Overview of the RAI
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Overview of the RAI

- The Rural Access Index is defined as the:
  ‘Percentage of rural people who live within 2 km of an all season road as a proportion of the total rural population’

- The Rural Access Index has been adopted as Indicator 9.1.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 9.1.1 is the only SDG indicator dedicated to rural transport
Origins of the RAI

- Original RAI developed in 2006
  - Measured in 64 countries
  - Data collection using household survey data, GIS mapping and through the use of approximate modelling techniques

- RAI updated in 2016 by WB and ReCAP using spatial data collection techniques:
  - Measured in 8 countries
  - High resolution population distribution data
  - Detailed road condition
  - Online open data platform

ReCAP are funding 3 phases of RAI research:

- Task Group 1 (TG1): Status Review
- Task Group 2 (TG2): Consolidation and Revision
- Task Group 3 (TG3): Application in ReCAP Countries

Task Group 1 - Status Review (Vincent, 2018):
- High resolution population distribution data
- Detailed road condition
- Online open data platform
RAI Status Review - Recommendations

- Develop an RAI database of all UN countries
- Develop new detailed RAI Measurement Methodology Guidelines
- Establish a web page for the exchange of knowledge
- Prepare an action plan to move SDG Indicator 9.1.1 to IAEG-SDGs Tier II status
- Develop additional, alternative SDG Indicator(s) to provide assessments of contemporary rural access
Current Status of the RAI

- SDG 9.1.1 reclassified as a Tier II indicator:
  - Tier II: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries

- Aspiration to progress to Tier I indicator:
  - Tier I: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data regularly produced by at least 50% of countries
Rural Access Index – Task Group 2

- **Objective:** Scale-up implementation of the RAI across UN member countries
- **Aim:** Develop, propose, and agree on harmonised approach to data collection and measurement of RAI
- **Approach:** Revise the measurement framework to:
  - Meet international standards
  - Provide a clear framework for data validation
  - Ensure consistent and rigorous data collection
- **Task Group 2:** Trial proposed measurement framework in ~4 ReCAP countries

Rural Access Index – Task Group 3

- Application of RAI and scale up to all ReCAP countries
- Process for implementing the measurement framework by at least 30 ReCAP and non-ReCAP countries
- Contingent on firm commitment of funding and commitment to enable implementation
- Foundations for delivering a longer term programme in 50% of UN countries by 2025
Thank you for your attention

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