



# Introducing Open Data Watch

## Open Data Open Opportunities

We are in the middle of a data revolution: new sources of data and new methods of data analysis are changing what we know about the world. This is a revolution that began in more advanced economies but offers many opportunities for developing economies. Recognizing this, the *High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda* called for a “data revolution for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens.”

What will it take? Increased investments in household and establishment surveys, complete civil registration and better administrative record systems, and innovative use of “big data” sources. Improved methods of data production, documentation, and preservation will increase the value of data. But the full value of data can only be realized when they are open -- free of charge, available to everyone in readily accessible formats, and licensed without limitation for use and reuse.

Today there is a widespread movement for open data. But uptake has been slow, especially in developing countries.

Increasing the value of development data through open data practices is the mission of Open Data Watch. Our goal is for all developing countries to realize the full potential of open data for their national statistical systems by improving the quality, timeliness, and usage of their statistics.

Open Data Watch is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization founded by three development data specialists. The Open Data Watch team has extensive experience in development data management and statistical capacity building in developing countries. We are committed to making open data a reality in all countries and development agencies.

## Open Data Watch at Work

Open Data Watch provides information and assistance to guide investments and planning of open data systems in developing countries and their partner agencies and reports on their progress.

### Monitoring and Reporting:

We monitor the status of development data programs at national and international levels. Scorecards and summary indicators are used to track progress and acknowledge successes. News, events, and blogs will be posted on our website to stimulate discussion.

### Knowledge and Partnerships:

We are building a rich knowledge base on the reform of statistical systems and implementation of data initiatives. We work by sharing knowledge of technical experts, tools, and sources for financial support, and we build partnerships to leverage skills and increase the impact of statistical programs. We also sponsor workshops, seminars, and on-line discussions to advocate for open data and encourage free exchange of new methods and concepts.

### Strategy and Guidance:

There are many obstacles to opening statistical systems: some technical, some organizational, some political. To implement open data programs developing countries need technical and financial support. And they need to draw on the experience of others, building partnerships and sharing knowledge. We provide strategic and technical guidance to countries and partner agencies.

Individuals or organizations interested in partnering with Open Data Watch or collaborating in our efforts to encourage the creation of reliable, open data on important development issues are invited to contact us at:

Email: [info@opendatawatch.com](mailto:info@opendatawatch.com)

Website\*: <http://opendatawatch.com>

\*MAY 2014