Smart Big Data Investments in NSOs

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Rationale for smart investments

Digital connectivity is essential for big data for official statistics

Adoption of digital technologies has been rapid.....

.... but divides in internet access & NSO big data capacities persist
So what is our smart investment strategy?
1 - Start small, learn by doing

Pilot

Test

Scale
Small grants for....

- Innovations in data production or use through new collaborations or new technology
- Efficiencies relative to “business as usual”
- Results & impact
- Capturing lessons learned
- Potential to scale

More info at www.data4sdgs.org
2 – Expand beyond pilots

Requires:

• Clear evidence that the data will be used
• Eager-to-adapt NSOs
• Supportive enabling environment
• Funding instrument re-think?
• Changes in donor perceptions
Enabling environment requires actions to take advantage of digital technologies

**Regulation:** accessible, affordable, open internet

**Skills:** to maximize use

**Institutions/agents:** that adapt to new roles
Funding instrument re-think

Shift to recurrent costs from “up front” investments

Donor perceptions

Shift from direct investment in country systems to collaborative approaches.
Conclusion

Big data is here to stay
Work to close “digital divides”
Start small and learn
Sustain support where enabling environment is favorable
Review/adjust funding instruments and donor approaches, as needed