

United Nations Statistical Commission
Fifty-second session
1–3 and 5 March 2021
Item 3 (j) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: big data

Document E/CN.3/2021/14 – Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Statement provided by:

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

Statement:

Bangladesh, via the National Statistics Office, welcomes the training of the Big Data Task Team for the Sustainable Development Goals. It supports the efforts of the IAEG-SDGs to form a working group for the Rural Access Index and Indicator 9.1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. NSO Bangladesh recommends the timely implementation of a worldwide training and certification programme on the use of big data and data science for official statistics.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is mandated to generate and authenticate as the accreditation body for official statistics for government planning and international organizations. BBS itself generates data through statistical census and surveys. However, Statistics Act, 2013 has elaborated the mandate to widen its activities from traditional to innovative approaches. According to Statistics Act, 2013 BBS is responsible to quickly provide the reliable and user-friendly statistics in response to the demand from government development planners, policymakers, researchers & educational institutions, national & international agencies and other users. The act also guides to ensuring ICT use in statistical activities including use of GIS technology. BBS has the mandate to ensure modern technologies in disseminating and archiving data. To expedite the adaption of new technologies and means of statistical data generation.

The traditional statistical census and surveys are not enough to provide real time, quick and wide-ranging disaggregated data for the policymakers and intervening agencies for development planning. On the context of growing demand of real time, quick and disaggregated data, Big Data technologies can supplement, fill in new data gaps and improve the efficiency of statistical production and it can add value to statistical information.

To mainstream big data on official statistics, BBS is exploring the huge number of existing sources of administrative records side by side the traditional surveys and analytic issues to generate the “Big-data related health indicators”. This initiative will help our national statistical system to move in more dynamic manner.

In order to monitor the progress of SDG indicators a wide range of data are required. The traditional censuses and surveys are not sufficient to cater the data need of monitoring SDG. Therefore, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), who are responsible for preparing indicator framework, methodology and data source, recognized Big data as a source of information. So, Big data can be used for monitoring selected SDG indicators in Bangladesh.

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The National Statistical Organization (NSO) like BBS has to adopt new technologies and methods to enable sound statistical analysis of Big data so that selected SDG indicators can be obtained from big data which will be cost-effective and disaggregated at sub-national levels.

Submitted on:	2/19/2021
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