



**SDGs in
Practice** | by **UN DESA
& UNITAR**

Digital Platforms and Data Innovation for SDG Implementation and Monitoring

UN DESA's UN Statistics Division,
national statistics office representatives

 23 July 2025, 08.00 – 09.30 AM (EDT)

 Virtual

 sdgs.un.org/2025/SDGsinPractice



A special event to the
**High-level Political Forum on
Sustainable Development**
14 – 23 July 2025

Digital Platforms and Data Innovation for SDG Implementation and Monitoring

Wednesday, 23 July, 08.00 – 09.30 AM

Organized UN Statistics Division in collaboration with several national statistics office representatives

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a robust evidence base to monitor progress, with official statistics from national governments forming the backbone of global SDG reporting (paragraph 74). Yet, meeting the data demands of the SDG indicators remains a challenge for all countries. Data gaps persist—particularly for indicators requiring new types of data or more granular, disaggregated information to ensure no one is left behind.

To address these gaps, countries are increasingly adopting digital platforms and innovative data sources and methodologies to complement traditional statistics. These include citizen data, mobile phone data, social media analytics, satellite imagery, small area estimation, real-time monitoring, and integrated databases. Such innovations offer advantages in timeliness, coverage, granularity, and cost-effectiveness - making them valuable tools for strengthening SDG monitoring and implementation.

This learning-focused session will explore how digital platforms, and non-traditional data can enhance SDG monitoring. It will introduce participants to practical approaches for integrating these sources into national statistical systems and highlight the role of National Statistical Offices in ensuring data quality and coherence across the national data ecosystem. Through case examples and guided discussion, the session will demonstrate how innovation can improve data availability for vulnerable populations, inform policy decisions, and enhance the overall effectiveness of sustainable development efforts.

Participants will gain insights into current data innovations and explore key tools and methodologies based in national contexts. The session aims to build awareness, share practical knowledge, and inspire more ambitious, data-driven action toward the SDGs.

Challenge and objective

This session on digital platforms and data innovations for SDG implementation and monitoring will provide an overview of global progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, drawing on *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025* (forthcoming). It will also highlight key trends and developments in the use of data innovations to strengthen SDG monitoring. The session will feature a presentation and live demonstration of the UN Data Platform—a global tool designed to support data exploration and accessibility for SDG indicators. In addition, participants will gain insights into how countries are leveraging digital platforms and innovative data sources to enhance monitoring and implementation of the SDGs. The session will examine emerging tools, methodologies, and good practices to support national efforts in closing data gaps, improving disaggregation, and promoting more effective, inclusive data systems.

Solutions

Tools and solutions to be presented include:

- Information on official statistics, non-traditional data, data innovations and digital platforms
- Information on geospatial, administrative data, small area estimation and other data innovations and techniques used by countries for SDG monitoring
- Tools for SDG data exploration including the UN Data platform

Format and audience

The session will take place virtually (1.5 hr. session) and will include presentations and a demonstration of the UN Data platform, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion. The session will also include an audience interaction platform for participant engagement and feedback.

Audience:

- Civil society organizations
- Government officials
- Academia and researchers

Resources

- *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025* ([link](#))
- SDG global indicator framework ([link](#))
- IAEG-SDGs SDG Good Practices (non-traditional data and data innovations) ([link](#))
- IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information ([link](#))
- UN Data Commons for the SDGs ([link](#))
- Collaborative on Citizen Data ([link](#))
- Collaborative on Administrative Data ([link](#))
- Data For Now Initiative ([link](#))
- UN Big Data ([link](#))

Additional information

For more information and to sign up to attend, please visit the webpage here: <https://sdgs.un.org/2025/SDGsInPractice>

For any additional questions, please contact the session organizer: Ms. Heather Page, pageh@un.org

Programme

Time	Item
8:00 – 8:05 am	Welcome and introduction to the session by the moderator • Yongyi Min, Chief, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division
8:05 – 8:15 am	Setting the scene: SDG progress and data innovation ten years into the SDGs

	• Heather Page, Statistician, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division
8:15 – 8:25 am	UN Data platform: SDG tool demonstration • Daniel Eshetie, Statistician, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division
8:25 – 9:15 am	Country experiences: digital platforms and data innovations for SDG implementation and monitoring • SDG monitoring activities and data innovation, Youngshil Park, Statistics Korea • Utilizing the geospatial data to inform national policy and decision-making for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Khalid Abu Khalid, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics • Data innovation and non-traditional data sources: extreme events and disasters, National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic (<i>presenter TBC</i>) • Open SDG platform and advanced customization of national SDG platforms, Sarah Beasley, UK Office for National Statistics
9:15 – 9:25 am	Q&A and discussion on data platforms, data innovations and practical tools and resources for SDG monitoring and implementation
9:25 – 9:30 am	Closing • Heather Page, Statistician, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division