

# **HARNESSING SDGS TO BUILD BACK BETTER**

**Enhancing development data systems for inclusive recovery**

**Julia Schmidt, Policy Analyst at PARIS21**

**Eleventh Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group  
on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

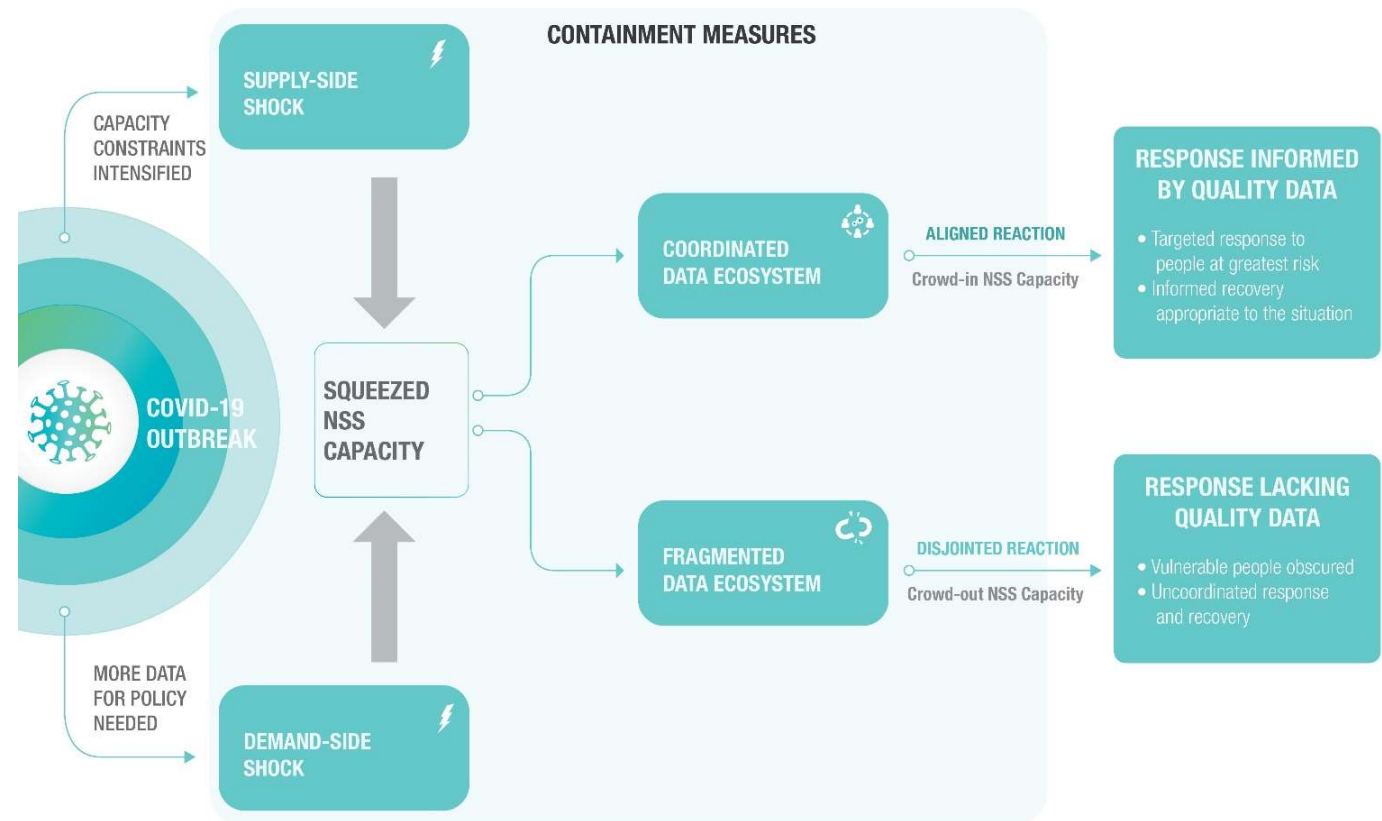
**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020**



## COVID-19 amplifies the fault lines of existing data ecosystems

- Prevailing **data gaps**: Policy makers lack data on specific issues – vulnerability to crises/disasters, informal economy, social impact
- Missing **disaggregated data**: women, racial/ethnic minorities affected differently
- **Weak systems**: limited data on cross-cutting policy issues, neglected administrative data systems
- Lack of **data use and reuse**

## Statistical systems squeezed



Misra, Schmidt and Harrison (2020)

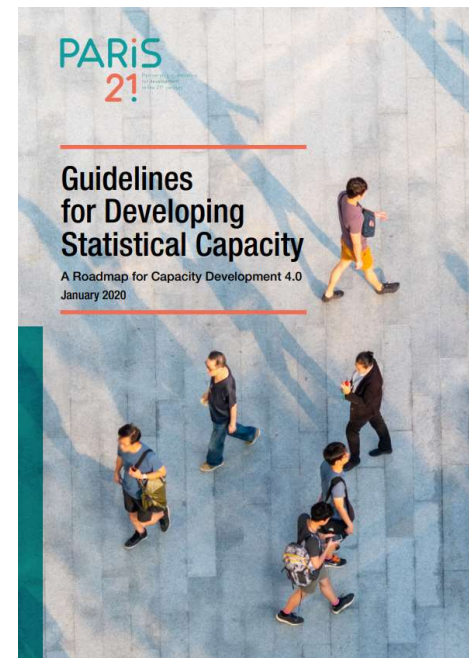
- **SDGs more important than ever to catalyze**
- **inclusive recovery**

- SDGs accelerate systems-level change
- SDGs offer opportunity to leverage NSS data for domestic policy-making, M&E reporting and accountability at all levels
- SDGs are cross-cutting, long term and focus on “leaving no one behind”

## ▪ **But, three acute challenges remain:**

- Persistent lack of **statistical capacity** across particular dimensions (digitalization, skills, access, use)
- Sub-optimal **alignment and policy coherence**: difficult to mainstream SDGs in national/local policies
- Fragmented **coordination** within NSS and broader data ecosystem

# PARIS21 EXPERTISE IN NEW APPROACHES TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



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## ■ PARIS21's ongoing support on a global level

- Ongoing pilot project "Operationalizing CD4.0 in the Philippines: Strengthening Gender Statistics for **Subnational SDG Monitoring**."
- Ongoing pilot project "Operationalizing CD4.0 in Zambia: Strengthening **environmental statistics in the NSS**"
- Use of the PARIS21 **Statistical Capacity Monitor indicators** to monitor progress in line with 'advancing official statistics for agenda 2030', presented at the 7th Session of UNESCAP Committee on Statistics (2020)
- PARIS21 is working in **the Maldives** to implement a **gender statistics assessment** through the UN Women 'Women Count' program.



## Strategies to build back better

1

**Holistic approach to capacity development of statistical systems:** Digitalization, improved data access and use, administrative data

2

**Empower NSO as the national data steward:** coordination with other govt agencies, and partnerships with private data agencies, modern governance mechanisms

3

**Increase financing to statistics:** More and better funding for development data from domestic and external sources



## Way forward: scaling-up holistic approach to CD

- **Recognize the value of systemic solutions:** Policy makers need to access and use reliable and timely data in crises and beyond.
- **Re-think your existing programmes** – Many of us already apply some CD4.0 thinking without being aware of it, you need to start strategizing
- **Scale-up funding to capacity development** – PARIS21 has launched the [clearing house mechanism](#) at the UNWDF 2020