



**United Nations**

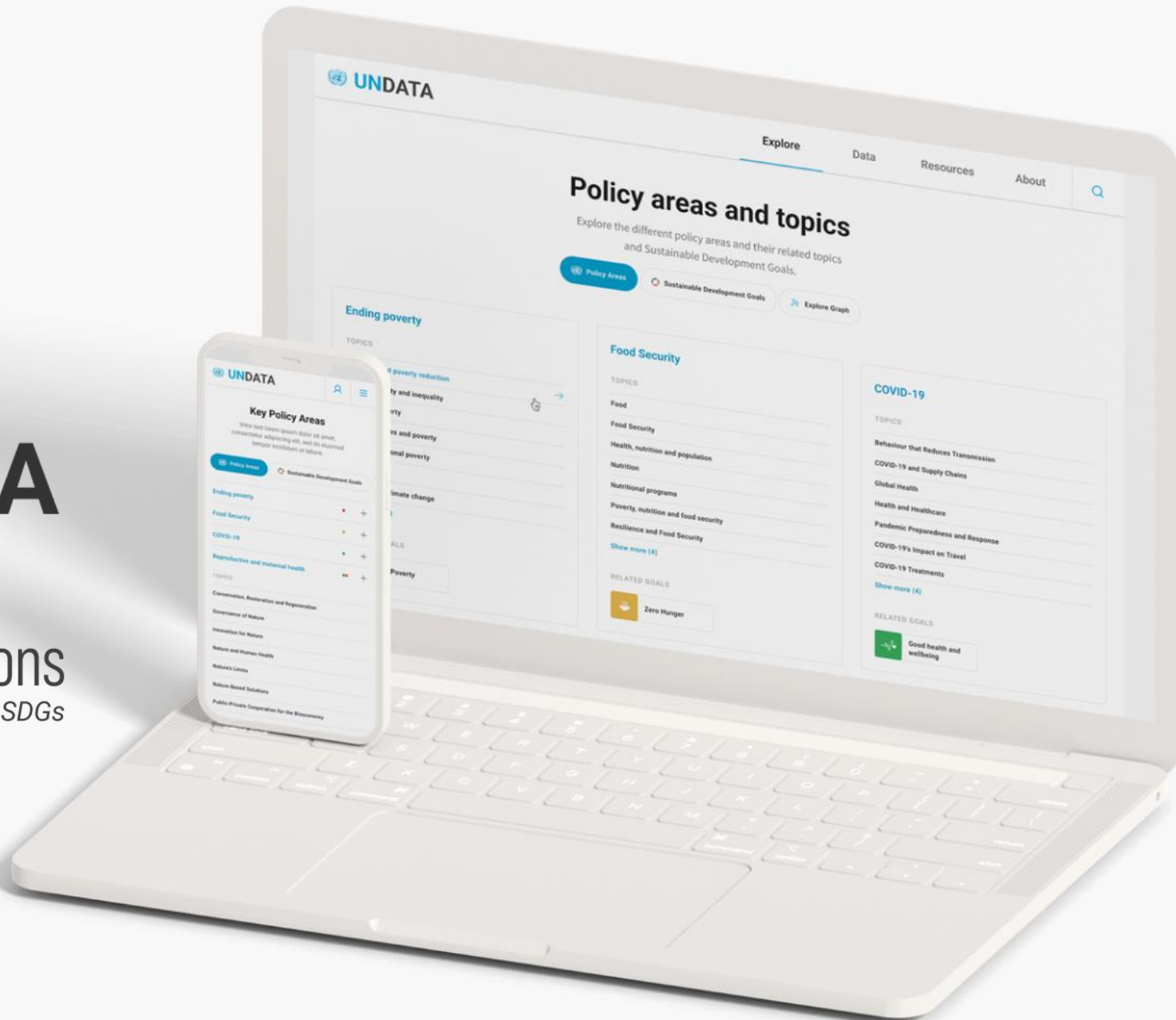
Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**UNDATA**



**UN Data Commons**  
*for the SDGs*



# UNDATA Modernization Context

- Response to UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy
- Informed by the Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics
- Endorsed by UN Secretary-General's Executive Committee

## Overall objectives

- Increase visibility and access to authoritative sources of statistical data and metadata
- Improve search and analytic capabilities for policy and decision makers
- Enable interoperability of statistical data from across the UN system, Member States and other partner organizations
- Enhance data value through meaningful interlinkages across global, regional and national data portals

# Working principles

- Harness the UN's authority, credibility, and name recognition to unify efforts and collaborate across all stages of the data life cycle
- Ensure trust in data through data quality and adherence to standards
- Develop capacity of all stakeholders to both contribute and use a common, modern data infrastructure

# Partnership with Google Data Commons

- Objective is to develop a customized, self-hosted knowledge graph, leveraging semantic web technologies and standards, building on groundwork laid in 2022
  - Project duration: 2 Years
  - Initial deliverables focused on SDG data
  - Key components include cloud infrastructure, NLP and ML capabilities, automated data pipelines, user friendly APIs and front-end, as well as resources for capacity development, communication and outreach



# Towards a distributed UNdata Knowledge Graph

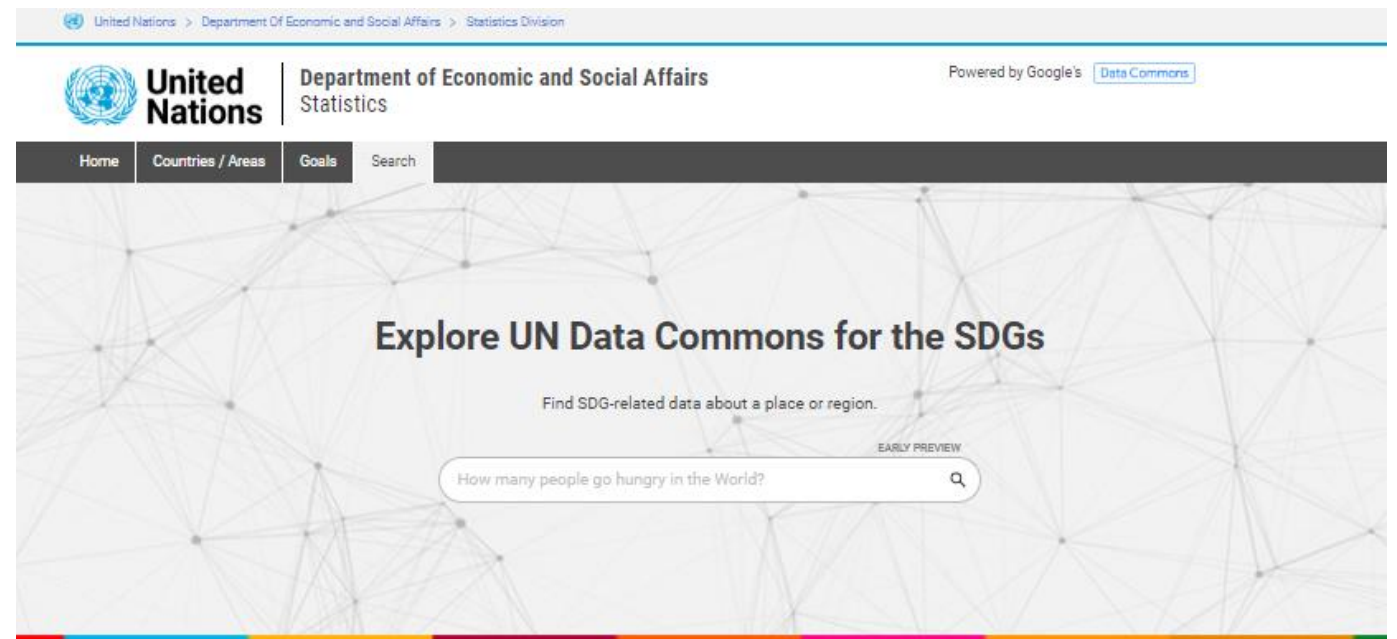
The objective is to capture the concepts and relationships required to:

- Establish explicit and implicit links to external resources, thus making data more easily findable, searchable, and usable.
- Build applications that efficiently access related data across multiple domains using linked open data techniques
- Generate insights by reasoning over complex relationships.
- Incrementally add new data and evolve the data schema to accommodate new data types and new use cases.

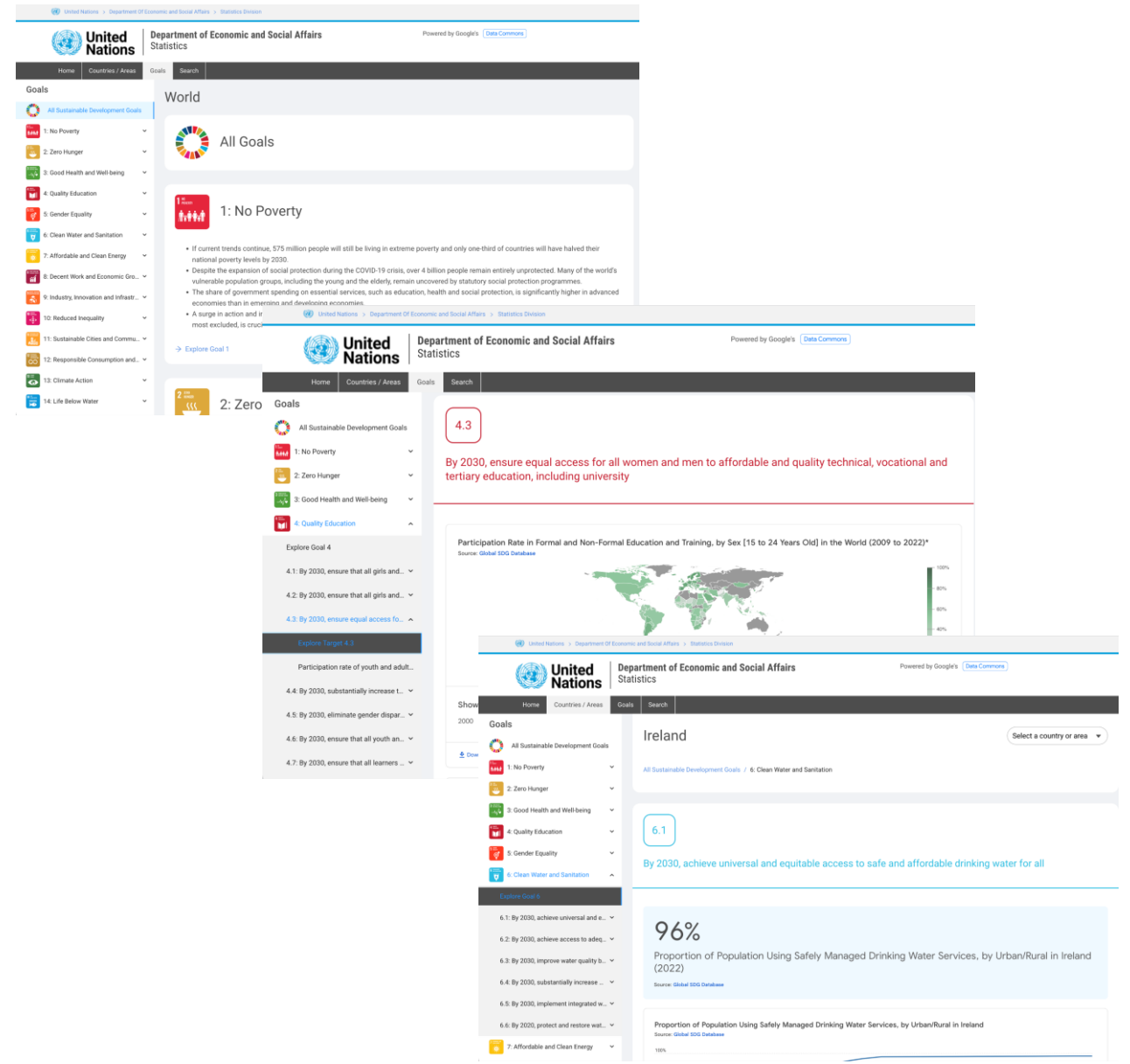
# SDG Summit, 18-19 September 2023

- Launch of a first version of the UN Data Commons, focused on SDG data

- ✓ Powerful data visualizations
- ✓ Advanced Natural Language search functionality making it easy for users to access, explore, and utilize the data



- Dashboard of 3000+ SDG statistical indicators
- Powered by UN's Custom Data Commons instance
- SDG progress by goal, country, area, and search
- Pages
  - Home
  - SDG progress country and area
  - SDG global progress
  - Natural language search



The screenshot displays the UN Data Commons interface, which is a dashboard for tracking Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It features a navigation menu on the left with 17 goals, a main content area with a search bar and filters, and several data visualization components.

Key elements visible in the dashboard include:

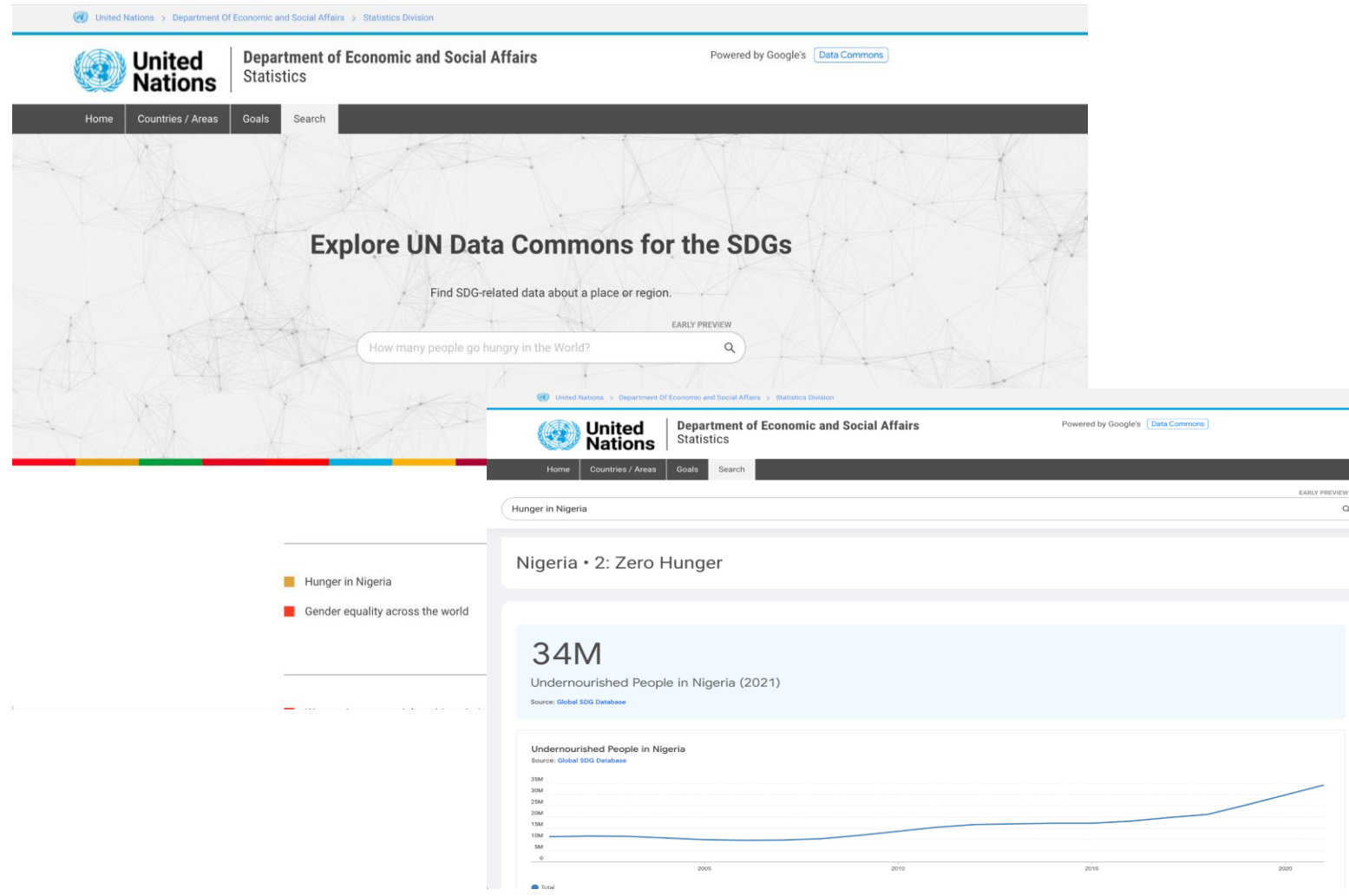
- Goals List:** A vertical list of 17 SDG icons and titles, such as "1: No Poverty", "2: Zero Hunger", "3: Good Health and Well-being", "4: Quality Education", "5: Gender Equality", "6: Clean Water and Sanitation", "7: Affordable and Clean Energy", "8: Decent Work and Economic Growth", "9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure", "10: Reduced Inequality", "11: Sustainable Cities and Communities", "12: Responsible Consumption and Production", "13: Climate Action", and "14: Life Below Water".
- World View:** A section titled "World" showing "All Goals" and a detailed view for "1: No Poverty". It includes a text-based indicator: "If current trends continue, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty and only one-third of countries will have halved their national poverty levels by 2030." It also mentions that "Despite the expansion of social protection during the COVID-19 crisis, over 4 billion people remain entirely unprotected." and that "The share of government spending on essential services, such as education, health and social protection, is significantly higher in advanced economies than in emerging and developing economies." A note states: "A surge in action and investment in the area of sustainable development goals is needed to ensure that all 17 goals are achieved by 2030."
- Goal 4 Detail:** A section for "4: Quality Education" with a target "4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university". Below this is a chart titled "Participation Rate in Formal and Non-Formal Education and Training, by Sex [15 to 24 Years Old] in the World (2009 to 2022)\*" with a world map and a bar chart showing participation rates.
- Ireland View:** A section for "Ireland" showing "6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all". It features a large "96%" indicator and a chart titled "Proportion of Population Using Safely Managed Drinking Water Services, by Urban/Rural in Ireland (2022)".



## Natural Language Search

<https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/undatacommons/sdgs/search>

- Answers questions about a place and a topic
- Landing page: suggested queries
- Contextual queries
  - “Hunger in Nigeria”
  - Follow-up query: “What about poverty?”
- Place comparison queries
  - “Compare progress on poverty in Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan”
- Queries about specific SDGs
  - “SDG 11 in europe”



# Next iteration: Towards the 2024 Session of the UN Statistical Commission

- Fully incorporate dataset from “pilot agencies”, creating new thematic and data provider landing pages
- Provide partner agencies tools to streamline their data integration workflows
- Refine natural language search capabilities



# UN Data Commons

*for the SDGs*



[bit.ly/undatacommons\\_sdgs](https://bit.ly/undatacommons_sdgs)