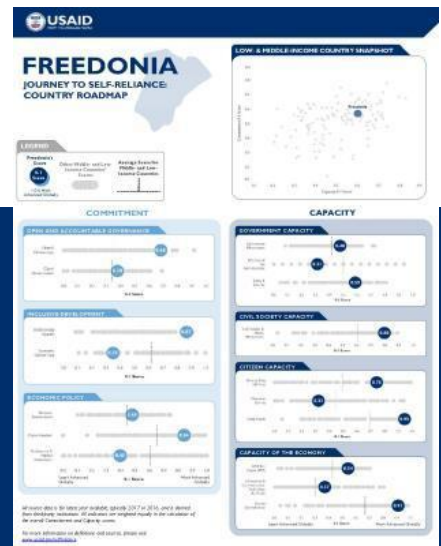


Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics

Journey to Self-Reliance Secondary Metrics Compendium User Guide



Introduction

This user guide will (1) introduce end users to the Journey to Self-Reliance Secondary Metrics Compendium and help them understand its background and intended purpose; (2) help users understand how to use the compendium, access its data sources and conduct secondary analyses of their [Journey to Self-Reliance Country Roadmaps](#).

Background

The Country Roadmap aligns with the three mutually reinforcing principles for fostering self-reliance articulated in the USAID Policy Framework. USAID must (1) advance country progress, by (2) making investments for impact, through (3) programs that sustain results. To successfully apply these principles, USAID must first understand where each of its partner countries is on their unique self-reliance journeys. **The Roadmap is the standardized tool USAID has developed to begin that important process of analysis.**

USAID defines self-reliance as the **capacity** to plan, finance, and implement solutions to local development challenges as well as the **commitment** to see these through effectively, inclusively, and with accountability. This definition grounds an approach to foreign assistance that reflects both the evidence we have gathered and the values that underpin our work. As countries gain greater self-reliance, they are able to chart their own development paths and navigate any obstacles along the way.

The Roadmap anchors how Missions think about self-reliance in a given country and the country's trajectory on the Journey to Self-Reliance. This informs the strategic choices a Mission proposes as it begins to reorient how it engages with a country to advance self-reliance. At a high level, USAID's Country Roadmaps allow a user to do two things:

- Provide a snapshot of how a country is performing on the overall journey (i.e. the scatterplot), based on the dimensions of Capacity and Commitment.
- Provide a framework for understanding a country's relative strengths and challenges, using the seven sub-dimensions and seventeen metrics. These can serve as proxies or entry points for further analysis.

The Roadmap is organized around the two high level dimensions of Commitment and Capacity. The Commitment dimension includes three sub-dimensions with seven metrics that measure the degree to which a country’s policies, actions and practices enable it to solve its own development challenges. The Capacity dimension includes four sub-dimensions with a total of 10 metrics that gauge the country’s ability to develop, resource and implement solutions to its own development challenges.

The Seven Sub-Dimensions of the Self-Reliance Framework

Commitment:

- Open and Accountable Governance
- Inclusive Development
- Economic Policy

Capacity:

- Government Capacity
- Capacity of the Economy
- Capacity of Citizens
- Civil Society Capacity

Note that all data have limitations, and the 17 primary metrics are no different. They suffer from time lags and do not fully reflect the wide range of complex political, social and economic dynamics operating in a country. However, they are useful proxies for wider systemic issues and serve as entry points to further explore a country’s self-reliance story. Thus, the primary metrics and Roadmaps are unable to capture the full, nuanced picture of a country’s self-reliance journey. Instead of providing a fully comprehensive picture of each country’s level of self-reliance, the Country Roadmaps are meant to provide a set of entry points that can identify where users need to conduct deeper analyses aimed at better understanding what is contributing to a country’s progress, or lack thereof, towards self-reliance.

Overview of the Journey to Self-Reliance Secondary Metrics Compendium

The compendium is comprised of two types of resources:

1. Quantitative metrics aligned under the Self-Reliance Framework (i.e. the dimensions of *commitment* and *capacity* and the seven sub-dimensions therein). These have been selected and recommended by the Agency’s leading technical and analytical experts.
2. A list of qualitative resources recommended by Agency experts-- also aligned under the Self-Reliance Framework -- for USAID staff to use when conducting analyses related to self-reliance. This can include but is not limited to, country or regional reports and analytical products that may not include quantitative data.

The compendium does not contain every resource needed for understanding a country’s level of self-reliance. Instead, it is meant to help USAID staff draw on available open source data to bolster their understanding of what is driving or constraining progress toward self-reliance in a given country. The compendium includes both quantitative and qualitative resources that augment the Roadmaps by providing information that:

- Unpacks, triangulates, and broadens the data already included in the Roadmaps;
- Is more sensitive to context-specific issues and trends (e.g. political dynamics, sub-national issues, region-specific issues, etc.).

As Missions interpret and respond to their Country Roadmaps, USAID staff will be able to refer to

this secondary set of self-reliance metrics and qualitative resources to conduct their own analyses using them as a common “source-book.” The compendium is intended as a versatile and adaptable resource that may be used in a variety of ways and in different formats to meet the needs of different users and audiences.

Purpose and Intended Uses of the Compendium

Uses for the secondary metrics and analytical guidance include (but are not limited to):

- Supporting strategic planning, project design, portfolio reviews, strategy mid-course stocktaking and other analytical or planning processes at the country level;
- Providing more detailed self-reliance information to augment the primary metrics presented on the Roadmaps when discussing self-reliance issues with external partners, including with local actors, other development partners, the USG interagency, etc.;
- Providing an explanatory tool for engagement with internal and external stakeholders on funding priorities;
- Informing discussions related to sector prioritization or sector strategy development by yielding more sector-specific self-reliance data; and
- Informing discussions around strategic transitions by providing a more complete and sector-specific picture of a country’s level of self-reliance.

There are a number of important caveats to keep in mind when using the secondary metrics compendium.

1. How this resource is used is up to the user. Unlike the primary self-reliance metrics, which are processed in Washington and presented through the Country Roadmaps, the use of the secondary metrics compendium is entirely up to each individual user and is based on the user’s needs. The compendium is a recommended resource that Missions are encouraged to use; however, they are not required to do so. To be clear, Washington is not using the secondary metrics to develop an expanded Country Roadmap, nor is it processing the data to tell a specific story about self-reliance (as it has done with the Country Roadmaps). This compendium is simply a “source book” of quantitative and qualitative data sources that USAID staff can tap into when conducting their own analyses for a wide variety of purposes.
2. For the most part, these are not performance indicators and are not a replacement for existing standard foreign assistance indicators. In most cases, the metrics in the secondary compendium will be at too high a level conceptually to serve as relevant performance monitoring indicators. The secondary metrics will not be used by Washington to gauge Missions’ program performance, unless the Mission chooses to apply them for that purpose. However, the secondary metrics may help inform contextual analyses, which, in turn, may shape the types of interventions and results (and subsequently how program performance is measured) that a mission seeks through its projects and activities.
3. The analyses that USAID staff conduct using the secondary metrics will remain internal. The compendium is designed to provide USAID staff with resources they can use to conduct their own analyses based on their OU’s informational needs. While the Country Roadmap results

are made public each year, there is no expectation by the Agency that the results of analyses conducted using the secondary metrics will be made public, unless the relevant OU decides to do so. While the results of such secondary analyses will largely remain internal to the USG, this guidance document, along with the compendium, will be released publicly to illustrate to external stakeholders the types of data we plan to use in analyzing and understanding a country's level of self-reliance.

4. The secondary metrics and analytical guidance will complement -- not replace -- country-level and context-specific analyses. The secondary metrics and analytical guidance are meant to help USAID staff go one level deeper in unpacking and expanding upon the Roadmap results. In so doing, they will help USAID staff paint a more detailed, nuanced, and relevant analytical picture of self-reliance in a given country and provide more sector-specific data related to self-reliance. That said, as with the Roadmaps, the secondary compendium is also far from exhaustive and does not capture all the information Missions need to fully shape strategies, project and activity designs, and implementation plans. OUs should continue to use appropriate country-level and context-sensitive analyses and tools to augment analyses performed using the secondary metrics and analytical guidance.

How to Use the Compendium

The secondary metrics compendium is comprised of two parts:

1. A compendium of metrics recommended by Agency experts
2. A list of recommended qualitative resources

The compendium of secondary metrics and the qualitative sources are organized to align with the self-reliance metrics framework of *commitment* and *capacity* and the seven sub-dimensions that comprise the framework.

The rationale for organizing the secondary metrics and qualitative resources around this framework is to support staff to more easily conduct analyses that are aligned with the logic of USAID's new Journey to Self-Reliance framework, as articulated in the Country Roadmaps.

Both the quantitative and qualitative resources were recommended by USAID's Pillar and Regional Bureaus, USAID field staff, and key external stakeholders, including in the USG interagency and the development community. The Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics Team then reviewed the recommendations to ensure they met a set of basic criteria; specifically the data is publicly available, regularly produced and published by a reputable third party institution.

Secondary Metrics

The secondary metrics are useful for three high level purposes:

- ***Unpacking/Delving Deeper.*** These help USAID staff to unpack the sub-indices of a metric

featured on the existing Roadmap. For example, the Roadmap’s Liberal Democracy metric contains eight core sub-indices that are provided in the compendium to help USAID staff dig deeper into the data that underpins this index.

- ***Triangulation/Gap Filling.*** These provide USAID staff with additional data on an existing Roadmap concept using other data sources, either for the sake of triangulating the issue/concept or filling in data gaps in the Country Roadmaps. For instance, the secondary metrics compendium includes a number of indices that complement and “triangulate” issues related to the Open and Accountable Governance sub-dimension already featured in the Roadmap, such as the UN’s E-Participation Index or Open Knowledge International’s Global Open Data Index. The compendium also offers alternative metrics for instances where Roadmap data are frequently unavailable such as Education Quality and Efficiency of Tax Administration.
- ***New Issue.*** These metrics cover new issues not measured directly in the Roadmap that are frequently pertinent to building a more comprehensive understanding of a country’s progress on the Journey to Self-Reliance. These metrics might look at sector-specific issues that align more closely with USAID programs (e.g. energy, HIV/AIDS, food security, disaster readiness etc.) or dig into cross-sectoral issues that are not fully captured in the Roadmaps, such as gender, corruption, youth, etc.

Within the compendium (an excel document), you can search by the self-reliance framework sub-dimension and sector. Please note that while the Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics Team organized the metrics into a given sub-dimension and sector, end users of the compendium should feel empowered to use the secondary metrics and qualitative sources to conduct analyses across sub-dimensions and sectors as they see fit. Given the breadth and number of sources, a certain degree of subjectivity in the process of organization is unavoidable so Missions can be creative and use the metrics and qualitative resources in the way that makes the most sense for their contextual analytical needs.

The compendium is designed to allow users to easily sort by sub-dimension and sector. Please see the tab titled “instructions” to learn how to search the excel version of the compendium. We have also provided a PDF document with a table of all metrics organized by sub-dimension if an end user finds that format easier to navigate.

Most of the secondary metric quantitative data is available in [USAID’s International Development and Economic Analysis IDEA](#) (i.e., 73%) system. End users can access, manipulate and visualize the data using the IDEA “Query” tool and all of the quantitative metrics contained in the compendium have been tagged as “Journey to Self-Reliance Secondary” metrics to make them more easily accessible. In certain cases, due to database limitations, we are not able to include datasets listed in the compendium in IDEA (as indicated in the compendium in the column labeled “available in IDEA?”). However, we have also included hyperlinks for all sources listed within the compendium to facilitate easy access to the data.

Qualitative Sources

It is important to supplement quantitative analyses with qualitative research that provides a richer

picture of a given country's journey. For this reason, the compendium includes a range of vetted qualitative sources that USAID staff can refer to as they are evaluating their country's self-reliance story. These qualitative resources are regularly-produced reports/papers or recommended analytical techniques (e.g. Political Economy Analysis) that are frequently consulted by Agency experts to understand key issues that relate to self-reliance.

These qualitative resources are merely intended to serve as an initial starting point for USAID staff as they begin to unpack the Roadmaps with qualitative research. These resources are not fully comprehensive, often bring a global or regional lens to an issue, and are generally not country-specific. As such, USAID staff are strongly encouraged to build on what is included here by also introducing more country- and context-specific analyses.

Additional Resources

The Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning is available to provide facilitation and planning support for workshops and other methods of structured collaboration. PPL is available to assist all Missions as they work to analyze their Roadmaps, and Missions are encouraged to reach out to the Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics Team at selfreliance@usaid.gov with questions about the Roadmap primary metrics and secondary data sources. The Metrics Team can provide the Mission with additional resources and direct technical assistance throughout the process of analyzing the roadmap to inform their strategic choices and priorities.

Missions are also encouraged to:

- Consult the [Self-Reliance Country Roadmap resources](#)
- Watch the [Country Roadmap Roll Out Webinar](#)
- Read the [Self-Reliance Sector Papers](#)
- Watch webinar on the [sector papers](#)
- Visit the [Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics ProgramNet page](#) to review the full complement of available resources