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July 2023 Phase 3 monthly update

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Purpose

- This month's update is designed to provide an overview of the Measuring to Thrive measurement indicators pilot currently being implemented with participation from 20 FNCFS and First Nations collaborators.
- IFSD relies on and is grateful for the contributions of First Nations and FNCFS agencies that help to shape this work. This would not be possible without your willingness to share information, time, and experiences with IFSD.
- The findings, analysis, and tools that result from IFSD's Phase 3 work work on FNCFS, are intended to support First Nations, First Nations leadership, FNCFS agencies, and the parties to the CHRT order

Measuring to Thrive

- Collaborators have selected a set of 15 indicators (focused on the well-being of children, families, and communities) for service provider data collection; and 5 indicators for ISC program-related reporting.
- The collaborators have prepared definitions, potential sources of information, and approaches to retrieval, e.g., case level, community level, etc. (see Appendix A)
- The mix of indicators represents an approach that a service provider may wish to utilize in their data collection for monitoring.
- It is understood that given current levels of data availability and differences in mandate, not all indicators will be relevant or populatable by all collaborators.

Measuring to Thrive (cont.)

- To pilot the approach, collaborators are :
 - 1) Identifying data or case management systems that contain the appropriate information and identifying the feasibility (i.e., time and staff) to retrieve the information to populate indicators (July 2023).
 - 2) Preparing a sample of 100 random records across at least two fiscal years to assess the ease in retrieving information to populate the indicators with existing data and systems (August/September 2023).
 - 3) Willing collaborators are expected to test the indicators and information retrieval in real time. This means selecting a common reporting period of a quarter, e.g., October-December 2023, in which data will be gathered in real-time to populate the measures. Collaborators may engage with this activity differently, e.g., using a subset of indicators, restricting data gathering to a small/select team of staff, etc. (December 2023).

Get in touch

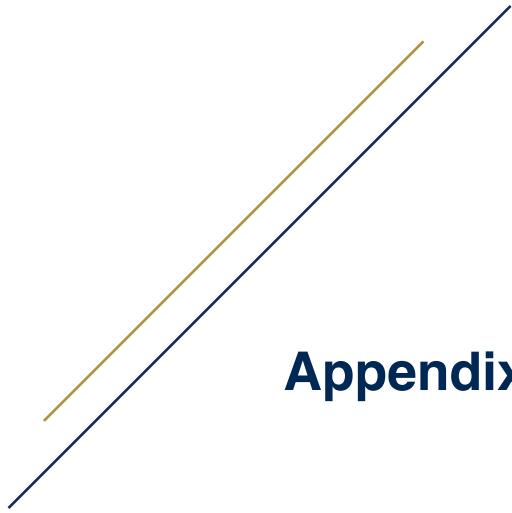
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Appendix A

Indicator	Case-level or community-level indicator	Definition	Measure	Data source	Level of aggregation		
					Case level	Provider level	First Nation level
<i>What will be measured</i>	<i>Point of data collection</i>	<i>Why indicator matters to understanding well-being in FNCFS</i>	<i>How data will be captured</i>	<i>Information source ex. Case file, front-line worker/SW, notes, Census data</i>	<i>Data from a case file</i>	<i>Data, i.e., case files, aggregated to the level of the service provider, i.e., First Nation or FNCFS agency</i>	<i>Data aggregated to the level of the First Nation, typically, for community indicators</i>
Knowledge of Indigenous language	Case-level	Language is connected to culture. One study found that First Nations who had high levels of language knowledge had significantly lower rates of suicide than those with lower levels and for non-Indigenous youth. Researchers identified language as the strongest cultural continuity factor contributing to this difference.	The child or youth (age 5+) in care engages in learning and/or speaking their Indigenous language through formal education, community/collateral programming, or social exposure (Y/N).	Case file, front line worker/social worker through observation.	A child or youth in care engages in learning and/or speaking their Indigenous language through formal education, community/collateral programming, or social exposure (Y/N).	Percentage of children or youth in care that engaged in learning and/or speaking their Indigenous language.	N/A
Connection (access) to land	Case-level	Connection to land helps support children and youth to be connected to culture, and tradition. In a study examining suicide rates among First Nations youth in British Columbia, researchers found that among communities where cultural continuity was preserved through avenues such as securing land claims, were self-governing, had band-administered education, police, fire and health services as well as cultural facilities within the community had lower suicide rates than communities where these factors were less present.	Child or youth (age 5+) in care reports a sense of connection to the land through visits to traditional lands or First Nation (Y/N).	Case file, front line worker/social worker through observation.	A child or youth in care reports a sense of connection to the land through visits to traditional lands or First Nation (Y/N).	Percentage of children or youth in care that reports a sense of connection to the land through visits to traditional lands or First Nation.	N/A
Community-based activities	Case-level	Participation in social activities is important for developing social competence and skills and is linked with fewer behavioural problems and higher self-esteem.	The child or youth (age 5+) in care took part in an activity and/or cultural activity within their First Nation at least once within the reporting period (Y/N).	Case file, front line worker/social worker through observation.	A child or youth in care took part in an activity within their First Nation at least once within the reporting period (Y/N).	Percentage of children or youth in care who took part in an activity within their First Nation at least once within the reporting period.	N/A
Spirituality	Case-level	Spirituality helps support children and youth to be connected to land, culture, and tradition. Many studies have demonstrated Indigenous spirituality acting as a protective factor against alcohol abuse and suicide.	The child or youth (age 5+) in out of home placement identifies active spiritual practice. They participate in activities to connect them with their belief system and support spiritual experiences and development (Y/N).	Case file, front line worker/social worker through observation.	A child or youth in care identifies active spiritual practice (Y/N).	Percentage of children or youth in care who identify active spiritual practice.	N/A
Reason for entry (e.g., neglect, domestic violence, etc.)	Case-level	Reason for entry, informs why a child entered protective services, which can help evaluate whether the child welfare system is appropriately responding to cases of maltreatment.	The child or youth entered care because of a concern for their welfare due to maltreatment. Select all that apply: 1. Physical abuse 2. Sexual abuse 3. Neglect 4. Emotional maltreatment 5. Exposure to intimate partner violence 6. Parent/caregiver addictions 7. Other (please define)	Case file	Maltreatment reason(s) a child or youth entered care.	Percentage of children or youth who entered care based on reason for entry.	N/A

Stability (i.e., moves in care)	Case-level	Multiple moves in care are associated with various negative outcomes among children. Instability may elicit a toxic stress response, which can result in developmental delays and behaviour problems. In turn, this can propagate a negative cycle of displacement and worsening attachment disorders.	Number of moves in care in the reporting period.	Case file	Number of moves in care in the reporting period.	Average number of days a child spent in care during the reporting period.	N/A
Placement within community (kin and kith)	Case-level	Compared to foster children, children in kinship care have displayed better outcomes with respect to behavioural development and mental health functioning.	A child or youth in care is placed in a home with kin/kith.	Case file	A child or youth in care is placed in a home with kin/kith (Y/N).	Percentage of children or youth in care placed in a home with kin/kith.	N/A
Time to exit	Case-level	Time to exit informs how long a child or youth remains in care, which can help evaluate whether the child welfare system is appropriately responding to cases of maltreatment.	The total number of days spent in care by a child before they leave care (whether or not they were continuous).	Case file	Total number of days spent in care before they leave care.	Average number of days a child or youth spent in care before exit.	N/A
Reason for exit (e.g., adoption, age-out, etc).	Case-level	Reason for exit informs why a child or youth leaves care which can inform children or youth in care's outcomes	A child or youth exits care. Please indicate the reason: 1.age-out 2.permanent placement 3.reunification with family 4.placement with kin/kith 5.runaway 6.death 7.other (please define)	Case file	Reason a child or youth exits care.	Percentage of children or youth who exited care based on indicated reason.	N/A
Family reunification	Case-level	A stable and permanent living situation is essential for healthy development and establishing more secure and strong relationships with caregivers, which in turn impact a child's ability to thrive. Research has demonstrated that in general, a child's family is the best way to deliver this environment.	A child or youth exits care and returns to their family, i.e., returning to the place from which they were originally removed, residing with family, friends, community members.	Case file	A child or youth returns to live with their family (Y/N).	Average rate of family reunification occurrence.	N/A
Substance misuse	Community	Substance misuse can lead to a variety of serious health issues both physical and mental and has drastic negative impacts on outcomes regarding employment, income and general well-being.	Annual percentage of members in the First Nation (on-reserve) that have dependencies or substance misuse challenges.	From community	N/A	N/A	Rate of First Nation members with dependences or substance misuse challenges.
Access to mental health and specialized services within the community	Community	Given the effects of intergenerational trauma on mental health among Indigenous peoples, the availability of mental health and specialized services is important to support Indigenous children and youth.	First Nation delivers or can access the required mental health and specialized services required to support the delivery of child and family services within its community. Such services include, but are not limited to, therapists, psychologists, addictions treatment, post-treatment support, etc. (Y/N).	From community	N/A	N/A	Does the First Nation have mental health and specialized services required to support the delivery of child and family services (Y/N).

Access to early childhood education	Community	Participation in early childhood education is a well-evidenced intervention to enhance school readiness, especially among children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ensuring that children are better prepared when entering school aims to improve educational achievement – a key factor in social mobility and escaping poverty.	The First Nation delivers early childhood education (on-reserve) that can be accessed by its members (for free or at a cost) (Y/N).	From community	N/A	N/A	Does the First Nation deliver early childhood education (on-reserve) that can be accessed by its members (for free or at a cost) (Y/N).
Meeting numeracy and literacy targets							
a. Elementary		Educational attainment is important for child well-being, particularly in the context of a child's socio-economic trajectory. Literacy and numeracy scores tell us how well the child is performing in school and is a gauge of cognitive functioning.	Percentage of elementary school students in the First Nation (on-reserve) that are meeting provincial-standard numeracy and literacy targets.	From community	N/A	N/A	Rate of elementary school students in the First Nation that met the provincial-standard numeracy and literacy targets.
b. Secondary	Community	Most of the gaps that are seen at age 18 are already present at age five. Gaps tend to widen as opposed to shrink as the child proceeds through formal schooling and are predictive of future school performance and educational attainment.	Percentage of secondary school students in the First Nation (on-reserve) are meeting provincial-standard numeracy and literacy targets.	From community	N/A	N/A	Rate of secondary school students in the First Nation who met the provincial-standard numeracy and literacy targets.
Secondary school completion rate	Community	Failure to complete high school is linked to higher rates of welfare dependency and criminality. Elevated high school graduation rates lead to higher earnings, higher percentages of home ownership, lower rates of welfare assistance, fewer out-of-wedlock births and fewer arrests.	Percentage of high-school aged youth graduated/completed secondary school diploma or equivalency.	Statistics Canada, Census data	N/A	N/A	Rate of high-school aged youth who graduated/completed secondary school diploma or equivalency.
Access to post-secondary education	Community	Children and youth exhibit positive attitudes toward learning and are supported in their educational development. Employment rates are higher for Indigenous peoples with post-secondary credentials	Percentage of members of the First Nation (on-reserve) who are currently accessing post-secondary education (in-person or online)? Is it available? Is it accessible?	From community	N/A	N/A	Rate of members of First Nation who currently access post-secondary education.

Safe and suitable housing	Community	Housing improvements linked with improved health include renovations, relocation, and energy efficiency projects. For children, housing improvements were associated with a decrease in respiratory illnesses and lower rates of school absenteeism. For adults, long-lasting improvements in mental health have been demonstrated.	Percentage of residential dwellings in the First Nation (on-reserve) that are suitable.	Statistics Canada, Census data	N/A	N/A	Rate of residential dwellings in the First Nation (on-reserve) that are suitable.
Sufficient and safe water from source to tap	Community	Access to potable water is widely recognized as a fundamental condition for human health, and the lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is one of the greatest threats facing vulnerable populations in the world. Clean, accessible, and sustainable drinking water is a basic necessity of life, and indispensable for meeting national and international standards of health, justice, equality, and responsibility.	Percentage of dwellings that have potable water required for standard daily activities (i.e., not industrial), from source to tap.	From community	N/A	N/A	Rate of dwellings in First Nation community with potable water required for standard daily activities from source to tap.
Livable income	Community	Families in chronic and persistent poverty are especially prone to challenges with self-sufficiency and may require additional support to reach this objective. For many First Nations households, life choices can be severely compromised by high food costs, poor availability of healthy food, low income, and/or high housing and heating costs	Use the Northern MBM (MBM_N), which reflects the cost of living in the North.	Statistics Canada	N/A	N/A	Rate of families in First Nation community who lives below the MBM_N