PARIS21
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

A ROAD MAP FOR A COUNTRY-LED DATA REVOLUTION

A 60-SECOND GUIDE

A data revolution is under way worldwide. But it is not reaching every country and not yet benefitting everyone. Who is being left behind?
Mostly least developed countries and their national statistical offices, making it harder for them to design effective development policies, programmes and services. Although eager to join the data revolution, these governments are often short of resources and unprepared to manage the data deluge. PARIS21's Road Map for a Country-led Data Revolution is a step-by-step guide for developing countries to overcome their challenges, exploit existing structures and innovations – and spark a tailor-made data revolution for each country.

What is the data revolution?

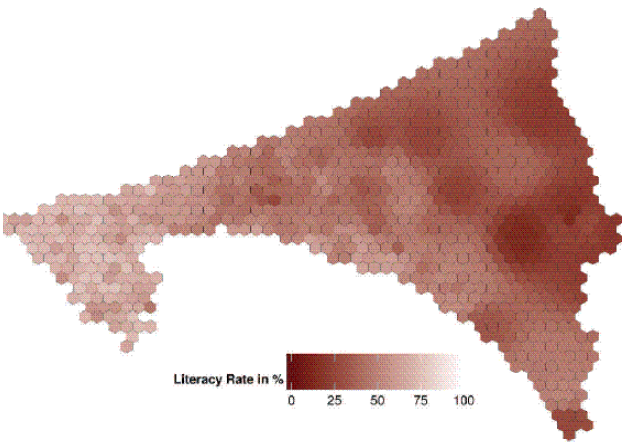
The data revolution is an "explosion" in the volume and production of data matched by a "growing demand for data from all parts of society" . But a data revolution that works for developing countries is not just about generating more data. It must also bridge global inequalities in access to and use of data, allow development progress to be monitored and ensure governments can be held accountable. In short, it must provide the right data to the right people at the right time and in the right format.

Why Isn't The Data Revolution Reaching Developing Countries?

PARIS21's Informing a Data Revolution project carried out research in more than 30 developing countries and identified a number of widespread statistical challenges, including:

- Too little investment in people, skills and infrastructure.
- Data are not adequately disseminated and used.
- National statistical offices are undervalued.
- Aid for statistics often does not match national priorities and is fragmented.

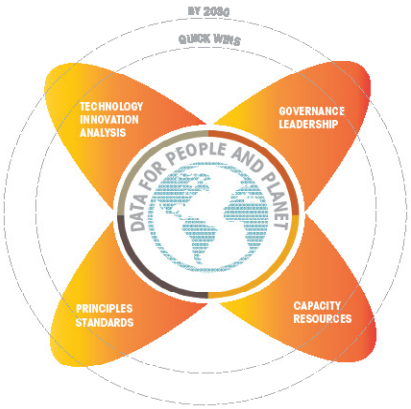
It Is Realistic To Expect The Least Developed Countries To Join The Data Revolution?



Absolutely. In fact, the foundations are already in place. Increases in mobile phone penetration, innovations and the proliferation of technology are making it possible for developing countries to catch up with — and even surpass— high-income countries in the amount and quality of data used for policy-making. Furthermore, PARIS21 and its partners estimate that, as a first step, the 77 IDA countries only need an additional US$200 million in external finance annually to be able to produce the data for the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals. That is less than 0.1% of the yearly amount given to charity by people in the United States.

Source: *Cookbook for a socio-demographic basket: Constructing key performance indicators with digital breadcrumbs*, Bruckschen, Schmid, and Zbiranski (2014).

What needs to be done?



To bring all countries into the data revolution, PARIS21's Road Map for a Country-led Data Revolution sets out a step-by-step action plan across four areas – capacity building; principles and standards; technology, innovation and analysis; and governance and leadership. Underpinning all this are three "big ideas":

1. Increase official development assistance (ODA) for statistics from around 0.5% of ODA to around 1%;

2. Create a data compact where countries sign up to a set of basic principles and receive, in return for progress, improved financial and technical assistance.

3. Establish an annual Data for Sustainable Development Report to measure countries' progress in developing their statistical capacity and to report on funding for statistics.

But what can be done at the national level?

Realistically if the data revolution is to reach developing countries, we must use existing resources and institutions – in other words, existing national statistical systems. The road map recommends some 30 actions for developing countries to strengthen their national statistical capacity. They span improvements in capacity building, principles and standards, technology and innovation and governance and leadership. To learn more about the recommendations and how PARIS21 can help countries implement them, visit: datarevolution.paris21.org.

Did You Know?

Just seven African countries have data on their total number of landholders and women landholders, and none have data from before 2004.

In 2013, worldwide about 35% of all live births were not officially registered, a proportion rising to 62% in the least developed countries.

Produced by **PARIS21** and financed by a grant from the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, A Road Map for a Country-led Data Revolution sets out a step-by-step plan to ensure developing countries join the data revolution. It is accompanied by two powerful tools. The **Innovations Inventory** (http://innovation.paris21.org) is a compendium of innovative solutions that can help fill data gaps, reduce costs and improve efficiency; the **Metabase** (http://metabase.paris21.org) is a database on the organisation, management and performance of national statistical systems to provide a baseline and a means for monitoring progress over time.

About PARIS21

Founded in 1999, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) promotes the better use and production of statistics throughout the developing world. PARIS21 facilitates statistical capacity development, advocates for the integration of reliable data in decision making, and coordinates donor support to statistics. The Partnership was established by the United Nations, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. See www.paris21.org/about

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