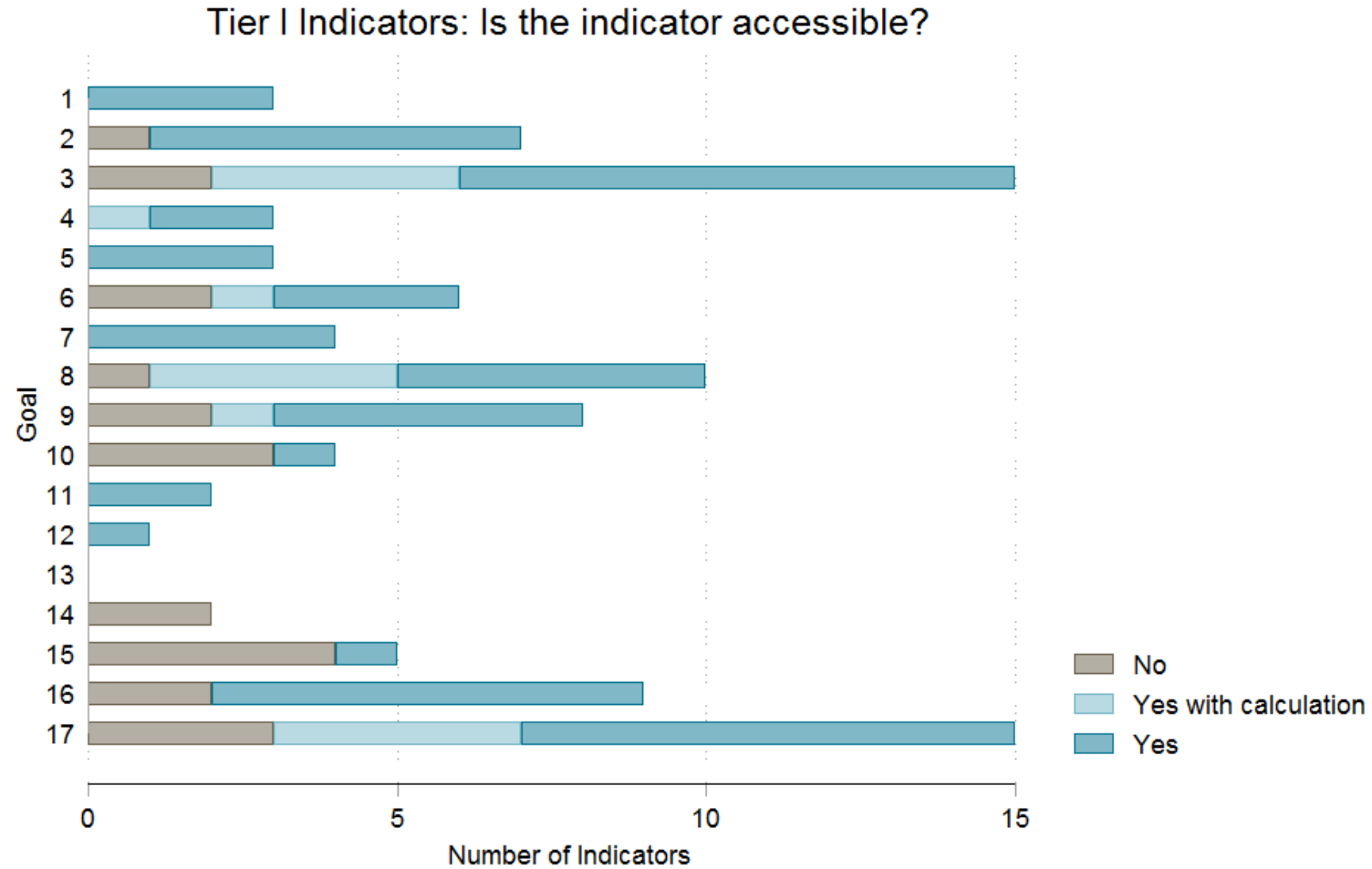
Based on level of methodological development and overall data availability

- A first tier for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available (tier I)
- A second tier for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available (tier II)
- A third tier for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed (tier III)

SDG Indicators by Tier Classification (CGD)



Tier 1 Indicators and their availability (CGD)



In sum

- Only 97 indicators are tier 1 (42%)
- Tier 1 indicators not always available (22 cases) and 15 case only available with calculation
- Only 25% of all SDG indicators broadly available

Additional challenges/worries

Selected quotes/issues

- Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics
- Member States also recognized that the basic principle of the 2030 Agenda — that no one is to be left behind — will require a significant level of data disaggregation and stressed that:
 - “quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind”
- National statistical offices are to play the leading role in the development of the indicator framework to ensure national ownership

Data by gender are especially poor

- When data is collected at individual level, disaggregation by gender is possible.
- However, data are often collected only at household level. In such cases, gender specificity is not always straightforward. For example:
- Asset or land ownership
- Consumption
- Individual-level poverty

Filling gaps can be (deceptively) difficult for technical reasons

Some instances where targets appear simple, but measurement of indicators is difficult:

- Violent injuries and deaths per 100,000 population: official crimes data usually under-reported
- Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49) with anaemia
- Proportion of persons with severe mental disorder who are using services
- Percentage of girls and boys who achieve proficiency across a broad range of 'learning outcomes'
- Percentage of children (36-59 months) receiving at least one year of 'quality' pre-primary education programme

Filling gaps can also be difficult for political reasons – a point often overlooked

Example:

- 10.2: ‘by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status’

- To collect data on indigenous peoples, they need to be recognized as such.
- ILO 169 – Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (1989) – is ratified by 22 countries:



So

- While there is quite a bit of discussion on data gaps in various forums, official provisions for how to deal concretely with such gaps are not clear - at least based on the latest IAEG-SDG report.

Goal 8

Goal 8: 17 indicators agreed

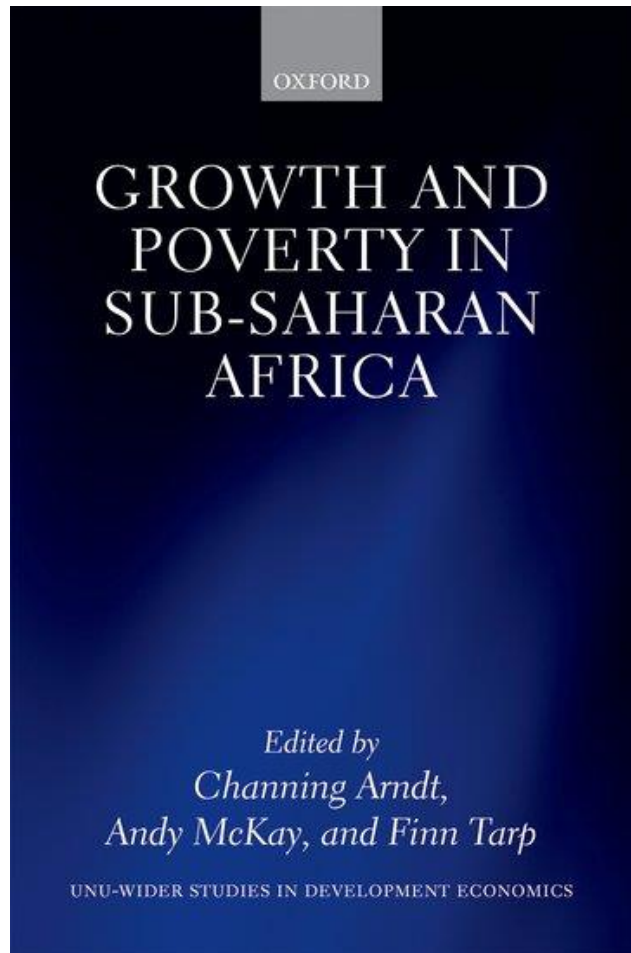
- Annual **growth** rate of real GDP per capita and per employed person
- Share of **informal employment** in non-agriculture employment, by sex
- **Material footprint**, per capita and per GDP (+ domestic numbers)
- Average hourly **earnings** of female and male employees, by occupation, age group and persons with disabilities
- **Unemployment** rate, by sex, age group and persons with disabilities
- Percentage of **youth** (aged 15-24) not in education, employment or training
- Percentage and number of children aged 5-17 engaged in **child labour**, by sex and age group
- Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal **occupational injuries**, by sex and migrant status
- Increase in national **compliance** of labour rights
- **Tourism** direct GDP (as a percentage of total GDP and in growth rate); and number of jobs in tourism industries (as a percentage of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex)
- Number of commercial **bank branches** and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults
- Percentage of adults (15 years and older) **with an account** at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile money service provider
- **Aid for Trade** commitments and disbursements
- Total government spending in **social protection and employment programmes** as a percentage of the national budgets and GDP

A careful read about goal 8 (meta data doc)

- <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-8.pdf>

**Some WIDER studies about policies
required**

Growth and poverty project (GAPP)

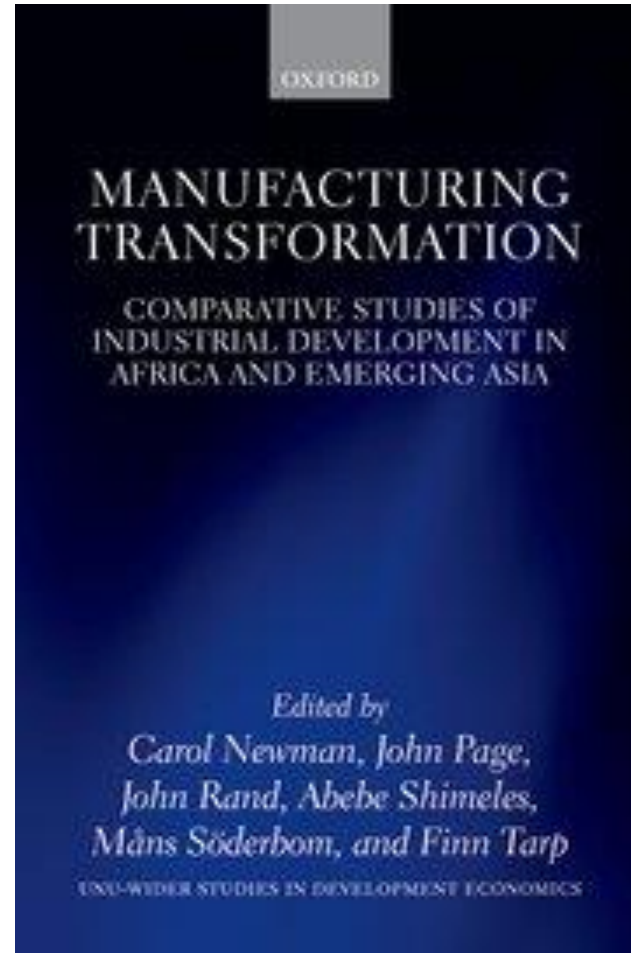
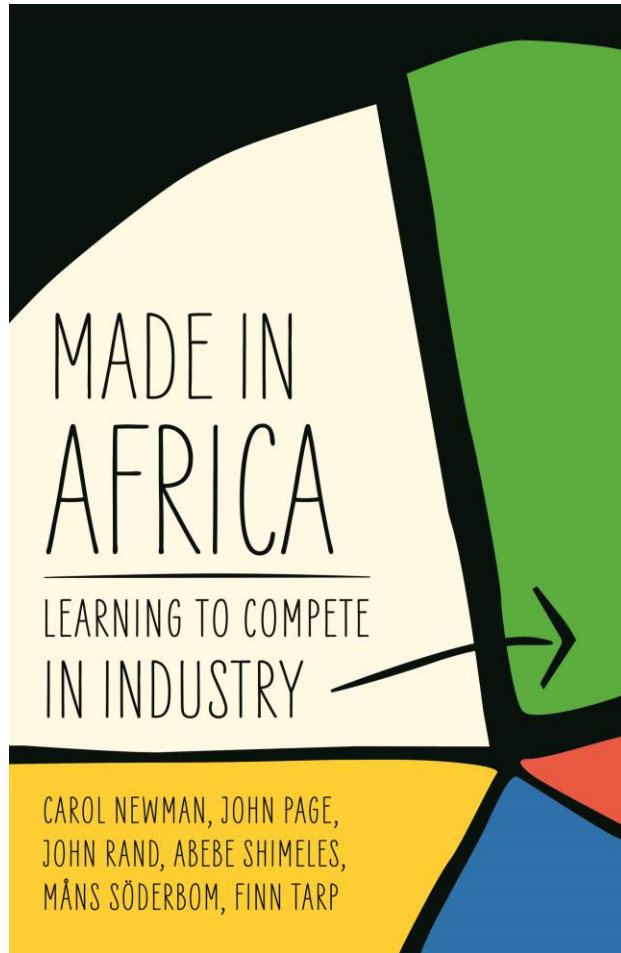


- Evaluates trends in living conditions in 16 sub-Saharan African countries
 - corresponding to nearly 75% of the total population.

GAPP concludes:

- Countries that upgrade the capabilities of small-scale farmers **more likely** to achieve broad-based development
- Agricultural productivity growth a **powerful** lever for poverty reduction

Learning to Compete (L2C)



- *The practice of industrial policy (OUP)*
- Case studies of government-business relationships
- *Special Issue of Journal of African Economies*
- Learning from exporting

A strategy for industrial development

- **Africa can break into the global market for industrial goods**
 - Changes in Asia; trade in tasks; industries without smokestacks
- **“Doing Business” not enough**
- **Infrastructure development, skills upgrading, and a major export push essential**

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Vol. 27 No. S1

October/Octobre 2015

Special Issue on "Aid and Employment"
Guest Editors: Sam Jones, John Page, Abebe Shimeles, and Finn Tarp

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Africa's population set to double to 2.5 billion by 2050: bigger than both China and India and Nigeria > US

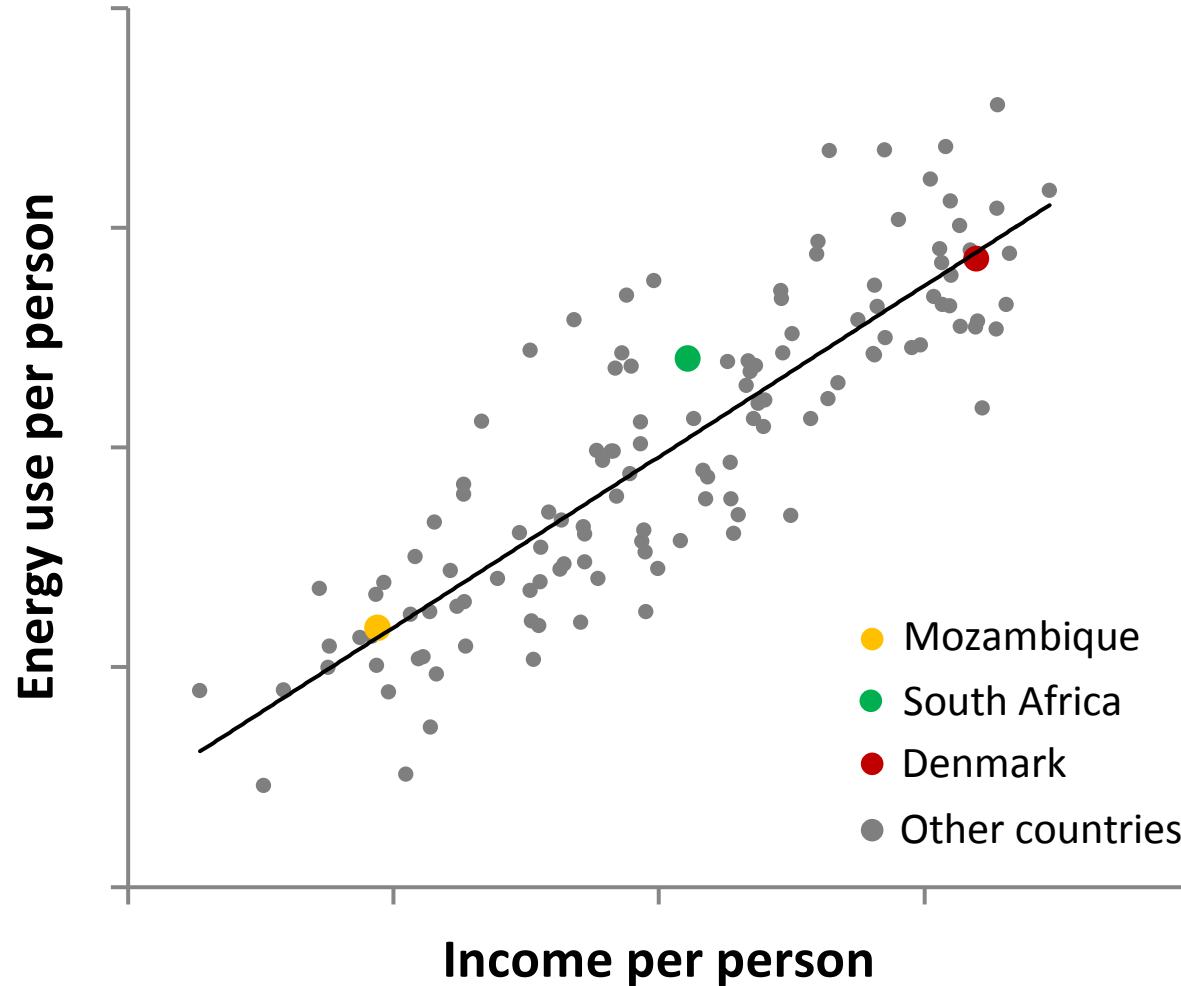
– labour intensive investments and note where does decent employment come from



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Conclusion

To discuss

- Are there some indicators that are key and for which we generally have reasonable data for most countries?
 - The international community could use these to do a ‘barebones’ monitoring of progress – recognizing the limitations of the data.
- Which indicators are ‘essential’?
 - How much should be invested in improving data on these indicators? What should the balance be between investing in better data for monitoring Goal 8 versus investing directly in programmes to improve decent work etc.?
- When do we say e.g., that qualitative assessments or guesstimates are sufficient for our purposes in the absence of good national statistics?
- How should the answers to the above questions influence Finland’s development policy and programming overseas?



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