



Working to improve timeliness and granularity of SDG data:

Progress made in the Data for Now initiative

A Side Event at the United Nations Statistics Commission,
16 February 2021, 11:00 – 12:30 am (EST)



Overview

Timely, quality, disaggregated data is vital to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through supporting effective monitoring and decision making. However, while good progress has been made in recent years to increase the availability of internationally comparable data for SDG monitoring, huge challenges remain. For four of the seventeen Goals, less than half of countries have internationally comparable data. What's more, even countries with available data may often only be able to produce estimates very infrequently and with substantial time lags, preventing policymakers from accurately monitoring progress and identifying trends.

To help address these problems, the Data For Now (Data4Now) initiative was launched by UN Deputy-Secretary General Amina Mohammed on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, in September 2019. One and a half years later, implementation has started in the eight pilot countries and is progressing well. Some of this initial work will be presented during the event, showcasing the variety of topics covered and partners involved.

With this initial experience in hand, the four core partners, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), The Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (SDSN TReNDS), the World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), are now working on a strategy for continued work and further involvement of countries and partners. Key elements will be presented at the event for a broader discussion with NSOs participating in this year UNSC and other key partners.

Objectives:

This side event, jointly organized by GPSDD, SDSN TReNDS, WB and UNSD, aims to share an update and discuss the way forward for the Data for Now initiative. More concretely, the event will:

- Provide a general update of work and showcase some concrete results from countries
- Present key principles and approaches of the initiative
- Present plans for the way forward, including expansion to involve more countries and partners as well as efforts to make materials more widely available
- Discuss among some of the key partners on the initiative overall and the work moving forward

Preliminary agenda

- **Introductory Remarks and update on progress made**
 - *Ms. Claire Melamed, Director, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data*
- **Experience from Senegal**
 - Mr Alle Diop, Director General, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD)
 - Mr. Francois Kamano, GPSDD, Dr. Ibrahima Kampo, SDSN TRenDS and Ms. Faryal Ahmed, UNSD
- **Experience from Paraguay**
 - Mr. Iván Mauricio Ojeda Aguilera, Director Nacional, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)
 - Mr. Fredy Rodriguez, Data Coordinator, Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)
- **Panel discussion**

Moderated by Mr. Grant Cameron, Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics

 - Ms. Karen Chavez, Head of SDG Indicators Unit, Departamento Administrativo Nacional De Estadística, Colombia
 - Mr. Batdavaa Batmunkh, Chairman, National Statistics Office of Mongolia
 - Mr. Diego Cimino, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (tbc)
 - Mr. Bob Chen, Director, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and Manager, NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC), POPGRID member
- **Data for Now principles and strategy for way forward**
 - *Ms. Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division*
- **Q&A**
- **Closing**
 - *Keith Garrett, Manager of Data Analytics and Tools, World Bank*