DATA AS A PUBLIC GOOD: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

29 MARCH - 01 APRIL 2021
Data-driven decision-making and digital governance have taken on renewed importance amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, yet many countries struggle to fill data gaps. Approaching data as a public good, organised around principles of inclusive data governance, can help to build national data ecosystems that are more resilient in the face of crises. To this end, three foundational pillars – improved legal frameworks, systemic training programmes, and participatory approaches to data – can help to strengthen ownership of domestically produced data, strengthen capacity and forge trust.

The 2021 PARIS21 Annual Meetings provides an unprecedented opportunity to discuss paths towards data as a public good. This year, the virtual meetings will offer an unprecedented four days of sessions, forums, fireside chats, and expert panels at both the global and regional level.
### Annual Meetings Agenda

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:15</td>
<td>Welcome and networking meet-and-greet</td>
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<td>14:00 – 14:05</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:05 – 14:07</td>
<td>PARIS21 in 2020: Highlights</td>
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<td>14:07 – 14:15</td>
<td>E-Coffee Networking meet-and-greet</td>
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<td>• Short breakout groups for members to meet and greet one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15 – 15:10</td>
<td>PARIS21 in 2020 &amp; Programme of Work and Budget 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15 – 14:20</td>
<td>PARIS21 in 2020 – Presentation of key activities and highlights</td>
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<td>14:20 – 15:10</td>
<td>Presentation and discussion of documents for approval</td>
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<td>• 2021 Programme of Work and Budget</td>
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<td>• Results Framework 2021-2025</td>
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<td>• Communications Strategy</td>
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<td>15:10 – 15:55</td>
<td>Learning and adapting for the future</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:10 – 15:40</td>
<td>Panel interventions and moderated discussion: Learning and adapting for the future</td>
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<td>15:55 – 16:00</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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### Board Agenda

**Thursday, 01 April 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:45</td>
<td>OPENING PANEL</td>
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<td>Data as a public good</td>
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<td>A chance to build back better</td>
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<td>09:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>REGIONAL SESSION</td>
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<td>Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
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<td>The right approach to data governance - Elements of enabling legal environment</td>
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<td>14:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>GLOBAL SESSION</td>
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<td>Data as a global public good</td>
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<td>The way forward?</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>PARIS21 BOARD MEETING</td>
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<td>Closed session for PARIS21 Board Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>REGIONAL SESSION</td>
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<td>Africa &amp; MENA</td>
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<td>Data leaders of tomorrow – Building skills, competencies and resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:45</td>
<td>SPOTLIGHT</td>
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<td>The Clearinghouse for Financing Development</td>
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<td>Smarter financing for development data</td>
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<td>15:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>REGIONAL SESSION</td>
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<td>Latin America</td>
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<td>Strengthening participation – Multi-stakeholder approaches to data</td>
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## BOARD MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE

### PARIS21 BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Agence Française de Développement (AFD)</td>
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<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office (FCDO)</td>
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<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Vanuatu National Statistics Office</td>
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Philippines Statistics Authority

**Republic of Korea**

Statistics Korea

**Senegal**

Agence National de la Statistique et de la Démographie

**Sweden**

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**United Arab Emirates**

Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (Observer)

**United Kingdom**

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

**Vanuatu**

Vanuatu National Statistics Office
Board members have a responsibility to oversee the design and implementation of PARIS21’s work. They are expected to be ‘champions’ of the aims of PARIS21 and advocate for and publicise PARIS21 activities within their constituencies. They will consult and report back to their constituencies about Board discussions and the work of PARIS21 more broadly.

The Board meets once a year to discuss general issues relating to the development and use of statistics, to review the strategic direction of PARIS21 and to review the medium-term operational work programme of the Secretariat, including the work of Task Teams and special initiatives. In particular, the Board is responsible for:

- Setting the strategic direction for PARIS21 and advising on how it is organised and coordinated based on expertise and experience
- Reviewing the work of PARIS21 as a whole and advising on priorities for future action
- Championing the aims of PARIS21 and advocating for and publicising PARIS21 activities within constituencies, including sharing outcomes of PARIS21 meetings and activities
- Using influence to advocate for the allocation of adequate resources both for the better availability and use of statistics in development and for PARIS21 activities
- Reviewing and advising on the Secretariat’s medium-term work programme, which includes the work of Task Teams and special initiatives
- Participating in Task Teams on various issues, on a voluntary basis
- Reviewing and providing inputs into the terms of reference and reports of the periodic evaluations of PARIS21
- Providing overall guidance to the Secretariat when appropriate Developing country representation on the Board is determined by (sub) regional groupings. Developing country representatives are therefore expected to consult other countries in the (sub) regions, speak on their behalf and report back regarding any major developments of PARIS21.
## PARIS21 Executive Committee Members for 2020-2022

### Country

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### Multilateral

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<td>Multilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Commission: Eurostat</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</td>
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<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</td>
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<td>UN Statistics Division (UNSD)</td>
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<td>World Bank</td>
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Between Board meetings the activities of the Partnership and Secretariat are guided and monitored by an Executive Committee, consisting of a small number of members selected by the Board. Where required, the Executive Committee may set up Task Teams to carry out specific tasks or to deliver specific outputs.

The role of the Executive Committee is to provide an accountability mechanism and guidance to the ongoing work of the Secretariat. In particular, it provides a policy direction to activities and is a decisionmaking body when required. Preference is generally given to decisionmaking by consensus, but if a vote is required, each member has one vote, decisions being made by a simple majority. The specific roles of the Executive Committee are:

• Championing the aims of PARIS21 and advocating for and publicising PARIS21 activities within their constituencies, including the sharing of outcomes from PARIS21 meetings and activities where relevant

• Using their influence to advocate for the allocation of adequate resources both for the better availability and use of statistics in development, generally, and for PARIS21 activities in particular

• Monitoring progress of the regular work programme of the Secretariat and reviewing the progress of Special Initiatives from time to time, subject to the special arrangements put in place for each such programme

• Reviewing and approving annual work programmes and budgets, annual reports and other important documents as required

• Reviewing and approving the agenda and papers for the annual Board meetings

• Reviewing the Secretariat’s budget situation on a regular basis

• Briefing and engaging with the Board throughout the year as necessary, to ensure effective consultation on key operational and administrative issues as they arise

• Participating in the appointment of the Executive Head of the PARIS21 Secretariat when required and in line with OECD arrangements

• Reviewing nominations for new Board members

• Communicating reports and decisions to the Board

• Contributing to fundraising efforts for the Secretariat
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET

RESPONDING AND DELIVERING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

FOR APPROVAL
1 RESPONDING AND DELIVERING IN COVID-19 TIMES

DELIVERING ON OUR STRATEGY 2021-2025 IN COVID-19 TIMES

1.1 RESPONDING AND DELIVERING IN COVID-19 TIMES

1.1.1 RESPONDING AND DELIVERING IN COVID-19 TIMES

1.1.2 DELIVERING ON OUR STRATEGY 2021-2025 IN COVID-19 TIMES

1.1.3 DELIVERING AND SHOWING RESULTS

1.1.4 PRIORITISING ACTIVITIES

2 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

2.1 NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE

2.1.1 HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

2.1.2 NSDS & RSDS

2.1.3 MANDATES, ORGANISMS AND HR POLICIES IN NSSs

2.1.4 STATISTICAL LAWS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1.5 LEADERSHIP, MANAGERIAL, COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION TRAININGS

2.2 DATA USE FOR DATA IN POLICYMAKING IS STRENGTHENED

2.2.1 HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

2.2.2 USE OF DATA IN POLICYMAKING IS MEASURED AND CASE STUDIES DOCUMENTED

2.2.3 (GENDER) DATA IS MADE USABLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE FOR POLICYMAKING NEEDS

2.2.4 (GENDER) DATA LITERACY IN POLICYMAKING UNITS IS INCREASED

2.3 DATA ECOSYSTEMS ARE EQUIPPED TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

2.3.1 HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

2.3.2 GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN DATA PLANNING

2.3.3 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ENHANCED IN DATA ECOSYSTEMS

2.3.4 TRUST INITIATIVE

2.3.5 NSS DATA USER SATISFACTION MEASURED

2.3.6 COORDINATION TASK-TEAM

2.4 MORE AND BETTER FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT DATA IS AVAILABLE

2.4.1 HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

2.4.2 BERN NETWORK ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT DATA

2.4.3 CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FINANCING DEVELOPMENT DATA

2.4.4 DOMESTIC RESOURCES MOBILIZATION AND IN-COUNTRY COORDINATION

2.5 PARTNERSHIPS FOR DATA-DRIVEN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE ENHANCED

2.5.1 HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

2.5.2 PARIS21 ANNUAL MEETINGS

2.5.3 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

2.5.4 NEW OPPORTUNITIES: AFRICA GENDER DATA NETWORK, PRAIA GROUP, SIDS

2.5.5 SDG REPORTING AND GLOBAL MONITORING

3 MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

3.1 MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 MANAGEMENT

3.1.2 FINANCIAL UPDATE

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5 APPENDIX

6 REFERENCES
We bring into 2021 a few lessons learnt in 2020 to work smarter, communicate more clearly, promote our and our partners’ knowledge and prioritise our action better. The demand for our support grows year-on-year and indeed outpaces our capacity. We took a conservative assumption regarding travel and in-person gatherings in 2021, with a progressive restart of such activities from late summer - when and where needed. We put greater emphasis to peer-to-peer exchanges, virtual and blended engagement, and travel and expertise sourcing within sub-regions.

The POW is based on a budget of EUR 4.5 million. The proposed work programme is based on budget and human resources available, for which the Secretariat is extremely grateful to its donors.

**DELIVERING AND SHOWING RESULTS**

The Secretariat is currently designing its new, unified results framework to complement the strategy 2021-2025. The current results chain focuses on five key outcomes which the Secretariat wants to influence to have an impact on “better data for better lives for all”:

- National statistical systems are fit for purpose
- Data use for policymaking is strengthened
- Data ecosystems are equipped to leave no one behind
- More and better financing for development data is available
- Partnerships for data-driven sustainable development are enhanced

The Secretariat will continue to measure different key dimensions of statistical capacity through its Statistical Capacity Monitor. New relevant dimensions will be conceptualized and measured in 2021, in close collaboration with partners. This evidence is key to sustain the Partnership effort for greater statistical capacity, and to track its results.

The Secretariat will continue developing knowledge products with its partners: we will produce several discussion papers, case studies and guidelines in 2021, as detailed in corresponding sections of this document. Special effort will be made to develop and use specific, complementary e-learning resources, which will be available through the PARIS21 Academy. This e-learning feature is expected to continue to play a strong role in 2021. The Secretariat aims to make an increasing amount of material available via e-learning, which will build on partner inputs and existing outputs and processes to avoid duplication and leverage existing resources. The Secretariat is involved in the UNSD led Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) task team on e-learning. We will develop and promote our Partners’ guidelines and tools to facilitate knowledge sharing and mutual learning across countries as indicated in the different sections of this report.
PRIORITISING ACTIVITIES

In 2021 our POW better integrates global, regional, national and sub-national level activities. We prioritise topics for intervention related to data planning, including financing, and data use, including promotion of statistical literacy. We prioritise activities promoting partner involvement, which directly impact capacity and institutional development. Within the scope of our strategy, activities are based on direct formal requests from partners. Most of them come from heads of NSOs or NSS stakeholders, but also from national planning commissions, civil society organisations (CSOs) and development partners. The demand for support is larger than the funding availability of the Secretariat and therefore a prioritisation process for interventions is used, in particular for country-based activities. The Country Prioritisation System uses a set of qualitative and quantitative variables to determine priority countries which is consistent with the CD4.0principles:

- **Income group**: Low-Income Countries (LIC), all of Africa, Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) and/or International Development Association (IDA) and Blend Countries – being a LIC increases the likelihood of a country being selected;
- **Country status**: Fragile States, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing State—these three characteristics increase the likelihood of a country being selected;
- **A customised statistical development dashboard** that takes into account the status of the NSS in terms of governance (i.e. statistical legislation, NSS), advocacy and communication activities (i.e. website, social media), data management and dissemination (i.e. statistical standards, data platforms), national and international financial support to statistics (Country Report on Support to Statistics - CRESS).

Additional considerations used to prioritise countries include:

- **Assessing the sustainability of support**, particularly for countries with weak institutional capacity (continue to engage with the countries in the case of a long process: e.g. NSDS process; and feedback on implementation from the regional co-ordinators);
- **Inquiring whether the request has been submitted to another development partner** before further engagement;
- **Ensuring a balance between regions** to maintain the global nature of the Secretariat’s activities;
- **Leveraging on partners’ own country activities** to maximise impact and reduce duplication.

Prioritisation also considers other factors, such as the opportunity to scale solutions or activities to other beneficiaries or to follow-up from activities undertaken in the previous year (e.g. institutional strengthening when an NSS assessment was done in the previous year); the existence of a firm political backing for a request from an NSO; or the involvement of key partners.

In many cases, the country-level activities proposed are dependent on the level of political advancement underpinning their launch and implementation at the national or regional level and might suffer considerable delays or cancellation based on shifting priorities. It depends also, in the best case, on additional funding received by the Secretariat during the year to undertake new activities. Therefore, the POW needs to remain flexible to adapt to these changing realities. This flexibility and agility is a key comparative advantage appreciated by our partners.

The 2021 POW also provides global relevance, with a focus on Africa and Small Island Developing States. The proposed POW provides a balance between global, regional and country level activities. As two funding proposals are still being finalized with GAC and FAO, the precise identification of partner countries for some national level activities is still being finalized, this document then only specify the targeted sub-regions.

The 2021 POW also provides a balance between the five outcomes of our results framework.

![Non-staff budget by region](image)

![Non-staff budget, by results framework outcome](image)
BUILDING ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT OF PARTNERS

The implementation of the POW will be done in close collaboration with more than 45 regional and global partners. Selected highlights include:

**UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Oficina Nacional de Estadística (ONS) of the Dominican Republic**

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office funds the programme of work of the Secretariat. In addition, FCDO facilitates interventions for advocacy, strategic planning and the design of the results framework. The use of ONS technical experts in selected activities, based on availability, is under discussion for a data science initiative.

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

The Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development funds the programme of work of the Secretariat. In addition, SDC and the Swiss Statistical Office work closely with the Secretariat on selected topics and geographic entities of joint interest. The engagement with Switzerland is very visible through the role played by PARIS21 in the Bern Network.

**Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Statistics Sweden**

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency funds the programme of work of the Secretariat. Through funding from SIDA, the Secretariat collaborates on different priority areas and works with Statistics Sweden to identify common areas of intervention and resource personnel for specific interventions in countries, provide expert review of knowledge products, and develop joint events in regional and international fora.

**Global Affairs Canada and Statistics Canada**

Global Affairs Canada is finalizing a five-year investment into PARIS21, which will bring the gender work to a new scale. The Secretariat collaborates with Statistics Canada and resource personnel for specific interventions in countries, provide expert review of knowledge products, and develop joint events in regional and international fora.

**GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)**

GIZ funds the programme of work of the Secretariat. Areas of joint interest include SDG data, participatory data ecosystems and the use of quality, new data sources by NSS. Operational and normative work is going-on in 2021.

**EUROSTAT**

Eurostat funds the programme of work of the Secretariat. It provides co-funding for several activities around statistical coordination at global, regional and country levels and is a close partner in the implementation of the POW in Africa.

**UN Women**

UN Women funds the programme of work of the Secretariat. It provides co-funding for several activities around mainstreaming gender statistics in key countries. The Secretariat and UNWOMEN conduct high-level advocacy and communication campaigns for better use of gender statistics, and more substantial financial investments in their production.

**DATA2X**

Collaboration with DATA2X will include specific work on the Africa Gender Network.

**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Joint work will be done in 2021 in the context of the implementation of the phase 2 of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. Work on data planning, communication, and HRI policies will be prioritized – under an overall “modernization” agenda.

**UN Statistics Division (UNSD)**

The long-standing collaboration with UNSD will continue, both on Capacity Development 4.0 and on specific topics such as SDG data gaps, users-producers engagement. PARIS21 has been a contributor and reviewer of several chapters of the Handbook on Statistical Organisations and is directly involved in several UNSD task-teams and working groups.

**World Bank**

The long-standing collaboration with the World Bank continues. Operational work is done in close collaboration with in-country delegations, very often in the form of technical co-ordination. The collaboration with the Development Data Group advances international advocacy efforts on development data financing, and in measuring statistical capacity.

**STATAFRIC and the African Union Commission (AUC)**

Synergies with the African Union Commission STATAFRIC on regional events are being established, in particular for the co-organisation of two sub-regional human resource management and leadership trainings. In addition, PARIS21 will directly contribute to the strengthening of capacities at STATAFRIC.

**African Development Bank**

Joint work with the African Development Bank (AfDB) on regional events will continue. In particular, PARIS21 will continue to collaborate with the AfDB on NSDS developments and evaluations throughout Africa.

**UNECA**

Joint work with the UNECA will continue, in particular for the co-organisation of regional events and trainings. UNECA is a key contributor to the PARIS21 NSDS Expert Reference Group and is a partner of our successful webinar series with AFRISTAT and INSEE. Joint work will take place in 2021 on the Africa Gender Network.
Collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) includes the organisation of a regional webinar series in the context of COVID-19.

UNESCAP and UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP)

Long-standing collaboration with SIAP will not only involve the organisation and co-financing of regional trainings on NSDS, but also leadership and innovation in NSOs and communication of gender statistics. Follow-up to the very successful virtual regional trainings will take place in 2021.

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

Collaboration with GPSDD include different workstreams of joint interest, such as sustainable financing for development data which materialize in the Bern Network agenda. The Secretariat contributes to GPSDD Technical Advisor Group.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in addition to being the host of PARIS21, provides guidance to the Secretariat, expertise in the development of various tools and information on commitments from partners, which feeds into the Partner Report on Support for Statistics (PRESS). In addition, the work of the DAC Informal Group on Development Data benefits from PARIS21’s active involvement. PARIS21 also collaborates with relevant departments of the OECD on donor alignment, data sourcing topics, innovation management in the public sector, data flows modelling, etc.

Other Key Partners

The Secretariat will continue to team up with new partners including those from the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs and CSOs) and foundations. At the country level, the key implementation partners will remain actors from the NSS, often the NSO with the inclusion of the civil society organisations (CSOs). At the regional level, partners include organisations such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Pacific Community (SPC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC); training centres such as the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS); technical organisations such the Observatoire économique et statistique d’Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT) and Institut National des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques (INSEE); UN Economic Commissions, in particular the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC); and other specialized institutions like Partners for Review (P4R).

Although many of the bilateral and multilateral donor partners may not directly engage with the Secretariat in the financing and implementation of the Secretariat activities, they continue to play a strong role in championing and advocating for the mission and activities of PARIS21.

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### 2 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

#### 2.1 NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE

**HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS**

- National and regional strategies for the development of statistics developed
- Mandates, organigrams and HR policies within NSS strengthened
- Statistical laws and data governance modernized
- Leadership, managerial, communications trainings conducted

#### NSDS & RSDS

The Secretariat will continue its support to countries in the design, implementation and evaluations of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

It will prioritize joint approaches with partners to deliver on-site technical assistance and policy advice. For example, in Africa the Secretariat will further strengthen the collaboration with STATAFRIC and Regional Economic Communities. The Secretariat will continue the strategic partnerships with AIDB, the World Bank, the EU Delegations and UNECA. A total of 5 countries will be supported in Africa and MENA, 4 in LAC and 3 in Asia and the Pacific. The Secretariat will continue engaging remotely as it has successfully done in 2020, to deliver trainings and facilitate decentralized peer learning. This type of support and engagement will start immediately in Tanzania and Zimbabwe, in close collaboration with the World Bank. Support will be provided to 2 Regional Economic Communities – including to the Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) on tourism statistics. ADAPT will continue to be one of the key tools used to support different steps of the NSDS lifecycle, including the articulation of mid-term strategic plans and annual action plans, their costing and their implementation monitoring. The integration at sub-regional/regional level of NSDS will be a key area of support for us as funding to statistics at regional integration continues and financing is following.

The Secretariat will conduct regional trainings on NSDS guidelines and practice for all regions, in collaboration with regional partners: AITRS & UNESWA for the MENA region, UNSIAP for Asia and the Pacific, CDB, CARICOM and the World Bank for LAC, STATAFRIC, AIDB and UNECA for Africa. Following very successful remote training in 2020, these trainings will also be conducted remotely – with a possibility of further outreaching. Remote trainings for Africa will be complemented by in-person training, conditions allowing. A special training will be conducted for SDG, using the specific guidelines for a lighter NSDS. NSDS costing will also feature prominently in all trainings, leveraging functionalities in ADAPT.
The Secretariat will continue the development of the NSDS Guidelines after the successful release of version 3.0 in 2020. The work of the Expert Reference Group will continue, building on 20 years of global, regional and national experiences, lessons learnt and evaluations. This Group will deliver an exciting program of work, which includes methodological development for NSDS M&E, communication guidelines, managing innovation guidelines and guidance for addressing digitalization in the NSDS. Special attention will be paid to leverage mid-term planning for resilience and emergency management, given the high demand from countries impacted by COVID-19 and other large-scale hazards.

MANDATES, ORGANIGRAMS AND HR POLICIES IN NSS

The Secretariat will further expand its work on supporting NSOs, and other agencies in the NSSs, to strengthen their mandates, organigrams and HR policies. This work will have a gender lens. This work will be done in two countries, following the successful pilot in Benin in 2020. The Secretariat will also organise a regional workshop for African countries on human resource management, with AfDB and Afristat, which will be based on exchanges of good practice between African NSOs.

A specific program of work will be done for agricultural and rural statistics, in the context of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the upcoming collaboration with FAO – with a target of 3 countries for 2021.

STATISTICAL LAWS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The Secretariat will support 3 countries (including Paraguay) on statistical legislation and legal frameworks, building on the excellent guidance made available by UNECE and tailoring it to specific contexts. In LAC, the Secretariat will facilitate a community of practice on the topic to promote exchange of good practice. This work will explore the feasibility to include relevant sections pertaining to gender data in legal frameworks.

The Secretariat will develop and include in its Statistical Capacity Monitor platform selected indicators to reflect the status of the statistical legislation in different countries. This work, which will be done by leveraging and involving global networks. The Secretariat will also implement its “Data Scientist” pilot project, which is designed to bring innovative data science solutions to NSOs to fix long-standing data issues, augment available data files, and improve how data is curated and made available. This will be done by leveraging global and local expertise in five selected areas.

- The partnership with the OECD Observatory for Public Sector Innovation (OPSI) will continue. A training for NSO leadership will be delivered in partnership with SIAP in Asia, after a successful experience in 2019, and will be introduced in Africa with relevant partners involved in leadership training.

- The Secretariat will continue its investigation of the usability of new data sources for NSSs, in particular through the participation and contribution to relevant global groups working on the topic (including the UN-GWG), including around geospatial data, administrative data, and citizen-generated data. Special attention will be given to “data sourcing strategies” and corresponding “data skills/capacities strategies” in the context of the support, which the Secretariat provides, to countries and regions in the design of their national strategies for the development of statistics.

- The Secretariat will produce a discussion paper on the implications of digitalization for NSOs, and digital transformation, in times of COVID-19.

2.2 DATA USE FOR DATA IN Policymaking IS STRENGTHENED

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

- Use of data is policymaking is measured
- Case studies on use of data in policymaking are documented
- (Gender) data is made usable and understandable for policymaking needs
- (Gender) data literacy in policymaking units is increased

The Secretariat will continue to promote innovation within NSOs:

- The Secretariat will also promote the engagement of official statistics with data innovators through different engagement activities, both at global and local levels. The Secretariat will implement its “Data Scientist” pilot project, which is designed to bring innovative data science solutions to NSOs to fix long-standing data issues, augment available data files, and improve how data is curated and made available. This will be done by leveraging global and local expertise in five selected areas.

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- The Secretariat will produce a discussion paper on the implications of digitalization for NSOs, and digital transformation, in times of COVID-19.
USE OF DATA IS POLICYMAKING IS MEASURED AND CASE STUDIES DOCUMENTED

The Secretariat will continue and expand its work on measuring data use in policy. First, by further refining its existing measurement tools and indicators, such as the measures on references to statistics in policy documents. Second, by researching and advancing the understanding of data use in policy cycles, upstream and downstream of policy documents. This will be done with interested partners, through desk research, interviews and documentation of relevant practices, linking this agenda to the statistical literacy agenda. While the primary focus will be use of data by national governments (eg: executive), the research will also look at other relevant stakeholders such as parliaments and sub-national entities like cities and local government units. Ultimately, the Secretariat will propose a few indicators for testing, and eventually inclusion in the Statistical Capacity Monitor.

(GENDER) DATA IS MADE USABLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE FOR POLICYMAKING NEEDS

From relevant data...

The Secretariat will continue its work on increasing the policy relevance of data. First and foremost by further aligning data planning to data demands from policies, as a key step of the design phase of NSDS and RSDS (see that section). We will also continue to promote the use of ADAPT to map policy data needs to existing datasets, promoting inventories of data sources, the assessment of their quality and the design of action plans to fill urgent data gaps. The experience gained over the last years show that ADAPT can be instrumental in accelerating the policy relevance of data production and in promoting data reuse, in particular for policies M&E. Linking data sources and indicators to different global, regional, national and sub-national policy frameworks has been a precious advocacy for responsive statistical systems.

The Secretariat will continue the development of the ADAPT platform and its global repositories of indicators metadata. We will provide support and outreach to 60 countries on the use of ADAPT, with extended on-line and, when possible on-site support to the countries implementing ADAPT. It will engage on a specific work on agricultural statistics with FAO, with five participating countries.

Following the successful 2020 pilot in Zambia on environment statistics, the Secretariat will continue working with 5 countries to further explore latent data demand in priority domains. This will be directly linked to the NSDS design processes which the Secretariat will directly be providing support to.

…to understandable data

To support NSOs in improving their communication, the Secretariat will further develop its toolkit on “communicating with data” to help NSO reach out and improve the overall use of data. This activity will be particularly important for the work on gender, as the Secretariat will work to improve dissemination and communication of gender statistics. The Secretariat will leverage its existing e-learning course on the PARIS21 Academy. The successful launch of new e-learning modules in communicating gender statistics, in 2 countries.

The Secretariat will develop new resources to engage journalists in communicating gender statistics. These activities focus on facilitating collaboration and dialogue between NSOs and media, as well as expanding the reach and impact of gender data. A PARIS21 will be launched on the PARIS21 Academy. Specific training will be provided to journalists and national statistics offices in effective visualization and communication of gender statistics, in 2 countries.

The Secretariat will continue to provide specific technical assistance to NSOs and NSSs, to help overcome some of their challenges associated with data outreach. In particular, the Secretariat will provide technical assistance:

- On data flows, implementing the DFAF framework to promote better modelling and timely data.
- On data portals management, implementing the UNSD recommendations
- On data communication and visualization, using the PARIS21 dataviz toolbox based on free tools

The Secretariat will also conduct a regional training workshop on communicating gender data in Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with UNSIAZ. Conditions allowing, the Secretariat will plan for a blended approach, scaling the outreach through the appropriate use of its training resources available on the PARIS21 Academy and providing remote coaching for the creation of concrete data deliverables in countries which can be influential and usable in national contexts.

(GENDER) DATA LITERACY IN POLICYMAKING UNITS IS INCREASED

The Secretariat will continue and scale its work to promote the engagement between NSOs and data users in policy units, building on the success of the 2020 pilot project on “Operationalizing CD4.0 in the Philippines: Capacity development to strengthen subnational gender statistics for community-based SDGs monitoring”. The project enhanced the capacity of cities and municipalities to access and use community-based SDG monitoring systems using subnational indicators on gender statistics. In doing so, the project illustrated the use of CD4.0 in the development of trainings for three selected local government units of the province of Bataan. We will work with 3 countries to pilot enhanced engagement between NSOs and National Parliaments and local governments around data needs and data use. The engagement will focus on both generic, cross-domain topics related to data use and specificities of gender data. This work will be done in partnership with several interested agencies, including UNWOMEN and GAC.
2.3 DATA ECOSYSTEMS ARE EQUIPPED TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

- Gender mainstreaming: statistics planning more inclusive and gender-sensitive
- Citizen participation enhanced in data ecosystems
- Trust initiative implemented
- NSS data user satisfaction measured
- Coordination Task Team facilitated

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN DATA PLANNING

The Secretariat will continue the implementation of the “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” (“Women Count”) programme together with UN Women. The programme covers a range of areas related to statistical planning, gender data communication, and monitoring gender data use and financing. Building on these efforts, the Secretariat will continue to advocate for integrating gender as a standard element of statistical planning in low- and middle-income countries. The implementation of this programme over the last three years revealed new insights and sparked positive changes in national approaches to gender statistics in low- and middle-income countries. A commitment to gender equality and supporting gender statistics has become one of the key approaches in the new PARIS21 strategy 2021-2025. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and amplified fault lines in gender equality, threatening critical gains and demonstrating a growing need for more and better gender data to guide response and recovery.

The Secretariat will continue to support countries in the mainstreaming of gender in statistical planning, including NSDSs. With the aim to empower NSOs to implement holistic programming for gender statistics and mainstream gender across NSSs, the Secretariat will continue/start implementation of activities with more than 10 countries (Senegal, Maldives, Kyrgyz Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Paraguay, Cambodia, Lesotho and Jordan). This will be done through specific engagement strategies, dependent on each country context. Implementation will follow two complementary workstreams: 1) sustaining efforts to mainstream gender in national statistical plans in new countries, and 2) supporting and evaluating implementation of gender statistics plans designed in previous years. Specific technical assistance will be provided, and capacity of national staff will be developed in the use of the frameworks and tools promoted by the Secretariat and its Partners (in particular, ADAPT gender module). Activities in this pillar will include addressing the enabling environment for gender statistics at the national level, including an analysis of the role of statistical legislation in supporting data disaggregation, data sharing and exchange and data privacy (see outcome 1 too on legislation).

The Secretariat will finalize and release the dedicated gender module in the updated PARIS21 NSDS Guidelines.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ENHANCED IN DATA ECOSYSTEMS

The Secretariat will continue its work with countries in the pursuit of more efficient and effective statistical practices, including efforts to leverage citizens generated data (CGD) to produce more and better data to support inclusive models of governance and SDG monitoring, as well as to encourage new frameworks for collaboration with citizen society organizations, and also the private sector and academia.

In this context, the Secretariat will continue its collaboration with Partners for Review (P4R) on data planning and use of CGD for official reporting of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). As part of this work, we will conduct follow-up advocacy and training workshop. We will also organize a learning event for other interested countries to learn from this experience and discuss strategies to scale the effort on this field.

The Secretariat will produce a working paper on the topic of citizen participation in data ecosystems.

TRUST INITIATIVE

The Secretariat will continue the implementation of its “PARIS21 Trust Initiative” which was launched at the 2019 Cross-Regional Forum to enhance citizen trust in data and official statistics. After a very successful call for proposal run in 2020, three projects were selected by a representative panel for financing and implementation. The Initiative aims at supporting countries in implementing targeted activities to improve trust in NSO/NSS and its data products. In 2021, pilots will be implemented in Senegal, Uganda and Vanuatu. Additional support, in the form of direct technical assistance will be provided on more limited scale to countries who also submitted brilliant proposals, such as Sierra Leone.

Given the high demand for this initiative and the relevance of the topic, the Secretariat will work with its partners to identify ways to scale this Initiative in 2022.

NSS DATA USER SATISFACTION MEASURED

The Secretariat will finalize a methodological review of NSOs users satisfaction surveys, as demand for assistance is high on this topic. These demands are typically anchored along the NSDS lifecycles, at design or evaluation steps. The Secretariat will support 3 countries in the design and implementation of such surveys and will continue advocating for these surveys to improve overall NSO visibility, engagement and relevance.

COORDINATION TASK-TEAM

The Secretariat will continue the operations of the Global Task-Team on “Coordinating strategically with key partners - what is new for Official Statistical Agencies?” The Task Team was initiated in 2020, it is composed of 25 members from diverse backgrounds and geographies, and is co-chaired by the...
DATA AS A PUBLIC GOOD: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

The work of the Task Team will make coordination capabilities visible, and the Secretariat hopes to further develop a suite of appropriate capacity development schemes on the topic, for 2022. The Task Team discussions and findings are feeding other networks and initiatives, such as the current discussions on data stewardship.

2.4 MORE AND BETTER FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT DATA IS AVAILABLE

**HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS**

- Bern Network on Financing for Development Data continued
- Launch of the Clearinghouse for financing development data
- Domestic resources for development data mobilized

**BERN NETWORK ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT DATA**

The Secretariat will continue to serve as the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development’s Secretariat. The Bern Network is a multi-stakeholder collaboration established in 2019 to progress the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data by improving the quantity and quality of funding directed towards data and statistics, in particular in low-income countries. It brings together aid and development agencies, national statistical offices, ministries, private sector institutions and civil society groups and is led by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Swiss Federal Statistical Office and core partners. The objective of the network is to deliver a set of commitments for the United Nations World Data Forum in 2021 in Bern, Switzerland.

Building on the work done in 2020, the Secretariat will contribute to support the network in implementing its strategic directions, facilitate its meetings and contribute to its outreach.

**CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FINANCING DEVELOPMENT DATA**

The Clearinghouse as a platform and a community

The Secretariat will lead the work to deliver a prototype of a clearinghouse in October 2021 for the UNWDF in Bern. The Secretariat will continue to collaborate with partners under the Bern Network and other international initiatives (including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s Data for Development work stream) to further develop the clearinghouse in 2021. In 2020, the Secretariat and partners such as Open Data Watch began developing a “Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data” under the Bern Network. The clearinghouse will be an online platform to make financing for development data more efficient and effective by fostering transparency, improved accountability and alignment, and better coordination among donors and partner countries. It will do so by providing information and functionalities to better match the supply and demand for statistical support, as well as by creating a community of practice and supporting offline processes that bring together donors, recipients and stakeholders both at the global and the country levels.

The Secretariat will continue the extensive consultations to further refine the functionalities and prototype of the clearinghouse. The Secretariat will continue to seek for the perspectives of NSOs, NSSs agencies, aid agencies and other donors, finance and planning ministries, and international organisations. We do this both to design the functionalities required most, and to connect the clearinghouse to existing platforms and data sources. As the project evolves, a governance structure for the clearinghouse will be designed and discussed with the Bern Network.

The Secretariat will continue the platform development, based on user experience principles and agile development methodologies and practice. This will build on the comprehensive work achieved in 2020, and will leverage the in-depth work on data sourcing.

The Secretariat will accelerate the work on the clearinghouse data sourcing, after the basic analysis and data gaps assessments performed in 2020. A fully-fledged data sourcing strategy will be designed and discussed with the Bern Network, to identify the best approaches for the Bern Network to fill data gaps, and knowledge gaps. The Secretariat will work on the implementation of the data sourcing strategy, as required. This will include the establishment of APIs for automatic data exchange, the piloting of surveys and interviews, and the re-use and modelling of existing data.

**Tracking financial flows and demands to development data**

The Secretariat will conduct and disseminate the main findings of the 2021 release of the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS). PRESS data will feed the clearinghouse. Interestingly, with the new methodology allowing for close-to-real-time nowcasting, regular updates on aid levels will be published.

The Secretariat will finalize the peer review for the PRESS methodology, which was initiated in 2020. The Secretariat will roll out the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) in two countries in Latin America and West Africa. In addition, the CRESS methodology will be finalised based on its successful implementation and refining in several countries over the past years. The objective is to make it easier and quicker to implement, with more guidance for remote execution to make it relevant for restrictions linked to COVID-19.
DOMESTIC RESOURCES MOBILIZATION AND IN-COUNTRY COORDINATION

At country level, the Secretariat will promote greater visibility for official statistics and NSS at critical, leverage points of the NSDS cycles, either at launching or mid-term or final reviews. Special advocacy events for greater support for statistics, including domestic funding, will be organised with 3 countries where the Secretariat is involved through NSDS or CRESS related activities. This type of activities could not take place in 2020 in many countries because of restrictions on in-person meetings.

The Secretariat will support mechanisms between donors and national systems to discuss and prioritize support to statistics. This will also leverage NSDS/RSDS processes. Good practice in terms of donor coordination and mobilization of domestic financing will be documented and shared in the clearinghouse.

2.5 PARTNERSHIPS FOR DATA-DRIVEN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE ENHANCED

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTPUTS

- PARIS21 Annual Meetings organized
- Communication strategy implemented
- New opportunities created: Africa Gender Data Network, Praia Group, SIDS
- SDG reporting and global monitoring

PARIS21 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 2021 PARIS21 Annual Meetings – Data as a Public Good: Building resilience for a post-pandemic world, are being organized with the ambition to be the most inclusive and representative gathering of experts, academics, policymakers and practitioners in PARIS21’s history. The virtual meetings, which will take place between 29 March and 1 April, 2020, will feature a wide range of sessions, from panel discussions to fireside chats, that seek to unpack the role of data and statistics in forging trust, strengthening capacity and augmenting the ownership of data by citizens to build a better post-COVID world for all.

The event will be live-streamed simultaneously in three languages (English, French and Spanish), in order to strengthen the engagement and involvement of participants from other regions. Special dedicated regional sessions will bring together communities in Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific around key topics of importance for the region.

The Annual Meetings will be followed by the PARIS21 Board Meeting on 1 April, the annual gathering of the Secretariat’s partners to discuss matters of strategic importance for the Partnership, and its Secretariat.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Finalizing the Strategy

The Secretariat will finalize its Communication Strategy, which looks both at its corporate communication, and at the support it provides to members. This strategy will provide a rationale and framework for strategic, efficient, partner-focused communications during the 2021-2025 period that will bring new entities into the PARIS21 partnership, turn existing partners into champions, and expand our reach and persuasiveness in order to put robust data and statistics at the heart of decisionmaking for inclusive sustainable development.

The proposed objectives for the communication strategy are to:

- Bring a coherent and persuasive impact narrative to all aspects of PARIS21’s work, underpinned by case studies, testimonials, and other evidence, to strengthen PARIS21’s strategic positioning, partner engagement and resource mobilization.
- Build a more engaged partnership through content provision that meets partner needs, reengineering mechanisms for partner engagement, and leveraging the PARIS21 platform to tell partner stories.
- Make partner communications fit for purpose by institutionalising data communications support as a core PARIS21 competency, providing training, guidance and support to national statistical system partners to modernize their communications, as figured below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using the PARIS21 communications strategy framework, train &amp; guide communications staff to develop a strategy (including through strategy development workshop), and provide ongoing coaching during strategy implementation.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>TOPICAL DATA COMMUNICATIONS LEARNING PROGRAMME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bring NSO officials, governments and journalists together in a peer-learning modality to co-create a communications product. Includes face-to-face learning (eg. bootcamps) with e-learning (Learning from others on themes such as gender, COVID-19, or skills.</td>
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<tr>
<th>MINI-WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING PACKAGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold skills-building workshops &amp; provide training materials (incl. Adapt, DataVIz, etc) throughout the year focusing on strengthening various communications skills (social media, storytelling, crisis communications, etc) for the data community.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobilize community of practice to generate impact stories, expand the reach of PARIS21 content and develop PARIS21 partnerships. From Y2, use the community of practice to conduct peer-learning workshops.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation

The Secretariat will seek to reach online and offline, deepen engagement with existing and new stakeholders by tailoring content delivery to different stakeholder segments, tell the story of the impacts of PARIS21’s interventions and those of our partners, and help strengthen communications within national statistical offices. Overall, the Secretariat will deepen the link between communications and partnerships, working to strengthen the relationship with key partners through timely, relevant, and fit-for-purpose communications. The Secretariat will do this by making better use of innovative technologies and web platforms that enable us to streamline processes and increase communications effectiveness, by proactively and consistently reaching out to PARIS21 partners and stakeholders for impact-focused content, and by redoubling efforts to monitor performance and continuously adapt based on what works the best.

The Secretariat will continue its core advocacy role for better data for better policies for all. It will continue to do so by specific communication and engagement campaigns, building on its knowledge, reporting mechanisms including the three SDG indicators for which the Secretariat is custodian, and increased leveraging of its networks. The Secretariat will design and implement communications campaigns that support PARIS21’s mission, including along the themes of:

- Better data literacy
- Building and maintaining trust in national statistics
- More and better financing for development data

The Secretariat is fully engaged for a high-level involvement at the UN World Data Forum in Bern. The Secretariat will contribute to international and regional events such as the UN Statistical Commission and its side events, the AU Committee of Director General (CODG) meeting in Equatorial Guinea, the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians Meeting, the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee Meeting, UNECLAC, ESCAP Conference, ADB, AUC and UNECA meetings, as well as the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG) and other key events.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES: AFRICA GENDER DATA NETWORK, PRAIA GROUP, SIDS

Africa Gender Data Network (AGDN)

In 2021, the Secretariat will join Data2X, Open Data Watch, and UNECA as the Secretariat for the Africa Gender Data Network (AGDN). The AGDN serves as a platform for peer learning and knowledge exchange between gender focal points in national statistical offices. The main goal of the network is raising the standard of gender data production to better link with demand, improve the effectiveness of communication of and about gender data, and encourage gender data use across participating countries. Looking ahead, the Secretariat will facilitate efforts to scale the network to other continents and expand training, events, and technical assistance initiatives to strengthen gender statistics in low- and middle-income countries.

Praia City Group on Governance Statistics

The Secretariat will continue to provide input to the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics and its Steering Committee. In particular, it will contribute to the translation of the Handbook endorsed at the 2020 UNSC and support its active communication to NSOs.

SIDS

Following on the previous successful meetings, PARIS21 will collaborate with the Pacific Community, CARICOM, CDB, UN DESA SIDS Unit, the World Bank and other partners to strengthen collaboration at the level of UNSC through the organization of a roundtable for SIDS. The meeting will be organized under the auspices of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

SDG REPORTING AND GLOBAL MONITORING

The Secretariat will continue to do SDG reporting as custodian agency for the SDG indicators on Statistical Legislation (17.18.2), National Statistical Plans (17.18.3) and Funding Dedicated to Support Statistics in Developing Countries (17.19.2). The Secretariat will participate in the IEAG-SDG.
3 MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

FUNDRAISING

Among the tasks involved in delivering on our new 2021-2025 Strategy, managing the team and managing the day-to-day operations of the programme of work, the Secretariat will implement a systematic fundraising campaign to mobilise the financial resources necessary to carry out the programme of work. The Secretariat will work to bridge the funding gap, in particular by trying to diversify the group of supporters and seeking multi-annual un-earmarked support. In addition to the funding needed to implement the 2021 POW, the Secretariat needs to ensure that it has sufficient further funds at its disposal to do all the necessary budget commitments ensuring programme continuity for 2022 and beyond (in particular extending staff contracts to the end of 2022). To this end, the Secretariat has sought out financing from other sources and new donors are expected to contribute from 2021 (in particular, Canada, DATA2X, FAO and IdRC). Discussions are still going-on with the European Commission. However, until today, the funding at hand is still insufficient to carry out the 2021 work programme. The Secretariat will continue to actively seek financing for 2021 and beyond.

Recent developments with the Foundations should enhance our agility and ability to attract funding.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The Secretariat will continue the development and finalization of its new, unified results framework to accompany the 2021-2025 Strategy, responding to the call from multiple partners to harmonize PARIS21’s reporting framework. It was recognized that such a unified approach would create the opportunity for enhanced measurement of results, more consolidated and effective communication around PARIS21’s activities and impact, and simplify the reporting procedures for the Secretariat, bringing value to the PARIS21 Board and Executive Committee, donors, staff and all beneficiaries of the PARIS21 Programme of Work.

The work will involve three main things: (1) the finalization of the results chain – which provisional version endorsed by the Executive Committee was already used to frame this programme of work, (2) the definition of a M&E frameworks, with indicators, and (3) the drafting of a short narrative theory of change.

The engagement of partners around results will also benefit from this exercise, with a proposed enhanced focus on learning within the Partnership.

SATISFACTION / IMPACT SURVEY

As part of the M&E for the results framework, a short satisfaction & impact survey will be proposed to PARIS21 partners in fall 2021.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

TABLE 1: 2021 PROGRAM OF WORK BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Non-staff</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
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<td>National statistical systems are fit for purpose</td>
<td>703,005</td>
<td>472,817</td>
<td>1,175,822</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data use for policymaking is strengthened</td>
<td>382,318</td>
<td>519,000</td>
<td>901,318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data ecosystems are equipped to leave no one behind</td>
<td>378,933</td>
<td>545,866</td>
<td>924,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>More and better financing for development data is available</td>
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<td>449,604</td>
<td>624,987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnerships for data-driven sustainable development are enhanced</td>
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<td>590,590</td>
<td>900,213</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,527,139</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
The Secretariat is very grateful for the financial contributions from its generous donors who directly support the 2021 program of work.

Over the years, PARIS21 has had variable financial footing and has depended largely on one or two main donors. Over the past few years, the Secretariat has worked hard to increase its donor base, especially working to secure longer-term unearmarked contributions from key donors. The Secretariat is thrilled to confirm large, long-term unearmarked contributions from Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and a new contribution under negotiations with Canada. Due to their size, unearmarked nature, and duration, these continued contributions provide the Secretariat with flexibility and stability which opens the door to forward thinking and promising vision for PARIS21. While providing necessary core funding, these contributions do not fulfill all of the funding needs of the Secretariat and fundraising will continue to play a key role among the tasks involved in managing the operations of the Secretariat.
PARIS21 Unified Results Framework

1. In March 2020, the PARIS21 Executive Committee (ExCo) endorsed the development of a new, unified results framework to accompany PARIS21’s 2021-2025 Strategy, responding to the call from multiple partners to harmonize PARIS21’s reporting framework. It was recognized that such a unified approach would create the opportunity for enhanced measurement of results, more consolidated and effective communication around PARIS21’s activities and impact, and simplify the reporting procedures for the Secretariat, bringing value to the PARIS21 Board and Executive Committee, donors, staff and all beneficiaries of the PARIS21 Programme of Work.

2. Building on the successful process that was followed for the design of the 2021-2025 Strategy, the Secretariat convened a small advisory task team to guide the development of the new results framework. The group consisted of five current PARIS21 donors (both bilateral and multilateral): UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Statistics Canada, and UN Women. The Secretariat also benefitted from the expertise of an expert in measurement and evaluation, whose services were offered to the Secretariat by Sida to support and advise the Secretariat in the design of the results framework. The task team met three times over the course of October and November 2020 to provide feedback and advice to the Secretariat on working drafts, proposed indicators, and the overall engagement strategy around PARIS21’s results. Key recommendations included the following:

- Keeping the Results Framework simple, consisting of (1) a results chain, with a measurement and monitoring framework, (2) a narrative theory of change, and (3) a partner engagement framework around results;
- Having a clear link between the results chain and the three pillars of PARIS21’s new strategy;
- Clearly capturing PARIS21’s accountability to deliver the different levels of the results chain, in particular to reflect where results would be fully attributable to PARIS21 (output level) and where they would contribute to the work of other stakeholders (outcome and impact level);
- Adopting a qualitative approach to measure results at the impact level.

3. In December 2020, the ExCo reviewed progress and endorsed the proposed results chain. The ExCo suggested that gender be made more visible in the Results Framework, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue the development of a measurement and monitoring framework and the narrative theory of change.

4. In February 2021, the ExCo endorsed the strategy proposed to make gender more visible in the Results Framework, endorsed the measurement and monitoring system framework. The ExCo recommended that targets be defined for selected indicators of selected outcomes, as a partnership exercise.

1 Eurostat could not join the task team due to time constraints.
5. The current Results Chain endorsed by the December ExCo is provided in Annex 1.

6. The Secretariat is currently working to make gender more visible, as follows:

- In the theory of change, explaining further some language proposed in the results chain (such as “for all”, “LNOB”, “fit for purpose”)
- In the results chain, adding one level with ‘intermediate outcomes’
- In the results chain, adding key gender activities
- Proposing indicators with gender relevance, for output and outcome levels

7. Indicators for outputs are available. The Annex 2 lists the indicators proposed for the five outcomes.

8. An Advisory Task Team will be (re)established for setting targets for selected indicators for selected outcomes, and providing overall guidance.

9. The theory of change will be finalized for the summer 2021. It will provide a narrative read-through of the content for results reporting, and strengthening learning through regular exchanges with partners. It is an essential element for our accountability and our adaptive management.

10. A partner engagement framework around results will be developed for the summer 2021. It will provide an overall timeline for collecting input from specific partners and sharing interim reports on progress made under the results framework. The aim of this process is to improve the flow of information between the Secretariat and partners on the status of progress under the results framework, facilitate sourcing of an overall timeline for collecting input from specific partners and sharing interim reports on progress, and make an impact. The narrative theory of change will accompany the visual results chain explaining the linkage with the PARIS21 strategy and by detailing how the outputs delivered by the proposed activities will contribute to behavioural change of relevant stakeholders to produce the five outcomes, and make an impact.

11. National statistical systems are fit for purpose

- National and regional statistical systems for the development of statistical literacy
- Statistical laws and data governance modernized
- Digital strategies for NSS developed
- Mandates, organs/pms and HR policies within NSS strengthened
- Leadership, managerial, communications and partnership trainings conducted

12. Data use for policymaking is strengthened

- Use of data in policymaking measured
- Data made useful and understandable for policymaking needs
- Data literacy in policymaking units increased
- Flagship report on use of data in policymaking published

13. Data ecosystems are equipped to leave no one behind

- Citizen trust in data and statistical data measured
- Media and NSS data communications trainings conducted
- Unofficial data sources leveraged to close data gaps and leave no one behind
- Statistical planning more inclusive and gender-sensitive
- NSS data user satisfaction measured
### Annex 2: Outcome Indicators

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<th>Indicator 2</th>
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<td>National statistical systems are fit for purpose</td>
<td>Overall Statistical Capacity / Performance Indicator (SCB/ SPI) score for target countries</td>
<td>Number of target countries that have a national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data use for policymaking is strengthened</td>
<td>Average score on the use of statistics in policy making, for target countries</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data ecosystems are equipped to leave no one behind</td>
<td>Number of target countries where NSS strategic plans explicitly reference gender</td>
<td>Number of target countries where NSS establish formal participatory mechanisms with citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More and better financing for development data is available</td>
<td>Global estimated financial commitments to statistical development in target countries</td>
<td>Number of target countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships for data-driven sustainable development are enhanced</td>
<td>Percentage of PARIS21 partners which report positive change in performance / behaviour linked to PARIS21 work</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annex 3: How the Results Chain Works

- **Where PARIS21 is responsible**
- **Changes PARIS21 targets**
- **Long-term changes PARIS21 expects to see**

![Results Chain Diagram](image-url)
WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

The global conversation on data and statistics is busy, and becoming busier. New actors from many different sectors are emerging and clamouring to be heard, platforms and partnerships are proliferating, and the global political environment is rapidly evolving.

Within this context, PARIS21 will have to fight harder to be heard and demonstrate an ability to respond to the changing world, while at the same time remaining true to our mandate.

PARIS21 has a number of advantages in our favour. Whereas most of our peer organisations have only been around for less than a decade, we were founded in 1999. During the intervening decades, we established an excellent reputation as a trusted partner of NSOs and others in low- and middle-income countries. What is more, by remaining small and agile, we have managed to avoid the inertia that plagues some organisations more than a few decades old.

PARIS21 is also viewed by our institutional partners (for example our founding members, the IMF, World Bank, OECD, UN and European Commission) as occupying an essential part of the development statistics space. Our close link to developing countries, technical expertise built on decades of practical experience, and ability to bring a wide range of stakeholders to the table, are an important value-added for our partners.

PARIS21 occupies a unique position as simultaneously an insider (in the sense that we are steeped in the history and evolution of the development statistics space, including its technical aspects) and an outsider (we are not viewed as fighting any specific corner, compared to other partners who tend to be viewed as allied to one specific viewpoint or position). This gives us a unique authority and convening power in many discussions.

PARIS21 is considered by many as the preeminent advocate for the system approach, and an important technical partner for national statistical planning. We have supported statistical planning processes in over a hundred countries and remain a critical resource for countries embarking on a national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS). This has provided us with important insights into the realities of the ways in which statistical systems are implemented and evolve that provide the intellectual foundation for many of our other areas of work, such as CD4.0 and digitalisation.

On the other hand, the system approach is a difficult topic to sell to donors, partners and the general public. While few would disagree that developing strong, resilient national statistical systems is the right long-term approach, it is difficult to gain buy-in for activities that do not have an immediate return on investment or easily measurable impact. Moreover, exigencies of international reporting requirements, immediate data needs (for example COVID-19 response and recovery) and new and exciting technological advancements often displace the system approach for near-term objectives.

Given our close association with the system approach, we risk being crowded out of discussions on topics such as big data and SDG reporting by other organisations more focused on those issues. Complementary of mission isn’t an issue in itself, and can serve to multiply our efforts. However, given the small size of the development data
The documents that comprise the full strategy are available to PARIS21 Board Members upon request. Please note that this document presents key excerpts of the full PARIS21 2021-2025 Communications Strategy.

Finally, PARIS21 is reliant largely on a handful of bilateral donors for funding. As our space becomes more competitive, challenges to attract and retain funding will increase. Like many organisations, PARIS21 is facing greater demands from our donors for evidence of our contribution to change. Simultaneously, philanthropic organisations and other types of donors are becoming increasingly important, and opportunities to diversify our funders exist. However, to be successful, close introspection about what we offer, and a more rigorous approach to capturing and communicating results, are needed.

PARIS21's 2021-2025 Strategy considers many of these questions and sets the organisation on a path to successfully fulfil our mandate over the next five years. The associated results framework establishes a rigor of logic to our activities in order to travel the straightest course along this path.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

PARIS21 cannot achieve its mandate alone. It relies on the collaboration, buy-in, commitments and good will of a wide range of actors, some of whom, such as foundations and private sector entities, are relatively new to the data for development conversation.

This strategy therefore provides a rationale and framework for strategic, efficient, partner-focused communications during the 2021-2025 period that will bring new entities into the PARIS21 partnership, turn existing partners into champions, and expand our reach and persuasiveness in order to put robust data and statistics at the heart of conversations.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- Bring a coherent and persuasive impact narrative to all aspects of PARIS21’s work, underpinned by case studies, testimonials, and other evidence, to strengthen PARIS21's strategic positioning, partner engagement and resource mobilization.
- Build a more engaged partnership through content provision that meets partner needs, reengineering mechanisms for partner engagement, and leveraging the PARIS21 platform to tell partner stories.
- Make partner communications fit for purpose by institutionalising data communications support as a core PARIS21 competency, providing training, guidance and support to national statistical system partners to modernize their communications.

METHODOLOGY

Between August and December 2020, a methodical and wide-ranging analysis of PARIS21’s strategic context, stakeholders and channels was undertaken. This provided us with a comprehensive understanding of how we are perceived, what our opportunities and threats are, and how we are performing across a wide range of indicators. The findings, amounting to hundreds of pages, were further distilled, compartmentalised and explored in order to arrive at twenty strategic recommendations. The model for our analysis is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Benchmarking</th>
<th>Stakeholder Analysis</th>
<th>Channel Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The environment in which PARIS21 works today</td>
<td>Why our stakeholders engage with us and how they perceive us</td>
<td>How well we’re communicating across various channels (web, social, publications, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How we communicate compared with our peers</td>
<td>Who our subscribers, followers, fans, readers, and participants are and why</td>
<td>How this changes over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global trends, agreements and partners from the data &amp; statistics world</td>
<td>One-to-one conversations with more than a third of our Board Members</td>
<td>How well our tools and platforms serve their purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current and historical PARIS21 strategic and financial documents</td>
<td>A survey of more than 5000 working-level partners</td>
<td>The PARIS21 website and social media channels using standard KPIs for 2019-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public communications channels of PARIS21 and our peer organisations for the year 2020</td>
<td>PARIS21 social media and web channels using behavioural and demographic analysis tools</td>
<td>Data on PARIS21 publications (leadership, engagement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PARIS21 internal communications processes and tools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purposes of this strategy, stakeholder analysis focused on three main tiers, with different levels of analysis given to each.

Tier 1 - Strong impact on PARIS21 in terms of governance, financing and/or reputation: PARIS21 Board Members were interviewed individually during 30-minute bilateral interviews in order to gain deeper insights into their engagement with PARIS21, strengthen our relationship, and develop communications solutions to meet their needs and interests.

Tier 2 - strong impact on PARIS21 in terms of delivery of PARIS21’s POW: A survey was sent to the PARIS21 stakeholder email list, which largely comprises working-level partners.

Tier 3 - low impact on PARIS21: Analysis of PARIS21’s social media channels and web audiences. These channels are dominated by ‘other’ individuals (members of the public or entities with whom PARIS21 does not directly work). Demographic and behavioural analysis using online tools were performed for this category.
12,686 ↓

PDFs were downloaded from PARIS21.org 12,686 times during 2020. The most-downloaded publication was PRESS2020 (450 downloads), followed by the Gender Framework (320), Governance Handbook (248), CD4.0 Pamphlet (224), CD4.0 Guidelines (200), and the PARIS21 2021-2025 Strategy (159).

Over the past year, PARIS21 grew its Twitter following from 2,600 followers to more than 22,000. PARIS21 has the lowest volume of tweets, favourites and retweets compared to our peers, with less than half the volume of all compared to GPSDD, which has the most. PARIS21’s average performance is somewhat better, however.

PARIS21’s Twitter followers are mostly male, whereas women provide most website traffic. PARIS21 also follows more male Twitter accounts.

Share of Voice: GPSDD and ODW dominate in terms of advocacy news and opinion. On the other hand, PARIS21 dominates on the topics of trust in data and financing of more and better data.

1. Board Members who are best informed about PARIS21 are those who were involved in its creation and remain partners to this day. These tend to be IGO officials, who stay in their positions for longer. Donor focal points, on the other hand, tend to be less informed about PARIS21 (though their institution may have a longstanding relationship). This is due to the fact that they tend not to be from within the data sector and rotate around in their posts more frequently.

2. Many partners see PARIS21’s greatest value as a convener of diverse stakeholders, with particular expertise on the developing country context at the technical level. PARIS21’s NSO partners particularly value PARIS21 as being the only organisation focused on system strengthening. The two are not mutually exclusive, and by clarifying where PARIS21 brings the greatest value as a convener (i.e. at the data ecosystem or national statistical system level), PARIS21 can serve the interests of both communities.

3. Some Board Members cite our inability to distinguish ourselves from GPSDD as being a significant risk. Other Board Members note that turning away from foundation system support in favour of big data and other themes is a risk. Others still note the importance of positioning PARIS21 as an entity rather than a partnership as threatening our unique selling point.

4. A majority of Board Members cite a strong demand for PARIS21 communications support to national statistical offices in terms of strategy, social media, tactics, data visualisation and media engagement. Donors and IGO partners cite strong PARIS21 communications as making it well-placed to deliver this support.

5. Most Board Members highly value PARIS21 communications. However, a significant number suggested that the organisation diversify the presentation of PARIS21 knowledge products. For example, by releasing not only a 100-page report, but also a one-page factsheet about it, some infographic, and a short brief. Board Members also cited the lack of translated material and regional presence as being a barrier to engagement.
THE WAY FORWARD

Based on the analysis undertaken during Q3 & Q4 of 2020, we arrived at a set of twenty strategic recommendations as well as nearly fifty quick wins and medium-term activities. These were then operationalised into three key workstreams, designed to deliver the three overarching communications objectives of this strategy.

These workstreams span a five-year period to coincide with the PARIS21 2021-2025 Strategy Period. This is important, as many activities build on one another over a long period of time, and some require substantial internal operational and cultural shifts, which take time. Cultivating new partnerships and strengthening engagement with existing stakeholders is not a short-term activity either. As such, KPIs are designed to build on successes of the previous year, in order to yield transformative change over the whole period.

For the purposes of near-term planning, prioritisation and goal setting, these workstreams, as well as the quick wins and medium-term activities, have been operationalised into a detailed workplan for the first year, together with monthly, quarterly and annual targets. Subsequent years will undergo a similar process as we progress through the years of the strategy.

Aside from the new workstreams, excellence in the day-to-day communications of PARIS21 must be ensured. This includes providing strategic communications guidance, ensuring that PARIS21 publications and content are to a high standard, overseeing branding and corporate alignment, and a range of ongoing support (proofreading, design, branding, web conferencing, printing, events, and so on).

To manage the existing workload of the communications and partnership team, while introducing a significant number of new activities and workstreams requires a range of drivers of success (described in the full communications strategy) and implicates the team in rigorous planning and reporting, effective time management, an open and effective working culture and continuous feedback in multiple directions. A range of new planning, review, monitoring and reporting processes, aligned with the PARIS21 Results Framework, are therefore described.

PARIS21 doesn’t work to make the statistical systems of low- and middle-income countries more modern, inclusive, sustainable and efficient for the sake of it. We do it because we want every person to have a better life, and we know that for modern societies to improve the lives of people, they need good data.

That better data leads to better lives is so self-evident is one of the reasons that we, the data and statistics community, have historically not devoted much time demonstrating how improvements in data lead to better development outcomes. Instead, we have sought to crowd in support on the merit of the argument. This is no longer enough. Financing to data and statistics are chronically underfunded, attracting a paltry 0.5% of ODA. Data and statistics are routinely mentioned as a core driver of sustainable development but then sidelined in favour of interventions with more immediate outcomes.

PARIS21 is a trusted partner of NSOs the world over, a linchpin of the international statistical community, and an organization that has countless successful interventions under its belt. This is fertile ground for developing a rich pool of content that describes our impact and that of our partners. Leveraging this content will aid our reporting against the results framework, facilitate donor engagement, and strengthen our communications. Capturing this impact and turning it into persuasive content pieces is a systematic, long-term effort that requires us to dig beyond the surface of our interventions and draw out, through anecdotes, interviews, photos and video, stories that show how, in concrete ways, they contribute to better lives for people.

By linking our impact collection to results framework reporting, we kill two birds with one stone. On the one hand, we gather the evidence to know whether we are delivering our mandate. On the other, we establish the basis for convincing partners to join us, central in itself to our mission.

Becoming more impact-oriented is an organisation-wide priority. PARIS21 programmatic staff will be empowered, and called on, to scale-up impact content production via training, guidance and support and by including KPIs on impact content into performance mechanisms.
The next five years present PARIS21 with a tremendous opportunity to update and expand our corps of partners in line with our strategic objectives. Just as we update the ways in which we work to achieve our mandate in line with the evolving landscape of our sector, so should we revisit our partner base. The growing importance of new data actors (social media companies, telecommunications providers, and civil society, to name a few) and the shifting geopolitical landscape make it imperative that we have the right mix of partners.

Identifying and attracting new partners requires an efficient and structured approach to partner intelligence, and a concerted effort to communicate the best of what PARIS21 has to offer, in line with their interests. By matching communications efforts with opportunities for substantive engagement, we can engage new partners as intellectual equals on topics of mutual benefit and provide the necessary hook to deepen the conversation.

Sustaining our core supporters (donors, ExCo members and others) and enhancing their willingness and ability to champion PARIS21 is an exercise of no less importance. The baseline for this is timely, high quality reporting. Underpinning all data communications activities will be the establishment, ongoing cultivation and animation of a community of practice (COP). Aside from peer learning, PARIS21 will use the COP to generate impact content, amplify the reach of PARIS21 communications, and strengthen partnerships.

Many national statistical offices in developing countries face capacity constraints when it comes to communications. This was confirmed in the course of stakeholder consultations as part of the strategy development process, where numerous country partners in low- and middle-income countries expressed a desire for communications support from PARIS21.

PARIS21 has been providing some ad-hoc support to countries via our data literacy, gender communications and other initiatives for some years. However, given the high demand, supporting fit-for-purpose communications among partner countries (NSOs in LMICs and the like) should be established as a key workstream within the PARIS21 programme of work. This will enable us to provide longer-term support to countries, create the global networks necessary to share good practices and support peer learning and be more strategic in terms of how we provide communications support and to whom.

For partner countries who are institutionally ready, comprehensive communications strategy development support will be given, from ideation to implementation. Support will be modular, so that some elements can be integrated into NSDSs or other planning documents, or focus on specific aspects only (such as benchmarking or building capacity in specific areas such as media engagement). The NSDS guidelines will also be updated to include a focus on communications & stakeholder engagement.

For countries plagued by mistrust in data or hampered by ineffective data communications on topics such as COVID-19, gender or climate change, data communications learning programmes will work to strengthen collaboration among journalists, NSOs and governments while building topical communications skills while drawing on PARIS21’s rich pool of existing resources (gender learning course, PARIS21 Academy, data viz, etc.). Finally, mini-workshops and training resources, delivered in conjunction with expert partners (social media companies, journalists, bloggers, development partners and others), and drawing on existing PARIS21 tools & platforms (Academy, DataViz) will strengthen partner capacity in specific areas.

Underpinning all data communications activities will be the establishment, ongoing cultivation and animation of a community of practice (CCP). Aside from peer learning, PARIS21 will use the CCP to generate impact content, amplify the reach of PARIS21 communications, and strengthen partnerships.
EXCELLENCE IN PARIS21 COMMUNICATIONS

The quick wins and three major campaigns that we have just described refer in large part to new activities. They will be delivered on top of already planned campaigns and activities (such as the 2021 Annual Meeting) and the other day-to-day activities of the communications and partnerships team.

This includes ensuring excellence of PARIS21 communications across all units. Activities that fall within this area include providing strategic communications guidance, ensuring that PARIS21 publications and content are to a high standard, overseeing branding and corporate alignment, and a range of ongoing support (proofreading, design, branding, web conferencing, printing, events, and so on).

To manage the existing workload of the communications and partnership team, while introducing a significant number of new activities and workstreams requires a range of drivers of success (as described earlier in this document) but will also implicate the team in rigorous planning and reporting, effective time management, an open and effective working culture and continuous feedback (in multiple directions). To this end, the team will introduce the following planning processes and activities:

- **Team mini-retreat (January 2021)** – Planning meeting for 2021, team building (Deliverables: draft programme of work and calendar for 2021, including KPIs)
- **Team check-ins (weekly)** – Roundtable to update one another on activities, request support, and signal opportunities
- **1:1 meetings (weekly)** – Individual meetings with each team member to have a more substantial discussion about ongoing activities
- **Team coffees (weekly)** – An informal meeting of team members to talk about things outside of work
- **Reporting/planning meeting (Quarterly)** – A longer quarterly team meeting to review progress, measure success, and plan for the upcoming period.
- **Teams Channel** – File sharing and overall team planning will be centralized via the Teams channel.
- **Comms Strategy** – This strategy will be actively used throughout the year to set priorities. The recommendations and actions will be reviewed on a quarterly basis with a view to 100% completion by the end of the year.
- **Knowledge Management** – Like most organisations, PARIS21 will greatly benefit from a centralised contact management system. Efforts to centralise contact management into one platform will be accelerated during the strategy period, with a view to using Microsoft Dynamics within the context of the OECD rollout.
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The COVID-19 pandemic also provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we work to achieve our mission, and in so doing find new ways to be more efficient and effective in our business practices and strategic approach.

From holding, for the first time in PARIS21’s history, our Annual Meetings virtually, we learned that virtual events could be highly engaging and productive. By freeing up time that would normally be spent on logistical arrangements we were able to devote more attention to the substance of the event, resulting in overwhelmingly positive feedback. We also learned that, by providing space for partners for whom travel to Paris would normally have been prohibitive to engage, virtual events can be more inclusive. Consequently, a record 650 participants took part in the 2020 Annual Meeting. Those lessons are being brought into the 2021 event, which will be our most representative and inclusive event ever.

The pandemic also showed us that we, the global data and statistics community, must become better at articulating the impact of data and statistics on improving the lives of people. No longer taking this connection for granted, PARIS21 will prioritise this through a robust results framework for 2021-2025 and a work stream focused on telling our impact story and that of our partners.

2020 taught us all these things and more, and inspired us to approach our efforts to build a stronger, more engaged partnership with a new vigour. We will only succeed in our efforts if we are united in purpose, and we look forward to working with our partners in 2021 to create a world where everyone can produce and use high-quality data and statistics to advance sustainable development for all people.

Summary and highlights

If there ever was a year that validated PARIS21’s mission to put robust data and statistics at the heart of decision-making for inclusive sustainable development, 2020 was it. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has had such a devastating effect on millions of people around the world, showed us that countries that are able to marshal timely, high-quality, disaggregated data and statistics are better equipped to design response and recovery policies that are effective and inclusive.

Like many of our partners, PARIS21 wasn’t spared the widespread disruption caused by the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Measures to protect the health of staff led us to shift PARIS21’s operations to a remote working environment that has lasted more than a year. Dozens of training workshops, conferences, on-the-ground projects and other activities that normally form a core component of PARIS21’s support to partner countries were transformed into virtual events, postponed, or cancelled.

Yet despite the challenges, 2020 was a year of tremendous progress and productivity for PARIS21. In many ways, the pandemic served as a harbinger of change for the Secretariat, catalysing changes that will make our work more impactful and efficient, and better able to respond to the needs and aspirations of our partners.

During the first half of the year, PARIS21 received an overwhelming demand from our partner countries, many of whom were struggling with a precipitous rise in data demands while also facing serious operational constraints.

Immediately seeking to respond, we significantly adjusted our 2020 programme of work and established a COVID-19 Rapid Action Task Force. Within only a few weeks, the task force developed a practical and comprehensive guide to help national statistical offices collect life-saving data and engage partners while adapting to remote working. It also produced a policy brief to guide countries seeking to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis on data and statistical production and use. We connected more than 80 national statistical offices to solution providers from our PARIS21 community.

To put this guidance into practice, we convened more than a dozen virtual workshops and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for national statistical organisations, policymakers, private sector entities and others to exchange ideas and best practices. Demand for our PARIS21 Academy was also high, with more than a thousand people enrolling in our new course on communicating gender statistics within one week of its launch.

At the same time, recognising that responding to current and future global crises requires a step change in commitments to data and statistics, we, together with our partners, initiated a number of ground-breaking new projects to mobilise support. The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, the world’s first online portal showing near-real funding flows and opportunities, promises to make financing for development data smarter. Through direct, on-site support to remote engagement, we worked to accelerate the development of the required capacity for national statistical offices to leverage new sources of data to respond to urgent policy needs, relating, in particular, to gender.
• Delivered exceptional and additional support to partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. PARIS21’s approach to country engagements during the crisis was informed through the work of the PARIS21 COVID-19 Rapid Action Task Force, which produced a policy brief and a strategic operations guide for national statistical offices. Throughout 2020, PARIS21 also offered technical support and peer-to-peer learning opportunities to partners to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on NSOs and national statistical systems. PARIS21 produced advocacy materials to position statistical capacity development as a priority topic in times of COVID-19.

• Delivered on gender data. Gender continued to be a key focus for PARIS21 in 2020 and has been integrated across its Programme of Work: from NSDS trainings and support, NSS or data and capacity assessments, the PARIS21 Academy e-learning site, ADAPT and PRESS

• Delivered on innovation in data and statistics by promoting peer learning and custom solutions to NSOs. Digital coordination was enabled in several countries, for example in Paraguay where ADPAT was used as a tool for monitoring strategic programs and interventions. On the front of new data sources, PARIS21 piloted a knowledge-sharing project between World Data Lab (WDL) and DANE Colombia on geospatial data and published a working paper on “Re-using Citizen-Generated Data for Official Reporting”. It also developed a working paper on bridging the data-policy gap in Africa with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

• Delivered key guidelines developed and used by key partners, including the revised NSDS Guidelines 3.0, the Capacity Development 4.0 Guidelines, the Data Flow Analysis Framework Guidelines, and a Thematic Guide on Geospatial Data Integration in Official Statistics. Additionally, PARIS21 contributed a chapter on data openness to the PRAIA Group Handbook on Governance Statistics, which represents a major breakthrough for good data on governance.

• Delivered on more and better financing for development data. PARIS21 continued to serve as the Secretariat of the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, a global alliance with members from aid and development agencies, NSOs, international organisations (IOs), private sector partnerships and civil societies dedicated to promoting more and better financing for development data. In 2020, the network actively organised multiple high-level events to advocate for more and better funding for data and began the development of an innovative new platform, the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, to enhance transparency, coordination, alignment and effective decision-making for data investments. PARIS21 organised consultations with over twenty partner countries, development agencies, and other stakeholders and ran a global survey to inform the design of the platform. The clearinghouse will be launched in the latter half of 2021.

• Delivered on trust in data. PARIS21 opened its first ever call for proposals for projects aiming to strengthen trust in data and statistics in low- and middle-income countries under the PARIS21 2020 Trust Initiative, which received over 60 submissions and led to three projects in Senegal, Vanuatu and Uganda receiving micro-grants.

• Delivered the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) data for which the Secretariat is custodian. All three SDGs are prioritised as Tier 1 since 2019:
  o 17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
  o 17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
  o 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

• Delivered on the NSDS outreach through regional trainings in partnership with regional bodies, such as SIAP in the Asia and Pacific region and AIITRS in the Middle East and North Africa. Sixteen countries and 52 participants benefited from these trainings. PARIS21 also provided support to Lesotho, Egypt, Togo, the Gambia, Vanuatu on the development of their new NSDS and supported COMESA and the Pacific Tourism Organisation in the development of new regional strategies for statistics.

• Delivered an improved Statistical Capacity Monitor - a unique, interactive tool featuring a wide range of performance indicators designed to facilitate quick analyses – to include 96 indicators. The monitor was actively used in 2020, including by UNESCAP and the OECD Development Centre for their country assessments. Outreach was undertaken on the monitor in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa.

• Delivered an improved methodology for the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS), to document and report on the current financing made available to the national statistical system by type of sources and types of financing. PARIS21 provided support to Benin and Niger to conduct their second round of CRESS exercises, with the final reports expected to help advocate harmonised internal and external support for statistics.

• Delivered now casting and forecasting of aid to statistics for the PARIS21’s Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS 2020). Thanks to this, financial support to statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic could be followed close to real-time. The PRESS 2020 highlights that under COVID-19, data needs have never been higher yet financing remained stagnant. 63% of low-income and lower-middle income countries were found to be in great need of additional financing for data and statistics due to the challenges posed by the pandemic, among other key findings.

• Delivered and co-chaired with the Philippines Statistical Authority a global task team on new trends and opportunities in statistical coordination. The task team helps understand and improve the abilities of national statistics offices, other government institutions, representatives from the private sector, civil society organisations and academia to coordinate strategically, communicate across institutions and build strong networks on sub-national, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. The task team met twice in 2020 and will convene again for a final meeting in 2021.
1. Knowledge Sharing and Innovation Incubator

1.1 Improving NSS Efficiency and Integrating Innovation in Times of COVID-19

In 2020, PARIS21 worked on promoting further understanding and uptake of innovation by official data agencies. This was in high-demand in the COVID-19 context and PARIS21 responded by establishing further exchanges between communities and peers, for example through the successful joint webinar series with Afristat, INSEE and UNECA for West Africa, and with IADB for Latin America and the Caribbean which directly brought innovative solutions where they were needed. PARIS21 further adjusted its local technical assistance and policy advice, for example with an updated version of the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT), which features advanced reporting and flexibility to enable partner countries to produce their datasets and build custom reports. Countries such as Paraguay started to use the tool for monitoring their NSDS actively and start establishing some e-coordination mechanisms.

On the front of new data sources, PARIS21 coordinated a pilot knowledge-sharing project between World Data Lab (WDL) and DANE Colombia on geospatial data. A technical workshop was conducted for DANE staff on population and poverty mapping, which outlined the technical requirements and steps required to use geospatial data to study poverty areas in Colombia. The workshop was divided into eight virtual technical sessions, where participants undertook practical tasks and received feedback from WDL. The project helped Colombia move forwards with innovative data collection and served as an example of good practice in data innovation for Latin America. PARIS21 liaised with several key regional partners to share the lessons learnt and discuss scaling of the pilot to other countries in the region.
PARIS21 also published a working paper on “Re-using Citizen-Generated Data for Official Reporting: A quality framework for national statistical office-Civil Society Organisation engagement”. The working paper illustrated the definition of CGD, its specific use case and a framework for engagement, and is intended to serve as a resource to empower NSSs to engage with civil society organisations and other civil society actors in re-using existing data. The work benefited from country-level activities in Kenya, the Maldives and the Philippines. This work also aimed to facilitate the leveraging of non-official data sources for the production of highly disaggregated statistics that measure vulnerable populations and increase trust in data.

1.2 GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES ISSUED

1.2.1 NSDS GUIDELINES

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, PARIS21 updated the NSDS Guidelines based on users’ feedback and the recommendations of the NSDS Guidelines Reference Group (chaired by the UK FCDO and then Sweden SCB in 2020) to assist national statistical systems to cope with new and rising data demands and coordinate strategically across the national data eco-system. This was the first round of updates to take place since the revisions made in 2014 to establish the NSDS Guidelines 2.0. The updates were validated by the Reference Group, which worked entirely online in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The new NSDS Guidelines 3.0 reflect a completely new layout of the website and a new way to structure and navigate the Guidelines through the restructured NSDS lifecycle. These features were introduced to increase user-friendliness as well as exchanges of good practices while developing the NSDS. The NSDS Guidelines 3.0 also tackles many emerging topics for the larger data ecosystem (administrative data; agenda 2030; crisis management; data resolution; fragile states; gender; geospatial data integration; innovation; open data; regional strategies; sub-national strategies; sectoral strategies; SIDS; statistical legislation).

1.2.2 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT 4.0 GUIDELINES

In January 2020, PARIS21 together with UNSD launched the Capacity Develop (CD) 4.0 Guidelines at a high-level conference in Paris, France, attended by 120 stakeholders from national statistical offices, international organisations, academia, civil society and the private sector. The conference anchored the discussions around implementing new approaches to capacity development and the experiences from countries actively engaging with such new approaches.

The guidelines provide a practical introduction to new approaches in capacity development, responding to a changing data ecosystem and taking into account new data providers and sources. They aim to integrate the user throughout the virtuous data cycle. As of December 2020, the guidelines have been downloaded by 500 unique website users, and been used in work streams and projects across PARIS21 (see below). For example, the CD4.0 principles and capacity assessment were integrated into the NSDS lifecycle. Amid the pandemic, holistic and systemic support to capacity development has become more important than ever before and the guidelines will continue to be mainstreamed in PARIS21’s work in 2021.

1.2.3 DATA FLOW ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK (DFAF) GUIDELINES

PARIS21 produced in close collaboration with the OECD the “Data Flow Analysis Framework: Guidelines for Analysing Data Flows in National Statistical Offices”. Based on analyses conducted in many countries, including Cambodia and Ghana, these guidelines are available for all countries and NSOs to undertake data flow assessments and support the designing and building of better data dissemination systems in the digital era. The guidelines advocate for process re-engineering and data modelling among other means to improve data availability of data users.

1.2.4 THEMATIC GUIDE ON GEOSPATIAL DATA INTEGRATION IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

In collaboration with Statistics Sweden (SCB) and Statistics Norway (SSB), PARIS21 developed a thematic guide on the “Integration of Geospatial Data in Official Statistics” for low and middle-income countries. The purpose of this guide is to support capacity development of NSOs by providing step-by-step guidance on how to geographically enable data and statistics within the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and other derived documents. The development process benefited from feedback from the United Nations Evaluation Group Task Team (UNEG-ISGI) as well as NSOs, including those in Namibia, Ghana and Colombia.

1.2.5 PRAIA GROUP ON GOVERNANCE STATISTICS

The 46th United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2015 established the PRAIA Group. The mandate of the Group is to “contribute to establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics on the major dimensions of governance,” and to help national statistical offices collect information on governance – including SDG 16.

PARIS21 continued its engagement with the PRAIA Group throughout 2020, which included the launch of a new Handbook on Governance Statistics and the development of a thematic brief on the role of governance statistics in COVID-19 response. The new handbook includes a chapter on data openness developed in partnership with PARIS21.

1.2.6 WORKING PAPER ON “BRIDGING THE DATA-POLICY GAP IN AFRICA”

In 2020, PARIS21 in collaboration with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation prepared a paper providing recommendations to NSOs and governments on enhancing the production and use of data for evidence-based policymaking. The paper will be released in early 2021.
2. Advocacy

2.1 Global Advocacy

2.1.1 Bern Network on Financing Data for Development

In 2020, the PARIS21 Secretariat continued to serve as the secretariat of the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, which is a multi-stakeholder collaboration of aid and development agencies, NSOs, ministries, private sector and civil society groups aiming to advance the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.

In January 2020, the network adopted a work agenda of five main action areas to inform the development of outputs for the UN World Data Forum, which took place virtually in October 2020 and will be followed by an in-person meeting in October 2021 in Bern, Switzerland. To this end, Bern Network members worked to develop a new, online platform called the Clearing-house for Financing Development Data as a key deliverable, led by PARIS21 in cooperation with Open Data Watch and other partners. By showing both supply and demand for data financing together in one place, the clearinghouse aims to enable donors to target financing to sectors and regions with the greatest need. It will also be designed to facilitate the provision of resources to strengthen the ability of national statistical offices and data organisations to advocate for more financial resources from governments and donors, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of investments in data and statistics. To ensure that the clearinghouse directly responds to the needs of donors, development partners and governments, PARIS21 and Open Data Watch conducted in-depth interviews and solicited the views of more than 100 leading providers and recipients of development data financing in September 2020, combined with extensive one-on-one interviews with...
potential platform users (September-December 2020). These consultations uncovered profound limitations in existing information on financing data and statistics and identified challenges specific to different user groups, which the clearinghouse will address. Experts and practitioners will continue to be consulted throughout the development process in order to refine and improve the platform, which will be launched as a prototype in October 2021.

In parallel to the development of the clearinghouse, the Bern Network Secretariat conducted numerous meetings and consultations with its network members to inform its activities and co-create outputs, including with NSOs, donor agencies, multilateral development banks, and international entities. As part of this process, from January to March 2020 it organised in-person meetings in Paris, Washington D.C. and New York, the latter during the UN Statistical Commission, on the topic of more and better financing for development data. With COVID-19, the network adapted its activities and milestones to reflect the changes to the UN World Data Forum timeline and conducted regular virtual meetings of its steering committee from March to December 2020, as well as a meeting of all members in April 2020 chaired by the Assistant Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. In October 2020, the Bern Network co-organised an event at the virtual UN World Data Forum on “Supporting better investments in development data - Mechanisms, actions and perspectives” that gathered over 400 participants and generated positive feedback and recommendations for how the network can further increase the momentum around the more and better data financing agenda.

In addition to the above activities, the Secretariat also launched an official Bern Network website in February 2020 to drive the visibility of its work. It also convened regular meetings with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) to actively explore synergies, including for the clearinghouse. At the end of 2020, the Bern Network and GPEDC agreed to plan a joint workshop in 2021 to facilitate the exchange of good practices for effective development cooperation in financing data and statistics for developing countries.

### 2.2 Trust in Data

With the advent of new technologies in the current “post-truth” digital era characterised by competing numbers, disinformation campaigns and socio-political polarisation, PARIS21 has initiated the important discussion on trust in data and the role of NSSS in this debate.

In January 2020, PARIS21 opened its first ever call for proposals for projects aiming to strengthen trust in data and statistics in low- and middle-income countries under the PARIS21 2020 Trust Initiative, which was launched during the 2019 Cross-Regional Forum to support the design and funding of pilot activities in low- and middle-income countries to improve trust in official statistics and NSSs. The initiative provides a framework for PARIS21 to deepen its work on trust in data in the digital age, apply insights to real-world contexts, and learn from country partners on the ground.

Over 60 proposals were received from 37 countries across Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia Pacific from NSOs and a range of technical and institutional partners. Following a rigorous selection process with a panel of external experts in statistical capacity development, PARIS21 selected three finalists for micro-grants, and two additional finalists for technical support.

The three selected micro-grant recipients cover a range of issues and themes that shape the landscape of trust in data, including:

- Developing a platform for subnational data sharing and standardisation in Senegal;
- Improving data uptake and literacy among parliamentarians in Vanuatu;
- Strengthening the culture of data governance and coverage for refugee statistics in Uganda.

While the pandemic has required some further adjustments in scoping and implementation modalities, the adjusted proposals were all finalized in fall 2020. Implementation of the selected projects will begin early in 2021.

### 2.3 Participation in International and Regional Forums

In 2020, PARIS21 participated in a number of global task teams and initiatives, including UNSD Task Team on Big Data Capacity Development, UNSD Task Team on Big Data and SDGs, GIST and UNSD-SDMX Global Working Group. Contributions to these task teams helped advance the global agenda on specific topics and also reinforced the role of PARIS21 in relevant matters of global interest in the field of data and statistics.

PARIS21 was also active at the regional level and contributed to several virtual meetings, focusing in particular on measures to mitigate COVID-19 impacts on national and regional statistical systems. These included meetings of the Pacific Community, Caribbean Community, Pacific Tourism Organisation, Committee of Director Generals of National Statistics Office (CoDG) Congress of African Economists, Forum for Statistical Development in Africa (FASDev), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and AFRISTAT, among others.

### 2.3.1 Participation in International Forums

PARIS21 played a key role in a range of global fora during 2020, advocating for the centrality of data and statistics to sustainable development, advocating for innovative, capacitated national statistical systems, raising the need for more and better funding of development data and giving voice to NSOs on the global stage.

**Virtual United Nations World Data Forum:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 UN World Data Forum was postponed to October 2021 and a virtual forum was held from 19-21 October 2020. PARIS21 co-organised two live sessions that were attended by hundreds of participants. The first was on the topic of “Where to start first – Identifying the leverage points of effective capacity development”, co-organised with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (20 October). The second was on “Supporting better investments in development data - Mechanisms, actions and perspectives”, organised under the Bern
Network in cooperation with the OECD (21 October) and included interventions by NSOs from Mongolia and Palestine, Sida, Global Affairs Canada, IMF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. In addition, PARIS21 hosted two pre-recorded sessions on trust in data and modernising statistical legislation, which featured international experts, as well as country representatives, to highlight emerging needs and challenges. Throughout 2020, PARIS21 participated in and organised several events under the ‘Road to Bern’ initiative to create momentum for the UN World Data Forum, including events on financing development data, capacity development, and data and statistics in COVID-19 times. It also participated in the organising committee of the UN World Data Forum.

United Nations Statistical Commission: PARIS21 had a significant presence at the 51st UN Statistical Commission, hosting or participating in multiple side events. One such event focused on “More and Better Financing of Development Data”, co-organised by Switzerland, the UK, UNSD, the World Bank and PARIS21, and gathered over 60 participants. PARIS21 also held a roundtable meeting of SIDS, which included several updates on the review of the SAMOA Pathway and the monitoring and accountability framework under development; SIDS National Focal Points network; SIDS Statistics Exchange Platform; Caribbean regional strategy for the development of statistics (RSDS); Pacific Sustainable Development Report; and country sharing of current initiatives and developments. In addition to these events, PARIS21 held its first 2020 Executive Committee in the margins of the UN Statistical Commission.

High-Level Political Forum: PARIS21 participated in two virtual side events. The first was hosted by the Swiss Government and UNSD on the topic of “On the way to the UNWDF – why gender data and accountability matter” (8 July), during which PARIS21 presented on the work of the Bern Network and the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, which was positively received by participants. The second was an event on “Moldova’s Population Outlook 2020”, co-organised by the Swiss Government, the Republic of Moldova, Statistics Moldova and UNFPA (10 July). PARIS21 presented on the topic of harnessing data for achieving the SDGs from a global perspective, contributing to a larger discussion on making progress in aligning national population statistics to international standards.

11th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group of the SDG Indicators: PARIS21 actively participated in meetings organised by the IAEG-SDG in 2020. These meetings covered various topics around improving the SDG indicators, including the proxy indicator design, methodology development of Tier 3 indicators, revision of indicator metadata and overcoming difficulties in data production in the time pandemic. In these meetings and discussions, PARIS21 ensured that measuring statistical capacity of countries is not omitted and no excessive burden was imposed on countries.

14th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS): The 14th IAEG-GS took place in December 2020. PARIS21 presented the findings from the PRESS 2020 survey in relation to multilateral and bilateral donor support to gender statistics. The intervention helped to raise awareness among IAEG-GS members, gender statisticians and experts from the international, regional and national institutions about limited financial support to gender data.

Partners for Review engagement: With reference to developing capacity of traditional and new actors in the data ecosystem and closing SDG data gaps, Partners for Review (P4R) and PARIS21 partnered with the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). The collaboration consisted of mapping the data ecosystem in Kenya, exploring the potential of citizen-generated data (CGD) to complement official reporting and designing a CGD-quality assurance framework. In November 2020, PARIS21 also supported P4R during their peer-exchange meetings with Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Nepal, the Palestinian Territories and the Philippines. During these events, PARIS21 raised awareness about the work and case study on CGD in the Philippines.

High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG- PCCB)

PARIS21 actively participated in meetings and established connections with other workstreams, in particular with the Bern Network.

2.3.2 PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL FORUMS IN AFRICA AND MENA

Ninth Forum on the African Statistical Development [FASDev-9, 14 December 2020]: PARIS21 contributed to and co-organised with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank the 9th FASDev meeting held on 14 December 2020. The meeting was hosted by UNECA. The overall objective of the 9th meeting was to foster connections among countries, partners and institutions that support statistics, with the view of addressing the needs of national statistical systems in order to bring about their transformation and modernisation, while focusing, in particular, on the COVID-19 crisis. Representatives of African member States, the African Union Commission (AUC), AfDB, African statistical training centres, regional and sub-regional organisations, United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the European Union and bilateral and international institutions attended the meeting. The final communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting with recommendations to all stakeholders to improve collaboration and coordination of support to data and statistics in Africa.


Fourteenth Session of the Committee of Director-Generals of the National Statistics Offices (14th CoDGs): PARIS21 participated and contributed to the CoDGs meeting organised by the African Union Commission (AUC). PARIS21 shared its partnership statistical response programme to the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance the resilience of African national statistical systems. Participants included African member States, the African Development Bank (AfDB), African statistical training centres, African sub-regional organizations, UNECA, the World Bank, the European Union and bilateral and international institutions.
4.2.3.5 Participation in specific forums for Small Island Developing States

PARIS21 co-organised with the UNDESA SIDS Unit, CARICOM, the Pacific Community and UNOHRLLS the 3rd round table meeting of SIDS on the side-lines of the UN Statistical Commission (see above). The meeting served as forum to foster exchange of knowledge and to present statistical developments in SIDS. Participants gave updates on the SAMOA Pathway and the monitoring and accountability framework under development; SIDS National Focal Points network; SIDS Statistics Exchange Platform; Caribbean regional strategy for the development of statistics (RSDS); Pacific Sustainable Development Report; and country sharing of current initiatives and developments.

PARIS21 co-organised with the Secretariat of Pacific community (SPC) a series of webinars for Pacific Island Countries in August 2020, focusing on “Maximising the use of administrative data in census programmes in the Pacific”. The webinar sessions helped SIDS to learn from best practices on how population and housing registers can be used as administrative data sources in population census and how the collaboration and coordination of stakeholders can be strengthened through the national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS). It raised awareness of the opportunities and pre-requisites for use of register and administrative data in census outputs.

2.4 Country level advocacy

PARIS21 has pursued advocacy on support to development data and statistics at country level, which to a large extent was made through the activities on data planning, stakeholders coordination and financing, and operationalized through NSDS processes, and through the gender mainstreaming lens. Because of COVID-19, few physical high-level political forums were organized. Nevertheless, PARIS21 engaged with Benin to organise a virtual stakeholder workshop to present the findings of the country report on support to statistics which was conducted with PARIS21 technical support. The findings created high-level awareness about the current financing made available to the national statistical system of Benin by type of sources and types of financing (i.e. domestic, external, grant, loans, government budget) and future funding requirements.

Further details on country-level advocacy are provided in the NSDS and gender sections of this report.
expanding its NSO database. The information collected from the NSO provides as much information as possible on NSO status and informs the Statistical Capacity Monitor (see below). This information allows PARIS21 to improve the preparation of its Programme of Work and contributes to optimising PARIS21’s limited resources while managing the large demand for country support.

3.1.2 NSDS/RSDS SUPPORT PROVIDED

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, PARIS21 continued to support capacity development of regional economic communities (RECs) and countries to develop, review and evaluate their national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) through virtual technical support combined with local experts. The NSDS/RSDS process helped partner countries and RECs to align with national strategic priorities as well as regional and global agendas and handle the increasing data demand from the pandemic and enhance NSS/RECs resilience.

Support to National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

PARIS21 supported the design of the second Lesotho NSDS, completing the NSS assessment step in December 2020 and mainstreaming the gender statistics assessment using ADAPT for data gaps analysis. The process involved the national data-ecosystem as well as learnings from the COVID-19 experience. Due to the pandemic context, the strategic framework and action plans will be completed in 2021.

The Secretariat has also contributed to the CAPMAS/Egypt during the development of the NSDS through virtual discussions that emphasised the mainstreaming of gender statistics in the NSDS process. The gender statistics assessment was conducted in collaboration with UN Women country office. PARIS21 also supported INSEED Togo to disseminate the new NSDS (2020-2024) at sub-national level in order to explain the importance of development data and the role of communities in the production process and use of statistics at decentralised administrative entities. In addition, PARIS21 supported the mid-term review of the implementation of Gambia’s second NSDS (2018-2022), which highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NSS’s operations and lessons focusing on the use of new technologies and innovation tools going forward.

In November 2020, PARIS21 also supported Vanuatu to develop a “Disaster Management Plan for Statistics” prior to developing the NSDS. The new NSDS will therefore include a risk-informed preparedness and response strategy as one of its key outputs and a comprehensive risk mitigation plan that includes such a strategy to be launched into action when needed.

In addition to above activities, PARIS21 conducted NSDS outreach through regional trainings that were adapted into virtual trainings to respond to the COVID context. These trainings were held in partnership with regional bodies such as UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in the Asia-Pacific and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) in MENA and focused on the strategic planning process; aligning with national development priorities, regional agendas and SDGs;
modelling the NSDS to consider new approaches to capacity development (CD4.0); and mainstreaming gender statistics. The trainings also considered key areas that the NSO/NSS faced during the COVID-19 pandemic related to fragility and crisis management to help develop business continuity plans. Eleven countries with 36 participants benefitted in the regional trainings on NSDS, CD4.0 and ADAPT in Asia-Pacific (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tonga, Vietnam) and five countries and 16 participants in MENA (Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon, and Chad).

Support to Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)

PARIS21 supported the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the final evaluation of its RSDS (RSDS, 2017-2020). The conclusion and recommendations from this evaluation were validated by the COMESA Committee on Statistical Matters (CCSM) in October 2020 and are guiding the elaboration of the new RSDS of COMESA (2020-2024), which is under development. In addition, PARIS21 built on the support provided in 2019 to the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) on its tourism statistics assessment findings to help elaborate a Regional Strategy for the Development of Tourism Statistics. As part of these activities, PARIS21 initiated the preparatory activities to elaborate this strategy and will continue to support this work in 2021.

3.2 SDG MONITORING AND REPORTING

After the adoption of the SDG indicator framework, PARIS21 became the custodian of three SDG indicators around statistical capacity development:

- 17.8.2 “Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”
- 17.18.3 “Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding”
- 17.19.1 “Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries”

Starting from one indicator at Tier III and one indicator at Tier II, PARIS21 managed to have all three indicators upgraded to Tier I.

In the 2020 round of SDG reporting, PARIS21 collected a record number of responses for the three SDG indicators. The narrative from indicator 17.18.3 and 17.19.1 on statistical planning and funding for data and statistics was selected as one of the 5 storylines under Goal 17 in the 2020 SDG Report by UN DESA. The narrative called for more attention to data and statistics by highlighting that while the need for sound data continues to escalate, poorer countries lack the resources to produce them. The results showed that in 2019, 132 countries and territories reported to have national statistical legislation that was compliant with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS), up from 111 in 2018. The largest regional grouping of complying countries was North America and Europe, representing 32 per cent of all compliant countries (42 out of 132). Promisingly, half of the least developed countries (LDCs) that responded to the survey also reported they have such compliance.

Looking at the progress made since the adoption of the SDG framework, results have been substantial in ensuring statistical laws complying with the UN FPOS. With the addition of two more countries in 2019, 31 countries have advanced from having no statistical legislation that complies with the UN FPOS to adopting one since 2016. Northern America and Europe lead in this progress other regions, followed by Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia. The progress is also encouraging in LDCs (6 countries), SIDS (4 countries) and LLDCs (4 countries).

In 2019, 141 countries and territories reported they are implementing a national statistical plan, up from 129 countries in 2018. The regions with the highest share of countries implementing statistical plans include Central Asia, Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and Southeastern Asia. Among the 141 countries, 92 also have their plan fully funded. Despite having the second highest number of countries (36) implementing national statistical plans, Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest percentage of fully funded plans with only 25 per cent (8 out of 36) under-implementation plans fully funded, while 95% (36 out of 38) of plans currently implemented in North America and Europe were fully funded.

Progress has been slow in implementing and ensuring sufficient funding for national statistical plans. Since 2016, only 13 countries advanced from not having a plan under implementation and fully funded to having one. Although target 17.18 specifically called for more attention to LDCs and SIDS, neither of these groups had more than 2 countries advance since 2016. This highlights the need for international cooperation to focus on increasing funding for statistical planning to ensure SDG data collection. More countries will also need to adopt national statistical plans in order for Goal 17 to be achieved.

PARIS21’s reporting also revealed that even without the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, SDG Target 17.18 on statistical capacity was very unlikely to be achieved by 2020 as originally aimed. Early data from the 2021 round of reporting also showed that the pandemic may even cause further regression in achieving Target 17.18.

3.3 STATISTICAL CAPACITY MONITOR

PARIS21 launched the Statistical Capacity Monitor (SCM) in April 2019 as an online platform featuring around performance indicators on statistical capacity development. It describes trends on statistical capacity worldwide, as well as development efforts at the country and thematic levels. The platform presents indicators developed by PARIS21 and other partner institutions with the aim to provide a better understanding of the recent developments on statistical capacity.

In 2020, the indicator base of the Statistical Capacity Monitor was completely restructured and overhauled to comprise 96 indicators (23 PARIS21 conceptualised indicators). The PARIS21 Secretariat collaborated with the World Bank in the overhaul and received valuable insights into developing a measurement for the
use of statistics, PARIS21 also developed a strategic note on new indicator areas that will be developed in the future, including data governance, skills, innovation, resilience and participation, as well as sectoral areas such as gender and environment.

The SCM was actively used in 2020. ESCAP Member States employed the SCM to measure their progress towards achieving the Agenda 2030. An annual benchmarking process will track progress and grant validation and country feedback to the monitor. The OECD Development Centre also used the Statistical Capacity Monitor for their country assessments (Western Balkan in 2020, El Salvador in 2019). Overall, the SCM attracted over 3,500 unique page views (with about 5000 total page views) from January to December 2020.

To support uptake of the SCM, PARIS21 promoted and introduced the SCM in two regional training workshops in collaboration with the UNSIAP and AITRS (attended by 30 high-level representatives from NSOs in the respective regions). A four-part training module was developed in French and English to explain and showcase the monitor, including interactive exercises for the audience.

3.4 COUNTRY REPORT ON SUPPORT TO STATISTICS (CRESS)

In 2020, PARIS21 continued to improve the methodology for the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS), which aims to document and report on the current financing made available to NSS by type of sources and types of financing (i.e. domestic, external, grant, loans, government budget) and future funding requirements.

Over the course of the year, PARIS21 provided support to Benin and Niger to conduct their second round of CRESS. The CRESS exercises help countries analyse their funding priorities for statistics and to predict funding gaps. The final CRESS reports are an important advocacy tool to promote the harmonisation of internal and external support for statistics. The country exercises are useful to validate and monitor the extent of statistics financing by development partners provided by the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS – see below).

The number of CRESS exercises in 2020 was adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.5 PARTNER REPORT ON SUPPORT TO STATISTICS (PRESS)

Started in 2008, the PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) is the most comprehensive global analysis of donor financial flows to data and statistics. It provides a full picture of international support to statistics and covers the commitments received by all countries. Over the years, PRESS results have been referenced in the Financial

For the first time, the PRESS 2020 reduced the reporting lag from two years to 6-12 months and covered most time-relevant information on financial support to statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PRESS 2020 highlights that under COVID-19, data needs have never been higher yet financing remained stagnant. 63% of low-income and lower-middle income countries were found to be in great need of additional financing for data and statistics due to the challenges posed by the pandemic. Only 0.40% of the international aid channelled for COVID-19 had a primary focus on data and statistics, although the needs were higher than ever. 150 countries and territories planned to hold a census in 2020 and 2021, a historical record; however, many countries had to divert previously-secured funding for censuses, CRVS and other fundamental statistical activities as part of their emergency response. Zooming in on gender, of the total funding given to COVID-19-related data projects, only 11% were found to have an explicit gender dimension, posing a significant barrier to inclusive pandemic responses and recovery.

In terms of overall trends, official funding flows to data and statistics amounted to USD 693 million in 2018 and the report projected that final 2019 figures would not see an increase.

3.6 CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FINANCING DEVELOPMENT DATA

In 2020, PARIS21 and partners such as Open Data Watch began developing a “Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data” under the Bern Network. The clearinghouse will be an online platform to make financing for development data more efficient and effective by fostering transparency, improved accountability and alignment, and better coordination among donors and partner countries. It will do so by providing information and functionalities to better match the supply and demand for statistical support, as well as by creating a community of practice and supporting offline processes that bring together donors, recipients and stakeholders both at the global and the country levels.

PARIS21 conducted extensive analytical work and consultations to develop the concept and design of the clearinghouse. A global survey was conducted in September 2020 to better understand the information needs behind decisions to fund data and statistics from the perspective of NSOs, aid agencies and other donors, finance and planning ministries, and international organisations. PARIS21 collected over 100 responses from the survey, which were combined with findings from over 20 hours of in-depth interviews with potential clearinghouse users to develop platform mock ups. Interviewees came from NSOs in developing countries (including Mali, Rwanda Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Mongolia), development aid providers (including GIZ, EU in Burkina Faso, Asian Development Bank, Norway, World Bank, International Monetary Fund), and other stakeholders (including existing platform developers such as Development Gateway and the IMF-Word Bank Development Data Partnership). The platform mock ups were presented to an international audience of over 400 participants during the virtual UN World Data Forum in October. The prototype of the clearinghouse will be officially launched in 2021.

In preparation for the technical development of the platform, PARIS21 conducted a data audit for the clearinghouse. This included a comprehensive data mapping of the clearinghouse mechanism, including data sources, data visualisation and data flows on the platform, identifying major bottlenecks and caveats, and putting forward an overview of existing resources. The results of this audit will inform the first six months of data modelling and analysis to deliver the prototype clearinghouse. In addition, PARIS21
produced a Software Requirement Specification for the platform to guide software development and related work in 2021.

PARIS21 will continue to collaborate with partners under the Bern Network and other international initiatives (including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s Data for Development work stream) to further develop the clearinghouse in 2021.

3.7 COORDINATION TASK TEAM

In October 2020, PARIS21 established a high-level task team comprised of representatives of the national statistical community, academia, civil society and international organisations (30 participants). The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the important role of resilient and well-coordinated public data systems in evidence-based policy making. Despite joint efforts by the global community in the past, many public statistical systems continue to struggle to develop adequate (coordination) capacities to cope with these new and rising data demands. According to a monitoring report released by the World Bank, national and international coordination in the collection of data on the COVID-19 pandemic was inadequate in many countries, especially in Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa. The task team was put together to respond to this need for improved coordination capacity among developing countries.

The aim of the task team is to help improve the abilities of national statistics offices, other government institutions, representatives from the private sector, civil society organisations and academia to coordinate strategically, communicate across institutions and build strong networks on sub-national, national, sub-regional, regional and international level. It serves as a forum to exchange on best practices, develop a common understanding of coordination capacity and recommend a set of indicators suitable to measure coordination in statistics, with a special focus on low-and middle income countries. In doing so, it contributes to the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor. The task team is led by the Philippines Statistics Authority and met twice in 2020 (October and December), with a final meeting scheduled for 2021.

To support the task team, PARIS21 developed a comprehensive background note, proposing a model of coordination and stewardship and conducted a number of in-depth bilateral meetings to showcase country experiences before defining the final indicator set. These meetings will continue in 2021.

3.8 COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY ON CCSA MEMBER AGENCIES

PARIS21 designed and implemented a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the member agencies of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), in close partnership with UNSD and the Word Bank. PARIS21 distributed the survey, collected the responses and drafted the final report, which was shared with CCSA members for peer review. PARIS21 succeeded in collecting responses from 39 of 45 CCSA members. The report underwent review at the end of 2020 and will be published in early 2021.

4.1 IMPROVING DATA PLANNING

In 2020, PARIS21 supported numerous national statistical offices in implementing the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) to promote evidence-based policy design and monitoring. It conducted an online training for staff of the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics (BOS), which started to use ADAPT in the context of the NSDS, including an assessment of gender statistics. ADAPT will support the production of data gaps assessment reports. PARIS21 also supported the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in using ADAPT for data gap assessments and monitoring data plans implementation. This work is part of the P4R project in Kenya (see above).

PARIS21 worked with Paraguay through a dedicated ADAPT workshop and the provision of technical support. Paraguay used ADAPT as part of the development and monitoring of their new NSDS, as well as advocacy efforts to highlight data gaps and strengthen statistics. The DGEEC collaborated closely with PARIS21 to improve the tool, particularly the costing module of the NSDS, which promises to support fundraising to implement the NSDS and monitor its budget and activities.

In addition, PARIS21 provided training on the use of ADAPT for data gaps assessments to staff from the statistical offices in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru and Mexico. These countries used the tool in different capacities to map their data needs and supply. The Secretariat also conducted two regional webinars and introduced ADAPT to Anglophone and Francophone African countries. More than ten participants from NSOs in each cohort from Botswana, Mozambique and Rwanda, and Congo and DRC, participated in the workshop. The training sessions served to engage more countries and promoted data planning and monitoring using ADAPT. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshops were entirely conducted online, yet countries’ participation was seamless.
4.2 MAKING DATA UNDERSTANDABLE

PARIS21 conducted the following activities to pilot the new Capacity Development 4.0 guidelines in 2020:

- **Philippines CD4.0 pilot on sub-national gender statistics**: PARIS21, the Philippine Statistics and Training Institute (PSRTI) and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) collaborated to strengthen sub-national gender statistics in three municipalities. Within the scope of this pilot, the team conducted a capacity needs assessment coupled with an individual training needs assessment at the sub-national level to identify the most urgent capacity needs related to gender statistics. Based on these assessments, the team designed and implemented three training modules to raise the awareness of gender statistics for policy making, and improve data management as well as data visualisation in local government units. The Philippines National Statistician is committed to this pilot as a flagship programme to strengthen the community-based monitoring system in the Philippines and intends to scale it in other provinces in the future. On a global scale, PARIS21 and PSA will set up a peer-learning exercise with the Maldives Statistical Bureau which also expressed interest in a similar pilot programme on sub-national statistics.

- **Zambia CD4.0 Pilot on environmental statistics**: PARIS21, Statistics Sweden (SCB) and the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZAMSTATS) collaborated to improve ZAMSTATS’s capacity to produce and disseminate environmental statistics, focusing on user needs beyond pursuing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Within the scope of this pilot, the project partners mapped and analysed the capacity needs in the NSS at the systemic and organisational level and conducted a user satisfaction survey with stakeholders from the private sector, academia, CSOs and policymakers. After in-depth bilateral technical meetings, the project had direct implications for the mid-term review of Zambia’s NSDS2 and will have sustainable impact on the sectoral NSDS strategy of ZAMSTATS. Several other African countries (Tanzania, Gambia) have expressed interest in an environmental statistics project and SIDA, SCB as well as the interim Director General of ZAMSTATS lauded the sustainable and country-driven approach pursued in this pilot.

4.3 ENHANCING STATISTICAL LAWS

In June 2020, PARIS21 supported the Maldives National Bureau of Statistics, alongside UNSD, to host a virtual workshop with national stakeholders and international experts to discuss the role of a new statistics law for the country. The new statistical legislation, developed in-line with UN Fundamental Principles, will contribute to continued efforts in statistical development in the Maldives.

PARIS21 also hosted a dedicated pre-recorded session on modernising statistical legislation during the first-ever virtual UN World Data Forum in October 2020. The session featured international experts, as well as country representatives, to highlight emerging needs and challenges.

4.4 IMPROVING USE OF CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA

PARIS21 continued to support countries in the pursuit of more efficient and effective statistical practices, including efforts to leverage citizen science to produce more and better data to support inclusive models of governance and SDG monitoring, as well as to encourage new frameworks for collaboration with external actors in the data ecosystem, such as the private sector, academia and civil society.

In this context, in 2020 PARIS21 collaborated with Partners for Review (P4R) on data planning and Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for official reporting of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). As part of this work, PARIS21 conducted an advocacy and training workshop at the country level, supported ADAPT and data input by KNBS, developed a CGD quality framework for KNBS, and proposed CGD quality criteria.

KNBS’s management approved the draft “Validation strategy on Citizen Generated Data” prepared by PARIS21 as part of the Kenya Quality Assurance Framework. As a result, KNBS advanced efforts to monitor the implementation of the KNBS Strategy and its NSDS and increased understanding of the importance of CGD to complement official SDG reporting. PARIS21 also supported operationalisation of CGD use in the Philippines by working with the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) in formulating their experience in engaging with civil society actors and leveraging their potential as data producers. PARIS21 and PSA produced a case study on the “Use of Citizen-Generated Data for SDG Reporting in the Philippines”. The case study captured the Philippines’ activities and provided a useful step-by-step guide for other countries interested in using CGD to fill the data gaps in official reporting.

4.5 FACILITATING PEER LEARNING FOR COVID-19 MITIGATION

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, PARIS21 strengthened its partnership with key regional actors on the African continent to support NSOs peer-to-peer learning to help mitigate the impact of the crisis in the French-speaking countries. This initiative aimed at sharing experiences on methodological issues related to COVID-19 responses for data and statistics in the absence of technical assistance.

In this context, PARIS21 worked jointly with AFRISTAT, UNECA and INSEE to conduct a series of virtual conferences on COVID-19 and data related topics in collaboration with NSOs and other selected experts. Five webinars were organised from June to December 2020 (one webinar per month on average) and around 500 participants from different audiences joined the events. The five topics covered were:

- “Civil registration and demographic statistics in the period of COVID-19 – what new for NSOs?”;
Participation in a number of global conferences and expert meetings, including:

- ConVERGE Conference on Connecting Vital Events Registration to Gender Equality in Ottawa, Canada;
- Paris Peace Forum Workshop on Gender Data and the Private Sector;
- GovLab High-level Expert and Advisory session on supporting vulnerable people in LAC during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Special session to validate the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa; and
- Virtual session of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), which included a presentation of key findings from PRESS 2020.

Panel presentations in various webinars and training workshops, including two sessions for the Data2X Africa Gender Data Network and a workshop for Eastern European countries with Expertise France on "mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems".

5. MAINSTREAMING GENDER STATISTICS

5.1 ADVOCACY

Throughout 2020, PARIS21 pursued a number of opportunities to engage with countries and experts to raise the visibility of PARIS21’s work in gender statistics and promote increased investment. Key highlights from this external engagement include:

- Horizontal engagement at the OECD, including participation in the High-level Conference on Ending Violence Against Women and a dedicated session during the OECD 2020 March on Gender. PARIS21’s partnership with UN Women on the “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” programme (see below) was also featured in the OECD’s gender report on Financing Sustainable Development and in the OECD Gender Portal.

- Participation in a number of global conferences and expert meetings, including:
  - ConVERGE Conference on Connecting Vital Events Registration to Gender Equality in Ottawa, Canada;
  - Paris Peace Forum Workshop on Gender Data and the Private Sector;
  - GovLab High-level Expert and Advisory session on supporting vulnerable people in LAC during the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - Special session to validate the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators for Africa; and
  - Virtual session of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), which included a presentation of key findings from PRESS 2020.

- Panel presentations in various webinars and training workshops, including two sessions for the Data2X Africa Gender Data Network and a workshop for Eastern European countries with Expertise France on “mainstreaming gender in national statistical systems”.

5.1.1 PARTNERSHIP WITH UN WOMEN

Over the course of 2020, PARIS21 continued its implementation of the “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” (“Women Count”) programme together with UN Women.

The programme covers a range of areas related to statistical planning, gender data communication, and monitoring gender data use and financing. In 2020, activities under this programme included the launch of three new gender statistics assessment pilots in El Salvador, Cambodia, and Lesotho, in addition to sustained engagements in Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, Dominican Republic, and the Maldives.

Building on these efforts, PARIS21 continued to advocate for integrating gender as a standard element in its technical assistance for statistical planning in low- and middle-income countries, in particular through the development of a dedicated gender statistics module for the updated PARIS21 NSDS Guidelines, which are set for public release in early 2021.

Additional highlights in PARIS21’s partnership in “Women Count” include:

- Based on recommendations and insights from PARIS21’s gender statistics assessment pilot in Senegal, ANSD introduced its first gender mainstreamed NSDS (NSDS3), with gender data and gender equality as a core pillar in its strategic framework. The Government of Senegal approved the new strategy early in, which is now under implementation.

- In July 2020, PARIS21 launched a new e-learning course on “Communicating Gender Statistics” in the PARIS21 Academy. The learning modules are designed for both journalists and statisticians, with an aim to facilitate better collaboration between media and NSOs in communicating gender statistics to support efforts toward gender equality. The course boasted over 1000 participants, with over 250 completing all modules by the end of 2020.
6. OVERALL MANAGEMENT

6.1 COVID-19 RESPONSE

In 2020, PARIS21 put in place an exceptional COVID-19 response to meet and help address the key challenges faced by national statistical systems in the poorest countries amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

In April 2020, PARIS21 launched a COVID-19 Rapid Action Task Force that produced the groundbreaking “Policy Brief - Combating COVID-19 with Data: What Role for National Statistical Systems?”. The brief showed that lockdown situations squeeze NSOs between increasing data demands and constrained data production. The full or partial closure of workplaces forced NSOs and other institutions to shift to teleworking arrangements, often without adequate technical infrastructure needed to sustain ongoing activities. NSSs relying on technical assistance and capacity development programmes supported by development partners were found to likely be the most hit, with budget decreases foreseen in several African NSOs.

In response to these findings and direct calls from partners, PARIS21 worked collaboratively to adjust activities under the Programme of Work to the COVID context and strengthened cooperation in response to country needs. For example, the Secretariat enhanced its collaboration on peer learning together with Afristat, INSEE, UNECA and about 25 Statistical Offices in Africa. This work will be further developed in 2021 with a view to implementing virtual technical assistance, tailored to the needs of specific agencies.

In July 2020, PARIS21 co-hosted a dedicated webinar with UN Women to highlight the gender data needs associated with the pandemic, and lessons learned during the response. The event highlighted insights from UN Women’s Rapid Gender Assessments, conducted in partnership with NSOs and telecom companies, as well as efforts PARIS21’s efforts to support business continuity in its partner countries.
PARIS21 supported national statistical offices via a video project to highlight the work of NSOs amidst the pandemic. With PARIS21’s support, five countries produced videos to tell their stories in during the pandemic, illustrating how NSOs have been affected by the crisis, in both substantive and operational terms, and about how they have innovated to respond to the crisis and fulfill their mandates despite the challenges. The project showcased the human angle on the critical statistics behind national COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts.

The “Data for the People” podcast was launched to solicit the views and opinions of a wide range of partners on how the crisis was being informed by, and affects, data worldwide. Through an informal discussion, participants considered what will happen on “the day after” the crisis ends, and on what it has taught us about data. Guests spanned a wide range, from national statisticians to senior UN and development officials to those working on the frontlines of COVID response and recovery at Gavi and elsewhere. By the end of 2020, 13 episodes were recorded and listened to nearly a thousand times.

In 2020, the Secretariat was also successful in managing the budget while responding to funding adjustments from key donors and related uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was able to do so in particular through reduced mission-related expenses and judicious human resourcing decisions that maintained existing staff capacity.

6.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

PARIS21’s first-ever virtual Annual Meetings brought an unprecedented 700 participants from more than a hundred countries together for days of engaging and exciting virtual meetings. The Annual Meetings were one of the first global events to look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national statistical systems.

In April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic PARIS21 held its annual meeting virtually for the first time in its twenty-year history. What is normally a two-day event that brings around sixty Board Members and around fifty other guests to the PARIS21 premises in Paris was transformed into a three-part virtual event.

The first part, “Unlocking the SDGs as a shared results framework: From ambition to action”, was organized jointly with the OECD. The webinar, which was held as one of the Road to Bern events, looked at how the SDG monitoring & framework adopted at national level can serve as a platform for shared generation and use of data on development results by both countries and their development partners. Speakers from AidData, the Philippines Statistics Authority, and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation initiated a lively discussion about how to enable accountability among all development stakeholders and accelerate data production and use in line with SDG needs.

The second, “Addressing COVID-19: How are national statistical offices in low- and middle-income countries doing?” was a timely discussion of a global crisis that, at the time, was only three months old. The event gave NSOs a platform to highlight the challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects in terms of increasing data demands, operational issues, and budgetary crises. Based on the experiences of our country partners, the session was able to propose short- and medium-term solutions and opportunities for greater collaboration and research to deliver timely, high-quality data amidst a pandemic.

The third, the Secretariat session, brought Board members together from all over the world to review PARIS21’s programme of, reflect on the year before and plan for the year ahead. During the Secretariat session PARIS21’s 2021-2025 Strategy was launched, a strategic document which sets the direction of travel for PARIS21 for the coming period.

At the time that PARIS21 held its Annual Meetings, global meetings of that type via videoconference were still virtually untested, especially via the Zoom platform. As such, the Secretariat was forced to think innovatively, learn a new technology quickly, and adapt its normally face-to-face programme to a virtual one.

Despite the challenges, the team succeeded in producing a virtual event that was regarded as highly engaging and constructive by participants, with more than eighty percent providing highly positive feedback. It also provided more opportunity for participants from low- and middle-income countries to attend, some of whom would not have been able to attend the physical meeting in Paris. As a result more than 700 participants from governments, UN agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector attended the virtual meetings. This was an important lesson to PARIS21 that will guide its efforts to make meetings ever more inclusive in the future.

PARIS21 also held two Executive Committee meetings during the year (March and December 2020), during which members discussed strategic aspects of PARIS21’s Programme of Work, budget and strategy. The latter of the two meetings was held virtually and also provided an opportunity to review the nascent PARIS21 Results Framework, PARIS21 Foundation and the PARIS21 2021-2025 Communications Strategy (see below).

6.3 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

6.3.1 2021-25 STRATEGY

In April 2020, PARIS21 launched its new 2021-2025 Strategy, the key document that describes the changing global context in which PARIS21 operates and provides a high-level roadmap of how the organisation will work to close the national statistics gap, helping every country develop the strong statistical system necessary to advance sustainable development.

The Strategy was developed through a one-year consultative process, during which two external Sherpas and a task team comprising a broad range of PARIS21 stakeholders provided guidance, support and brainstorming. Working together, members and the Secretariat crafted a strategy that aims to respond to the needs of the partnership to provide high quality “public good data” on topics that matter for all citizens in every country.
The Strategy is a significant forward leap for PARIS21 and provides a new vision – Better Data for All – and a new mission, “to put robust data and statistics at the heart of decision-making”, for the partnership. It also describes three new strategic areas of focus that aim to best respond to the changing world in which we live.

6.3.2 2021-25 Results Framework

From October to December 2020, PARIS21 developed a proposal for a new, unified Results Framework to accompany the new 2021-25 strategy. The framework was designed with the guidance of a dedicated advisory task team comprising PARIS21 partners and donors including: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Statistics Canada, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and UN Women. The proposed framework aligns with the three pillars of PARIS21’s 2021-2025 Strategy and is comprised of: (1) a results chain which received strong support by the December Executive Committee, (2) a measurement framework with indicators and targets (still being developed), and (3) a short narrative theory of change (still being developed). The Results Framework will be submitted for approval by the PARIS21 Board in April 2021.

6.3.3 PARIS21 Foundation

In 2020, PARIS21 drove discussions to move forward with the establishment of the PARIS21 Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland, presenting an implementation plan to set up the Foundation in the first half of 2021 which was submitted to Board members for written approval by January 2021. The plan received the endorsement of the Executive Committee in December 2020. The Foundation is expected to diversify PARIS21’s funding base and put the partnership on a stronger and more stable financial footing for the continuation of its activities for the future.

6.4 Communications

6.4.1 2021-25 Communications Strategy

In 2020, PARIS21 developed the 2021-2025 Communications Strategy. As part of the exercise, PARIS21 interviewed dozens of Board Members, surveyed more than 5000 stakeholders, and evaluated its channels, tools and products. The insights from the exercise have provided far-reaching insights into how to engage PARIS21’s stakeholders, connect with new partners and expand PARIS21’s reach.

The Communications Strategy, which will be launched at the April 2021 Annual Meetings, provides four key action areas for PARIS21 for the coming period that aim to: bring a coherent and persuasive impact narrative to all aspects of PARIS21’s work, build a more engaged partnership, make partner communications fit for purpose and provide excellence in communications.

6.4.2 Communication and Social Media

PARIS21 improved its overall outreach and communications efforts throughout 2020 via innovations and increased social media engagement.

PARIS21 redeveloped its homepage in 2020. The new page provides a much more engaging, user-friendly navigation structure centred around news items. The design is intended to give greater prominence to a wide range of PARIS21 and partner news content and uses a “Guardian-style” news display to showcase diverse array of news compared to the previous site which showed largely only one news item. The style of the page has also been refreshed to be in line with modern standards and design.

During 2020, PARIS21 launched a new LinkedIn profile. In less than one year, PARIS21’s LinkedIn page grew to have the second-highest number of followers among peer organisations. Contributing to this was a steady stream of content that PARIS21 produced, with over thirty posts during 2020.

PARIS21 also expanded its reach through virtual events adapted to the COVID-19 context, with major events such as the Annual Meetings and PARIS21-affiliated sessions during the virtual UN World Data Forum livestreamed and reaching hundreds of participants across all regions of the world.
### Annex 1: Statement of Expenditure

**Statement of Expenditure 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditures (in Euros)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,787,518</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,064,315</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,395,446</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advance against Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>352,222</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,792,083</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,787,518</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Savings</strong></td>
<td><strong>179,495</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total budget 2020:** 5,787,518 (in Euros)

**Cash payments:** 3,395,446

**Advance against Services:** 352,222

**Savings:** 179,495

**Total financial contributions:** 1,956,073

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**Note:** This document contains a detailed breakdown of expenditures for the year 2020. The table above shows the total budget, cash, bank, advance against services, other expenses, savings, and total financial contributions for the year.

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**Read it now at progress.paris21.org**
Worrying stagnation in support to data and statistics despite growing data demand amid COVID-19

As one of PARIS21’s primary workstreams and publications, the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) offers the most comprehensive insights on support to data and statistics. Fifteen years since its inception, the PRESS established a consistent time series. It also became the most reliable evidence and source when advocating for more and better funding to statistics to boost the chances of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To respond to the growing demand from its key stakeholders for timely data to plan activities and projects and coordinate various development co-operation efforts, PARIS21 started to develop a methodology to reduce the reporting lag in PRESS from around 18 months to 6 months. This innovative workstream was first proposed and approved in the PARIS21’s 2019 Annual Meeting1, and the methodology development was reported in the 2020 Annual Meeting2. The strategic decision was timely. As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the development aid flows, creating unexpected gaps and drawing unprecedented attention to data and statistics, PARIS21 was able to step in to monitor how resources were mobilised for national data ecosystems closely.

Overall, since the adoption of the SDGs, the funding to data and statistics has increased at a slow but steady speed, from $591 million in 2015 to $693 million in 2018. The pledge to Leave No One Behind also lead to a more substantial rise in aid to recipients and areas that have the most urgent needs or were overlooked before, such as the least developed countries, small island developing states, as well as gender data. Despite the progress made, the trend of support to data and statistics may also be approaching a bottleneck, as nowcasting analysis indicated no significant increase in 2019.

More importantly, the PRESS 2020 also found that data and statistics’ centrality to crisis response and recovery has not translated into more funding. As of January 2021, data and statistical development projects reported by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) accounted for only 0.42% (USD 327 million) of reported funding for COVID-19-related funding (Figure 1), which does not represent a significant increase from pre-pandemic levels (around 0.39%) in projects reported by the IATI.

The pandemic has accelerated the recent trend of pivoting funding to patchwork support through sectoral projects instead of systemic support directly to data and statistics. About 20% of the total amount of COVID-19-related development aid reported in IATI contains a dimension on either data production, dissemination or use – a much higher share than projects with a primary focus on statistics. On the one hand, it is reasonable to allocate funding to where it is needed most, which, in this case, is the patchwork support to collect the most urgent data in this case. On the other hand, historical data collected in PRESS showed that sectoral data collection activities are consistently less aligned with beneficiary countries’ national statistical plans, with an alignment rate at 45% in these projects comparing with 57% in systemic capacity development projects. They are thus less likely to align with priorities identified in national development plans and make a limited contribution to closing the fundamental data gap. The lack of alignment with national priorities also puts country ownership at risk, which may eventually threaten the

sustainability of the capacity built through these resources.

The latest data also reveal that despite evidence that the pandemic disproportionally impacted women, funding to close the gender data gap remains low. Within the $327 million COVID-19-related funding to data, about 17% of projects have an explicit gender dimension. “Health” and “Population and reproductive health” are the sectors that received the most funding from these projects (Figure 2), while the effects of COVID-19 on women and girls transcend immediate health threats, encompassing employment, education, and social protection. The persistent lack of funding to foundational gender data even in emergencies continues to hamper the design of inclusive policies and programming at a time where they are needed most.

The pandemic may have permanently changed the way we build statistical capacity and how official statistics are collected, produced, disseminated, and used. It is crucial for partners to start helping countries prepare for this post-pandemic world and building resilient and coordinated statistical capacity. Three critical steps should be taken to tackle the challenges to move towards more and better financing for statistics in a post-COVID world:

- First, while funding for specific data production during crises is well understood, development partners should not forget that funding to fundamental statistical activities, such as census and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), is still crucial for the long-term benefit of data ecosystems. Funding diverted to these activities should be re-instated as soon as possible.

- Second, the data and statistics community should increase advocacy to highlight data and statistics’ significance in this period. Additional funding will be easier to access if the effectiveness of current levels of support is demonstrated. Information sharing and transparency should not be limited to project documentation. It should also include narratives, lessons-learnt and key to success.

- Third, mechanisms are needed to improve information availability from donors and recipients. A platform like the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, currently being developed by the Bern Network, will be essential for coordinating information from aid providers and recipients.

![Figure 1. % share of statistics-related projects in development aid addressing COVID-19](image1)

![Figure 2. Area distribution of funding to COVID-19-related projects that also have a gender statistics dimension](image2)
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this note is to provide an update to the PARIS21 Board on the project to develop a Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data (“clearinghouse”), followed by an overall update on the activities of the Bern Network on Financing Development Data (“Bern Network”), of which PARIS21 serves as the Secretariat.

The Bern Network is a multi-stakeholder alliance of national statistical offices, aid providers, international and multilateral organisations, and other agencies to promote more and better funding for data to support the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was established in 2019 by the Swiss Government, in collaboration with other partners.

The clearinghouse is being developed under the umbrella of this alliance, with PARIS21 leading the project in cooperation with Open Data Watch and in consultation with a wide range of partners from across PARIS21, the Bern Network and beyond.

OVERVIEW: THE CLEARINGHOUSE

The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data is being designed as an online platform to make financing for development data more efficient and effective by fostering transparency, improved accountability and alignment, and better coordination among donors and partner countries. It aims to do so by providing information and functionalities to better match the supply and demand for statistical support, as well as by creating a community of practice and supporting offline processes that bring together donors, recipients and stakeholders both at the global and the country levels.

Specifically, the clearinghouse’s comprehensive and intuitive data dashboards will allow users to analyse current and forecasted financing flows to data and statistics for all major aid providers and match them to country-level financing and needs for all 74 countries eligible to receive IDA resources. It will be possible to filter and analyse this information according to a wide range of sectoral, thematic and geographic priorities such as gender or CRVS. It is intended in particular to help track financing for SDG related data investments.

The platform will also include online community features so that users will be able to interact, share data, expertise and experience, forge new partnerships, and learn from one another. A comprehensive database of donor, partner and project profiles will deliver insights into the priorities and activities of diverse actors, and a rich pool of advocacy materials, case studies and research will strengthen the ability of users to advocate for more and better funding. The platform will provide donors with investment opportunities and data practitioners with funding opportunities.

1 PARIS21 is in conversation with the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s Data for Development (D4D) work stream to create linkages between the Clearinghouse and the donor profiles developed by D4D to achieve maximum synergies.
The clearinghouse will be launched as a prototype at the United Nations World Data Forum in October 2021. At launch, the platform will be populated with all donor data, data for all IDA countries gathered from centralised sources, and deep-dive data for 10 priority IDA countries (please see Section 3 below). Other features of the platform (the community, resources, and analysis) will all be available at launch, and be upgraded on an ongoing basis over a period of five years from 2021 to 2025.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN & CURRENT STATUS

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The clearinghouse will extract and leverage supply-side and country-level information from existing databases and publically accessible resources (quantitative and qualitative), complemented by desk research. By bringing together existing data in such a way, the clearinghouse will deliver new and unique analytical insights on data financing and be the first platform to provide this information on a global scale, representing a major advance for the statistical and development communities. The content on the clearinghouse will be maintained and updated centrally.

The clearinghouse will add further value by pioneering analyses and collecting new data on the need for statistical support to enhance the information garnered through existing data sources (i.e. enhanced country-level information). This information will be collected for a specific set of countries through dedicated data sourcing exercises developed specifically for the clearinghouse, including questionnaires, country consultations and analytical work to gather inputs from partner countries directly. In light of the significant work involved in these exercises, the enhanced country-level information will be provided on the platform in a sequenced way, beginning with 10 countries in 2021.

Both the global-scale information and first set of enhanced country-level analyses (10 countries) will be developed for the initial clearinghouse prototype to be launched at the United Nations World Data Forum in October 2021. Expanded content on financing for gender and CRVS will be included in the 2021 prototype. From 2022 onwards, and based on user feedback, needs and resources, the aim will be to extend the coverage of the enhanced country-level analyses to all 74 IDA countries with a view to support country-led processes.

Governance arrangements for the clearinghouse will also be developed to ensure inclusive participation and guidance for the further development of the project.

CURRENT STATUS

As of March 2021, the Secretariat has begun the technical development of the clearinghouse and is currently working to prepare a test version of the prototype for the summer of 2021, which will be refined and adjusted for the launch in October 2021.

In preparation for the technical development of the platform, the Secretariat conducted a detailed data audit for the clearinghouse. This included a comprehensive data mapping for the planned platform, including data sources, data visualisation and data flows on the platform, identifying major bottlenecks and caveats, and putting forward an overview of existing resources. The results of this audit will inform the initial stage of data modelling and analysis to deliver the prototype clearinghouse.

The Secretariat is also actively pursuing opportunities to establish synergies between the clearinghouse and existing databases and initiatives. Discussions are underway with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), OECD Development Assistance Committee’s Data for Development Work Stream, International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to explore technical collaboration for the platform.

In addition, the clearinghouse team has been working to create linkages with different global communities to help achieve greater momentum for the data financing agenda. Dialogue is ongoing with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), with which PARIS21 and other Bern Network members are exploring the organisation of joint activities to better understand good practices for effective development cooperation for financing data and statistics. On 12 February 2021, PARIS21 jointly co-organised a side event of the UN Statistical Commission with the United Nations Statistics Division and the High-level Group on Partnerships, Co-ordination and Capacity Building (HLG-PCCB) on enhancing development data, which gathered over 200 participants and included a presentation of the clearinghouse. Following this meeting, the Secretariat conducted in-depth consultations with potential platform users to continue refining the understanding of user needs. These consultations will continue and build on the over twenty hours of interviews conducted by the Secretariat and Open Data Watch with NSOs, development agencies, and other potential users to design the clearinghouse for optimal value since September 2020.

NEXT STEPS

As part of the immediate next steps up to June 2021, the Secretariat will:

• Continue preparing the prototype of the platform, including platform design, data sourcing and modelling, and user testing. An advisory group comprised of potential users will be set up in the spring to facilitate user testing and review.

2 Tentative list of initial countries for this exercise include: Benin, Burundi, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. These will be confirmed in Spring 2021.

3 PARIS21 and Open Data Watch conducted in-depth interviews and solicited the views of more than 100 leading providers and recipients of development data financing through a global survey in September, combined with extensive one-on-one interviews with potential platform users (September-December 2020). These consultations uncovered profound limitations in existing information on financing data and statistics and identified challenges specific to different user groups, which the clearinghouse will address.
• Advance the development of governance arrangements for the clearinghouse, beginning with desk research and a series of informational calls with similar platforms to inform governance design. The informational calls were started in February and will continue up to the summer of 2021.4

• Continue to socialise and build a base of funding partners for the clearinghouse, which as of February 2021 include the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the IDRC Centre of Excellence for CRVS. Discussions are ongoing with the Korea International Cooperation Agency for multi-annual support for the project.

**UPDATE: BERN NETWORK**

Since the last Board Meeting in April 2020, PARIS21 has continued to serve as the Secretariat of the Bern Network. As of March 2021, the network has grown to include over 150 members from NSOs, aid agencies, and international and multilateral organisations from across the world. The core group, which serves as an informal steering committee of the network, includes nine members: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, the UK Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSSD), OECD, Open Data Watch, UNSD, World Bank and PARIS21.

Over the past year, the Bern Network continued to advance discussions on, and develop outputs centred around, its five action areas to achieve more and better funding for development data. These areas are: 1) increasing domestic resource mobilisation; 2) scaling-up external funding; 3) boosting efficiency of existing aid; 4) strengthening collaboration between stakeholders; and 5) leveraging sectoral funding. These activities were advanced with the aim of delivering concrete outcomes for the UN World Data Forum, which will take place in October 2021 in Bern, Switzerland.

In parallel to the development of the clearinghouse, outlined above, the Bern Network Secretariat conducted numerous meetings and consultations with its network members to inform its activities and co-create outputs, including with NSOs, donor agencies, multilateral development banks, and international entities. As part of this process, from January to March 2020 it organised in-person meetings in Paris, Washington D.C. and New York, the latter during the UN Statistical Commission, on the topic of more and better financing for development data. With COVID-19, the network adapted its activities and milestones to reflect the changes to the UN World Data Forum timeline and conducted regular virtual meetings of its steering committee from March to December 2020, as well as a meeting of all members in April 2020 chaired by the Assistant Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. In October 2020, the Bern Network co-organised an event at the virtual UN World Data Forum on “Supporting better investments in development data - Mechanisms, actions and perspectives” that gathered over 400 participants and generated positive feedback and recommendations for how the network can further increase the momentum around the more and better data financing agenda.

In addition, the Bern Network convened regular working meetings with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) to actively explore synergies, including for the clearinghouse. As of March 2021, the network and the GPEDC are in the process of exploring a joint workshop in to facilitate the exchange of good practices for effective development cooperation in financing data and statistics for developing countries.

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4 Informational interviews will be conducted, among others, with the team behind the Clearing-house Mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Background

The 2030 Agenda requires all countries to generate, collect and use more and better development data for their policy-making than ever before. These evolving demands mean that national statistical systems (NSSs) must modernise and develop new capacities to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), necessitating the mobilisation of significant resources to this end over the next decade.

The implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Development Data (CTGAP), which was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2017 as a roadmap for the evolution and development of NSSs to meet future needs, is estimated to require USD 5.6 billion a year through 2030 for 144 low- and middle-income countries. Taking into account estimates of available domestic and external funding sources for these countries, there is currently an annual gap of USD 700 million to resource data and statistics at scale, which presents a significant challenge to the development and statistical communities, in particular in light of the global COVID-19 crisis.

To address this challenge, countries and the global community must find new ways to create efficiencies in current spending, leverage existing resources and attract new funding, both domestically and from external aid providers. This need was recognised in the Dubai Declaration of the UNWDF 2018, which calls for innovative funding strategies for the CTGAP. The need for better financing also resonates with the 2011 principles of effective development cooperation outlined in the Busan Partnership Agreement. However, to be successful, such innovations would need to overcome a number of barriers that currently limit incentives for channelling adequate financing for data and statistics. These include: poor domestic awareness of the importance of statistical capacity; lack of transparency of donor activities and predictability of funding for country programmes; low levels of alignment of projects with country systems and priorities; fragmentation between sectors or information systems; and a lack of coordination and harmonisation of development efforts across actors. These challenges result in incentives that currently hinder greater cooperation on funding statistical capacity development for both donors and recipients.

Rationale

In this context, the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development is developing an online platform called the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data as a solution to help address these challenges. The objective of the clearinghouse is to support better and greater allocation of resources for data by fostering transparency, improved accountability and alignment, and better coordination among donors and partner countries. It aims to do so by providing information and functionalities to better match the supply and demand for statistical support, as well as by creating a community of practice and supporting offline processes that bring together donors, recipients and stakeholders both at the global and the country levels.

The clearinghouse is particularly relevant in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, in which reliable and timely information to support budget reallocation and other measures are needed. When donors are provided with information on existing projects, coupled with the demand for general statistics and sector-specific funding by countries, they will be better able to guide their own investments and focus on how their priorities fit into the larger data for development financing architecture. A clearinghouse will therefore provide soft guidance on where funding is particularly needed by presenting information clearly and without bias, while also highlighting particular shortfalls and emerging issues.

The clearinghouse will also have significant country-level relevance, as it can help recipient partners not only mobilise more domestic resources for data and statistics, but also more clearly indicate where external funding support is most needed, helping give NSOs a greater voice and contributing to partner-driven development. This demand-side function of the clearinghouse therefore resonates with principles of the Busan Partnership Agreement and can constitute a step forward to support more effective development cooperation in this field.

In addition to the value it can bring to partner countries, the clearinghouse can be a useful mechanism for sectoral donors to better understand and navigate the data field. If designed well and with a range of pertinent tools, it can become a global public good that can be replicated at the sectoral level for fields such as health, infrastructure and beyond.
The new NSDS Guidelines 3.0 are the latest version produced in 2020. The Guidelines for National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) provide knowledge and landmarks for the NSDS preparation for the first strategic plan or for the update of an existing one. The NSDS Guidelines 3.0 will help governments to design statistics development strategies, drawing lessons from statistical systems across the world. They are helpful in assessing the national statistics system (NSS)’s current capacity and setting goals for progress. They are helpful for identifying a suitable governance structure for the process of design and implementation of NSDS and are useful for government statisticians, policy makers and strategic planners to understand how statistics and data are important in all areas of government.

In 2020, a major update of the NSDS Guidelines was produced, since the NSDS Guidelines 2.0 in 2014. In this new version, the NSDS Guidelines 3.0, a completely new layout of the website and a new way to structure and navigate the Guidelines through the restructured NSDS Lifecycle, were introduced. The aim is to increase user-friendliness as well as exchange of good practices. The NSDS Guidelines 3.0 also tackles many emerging topics for the larger data ecosystem.

WHAT IS NEW IN THE NSDS GUIDELINES 3.0

The new NSDS Guidelines 3.0 reflect a completely new layout of the website and a new way to structure and navigate the guidelines through the restructured NSDS Lifecycle. This structure makes them accessible to a range of readers. The use of links and info bubbles helps explain terminology to non-experts and also allow readers to delve deeper into topics. The NSDS Guidelines 3.0 are organised in manageable sections that the user can move between, rather than having one long pdf document. The guidelines brings together other resources in the top menu and the right hand bar for ease access.

The new NSDS Lifecycle is organized and can be navigated through three levels: the stages, the phases, and the steps, all moving sequentially in a circular flow. A short description of the three stages and seven phases are well explained in the website. The steps under each phase provide access to (i) knowledge base of relevant literature; (ii) specific guidelines and recommendations; (ii) concepts and tools; and (iv) country examples based on NSDS good practices.

The NSDS Guidelines 3.0 highlights Special Topics that are identified as important to integrate in the NSDS as a key entry point to develop the capacity of the National Statistical System with the aim to take into account all the aspects of the new data ecosystem. The special topics presented in the guidelines can be updated, adapted and revised, and new topics further identified as important can be added in the future revisions of the NSDS Guidelines. Suggested concrete actions are provided with reference to the relevant specific steps in the NSDS Lifecycle, to include the special topics among the priority considerations in the preparation of the NSDS.
Learning from the covid-19 pandemic experience, a special topic on the development of a “Statistics Strategy for managing crises, emergencies and disasters data demand” was added in the new guidelines, among others.

The following special topics were included in the NSDS Guidelines 3.0: Administrative Data; Agenda 2030; Crisis Management; Data Resolution; Fragile States; Gender; Geospatial data integration; Innovation; Open Data; Regional strategies; Subnational strategies; Sectoral strategies; SIDS; Statistical legislation.

The new NSDS Guidelines 3.0 provides links to necessary resources (tools, related guidelines, country examples) at some point in the steps and are also all regrouped in the top menu and the right-hand bar for ease access. Their purpose is to enrich, contextualize and operationalize the guidelines while encouraging peer exchanges of experiences and good practices. These resources are necessary for the preparation, the implementation and the updating process of a NSDS.

The new guidelines also provide a glossary, which allows readers to access easily all definitions and concepts used in the guidelines.

THE NSDS GUIDELINES UPDATE PROCESS

PARIS21 developed the first NSDS Guidelines in 2004. Based upon a decade of experience in almost one hundred countries, the NSDS guidelines have been revisited in order to enhance and adapt the tool based on assessments made and the views of users and producers within the changing development context. The NSDS guidelines 2.0 were officially launched at the PARIS21 Annual Meetings in 2014.

Since then, the NSDS Guidelines are updated on an annual basis, based on experience and feedback from users in all continents, changes in the international agenda, and new approaches and innovations developed by practitioners. The aim is to create a living document that is updated on a continuous basis to keep abreast with the changing global, regional and national environment. To answer this evolving context, and in order to monitor the evolution of the NSDS Guidelines in an efficient and structured manner, the PARIS21 Secretariat has established an NSDS Guidelines Reference Group with experts from countries and organisations from all regions.

The Reference Group’s main roles are to provide guidance on the development of the Guidelines and approve updates. The updates approved by the Reference Group are included in the website each year. In 2020, two meetings of the Reference Group were organised in February and November to guide the overall restructuring of the NSDS Guidelines content and website to make it more user-friendly and approved the updates. Based on the above procedures, the new NSDS Guidelines 3.0 were produced.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE

NSDS GUIDELINES REFERENCE GROUP

BACKGROUND

The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) is a global partnership of national, regional and international statistics experts and policy makers seeking to improve evidence-based decision making in developing countries. As demand for data increases, PARIS21 supports the development of statistical capacity at both country and regional level to improve the provision, availability and use of high quality data; foster dialogue within societies on the use of data for accountability and evidence-based policy making; and promote the well-being of people by contributing to the achievement of national and international development goals.

One of PARIS21’s core activities is to provide support to developing countries in the design, implementation, and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). An NSDS provides a country with a vision of the development of statistics consistent with national development plans and priorities and takes into consideration regional and international statistical commitments. It contains a detailed and costed action plan for the production and dissemination of statistics over a period of 5 to 10 years, including capacity development needs, and required institutional, infrastructure and system transformation.

The NSDS Guidelines provide guidance and a roadmap for the elaboration of NSDSs worldwide. The NSDS Guidelines were first developed in 2004 by PARIS21 and were revisited in 2014 to adapt the tool based on assessments and experiences in a changing development context, leveraging a decade of experience in almost one hundred countries. Since then, the NSDS Guidelines have been updated on an annual basis, based on experience and feedback from users on all continents, changes in the international agenda, and new approaches and innovations developed by practitioners.

To respond to the evolving context, and in order to monitor the evolution of the NSDS Guidelines in an efficient and structured manner, the PARIS21 Secretariat established an NSDS Guidelines Reference Group in 2014 to suggest, review and approve updates to the Guidelines. The Reference Group is made up of experts from NSOs, regional and international development agencies from all regions. In 2019, PARIS21 initiated a complete restructuring of the NSDS Guidelines website to comply with the requests
and comments made by the Reference Group in its meeting of the same year. In 2020 two meetings of
the Reference Group were organised in February and November to guide the overall restructuring of the
NSDS Guidelines content and website to make it more user-friendly.

The NSDS Guidelines require constant updating and rethinking in order to fit the needs of an evolving
statistical community. The present Terms of Reference (TOR) have been updated following the end of the
Reference Group’s previous mandate in order to provide a clear outline of the group’s purpose and scope
to both new and existing members.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE WORK**

The NSDS Guidelines Reference Group ensures that the Guidelines take into consideration feedback
from users on all continents, changes in the international agenda, and new approaches and innovations
developed by practitioners in data and statistics. The aim is to ensure that the Guidelines serve as a living
document that is updated on a continuous basis to keep abreast with the changing global, regional and
national environment and is internationally recognised and approved.

**ROLE OF THE REFERENCE GROUP AND WORKING PRACTICES**

The Reference Group’s two main roles are to provide guidance on the development of the Guidelines and
approve updates.

The Reference Group will also contribute to:

- Co-design guides and materials on some sections on specific areas (e.g. geospatial data, confidentiality,
administrative data, gender statistics, etc.) for the NSDS Guidelines;
- Liaise with other international initiatives relevant to data planning and statistical capacity development,
including but not limited to:
  - NSDS Impact Assessment
  - Statistical Coordination
  - Thematic / sectoral approaches;
- Outreach and communicate on the NSDS Guidelines:
  - Communication (e.g. social networks, website promotion)
  - Training of trainers and Regional trainings on NSDS Guidelines.

The main responsibilities of the Reference Group members will be to:

- Review and approve major changes to the NSDS Guidelines virtually;
- Provide feedback on the modifications proposed and on the NSDS Guidelines in general, and provide
guidance to the PARIS21 Secretariat on specific tasks needed in the future;
- Contribute or help to identify best practices and possible contributors for drafting specific chapters or
sections of chapters, guides for new areas where deemed necessary;
- Assist in the dissemination of the NSDS Guidelines; and
- Attend the meetings of the Group, organised by PARIS21 (up to two virtual meetings per year).

The Reference Group mandate lasts two years (e.g. 2021 and 2022), and can be renewed.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The NSDS Guidelines Reference Group will be comprised of members representing the following
categories:

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<tr>
<th>Countries:</th>
<th>Regional organisations:</th>
<th>Donors:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two representing Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>EUROSTAT</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two representing Africa</td>
<td>UNECA, STATAFRIC/AUC</td>
<td>ADB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two representing Latin America</td>
<td>UNECLAC</td>
<td>Two bilateral aid agencies</td>
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<td>Two representing Caribbean</td>
<td>CARICOM</td>
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<td>Two representing Middle East</td>
<td>UNESCWA</td>
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<td>Two representing Asia</td>
<td>UNESCAP</td>
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<td>Two representing Pacific</td>
<td>SPC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The group will be chaired by one of the members approved by consensus.

The PARIS21 Secretariat will submit suggestions for the role of chair on behalf of the group.
### TIMELINE OF KEY MILESTONES (2020-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Nov 2020</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
<th>Jan 2021</th>
<th>Feb 2021</th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Q2 2021</th>
<th>Q3 2021</th>
<th>Q4 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Review the Task Team Terms of reference leading to renewal or change of members</td>
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<td>2. Reference Group meeting to discuss new website and identify new improvements</td>
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<td>3. Review and finalise the new website</td>
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<td>4. Launch of the new website</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Reference group meeting: review of the updates/improvements and identification of next steps</td>
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<td>6. Depending on developments: possible second meeting as well as support in implementing some changes.</td>
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ADVANCING DATA LITERACY IN THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

A primer to catalyse policy dialogue and action
1 The urgent need to foster data literacy

COVID-19 holds a mirror up to data literacy in society

From interest to impact: beyond a fragmented understanding and practice of data literacy

2 Elements of data literacy – a modern understanding for policy impact

Insight #1: Data literacy goes beyond ‘technical’ data skills

Insight #2: Data literacy is applicable at individual, organisational and system levels

Insight #3: Data literacy is for everyone, beyond just data experts and enthusiasts

3 Doing data literacy – selected practices and examples

Ways to operationalise data literacy

Examples of data literacy initiatives

4 Promoting data literacy – lessons learnt and future outlook

Take-away #1: Forging a common language around data literacy

Take-away #2: Adopting a demand-driven and participatory approach to doing data literacy

Take-away #3: Moving from ad-hoc programming towards sustained policy, investment and impact

5 References

“Statistical claims fill our newspapers and social media feeds, unfiltered by expert judgment and often designed as a political weapon. We do not necessarily trust the experts—or more precisely, we may have our own distinctive view of who counts as an expert and who does not.

Nor are we passive consumers of statistical propaganda; we are the medium through which the propaganda spreads. We are arbiters of what others will see: what we retweet, like or share online determines whether a claim goes viral or vanishes.”


COVID-19 holds a mirror up to data literacy in society

The COVID-19 crisis presents a monumental opportunity to engender a widespread data culture in our societies. Since early 2020, the emergence of popular data sites like Worldometer have promoted interest and attention in data-driven tracking of the pandemic. “R values”, “flattening the curve” and “exponential increase” have seeped into everyday lexicon. Social media and news outlets have filled the public consciousness with trends, rankings and graphs throughout multiple waves of COVID-19.

Yet, the crisis also reveals a critical lack of data literacy amongst citizens in many parts of the world. A surge of data actors presenting conflicting numbers has left the layperson more confused than informed. Keeping up with inconsistent reporting practices, dubious sources and heterogeneous data quality is becoming arduous and has contributed to wavering public trust in data, evidence and institutions in different parts of the world. (Misra and Schmidt, 2020)

The lack of a data literate culture predates the pandemic. The supply of statistics and information has significantly outpaced the ability of lay citizens to make informed choices about their lives in the digital data age. Every day citizens are bombarded with aggregate statistics that may not be directly relatable to their own lives, face divergent views of “evidence-based” policies and experts or need to make decisions about their data privacy. Today’s fragmented datafied information landscape is also susceptible to the pitfalls of misinformation, post-truth politics and societal polarisation – all of which demand a critical thinking lens towards data.

There is an urgent need to develop data literacy at the level of citizens, organisations and society – such that all actors are empowered to navigate the complexity of modern data ecosystems. The capacity to compare, contrast and parse meaningful information amidst escalating data noise, can propel citizen engagement and civic participation towards thriving deliberative democracy. (Schiller and Engel, 2017)

Building a minimum set of relevant capabilities to augment public data literacy and use can help unlock the value of data and statistics.

Draft discussion paper for the 2021 PARIS21 Annual Meetings, prepared by Archita Misra (PARIS21) under the supervision of Johannes Jütting (PARIS21) and Diego Kuonen (Statoo Consulting & University of Geneva). Comments to the author (Archita.misra@oecd.org) are welcome.

Full paper with references (PDF)
FROM INTEREST TO IMPACT: BEYOND A FRAGMENTED UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF DATA LITERACY

Interest in data literacy has increased over time and in different parts of the world, including several non-OECD countries (see Figures 1 and 2 below, for instance), signifying a broad-based acknowledgement of its need in today’s digital data age. However, much more needs to be done to mainstream its development through concerted efforts by different actors in society, including governments, private sector organisations, civil society and international organisations.

Data literacy is often defined, conceived of and understood in different ways depending on the context, sometimes conflated with other adjacent competencies such as information, statistical or digital literacy. A modern framing of data literacy needs to account for the role of all actors, including citizens, not just as data consumers – but data producers and partners, requiring a shift in our thinking. Further, implementing data literacy policies and programmes remains a complex endeavour. The dual nature of this challenge (i.e. in both the thinking and doing aspects of data literacy) contributes to a lack of effective targeting of data literacy interventions and an absence of a broad-based measure to evaluate the impact of such efforts. (Montes and Slater, 2019)

There is now an urgent need to go beyond an ad-hoc understanding and operationalisation of data literacy to forge a common language around what it means to be data literate and how to do data literacy effectively. This paper is part of an effort to drive a global dialogue to converge and catalyse the thinking and practice around data literacy, happening in different communities spanning media/journalism, development policy, official statistics and open data, etc. The paper first presents a few insights with key elements of the literature on data literacy (Section 2), and then covers common practices of implementing data literacy programmes, with selected examples from different actors and parts of the world (Section 3).

It concludes by sharing some takeaways that emerged out of this stock-taking exercise and proposes a few questions to spur further dialogue and discussion (Section 4).

Figure 1: The steadily rising interest in the term “data literacy” in the past 10 years worldwide

Source: Google Trends, as of March 14, 2021. “Interest” is captured by Google searches for the term “data literacy”. Searches pertain to the period 2011-2021. The vertical axis represents search interest relative to the highest point on the chart, and doesn’t convey absolute search volume. For more information, please refer to the Google Trends FAQ.

Figure 2: Data literacy is a matter of global interest, in particular among many low-and middle-income countries

Source: Google Trends, as of March 14, 2021. “Interest” is captured by Google searches for the term “data literacy”. Searches pertain to the period 2011-2021. The vertical axis represents search interest relative to the highest point on the chart, and doesn’t convey absolute search volume. For more information, please refer to the Google Trends FAQ.
With the advent of data revolution and rise of digital technologies, a broad spectrum of literacies (numeracy, statistical literacy, media literacy, digital and technology literacy, etc.) are needed in the information age of today. Frank et al. (2016) argue that developments in the open data movement have put data literacy on the agenda of the broader community including businesses, governments and citizenry at large – making it an “essential life skill comparable to other types of literacy”. The UN’s Data Revolution website depicts data literacy at the intersection of statistical literacy, information literacy and technical skills for working with data (see Figure 2 below).

**Data literacy is akin to the study of literature. Data literacy should be about the study of data and how it is collected, used and shared by different organisations.”**

- Jeni Tennison, Vice President and Chief Strategy Adviser, Open Data Institute (2017)

This paper reviews three main elements of data literacy in terms of how the term is framed and understood in some of the important literature on the subject.

**INSIGHT #1: DATA LITERACY GOES BEYOND ‘TECHNICAL’ DATA SKILLS**

An elementary way to understand what “data literacy” is to transpose the well-established definition of literacy and apply it to data. “Just as literacy refers to the ability to read for knowledge, write coherently and think critically about printed material, data literacy is the ability to consume for knowledge, produce coherently and think critically about data”. (Gray, Chambers and Bounegru, 2012) Put simply, just as “literacy is our ability to read, write and comprehend language, data literacy is our ability to read, write and comprehend data.” (Data to the people, 2016).

One of the most recurrent formulations of data literacy in the literature is put forth by Bhargava and D’Ignazio (2015), describing it as “the ability to read, work with, analyse, and argue with data”. The authors offer the following expansion: “Reading data involves understanding what data is, and what aspects of the world it represents. Working with data involves creating, acquiring, cleaning, and managing it. Analysing data involves filtering, sorting, aggregating, comparing, and performing other such analytic operations on it. Arguing with data involves using data to support a larger narrative intended to communicate some message to a particular audience.”

Data literacy is not simply about an acquisition of technical data skills typically associated with data science, data analytics or statistics. Tarrant (2021) describes data literacy as “the ability to think critically about data in different contexts and examine the impact of different approaches when collecting, using and sharing data and information.” Similarly, Gray, Gerlitz and Bounegru (2018) call for efforts to develop “data infrastructure literacy”, which includes not just “the competencies in reading and working with datasets but also the ability to account for, intervene around and participate in the wider socio-technical infrastructures through which data is created, stored and analysed”. Sander (2020) also argues for an extended critical big data literacy that places “awareness and critical reflection of big data systems at its center”. Such expanded conceptions of data literacy allow for a broader movement to characterise citizens at large as data literate.

Raising concerns on the technical conceptualisations of data literacy that fail to confront deeper structural issues, Bhargava et al. (2015) advocate for a broader framing of “literacy in the age for data”. Taking a historical lens to literacy, they propose data literacy as “the desire and ability to constructively engage in society through and about data.” This definition, the authors argue, encompasses elements and principles from different sub-kinds of literacy (such as media, statistical, scientific computational, information and digital literacies), moving from medium-centred conceptions of literacy towards an encompassing one.

In a similar vein, Schuller (2020) describes that “ethical literacy” is a meta-competence that comprises other kinds of literacies such as – data, information, digital or statistical – which are fluid concepts themselves, with several overlapping sub-components. It then defines data literacy as “the cluster of all efficient behaviours and attitudes for the effective execution of all process steps for creating value or making decisions from data.”
There isn’t a consensus on one overarching and actionable definition of data literacy. Several works on data literacy describe it as a use-centric phenomenon, with emphasis on “the ability of non-specialists to make use of data” (Frank et al. 2016), while the others include ability to “collect and manage” data (Risdale et al. 2015) or “select and clean” data (Wolff et al. 2016) in addition.

A comprehensive view of data literacy should then look at relevant capabilities across the different data life-cycle stages that incorporates:

- **Data Context:** This includes a general awareness of the data and its environment. This involves an understanding of the underlying context of the data, its origins, purpose and associated systems.

- **Data Planning:** This includes identifying data needs based on real-world scenario and critical inquiry, developing a data strategy or plans, considering aspects of data governance.

- **Data Production:** This includes aspects related to data acquisition, design, sourcing, collection, processing, management, dissemination.

- **Data Evaluation:** This includes the “working with data” aspect such as interpretation, application, analysis and visualisation of the data.

- **Data Use:** This includes data communication, critique, engagement, argument and advocacy related to data-driven decision making. This can also incorporate ethical data sharing and reuse practices.

A number of common capabilities associated with data literacy can be identified in the literature, some of which is presented in Table 1 below. This can help carve out a minimum set of competencies for characterising data literacy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data life-cycle stages</th>
<th>Key capabilities referred to</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(critical awareness towards data &amp; its environment/systems)</td>
<td>(identify data needs, strategise, govern)</td>
<td>(design, source, collect, manage, disseminate)</td>
<td>(interpret, apply, analyse)</td>
<td>(share, communicate, engage, make decisions)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>think critically about data</td>
<td>produce coherently</td>
<td>interpret</td>
<td>consume for knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>understand data and its role in society</td>
<td>find, collect, manage</td>
<td>interpret, visualise</td>
<td>support arguments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>evaluate, apply</td>
<td>clean, filtering, sorting, aggregating, comparing, etc.</td>
<td>use data to support larger narrative/communicate a message</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>collect, manage</td>
<td>creating, acquiring, managing</td>
<td>constructively engage in society through and about data</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>undertake data inquiry process, develop hypothesis, identify data</td>
<td>select, collect/acquire</td>
<td>critique, communicate stories, consider ethical use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>awareness, understanding and critical reflection of big data practices and systems</td>
<td>implement critical knowledge for empowered use</td>
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</table>
DATA AS A PUBLIC GOOD: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

While the formulation of data literacy is often done at the level of individual ability, many competency frameworks extend the concept to data literate organisations, and emerging literature also captures the importance of a broad-based data culture in society.

Pangrazio and Sefton-Green (2019) posit that “data literacy focuses on developing the individual’s understanding of data, control and agency within datafied systems.” Common data literacy self-assessment tools also cater to individual data capabilities. For instance, the Australia-based company Data to the People produces a tool called myDataabilities, which is an online individual self-assessment survey with a range of 18 core competencies with up to 6 levels of capability across the dimensions of reading, writing and comprehension. The Data Literacy Project, launched by the global data analytics company Qlik, and including many partners from the private sector, offers a non-technical assessment as well as a certification of individual data literacy skills.

One key takeaway from the important research conducted by School of Data in 2016 was - “data literacy can be promoted and assessed at the individual level, but also in groups (such as organisations or communities)”. Organisational assessments of data literacy “measure the degree to which data are used for daily operations in the organisation as a whole, i.e., the culture around data use in addition to the data literacy of the workforce.” (Bonikowska, Sammartin and Frenette, 2019). Sternkopf and Mueller (2018) propose a maturity model of data literacy at the organizational level, with a focus on NGOs. The Open Data Institute has also developed a Data Skills Framework, a tool that helps analyse approaches to data literacy and skill gaps across a team, department or organisation. It illustrates how a varied range of data skills (strategic, managerial, leadership) need to be balanced with technical skills for successfully enabling data innovation.

Extending the above line of reasoning to a scale beyond a single organisation, data literacy is also applicable to a group of organisations, or a sector – and to the broader citizenry and society as a whole. For instance, governments in Canada and Australia have begun data literacy programmes within their public services. Recognizing the need to develop a social data literacy culture, Professors Diego Kuonen and Monique Lehky Hagen in Switzerland have initiated “an appeal for an urgent national data literacy campaign” in 2020. It calls for (1) large scale information campaigns, together with the media, to strengthen the data literacy of the public; (2) creation and promotion of accessible resources and lifelong training programmes, starting from kindergarten; (3) creation of independent, interdisciplinary, certified “data literacy” competence centres.

**INSIGHT #3: DATA LITERACY IS FOR EVERYONE, BEYOND JUST DATA EXPERTS AND ENTHUSIASTS**

“It is not only professionals that require data literacy – it is a basic requirement for informed citizens.”

– David Spiegelhalter, former president, Royal Statistical Society (2020)

Most literature on data literacy is responsive to the context-specificity of the definition, where capabilities are applicable to different types of data users. For instance, applying data literacy can mean different things in the context of journalists, educators or policy-makers. An occupation-agnostic way to view this is to delineate data literacy capabilities at varied levels of proficiency or roles and functions as different data actors. Taking such approaches allows for data literacy to not just be a domain of specialists, and be comprised of a minimum set of capabilities that can be embraced by laypersons.

For example, Ridsdale et al. (2015) group data literacy competencies into conceptual competencies, core competencies and advanced competencies. Similarly, Wolff et al (2016) identify four types of citizens who would require different levels of skill complexity given their expected interaction with data: reader, communicator, maker and scientist.

A foundational data literacy skillset for people can serve is an effective tool to accelerate social inclusion and informed participation in the datafied information ecosystem. The case for data literacy as an effective tool for empowerment from passive consumers to active citizens is reinforced by Carmi et al (2020) As part of their “Me and my Big data – Developing Citizens’ Data Literacies” project that seeks to understand the levels of data literacy amongst UK citizens, the authors propose a “data citizenship framework”. It explores relations between data, power and contextuality and comprises of three areas:

- **Data thinking** - Citizens’ critical understanding of data (for example, understanding data collection, developing and evaluating data-based explanations)
- **Data doing** - Citizens’ everyday practical engagements with data (for example, data handling and management)
- **Data participation** - Citizens’ proactive engagement with data and their networks of literacy (for example, data activism, seeking opportunities to address misinformation, exercising rights like access to open data, individual and collective data privacy)
Bhargava et al (2015) go further and argue that a central goal of data literacy promotion should be to empower “citizens and communities as free agents”. They propose to leverage data literacy as a means and metric to galvanise greater social inclusion in the age of data, or “data inclusion”. Their “human-centred approach to data literacy” seeks to foster: greater inclusiveness, enhanced community participation, prioritization of critical needs rooted in local contexts and increased resilience. Similarly, Gutiérrez (2019) links data literacy as a pre-condition to political participation in a datafied world.

Consequently, to cultivate a broad-based data culture, it is critical that the notion is not confined to a domain of professionals, experts or enthusiasts, but extends as a generalised feature amongst non-specialists and citizens at large.

### 3 DOING DATA LITERACY – SELECTED PRACTICES AND EXAMPLES

Realising the returns on the data revolution and open data movement rests on how effectively the available data is utilised by different actors in society. To achieve this, there is growing acknowledgement on the need for widespread data literacy, but operationalising efforts to foster it remains a challenging undertaking, subject to capacity and opportunities.

**Ways to operationalise data literacy**

Common methodologies for “doing” data literacy, as identified by the School of Data are clustered as short-term, medium-term or long-term efforts, briefly described below:

- **Short-term efforts**: These include workshops with a structured and pedagogic orientation (ranging from multi-hour to multi-day); community events with a more informal or social dimension with peer-learnings (for instance, data clinics or data meet ups); datathons or bootcamps, which are based on the popular format of hackathons with an intense and focussed problem-solving approach, catering to individuals that already have some level of data literacy.

- **Medium-term efforts**: These are typically done in the form of trainings that allow for deeper participation and engagement for data literacy development. Examples include week-long workshops with follow-ups or communities-of-practice, or trainings spread out over several weeks (contrary to the datathons model, these rely on the accumulation of practice over a longer period, demanding a shorter span of time and effort per week, but spanning multiple weeks).

- **Long-term efforts**: These are “immersive endeavours” where skills transfer is meant to be done in an intensive learning environment with experts, with a lasting impact. These are typically done over several months to even a year or more. Examples include fellowship programs (where individuals can gain expertise by being placed within a data project for instance), participatory research initiatives, or mentorship programs (where instead of workshops, data literacy training can take place in the form of involvement in specific projects with the guidance of a mentor).

Long-term efforts can also include support for institutional and systems-level capacity development that help create an enabling environment for establishing a data culture or implementing subsequent short- and medium-term initiatives. These can include government policy interventions and strategies for data literacy, sustained community engagement for research projects, periodic citizen involvement in data processes for programme monitoring or reporting as part of citizen-generated data initiatives etc.

Most data literacy efforts are concentrated at the short or medium-term horizons. Investment in long-term efforts is emergent, but scanty. Further, while data literacy can be developed as a capacity of communities and organisations rather than solely of individuals, practices to develop data literacy beyond the individual level are limited. Finally, the dynamics of language, geography, and gender are still under-explored when it comes to developing data literacy competencies.

**Examples of data literacy initiatives**

As the attention of the global data and statistics community has gradually shifted from making data available and accessible to promoting data use, several initiatives have emerged to foster data literacy. Civil society, private sector organisations, governments, statistical offices, and international organisations have started supporting capacity development efforts to build data skills amongst different types of users. A selection of such initiatives by different actors of the data ecosystem is presented in the Table 2 below. These may cover initiatives that target development of data literacy more directly or the development of some competencies that are relevant to data literacy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data literacy initiative</th>
<th>Led by</th>
<th>Target audience</th>
<th>Geographic focus</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DataBuzz®</td>
<td>The Government of Belgium and Flemish Community Commission (VGC)</td>
<td>Youth and adults</td>
<td></td>
<td>The DataBuzz is a 13-metre fully electric bus that has been converted into a mobile education lab. During interactive and free-of-charge workshops, participants are introduced in a playful way to concepts such as online privacy and protection of personal data. (Seymoens et al., 2020) <strong>Project</strong> supported by the Digital Belgium Skills Fund.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program / Initiative</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td><strong>ODI learning programme</strong></td>
<td>The ODI learning programme provides data literacy and capability for everyone. ODI has chosen specifically to separate data literacy from data skills training or data sciences. Their educational programmes teach practical skills through experiences that teach people to think critically about data. Courses range from a few hours (Anonymisation is for Everyone, Introduction to Data Ethics), to days (Open Data in Practice), or weeks (Strategic Data Skills).</td>
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<td><strong>Qlik Data Literacy Program</strong></td>
<td>Qlik (data analytics company) offers a range of learning resources and consulting services to build data literacy of workforce across enterprises, regardless of skill or role. The package includes an assessment, instructor-led or self-paced learning resources, a workshop, advisory consulting with experts, and a certification.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DataBasic</strong> and the Data Culture Project</td>
<td>Individuals and organisations - in particular data beginners. DataBasic is a suite of easy-to-use web tools for beginners that introduce concepts of working with data. It is designed to be an online platform with an interactive pedagogic focus – that is designed for learners, not users. Its associated initiative, Data Culture Project is a self-service learning programme for organisations. It contains free tools and guided activities that are hands-on and designed to build the capacity of organisations to work with data. Modules include building a data sculpture, asking questions, gathering and analysing data, telling data stories etc.</td>
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<td><strong>School of Data Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>School of Data literacy practitioners or enthusiasts. Fellowships are nine-month placements with School of Data that equip individuals with the skills to take their data-literacy work forward, such as how to train, how to network or how to organise events. The aim is to increase awareness of data-literacy and build communities by annually recruiting and training the next generation of data leaders and trainers. The fellows then provide support to journalists, civil society organisations, and individual change makers to use data effectively within their community and country.</td>
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4 PROMOTING DATA LITERACY – LESSONS LEARNT AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

There is growing recognition of the need to strengthen data literacy among individuals, organisations and communities in different countries. However, previous and current interventions to foster data literacy remain inadequate to confront the challenges of today’s datafied information ecosystems. Evidence from the first Global Data Literacy Benchmark 2020, produced by Data to the People, suggests that 48% of employees require help to read, write and comprehend data, and a paltry 7% of employees are able to help their peers read, write and comprehend data. Results from the 2017-18 survey by Qlik also present a sobering picture: only 24% of business decision makers were fully confident in their ability to work with, analyse and argue with data. About 32% of C-suite leaders, and a meagre 24% of 16-24 year olds were viewed as data literate. While these results need to be interpreted with caution, they do point towards a significant gap at the prevailing levels of data literacy. Notably, PARIS21’s statistical literacy indicator also suggested that between 2016 and 2019, starkly low levels of use and critical engagement characterised the presence of statistics in national newspapers from 70 International Development Association (IDA) countries.

Based on the scan of the literature and practices covered in Sections 2 and 3 above, a few take-aways and areas for further reflection are noted below:

**TAKE-AWAY #1: FORGING A COMMON LANGUAGE AROUND DATA LITERACY**

Despite the growing body of rich literature on data literacy, the phenomenon is defined in various ways by different actors in varied contexts. Several practitioners see limited value in the exercise itself, noting that data literacy is a continuum of competencies with fluidity in various types of adjacent literacies. Carving a working definition that is specific without being limiting, and inclusive without being un-actionable remains a challenging task. This has an impact on how data literacy is taught and assessed.

There is a need for a standardised framework to capture at least a minimum set of foundational and cross-cutting data literacy competencies relevant for an individual, organisation or system. This will help to identify clear data literacy needs, support the effective targeting of policies and programmes to enable data literacy, and provide a benchmark to assess the impact of such efforts. The Data Literacy Charter launched by the Stifterverband (a joint initiative of companies and foundations in Germany) in January 2021 is a step in this direction. The charter signatories, which also includes PARIS21, express a shared understanding of competencies and guiding principles associated with data literacy.

Going forward, we have an opportunity to formulate an actionable definition of data literacy applicable across varied contexts. This definition should answer, in particular,

- How can data literacy be defined distinctly enough from adjacent competencies related to statistical, digital or information literacy for better policy and programmatic targeting?

**TAKE-AWAY #2: ADOPTING A DEMAND-DRIVEN AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO DOING DATA LITERACY**

Often, approaches to data literacy are supply-driven, with the underlying assumption, “if you build it, they will come”. This is arguably one reason why general data literacy initiatives have had limited outreach and success. Winch (2017) further notes that in the context of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the “disconnect between data literacy and willingness to voluntarily integrate data into programming” comes from two reasons: 1) Trainings are not applied enough and 2) Data processes are donor-driven.

A targeted, demand-driven approach that accounts for the incentives of citizens to engage in the broader data culture can be an effective way to boost data literacy. Implementing data literacy initiatives can then be embedded in wider programmes that factor in the local realities and needs of citizens by design. Such efforts are also likely to generate an enabling environment that can outlast a particular data literacy initiative itself, and be aligned with the underlying socio-political dynamics that individuals, organisations and communities find themselves in.

Data literacy forms part of a bigger shift towards establishing a data culture that aims for greater inclusion and empowerment. Pivoting to a participatory approach can help leverage the role of citizens not just as data consumers, but as data partners and producers of data who have an active agency and rights. Citizens can critically engage in datafied ecosystems when data literacy development motivates participation in their communities, in individual as well as collective contexts. (Carmi et al. 2020)

- The work on community engagement by the Tanzania Data Lab or emerging insights from the GovLab’s citizen data assembly can point us to such directions. Markham (2019) describes how art-based installations at museums can be one way to take “data literacy to the streets”.

- Gray et al. (2018) proposes that data literacy initiatives and programmes can include “teaching about data infrastructures as relations rather than simply about datasets as resources.” Apart from technical and statistical skills, knowledge about the “social life of data” can be incorporated via infrastructure ethnography, projects, experiments in participation, etc. Public institutions, civil society organisations and others could serve as “sites of more substantive participation and deliberation about the ways of relating, seeing, doing and being that they engender”.

The forward-looking agenda for data literacy should include a demand-driven and participatory lens to operationalising it. In particular it should account for the following considerations:

- How can we create incentives at the individual level, that also account for socio-political and economic dynamics at the community or system levels to foster data literacy with ownership?

- How can data literacy initiatives cultivate sensibilities for “data sociology, data politics as well as wider public engagement with digital data infrastructures”? (Gray et al 2018)
TAKE-AWAY #3: MOVING FROM AD-HOC PROGRAMMING TOWARDS SUSTAINED POLICY, INVESTMENT AND IMPACT

Bringing together different actors for scaled-up support

Stimulating broad-based data literacy is an intricate team-sport, involving a collaborative approach by different actors in the data ecosystem. While civil society, private actors, open data and journalism communities have been active in doing data literacy, we need to translate ad-hoc programming efforts into sustained policy mandates and action by governments, statistical offices, international organisations, aid providers and other influential development actors.

We need to focus on direct support towards programmes beyond the individual level, targeting a long-term horizon. This can be done by mobilising and securing the necessary resources for developing citizen data literacy directly, or as part of statistical capacity development programmes and other sectoral initiatives.

Going forward, there is an opportunity for government ministries, international organisations, non-profits, civil society and the private sector to coordinate efforts to develop data literacy effectively, leveraging their comparative strengths, avoiding duplications and missed opportunities. There is also an emerging role for national statistical offices (NSOs) to advance citizen data literacy as stewards of the public data ecosystem. Misra and Schmidt (2020) provide a few ideas to develop NSO-governed participatory data ecosystems where data literacy forms a key part of the business process of relevant data institutions.

Becoming intentional about impact

We don’t know enough about what works and what doesn’t, for whom, and under which conditions. The lack of a coherent and widely-accepted operational definition with associated capabilities has also left us without a guiding framework and tools to design targeted policy interventions to enhance data literacy, track their progress and empirically evaluate their outcomes. Developing suitable measures that allow for a fit-for-purpose quantification of progress on data literacy will bolster the case for investing in data literacy beyond ad-hoc programming.

Going forward, we need to bridge the evidence gap on outcomes and impact from data literacy programmes. There is an opportunity to develop a convergent, coherent data literacy assessment, measurement and impact evaluation framework for the national, regional and global levels that is applicable in different contexts.

It is critical to understand and advance data literacy as a means to an end – with the goal of leaving no one behind in our increasingly datafied information landscape. Nguyen (2020) succinctly identifies four key risks we face today, that data literacy can help address:

1. technical issues of flawed, incomplete and biased data that can lead to inaccurate conclusions;
2. low data literacy among larger parts of the public;
3. opportunities for powerful organisations to expand their influence and/or to enter even more domains of the public-private spheres;
4. data ownership and ethics; and
5. data freedom, security and protection. Data literacy offers paths to holistic strategies for addressing these challenges.

Hence it is imperative to catalyse concerted action to recognise and prioritise the development of data literacy as part of socio-political and civic processes, and national and global development agendas in the coming years and decades. An empowered data literate society is a vital ingredient of a resilient democracy prepared for future pandemics and crises.
On 8 December 2020, the Secretariat presented an update on the PARIS21 Foundation (“the Foundation”) to the PARIS21 Executive Committee, which included a proposal for an operational and implementation plan to move forward with the establishment of the Foundation in Q2 of 2021. Following the strong support received from Executive Committee members for the proposed way forward and next steps, the Secretariat submitted a decision document to the PARIS21 Board on 17 December to seek the Board’s approval to set up the Foundation by written procedure on the basis of silent consent. In the absence of any objections filed in writing to the Secretariat, the proposal was considered unanimously approved on 22 January 2021.

Since then, the Secretariat has moved forward with the practical steps to establish the Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland. A Swiss legal counsel, Ms. Julie Wynne of FRORIEP, has been hired to support the legal establishment of the Foundation and to develop its founding documents. In parallel, the Secretariat is currently working to constitute the Foundation Board, which is a requirement for the Foundation to be legally set up. These activities are progressing on schedule and it is expected that the Foundation will be legally incorporated by the end of April 2021.

Board members are kindly invited to contact the Secretariat in writing to provide any feedback, questions or suggestions on the current status of the Foundation.

For reference, the Foundation decision document approved by Board members in January, which contains the key elements of the operational and implementation plan for the Foundation, has been linked here.
## Financial Statement of the Paris21 Secretariat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>4,641,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program costs</td>
<td>3,086,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total costs</td>
<td>7,728,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial components for 2021**

- Total gross operating income: 1,958,472
- Total gross operating expenses: 7,728,279

*Note: The financial statement is prepared in accordance with the Paris21 Secretariat's financial policies and procedures.*