

EXPERT DIALOGUE ON DATA PARTNERSHIPS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Ways forward for citizen-generated data (CGD)

Date & time: 8th August 2022, 12:00-13:45 Bangkok time

Concept

Citizen-generated data (CGD), such as community-driven data, are flourishing globally, encouraging the participation of citizens, civil society and community-based organisations in the generation of monitoring data. CGD is a great channel for data collectors and governments to engage and connect directly with citizens, which further helps to improve transparency and accountability of government. Moreover, CGD has a potential to fill knowledge gaps in national SDG monitoring and review, particularly regarding insufficient information on marginalised groups.

Over the last few years, an increased interest to explore the potential of CGD can be perceived within the international statistical community. However, concerns over the lack of quality standards have created barriers for the extensive use of CGD for statistical and policy making purposes. To date, in most countries around the globe there are no binding guidelines for the generation and use of CGD. Some notable case studies are available, for example in the Philippines¹ and Kenya² where a first practical guide for CGD has been established in both countries respectively³. These are promising developments – yet these examples remain an exception and not widely adopted.

Over the years, the [Leave No One Behind partnership](#) has been advocating for an increased use of CGD to allow for a more inclusive SDG and public planning process. The partnership has established national coalitions in seven countries of which four are located in the region: *Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Viet Nam*. Members are first and foremost national and local NGOs, who have been producing a wealth of citizen-driven SDG monitoring data over the last couple of years. This evidence was used to produce policy recommendations for decision makers and public service providers at the national and local levels. The national partnerships have been in close collaboration with relevant state institutions. For example in Nepal, the Central Bureau of Statistics is currently working together with national civil society organisations on a toolkit for the use of CGD in policy planning. This national toolkit will be linked to the Quality Assurance Toolkit for citizen-generated data producers that the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is currently producing.

The potentials to use CGD in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region are manifold, representing a great opportunity to improve regional SDG monitoring and review, while at the same time helping to increase accountability and good governance. What is lacking mostly is the availability of official guidelines that would help both civil society and governments to optimally benefit from CGD.

This ESCAP expert dialogue aims to discuss possible ways forward towards establishing a closer data collaboration between governments and civil society in the region. We invite you to join our webinar in which we will present some of the ongoing CGD work of UN ESCAP, UNSD, and of the LNOB civil society coalitions in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Viet Nam. We will also receive inputs from a government and a national statistics office on their perspectives of CGD.

¹ <https://paris21.org/news-center/news/new-report-shares-insights-using-citizen-generated-data-sdg-reporting-philippines>

² https://partners-for-review.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Kenya-case-study_Final.pdf

³ <https://data4sdgs.org/resources/citizen-generated-data-kenya-practical-guide>

Agenda

Moderators: Peter Koblowsky, Senior Partnership Manager, International Civil Society Centre

- **Welcome remarks:**
 - Rachael Beaven, Director, Statistics Division, UN ESCAP
 - Haoyi Chen, Coordinator, IS Working Group on Household Surveys, United Nations Statistics Division
 - Peter Koblowsky, Senior Partnership Manager, International Civil Society Centre
- **CGD implementation experiences in Asia and the Pacific:**

Joint presentation of the LNOB coalitions in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Viet Nam

 - Vân Anh Trần, Program Director, Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD)
 - Shantosh Thapa, Youth Engagement Coordinator, VSO Nepal
- **NSO's perspective on working with CGD:**
 - Ram Hari Gaihre, Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal
- **Government's perspective on working with CGD:**
 - Nguyen Thanh Nga, Focal Point for SDG report and VNR, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam
- **Discussion and opinion poll with audience:** your perspective on working with CGD
- **Conclusion and wrap-up**

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