

CONCEPT NOTE: SESSION 5

Better data for better policies and livelihoods

Tuesday, 13 December 2022, 14:00 – 15:00 CET

Timely, complete and reliable data are essential for effective policies and strategies to achieve the SDGs. The recent multiple crises have shown that our data systems are not yet fit-for-purpose to make the vulnerable visible and increase accountability to the people. The session will launch concrete actions to unleash the potential of data at country-level to inform policy decisions that transform the lives of those most left behind.

Background

High-quality national statistical systems and the use of data are central to effective development co-operation and therefore require support and investments. This support should be effective.

Data matter for development and leaving no one behind. They are central to the SDGs. Policy makers laud the importance of data-driven policies, data for results measurement and accountability. They bemoan the challenge (even scandal) of data gaps for the world's poorest and most excluded populations and implications for development programming and targeting. And, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, digitalization offers unprecedented and exciting opportunities for faster and more detailed data to inform crisis preparedness and nimble policy design and responses. While data has become a buzzword in policy making, the international community stop shorts of grasping and coalescing around fundamental systemic challenges and backing those lessons and initiatives on what works best at the country level. Support to data and statistical systems is increasingly delivered as siloed data products rather than through co-ordinated investments that strengthen the national statistical system.

EDC can help deliver better data for better policies and better lives. EDC recognizes the critical role played by the national statistical system at country-level to design and monitor the effects of public policies. It provides the building blocks for concrete steps – encapsulated in the Bern Call to Action on effective support for national statistical systems and the use of data for development - to take action; taking into account the specific roles, opportunities and incentives of different stakeholders, as well as the dynamics at work in development cooperation and in national statistical systems, including linkages to the wider and fast-changing data ecosystem in the context of digitalization.

The global consensus on the need for smarter data investments is growing. In 2021, the UN World Data Forum adopted the Bern Data Compact on stronger data systems, capacity, and capital in support of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda. It has launched a Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data. At the UN High-level Humanitarian Event on Anticipatory Action, global leaders called for increased investment in risk and crisis data. Over the course of 2021, the UN and World Bank have worked with global partners to design new financing instruments to support coordinated investments at scale and called for stepping up investments at a high-level UN General Assembly event in 2022.

The Effective Development Cooperation Summit rallies now support of the broad and multi-stakeholder constituency of the Global Partnership membership for more and better support to data where it is needed most.

Objectives

- Focus on incentives for more and better support for national data and statistical systems.
- Share evidence, lessons and good practices to capitalize on the power of data for development progress
- Identify concrete steps to rally forces for more and better partnering for data and national statistical capacities.

Guiding Questions

- *Why we need smarter development co-operation for data and how does effective development co-operation make a difference?*
- *How do challenges play out in national policy areas and how are policy makers overcoming them through collective actions?*
- *How to take forward the data agenda for better policies and livelihoods?*

Session Contacts

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