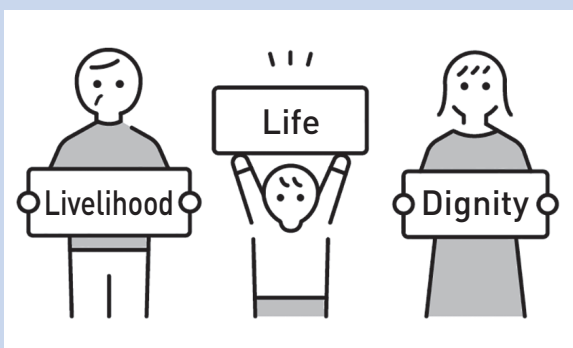


Create Human Security Indicators for Your Own Town!

- (1) What is human security?**
- (2) What is the purpose of creating indicators?**
- (3) What should we prepare first?**
- (4) How should we select the indicators?**
- (5) What examples would be helpful?**
- (6) What is the SDGs Miyagi Model described in this book?**
- (7) What should we do if we can't find any data?**
- (8) How should we compare the data?**

(1) What is human security?

Human security refers to the protection of people's lives, livelihoods, and dignity against various threats. "Life" is about living a healthy, safe, and fulfilling life. "Livelihood" is about the ability to enjoy a secure and prosperous life. "Dignity" is about having pride, helping each other, and creating a society where vulnerable people, including women and children, can also live comfortably. It is important not only to protect those at risk of being left behind, but also to enable these people to take charge of their own lives.

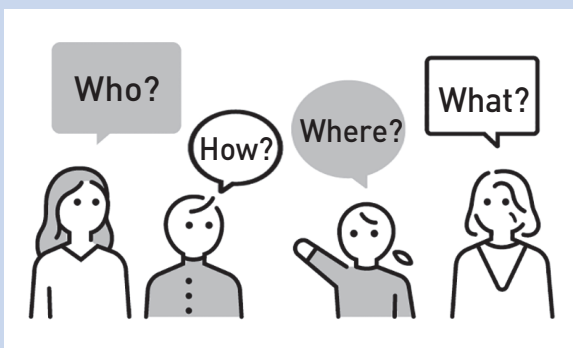


To value the life, livelihood, and dignity of every human being, we must support those for whom these things are under threat and build "a society where no one is left behind." This constitutes the core objective of the SDGs (Chapter 1, 1-1).

(2) What is the purpose of creating indicators?

Who are the people most likely to be left behind, where are they, and what difficulties do they face? This is where we must look first. In order to work with those around you, try to understand the specific nature of the problems on the ground. Even when national statistics have been reported, figures for individual municipalities are often not available until we investigate them ourselves.

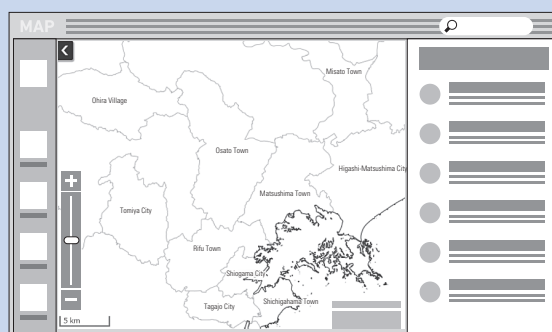
The purpose of the index is not to rank each community, but to understand their relative strengths and weaknesses. By comparing with others, you can ascertain what issues your community should prioritize. The process of coming together to think about and develop the indicators will be a fun and rewarding one. When your city, town, or village changes, so does the whole country and the whole world (Chapter 1, 1-1).



(3) What should we prepare first?

You can start by identifying the prefecture, municipality, or area that will become the framework for the indicators (depending on your purpose, it may be possible to use a wide area across prefectural borders, or conversely, a smaller area within a single prefecture. In large cities, city wards can serve as the unit of assessment). Then, use a map to visualize where and how many municipalities or districts will become the basis for the indicators. Municipal maps can be found at the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, prefectural websites, and Google Maps (Chapter 3, Chapter 5).

Then take a look at the indicators in *SDGs and Japan* (JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development) to understand the general characteristics (strengths and weaknesses) of the area(s) that will serve as your framework. This will prepare you to think about them at the local level (Chapter 2).



(4) How should we select the indicators?

Nearly 100 indicators were collected for the national model and the SDGs Miyagi Model. However, having too many indicators can be difficult to calculate and may lead to a loss of focus. You can narrow them down to those indicators which you think are important.

For indicators of human security, it would be best to keep the three main areas of Life, Livelihood, and Dignity, as the framework, with an emphasis on balance. Dignity is a very important area, but choosing appropriate indicators may require some creativity, so be sure to discuss them (Chapter 1, 1-2).

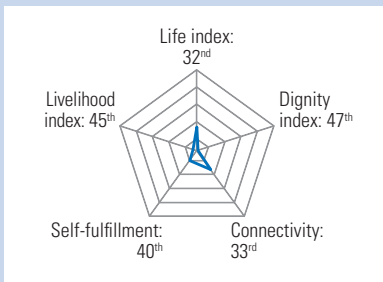
It is important to acknowledge and engage with people who are “at risk of being left behind.” It is also essential to fully take into account the characteristics of the area, such as the natural environment, population structure, and economic environment (Chapter 1, 1-1; Chapter 3, 3-3; Chapter 5).



(5) What examples would be helpful?



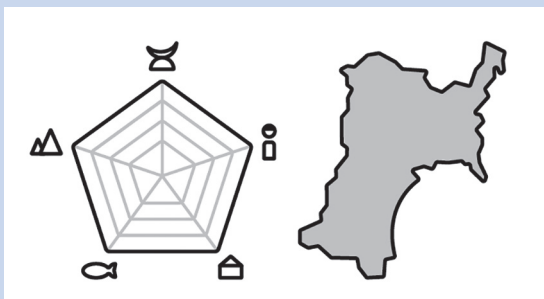
The national version of this model presented in *SDGs and Japan* (JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development) can serve as a valuable reference. The national (prefecture-based) indicators come to a total of 91 indicators, including 23 Life Indicators covering life and health; 42 Livelihood Indicators covering economic conditions and employment, education, welfare, lifestyle, environment, and safety; and 26 Dignity Indicators covering women and children, trust in the public sector, community, civic engagement, international outlook, and satisfaction with life. Sources for the indicators are listed at the end of the book, so you can find the original data by searching the internet.



Furthermore, in the national version, measures of local people's subjective perceptions (self-fulfillment and social connectivity) were derived for each prefecture using questionnaires. The consistency of these responses with the objective data was then examined and self-presented using radar charts. It may be worthwhile to produce similar charts for municipalities (Chapter 3, 3-5).

(6) What is the SDGs Miyagi Model described in this book?

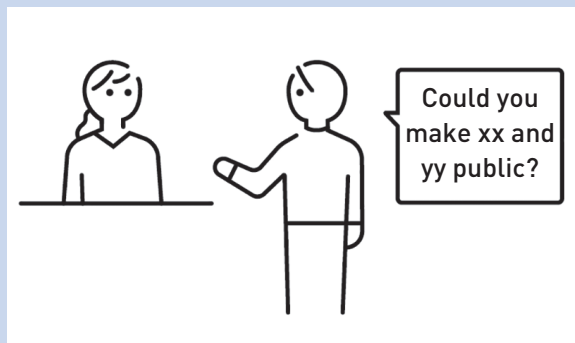
The methodology is basically the same as that used in the national version. The indicators were divided into the three domains of Life, Livelihood, and Dignity, and the residents' subjective perceptions were also measured. However, the indicators were significantly changed to take into account the characteristics and attractiveness of Miyagi Prefecture's natural environment, population structure, industry and economy, and living environment. Additional indicators were added for economic activity, natural disasters and disaster prevention, livability for women and children, child-rearing conditions, and resident participation. As a result, the Miyagi Model consists of a total of 99 indicators: 26 for Life, 48 for Livelihood, and 25 for Dignity.



The detailed aggregation of these indicators by municipality allowed us to be more specific than the national version, and to get closer to the issues on the ground. When creating your own indicators, you may want to further refine the categories based on the characteristics of your local area and the diversity of its natural environment and residents (Chapter 3, 3-3, 3-4).

(7) What should we do if we can't find data?

Data broken down into municipalities or communities can be difficult to find. The data may not exist, or it may exist but not be publicly available. It may be useful to contact the local/national government and ask for the release of the information (on the understanding that individuals will not be identified). In some cases, data for an area covering several municipalities may be available. It may be a good idea to apply the aggregated area data to each municipality, or to use data from neighboring municipalities which have similar conditions. Another possibility is to use data and big data provided by non-governmental or private institutions. To measure the quality of policies, you may want your indicator team to develop their own evaluation criteria and “score” them based on a uniform standard (Chapter 3, 3-3; Chapter 5; Chapter 12, 12-2).



(8) How should we compare the data?

Because the original data comes in different units, you will need to “normalize” it. If the most favorable state is 1 and the least favorable is 0, then each data point falls somewhere between 1 and 0. Some indicators (e.g., number of suicides) are better when the number is low, and worse when the number is high. The approach in this case is the same. Once the normalization process is complete, the average values of the indicators can be determined for each domain of Life, Livelihood, and Dignity, and then an Overall Index can be calculated from the three averages, allowing you to determine a numerical ranking and visualize it on a map. This kind of comparison will indicate the priority issues for each area. It is hoped that local governments, citizens, and businesses can then come together to resolve these issues (Chapter 3, 3-4; Chapter 4; Chapter 5). Readers may also wish to refer to the case studies in Parts 3 and 4.

