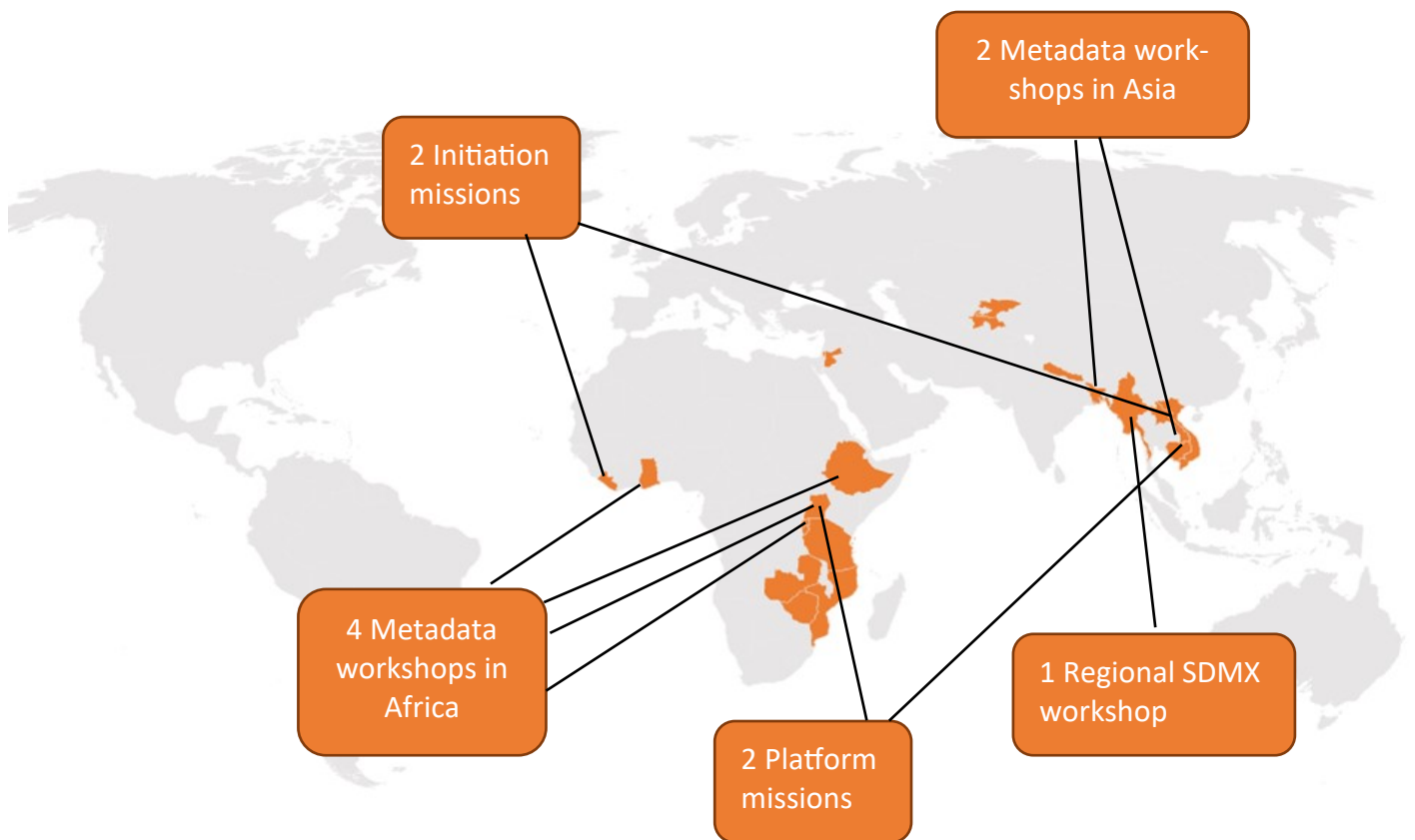




UNSD-DFID PROJECT ON SDG MONITORING

Newsletter 1 March 2019



Overview of missions to countries between December 2018 and February 2019

Metadata workshops



Training workshops in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Myanmar, Rwanda and Uganda

From December 2018 to February 2019, metadata workshops were conducted in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Myanmar, Rwanda and Uganda.

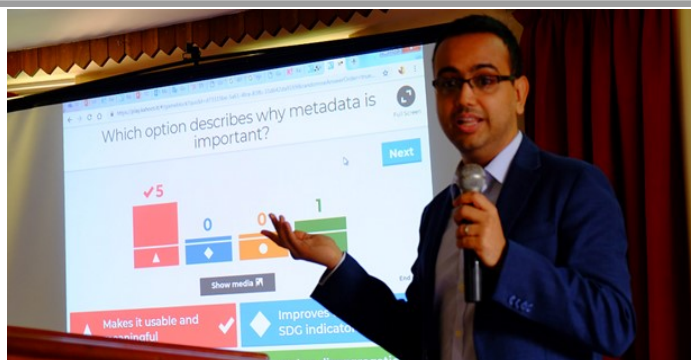
The objective of the workshops was to increase capacity in the national statistical systems for the compilation of metadata for SDG indicators. During the workshops, which were tailored to country needs, several topics were covered including: introduction to metadata; metadata template for the SDGs and data disaggregation.



Representatives from Ghanaian agencies discuss exercise

Participants from national statistical offices and line ministries noted the importance of metadata to facilitate the proper understanding of the indicators. They worked together on a

Workshop participants Myanmar discuss the metadata template



Shaswat Sapkota discussing results from a Kahoot exercise with participants in Uganda.

number of exercises including drafting metadata for some indicators, and shared ideas and experiences on best practices for compiling metadata.

Going forward, national statistical offices will continue to engage with line ministries to facilitate the compilation of metadata. Follow-up, subject-specific trainings might be necessary once first drafts on metadata are put together.

Metadata template discussion in Ethiopia



The goal will be for all project countries to have a full set of national metadata which can accompany the data on the national SDG platforms.

Inception missions



Assessment mission to Liberia



Alper Gücumengil, Andrew Tellewoyan, Elena de Jesus and Robert Toweh in front of the LISGIS in Liberia

A UNSD mission visited Liberia from 7 to 11 January 2019 with the objectives of conducting a detailed assessment of Liberia's statistical capacity with regard to SDG Monitoring and working to develop a national implementation plan for project activities at the national level.

The mission met with the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and various Ministries and agencies of the national statistical system (NSS). The mission also discussed the project with the UN Country Team to identify opportunities for collaboration.

In addition to facilitating fruitful exchanges between LISGIS and the NSS regarding data needs and availability for SDGs, the mission produced i) a statistical capacity assessment report, based on the UNSD assessment methodology; ii) an instance of the ADAPT tool for Liberia populated with the assessment data; and iii) a draft national implementation plan.

Initial mission to Lao PDR

UNSD conducted an initial scoping mission to Lao PDR 21-25 January 2019 to understand the current status of SDG monitoring and how to facilitate the dissemination of the nationally produced SDGs.

During the mission, the UNSD team held

Group photo in Lao PDR after meetings



discussions with the senior management of Lao Statistics Bureau, as well as the technical teams responsible for the compilation of the SDGs, information technology, and other substantive areas.

The team also met with a number of line ministries and the UN country team to discuss the project and relevant activities. A number of follow up workshops are already being planned including national training on metadata and user engagement.

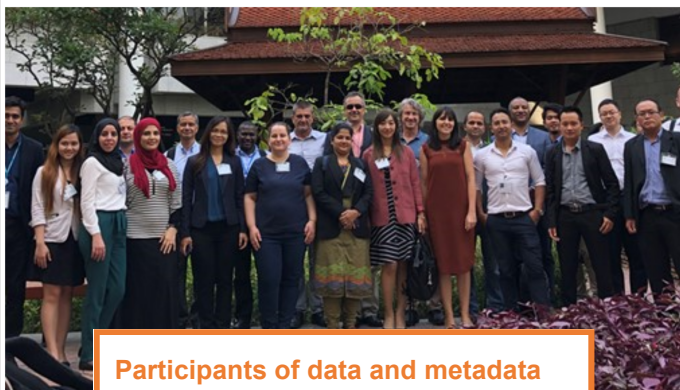
Meeting with partners in Lao PDR



Data modelling for national platforms and for data and metadata exchange



Regional Workshop on Data and Metadata Exchange



Participants of data and metadata exchange workshop in Bangkok

A workshop on Data and Metadata Sharing was organized jointly with UN Women, with UNESCAP and UNICEF also participating, from 10-14 December 2018.

The participants included all 10 UNSD-DFID countries in Asia, six countries invited by UN Women, and several participants from UN Women country offices.

It featured the first hands-on data mapping exercises with selected SDG and Gender Indicators from participating countries which was proven to be a successful way of implementing the SDMX concept. With the information now available on the status of national platforms in all UNSD-DFID project countries, UNSD will be drafting implementation plans for each country vis-à-vis their national platforms.

Platform establishment in Cambodia

A technical assistance mission was carried out jointly with UNICEF at the Cambodian National Institute of Statistics (NIS) 17-19 December 2018.

The mission offered capacity building to NIS to: (1) create a localized version of the SDG Data Structure Definition and updating the mappings of their SDG indicators to the global

DSD, and (2) created dataflows for both the global and national DSDs. The selected SDG indicators and additional thematic indicators were then published in the NIS's dot.Stat platform.

Furthermore, UNSD and UNICEF engaged in scoping out possible collaborative work with NIS involving the local UN Agencies involved that support NIS in the SDGs implementation. In particular, UNSD and UNFPA will continue to support the implementation of the national platform for Cambodia.

A follow up joint mission is planned with UNICEF to complete the data migration work from CamInfo to dot.Stat in early May 2019.

Data modelling in Uganda

A technical mission was carried out at the Uganda Bureau of Statistics from 11-15 February 2019.

The mission offered capacity building to 29 Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) IT staff and indicator experts. Areas covered included the fundamentals of data modelling and converting statistical data to SDMX format. At the end of the week, 34 of Uganda's SDG indicators were mapped to the SDG DSD and converted to the SDMX format.

Hands on workshop in Bangkok on SDMX data and metadata exchange



Related activities



Group picture with participants at disaggregation workshop in Bangkok

Inter-Regional data disaggregation workshop in Bangkok

UNSD, together with UNESCAP, UN Women, UNICEF and ADB, conducted an inter-regional workshop on disaggregation in Bangkok from 28-30 January. Various elements of disaggregation were discussed, and all countries presented their own experiences. The workshop was also used as a starting point for the development of a manual or guidance tool for countries on disaggregation for the SDGs.

While the workshop was not funded by the project, eight Project countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Myanmar, Rwanda, Uganda and Viet Nam) benefited from the workshop. Most workshop materials can be found here: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/sdg-inter-workshop-jan-2019/>

IAEG-SDG work on indicators and disaggregation

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) has advanced the work on data disaggregation to ensure that the indicator framework adequately addresses the ambition of the 2030 agenda of leaving no one behind. The IAEG-SDGs developed a background document on data disaggregation to the 50th session of the UN Statistical Commission that included a compilation of all of the categories and dimensions of data disaggregation currently in place and planned by custodian

agencies, and the results of consultations with major groups and some international agencies on the policy priorities for the most vulnerable population groups.

Following the UN Statistical Commission, the Global SDMX group will work to finalize the Data Structure Definition (DSD). The final version is expected to be released end of March 2019.

Federated Information System for the SDGs

The Federated Information System for the Sustainable Development Goals (FIS4SDGs) is an initiative led by UNSD, in partnership with Esri, that leverages state-of-the-art GIS web technologies and services to improve the integration, accessibility and usability of official statistics, geospatial information, and other sources of data, to support decision makers at the local, national, regional and global levels in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The FIS4SDGs initiative is based on the principle of national ownership, where the NSS implements internationally agreed standards for the production and dissemination of data and statistics, in line with country-specific priorities and other capacity building efforts.

Now endorsed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the FIS4SDGs is scaling to include more countries globally including those participating in the UNSD-DFID project, and supporting analysis and decision making for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

Plans for coming months



Annual project meetings

The annual Project meeting with all pilot countries will take place in New York on Saturday 2nd March. It will be an opportunity for all countries, UNSD, DFID and key partners to exchange experiences and discussing key issues moving forward. Those include choice of national SDG platforms, updates on national processes on SDG monitoring strategies, development of user engagement strategies and creation of metadata for the SDG indicators nationally.



The Annual Advisory Group meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th March. Key goals of the meeting will be to share information on progress in the project, to receive suggestions and input from members and to discuss potential synergies with other projects and collaboration.

Inception missions to Burundi and Viet Nam

UNSD will conduct an initial scoping mission to Burundi right after the Statistical Commission from 12-15 March. Key topics to discuss will be the work on their SDG capacity gap assessment and how it will feed in to a



Information exchange during inception mission in Liberia

national strategy on SDG monitoring with ISTEERU and key members of the National Statistical System.

There will also be discussions on data availability and accessibility. An expert from the African Development Bank (AfDB) will be in the country at the same time to start the process of adding data to the Africa Information Highway platform. This will increase the emphasis on the need to share data and metadata.

A scoping mission to Viet Nam is planned for the 6-11th May. It will potentially be combined with a seminar or workshop on one of the core project topics. Details will be discussed with representatives from Viet Nam during the Statistical Commission.

Capacity assessment mission to Mozambique

A statistical capacity assessment mission to Mozambique is planned for 8-12 April. It will apply the UNSD capacity gap assessment methodology to information collected from meetings with the NSO and the NSS to provide a comprehensive overview of data availability, gaps, challenges and priority areas for SDG monitoring.

Plans for coming months



Platform implementation and SDMX data and metadata exchange

A workshop on Advanced Data and Metadata Exchange will take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in April. The workshop will bring together about 6 countries from within and outside the project to introduce advanced SDMX tools to be used with AfDB's Open Data Highway platform. Country participation will be funded by AfDB, including for the three Project countries Burundi Uganda and Zambia.

Several missions will be undertaken to project countries to map their SDG indicators to the global SDG Data Structure Definition and convert them to the SDMX format during the second quarter of 2019.

This will help both facilitate the establishment of data platforms and establish data exchange with the countries. So far, missions have been confirmed with Jordan and State of Palestine in April.

User engagement workshops

The UNSD Project team is currently putting together an outline and materials for user engagement workshops to be conducted in countries and regionally in the coming months.

The aim of the workshops is to support countries in developing national user engagement strategies, primarily for the SDGs. As part of this, various guidance activities and materials will be developed which give the national experts more tools to confidently engage with various users and to meet the needs as far as possible.

The first confirmed workshop is to take place

in Zimbabwe and Zambia in April. Several more will take place in the following weeks and months. An inter-regional workshop on the topic is also planned for June.

UNSD has already initiated conversations with UNECA, UNESCAP and Paris21 to collaborate on these workshops where feasible. There is also a plan to organize a side-event at the IAEG-SDG meeting in Beirut in March.



Workshop participants in Cambodia discussing exercise

Metadata workshops

UNSD is currently in the process of discussing potential next workshops with countries. Where possible these will be held in conjunction with user engagement workshops. This is the case for Zimbabwe where a workshop already has been confirmed for early April.

Open data workshop

UNSD will be working with countries on building capacity on open data as needed/ requested. The workshops will bring together experts on open data, colleagues from NSOs and line ministries as well as user groups to discuss how to make available data open and accessible to all.

Indicator compilation

Most of the capacity gap assessments conducted identified several of the indicators in country to be 'easily feasible'. This means that they are not readily available, but that they could be made available with minor efforts such as simple calculations. A few countries have requested support to work on this and UNSD is currently looking into ways of responding to these requests, probably through consultancies.

Contact us



Project website

For general project information, please visit the webpage: <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-building/UNSD-DFID>

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UN Statistics Division



UKaid
from the British people