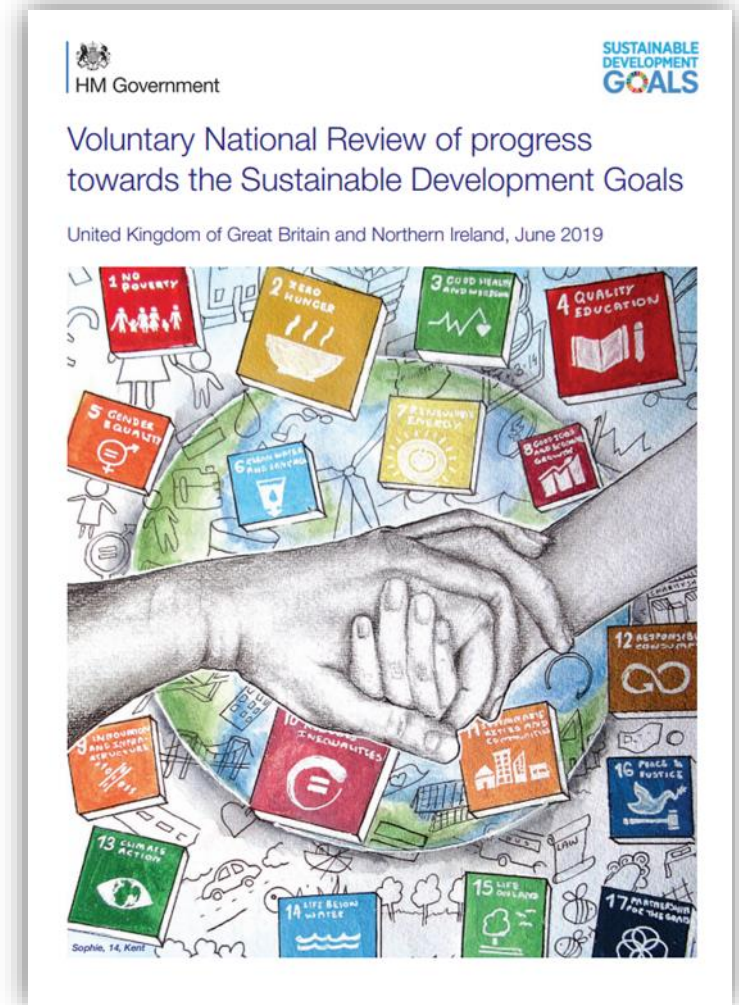# UK's 2019 Voluntary National Review
Our experience and lessons learned

Joanne Evans, Head of International Collaboration, Health Statistics
Office for National Statistics

Side Event of the 53rd session of the UN Statistical Commission
Preparing evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): best practices and experiences

UK VNR – 2019

- Cross-Government Coordination led by DfID, Cabinet Office and ONS
- Sets out activity since 2015
- Covers all 169 Targets
- Covers national and international work, focus on national
- Collaboration with Devolved Governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Informed by a range of stakeholders, with 380 organisations engaged, and 270 case studies received during the process

HM Government

Voluntary National Review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, June 2019

Office for National Statistics

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
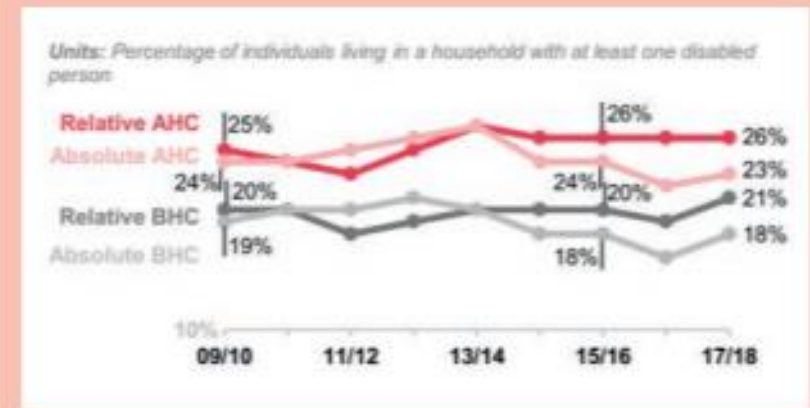
How was our VNR data led?

- Established 'data led' as a principle early on
- ONS had a 'seat at the table' from the start
- Negotiated a stand-alone data chapter: Using Data and tracking progress towards the Goals
- Strong 'Leave No One Behind' theme -> needs data
- Pushed for data to be the thread throughout
- Statistical Annex

The Data Picture: Disability poverty

Coverage: UK

Absolute poverty measures for families with a disabled member have fallen since 2013/14. Relative measures have remained more stable over the same time period.

Percentage of individuals in households where someone is disabled in poverty: 2009/10 to 2017/18
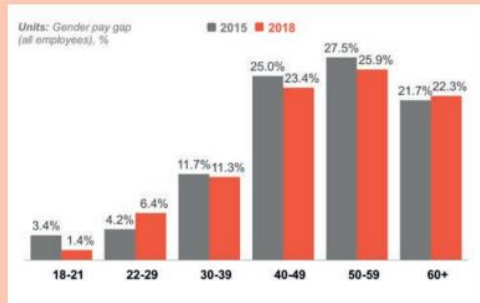
Units: Percentage of individuals living in a household with at least one disabled person

Relative AHC 25% 26% 26%
Absolute AHC 24% 20% 24% 20% 23% 21%
Relative BHC
Absolute BHC 19% 18% 18%

09/10 11/12 13/14 15/16 17/18

10%

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, HBAI 2017/18

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What kind of data?

- Data collected from a range of sources, including:
  - Our Open-SDG national reporting platform www.sdgdata.gov.uk
  - Other UK government sources that are more relevant domestically, including non-SDG national targets and indicators
  - Non-government sources to add context

The Data Picture: Gender Pay Gap (GPG) (continued)

Gender Pay Gap by age group: 2015 and 2018

Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2018)

Source: ONS

The Data Picture: Sustainably managed woodland

Coverage: UK

The area of woodland certified as sustainably managed in the UK has remained broadly constant from 2015 to 2017, at 1.38 million hectares, representing 43% of total woodland area.

Percentage of woodland certified as sustainably managed: 2004 to 2018

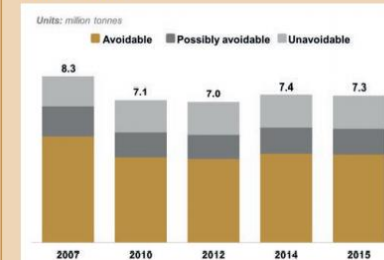*Source: ONS, National Reporting Platform*

Source: ONS

The Data Picture: Food waste

Coverage: UK

Global Target 12.3 is to reduce food waste. In the UK, there was a substantial reduction in household food waste between 2007 and 2015, with the majority of the reduction occurring between 2007 and 2010. Household food waste amounted to 7.3 million tonnes in 2015.

Total household food waste, million tonnes: 2007 to 2015

Source: Waste and Resources Action Programme, Household food waste in the UK 2015
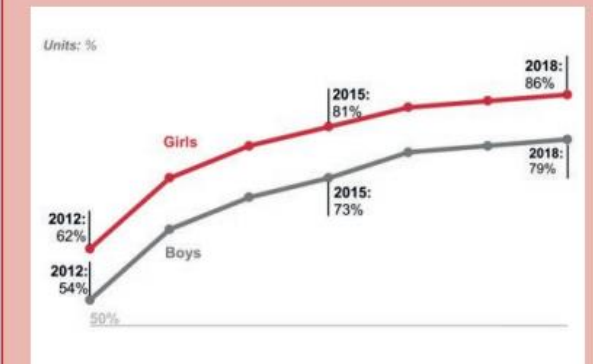
Source: WRAP

The Data Picture: Phonics

Coverage: England

The Phonics screening check is identifying five and six-year-olds who need extra help with reading. In 2018, 38,000 more Year 1 pupils in England met the expected standard compared to 2015. This represented 82% of pupils meeting the standard, compared to 77% in 2015 and 58% in 2012. Since 2012, a greater proportion of girls than boys have achieved the expected standard.

Percentage of 5 to 6 year olds meeting the expected standard of phonics decoding: 2012-2018

Source: Department for Education, Phonic screening check (2018)

Source: DfE

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Leave No One Behind

"…data is the lifeblood of the SDGs and makes the goals so powerful as an instrument of change. Data collected by government to report on the progress of the goals is the raw material for accountability and the backbone of decision making."
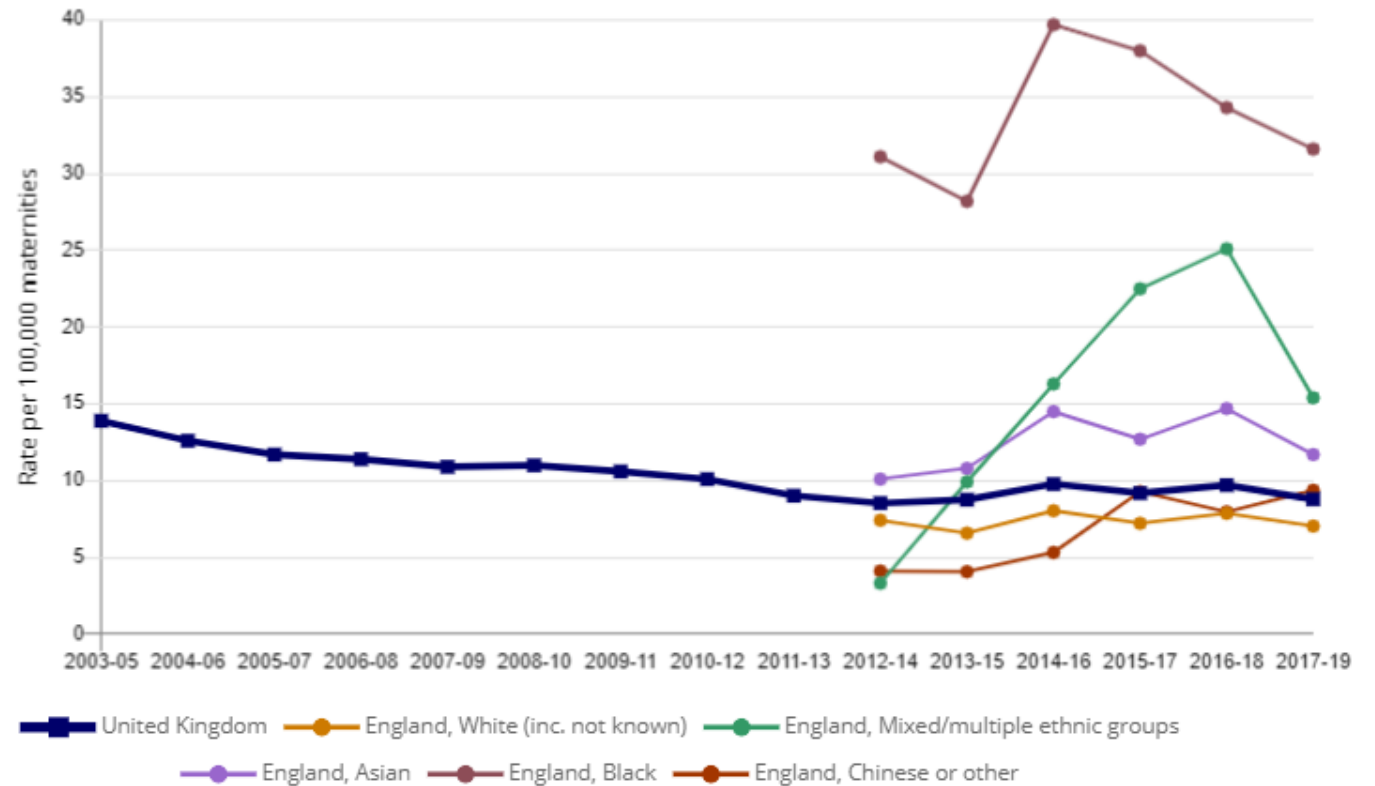
Dr Claire Melamed
CEO, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

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Leave no one behind

- Disaggregated data essential for ensuring that we leave no one behind
- Focal part of our SDG platform

INCLUSIVE DATA CHARTER

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 maternities

Source: National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU)

Geographical Area: United Kingdom

Unit of Measurement: Rate per 100,000 maternities, Rate per 100,000 live births

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How data can drive decisions

- The Race Disparity Audit (led by UK government) is challenging society to "explain or change" disparities in how people from different backgrounds are being treated by public services.

- Findings from this Audit indicated that women from Pakistani or Bangladeshi backgrounds are the least likely to be employed.

- Using these findings, combined with data on areas with high levels of ethnic minority unemployment, some Job Centers have implemented local plans to tackle this (and other issues identified in the Audit).

- For example, in Birmingham, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women have been offered 1-2-1 employment drop-in services to help them move into work or take up training.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Challenges... and opportunities

Challenges

- Not joined up – with statisticians in other government departments, statisticians and policy leads
- Chapter authors/data familiarity
- Timescales

Opportunities

- Excellent networking opportunity!
- Educational opportunity!
- Pace!

What would I do differently (wish list)

- Read the [UNECE Road Map chapter on VNRs](#)
- Start EARLIER
- Build relationships
- Criteria from the start
- Longer time series
- "SO WHAT?" stories

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Thank you for listening!

"Coming together is the beginning

Keeping together is progress

Working together is success"

joanne.evans@ons.gov.uk
SustainableDevelopment@ons.gov.uk

Any questions, comments or suggestions?

Link to the UK Open SDG Platform
Link to the UK's Voluntary National Review

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