STRATEGIES FOR SDG NATIONAL REPORTING

A REVIEW OF CURRENT APPROACHES AND KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT REPORTING ON THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG NATIONAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

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Contents

About the SDG National Reporting Initiative

This paper is published as part of the SDG National Reporting Initiative, which facilitates greater information-sharing on SDG reporting between international, regional, and local communities. The Initiative is led by the Center for Open Data Enterprise (CODE) and funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Visit the Initiative's website (http://SDGreporting.org) to browse through dozens of resources on SDG reporting including a database of current country experiences, technical how-to guides, and links to relevant publications.

About the Center for Open Data Enterprise

The Center for Open Data Enterprise (CODE) (http://OpenDataEnterprise.org) is an independent nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that develops smarter open data strategies for governments, businesses, and nonprofits by focusing on data users. Our mission is to maximize the value of government data as a public resource for economic growth and social good.

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Standard Disclaimer

This paper is a product of staff of the Center for Open Data Enterprise. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions in this document are based on interviews, focus groups, and publicly available information and do not necessarily reflect the views of funders of this paper. This paper represents the authors' assessment of the state of SDG reporting as of March 2018, with the recognition that new developments may change the field over time.

I. Executive Summary

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, are a historic commitment to take on the world's most pressing and intractable problems. Through the SDGs, 193 UN Member States have agreed to address poverty, hunger, climate change, gender equity, and other global issues and to make major progress by the year 2030. National governments are now developing plans to address their countries' own priorities in the context of this major global effort.

The SDGs set an ambitious agenda for countries around the world, and data is essential to help fulfill that agenda. The UN has identified 232 global indicators that can be used to track progress on the 17 SDGs. The data requirements for reporting on those indicators presents an unprecedented opportunity for countries around the world as they assess and report on their progress.

SDG reporting can be a tool to help countries define and achieve their goals. For the purposes of this paper, **SDG reporting refers to the act of publishing and disseminating data and statistics on the SDG indicators for key stakeholders, including UN custodian agencies, government policymakers, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutions, and the general public.**

Before developing an SDG reporting strategy, it is valuable for countries to evaluate their SDG priorities and needs as they relate to policy, data, technology infrastructure, sustainability, and financing and capacity. These considerations will help guide a country's implementation of an SDG reporting approach.

Strategic Considerations

POLICY	DATA	TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
National alignment of SDGs Coordinating data across ministries & departments Privacy, security & legal	Availability of official data Disaggregation Timeliness Metadata & standards Openness Accuracy & reliability	TECHNICAL OPTIONS Open-source Proprietary Hybrid FEATURES & FUNCTIONALITY Data input & management Visualization & analysis
SUSTAINABILITY		
Institutional framework | Partnerships | Long-term technical strategies		
FINANCING & CAPACITY		

Once a country has considered the policy, data, technical, sustainability, and financing aspects of SDG reporting, they may turn to evaluating various technologies to support the actual reporting. There are many options for national reporting on the SDGs to meet the needs of countries.

Approaches to SDG Reporting

Generally, there are three technical infrastructure approaches to SDG reporting: (1) adding a module within an existing platform; (2) building a new platform dedicated to SDG reporting; and (3) leveraging a regional platform. Some countries, such as Belgium or the Philippines, have added a new section to existing statistical websites or data platforms to report data on the SDGs alongside other national data and statistics. Other countries are developing entirely new platforms to provide data on these goals. And some countries are providing data through regional platforms, such as the Africa Information Highway. In several cases, countries are looking to repurpose platforms used to report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This paper is a practical guide for national governments that are developing plans for SDG national reporting. The paper expands upon work that has been done in each region by collating that information to provide an overview of SDG national reporting approaches used globally, the key strategic considerations countries may consider in reporting their progress towards the SDGs, and resources available.

The team undertook wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders for this paper, from conceptualization to the final draft. It builds on the substantial work done by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)'s Conference of European Statisticians, Steering Group on SDG Statistics, Task Force on Reporting SDG Indicators Using National Reporting Platforms, and the Statistics of SDGs Wiki. It also draws on the United Nations Statistics Division Sustainable Development Goals indicator website, including documents created by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the SDG indicators. The report incorporates discussions and materials presented at the Conference on National Platforms for SDG Reporting hosted by the UN Statistics Division in January 2017. Finally, the paper was informed by research conducted by Paris 21, specifically the discussion papers: Making Data Portals work for SDGs: A view on deployment, design and technology (2016) and Realising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development: Towards Capacity Development 4.0.

II. Introduction

In September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations took a historic step: They committed to work towards a set of goals to address poverty, hunger, climate change, and other critical global challenges. These 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) make up what has become known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and represent an ambitious set of goals that can transform the world if they are achieved.[1]

This 2030 Agenda embodies the belief that countries can best pursue development by addressing interrelated economic, social, and environmental challenges. The 17 SDGs are supported by 169 targets and 232 indicators developed by the UN Interagency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs) through global consultation and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and in July 2017, at the UN General Assembly. These indicators are classified in three tiers based on the degree to which they have a developed methodology and available data sources, and that classification will continually be updated as methodologies are developed and data availability increases.[2] The tiering system is meant to manage expectations for data reporting and to allocate statistical capacity development support as needed.

The UN resolution that established the SDGs in 2015 described these goals as "integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities, and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities." The targets for the goals were meant to be "aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances."[3] Through the process of SDG reporting, countries can make data and statistics on the SDGs publicly available in ways that key stakeholders can use to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Defining SDG Reporting

SDG reporting refers to the act of publishing and disseminating data and statistics on the SDG indicators for key stakeholders, including UN custodian agencies, government policymakers, businesses, NGOs and research institutions, and the general public.

According to the 2030 Agenda , SDG reporting is led by a national government[4] and conducted in compliance with the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.[5] These principles are considered a basic framework that national statistical offices and other statistical organizations must follow in recognizing official statistics as a public good.[6]

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1. General Assembly resolution 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 25 September 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf.
2. United Nations Statistics Division. *Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators*. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/.
3. A/RES/70/1. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf.
4. A/RES/70/1. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf.
5. General Assembly resolution 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313)*.
6. United Nations resolution 68/261. *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (A/RES/68/261)*. 29 January 2014. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx.

Why SDG Reporting Matters

SDG reporting can be a valuable tool to help governments achieve their goals by enabling policymakers to understand where their country stands in relation to the SDG targets, and how far they still need to go. Government officials can use the data to adjust their country's development strategies, inform redistribution of resources, and engage stakeholders around specific goals. SDG reporting can also help identify data gaps, improve access to official national and subnational data and statistics, and consolidate reporting efforts to minimize national reporting burdens.

Non-governmental stakeholders, such as NGOs, businesses, civil society, and others, also stand to benefit from SDG reporting. They can use benchmark data and historical data to focus their work and advocacy on persistent challenges. Valid, consistent, and transparent reporting also provides a direct mechanism for these stakeholders to hold their governments and policymakers accountable for making progress toward realizing the SDGs.

A UN expert group on data for sustainable development has referred to data as "the lifeblood of decision-making,"[7] and data can help answer many questions that are essential to decision-making in areas covered by the SDGs. For example, how many currently live in poverty? How many girls attend school? What proportion of schools have access to electricity? How many people currently have access to a bank account? What diseases afflict a given population and at what frequency? What proportion of land is protected? The data that can answer these questions and others framed by the SDGs present a baseline level of knowledge for policymakers and other stakeholders.

7. United Nations, Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. *A World That Counts*. 2014. http://www.undatarevolution.org/report.

III. Current Progress Towards SDG Reporting

The SDGs and their targets and indicators have created new data collection and maintenance needs for countries. To meet these needs, many national governments have taken steps towards SDG reporting. The following are some of the actions countries have taken to date on the path to SDG reporting:

Determined the role and integration of national and subnational government departments, including National Statistical Offices, into the overall SDG implementation and reporting plan to ensure coordination. In Guatemala, the National Council of Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR) leads SDG reporting. CONADUR's "Structure of the Strategy for Implementation of Development Priorities" describes Guatemala's plan to integrate SDG reporting, data gap analysis, and stakeholder engagement across all levels of government.[8]

Conducted national reviews to determine national priorities and align national development plans with the relevant SDG indicators. For example, Uruguay's national development plan focuses on decreasing poverty and protecting the environment. Consequently, Uruguay is prioritizing related SDGs such as 1, 2, 5 and 9.[9]

Evaluated statistical capacity, data availability and data sources for SDG indicators. Several countries, such as Paraguay, Tanzania and Bangladesh, have mapped data availability and targets to key ministries, and evaluated the country's technical capacity to produce more data.

Held meetings and conferences with representatives from the private sector, NGOs, civil society organizations, and others to explore the use of non-governmental data to report on the SDGs. In Colombia, the High-Level Commission for the Effective Implementation of Agenda 2030 was created to enable all sectors and stakeholders to participate in SDG reporting at the national and local levels.[10]

Developed or repurposed national and regional data platforms to disseminate data on the SDGs. Over a dozen countries have started to report data in this way. As part of the SDG National Reporting Initiative, the Center for Open Data Enterprise has compiled a working list of countries that have currently published data on the SDG indicators on a platform.

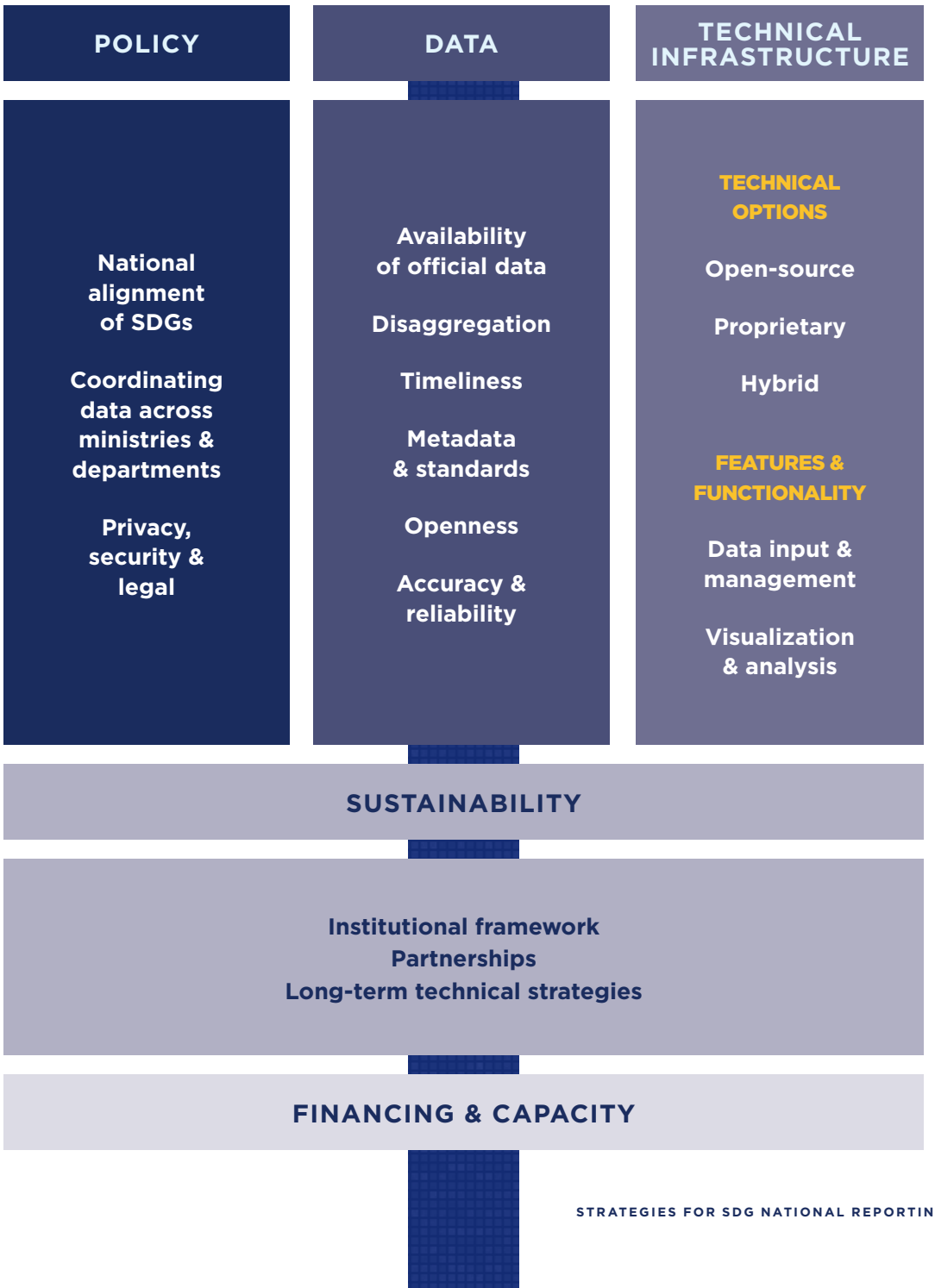
Published a Voluntary National Report (VNR) to the UN High Level Political Forum. A VNR is a published review to the UN High Level Political Forum that informs the global community of a nation's progress on Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators on the national and subnational levels. VNRs "aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda."[11] Over 60 countries have published VNRs since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015.

A number of these steps are referenced in the Conference of European Statisticians' Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, prepared by the Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs which outlines a strategy and activities associated with producing statistics for SDGs.[12]

8. Government of Guatemala. *Structure of the Strategy for Implementation of Development Priorities*. 2017. http://www.segeplan.gob.gt/nportal/index.php/biblioteca-documental/file/644-estructura-de-la-estrate.
9. Government of Uruguay. *Voluntary National Report*. 2017. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16626Guatemala.pdf.
10. Government of Colombia. *Voluntary National Report*. 2016. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12644VNR%20Colombia.pdf.
11. UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. *Voluntary National Reviews Database*. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/.
12. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs. Conference of European Statisticians' Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, First Edition. 2017. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/ECECESSTAT20172_no_cover.pdf.

IV. Strategic Considerations

Before a country can determine the reporting approach that will work best for its circumstances, the government should consider the country's policy priorities, data assets, technical options, sustainability strategies, and financing and capacity requirements.



Policy

Governments have an opportunity to gather and organize the data they need to make policy decisions to achieve the SDGs in addition to reporting. However, the 2030 Agenda sets targets for outcomes but does not prescribe specific processes to meet them, since SDG reporting is supposed to be country-led and country-driven. Each country is expected to apply its own policies, institutional frameworks, and implementation strategies to prioritize nationally relevant SDGs.

This section outlines several policy-driven considerations that governments must evaluate to ensure that the SDGs align with the goals of each country and can be reported on in a way that fits their national context.

NATIONAL ALIGNMENT OF SDGS

The 2030 Agenda was designed to ensure that it is relevant and applicable to a broad range of countries and stakeholders and emphasizes that the SDGs and targets should be implemented at the national and subnational levels. Countries that are beginning to report on the SDGs may find it helpful to consider their ongoing national policies and strategies for development. These may include sectoral and subnational strategies as well as those that apply to the country as a whole. This is highlighted in the Conference of European Statisticians' Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals: "[SDGs and targets'] integration into national policy and strategies will be crucial. The implementation of these national strategies needs to be supported by national data."[13] The extent to which the SDGs relate to national goals and strategies may help determine the objectives of an SDG reporting approach.

A similar logic can be applied to align international and regional policy and reporting commitments with SDG reporting. Often countries have multiple goal frameworks with corresponding reporting requirements that relate to sustainable development. Tanzania, for example, has the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, the UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs), and the African Union's Agenda 2063,[14] in addition to sector-specific and subnational goals, frameworks, and priorities. In some cases, regional bodies are developing common reporting templates designed to address multiple sets of goals. In Africa, this work is led jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Union.[15] The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) has developed a Data4SDGs Toolbox a set of tools, methods, and resources to help countries to create and implement their own holistic data roadmaps for sustainable development.[16]

13. UNECE, Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs. *Conference of European Statisticians' Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, First Edition*. 2017. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/ECECESSTAT20172_no_cover.pdf.
14. African Union. *Agenda 2063*. https://au.int/agenda2063/about.
15. African Union, Economic Commission for Africa; African Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme. *MDGs to Agenda 2063/SDGs* - Transition Report. 2016. https://www.uneca.org/publications/mdgs-agenda-2063sdgs-transition-report-2016.
16. Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. *Data4SDGs Toolbox*. http://www.data4sdgs.org/initiatives/data4sdgs-toolbox.

COORDINATING DATA ACROSS GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES & DEPARTMENTS

Reporting on the SDGs requires data ranging from population to environmental to economic statistics. Datasets exist across several government institutions and need a significant amount of coordination. Determining which government ministry or department will lead and establish coordination efforts between statisticians, line ministries, and policymakers can help countries streamline data flows for reporting.[17]

Countries are choosing various institutional arrangements for managing SDG reporting, depending on how each country coordinates statistics among government ministries and departments. Typically, one government body serves as a policy focal point, such as the Prime Minister's Office or Ministry of Planning, while another, usually a national statistical office (NSO), serves as a data collection and coordination lead. In some cases, one office may serve as both the policy and data lead for the country.

The exact institutional arrangement varies from country to country, depending on factors such as the degree of centralization, national statistical legislation, and other coordination mechanisms between statisticians, ministries, and policymakers. For example, in the United States, the Office of the Chief Statistician coordinates the yearly 'data calls' with multiple departments across federal agencies and led trainings for data providers to add data to the country's reporting platform.

At regional and global levels, international and supranational statistical agencies (ISSAs), which are referred to as "custodian agencies," collect data from countries for specific SDG indicators. Examples of custodian agencies include the International Labor Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organizations.[17] Their primary role is to compile comparable regional and global estimates on specific indicators for the UN Statistics Division, contribute to annual SDG progress reports and review processes, and provide technical support to countries in the reporting of SDG global indicators.[18] The role of custodian agencies in SDG reporting varies and is in development.[19] Custodian agencies base their reviews by primarily relying on 'official data' - produced and/or disseminated by an official source such as an NSOs, aggregating this information, harmonizing it to ensure international comparability, and making any other technical adjustments needed to meet global standards.

PRIVACY, SECURITY, & LEGAL

As governments develop policies for SDG reporting, they will need to consider the data privacy of their citizens, measures to ensure data security, and the potential need for legislation pertaining to data sharing and freedom of information. A core part of SDG reporting is the publication and dissemination of data not only to government agencies and international organizations, but also to the general public. Effective data privacy and security measures are needed to prevent the publication of personally identifiable information (PII). To address these concerns, governments may explore establishing data security laws, privacy compliance reviews to identify and mitigate these risks, and trainings and guidelines for those working with potentially sensitive data.

17. United Nations Statistics Division. *United Nations System: Entities and Existing Coordination Mechanisms*. 2014. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/BG-FOC-Coordination-UN%20system.pdf.
18. Inter-agency Expert Group on the SDG Indicators. *Global Reporting Mechanism*. 2017. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-03/3rd-IAEG-SDGs-presentation-UNSD--Global-reporting-mechanism.pdf.
19. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Task Force on Reporting SDG Indicators Using National Reporting Platforms, *National Mechanisms for Providing Data on Global SDG indicators*. 2018. https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SFSDG/Task+Force+on+National+Reporting+Platforms?preview=/128451803/170164504/National%20mechanisms%20for%20providing%20data%20on%20SDGs_note%20from%20UNCES%20SG%20SDG%20TF...pdf.

Data

With easier access to data on a country's social, economic and environmental issues, policymakers and external actors can better target resources, policies and programs to achieve the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda therefore requires a robust data ecosystem.

At the national level, it demands efforts to ensure that each country has the statistical capacity, data policies, and processes in place to generate the data needed for reporting. Additionally, to report on the 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 232 indicators, countries should provide data in ways that are in accordance with the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. These include providing standardized, well-documented data from official data sources.

In order to make their data as useful as possible for policy-making, countries may take the following key considerations into account:

AVAILABILITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

"Official statistics and data from national statistical systems constitute the basis needed for the global indicator framework."[20] Countries can assess the data available to report on the SDG indicators for their country, map the data sources for each, and identify data gaps in order to get a full picture of how well they will be able to report on the SDGs. A number of countries, such as Georgia, Mongolia, and Denmark, have used a self-assessment template on availability of global SDG indicators, created by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)'s Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs.[21] Such assessments can also help countries coordinate across data providers and identify where there may be multiple data sources that need to be reconciled. Other governments, such as Tanzania, have used the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT), developed by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris21) at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which assists countries in mapping the data they are currently providing to the data required by any goal framework.[22]

DISAGGREGATION

A core tenet of the 2030 Agenda is the concept of 'no one left behind' - the principle that sustainable development must include all people regardless of sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, income, disability, or geographic location.[23] In order for countries to best target their development strategies and policies, they will need data that had been disaggregated by the variables of interest. "Disaggregated" means that the data is broken down into smaller subgroups for analysis. For example, if the Ministry of Education seeks to build new schools in districts that need them most, the total number of schools in the country is not sufficiently useful data. Here, data on the number of schools would need to be disaggregated by district for policymakers to be able to act to achieve the desired policy outcome.

20. General Assembly resolution 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313)*. 6 July 2017. http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2017-4th_Mtg_IAEG-SDG-NY/documents/A_RES_71_313.pdf.
21. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs. *National Assessment Tools and Progress*. https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SFSDG/National+Assessments.
22. Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris21). *Advanced Data Planning Tool*. http://adapt.paris21.org.
23. United Nations Statistics Division. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report*. 2016. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/leaving-no-one-behind.

TIMELINESS

Similarly, the timely release of data will make data more useful for decision-makers. Within a policy context, information can only be useful to those in charge of making decisions if they receive such data in time to inform their decisions. Much data relevant to the SDGs is only provided on an annual or biannual basis. For certain SDGs and their corresponding indicators, such as the indicator of food price anomalies (indicator 2.c.1), data on the fluctuations of food prices would be needed more frequently than once per year to be relevant and meaningful. Timely data systems are also important to achieve regional and global policy goals and targets.

METADATA & STANDARDS

Metadata refers to 'data that define and describe other data.' It can make finding and working with data easier and provide valuable context for both understanding a dataset and comparing across multiple datasets. Standardization is the process by which data on a similar topic is collected or transformed into a common format that can improve data quality and in particular help make different datasets comparable. Without common standards, it is much harder to compare data and understand progress.

Reporting platforms should support international and national standards to facilitate data exchange and maximize interoperability both within and between countries. This includes using the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), an international initiative to standardize and modernize the mechanisms and processes for the SDGs.[24] Other examples of relevant data standards for SDG reporting include the Open Geospatial Consortium standard and International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). A number of tools exist that can help with the standardization of data. For example, the Open Knowledge Foundation has developed Frictionless Data, with several open-source software that can be used to standardize and improve the quality of data.

The Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), can also be used to improve comparability of data - by "integrating data and metadata standards, as a template for process documentation, for harmonization of statistical computing infrastructures, and to provide a framework for process data quality assessment and improvement."[25]

OPENNESS

Open data - data that is free, publicly available, and machine-readable for anyone to access and use, without restrictions - is a key operating principle for producing data for use and impact. Data on reporting platforms is open if it is available under an open license and as structured data (rather than scanned images, for example), with open metadata and clearly attributed data sources. Providing data in an open format facilitates greater information-sharing within government and with external stakeholders and increases transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.[26] These benefits of openness are particularly relevant to the SDGs as open data provides public insight into a country's progress in a way that allows a variety of stakeholders to contribute data, expertise, and resources.

ACCURACY & RELIABILITY

The quality, accuracy, reliability, and integrity of data and statistics are essential if they are to be useful for evidence-based decision-making. SDG reporting programs must include mechanisms for ensuring data validation and quality control. For example, using tools that can automate the identification of missing data or report errors during data entry can improve quality.

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24. *Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange*. https://sdmx.org/.
25. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. *Generic Statistical Business Process Model, Version 5.0*. 2013. https://statswiki.unece.org/display/GSBPM/GSBPM+v5.0.
26. The World Bank Group. *Open Data for Sustainable Development*. August 2015. http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/999161440616941994/Open-Data-for-Sustainable-Development.pdf.

Technical Infrastructure

Technical infrastructure in the context of SDG reporting refers to the systems and technologies used for data management and dissemination, such as data portals and platforms. This section outlines the various technical options and considerations for selecting an approach to SDG reporting.

As countries consider their technical options, their governments should leverage their existing infrastructure, and draw on learned lessons from the MDGs to inform their reporting strategies. For example, governments may prioritize technologies that can be integrated with other data systems and for which there exist strong communities of users.

TECHNICAL OPTIONS

Countries that have begun SDG reporting to date have utilized one of three technical options: building an open-source platform, utilizing proprietary software, or employing a mix of the two. These technical options can all allow for individual customization for each country.

Open-source

Open-source software is free and can be redistributed and modified at no charge to users. Several countries have built open-source national reporting platforms (NRPs) that can be adopted and adapted by other countries. Open-source SDG reporting platforms can serve to gather, host, secure, and display SDG indicator data and metadata. Some countries have utilized open-source tools for specific functions such as data quality checks or analysis.

Open-source platforms can allow countries to share progress and developments with each other. Several national governments have provided already developed open-source code that can be reused via public repositories such as Github. For example, the United States developed an NRP, Measuring America: US Statistics for Sustainable Development, that has since been adapted by the United Kingdom for its own NRP, UK Data for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. While the UK platform originated with the US' code, the UK has made a number of customizations and introduced new features, such as data filtering options, visualizations to display disaggregated data, and input validation to improve data quality. Updates like these help both meet the priorities and needs of the UK platform's own users, and also improve the overall code for others to use. For example, the US has been able to improve its own NRP by adopting some of the improvements the UK has made.

In addition to national governments developing open-source platforms, a number of organizations have also developed open-source tools that can be used for reporting. OECD, for example, are developing the .Stat suite of open-source tools as part of the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community (SIS-CC). These tools enable "the assembly of the different building blocks to build tailored data portals, topical or regional data explorers, or lightweight reporting platforms, in a fluid and agile manner," and are currently being piloted in a number of countries, including Cambodia.[27] Community Systems Foundation (CSF), a nonprofit organization applying information technology for sustainable development, has also developed open-source tools that can be used for SDG reporting. CSF's Data For All (DFA) platform provides a range of open-source tools for "data capture, management and analysis to help countries develop custom, modular platforms for monitoring their national development."[28]

27. Statistical Information System Collaboration Community (SIS-CC) .*Stat suite*. https://siscc.oecd.org/Home/Product?Length=4.
28. *Data For All*. https://info.dataforall.org/about.html.

Proprietary

Several technical solution providers have developed tools and platforms for coordinating and publishing data on the SDGs. Providers can often tailor these to a country's needs and provide ongoing technical support. The solutions can feature a wide variety of data management, analysis, and visualization tools.

For example, Esri, in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, has developed a number of pilots that use GIS - Geographic Information Systems - tools for SDG reporting.[29] The NSOs of Palestine and Ireland have collaborated with Esri to developed SDG platforms using Esri's tools. Another provider, Data Act Lab, has worked with the Government of Colombia to develop a platform that includes a number of custom features such as dashboards to visualize data gaps, links between SDG indicators and relevant policies and programs.[30]

Hybrid

Countries may choose to combine open-source and proprietary options. Using elements of both options gives countries the benefits of open-source software with additional support and customization from a technical solution provider. For example, Mexico's 'Agenda 2030' platform combines an open-source approach with Esri's geospatial tools to provide maps as visualizations.

FEATURES & FUNCTIONALITY

Depending on the priorities of an SDG reporting approach, a platform may require features that allow greater functionality for data users and providers. Countries may also look to develop a reporting approach that allows them to strengthen their information systems at every stage from data collection to publication. Features can include, for example:

Data collection & management

Data input and management features can be useful to help meet the needs of data providers and those coordinating SDG reporting. A number of these are described in the Task Force on Reporting SDG Indicators Using National Reporting Platforms' Guide. For example, automated data entry can increase efficiency and accuracy of inputs and ensure adherence to data and metadata standards, including SDMX. Similarly, data validation mechanisms ensure the reliability and accuracy of the data at different points in the data lifecycle. Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) can also allow for content to be created once and automatically published or made available to many channels. This feature could "facilitate the harmonization of national statistics and the production of global statistics."[31]

Data visualization & analysis

Visualizations and analytical tools can allow users to more easily understand and interpret the data. These can include graphs depicting changes by year, or broken down by key variables such as gender, subnational region, or age. Maps can help identify geographical variations in development, and dashboards can help identify data and resource gaps across SDGs.

29. United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). *Mexico City Declaration Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation*. 2017. http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2017-Mexico/documents/Mexico_City_Declaration_30Nov2017_Final_Agreement.pdf.
30. *Data Act Lab*. http://dataactlab.com/our_work/dnp.
31. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Task Force on Reporting SDG Indicators Using National Reporting Platforms. *National Reporting Platforms: A Practical Guide*. 2018. https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SFSDG/Task+Force+on+National+Reporting+Platforms?preview=/128451803/170164503/NRP_practical%20guide_Note%20from%20UNCES%20SG%20SDG%20TF%20NRP.pdf.

Sustainability

→ The SDGs require national governments to develop a long-term strategy for reporting that can be implemented through 2030. Sustainability is a cross-cutting consideration that affects policy, data, and technical infrastructure decisions.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

While data champions can initiate reporting on the SDGs, institutional programs are needed to sustain it. Government data initiatives may lose momentum in the transition from one administration to the next, and national as well as subnational commitments to reporting on the SDGs need to be institutionalized to be durable. One way of doing this is to choose a permanent government agency to conduct SDG reporting. Governments at all levels can also provide incentives, including funding, recognition, and career advancement, for utilizing the SDG framework and reporting results. This approach requires support from higher government offices (e.g. the Ministry of Finance) and the availability of internal and external resources and capacities over the medium and long term.

PARTNERSHIPS

In many cases, SDG reporting will be carried out by a range of stakeholders that can contribute data, resources and expertise. Agreements, partnerships, or contracts to secure support from partner organizations need to take into account the specific objectives of the partner country in establishing its national reporting platform, the sustainability of the platform, and the duration of the commitment to support from partner organizations.

LONG-TERM TECHNICAL STRATEGIES

A number of technical design approaches can help improve the sustainability of a platform. Based on an analysis of several data portals in a variety of countries, Paris21 offers a number of recommendations on how data portals can be designed to be more sustainable.[32] For example, by developing platforms utilizing modular and component-based design, a system composed of separate components that can be connected together, countries can ensure their systems are interoperable. Countries that are developing an entirely new data platform may benefit from adopting both an iterative and modular technical approach, to allow for both gradual development and longer-term sustainability. A modular design can also be help manage the processes required for data reviews, release dates, updates, and multiple data dissemination channels. Additionally, by including training as part of their SDG reporting strategies, national governments can continue to build their capacity to collect, manage, and disseminate data and statistics.

32. Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris21). *Making Data Portals work for SDGs: A view on deployment, design and technology*. 2016. http://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/Paper_on_Data_Portals%20wcover_WEB.pdf.

Financing & capacity

→ The SDGs will require financial and human resources to support each country's SDG reporting initiative through the year 2030, from initial implementation to ongoing maintenance. Financing and capacity are cross-cutting considerations that inform policy, data, and technical infrastructure decisions.

Countries will need to develop capacity to address "institutional, legal, financial, human resources and technical issues" in addition to addressing the statistical needs for SDG reporting.[33] The Conference of European Statisticians' Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals outlines several steps countries can take as part of the strategy to build capacity for SDG reporting, including assessing the country's capacity to produce data across all statistical domains and its NSO's overall capacity, and recommends trainings and establishing networks and partnerships to build long-term capacity. Paris 21 outlines a vision for 'Capacity Development 4.0' where innovative approaches to capacity development [...] are equally sensitive to technical innovation as to collective action opportunities and challenges on data and statistics." It describes a strategic approach and recommendations to build statistical capacities in countries through at the environmental, organizational, and individual levels.[34]

Financial resources may come from country budgets, international NGOs, or a combination of sources. Regional organizations such as the regional UN Economic and Social Commissions can also create opportunities for cooperation on matters such as resource mobilization and capacity-building.[35]

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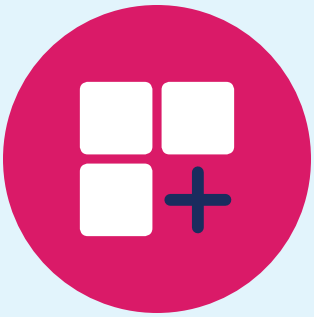
33. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs. *Conference of European Statisticians' Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals, First Edition*. 2017. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2017/ECECESSTAT20172_no_cover.pdf.
34. Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris21). *Realising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development: Towards Capacity Development 4.0*. 2017. https://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/CapacityDevelopment4.0_FINAL_0.pdf.
35. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. *Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. 2017. http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/SDGs-Regional-Roadmap.pdf.

V. SDG Reporting Approaches

→ Once these strategic considerations have been taken into account, a government will be prepared to determine its approach for reporting data on the SDGs. To date, countries have adopted one of three approaches for reporting on the SDGs. Some countries are incorporating SDG reporting within an existing national platform. Others have developed entirely new platforms dedicated to providing data on the SDGs. And still other countries are providing their data to a regionally-maintained platform. These platforms can range from serving purely a disseminating function, to managing data throughout its lifecycle from collection to publication (see "Technical Infrastructure" section for more information).

The following Sections outline the main aspects of these three approaches, the benefits they provide, and examples of countries using them.



Adding an SDG module within an existing platform

→ Some countries have chosen to leverage their existing platforms to provide data on the SDG indicators as an additional module. These SDG modules are typically added to a country's existing National Statistical Office (NSO) website or national open data platform. Countries that have added an SDG module in this way include Belgium, France, and the Philippines.

Belgium

http://www.indicators.be/en/t/SDI

OVERVIEW

The Kingdom of Belgium has added an SDG reporting component to its pre-existing platform for official information and statistics. The first 34 Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) were presented in Belgium's 2017 Voluntary National Review (VNR), and more are expected to be included for future reporting. Associated data and descriptions for these indicators are currently available on the online SDG platform with disaggregation by age, sex, income, and other relevant variables.

KEY FEATURES

The site features a short introduction to Belgium's approach for SDG reporting - such as the choice to report on 34 indicators in its VNR and the main government institutions involved - followed by links to the following information:

- Core reports on Belgium's progress toward the SDGs by year
  - >> Federal Report on Sustainable Development, including trend assessment (2017)
  - >> SDG Trend Assessments in French and Dutch (2015, 2016)

- List of all 17 SDGs with clickable links to the associated indicators on which Belgium is currently reporting. The 34 VNR SDIs that the country selected are distributed across all 17 SDGs with approximately 2-3 Belgian ndicators corresponding to each SDG.

- Clickable indicators that link to a secondary page with more granular data on that SDI are represented in approximately 2-5 graphs and tables, including:
  - >> Trend assessment with time series data ranging from 1990 onwards as available
  - >> Comparison graphs with EU-28 countries for some VNR SDIs
  - >> Disaggregation by age, sex, income level, or other relevant variables for each indicator
  - >> Descriptions of the VNR SDIs, objectives, and international SDG equivalents

STAKEHOLDERS, DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTING PROCESS

The Interfederal Statistical Institute was responsible for selecting the 34 Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) that Belgium currently uses to monitor its annual progress toward the SDGs.

The Federal Planning Bureau is responsible for an annual trends assessment of the 34 selected SDIs, indicating whether Belgium's progress toward each indicator has been favorable, unfavorable, or undetermined through the use of green, yellow, and red icons, and making this information available to policymakers working in related areas. Initial trend assessments were conducted for 2015 and 2016. The trend assessment for 2017 was reported as a component of the overarching 2017 Federal Report on Sustainable Development, which is in turn an instrument of the Belgian federal sustainable development strategy from 1997.

Building a new platform dedicated to SDG reporting

→ Several countries are using centralized National Reporting Platforms (NRPs) to report on their progress. NRPs can be understood as means "to report and disseminate national statistics including SDG indicators and descriptive metadata [...] in an easily accessible way to reach all target users. Target users may encompass government officials and policymakers, members of academia, non-governmental organizations and nonprofits, international organizations, media and other information providers, business community, as well as individual users."[36]

A standalone reporting platform for the SDGs can make it easier for a country's government to coordinate data across different ministries, departments, and subnational bodies, and allow users to find all data related to the SDG indicators in one place. In January 2018, the Conference of European Statisticians' Task Force on Reporting SDG Indicators Using National Reporting Platforms developed a guide for countries that are considering a NRP approach towards the SDG indicators.[37]

Countries that have adopted this approach include the United Kingdom, United States, Mexico, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, among others. A few of these are described in detail below.

36. United Nations Statistics Division. *Principles of SDG Indicator Reporting and Dissemination Platforms and Guidelines for their Application*. 2018. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/BG-Item3a-NRDP-E.pdf.
37. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Task Force on Reporting SDG Indicators Using National Reporting Platforms. *National Reporting Platforms: A Practical Guide*. 2018. https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SFSDG/Task+Force+on+National+Reporting+Platforms?preview=/128451803/170164503/NRP_practical%20guide_Note%20from%20UNCES%20SG%20SDG%20TF%20NRP.pdf.

Sri Lanka

http://www.statistics.gov.lk/sdg/index.php/sdg/page/home

OVERVIEW

Sri Lanka is one of several countries that have established an independent web platform to monitor and report on the SDGs. Thus far, baseline data have been compiled for 46 global SDG indicators for which data are already being collected through the National Statistical System. Data for additional SDG indicators will be included in the online platform once the collection, aggregation, and coordination processes for them reach a more advanced stage; the platform already provides sufficient space for this fuller SDG reporting to take place.

KEY FEATURES

The platform's landing page displays clickable icons for the 17 SDGs. Each goal links to its associated targets and indicators, which link to tables displaying the values, disaggregation, period of reporting, baseline year, UN tier classification, classification by the national Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) data sources, and other special notes. The main platform also links to:

- Full, clickable database of the 17 SDGs with links to targets/indicators, and where applicable, information on values, data sources, and frequency of updates
- SDG goals, targets, and indicators at the global level
- DCS baseline data (tables with values, data sources, update frequency for 46 indicators)
- Tier system classification of indicators and indicator framework listed by tier
- Publications section with link to a status report on Sri Lanka's SDG indicators (2017)
- News items related to the SDGs in Sri Lanka

DATA COORDINATION & REPORTING PROCESS

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) for Sri Lanka (under the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs) is tasked to collect, compile, and disseminate statistical information to monitor the progress of the country's socio-economic activities and measure the impact of government policies on the country's living standards and its people. As a key component of these responsibilities, the DCS is leading the country's SDG reporting. Current capacity of the DCS through ongoing censuses, surveys, and administrative records enables reporting on 46 SDG indicators. The DCS could also be in the position to report on an additional 29 SDG indicators by adding new modules to its ongoing surveys and data collection operations.

Data for an additional 131 SDG indicators are available through other institutions of the National Statistical System or specific agencies, such as the sector line ministries. However, no systematic reporting is under way yet; Sri Lanka hopes to consolidate data for these reporting efforts through the DCS platform in upcoming years.

Sri Lanka's Department of Census and Statistics released its first SDG publication on "The Status of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators in Sri Lanka: 2017", which assesses data availability, as well as baseline data for the 46 indicators for which data was compiled by DCS. Goals 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17 are not yet covered through the available data.

United Kingdom

https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io

OVERVIEW

The UK has developed an open source national reporting platform to collect and disseminate SDG indicator data. The site was initially based on the open source US reporting platform but has been developed further to add customizations and new features particularly regarding disaggregation of data.

KEY FEATURES

The site features disaggregated data and graphs for each indicator for which data is available, links to SDG-related publications, and guidance to help users utilize the open-source code to copy the platform.

- Data is available for each indicator both as a graph and a data table.
- Where relevant, data can be filtered by the various disaggregations, for example geography and sex, and can be downloaded in an open format.
- Each indicator also includes national metadata, information on how the UK indicator is calculated, and global metadata.
- A "Reporting Status" tab allows the user to see the percentage of indicators with statistics that are being reported online, statistics that are in progress, and statistics that are currently being explored for each goal.
- A "Guidance" page provides information for how to use the platform, and links to technical guidance for creating a copy of the platform using the UK's open-source code.
- A high contrast version of the platform is provided.

DATA COORDINATION & REPORTING PROCESS

As the UK's national statistics institute, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for collection, collation, analysis, presentation and dissemination of data for regular monitoring of UK progress against the global indicators.

United States

https://sdg.data.gov

OVERVIEW

The US has developed an open-source National Reporting Platform (NRP) to provide data and statistics specifically on the SDGs.

KEY FEATURES

The site provides access to SDG indicator data, the status of reporting for each of the indicators, and training materials for those looking to utilize some of the site's open-source code.

- For each SDG indicator, the data can be seen graphically and in a tabular view. Data is displayed historically and can be downloaded in an open format.

United States Continued

- Each indicator is displayed with accompanying metadata. The site shows both global metadata, as defined by the UN Statistical Commission, and US metadata, showing the actual information available from US statistics closest to the corresponding global SDG indicator. It includes methodological information, as well as contact details for each indicator.
- The site includes a "Reporting Status" tab that shows the percentages of SDG indicators being reported on, those in progress, those being measured, and those that are improving their measures.

DATA COORDINATION AND REPORTING PROCESS

In the US, the majority of statistics are produced by the US Federal Statistical System, which is a decentralized network of federal agencies that produce data about the people, economy, natural resources, and infrastructure of the United States.

To assess current availability of Federal data for reporting SDG indicators, the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which houses the Office of the Chief Statistician, convened an Interagency Working Group on SDG Data to identify data providers for each indicator. OMB coordinates 'data calls' for each indicator. The data is uploaded directly by each data provider to the platform, and then reviewed by OMB before being published.

In some cases, a country may repurpose a platform that had been built previously to provide data on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Bangladesh

http://www.sdg.gov.bd

OVERVIEW

Bangladesh has developed an "SDG Tracker," adapted from its previous MDG website, to report on the SDGs. This website provides a searchable database of both sets of goals. It also provides links to the country's Five-Year Plans, Voluntary National Reports, and other national and international strategic documents.

KEY FEATURES

- Each SDG is clickable and allows users to view historical data through various visualizations (e.g. maps, graphs, tables). All the data can be filtered geographically and can be downloaded in various formats.
- There is a user guide for navigating the website and finding the information a user is looking for.
- The website also includes a resources section with links to Bangladesh's Five-Year Plans, SDG and MDG reports (e.g. data gap analysis and mapping of SDG targets to data providing ministries), 2017 Volunteer National Report, and National SDG Financing Strategy.

DATA COORDINATION AND REPORTING PROCESS

The Access to Information Program (A2i) was created in 2009 by the Prime Minister's Office as a program to help make the government more transparent. One of the program's core initiatives is the SDG Tracker, which is run by the Ministry of Planning. Within the Ministry of Planning, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BSS) leads the collection of official national statistics and provides them to the Planning Commission, which oversees the policy aspects of SDG reporting. Technical assistance is provided through the General Economics Division (GED).

Leveraging a regional platform

⟶ Several regional bodies have developed platforms allowing countries to provide and display data on the SDGs, and in some cases compare their progress to other countries in the region. The platforms provide a number of features, such as visualizations, to help users explore the data. Examples of regional platforms include the African Information Highway, Eurostat, and the Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership, described further below.

Africa Information Highway

http://sdg.opendataforafrica.org

OVERVIEW

As part of its Africa Information Highway, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has built a platform for countries to establish their own portals for SDG reporting. The main platform for reporting SDGs in Africa links to separate "National SDGs Data Hub" portals for 54 African countries.

KEY FEATURES

The SDGs Data Portal allows users to select SDGs and indicators of interest, generate reports, check the progress made by each country towards achieving each goal, and compare progress across African countries. At the AfDB SDG portal level, a brief background on the SDGs is provided, along with a master list of total available data per SDG. Users can then click on SDG reports by country, by SDGs, or by key progress indicators.

- Country data are displayed in a table, alongside data from Egypt and South Africa as a comparison.
- SDG data are displayed via country ranking tables, heat maps, and bar charts.
- Key progress data are displayed via country ranking tables and time series.
- Each country's SDG portal is customized. For example, Zambia's data portal permits the user to select an SDG and view available values/metadata for its indicators. It also hosts regionally disaggregated data, a data catalog by topic and source, a gallery of key progress indicator graphs, census data, and policy documents. Senegal's data portal provides comparable information via the same platform design, but with slightly customized variations in sector topics, graphs, and maps.

DATA COORDINATION & REPORTING PROCESS

The Statistics Department of the African Development Bank (AfDB) maintains the Africa Information Highway, where the "Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa" portal is housed. Each country is responsible for providing its data in the platform, however.

For example: In Zambia, the Central Statistical Office (http://www.zamstats.gov.zm) is the main stakeholder involved in the collection, aggregation, and reporting of national statistical data, including that of the SDGs. However, Zambia's Central Statistics Office collaborates with a number of sector ministries in the country (i.e. Ministry of Education, National Malaria Control Centre) to consolidate national statistical information on its broader AfDB-supported Zambia Information Highway, of which the SDG Data Hub is one prominent component. Other SDG data for Zambia is sourced from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Statistics Division. Zambia's data portal includes data for at least some of the indicators corresponding to 12 of 17 SDGs.

Eurostat

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview

OVERVIEW

Many countries within the European Union submit their SDG reporting data to a platform established through Eurostat. Eurostat is the main statistical office of the European Union and is responsible for regularly monitoring progress towards the SDGs in the EU, including maintaining updated data, reports, and visualization of the SDGs for EU Member States. The platform features 100 indicators, which are structured along the 17 SDGs but have been adapted to fit the EU's context. Approximately 6 indicators correspond to each SDG, and 41 multi-purpose indicators are used to monitor more than one SDG.

KEY FEATURES

The Eurostat SDG platform features an impressive range of data visualization tools, key findings, reports, datasets, policy documents, and related links.

- The Discover the SDGs and Key Findings tabs link to a clickable data visualization wheel composed of the 17 SDGs. Users can read high-level narrative results describing the EU's main progress on the SDGs over the past 5 years. Then, upon clicking specific SDGs in the wheel, they can view regional progress on each of its indicators visually. Each indicator is accompanied by either a green or red arrow, slanting either slightly or steeply upward or downward to represent the direction and rate of change for that indicator. Users can also see the rate of change for each SDG aligned to a simple scale.
- Interactive graphs allow for cross-country time series comparisons of the indicators.
- A link to main tables provides source datasets, tables, maps, and downloadable metadata.
- The flagship EU SDG report, "Sustainable Development in European Union – Monitoring Report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context" (2017) and its abbreviated highlights version are linked prominently on the page.
- Other links add policy context on the EU's historical sustainable development strategies.

DATA COORDINATION & REPORTING PROCESS

The primary role of Eurostat is to process and publish statistical information at the European level based on the verification and analysis of national data sent to them. This involves coordination at both the Union and Commission levels. Within the context of the SDGs, their role includes consolidating data, ensuring comparability using a harmonized methodology, conducting short-term (5 years) and long-term (15 years) trend assessments for the 28 EU Member States, and visualizing these data on its web platform. Eurostat was also responsible for developing the EU SDG indicator set that cuts across this work.

The statistical authorities of Member States are responsible for data collection pertaining to the SDGs. For example, in the cases of Romania this is carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (http://www.insse.ro/cms/en). The Government of Romania is also currently being supported by Eurostat to build a national system for monitoring and reporting on its national sustainable development strategy.

Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership

http://data.unescap.org/sdg

OVERVIEW

The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership builds on its success as a regional platform for reporting on the MDGs to do the same for the SDGs. The platform represents 58 Member States in the Asia-Pacific Region, and provides a sophisticated data portal, knowledge products, and an events page. Every indicator from the globally agreed SDG indicator framework is included in the portal, although some data are not available from some of the 58 countries for certain indicators and years. Likewise, supplementary indicators and data series have been included in the portal in cases when the officially designated custodian agency has not yet been able to provide such data.

KEY FEATURES

The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership platform includes a landing page with a background description of SDG reporting and links to three main sections:

- Knowledge products, featuring "Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Outlook Report" (2017), "Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific" (2017), and the SDG Data Portal
- SDG Data Portal, a sophisticated database for visualizing the region's SDG progress
  - >> "Access Data," the full database organized by goal, target, and indicator; users can create their own charts and graphs by selecting variables of interest
  - >> "Compare Data," a tool for comparing two countries or regions side-by-side for any indicator as visualized via charts and graphs
  - >> "SDG Profiles," an overview of a given country's performance on all 17 SDGs
  - >> "Methods and Definitions," "Latest Updates", and "Contact Us"
- "Events," which lists two recent international SDG fora held in the Asia-Pacific region

DATA COORDINATION & REPORTING PROCESS

The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership is a partnership between three main organizations: The United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Among these partners, ESCAP provides the primary source of data for the portal, which is a subset of its wider ESCAP Statistical Database. However, data for this portal are also being compiled from UN agencies and programmes, as well as other international sources of official statistics. For example, in Fiji the lead statistical authority is the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (http://www.statsfiji.gov.fj). ESCAP then processes and calculates regional aggregates for the database using its statistical information system. This include aggregates for the world and regions outside Asia-Pacific.

IV. Conclusion

The UN Sustainable Development Goals pose an unprecedented opportunity for countries in all regions of the world and at all income levels. The implementation of SDG reporting will be a critical step on the path to achieving these global goals, and will provide data for a more complete, deeper view of the state of the world than has ever before been possible. It is centered on a global effort to collect, publish, disseminate, and analyze data on all aspects of sustainable development.

SDG reporting is more than a process for countries to report on their progress. Through SDG reporting, countries can gain insight into the ways that the SDGs relate to their priorities and apply that insight to achieving their objectives. Launching an SDG reporting system is also an opportunity for a country to assess its technical and data infrastructure in the context of national priorities and improve its data ecosystem overall. By taking a holistic and integrated approach to SDG reporting, countries and international organizations can ensure that this process strengthens their internal technical capacities while achieving sustainable development.

Glossary

Data portal - A Data Portal is a website where official statistics are organized and can be accessed.

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics - The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics is a 2014 UN adopted set of principles that outlines the importance of official statistics across international boundaries as well as offering guidelines for international professional and scientific statistical standards.

Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) - The GSBPM defines the set of business processes needed to produce official statistics. It provides a standard framework and harmonized terminology to help statistical organizations modernize their statistical production processes, as well as share methods and components.

Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) - The IAEG-SDG is a group comprised of International organization representatives and representatives of their member countries. It is tasked "to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda."

National Reporting Platform (NRP) - An NRP is a means to report and disseminate national statistics including SDG indicators and descriptive metadata in an easily accessible way to reach all target users.

National Statistical Office (NSO) - An NSO is the leading statistical agency within a national statistical system. It is generally responsible for the collection, storage, classification, publishing, and dissemination of general purpose statistics.

National Statistical System (NSS) - The NSS is the ensemble of statistical organizations and units within a country that jointly collect, process, and disseminate official statistics on behalf of the national government.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - The UN SDGs are a collection of 17 goals, adopted by all UN member states in 2015, which are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) - The SDIs were created by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators as a means of assessing whether a nation is developing sustainably, and as a means for policymakers to identify more sustainable policy options.

Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - SDMX is an international initiative that aims to standardize and modernize the mechanisms and process for the exchange of statistical data and metadata among international organizations and their member countries.

Targets - There are 169 Targets within the 17 SDGs that help indicate, on a more detailed level, how close a country is to reporting on and achieving each goal.

Voluntary National Report (VNR) - A VNR is a published review to the UN High Level Political Forum that inform the global community of a nation's progress on Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators on the national and subnational levels.

"According to the 2030 Agenda, follow-up and review processes at all levels will be "rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts."[38]

38. General Assembly resolution 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. 25 September 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

STRATEGIES FOR SDG NATIONAL REPORTING

SDGREPORTING.ORG