

Commonwealth Heads of Statistics Conference 2018

Parallel Session 1 – 22 November 2018 - 16:05 – 17:05 – Location: India Room

The Inclusive Data Charter Session

Session Chair: Claire Melamed, Executive Director at GPSDD

Other speakers:

- Claudia Wells, UK ONS, Sustainability and Environment
- Zachary Mwangi Chege, Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (tbc)
- Dominic Haslam, Senior Director, Sightsavers

Introduction

The [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data \(GPSDD\)](#), through a task team on challenges related to the 'Leave No One Behind' agenda came up with the idea of the **Inclusive Data Charter** as a mechanism to spur countries and organisations to accelerate action on data disaggregation and encourage others to do the same.

What is it?

The Charter includes two parts: a high-level vision with five principles that countries and organisations are asked to sign up to; and a tailored action plan that each of those signing up must develop themselves. The aim of the action plan is to show the practical steps the organisation or country is taking towards achieving the high-level vision and principles, as well as highlighting the longer-term actions needed. The charter has been designed to enable a wide range of organisations to sign up, creating a broad movement in support of inclusive data. This includes governments of high, middle, and low income countries, city-level governments, multilateral organisations, civil society organisations and the private sector.

The Inclusive Data Charter was launched at a side event during the UN High-Level Political Forum held in New York on 17 July 2018. The 10 founding champions (**the governments of Ghana, Colombia and the Philippines; the UK Office of National Statistics; UNFPA; UNICEF; Sightsavers; HelpAge International; Data2X; Development Initiatives**) publicly endorsed the charter at this event and shared their [action plans](#). During the Global Disability Summit on 24 July 2018, it was announced that the **Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK; the Government of Kenya; and the World Bank** were also signing up to the Charter.

This session will provide an opportunity for countries and organisations to share lessons and showcase the progress they are making around data disaggregation.

More information on the Inclusive Data Charter

Please find attached a copy of the Charter's vision and principles; and a Frequently Asked Questions document.

Copies of the champion's IDC action plans (as mentioned above) can be found here:

<http://www.data4sdgs.org/initiatives/inclusive-data-charter>

If you are interested in finding out more about the Charter, please contact [Linsey Winter](#), the Inclusive Data Charter Coordinator (lwinter@sightsavers.org).

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Parallel Session 2 - 22 November 2018 - 16:05 – 17:05 – Location: John Major Room

Transforming the UK population statistics system to one led by administrative data

Session presenter: Stephan Tietz, Administrative Data Census project, ONS (UK)

Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has been using integrated data to research into the UK Government ambition that 'censuses after 2021 will be based on alternative sources of data.' ONS is working with other Commonwealth National Statistics Institutes (NSIs) who are also looking at the use of administrative data for their censuses.

A recent focus of this work has been on transforming the population statistics system to one led by administrative data. Recent research has been exploring how ONS might use administrative data to produce the key components of population change, including international migration. This has highlighted challenges with traditional definitions, but also opportunities to provide new insights into the impact of migration.

This presentation will provide an update on progress of the Administrative Data Census and how ONS is planning to transition from a population and migration system driven by the Census and surveys to one primarily based on administrative data.

Takeaways from the session

- Understanding of ONS' population and migration statistics system and how ONS is planning to transform it to put admin data at its heart.
- An outline of how ONS can transition from a Census and survey driven population and migration system to one based on admin data and what roles surveys might play in the future.
- Overview of methods ONS is learning from other NSIs (Ireland, New Zealand and Italy).

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Parallel Session 3 - 23 November 2018 – 11:15– 12:15 – Location: India Room

Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHOMIS) -The use of an advanced data collection tool in rural households to support data-based interventions

Session presenters:

- Kate Robson Brown, Jean Golding Institute Director, University of Bristol
- Jim Hammond, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Leo Gorman, ILRI/University of Bristol

Introduction

Governments need to track and report their progress towards international objectives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, or the Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement. Governments also need to monitor agricultural productivity and development indicators for their own national strategies. The demand for high quality data often outweighs the supply, and lack of data is often cited as a hindrance to national development.

In recent years, a new generation of data collection tools has emerged. One such tool is the Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHOMIS). Since 2015 RHOMIS has been used in 22 countries and over 18,000 households have been interviewed. Data is gathered very efficiently on household farming practices, livelihoods, food security, gender roles, and greenhouse gas emissions, with a bank of optional extra modules available. Analysis is conducted in a few days using pre-defined calculations, and the indicators used are internationally comparable and mandated in many international agreements. See <https://www.rhomis.org>.

What the session will cover

In this talk, we will describe the tool, how to use it, and potential uses of the large and growing data generated. We will present an example of a data competition organised by the University of Bristol in collaboration with ILRI and describe how the data was used to investigate the effects of farming practices.

Finally, we proposed that, after extensive development and use in the research and NGO sectors, the time is right for a National Statistics Office to adapt and use RHOMIS. The gains in efficiency, speed, and data quality will bring benefits, helping the National Statistics Office to monitor, track, and report rural development and agricultural production.

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Parallel Session 4 - 23 November 2018 – 11:15– 12:15 – Location: John Major Room

Earth observations for statistical indicators

Session presenters:

- Chris Gale, UK Office for National Statistics
- David Askew, Natural England's Director of Evidence
- James Norris, Inter-Governmental Group on Earth Observations

Chris Gale, UK Office for National Statistics

Using satellites to support the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Delivering the 2030 sustainable development agenda challenges all countries to both, produce new statistics where data doesn't exist and, to improve the timeliness, quality and frequency of existing statistics.

The integration of geospatial data into the statistical system provides new opportunities to support these requirements and specifically, the increasing frequency and resolution of satellite data (or earth observation) will allow statisticians to turn imagery data into analysis that can have a greater impact on development policy than traditional survey data.

This presentation will set out the important role that geospatial information can play in helping to measure sustainable development through the indicators and will look particularly at how access to satellite data is being used to meet the challenges of new and better data at the global, regional and national levels. Finally, the presentation will look at case studies from within ONS of where data derived from satellite imagery is being applied to the production of indicators to offer National Statistical Institutes a view of how they could take advantage of earth observation to produce their own sustainable development data.

David Askew, Natural England's Director of Evidence

New environmental data from both ends of the telescope – from space observations to genetic analysis. Two new technologies are rapidly developing and providing us with new ways to collect environmental statistics and inform environmental indicators. Earth observations – from satellite platforms to drones – are providing unprecedented amounts of data, at increasing resolution and with greater coverage and frequency and increasingly allowing us to replace traditional survey data. Similarly advances in genetic level detection are providing us with the ability to collect data on species in the environment with higher levels of certainty – such as the ability to see species living in water bodies through detection of environmental DNA. Both these disruptive technologies create the ability to collect more and better quality data – but also different data which allow us or challenge us to rethink environmental indicators.

James Norris, Inter-Governmental Group on Earth Observations

Geospatial and Earth observations – informing decision making

This session will discuss how and why Earth observations are used to deliver and measure against internationally agreed policies such as the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Insights will be shared on how open and accessible satellite-derived data can aid better decision making, and the role that practitioners play in helping to deliver actionable change within these frameworks.

Highlights will include the importance of using geospatial frameworks to help governments prepare, prevent, respond to and recover from disasters will help the decision makers to understand the role of Earth observations within Disaster Management Processes. Examples will be shared, including the Digital Earth Africa project to deliver analysis-ready satellite data to enable better decision making.