

LESSONS LEARNED REPORT

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE SDG DATA PARTNERSHIPS

July 2021



LESSONS LEARNED REPORT: ADVANCING INCLUSIVE SDG DATA PARTNERSHIPS

Photo credits: ©shutterstock.com, ©GIZ, ©International Civil Society Centre

© 2021 Partners for Review

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36, 53113 Bonn, Germany

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

© 2021 The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Wilders Plads 8K, 1403 Copenhagen K, Denmark

With the support of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in Geneva

© 2021 International Civil Society Centre

Agricolastraße 26, 10555 Berlin, Germany

Contact the organisers:

Mona Lisa Limbach, Partners for Review / GIZ: mona-lisa.limbach@giz.de

Saionara König-Reis, Danish Institute for Human Rights: saik@humanrights.dk

Peter Koblowsky, International Civil Society Centre: pkoblowsky@icscentre.org

Provided such reproduction is for non-commercial use, this publication, or parts of it, may be reproduced if the source is quoted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	About the Organising Partners
03	Foreword
05	List of Abbreviations
06	Glossary of Key Terms
07	The Report at a Glance About the Initiative Key Findings
09	Introduction Objective
11	Process Selection of Participants and Countries Virtual Workshop Series, Peer Exchange, and Coaching
14	Pathway Towards SDG Data Partnerships 1: Collective Gap Analysis and Data Mapping 2: Stakeholder Engagement 3: Understanding Non-Official Data and its Role 4: Developing Roadmaps to Pilot a National Data Partnership
24	Learnings and Tips for Setting Up National Data Partnerships Overarching Considerations When Developing Successful Data Partnerships Tips on the Process of Setting Up National SDG Data Partnerships Tips for the Successful Facilitation and Support of SDG Data Partnerships
28	Conclusions
30	Annexes Annex I: Participating Institutions Annex II: Country Outcomes and the Way Forward Annex III: Template for Partnership Planning

ABOUT THE ORGANISING PARTNERS

Organising Partners

This initiative was organised in a partnership between Partners for Review (hosted by GIZ), the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and the International Civil Society Centre. The three partners represent the main sectors brought together in this collaborative initiative: government, national human rights institutions, and civil society. They combined their networks and capacities to bring these actors together from the six participating countries.

Partners for Review (P4R) is a global multi stakeholder network for government representatives and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, academia, and other non state actors involved in the national review and monitoring process towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. P4R is hosted by the German Development Agency (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). P4R facilitates a global multi stakeholder network of state and non state actors, making it an ideal hub for building trust and sharing learnings, which are the key components for the success of this collaborative initiative.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of Denmark, which is an independent state funded institution. DIHR's mandate is to promote and protect human rights and equal treatment in Denmark and abroad. Further, DIHR is working towards a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs worldwide. DIHR is one of the leading institutions promoting the HRBA to data and monitoring processes for the SDGs. The institute has produced relevant analysis, guidance, and tools to facilitate the leverage of human rights data and guidance for the SDGs. DIHR provides technical support and capacity building to enable a HRBA by relevant stakeholders and it drives the engagement of other NHRIs in the project.

The International Civil Society Centre (ICSC) supports international civil society organisations (ICSOs) to maximise their impact for a sustainable and more equitable world. It is an action hub for the world's largest and most impactful civil society organisations. The Centre is owned by 15 of the largest ICSOs that work across environmental, human rights, social justice, and humanitarian issues. In its role as a hub for collaboration, the Centre hosts the Leave No One Behind partnership. The partnership aims to make the voices of marginalised communities heard and count in the SDG process, working with citizen-generated data as a strategic tool for their inclusion and empowerment. In this initiative, ICSC acts as a multiplier for civil society engagement, sharing expertise from its work with data champions from civil society.

FOREWORD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an unprecedented, complex, broad, and truly global agenda. It brings together states' commitments over the past decades in the environmental, development, and human rights fields into a single roadmap that is applicable to all countries. It is a highly ambitious global effort to leave no one behind while dealing with the most pressing challenges of our planet. These include the eradication of poverty, combating climate change and preserving ecologic diversity, ending hunger and child mortality, and achieving gender equality. To reach these universal goals, the agenda requires an overall transformation in the way we do things.

After six years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we are lagging behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have just experienced an unprecedented year of crises, which, in many parts of the world continue to have a heavy impact – particularly on the most marginalised communities. In order to achieve this agenda, it needs overall acceleration as well as strong and renewed commitment across all sectors of society. We must break down our silos and work together in a collaborative and innovative manner. This collaboration is required in all aspects of the agenda, including measuring and monitoring progress.

Addressing the SDG data challenge requires dynamic and inclusive data ecosystems. They shall comprise all relevant stakeholders and work towards filling the information gaps for a fully fledged and data oriented monitoring and reporting culture. These ecosystems must bring together the human rights systems, civil society perspectives, national statistical offices, and other data producers and users. They must create mutual understanding, helping to identify and meet development data needs and opportunities to leave no one behind in SDG implementation.

The idea for this SDG data partnership process first emerged at the Partners for Review meeting in Hanoi at the end of 2019, when we asked ourselves how to set up such cross sector collaborations for SDG monitoring. At the global SDG 16 workshop in Copenhagen in early 2020, we decided to begin by supporting different countries to create safe spaces for dialogue between key stakeholders, to learn from each other, and move forward their inclusive data partnerships.

With this common agenda, we formed a partnership between the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC), and Partners for Review (P4R). This initiative leverages the networks of the partners and connects governments and statistic offices with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions.

We hope that this process has helped to clarify the important role of different stakeholders in the data ecosystem and has strengthened the SDG monitoring processes in these countries over the long run. This report captures some of the learnings generated through the process. We hope that you, dear reader, find useful insights and ideas, and that other countries can learn from this experience for the future.

We are deeply grateful to the country partners and experts who joined us in this endeavour, and to you from across the globe, who are part of this global effort to close the SDG data gap. We look forward to continuing our journey to build inclusive data partnerships that contribute to reaching our highest aspirations for evidence based monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while leaving no one behind.

Thomas Wollnik Head of Programme Partners for Review / GIZ	Birgitte Feiring Department Director Danish Institute for Human Rights	Wolfgang Jamann Executive Director International Civil Society Centre
---	---	--

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CGD – [Citizen-Generated Data](#)

CSO – [Civil Society Organisation](#)

DIHR – [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#)

GIZ – [German Development Agency](#)

GPSDD – [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#)

HRBA – [Human Rights-Based Approach](#)

ICSC – [International Civil Society Centre](#)

ICSO – [International Civil Society Organisation](#)

NHRI – [National Human Rights Institution](#)

NSO – [National Statistics Office](#)

P4R – [Partners for Review](#)

PARIS21 – [Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century](#)

PSA – [Philippines Statistical Authority](#)

SDG – [Sustainable Development Goal](#)

UN DESA – [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

UNDP – [United Nations Development Programme](#)

UNSD – [United Nations Statistics Division](#)

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Citizen-Generated Data: Data produced by non state actors, particularly individuals or civil society organisations, under the active consent of the data providing subjects. Primary purpose of citizen-generated data is to contribute to monitoring, demand or drive change on issues affecting citizens or their communities.

Country Teams: Refer to the six multi stakeholder teams who participated in this process, namely from Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Nepal, Palestinian Territories*, and Philippines.

Human Rights Data: Qualitative and quantitative data generated by human rights monitoring mechanisms and institutions, as well as any data with the potential to monitor the human rights situation. It includes but is not limited to the data produced by national human rights institutions, and by regional and global monitoring mechanisms such as the UN Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies, and Special Procedures.

Marginalised: Communities who are systematically discriminated against based on descent or occupation or are marginalised due to income, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status within a country or context.

Official Data: Data generated and/or validated by National Statistical Offices.

Non-Official Data: Data that does not represent statistics certified or published as official by the National Statistics Offices.

*The term 'country team' was used to refer to all of the multi-stakeholder teams who participated in this process. The use of this term throughout the report does not in any way imply a political statement about the statehood of the Palestinian Territories.



THE REPORT AT A GLANCE

About the initiative

This report gathers knowledge and recommendations from the *Inclusive SDG Data Partnerships* initiative. The initiative is co organised by Partners for Review (P4R/GIZ), the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), and the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC). The first phase of this initiative took shape in a five month process bringing together key stakeholders from six countries for a series of international peer exchanges, virtual workshops, and coaching sessions.

This initiative's purpose is to advance data partnerships for the SDGs and to strengthen multi actor data ecosystems at the national level. The goal is to meet the SDG data challenge by improving the use of alternative data sources, particularly data produced by civil society and human rights institutions, and complementary to official statistics. This report aims to capture and share the key lessons learned from the first part of the initiative, which took place between October 2020 and March 2021.

The initiative gathered and shared knowledge from existing experience in four specific areas of relevance for inclusive data partnerships:

- 1) Identifying data gaps at the national level and mapping alternative data sources
- 2) Identifying and engaging key stakeholders for joint data action on an equal footing
- 3) Understanding non-official data and its role
- 4) Developing a roadmap to bring data partnerships to life



Key findings

The initiative showed that a common driver for the creation of cross sector SDG data partnerships is to ensure no one is left behind in the SDG processes, speaking of the inclusion of marginalised communities. Bringing together official and non-official data sources helps to better understand the local context and identify locally rooted drivers of marginalisation while ensuring that these insights can be reflected and tracked in the national SDG strategy.



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

A key learning from the first part of the initiative was that partnerships are more effective when they consider the following:

- Leverage and amplify existing resources and initiatives
- Involve key actors from the beginning, in an inclusive and non discriminatory manner
- Establish a common goal and a clear outcome
- Agree on roles that match actors' interest and capacities
- Build trust
- Exchange knowledge
- Create ownership among all partners
- Use the native language in multilingual environments

Eventually, the process generated insights for groups and organisations that aim to support the facilitation of inclusive SDG partnerships. Key insights were to:

- Conduct interviews with participants at the beginning of the process
- Reduce complexity and speak in a manner that everybody understands
- Create a roadmap for the process, but remain flexible to adapt to groups' needs
- Offer a good mix of technical inputs and peer exchange
- Provide space for group members to discuss openly and listen to each other
- Offer coaching sessions or case labs for troubleshooting
- Combine virtual and physical meetings wherever possible
- Identify “champions” within individual (country) teams

INTRODUCTION

Since the adoption of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data in 2017, there has been a great deal of discussion around creating multi stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs. Serious attempts to bring together government and non governmental stakeholders to foster data collaborations have been initiated in some countries. These encouraging developments are largely due to the increasing understanding of the need to make more use of alternative data sources, including data produced by civil society and human rights institutions, to complement official statistics in order to meet the SDG data challenge and ensure that no one is left behind.

While it is encouraging to see collaborative approaches happening more frequently, several open questions hamper the progressive growth of SDG related data partnerships:

- Which data is relevant in which context, and who are the relevant data producers?
- Is there enough trust and willingness to collaborate between stakeholders, and what is the mutually perceived benefit?
- What are the rules and roles in a data collaboration?
- How to find agreement on which quality standards need to be (and can be) fulfilled by the partners?
- What role does qualitative data play in relation to quantitative statistical evidence and which methodologies to use?
- How can data collaborations be financed?

The SDG Data Partnerships initiative aims to contribute to answering these questions through a process of collaboration and peer exchange. The process was initiated in 2020 by P4R, the DIHR, and the ICSC. The initiative was designed in two parts: (a) preparing the groundwork for data collaboration through peer exchange and capacity building, and (b) following up and implementing the data partnerships at the national level. This report summarises the learnings from the first phase of this initiative, implemented between October 2020 and March 2021. It brought together state and non state actors from six countries to discuss these questions, learn from each other, and devise a “pathway” for strengthened cross sector collaboration. The initiative was driven by mutual learning and the building of trust.

The report first introduces the process applied for the identification and selection of relevant stakeholders and the design of the first phase of the initiative (Section 1); it elaborates on the content explored during the process to foster and enable the use of non-official data for the SDGs (Section 2); it highlights the key learnings and tips generated

through the process (Section 3). Finally, it lists the participating institutions and elaborates on the country team's experiences in this process and the country level outcomes (Annexes).

The second phase of the SDG Data Partnerships starts in mid 2021. Some of the developed project plans (Annex II) will be implemented in the respective countries with support from P4R, DIHR, ICSC, and external partners.

Objective

As observed in the first five years of Voluntary National Reviews on the SDGs, most national SDG monitoring and reporting still relies on official data sources only. As such, many elements of the SDG implementation remain obscure. There are many SDG targets and indicators that remain unmonitored and under reported. With official monitoring focusing mostly on national averages, there is a significant monitoring gap, particularly on the hard to reach groups of society and the marginalised communities. This gap presents a challenge to achieving the SDGs in general, and in particular, the principle of Leaving No One Behind, which requires significant disaggregation of data to ensure that the specific needs of groups are understood, tracked, and addressed.

At the same time, there are abundant alternative data that can potentially be used to complement SDG monitoring and reporting. That includes citizen-generated data (CGD), human rights data, big data, and others. Understanding the role of alternative data providers and how to use these data brings an opportunity to close important gaps in SDG monitoring and reporting.

The main goal of this initiative is to foster collaboration between key data users and producers based on mutual trust and understanding of their roles. It aims to identify what are key success factors for the creation of data partnerships and to help close SDG data gaps through increased use of alternative data.



PROCESS

Selection of Participants and Countries

The first phase of the SDG Data Partnerships initiative brought together representatives from Government in SDG Units, National Statistics Offices (NSOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), international organisations, and in one country the private sector. The six country teams selected to participate in the process were Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Nepal, Palestinian Territories, and the Philippines.

Initial outreach to potential participants was conducted through a survey to a number of stakeholders in selected countries. Key national institutions and organisations were asked about their interest in being part of a data partnership for the SDGs and how they perceived their potential role. The countries were selected based on the following criteria: (1) the country had a demonstrated commitment/experience with partnerships for the SDGs, and (2) respondents represented at least three of the targeted stakeholder groups in the same country. It was important to gather the right group in the "room" and ensure commitment to the process from all key actors from the beginning.

The organisers stressed the importance of including sufficient representation of state and non state actors in national data partnerships. For the first part of this initiative, which focused on building the groundwork and engaging in global exchanges, the following stakeholders were invited to represent the countries:

- **SDG Coordination Unit / Lead Ministries:** representing key data users for development planning and programming, as well as for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They are also responsible for coordinating the review process of the SDGs.
- **National Statistics Offices:** representing key producers of official and statistical SDG data. They also set quality standards for data collection and use.
- **Civil Society Organisations and Networks:** representing key producers and users of alternative SDG data, namely CGD. In that role, civil society has a high potential to help filling knowledge gaps with a particular focus on marginalised communities, fostering a more inclusive SDG process.
- **National Human Rights Institutions:** representing key producers of human rights data that is often related to the SDGs. They also have a "bridging" role between civil society and government and can ensure a rights driven and accountable process with the inclusion of rights holders in the process.

Virtual Workshop Series, Peer exchange, and Coaching

This process was originally planned as a two day in person workshop in the margins of the Partners for Review Network meeting. The COVID 19 pandemic required a complete adaptation of the plans and the format of the workshop was adapted to meet the new reality, which came with unexpected challenges and opportunities. The organisers took advantage of the restrictions and designed a five month virtual process which created a regular space and structure for stakeholders from different country teams to solidify their ideas for partnerships. The change also demanded stronger levels of commitment from both the organisers and the participants. Further, considering the large geographical spread of the participating countries and related timing problems, the group was separated into two cohorts to be able to hold the sessions at times that were convenient to all participants.

The process was designed to help build solid foundations of trust in each country team and to build capacity and connections among all the country teams. To support the process, the initiative was accompanied by a team of professional facilitators from [Reos Partners](#), an international social enterprise that helps teams of stakeholders make progress together on their most important issues.

The first step of working together was an onboarding session to consolidate the key actors from each country, inform them about the forthcoming process, map entry points for their collaboration, and prepare for the following months. The process included a series of virtual workshops, peer exchange, and country team coaching. It encompassed a mixture of technical contributions from external partners, cross country knowledge exchange, and guided in country discussions to identify country priorities and build concrete plans for a sustained data partnership for the SDGs.

"This whole process is very exciting and full of learning. Learning about collaboration and teamwork, as well as how to identify and analyze data gaps."

Each workshop included dimensions of strengthening the country team dynamics through agreements, team alignment, and reflection. It also held space for the participants to gather in their country team configurations to work on their country roadmaps and project plans. Further, country teams met individually between workshops in a self organised manner to integrate the workshop inputs into their projects and prepare for upcoming workshops.

The workshops included presentations by world leaders on data, stakeholder engagement, human rights, and other relevant areas. These include the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), and Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Alongside the workshop series, country teams were offered individualised, tailored support for their national initiatives and needs. Before the final workshop and delivery of their project plans, country teams gathered for two unique sessions to address their needs and challenges and bring their partnership to the next step. This support allowed county teams to create synergies among their stakeholder groups and establish a common understanding of their problems and possible solutions.

Finally, the process included a peer exchange on a shared area of interest between the Filipino country team and key actors in Colombia, namely the national statistical office (DANE) and the national human rights institution (Defensoría del Pueblo). This exchange was aimed to inspire the development of the collaborative pathway in the Philippines by leveraging the experience and findings of a similar process in Colombia.

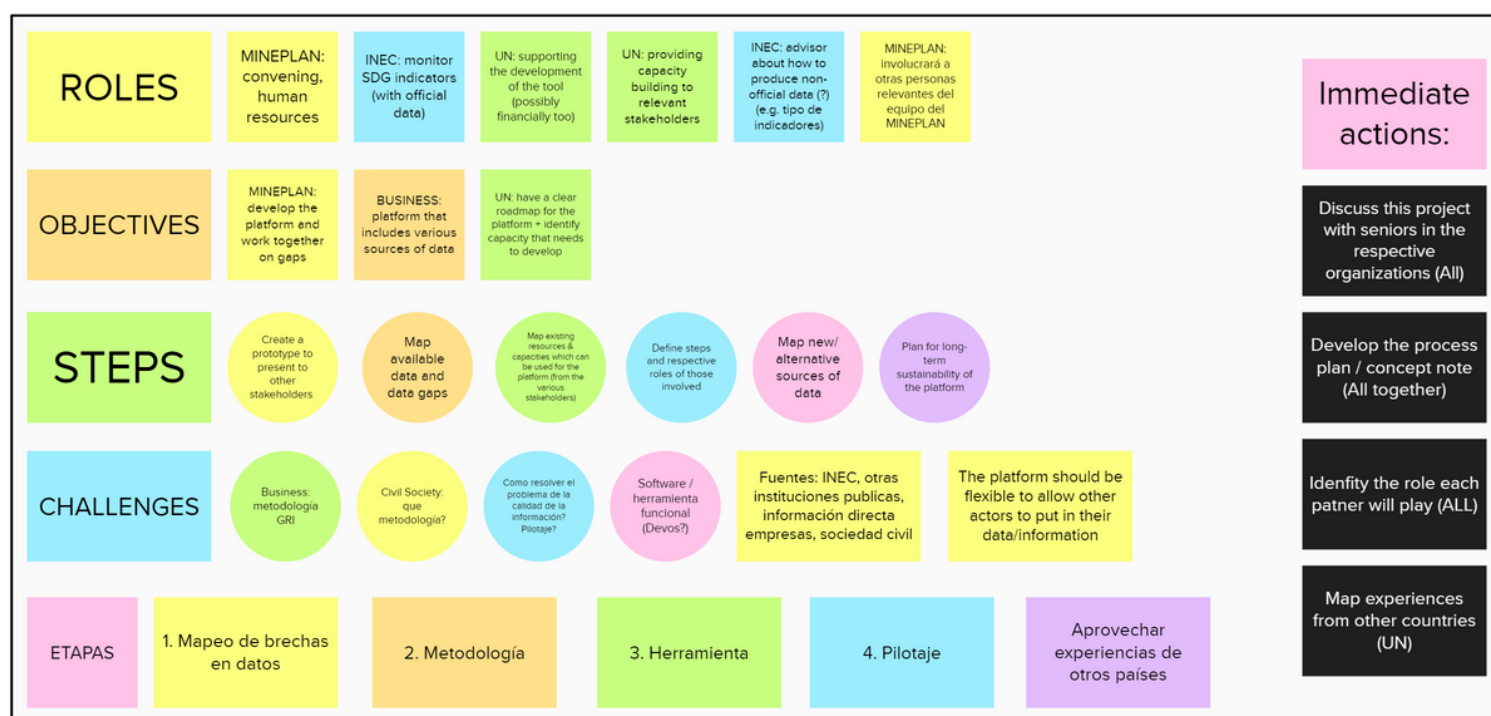
The process was designed to help build solid foundations of trust in each country team and to build capacity and connections among all the country teams.

PATHWAY TOWARDS SDG DATA PARTNERSHIPS

The first phase of this initiative focused on key four areas of concern identified by the participants and the organisers. These areas were carefully selected to address some structural challenges of establishing and sustaining data partnerships. The experience offers guidance and inspiration to future data partnerships. Nonetheless, the following pathway should not be understood as exhaustive steps. This initiative was constrained by limitations of time and format (except for a few country teams, most meetings were only held virtually due to the global pandemic). Future efforts to replicate this experience should consider context and possibilities of implementation.

This process intended to support key actors learning through peer exchange and reflection. As such, it encouraged and incorporated a culture of learning and frequent moments of peer exchange. This initiative invited participants to bring in their experiences and share them, with hopes of inspiring others with practices that they could adapt and use in their projects and contexts. Participants also benefited from the contributions made by experts and multilateral organisations on the respective topics of the workshops.

This initiative invited participants to bring in their experiences and share them, with hopes of inspiring others with practices that they could adapt and use in their projects and contexts.



1: Collective Gap Analysis and Data Mapping

Identifying where there are data gaps and mapping alternative sources are important first steps in filling the data gap. The three objectives of the first workshop included:

- exchanging on the practice of gap analysis and data mapping,
- setting group norms, goals, and success criteria in country teams, and
- agreeing on a data topic for each country to pilot during the process.

Following this session, the participants were tasked with conducting a collective gap analysis for the goal or target of their priority. In addition, they agreed to identify existing and potential data sources to fill the gaps in official monitoring on the respective topic. Additional data sources included non-official data and administrative data from the participating institutions and other relevant actors in the countries.

Guidance and experience shared on collaboration to identify potential data sources

The PARIS21 provides capacity development training and guidance to low and middle income countries advocating the integration of reliable data in decision making and coordinating donor support with the statistics offices. Their presentation in the workshop focused on the experience led by the Philippines Statistical Authority (PSA), with the support of PARIS21, to collaborate with civil society and explore the use of their CGD to close data gaps in the national SDG monitoring.

PARIS21 defines CGD as data produced by non state actors, which is actively given by citizens, and that is produced for tackling issues that affect citizens. Based on their experience, they have identified three key steps for using CGD: (1) define quality criteria; (2) assign scores to the quality criteria; (3) establish a minimum quality standard.

In 2020, PARIS21 published documentation of the case study on the use of CGD in the Philippines. The study describes the Filipino process of identifying data gaps and potential indicators that can be covered by CGD. In this process, PSA coordinated with CSOs to conduct a mapping and identify data that is fit for purpose to close existing gaps. This study also includes the follow up process to get the collaboration for the use of CGD up and running at a sub national level.

Tools and Resources

- [Reusing Citizen-Generated Data for Official Reporting \(PARIS21\)](#)
- [Use of Citizen-Generated Data for SDG Reporting in the Philippines: A Case Study \(PARIS21\)](#)

2: Stakeholder Engagement

Capacitating the actors to adequately and confidently identify and engage with key stakeholders was the focus of the second workshop. To accomplish this, the session supported the country teams to cultivate trust in themselves, in their relationships, and in the structures and processes that surrounded their work. Through a peer exchange assignment, the actors conducted interviews with other key stakeholders in the process to gain new perspectives and co discover what they can give and what is needed from them. Actors walked away from this workshop with clarity and understanding about each other's concrete roles and interests in this collaboration. With this knowledge, in this and subsequent workshops, participants began developing their project ideas to pilot a national data partnership.

Guidance and experience shared on stakeholder engagement

UN DESA, in partnership with UNDP, gave a joint presentation offering participants practical guidance on stakeholder engagement. Concretely, they provided a preview of their new assessment framework to analyse the quality of stakeholder engagement in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda. The framework provides a tool to plan and review the engagement of stakeholders in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.

The stakeholder engagement framework can be used both as a planning tool, a self assessment, and an analytical framework to measure the quality of stakeholder engagement in SDG processes. UNDP and UNDESA offered the participating countries the opportunity to test the framework in their data partnership and their other SDG processes.

In addition, UN DESA highlighted its free and self paced stakeholder engagement online course, developed in partnership with UNITAR. The course is accompanied by a guide that includes concepts around stakeholder engagement, the 2030 Agenda, and several tools on issues such as stakeholder engagement and mapping, and tips on preparing a budget related to stakeholder engagement activities.

Tools and Resources

- [A Framework to Analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in Implementation and Follow Up of the 2030 Agenda \(UNDP and UNDESA\)](#)
- [Free Course: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement for the Implementation and Review of the 2030 Agenda \(UNDESA and UNITAR\)](#)

Peer Exchange on Stakeholder Engagement

The Canadian and Palestinian teams both had significant experience in stakeholder engagement before joining the process. The two teams were invited to share their experiences.

Experience from Canada with Stakeholder Engagement

After the 2015 signing of the 2030 Agenda, early collaboration across sectors set Canada up with a strong foundation from which they could build. It took time until the national SDG unit was created with a strong mandate at the federal government level, and that Statistics Canada received support for the SDGs work in the 2018 budget. Before that, many organisations started exploring the implications of Canada being a part of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda at the institutional level. Conversations across the country were highly fragmented, and work on the SDGs was happening in silos.

In 2016 and 2017, numerous partners from across sectors came together to host a national conversation series on Canada and the SDGs, engaging hundreds of organisations across the country. 94% of survey respondents felt like Canada needed a centralised infrastructure to continue the conversation because there was this hidden mosaic of momentum at the institutional level across sectors and no one was talking to each other.

Alliance 2030, a multi stakeholder platform collectively run across multiple organisations, was created in response, improving the understanding of who was doing what across the country. The platform was an avenue to connect and engage with stakeholders from across sectors and start centralising efforts in a context in which essential infrastructure like the SDG unit, had not yet been created.

Alliance 2030 remains an active platform that helps with storytelling, connecting the dots, and hosting the SDG database and currently has over 1600 organisations signed on. It created an interesting starting point to begin stakeholder engagement that built momentum across sectors in Canada to create the foundation on which they built their response to the SDGs.

Experience from the Palestinian Territories with Stakeholder Engagement

In the Palestinian Territories, the initiative and formulation of a national team to follow up on the implementation of the SDGs was based on the following three main points: (1) participation of the stakeholders, (2) lessons learned from the process of following up on implementing the Millennium Development Goals, and (3) deep rooted conviction of the decision makers that the government alone cannot meet the needs of development.

The complementarity of available resources between partners from government, civil society, and private sector, is key for development. Based on this point, in April 2016, the Palestinian Ministerial Council adopted a decision to adopt a national team to follow up and implement the SDGs with the membership of representatives of the government, civil society, private sector, and independent experts. This team was responsible for identifying the national priority for the SDGs, enhancing the coordination and cooperation between all related partners, integrating the SDGs into Development Planning and Budgeting processes, and leading the voluntary national review and the implementation of the SDGs. The national team decided to form national working groups for each SDG (the SDG teams), led by the government institution related to the respective goal. The teams included members from various national partners, stakeholders from civil society and development sectors, the national human rights commission, and the relevant United Nations agencies. These working groups were assembled in a process that included a coordination council that reviewed nominations for representatives from civil society and private sector institutions. It also included a mechanism for recommending additional stakeholders to the process. The national team, led by the Prime Minister's Office, was supported by a steering committee to follow up on its decisions and recommendations. They also requested a focal point from the UN for each SDG to coordinate on the UN's behalf.

This platform created a critical space for dialogue and coordination in the country, but it still faces challenges. For example, there is a need to improve the representativeness and diversity of data providers for some SDGs. There are also challenges related to the knowledge and capacity of group members to be able to carry out their tasks, as well as challenges related to commitment and expectations by group members. Some institutional challenges include weakness of some groups' ability to coordinate, lack of data and information regarding Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for target and indicators, and lack of capacity to integrate the priorities towards the target in the related sector plan and related budget.

3: Understanding Non-Official Data and its Role

Developing an understanding of what CGD and human rights data are and how country teams could use them in their projects was the focus of the third workshop. This workshop offered participants an opportunity to receive inputs from external partners at the UNSD, the GPSDD, and the DIHR. They gained insights into the challenges and opportunities for using CGD and human rights data, and the importance of planning and collaborating for data quality in their national projects.

“Human Rights defenders are fighting for smooth access to information.

The techniques, strategies, tools, and plans from this process will contribute to improving access to information in general.”

Guidance and Experience Shared on Human Rights Data

The DIHR is an organising partner in this data partnership process, promotes and protects human rights and equal treatment in Denmark and abroad. Their presentation focused on understanding the value of human rights data and on how to take a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to SDG monitoring. More than 90% of the SDG targets are connected to core international human rights instruments (treaties and conventions); therefore, they are not two different things but rather two interrelated agendas. The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs is a database and online tool that easily allows the users to identify how the SDG targets connect to the human rights, environmental, and labour treaties and standards.

The purpose of having an inclusive data partnership is to ensure that countries leverage all the relevant data that is out there, including CGD and human rights data. They allow actors to meaningfully monitor the SDGs using this variety of data to fulfill the pledge to leave no one behind.

To effectively fulfil their purpose and contribute to leaving no one behind, the Data Partnerships must adopt a HRBA to data. This includes ensuring free, active, and meaningful **participation** of everyone involved; improving **data disaggregation** to go beyond the national averages; allowing for **self identification** in data collection processes; attaining to high standards of **privacy** and confidentiality practices; and, lastly, enabling an environment and mechanisms to provide for **transparency** and **accountability**.

The human rights community, institutions, mechanisms, and data have experience and guidance in providing support for HRBA. NHRIs, for example, are well placed to advise data partnerships on the HRBA and provide human rights data for SDG monitoring and review. They can also partner with NSOs to improve data collection and data disaggregation in accordance with human rights standards.

Finally, the data produced by human rights monitoring mechanisms and institutions not only points to the problem, which any data would enable to visualise but goes a step beyond. It provides concrete recommendations on actions that countries must take to fulfil their human rights obligations. By doing so, countries will further implementation of the related SDGs. The SDG Human Rights Data Explorer is a tool that links the human rights recommendations to the respective SDG goals and targets. It can be used to facilitate the recycling of human rights reporting and SDG reporting to enable coherent national narratives on related issues.

Tools and Resources

- [The SDG: Human Rights Data Explorer \(DIHR\)](#)
- [Indicators and Data for Human Rights and Sustainable Development \(DIHR\)](#)
- [The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs \(DIHR\)](#)
- [Toolbox on SDGs and Human Rights \(DIHR\)](#)
- [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data - Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(OHCHR\)](#)
- [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation \(OHCHR\)](#)



The SDG wheel with a blue dove in the center is often used as a symbol to reflect the interface between the 2030 Agenda and Human Rights. The dove is the international human rights logo and in combination with the SDG wheel it represents the aspiration to have the human rights-based approach at the heart of sustainable development processes.

Guidance and Experience Shared on Citizen-Generated Data

CGD data can be a crucial element for policy development for the SDGs. Concretely, CGD is at the heart of three out of the five core principles of the 2030 Agenda, including leaving no one behind, being inclusive and giving voice to the people, and building a multi stakeholder partnership.

Better Use of Citizen-Generated Data for Public Policy: a Quality Assurance Toolkit

UNSD presented their latest thinking on a quality assurance toolkit they are developing to facilitate better use of non-official data for public policy, particularly CGD. This toolkit will provide a checklist of what CGD producers might consider for their data collection processes. It will also help identify areas in line with the quality requirements for official statistics and areas that deviate from what is required by official statistics.

In essence, the toolkit will provide a framework to plan and document the process of data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination. The proper planning and documentation of CGD can increase trust and lead to the production of more sound data which, over time, can help CGD to gain traction with key decision makers.

The toolkit will align with the UN Quality Assurance Framework for official statistics and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. The UNSD team was developing its draft at the time of the workshop. The toolkit will be tested by some of the participating countries in this initiative, and their experiences will feed into the development of the framework.



Experiences with Promoting and Using Citizen-Generated Data

The GPSDD is a global network sponsored by the UN Foundation to foster collaboration to ensure the new opportunities created by the data revolution are used to achieve the SDGs. They presented insights and lessons learned from GPSDD's engagements in the Philippines, Kenya, and other countries where they have worked together with NSOs and local civil society to develop shared guidelines and rules for the generation and use of non-official data in the SDG context.

CGD intends to complement official data, provide nuance, give voice to data, and enable people's rights. GPSDD focuses on strengthening the relationship between CGD and the SDGs through citizenship, monitoring, and implementation. They hypothesise that if they improve the production and use of data, as well as the collaboration and network of partnerships that surround the data, then they are creating a pathway and providing a solution to make the world better. They aim to do this by connecting institutions with one another, catalysing action and convening to bring together like minded actors who are thinking about data and data ecosystems, and communicating why is it important to invest in data.

Among other things, GPSDD supports the infrastructure and community around CGD with the involvement of citizens, communities, and CSOs, and they are working to strengthen the CGD network. They are also fostering the institutionalisation of mechanisms to use CGD as well as building trust in CGD through the development of quality standards and quality assurance guidelines. Finally, GPSDD is strengthening and raising the profile of CGD by increasing the number of interested parties and building momentum among organisations to champion the use of CGD.

Tools and Resources

- [Citizen-Generated Data in Kenya: a Practical Guide \(GPSDD\)](#)
- [Choosing and Engaging with Citizen-Generated Data: A Guide \(GPSDD\)](#)
- [Making Use of Citizen-Generated Data \(GPSDD\)](#)
- [How to Use Community Data to Deliver Agenda 2030 \(LNOB Partnership\)](#)
- [How Communities Can Fill Data Gaps on People with Disabilities \(LNOB Partnership\)](#)
- [Six Key Steps for Using Personal and Community Data Safely \(LNOB Partnership\)](#)
- [Indigenous Navigator: Citizen-Generated Data Collection Tool on Indigenous Peoples](#)

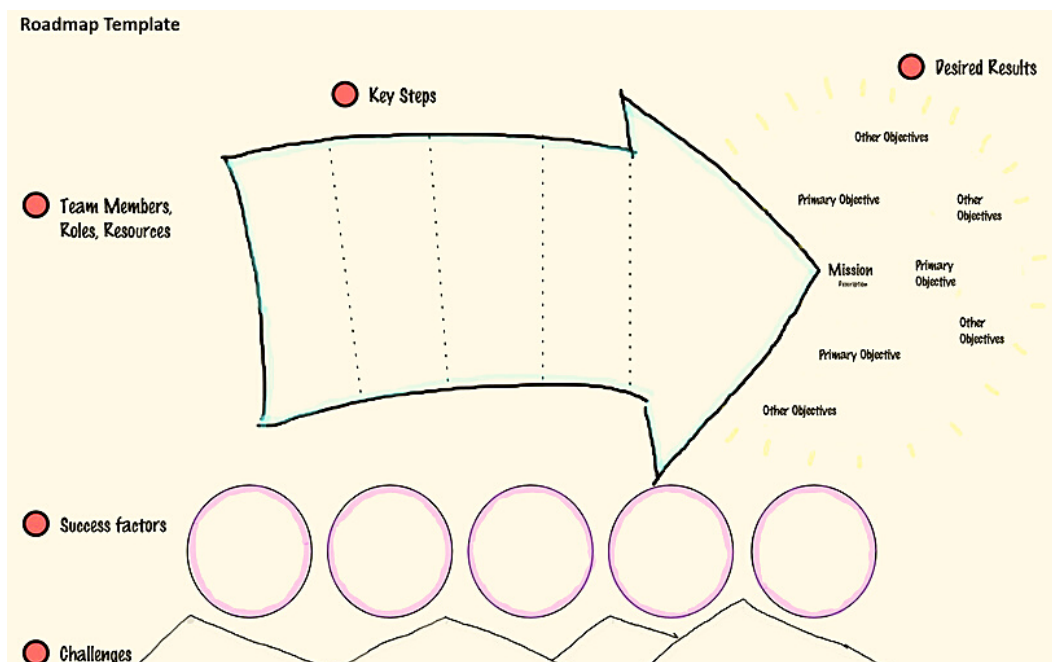
4: Developing Roadmaps to Pilot a National Data Partnership

Following the third workshop the country teams began a process of developing their plans for national initiatives, built jointly by the members of the team. This process included planned dialogue, coaching sessions, sessions to address a group challenge, and deliberations.

Throughout the process, country teams were provided with a semi structured space to digest and discuss the contents above, with a view of finding common grounds for their national data partnerships. The various aspects of using alternative data for SDG monitoring were discussed either in exchanges between the country teams or within them. Those discussions allowed the teams to create synergies among stakeholder groups and establish a common understanding of their problems and possible solutions. Developing the national roadmaps demanded country teams meet autonomously between the organised sessions to follow up on assignments or discuss the next steps.

The fourth and final workshop took place in March 2021. In this workshop, country teams presented their plans and, in some cases, concrete roadmaps for bringing their partnerships to life. Together, the teams narrowed down the **scope for their collaboration** and agreed on **key objectives**. They also identified **success factors, challenges, key steps**, and **roles and responsibilities** of involved actors. At the time of writing this report, some of these countries' roadmaps were already getting off the ground. The planning template used by countries to develop their roadmaps can be found in Annex III.

At the conclusion of this process, there was a diversity of outcomes regarding where this process led each of the six country teams. Overall there was a great sense of learning, progress, knowledge shared and gained. More details on the individual country outcomes can be found in Annex II.



LEARNINGS AND TIPS FOR SETTING UP NATIONAL DATA PARTNERSHIPS



Over a period of five months, this initiative revealed to the country teams, organising partners, and process facilitators what it takes to convene, launch and collaborate for an SDG data partnership that is truly cross sectoral. With the added challenge of being conducted amidst a global pandemic, this process was full of learnings and realisations related to successfully setting up and facilitating SDG data partnerships. This chapter summarises the learnings gathered through the process.

Tips on the Process of Setting Up National SDG Data Partnerships:

Leverage and amplify existing resources and initiatives

- Understand what data is already being gathered, what it is being used for, and what its potential is to fill existing data gaps;
- Explore and leverage existing mechanisms and processes, including existing partnerships;
- Seek and build on procedural synergies, shared interests, and benefits.

Involve key actors from the beginning and create a safe space for co creation

- Develop a joint vision with the stakeholders and avoid starting with a predeveloped framework for the partnership;
- Get clarity about what each actor has to offer and hopes to gain, and create a safe space for stakeholders to carve and understand their roles;
- Adjust expectations based on each actor's limitations to avoid false hopes and perceptions about what each actor can contribute.

Build a common goal, clear outcome, and roles as a starting point

- Define a common purpose and objectives together early on in the process;
- Agree on clear roles and responsibilities;
- Focus on tangible outcomes from the outset and engage stakeholders around their role in seeing these outcomes achieved;
- Develop a roadmap and remain open to adapt and accommodate newly found needs and interests, while keeping to the agreed vision.

Exchange and leverage existing knowledge

- There is a great deal of experience and good practice around the world. Bring in examples from relevant projects and initiatives with similar goals and build on existing resources and experiences to tackle your challenges;
- Foster country level peer exchanges, supporting peers to share and learn from each other.

Create ownership

- Identify benefits for all partners and accommodate their interests in the planning process, seeking to realise them in pursuit of the common goal;
- Action and outcome oriented teamwork can enhance ownership. Each partner must be given tasks that match both their interest and capacities;
- When working in multicultural environments, create spaces where stakeholders can speak in their mother tongue. Effective means of communication is fundamental to understand and be understood.

Other general tips:

- Identify “champions” who are committed and have additional capacities available. They can lay the groundwork for some of the more complex tasks in the joint planning process and help develop structures that facilitate the engagement of the other stakeholders (e.g. developing templates for a project plan, an advocacy strategy, a communication plan);
- Timing can be an important element of success. It takes patience to get good results;
- Take advantage of virtual set ups when possible, but also consider when you can achieve more face to face.

“My involvement in data partnership affected my appreciation of the work that all stakeholders do to make sure data is accurate and representative.”

Tips for the Successful Facilitation and Support of SDG Data Partnerships:

Keep things simple. Partnerships are complex because they fundamentally include diverse perspectives and expertise. At times, it can be challenging to get clarity and guidance on how to manage them. Reducing the complexity of the partnership setup can enable partners to focus on what is truly important. Some tips for simplification:

- Speak a language that everybody can understand, avoiding the use of jargon and acronyms wherever possible;
- Make sure that all stakeholders understand the key working terminologies (e.g. “citizen-generated data”, “human rights data”);
- Build a simple but powerful vision that is attractive to all;
- Create an easy workflow with a clear results framework;
- In virtual processes, choose communication channels and features that are inclusive to all and easy to use.

Build a culture of empathy. Partners must be willing to listen to and understand the point of view of others, as well as be open to changing their perceptions and making concessions.

Provide safe spaces for group members to discuss agreements and disagreements. Don't expect rigid outcomes for the process. Allow the partners to explore their paths in honest conversations and arrive at their own unique, context appropriate solutions.



©International Civil Society Centre

Conduct interviews with partners at the beginning of the process. Capture their motivations and expectations to build your process roadmap and discuss your findings in the first meeting with all partners.

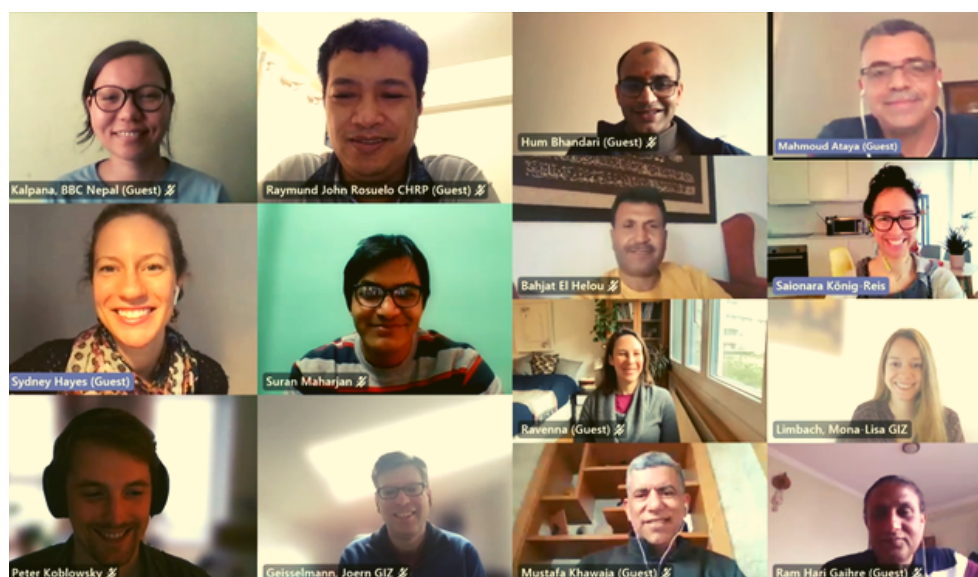
Draw a process roadmap. Always provide clarity on the next steps to help participants prepare and think ahead. Remain flexible and adapt to changing needs of participants. Regularly check in with participants on the process road map.

Offer a good mix of technical inputs and peer exchange. Combine technical discussions in the plenary with spaces for small groups to digest the information together. Agreements and progress are easier to be achieved when people regularly interact on the issues of interest.

Offer sessions for troubleshooting. When the process or dialogue gets stuck, consider offering tailored coaching sessions. These kinds of touch points create a platform to tackle concrete challenges and can help the group find solutions to move forward.

Be adaptable. Constantly review and, if necessary, revise your facilitation approach. E.g. consider whether participants need more or less time to deal with a specific work step or if additional expertise from a third party is needed. This will help to offer participants more tailored support and attention to unique challenges and circumstances in the overall process.

Identify focal points in the groups. It can be helpful to have a contact person in the working group who is specifically engaged to facilitate the group work from within, as a trusted peer, when needed.



CONCLUSION

Achieving the SDGs requires that progress and lags are being effectively monitored and reported. Monitoring and reporting can pinpoint where meeting the goals is on track, where progress is uneven, and where new approaches and attention are needed. Existing official statistics are not enough to meet these monitoring and reporting needs. To fill the gap, alternative data sources, many of which already exist like CGD and human rights data, can complement official statistics to meet the SDG data challenge and ensure that no one is left behind.

Using alternative data sources to complement official statistics, however, is no simple task. The rules and roles required to ensure reliable data quality, the understanding of what these data sources are and mean, and how they can be used, are often unclear. Accordingly, addressing SDG data gaps, and leveraging alternative data sources requires inclusive SDG partnerships that are built on mutual trust, ownership, and acknowledgement of each other's roles.

A key success factor for such partnerships is the spirit of co-creation. Prefabricated solutions and relying exclusively on existing structures and processes might not always be a practical way forward for some of the involved actors. To ensure meaningful engagement, solutions have to be found jointly and consider the needs and capacities of partners.

This report has summarised the initial experience and learnings generated by the SDG Data Partnerships initiative which aims to support an enabling environment for inclusive collaborations. It offers practical support and insights to other actors who may want to enter into or support data partnerships. The process was rich in sharing good practices and generating new learning for both partners engaging in national SDG data partnership and conveners and facilitators of similar processes.

The experience revealed that inclusive SDG data partnerships are not easy or straightforward, and there is no fixed model which fits all needs. Getting them right requires bringing together technical expertise, excellent collaboration skills, strong project management, perseverance, and a great deal of commitment from all parties.



Inclusive data partnerships require time, trust, dialogue, and a willingness to continuously learn and adapt. At the same time, they present rich opportunities, not only for bridging the SDG data gap but also for enriching practice. Many who were willing to engage in this process discovered new allies, new ways of thinking, and a broadened understanding of the potential of non-official data for the SDG process.

At its core, this process revealed that there are good chances of closing the SDG data gaps when countries work through inclusive data partnerships. Achieving this will take time and commitment from many actors; those who produce data, those who use data, those who bring technical expertise, and those who can support collaboration. These partnerships require an extra effort from all parties involved and an understanding of the complementarity of their work. They are challenging, but they are feasible. Above all, they are necessary for countries to make progress on leaving no one behind.

For the SDG Data Partnerships initiative, this initial process was just the beginning. The organisers P4R, DIHR, and ICSC will continue to work with partners in the countries and in the international community to share the knowledge from this process and inspire further collaborative paths to close the SDG data gaps. They will also continue to support selected participating countries in the implementation of the roadmaps they have prepared in this first phase to consolidate their inclusive national SDG data partnerships.

Overarching considerations when developing successful data partnerships:

- Ensure there is a mutual willingness and capacity for collaboration and teamwork;
- Agree on a common starting point, e.g. jointly identify which are the SDG targets or indicators which best offer an entry point for piloting a collaboration;
- Formulate realistic overarching goals for the collaboration;
- Identify relevant actors and potential data contributors and onboard them in the process from the onset of the initiative;
- Agree on which are the marginalised groups affected by the scope of the collaboration, and on the steps to include them in the process;
- Develop a mutual understanding of the priorities, roles, capacities, and limitations of all involved actors to guide the expectations, rules, and standards of the partnership;
- Conduct tailored capacity building for (a) non-official data providers to get closer to official quality standards and (b) NSOs and government to incorporate non-official data in the SDG processes.

ANNEX I: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Canada SDG Unit, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
Canada Statistics Canada
Canada Canadian Human Rights Commission
Canada MaRS Discovery District
Canada International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Canada Canadian Council for International Cooperation
Canada Community Foundations of Canada
Costa Rica Ministry of Planning
Costa Rica Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos
Costa Rica Defensoría del Pueblo
Costa Rica Plataforma de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil para el Cumplimiento de los ODS
Costa Rica UN Costa Rica
Costa Rica Business Association AED (Alianza Empresarial para el Desarrollo)
Ghana National Development Planning Commission
Ghana Ghana Statistical Service
Ghana Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
Ghana Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs/SEND GHANA
Ghana GIZ Ghana
Nepal National Planning Commission
Nepal Central Bureau of Statistics
Nepal National Human Rights Commission
Nepal VSO Nepal
Nepal Beyond Beijing Committee
Nepal NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)
Nepal Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)
Palestinian Territories Office of the Prime Minister
Palestinian Territories Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
Palestinian Territories Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR)
Palestinian Territories Islamic Relief Palestine (IRPAL)
Philippines The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Philippines Philippine Statistics Authority
Philippines National Commission on Human Rights
Philippines Tebtebba

ANNEX II: COUNTRY OUTCOMES AND THE WAY FORWARD

The publication of this report and the sharing of key findings and learnings from this experience marks the completion of Phase One of the Data Partnership initiative. Phase Two, focusing on the national implementation of the pilot projects, now begins. Phase Two will entail ongoing support from the organising partners, as well as fundraising and the use of available resources and capacities at the national level.

Please note: The next steps to be taken will be determined based on the results of ongoing stakeholder conversations at the national level and the availability of additional funding.

Canada



Participating Institutions

SDG Unit, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Statistics Canada

Canadian Human Rights Commission

MaRS Discovery District

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Canadian Council for International Cooperation

Community Foundations of Canada

Key Learnings and Takeaways from the First Phase

The initiative helped deepen the Canadian team members' relationships with their national partners, and developed new relationships that will continue beyond the SDG Data Partnerships initiative. It also capacitated the team to leverage feedback in order to work towards clear objectives and think strategically about what it will take to engage the right stakeholders in the process of promoting the use of non-official data for SDG monitoring.

Their participation in this partnership process enhanced relationships by bringing greater connectivity and awareness to what partners are doing, the role they play in the Canadian data ecosystem, and which SDGs they are primarily engaged with. One participant remarked, “our relationships are now based on a joint undertaking that will lead to a common vision.” The team discovered that there are many opportunities in the country to use existing data for more complementary and more inclusive SDG monitoring, including disaggregated data that has already been collected.

As a result of this process, there is a clear commitment among a subset of participants from Canada to find a solution to bring stakeholders together around an SDG data partnership. Participants from the Canada team intend to help reignite the momentum for SDG implementation in Canada by getting the best out of Canada's data wealth.

The Canada team seeks to benefit from additional and ongoing cross country sharing, discussion, and lessons learned on specific issues such as governance and communication. They would like to make sure that global good practices are being promoted and adopted down to the municipal level in Canada. They see part of their role being to make good practices accessible and actionable to stakeholders across sectors.

Project Focus & Objectives for the Second Phase

The country team will focus on supporting inclusive SDG monitoring by Canadian cities and communities. The partnership will be mission driven focusing on one or several specific issue area(s). The issue areas are planned to be either a specific SDG or a priority covering several SDGs (e.g. green transition, poverty, resilient recovery). They will be determined by national multi stakeholder meetings, planned for the second half of 2021.

“This process helped deepen relationships with Canadian partners and develop new ones. We now help re-igniting the momentum for SDG implementation in Canada by getting the best out of Canada's data wealth.”

Costa Rica



Participating Institutions

Ministry of Planning

Plataforma de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil Para el Cumplimiento de los ODS

UN Costa Rica

Business Association AED (Alianza Empresarial para el Desarrollo)

Defensoría del Pueblo

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos

Key Learnings and Takeaways from the First Phase

The SDG Data Partnerships initiative provided the Costa Rica team with an opportunity to convene, think collectively, and listen to each other. It also offered them the possibility to consider non-official data for SDG monitoring. While at the beginning the team experienced challenges in getting all of the stakeholders to agree on a shared vision, this process helped them to list their different expectations and provided the basis for the team to build common understanding and a shared goal.

Their relationships were enhanced nationally, getting the National Statistics Institute to commit to the process, and internationally, learning about and exchanging with other participating countries, and receiving support from the organising partners. The team found this kind of contact very useful to learn and develop their capabilities.

The team intends to continue to share experiences and work jointly together to tackle their common challenges, specifically how to effectively integrate non-official data into national SDG monitoring processes and use it to improve public policy.

Project Focus & Objectives for the Second Phase

The Costa Rica team will focus on developing a multi stakeholder platform to visualise official and non-official data. Their mission is to build an accessible, regular, and updated SDG monitoring website, including data from various sources, to increase accountability for the 2030 Agenda.

Their starting point for the pilot project is SDGs 8, 12, 13, and potentially SDG 16, which are areas of significant data gaps in official statistics. They also aim to integrate human rights data into this platform to facilitate access to Costa Rica's international commitments and their level of implementation. It is planned that the multi stakeholder platform for data will be included as part of a national plan for SDG monitoring, with the Costa Rican group participating in this process alongside the national Consultative Committee for the SDGs.

“At the beginning we [Costa Rica team] had many challenges getting all of the stakeholders to agree on a shared vision. This process helped us to list our expectations and gave us the basis to build something together.”

Ghana



Participating Institutions

National Development Planning Commission
Ghana Statistical Service
Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs/SEND Ghana
GIZ Ghana

Key Learnings and Takeaways from the First Phase

The first phase of the initiative brought the Ghanaian participants together to explore the relevance and importance of non-official data, and the need to disaggregate data further, especially on gender issues. The team is committed to working in new configurations on gender issues and mapping other issues that they can contribute to with non-official data.

COVID 19 has made virtual meetings inevitable; this was challenging for Ghanaian team members who experience problems with access to effective internet. As a result, active participation throughout this virtual process was sometimes low.

Despite these challenges, the Ghana team established new platforms of communication whereby data sharing will be enhanced in the future. Participants also explored new technologies and virtual platforms that made participation in this project possible. One participant shared about their progress, “All virtual meetings I rely on my ICT experts to set up for me. Now I participate with confidence and with ease.”

The experiences in the initiative have contributed to strengthening the relationship between the members of the country team. As a concrete follow up, the Ghanaian NHRI (CHRAJ) is, at the time of writing, finalising an internal data map to identify which of the data they produce is adequate to contribute to the monitoring of specific SDG targets. The study will identify the adequacy of CHRAJ's data for the calculation of related SDG indicators. It will also assess the potential for contributing qualitative data to reporting narratives and policy making, as well as non representative quantitative data with a focus on specific communities or regions. The study is being developed in consultation with the statistics office and the national planning commission and is expected to enable better use of CHRAJ's data in the national SDG processes.

Project Focus & Objectives for the Second Phase

The participation of the Ghana country team was focused on improving data availability related to gender and in general to leave no one behind. The specific focus of a long term collaboration following this initiative is yet to be agreed upon among participants.

“From this project, I have recognised the importance of unofficial data which hitherto I took for granted. It has brought us more closer with NSO and the NGO forum on the relevance of unofficial data. We have also created a whatsapp platform where data sharing will be enhanced.”

Nepal



Participating Institutions

National Planning Commission
Central Bureau of Statistics
National Human Rights Commission
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Nepal
Beyond Beijing Committee
NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)
Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)

Key Learnings and Takeaways from the First Phase

The Data Partnerships initiative has led the Nepalese team to strengthened relationships and expanded networks, both nationally and internationally, with colleagues and relevant stakeholders working towards common action for CGD and other SDG data initiatives. From understanding the importance of partnerships for the generation of data for SDGs to planning ahead for creative and impact action, this process was an opportunity for the Nepal team to work together, identify data gaps, and cooperate towards solutions as a group.

Throughout the process, team members from Nepal gained experience in identifying key partners, coordinating amongst stakeholders, and building cooperation. They learned the basic steps to generate data from various perspectives (indicator generation) and to compile data. One participant shared that, “Before engaging in this process, I had not recognised the tasks being performed by me as a citizen data generator. However, after joining, I realised my potential as an actor in the data partnership movement.”

The Nepal team believes that there is much progress yet to come if these relationships sustain and the partnerships continue to grow beyond this process. The initiative taught

the team to think in different ways, and there is full commitment to continue the coordination and cooperation for SDG monitoring and to implement strong action for SDG 5 and 16.

The Nepal team will carry their collaboration forward in a meaningful way with physical meetings amongst the actors and their partners living in Nepal. The actors are fully committed to continued collaboration and wish to design, support, and implement civil society initiatives for data in a way that underlines the principle of leaving no one behind. To advance this movement and the upcoming action in the country, the team will seek to work together in person when they can in order to advance their data partnership and grow their depth of knowledge on the data generation to bring out the voices collectively.

Project Focus & Objectives for the Second Phase

Focusing on SDG 5 and 16, the Nepalese country team is planning to build capacity for youth and women on CGD in general and on the Community Score Card approach in particular to generate qualitative data on marginalised communities in several provinces. In addition, the team wants to develop guidelines for collecting, processing, and disseminating CGD with support from UNSD.

“I learned the basic steps to generate the data from various perspectives including SDG and Human rights. I am fully committed to engage in the citizens generated data process as it can fulfil the gap and empower the community, which is very important in the case of Nepal.”



Palestinian Territories



Participating Institutions

Office of the Prime Minister

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR)

Islamic Relief Palestine (IRPAL)

Key Learnings and Takeaways from the first phase

The first phase of the Data Partnerships initiative has introduced the Palestine team to new processes for monitoring SDGs and relating data processing with HRBA. Because of their involvement in the process, the Palestine team believes that they will be able to improve data collection processes and data partnerships in the Palestinian Territories.

The process also provided the team members with an improved understanding of the roles that all parties in their national team hold when it comes to SDGs and data monitoring. The team has built its capacity to respect time, patience, and commitment to teamwork. The team also noted a significant relationship development with the organisers. One participant shared, “My involvement in data partnership affected my appreciation of the work that all stakeholders do to make sure data is accurate and representative.”

The Palestine team is now taking steps towards developing guidelines for data providers to produce national SDG data. They aim to engage various stakeholders at every level in the process of developing these guidelines to have their voices and inputs heard and addressed. They then will engage a wide diversity of actors in contributing good quality data to complement official data in SDG monitoring and review. They also aim to document and share their tools and experiences to enable governments and institutions to learn from their experience.

Project Focus & Objectives for the second phase

The Palestine team will focus on developing a handbook for data providers to collect, process, and disseminate administrative data for statistical purposes in the Palestinian Territories. Their overall goal is to maintain an updatable database and valid information on the implementation of the SDGs in the Palestinian Territories. The handbook is expected to address several challenges existing in the whole process of filling SDG data gaps, e.g. the instability of focal points, overlap of the responsibilities, the need to standardise templates and methodologies in agreement with data providers.

"The discussion was very fruitful and opened our minds on new dimensions of SDGs monitoring and data collection. We will be able to improve data collection processes and data partnership in Palestine."

Philippines



Participating Institutions

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Philippine Statistics Authority
National Commission on Human Rights
Tebtebba

Key Learnings and Takeaways from the First Phase

The initiative moved the Philippines country processes further along by developing the team's capacities to create roadmaps and realistic timelines for their collective work. The process offered the team an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the

challenges faced by government institutions in terms of monitoring social statistics, and to establish closer coordination with national stakeholders.

One team member remarked that an unexpected outcome of the process was that, “It helped clarify the roles for various parties involved.” Through their experiences in this initiative, participants have developed a better understanding of the circumstances of the various stakeholders involved. Moving forward, the Philippines team intends to implement the roadmap they have created for the monitoring of SDG 16.10.1.

There is a need for institutional commitment if this partnership is going to continue to grow in the Philippines. Country team members have committed to discussing this with the management of their institutions and the possibility remains open. If the partnership is going to continue, the Philippines team will aim to obtain more training and capacity building across the sectors involved in monitoring their chosen SDG indicator.

Project Focus & Objectives for the Second Phase

The Philippines team will focus on developing a data partnership for monitoring and reporting on SDG 16.10.1 in the Philippines. Their primary objective and the key deliverable is to develop specific indicators and a data collection methodology that includes data from civil society, and a data validation process taking into account existing procedures and methodologies e.g. by OHCHR.

“The process allowed us to renew our engagement with the Commission on Human Rights in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples and the Indigenous Navigator tools.”



ANNEX III: TEMPLATE FOR PARTNERSHIP PLANNING

The country teams used the below template to plan their long term engagement at national level:

Focus area <i>Examples:</i> • Specific SDG focus (where there is not enough official data available) • Data about a specific population group (women / people w. disabilities, etc.) • Developing national guidelines for the generation & use of unofficial data • Developing a joint SDG monitoring platform
Desired results <i>mission, primary objective, other targets</i>
Key steps <i>Examples:</i> • Reaching out to the below identified additional stakeholders • Convening all relevant actors to make an agreement on the pilot • Involved parties to sign an MoU, agreeing on goals + roles • Joint fundraising for implementation • Agree on method/framework for research design, data collection and use • Developing mutually recognised data quality assurance framework • Data collection in the field in accordance with the agreed methodology • Joint evaluation of data and agreement on next steps • Scaling-up for ongoing SDG data collaboration at national level
Success factors <i>For the project to succeed, the following conditions should be met...</i>
Challenges perceived <i>The following issues were identified to be the most critical challenges...</i>
Organising team <i>Members of organising team, roles, and responsibility</i>
Other actors involved <i>Which other key actors should be involved in the process? Additional actors, roles, and responsibility</i>
Mutual benefit <i>How would you describe the overarching benefit for all actors (collectively) to be involved in this project?</i> <i>Examples:</i> • Opportunity to bring to use partners' data in official processes (policy making and monitoring) • Uniting forces for a better national SDG monitoring and review that leaves no one behind • Building organisational capacities in data generation and use, following nationally recognised guidelines • Developing a joint platform for SDG monitoring data, open for everyone



Partners for Review



International
Civil Society Centre

THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS