HARNESSING SDGS TO BUILD BACK BETTER
Enhancing development data systems for inclusive recovery

Julia Schmidt, Policy Analyst at PARIS21

Eleventh Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

3rd – 5th November 2020
COVID-19 amplifies the fault lines of existing data ecosystems

- **Prevailing data gaps**: Policy makers lack data on specific issues – vulnerability to crises/disasters, informal economy, social impact
- **Missing disaggregated data**: women, racial/ethnic minorities affected differently
- **Weak systems**: limited data on cross-cutting policy issues, neglected administrative data systems
- **Lack of data use and reuse**
Statistical systems squeezed

Misra, Schmidt and Harrison (2020)
SDGs more important than ever to catalyze inclusive recovery

• SDGs accelerate systems-level change

• SDGs offer opportunity to leverage NSS data for domestic policy-making, M&E reporting and accountability at all levels

• SDGs are cross-cutting, long term and focus on “leaving no one behind”
But, three acute challenges remain:

• Persistent lack of statistical capacity across particular dimensions (digitalization, skills, access, use)

• Sub-optimal alignment and policy coherence: difficult to mainstream SDGs in national/local policies

• Fragmented coordination within NSS and broader data ecosystem
PARIS21 EXPERTISE IN NEW APPROACHES TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

2016
Capacity Development 4.0

2018
CD4.0 Task Team

2019
Flagship Report & Statistical Capacity Monitor

2020
CD4.0 Conference CD4.0 Guidelines & Pilots

Discover the full report here
PARIS21’s ongoing support on a global level

• Ongoing pilot project "Operationalizing CD4.0 in the Philippines: Strengthening Gender Statistics for Subnational SDG Monitoring."

• Ongoing pilot project “Operationalizing CD4.0 in Zambia: Strengthening environmental statistics in the NSS”

• Use of the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor indicators to monitor progress in line with ‘advancing official statistics for agenda 2030’, presented at the 7th Session of UNESCAP Committee on Statistics (2020)

• PARIS21 is working in the Maldives to implement a gender statistics assessment through the UN Women 'Women Count' program.
## Strategies to build back better

1. **Holistic approach to capacity development of statistical systems**: Digitalization, improved data access and use, administrative data

2. **Empower NSO as the national data steward**: coordination with other govt agencies, and partnerships with private data agencies, modern governance mechanisms

3. **Increase financing to statistics**: More and better funding for development data from domestic and external sources
Way forward: scaling-up holistic approach to CD

- Recognize the value of systemic solutions: Policy makers need to access and use reliable and timely data in crises and beyond.
- Re-think your existing programmes – Many of us already apply some CD4.0 thinking without being aware of it, you need to start strategizing
- Scale-up funding to capacity development – PARIS21 has launched the clearing house mechanism at the UNWDF 2020