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Mobile Phone Data for official statistics

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Flowminder Foundation Thomas Smallwood, PhD Knowledge Centre Manager Photo credit: ECHO, Susana Perez Diaz, Flickr

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Backstory 2010 Haiti Earthquake & cholera epidemic

Our supporters Non-profit funded by & supporting key actors Cus-team(*) work 38 staff to enable data driven decision support for LMICs



What do you think is the role of the private sector in the use of MPD in NSOs in developing countries?

- Hubs of highly specialist expertise
 - Bringing together a broad range of learning and insights
 - May not be warranted within an individual NSO
- Greater focus on applications and implementation
- Able to leverage different sources of funding
 - Investment capital
 - Philanthropic funding
- Business mentality that requires sustainability





Implementation & real impact requires collaboration

- The use of CDR data often involves many stakeholders e.g.:
 - MNOs
 - Government end users
 - Regulators
 - IGOs
- Ghana is a good model of government partnership
 - Ghana Statistical Services
 - Vodafone Ghana
 - Flowminder

Working with governments is an essential criteria for generating impact.





If we want to achieve the SDGs, we need to invest in data systems, and we are confident that our successful partnership with Vodafone Ghana & Flowminder is the way forward to leverage data for 2000 Seidu, Head of Demographic Statistics and SDGs Coordinator at Ghana Statistical Service



What are the free tools that NSOs can use to explore MPD?

- The main barrier to the use of MPD is access
 - Access needs to be agreed by the MNO(s)
 - Preserve the individual privacy of subscribers
 - Protect commercially-sensitive data
- Hardware can also be an important cost
- FlowKit
 - Open-source (MPLv2) software suite for the secure processing, analysis and granular access control of CDR data.

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