



Virtual Expert peer exchange for VNR 2023 countries: data disaggregation and use of non-traditional data sources

Summary of breakout discussions during peer exchange

Breakout room 1: Data Disaggregation

Some challenges for the inclusion of disaggregated data include a) data gaps for vulnerable populations; b) making administrative data usable; c) developing surveys that can reach vulnerable populations; d) how to include qualitative research to address these population groups.

Discussion

The UK NSO created a task force with a group of academics to make recommendations on how to make a step-change for collecting data across the statistical system generally to address data gaps such as children, homelessness, which are challenging data to collect. The NSO is aiming to have qualitative research to complement these gaps and considering adding links to some of the research on the SDG platform. Zambia noted that many Ministries come to the NSO for data, even if it lies in their Ministry. Moving beyond surveys, it was noted that the bulk of the data is from or should be from administrative data and that it is a capacity challenge to make the administrative data usable for reporting on the SDGs. Portugal noted that it has several vulnerable populations and that surveys follow the Eurostat model, but this is not necessarily enough. Statistics Portugal will have a survey that includes ethnicity, which will not be included in the VNR, but will be used in future years. In particular they are trying to address data challenges for the Gypsy community and other immigrant communities. The Global Partnership highlighted the Inclusive Data Charter, which has 5 general principles that champions sign on to and then develop an action plan. The NSO or other Ministry will pick a topic to focus on, for instance, Kenya is focused on disability data and countries are facilitated by the Charter Secretariat and linked to other resources. Countries are invited to join ([link below](#)).

Additional Resources

- Recent publications on Gypsies and Travellers' lived experiences:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/gypsiesandtravellerslivedexperiencesoverviewenglandandwales/2022>
- Inclusive Data Taskforce Implementation Plan:
<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/inclusive-data-taskforce-implementation-plan/>

- 2019 VNR's report for the UK with useful examples of integrating disaggregated data in the VNR: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818212/UKVNR-web-accessible1.pdf
- Recent Census work in the UK (looking at vulnerable population groups/intersectionality): <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/articles/sexualorientationageandsexenglandandwales/census2021>
- Gender Snapshot 2019 (showed why a multidimensional and multisectoral approach and analysis matters): <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/gender-snapshot.pdf>
- Inclusive Data Charter and resources for countries: <https://www.data4sdgs.org/initiatives/inclusive-data-charter>

Breakout room 2: Data availability and use of non-traditional data

Key challenges in accessing data outside the National Statistical Office (NSO) include a) data sharing, b) mutual understanding of how all the work fits into each other; c) meeting the data standards of the NSO; d) access to historical data to enable comparison over time.

Possible solutions

It is important for the NSOs to get the data governance right and ongoing. The focus should be on the particular goals of interest and expanding to all potential sources. It is important to also look at the statistical act and the mandate it gives the head of the NSO in regard to collecting data from various sources. It is also important to understand the actors in place and working with them. Tools such as the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) are also useful. From Ireland's experience, it took about 6 months to build relationships with owners of the non-traditional data. The NSO approached actors to publish the information they have on each Goal. The actors were supportive as they were interested in the process. The NSO invited different actors to review the analysis. The NSO also had to be pushy to encourage active participation. A senior official from the organizations was assigned to sign off on the information that was sent to the NSO to signal accuracy and credibility of the data.

In summary, countries are encouraged to:

- a. Communicate with all Ministries and agencies about the development of the VNR.
- b. Engage with all actors.
- c. Tell the country story as it is (even if it is not a rosy picture)
- d. Align to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Additional Resources

- United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual): <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/un-nqaf-manual/>
- Good practices by countries (non-traditional and innovative data sources): <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/sdgGoodPractices/Non-traditional+and+innovative+data+sources>