

Implementing the 2030 Agenda: How can our partnership best respond?

The 2030 Agenda, heralds renewed focus on national statistical systems (NSS) to deliver the data needed to monitor and report on countries' progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs with 169 associated targets and 230 unique indicators will require wide-ranging partnerships involving many stakeholders to ensure it is implemented and monitored successfully. During the PARIS21 Annual Meetings, a Marketplace was organised on 5 April 2016 to share various projects, initiatives and tools being implemented by partners. The *Marketplace showcased the following 11 projects:*

Department of Statistics - Jordan: The 2015 Population and Housing Census incorporated new practices that may be adopted in other countries including the creation of a geocoding system, establishment of a call centre to follow-up responses, and use of tablets in data collection that all together reduces processing time and lag time in disseminating results.

Statistics Canada: The Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean is a programme designed to strengthen infrastructure and regional harmonisation in 14 Caribbean countries. The presentation emphasised the demand driven nature of the work with strong links to regional organisations.

AFD and Orange: The Open Algorithm (OPAL) project is a new architectural platform that will allow NSOs to benefit from indicators based on big data from the private sector. It is designed to bring the algorithm to the data and not data to the analyst: *Bring the code to the data.*

Statistics Norway: By developing Sustainable National Statistical Systems, a long-term international development co-operation strategy will support developing countries in Africa and improve their national statistical capacity in the areas of economic statistics, register-based statistics, household surveys, and data quality.

African Development Bank: Through the support of the SDGs and High 5s, AfDB will anchor its statistical support to countries along the 5 operational priorities of the region relating to energy, labour, agriculture, trade and investment, infrastructure, and quality of life in Africa.

UNICEF: The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) supports robust data collection in 108 countries in order to fill data gaps on children's and women's well-being through capacity building in survey design, data processing, and data interpretation, analysis and dissemination.

EUROSTAT: The Pan-African Statistics Program builds on the Strategy for the Harmonisation of African Statistics (SHaSA) and promotes the development of a co-ordinated African Statistical System to make data available for SDG monitoring through capacity building in data production and dissemination as well as data quality.

UNSD: The Development Account Project on Strengthening Capacity for SDG monitoring looks at raising awareness amongst politicians and statisticians by assessing national capacity and gaps in 6 pilot countries in Asia and Africa, discussing country priorities, assisting in the creation of

implementation plans and building implementation capacity through desk studies, workshops, and consultant missions.

Development Initiatives: Joining-up data standards offers a platform to harmonise and make sense of the different and incompatible data standards existing in the data space by mapping publicly available statistical standards using an interpreter (*PoolParty*) based on the Simple Knowledge Organization System.

OECD: Dissemination platform *.Stat* is a web-service centric architecture that serves as central repository or warehouse of validated statistics and related metadata. It is a modular based SDMX model for transferring data in compliance with the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA).

PARIS21: The Innovations Marketplace is an intelligent solution finder for capacity building processes and a repository for innovations in official statistics. It is an online tool that matches innovative solutions to assessments using the GAMSOC conceptual model.

Following the Marketplace, a panel discussion was organised to reflect on what has been successful to date and where improvements can be made to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs at the country level. Panel members and participants agreed that NSSs will play a vital role in monitoring the SDGs. Strengthening the institutions is necessary for NSSs to deliver on the SDG monitoring requirements. The national statistical offices (NSOs) will continue to be the legitimate institution to ensure that high-quality data be used for SDG purposes. In this regard, NSOs will need to strengthen their capacity in order to play the lead role in co-ordinating the NSS. Subsequently, statistical laws will need to be upgraded to give independence to NSOs, establish strong co-ordination mechanisms in the NSS, allow for greater access to existing data (e.g., administrative records, private sector data) and implement data quality standards within the NSS.

Panellists also touched on the importance of change management within the NSS, particularly as it relates to the wider use of data in policies and informed decision making, as well as a harmonised statistical system that would produce data to monitor development results. They agreed that countries should be encouraged to define their capacity building needs, identify means for localising SDGs, and establish ways to co-ordinate sectoral ministries to generate the data needed for the SDGs.

Other recommended actions included the need to widen the scope of co-operation in data production and dissemination to include other non-traditional data sources; bridge statistics with policy and planning; engage regional economic commissions to play a stronger role in bridging national and global data; and present data in more meaningful and informative ways so that policy-makers are able to clearly identify areas of progress and development. Panellists and participants solicited the support of the PARIS21 partners to work with countries to address the actions that partners and countries will need to undertake in order to make the SDGs a success.