Implementing the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development

Data amid a global pandemic: Insights from a global survey of NSOs

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The context, motivation behind the survey

- COVID-19 disrupted _______________
- Long-term goals vs short-term responses...
- ...but also acceleration of a revolution in the making
- The CTGAP survey takes stock of current status of capacity demands and resource needs, against a backdrop changed by the pandemic, to get the conversation going again
Background: The CTGAP Implementation Survey

- **Objective**: A global study of the demand for capacity development and financial resources based on the six strategic areas defined by the CTGAP

- **Conveners**: Paris21, United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank’s Development Data Group

- **Features**: Web-survey; Aug.-Sep. 2021; 101 responses received

- **Context**: Follows 4 rounds (May 2020 >> June 2021); ~120 respondents per round – of a Global COVID-19 Survey of NSOs

- **Structure**: Pillar 1 – Capacity building around CTGAP areas; Pillar 2: Financing needs - IDA countries only

- **Dissemination**: Preliminary results, report coming out in December
Pillar 1:
Capacity Development
Resource bottlenecks

The majority of NSOs indicated that they are currently facing shortages in financial resources and IT infrastructure.

This was especially the case in low and lower middle-income countries:

- Nine in every 10 NSOs in this group reported shortages in financial resources and IT infrastructure
- 49% of NSOs in this group reported severe shortage in financial resources
- 30% reported severe shortage in major IT infrastructure.

There is also unmet demand for technical assistance and capacity development.

Thinking about the coordination capacity of the NSO with partners inside the NSS over the last three years, which of the following statements would best describe it?

- It was and remains unsatisfactory
- It has improved, but could be better
- It has improved, and is now satisfactory
- It was already satisfactory and remained so

Most respondents (70%) have seen improvements.

Only 6% of the NSOs in low and lower-middle income countries consider coordination capacity of the NSO satisfactory (vs 43% in high income).
ICT readiness and the digital divide

~45% of NSOs signaled that had issues with:
- staff internet access at home
- cloud computing
- secure remote data access

But marked differences in ICT-readiness of NSOs across income levels.

Issues around adequate internet access at home and adequate ICT facilities for remote training of staff and enumerators are more pronounced in low and lower-middle income countries, where more than one third of NSOs reported inadequate access.

Strengthening of basic statistical activities and programs: NSO priority areas to expand capacity to meet new data demands

In the next 3 years, does your NSO want to expand capacity in the following areas to respond to the new data demands of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development/Sustainable Development Goals and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic?

- Chart is for LLMICs
- Admin data tops the list, followed by surveys and EO/geospatial
- Similar priorities for funding needs and requirements (admin and geospatial data top of the list)
- Scanner, social media, crowdsourcing more of a priority in high income
Differences in approaches to strengthening partnerships (CTGAP Strategic Area 5) – Educating users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Low and lower-middle income</th>
<th>Upper-middle income</th>
<th>High income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of social media (including publishing videos)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in external events, such as conferences, book fairs, or other public events</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Press conferences or press releases with specific contacts for questions</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appearance of senior management (director general, chief statistician, or other officials) in mass media...</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications and booklets tailored for specific groups</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars: including e-learning, live chat sessions, podcasts</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness campaigns</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific sections for different types of users (e.g. students) on the website</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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• LLMICs don’t fully exploit potential of social media
• High income focus more on tailored products for specific audiences
• LLMICS relatively more on ‘traditional’ approaches: scope for modernization
Pillar 2: Financing Needs in IDA countries
Funding: Reliance of donor support and funding priorities in IDA eligible countries

NSOs that received on-budget support in the last fiscal year (development aid)

- Yes: 59%
- No: 38%
- Don't know: 3%

Budget allocation:
- Health: 60%
- Social protection: 55%
- Education: 45%
- Economic affairs: 35%
- Environmental protection: 30%
- General public services: 25%
- Housing and community amenities: 20%
- Public order and safety: 15%
- Defence: 10%
- Recreation, culture and religion: 5%
- Don’t know: 5%
Financing opportunities in IDA countries – Shedding light on what is needed in recipient countries

Delays in NSOs funding

- The majority of respondents (all IDA countries) experience either moderate or severe delays in budget disbursement in 2021.
- Those delays affected their work plan implementation.

• The survey provides some pointers for shared priorities for capacity building and financing
• Not a substitute for in-depth assessments and dialogue...
• ...but it can be an instrument to support coordinated international actions going forward: discussion needed on ‘how?'

A lot more to come in the report, stay tuned...
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