DATA FOR CHANGE

Stories about how data and statistics are delivering the Sustainable Development Goals
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INTRODUCTION

The Data for Change campaign presents impact stories from all over the world that show how data and statistics are driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The campaign is coordinated by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). It was created to raise awareness around the need to scale up domestic and international funding to data and statistics and support efforts to produce and use high-quality, timely and disaggregated data to reach the SDGs.
GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Using poverty maps to provide pandemic support to the most vulnerable households in the Philippines

To help identify which communities most needed support during COVID-19, the Asian Development Bank used census and survey data provided by the Philippine Statistics Authority next to satellite imagery and artificial intelligence. Based on the Filipino Bayanihan custom of helping one’s neighbor as a community, the Bayan Bayanihan food programme reached some 174,000 households and 870,000 people in the Philippines.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/mapping-Philippines

“Finally, we have food for our children. We can reallocate our money for paying house bills.”

Rowena de la Cruz
Her family benefitted from an emergency food programme and the power of satellite imagery and survey data.
GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

From research to policymaking with 50x2030 in Ethiopia

By analysing migration, remittance and agricultural data from the Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency, Dr Giorgis Kokeb, Assistant Professor at the Ethiopian Civil Service University, aims to fill research gaps and help identify solutions for policy and infrastructure needs. To support his research on how data can be used for development impact, the 50x2030 Initiative, managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, offered grants to Dr Kokeb and other local researchers.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/data-Ethiopia

How the national statistics office, central bank, journalists and government of Kyrgyzstan together averted a possible food crisis

In 2014, the National Statistics Office of Kyrgyzstan built a media centre to connect more closely with end users of statistics. Previously, media, government, central bank and other members of the public who wanted information had limited access. Increasing the visibility of their statistics and publishing price statistics on a daily basis helped the government and central banks take quick action to avert a possible food crisis and prevent food prices from increasing during the recent COVID-19 crisis.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/price-statistics-Kyrgyzstan
GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Allocating resources at an overcrowded hospital in Tanzania

Dr Omari Mahiza is a paediatrician at Amana Regional Referral Hospital in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The hospital receives a large number of patients coming from the city and neighbouring districts. By collecting more data that demonstrated that it handles an overabundance of patients, the hospital was able to secure a long-overdue increase of funds for the hospital’s staff and resources.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/hospital-data

Equipping local actors with maps for delivering oxygen in Peru

Thanks to Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, GAL Group and over 10,000 remote mapping volunteers, response planners managed to identify houses of patients in rural Peru and secure the distribution of oxygen to three hospitals in Cusco and 900 patients in home care.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/oxygen-Peru

Digitising patient records for improved patient care

An app that digitises patient files has reduced the number of hours health workers at Houphouët-Boigny General Hospital in Côte d’Ivoire spent updating patients’ records by 75 per cent. The hospital now has one instead of four staff members dedicated to managing the filing system, and the HIV/AIDS care unit is now processing an average of 30 more patients and files per day than before.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/patientdata-app
GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Teachers in Madagascar use data to improve the classroom

During a training in Madagascar organised by UNICEF, headmaster Benedicte learned how to use a data dashboard to improve school equipment like tables, seats and bathrooms. Today, 70 per cent of the students can sit in the classroom on proper chairs, compared to 30 per cent not so long ago.

With inputs from teachers like Benedicte, communities are also being given information on the school performance. Since the training, the attendance rate of girls has increased from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/classroom-data

“I had to sit with many others on the ground because there were not enough chairs and tables in our classroom. It made me so tired. I had back pain every time I went to school.”

Melene
11-year-old student
GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

A data-driven approach to fighting domestic violence in Latin America

According to UN Women, in Latin America and the Caribbean more than 3,800 women were victims of femicide in 2019. An analytical model developed by Data-Pop Alliance, GIZ Data Lab and Unidas that combines official statistics and data from alternative sources helped identify the probability and factors for women in the Americas to report domestic violence. Discover the full story here: bit.ly/data-femicide

Gender statistics pave the way to eliminating discrimination against women in Palestine

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Statistics Sweden, training participants from the local health, legal and broadcasting sectors catalysed legal change in Palestine. Their report, which was based on official statistics, shed light on gender-based discrimination and sparked several successful campaigns using the report’s data to advocate for gender equality and the prohibition of child marriage. Among other advocacy efforts, the campaigns based on the report greatly contributed to a ground-breaking achievement in March 2019 with a presidential decree raising the minimum age of marriage in Palestine to 18 years. Discover the full story here: bit.ly/gender-Palestine

Study ushers in Georgia’s first sexual harassment law

In 2017, with support from the European Union, UN Women in partnership with Georgia’s National Statistics Office conducted a national study on violence against women in Georgia – the first nationwide research on the issue since 2009. The findings based on data and statistics were widely disseminated and ushered in Georgia’s very first sexual harassment law only two years after the research was conducted. Numerous complaints of alleged sexual harassment in the workplace have been made since. Discover the full story here: bit.ly/study-Georgia

More and better SDG data for policymakers and people in Palestine

In a joint effort, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the Italian National Institute of Statistics and the United Nations Statistics Division launched a new national platform with more easy-to-access data on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. Since 2020, various decision-makers have consulted the database, and it even impacted policy decisions. The presented data on indicators for SDG 5 (Gender Equality), for example, sparked a fruitful policy discussion led by the Ministry of Women Affairs. It resulted in specific recommendations for enhancing and developing the regulations for gender-based decisions in Palestine. Discover the full story here: bit.ly/SDGdata-Palestine
GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Embracing data for water, sanitation and hygiene in Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo

In Malawi, more than 30 per cent of the population are still lacking access to safe drinking water. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), this rises to more than 56 per cent. Combining drone imagery with other sources of geospatial data has improved the overall quality of water point data sets by removing inconsistencies and enriching attribute information.

The project also enabled local communities to determine the transportation time needed to reach health centers in the DRC where health care providers and recipients previously often relied on inaccurate handwritten maps.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/WASH-Malawi

GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Improving electricity supply for indigenous communities through remote sensing and GIS

Imagery data combined with participatory mapping data from household surveys improved the electricity supply for indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Rural electrification plans for some of the remote areas have been developed together with indigenous local technicians. An app enabled participatory data collection and ensured that indigenous communities’ ideas were incorporated into electrification planning.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/energy-Ecuador

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GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

How climate-smart agricultural services improve farmer livelihoods in Ghana

In Ghana, climate-smart data services equip farmers with insights for better planting and harvesting activities contributing to higher productivity levels and mitigating the effects of unforeseen weather patterns.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/data-agriculture

The provided data has been very useful in helping me know when to plant my crops and when to expect rain. It has also helped me plan my farm activities better and to harvest more.

Farmer in Ghana

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mapping and mitigating the urban digital divide in the United States

The University of Chicago is working with technical and civic partners to study and assess Chicago’s broadband infrastructure to understand access to affordable, high-speed internet among urban communities. Using data, the team aims to identify the causes of internet connectivity gaps and challenges in certain communities and empower policymakers, industry leaders, and the public to make more informed decisions as to where and how to invest in infrastructure.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/digitaldivide-US
GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITY

Why subnational gender statistics in the Philippines matter

Following a training organised by the Philippine Statistics Authority, Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute and PARIS21, local government officials are now using data analysis and visualisation skills to create inclusive, gender-responsive housing programmes.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/genderdata-Philippines

“Knowing how to collect, analyse and present subnational gender data helps us identify citizens in poor, hard-to-access environments who are often overlooked.”

Aida Macalinao
Mayor in the province of Bataan

GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Detecting urban growth in Mexico with remote sensing technologies

What if urban growth could be identified in near real-time? A multidisciplinary team in Mexico successfully set out to answer this question and is using data science to automatically assess urban growth.

The results of the project illustrate that deep learning algorithms can identify urban areas with a high density of buildings and distinguish them from less populated areas with an accuracy of over 92 per cent. Such accurate measurement of urbanisation will allow effective and timely tracking of urban growth in Mexico.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/EO-Mexico
GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Data-based application for food cooling in India

In India, 25 per cent to 35 per cent of produced food is wasted due to a lack of proper refrigeration. Machine learning and physics-based food modelling are helping farmers in India to store products in such a way that they last longer. This way, the data-science-based app seeks to increase Indian smallholders’ income, improve food security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/data-foodcooling

GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Indigenous-led tech solutions for a better planet

Indigenous people are vital protectors of 80 per cent of the world’s remaining biodiversity. Increasingly, indigenous communities all around the world have been turning to data solutions to secure their heritage and navigate the challenges of climate change.

In the Arctic, stationary sensors inserted into the ice and mobile sensors towed behind snowmobiles track ice and snow thickness in real time. An app blends the sensor data with satellite imagery and up-to-date community knowledge to guide Inuit people on their trails.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/data-indigenous
GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Strengthening measurement of marine litter in Ghana

In Ghana, data to monitor marine litter and other environmental indicators are lacking. In cooperation with the national statistical office, local and international actors are closing data gaps by complementing traditional data sources like censuses and household surveys with citizen science. Consequently, for the first time in Ghana, the country will report on SDG 14.1.1b. Also, over the past 11 years, more than 210,550 kilos of marine litter have been removed from Ghana’s beaches.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/data-marine-litter
GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

Giraffes, satellite data, and a shrinking island in Kenya

In Kenya’s Lake Baringo, climate change is causing dangerous flooding that has threatened giraffe conservation efforts. Together, the community and a local conservancy tracked land and water changes over time using satellite data. Based on the data and trend predictions, the community safely translocated the giraffes from a shrinking island onto the mainland.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/giraffes-Kenya

Leveraging geospatial data for drought monitoring in Central Asia

Central Asia has a very diverse climate and a rapidly growing rural population that relies mainly on agriculture for sustenance and economic wellbeing. Harsh winter conditions known as dzud, however, have a significant impact on the livelihoods of people and can lead to large numbers of livestock starving or freezing to death. To better forecast weather conditions, drought monitoring and early warning systems based on satellite data have been installed and successfully used in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/geospatial-Asia
GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

For Syrian refugees, poor data keeps them in the shadows

Forcibly-displaced persons like Noura and her children received cash transfers and other assistance thanks to vulnerability-oriented targeting. “Without the winter aid, my situation would have been very bad,” Noura says. Home visits helped assess the needs of refugee families in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, ensuring that **life-saving food and winter cash assistance** was targeted to those most in need.


GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Magnifying voices for peace in Ghana

In Ghana, data collected in close collaboration with urban communities provided local government representatives with unique insights on the needs of community members. The campaign sparked **peaceful dialogues** between citizens and different stakeholders about ways forward to increase the quality of life and make cities safer.


Touring around Switzerland for statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals

Only **10 per cent** of the Swiss population are aware of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. To draw people’s attention to the importance of statistics and the 2030 Agenda, the team behind the Road to Bern campaign toured the country in an SDG-branded car, organised quizzes in lively city squares and engaged in discussions with interested citizens.

Pacific islands making the move to electronic data collection

Many Pacific islands and territories have updated their data collection processes. A new survey monitoring dashboard, for example, addresses challenges in conducting surveys in the region’s remote communities.

However, the hard work paid off. With support from the Pacific Community and UNFPA, Kiribati and Vanuatu are embracing new technologies that helped to improve census field monitoring, data timeliness and data quality checks.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/census-Pacific

“With limited internet access in the Pacific Island region and the additional training required, the decision to switch to an electronic collection process was not an easy move to make initially.”

Aritita Tekaieti
Republic Statistician in the island state Kiribati

The CAPI effect in Viet Nam and Sri Lanka

In Viet Nam and Sri Lanka, switching from pen and paper to computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) has shortened the time to produce a clean dataset and improved data quality significantly. Using handheld digital devices like tablets and smartphones in data collection and survey management has also reduced the interview duration and survey errors, making it cheaper and more efficient to provide timely, easily accessible, and high-quality survey data.

Discover the full story here: bit.ly/CAPI-effect

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Share your stories of data impact using the hashtag #DataForChange on Twitter. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) greatly appreciates the support of all contributors and partners of the campaign.

Dataforchange.net