



PARTNERSHIP DATA FOR SDGs

Expert Group Meeting on Partnership Data for the SDGs

1 MARCH 2017, 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM, UN GLOBAL COMPACT, 685 THIRD AVENUE, 12TH FLOOR, NEW YORK

Summary

Participants

- Ola Göransson (UN DESA)
- William Kennedy (UNOP)
- Luisa Karst (UN DESA)
- Aneta Mielcom (UNCTAD)
- Camilla Guasti (UNOP)
- Shifaana Thowfeequ (OHRLLS)
- Jacob Assa (OHRLLS)
- Ranu Gupta (OCHA)
- Chris Gerlach (OCHA)
- Nicole Carta (IFAD)
- Bryan Bogart (WFP)
- Patricia Facultad (WFP)
- Nana Taona Kuo (EWEC/EOSG),
- Emily Ross (UN Foundation)
- Deniz Susar (DESA)
- Vincenzo Aquaro (DESA)
- Radia Funna (UN OICT)
- Raymond Landveld (DESA)
- Trey Kennedy Watkins (EWEC/EOSG)
- Amber Kiwan (GPEDC)
- Francesca Perucci (DESA)
- Lucie Brigham (UNOP)
- Angus Rennie (UNGC)
- Lilian Liu (UNGC)
- Jamie Mattisson (UNGC)
- Emerald Nwanne (UNGC)

Opening Remarks Will Kennedy, United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

In the past we have worked independently to bolster the impact of voluntary commitments but we need greater accountability and transparency in terms of multi-stakeholder commitments.

Everyone has a stake in meeting the increased need for voluntary commitments. Right now we lack a standardized basis to define and compare data on performance and impact of commitments across secretariat/UN system.

One of the main objectives of this meeting is to find a way to do a better job of harmonizing our different platforms to better analyze the impact of our commitments. Find a better way to collect data together.

Partnerships Data & the UN UN Global Compact

The Landscape Angus Rennie, UN Global Compact (UNGC)

- Transparency is becoming increasingly important in the current UN landscape (res. A/70/224). The expectations of governments have exceeded our basic disclosure language so we need more information on partnership impact and better harmonization around disclosing information.
- We have a proliferation of platforms to bolster partnerships, both UN and non-UN. Platforms currently exist without much collaboration, which is an opportunity to align.

SMART & The Business Action Hub Lilian Liu, UN Global Compact (UNGC)

- The Business Action Hub is platform to advance SDGs and a tool to help UN and Business connect.
- We will align content with the SMART criteria – making it mandatory in the submission fields to specify how the content is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based and Time bound.
- Unifying partnership information can help us gather comparable data to measure partnership impact.

Gathering SMART data Jamie Mattison, UN Global Compact (UNGC)

- Project intends on measuring partnership impact
- End goal: best practice framework
- Examine partnership impact of business objectives and in an SDG framework
- Intend on creating a draft framework for how we measure impact by performing a desktop pull of partnerships across the system and conducting qualitative interviews of key partnerships
 - Information gathered in this process will be shared with group

Every Woman Every Child Nana Kuo, UN Every Woman Every Child, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

Overview

- Launched in 2010 with a strong focus on accountability
- Originally tracked commitments with voluntary based reporting but in 2015 began mandatory reporting to demonstrate impact of commitments
- Phase 2: launched a strategy to align the vision of shared value of different stakeholders and partners
- Indicator monitoring framework
 - Provides guidance to countries in adjusting MDGs targets
 - Provides a framework for tracking commitment outcomes and impacts

- Robustness of reporting depends on national systems. Most non state actor contributions are not reflected in these national systems
- Framework looks at areas that require strengthening from a data standpoint

Unified Accountability Framework

- Independent accountability for verifying progress is quite useful in working in inter-governmental environments
 - Regional, National and Global accountability levels for partnerships
- How would you build the capacity to support this accountability framework? (Will Kennedy)
 - We have core partners across UN agencies with presence at country level and specific collaborators for SDGs fully integrated into UN agencies and partnerships with capacity to support the accountability framework
 - Example: UNICEF, WHO, civil society, community based efforts (citizen hearings-district levels)

Commitments to the Updated Global Strategy

- Over 200 commitments from 60 countries, 150 multi-stakeholder totaling 27 billion dollars
 - Tracking and reporting will only be as strong as the initial commitment is; commitment form addresses SMART criteria
 - Verification review process and commitments are published online to foster transparency
- Annual Progress Report starting from this year. To be presented to world health assembly in May
 - Intends on measuring commitment progress
 - Online process, user friendly, able to revisit how they report
 - Working with Clinton Global Initiative to build process
 - PMNCH back-end analysis to feed annual progress report
- Encourage commitment makers to build strategic partnerships with each other and not just stand-alone commitments
- Collaboration among platforms is important so that we avoid duplicating commitments across agencies. We need to aggregate commitment maker reporting so commitment makers are not reporting to 4 or 5 agencies.
- Platforms have been useful in finding new approaches to get better reporting
 - We need more common approaches, better alignment, more investment and capacity; streamline reporting
 - Work together to get better ideas of what we can realistically report
- Commitment tracking should be built into the platform from the beginning, make user reporting more friendly, ensure data is feeding in to the broader SDG monitoring process

Outcomes from the UN World Data Forum Francesca Perucci, UN DESA Statistics Division

Overview

- Recommended by report on data evolution to create a space to bring together different actors from different data sources to better understand how to work collaboratively
- Largest representation from civil society, also included academia and private sector. 1400 data experts from over 100 countries, 300 speakers, 84 sessions
- Working to create trust among different constituencies of data sources.
- Expectation of forum to create new partnerships and develop consensus on data principles and standards

- Not a one-time event but a process involving all actors

Six Themes

- New approaches to capacity development for better data
- Innovations and synergies across different data ecosystems
 - New ways of generating data through innovative new tools
- Leaving no one behind
 - Data disaggregation, new ideas on concrete initiatives
- Understanding the world through data
 - Making sure what we produce is relevant
- Data principles and governance
 - Data sets are crucial for policy but are not being properly merged with all relevant data
- The Way Forward - A Global Action Plan for Data
 - Coordination & strategic leadership
 - Innovation and modernization of national statistical systems
 - Basic statistical activities and programmes
 - Dissemination and use of sustainable development data
 - Multi-stakeholder partnership
 - Mobilization of resources
- UNDataforum.org
 - Next forum Dubai Oct 2018
 - Data interpretability- Identify tools to make data more interpretability
- The challenge is having the data needed to track the 2030 agenda. The statistical official system alone cannot satisfy that so the UN world data forum aimed to launch concrete solutions for innovative ways to use the new sources.

Partnerships Data for SDGs Framework Ola Goransson, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

Conceptual Framework

- SMART: Name of initiatives, full disclosure of all involved partners, target beneficiaries, description, start and end date, time based deliverables, resources devoted, contact information, linkages to SDGs
- Developed for Rio+ 20 voluntary commitments, SIDS conferences partnerships, the Ocean conference voluntary commitments
- Purpose is to increase transparency, spur follow-up by third parties

Operational/Technical Part

- DESA Partnership + UN Business Action + SIDS Conference + Ocean Conference + Other → Partnership Data for SDGs “Data Center”
- High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
 - Better comparability analysis, more accurate reporting, less duplication, identify gaps among SDGs/targets and implementation, compliment review work of HLPF, better follow-up by beneficiaries

UN Entities can join/benefit by

- Adapt SMART criteria
- Align info with SDGs and targets

- Regularly share data w/ partnership data for SDGs
- Use the data center as a cloud repository
- Utilize “Action Network” set-up on DESA’s Partnerships Platform

Partnership Exchange Event: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world; July 17 2017, 9 AM-6PM.

Discussion

- **What are the expectations of reporting on SDGs?** How can WFP contribute data? How can we do this in a systematic, best practice way to demonstrate best results instead of adding a new layer of reporting? (Bryan Bogart, WFP)
 - WFP has model partnerships with objectives and accountability already laid out so SMART criteria could easily be implemented. For these partnerships the challenge would be to promote partnerships to incentivize commitment makers (Will Kennedy, UNOP)
 - Without trying to add a burden to member states and agencies we do need better incentives to push commitment makers to want to report impact. We need to find a way to learn what commitment makers are doing but to also ensure that commitment makers remain engaged throughout the length of the commitment.(Ola Goransson, DESA)
- **Concretely, what would multi-stakeholder partnerships reporting mean?** Is there a plan to have a more comprehensive report on partnership contributions? (Nana Kuo, EWEC)
 - With the SDGs, the SGs report is a review in progress, reports focus on data while everything else focuses on implementation without specific agency results. There is not enough information to inform HLPF discussion because there is no real report on partnership impact. (Francesca Perucci, UN DESA)
 - WFP Teams have been asked to put together 5 page reports for HLPF. We can encourage the inclusion of multi-stakeholder partnerships in these reports. (Bryan Bogart, WFP)

Next steps

- Consider preparing a report summarizing outcome of select key multi-stakeholder partnerships to present to member states, and create demand for a more formalized and integrated partnership impact report. DESA to share their internal report on multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Further develop the Partnership Data for SDGs Framework, to be presented during HLPF
- Develop a working group of key partners from UN and private sector to consider new technologies to better analyze data on partnership impact
- Organize a briefing for Member States
