Open Data and National Statistics: Working together

UN World Data Forum
Cape Town, South Africa
16 January 2017
National Statistical Systems have an interest in Open Data
Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society... [they] are to be compiled made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens’ entitlement to public information.
The Open Data Community has an interest in National Statistical Systems
The International Open Data Charter suggests two BIG reasons

For improved governance and citizen engagement

For inclusive development and innovation
But national statistics can get lost in the larger world of open data

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<th>Data Categories from the Open Data Barometer</th>
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<td>Mapping data</td>
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<td>Land ownership</td>
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<td>National statistics</td>
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<td>Detailed budget data</td>
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Top-level government-wide support for open data can be a powerful incentive for open national statistics, and may bring greater resources to the effort. But it may also cause traditional fields of statistics to be overlooked in the excitement to release data that get larger headlines.
At the 2016 International Open Data Conference, the NSO and Open Data Communities had a chance to share ideas.
Open Data Challenges for NSOs & Their Partners

- Legal & Political
- Coordination & Planning
- Technical: Standards & Facilities
- Capacity: Human & Financial
- User Needs & Feedback

NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM
Opportunities & Tools

ODRA – Open Data Readiness Assessment (World Bank)
Action-oriented assessment of government’s readiness for an open data initiative

ADAPT – Advanced Data Planning Tool (PARIS21)
Web-based planning tool to bring stakeholders together

ODIN – Open Data Inventory (Open Data Watch)
Objective assessment of the coverage and openness of NSOs data offerings

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

Data4SDGs Toolbox – tools, methods, and resources to address institutional, policy technical, and capacity issues

Data Roadmaps -- A tool for countries to engage stakeholders in a plan for monitoring the SDGs

Digital Marketplace – Make connections and find solutions to data challenges
The Open Data Inventory assesses the coverage and openness of national statistics in 20 data categories.
Signs of Progress toward Open Data

Improvements in ODIN scores 2015-2016
48 more countries included in 2016
Richer countries had higher average scores

But differences among middle- and low-income countries were small

SCORES BY INCOME GROUP

- Low income
- Lower-middle income
- Upper-middle income
- High income
Some countries have taken the first steps

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Sierra Leone converted many published datasets into open formats and improved its coverage of social statistics.
Malaysia launched a new data portal with many datasets available in open formats.
Ecuador has linked data from various agencies, made many datasets available in open formats, and adopted an open license (CC-BY 4.0).
In June 2016 ODW launched a project with the Russian Association of Statisticians to assess the coverage and openness of statistics at the sub-national level. It looks at the whole national statistical system at the oblast level. Results expected soon.
What have we learned

• Given political support and legal authority, many NSOs can make their data open by publishing open terms of use and making their data available in non-proprietary, machine-readable formats.

• For many countries, the greater challenge is to increase their capacity to produce the full range of data expected of them.

• The SDGs have increased the scope and scale of this challenge.

• National statistical systems can and should be in the vanguard of the open data movement: that will require innovative methods, human and financial resources, and strong leadership.
For more information, visit
www.opendatawatch.com
odin.opendatawatch.com