

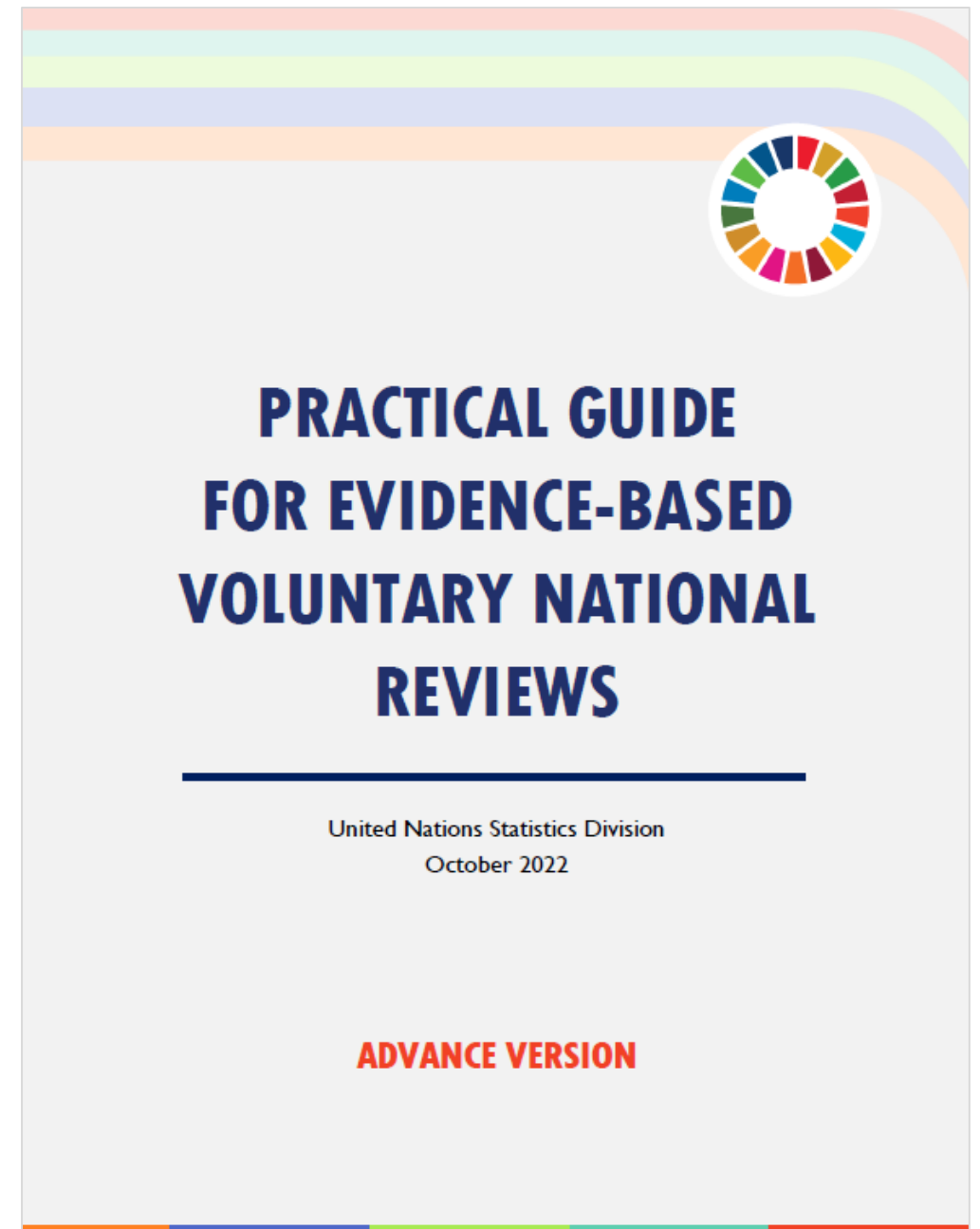
Preparing Evidence-Based Voluntary National Reviews

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UN Statistics Division | SDGs Monitoring Section

*Workshop on supporting evidence-based VNRs
and SDG reporting: data and statistics innovations*

Ankara, Türkiye | 6 December 2023





Agenda



VNRs and the role of data



Practical Guide for Evidence-based VNRs



Deepening the data analysis



Leaving No One Behind



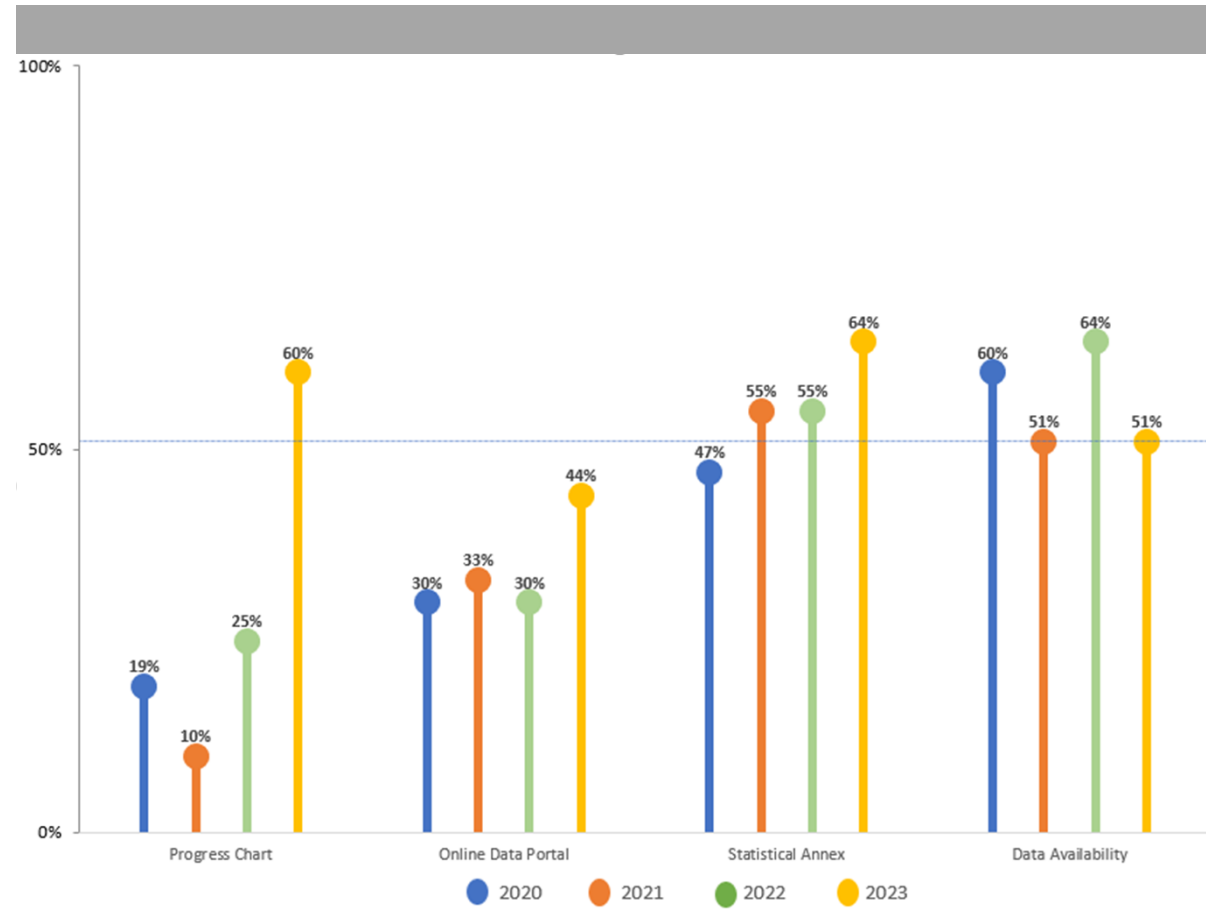
Useful resources for VNRs & next steps



VNRs and the Important Role of data

- Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) prepared by Member States are one of the **critical follow-up and review mechanisms** for the 2030 Agenda
- VNRs should be **underpinned by data** and should be **evidence-based**.
- The inclusion of data and progress assessments in VNRs has improved **as countries have strengthened their monitoring frameworks for SDGs**.
- **Common challenges remain:**
 - *Coordination*
 - *Limited evidence and data availability*
 - *Limited disaggregated data and collection*
 - *Human and financial constraints*

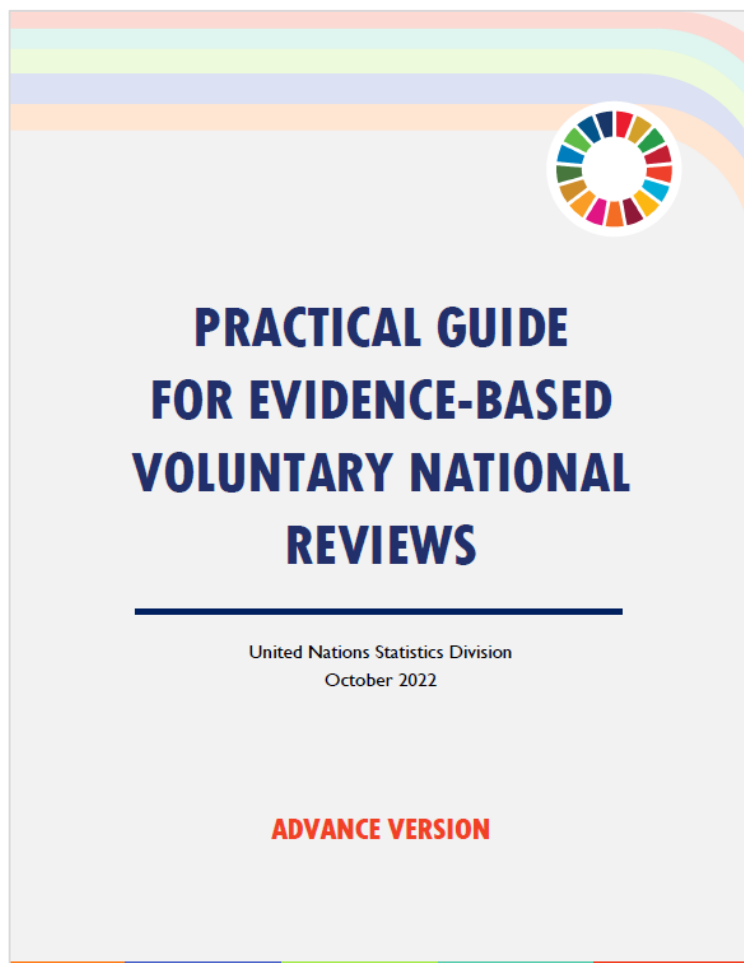
Proportion of Countries Incorporating Data Elements in VNRs (2020-2023)



Source: UNSD Practical Guide for Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews

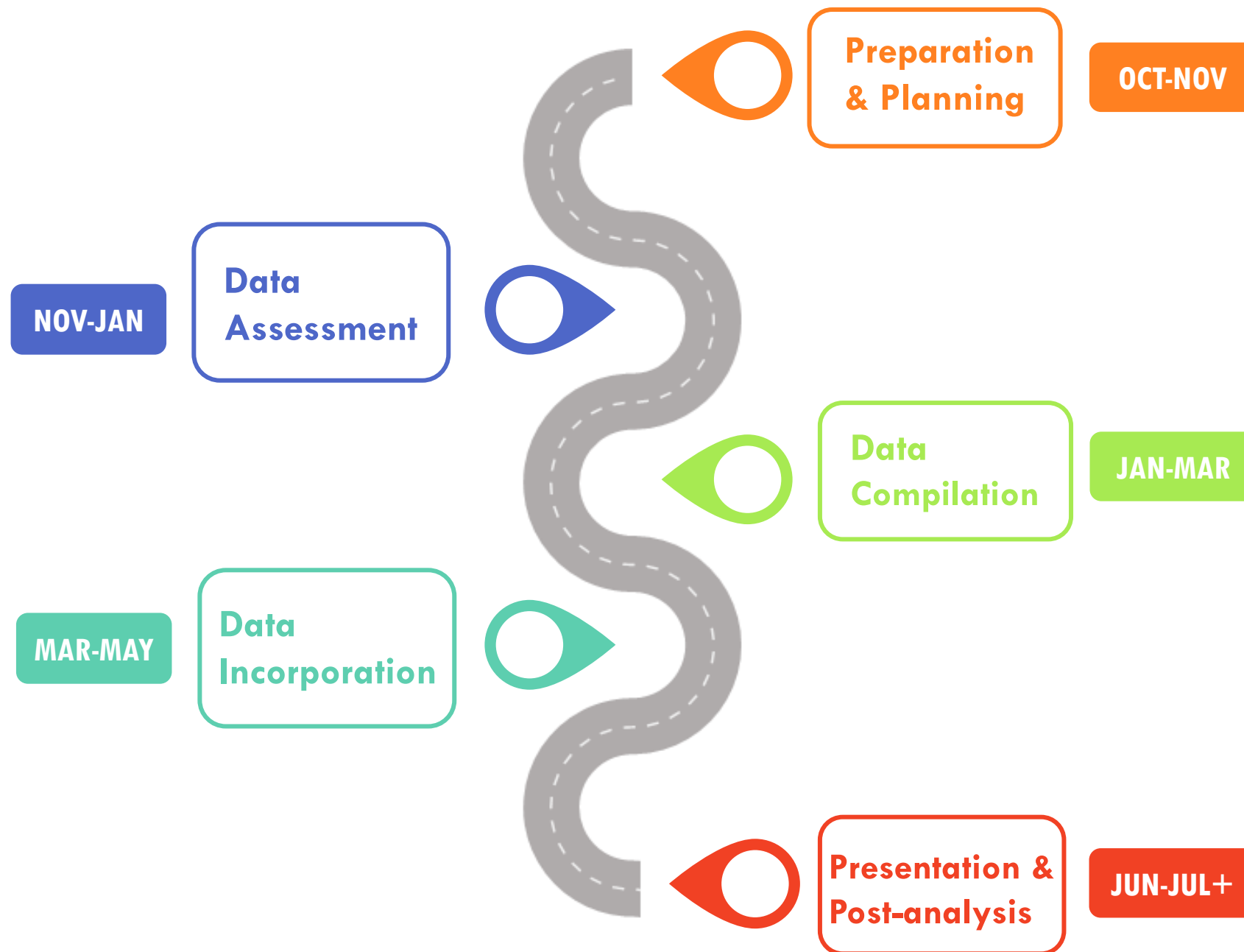


Practical Guide for Evidence-based VNRs



- **The Guide:** Complementary resource for countries on how to use data and statistics on SDGs to support evidence-based VNRs.
- **Approach:** Roadmap method with good practice examples, outlining key stages in the national VNR process for enhancing data.
- **Looking ahead:** VNR process can also help to identify strengths and weaknesses of statistical systems and statistical capacity building opportunities.
- **Webpage:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/data4vnrs/>

A Data Roadmap for VNRs



Data Roadmap: Step 1



Preparation & Planning

- Identification of needs and planning
- Establishing a VNR data team
- Review of data institutions and SDG processes for VNRs

OCT-NOV



Data Roadmap: Preparation & Planning

OCT-NOV

- **Establishing a VNR data team:** the essential role of National Statistical Offices (NSOs)
- **Institutional mechanisms for SDG monitoring:** agreed institutional agenda for SDG follow-up and review
- **Building on existing reporting processes**

Zambia: *Key documents that were gathered for the 2023 VNR including :*

- 2022 Census of Population and Housing, Preliminary Report
- 2021 Labour Force Survey
- National Health Strategic Plan 2022 to 2026
- 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey
- 2021 Zambia Finscope Survey
- Preliminary Impact Assessment of the Ukraine-Russia Conflict, SADC Secretariat, 2022
- Zambia Decent Work Country Programme 2020-2022
- Research and evaluation reports, others

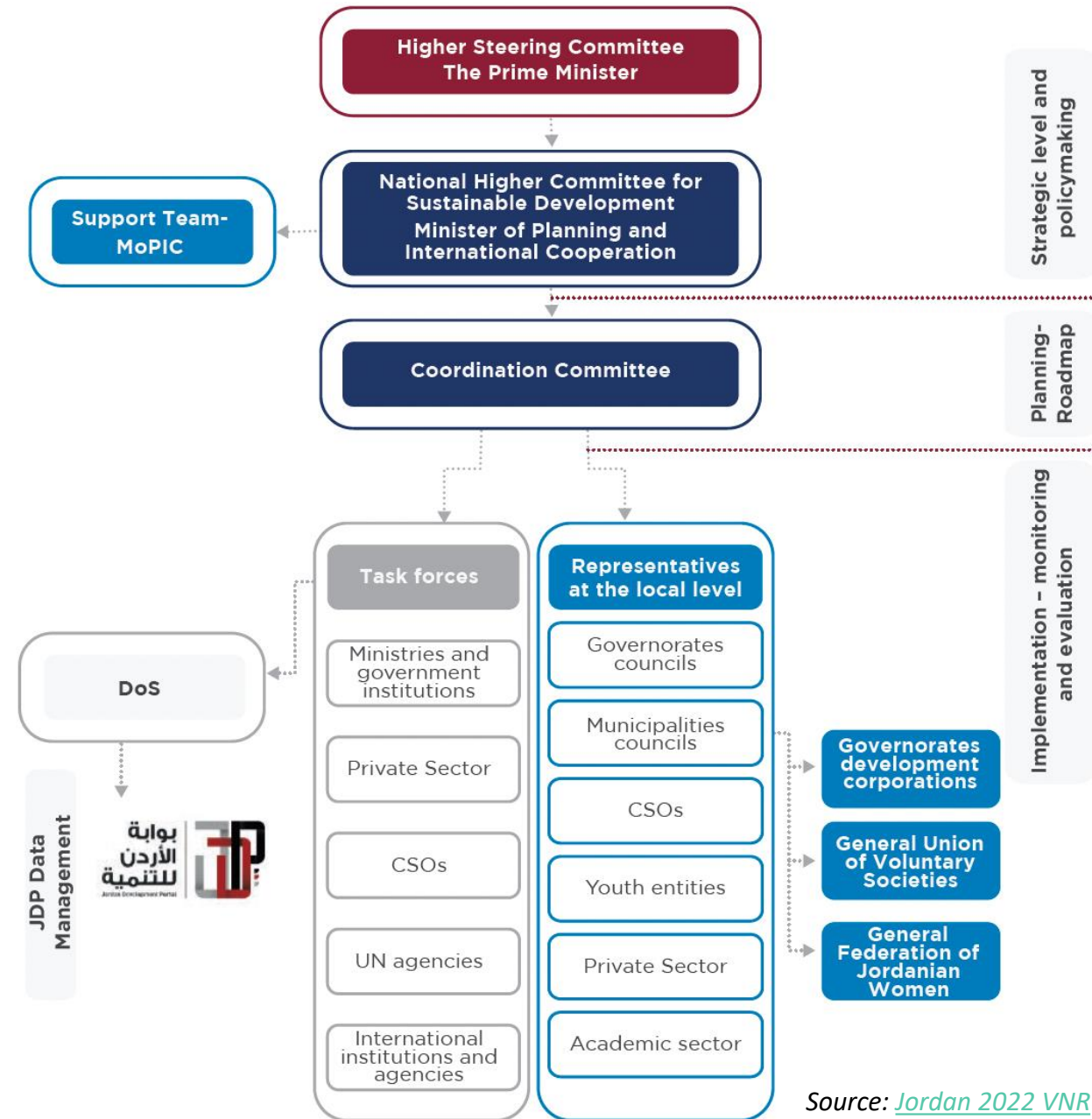
Source: [VNR 2023 Zambia Report](#)



Institutional Framework

- ✓ Task forces for monitoring and evaluation with NSO focal point
- ✓ NSO representation activated data ecosystem and provided accurate national sources
- ✓ Framework includes myriad stakeholders
- ✓ Task forces made permanent because they were so effective
- ✓ Aim is to strengthen capacity

Institutional framework to implement the 2030 Agenda



Data Assessment

- Mapping/consultations with data stakeholders
- Data inventory and data gap assessment

NOV-JAN



Data Roadmap: Step 2

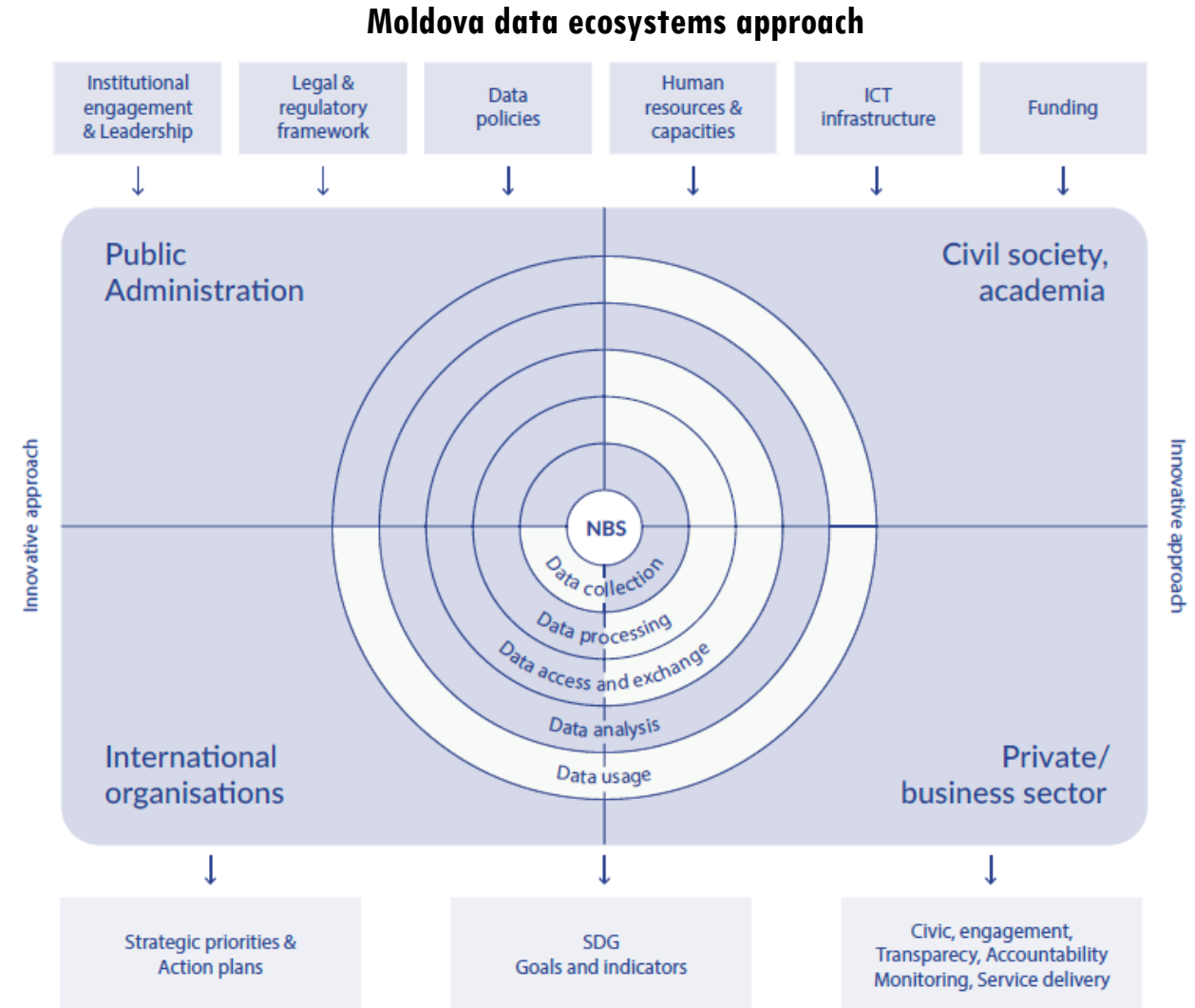




Data Roadmap: Data Assessment

NOV-JAN

- Mapping/consultations with data stakeholders: using a data ecosystem approach
- Close collaboration between policymakers and statisticians
- Data sources & data availability and gaps



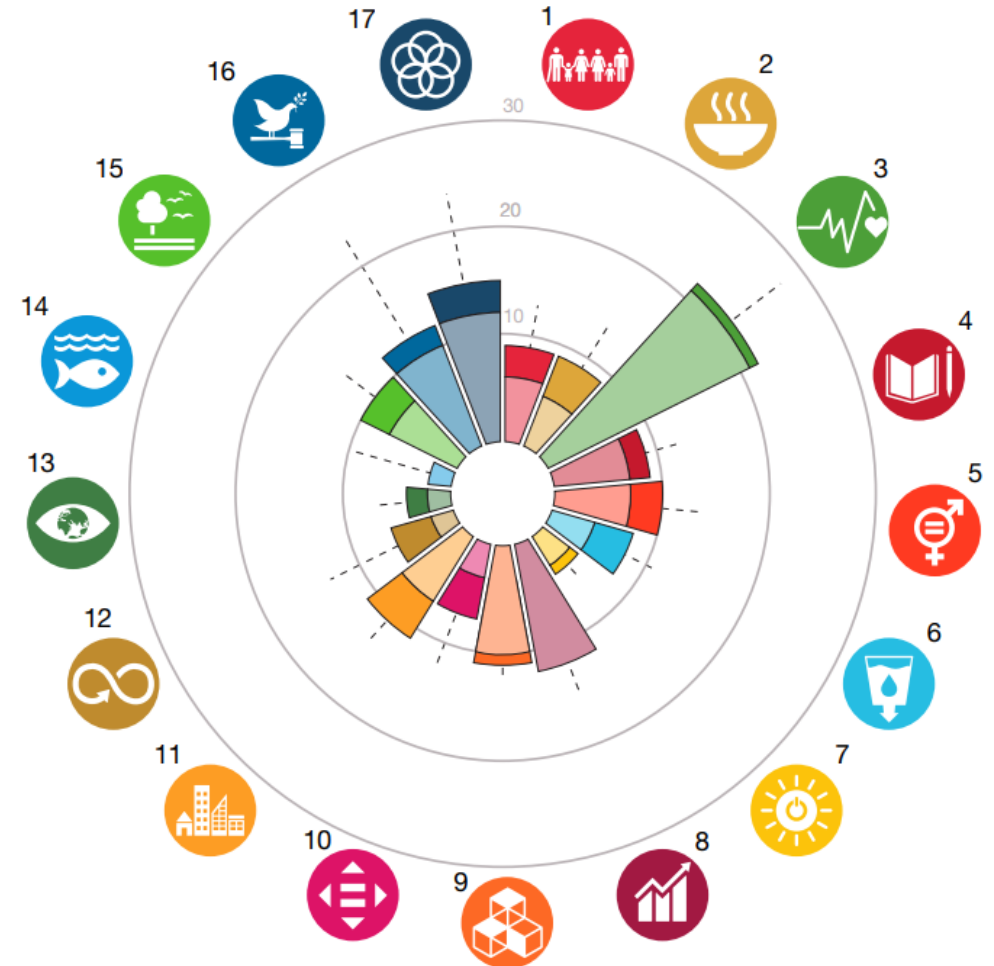


Data Availability & Data Gap

- ✓ No country has all data for all the SDGs
- ✓ Countries presenting for a 2nd or later VNR are encouraged to include information in the VNR on the progression of filling data gaps
- ✓ Gap analyses should include data inventories- can build on baseline SDG reports

Canada's data availability analysis for 1st and 2nd VNRs

161 indicators are measured and reported on in 2023
↑ of 41 indicators since 2018



Legend:

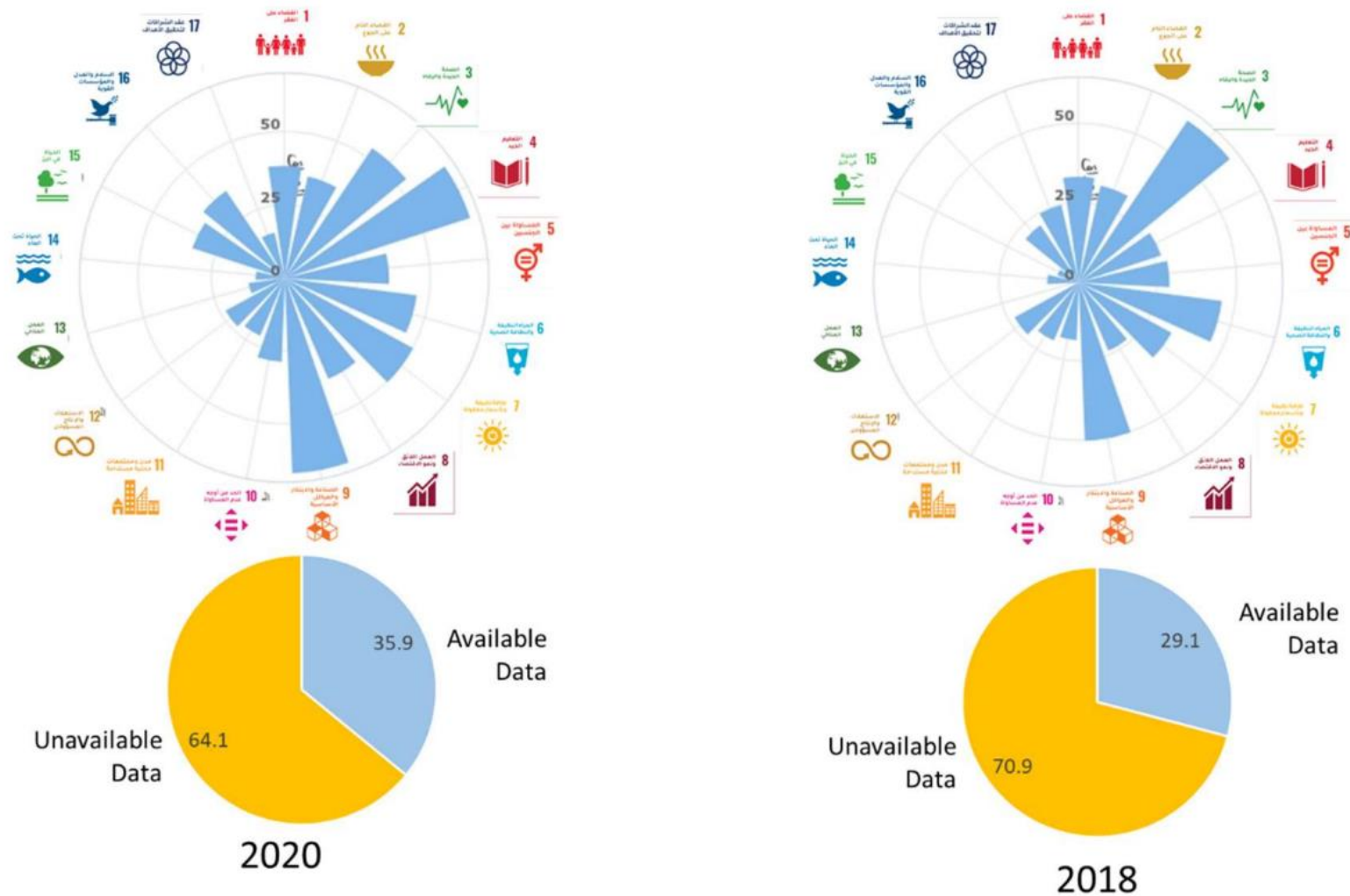
■ indicators reported in 2023 ■ indicators reported in 2018 - - - - Total number of indicators applicable to Canada

Source: [Canada VNR 2023](#)



Data Availability & Data Gap

Figure 2: The Data Gap Between 2018 and 2020





Data mapping- Somalia

- ✓ NSO mapped out data sources and data flows used for the VNR (2022).
- ✓ Highlights key stakeholders within and outside of government (UN system).
- ✓ Aim is to strengthen coordination across agencies to reduce fragmentation and improve efficiency of the data production processes.

STATISTIC PRODUCING ORGANIZATIONS

Filter:

All Goals



Source: Data Ecosystem Mapping (Goal Tracker Somalia)

Data Roadmap: Step 3



Data Compilation

- Data collection and processing
- Filling data gaps
- Data analysis

JAN-MAR



Data Roadmap: Data Compilation

JAN-MAR

- **Data sources:** traditional and non-traditional data
- **Filling data gaps:** through data innovations
- **Ensuring quality of non-traditional data:** guidelines ([UK resource](#))
- **New and emerging challenges**
- **Data analysis**

Some Non-traditional Data Source Examples

- Citizen science for SDG Monitoring
- Real-time data collection for different types of crime captures and prevention (Korea)
- Innovative use of social media for SDG monitoring (Indonesia)
- Integrated database of the bottom 40% population- for poverty alleviation acceleration (Indonesia)
- Data from international NGOs, e.g., Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index
- Data from Civil Society Organisations, academia and other stakeholders
- Private sector data e.g., statistics in company sustainability reports
- Big Data – large scale process-collected data from different sources (social media platforms, cellphone data- citizen-generated or from cell phone companies), satellite or sensor-collected data, e.g., geospatial data, earth observation data, smart-meter data



New & Emerging Challenges

- ✓ Governments are expected to also address new and emerging challenges in the VNR
- ✓ COVID-19 and/or other challenges: food insecurity, conflict, climate change, etc.
- ✓ Many VNRs since 2020 include a focus on COVID-19 impacts, some now including more crises

Jordan tables on main impact of COVID-19 and Syrian crisis

Main Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic



No Poverty



Zero Hunger



Decent Work
& Economic
Growth



Reduced
Inequalities

- Increased burden on social protection services because of the lockdowns as vulnerable families' employment, sources of income and productive projects aimed at employing the poor were disrupted.
- Unemployment increased dramatically, reaching 23.2% in 2020.
- Supply chain disruptions affected food availability, resulting in changes in food consumption patterns in terms of quality and access.



Good Health and
Well Being

- Increased pressure on the healthcare system.
- Disrupting access to primary healthcare and most secondary health care, except for emergencies.
- Several critical national health care programmes were halted, including the national vaccination programme, family planning services and pregnancy care, the early detection of genetic diseases, and the early detection of breast cancer.
- Appointments for patients with chronic diseases were delayed, resulting in an increase in mortality from these diseases.

Main Impact of the Syrian Crisis on the SDGs



No Poverty

- Competition over work opportunities leading to some Jordanians losing sources of income.
- Increase in the cost of housing and food, increasing poverty.



Zero Hunger

- Increase in absolute demand levels.
- Increased burden on social protection networks.
- Increase in food imports and requirements of food security, including storage capacities, in the context of fluctuating international commodity prices.



Switzerland: SDGital 2030

- ✓ Online tool serving as the primary communication and data collection channels between the VNR team and all other stakeholders.
- ✓ Streamlined process of receiving data from 519 officers within the Swiss administration, followed by qualitative analyses.
- ✓ Helps to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- ✓ Key enabler for 2022 VNR but will also be used for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Kontrastreiche Version Mein Bericht Über uns Suche DE FR IT EN

Startseite Prioritäten der Schweiz Akteure Länderbericht Wechselwirkungen

Agenda 2030 und die Schweiz

Bestandesaufnahme 2018 bis 2022

1 KEINE ARMUT
2 KEIN HUNGER
3 GESUNDHEIT UND WOHLERGEHEN
4 HOCHWERTEIGE BILDUNG
5 GESCHLECHTERGLEICHHEIT
6 SAUBERES WASSER UND SANITÄR-ERDICHLICHTUNGEN
7 BEZAHLBARE UND SAUBERE ENERGIE
8 MENSCHENWÜRDIGE ARBEIT UND WIRTSCHAFTSWACHSTUM
9 INDUSTRIE, INNOVATION UND INFRASTRUKTUR
10 WENIGER UNGLEICHHEITEN
11 NACHHALTIGE STÄDTE UND GEMEINDEN
12 NACHHALTIGE VERBUNDENHEIT UND PRODUKTION
13 MASSNAHMEN ZUM KLIMASCHUTZ
14 LEBEN UNTER WASSER
15 LEBEN AN LAND
16 FRIEDEN, RECHTSGERICHTIGKEIT UND STARKE INSTITUTIONEN
17 PARTNERNSCHAFTEN ZUR ERREICHUNG DER ZIELE

Länderbericht
Mein Bericht

Prioritäten der Schweiz

Die Agenda 2030 - warum geht es?



France: Agenda 2030

Agenda 2030

In September 2015, the 193 UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It's an action plan for humanity, planet and prosperity. It carries a vision of transforming our world by strengthening peace, eradicating poverty and ensuring its transition to sustainable development.



Presentation

The Agenda 2030 merges the Millennium Development Goals and those of the Earth Summits. It is universal, meaning that it applies to all countries, North and South alike. With its objectives and targets, it



Monitoring system

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be achieved by both industrialized and developing countries. The United Nations has set up a monitoring and assessment system that is both



France

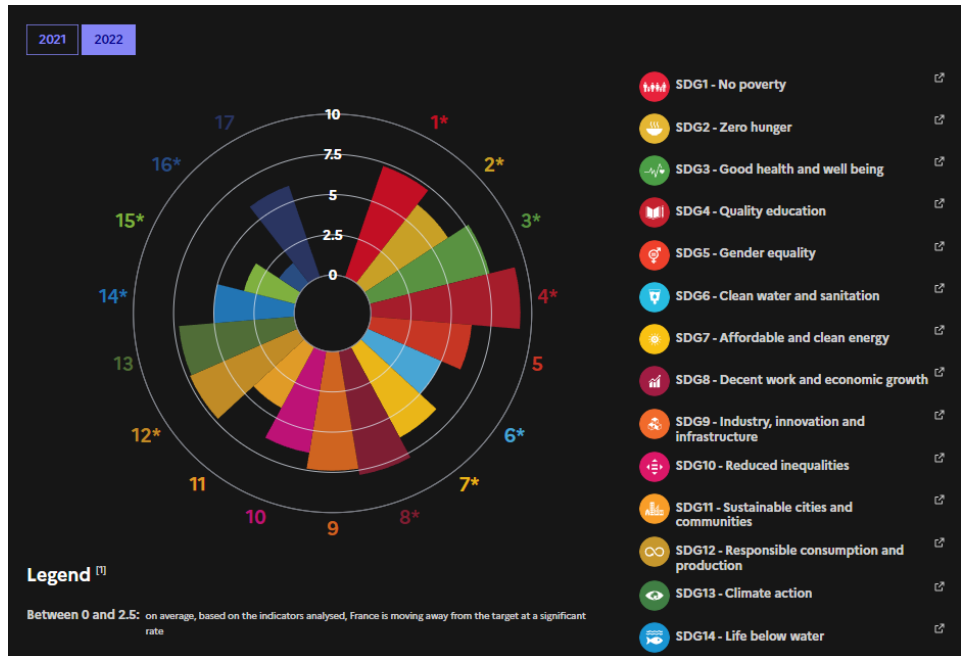
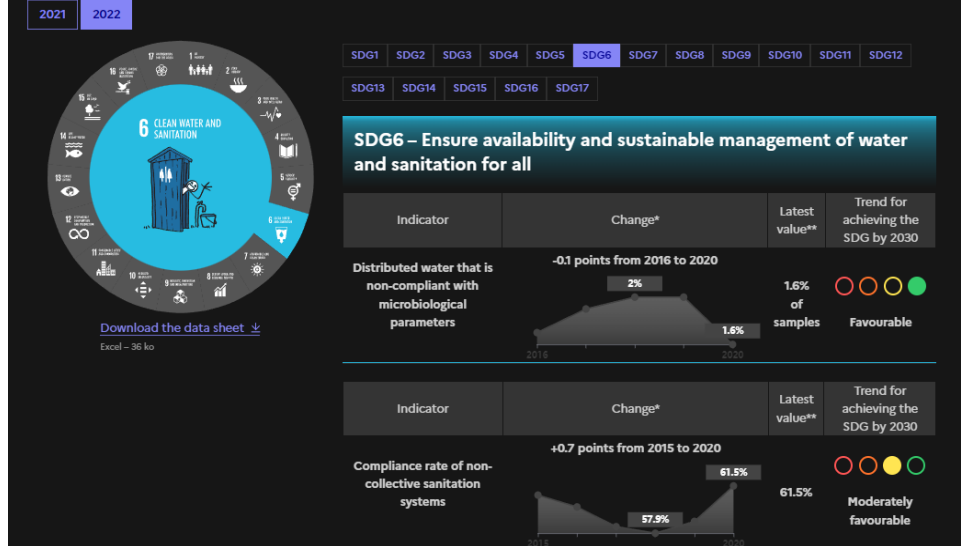
The Sustainable Development Goals are a responsibility shared by all actors and citizens of the signatory countries. To meet the challenge of implementing them in France, it is necessary to



In Europe and worldwide

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and around the world means strengthening cooperation and dialogue between countries. It all hinges on dialogue between

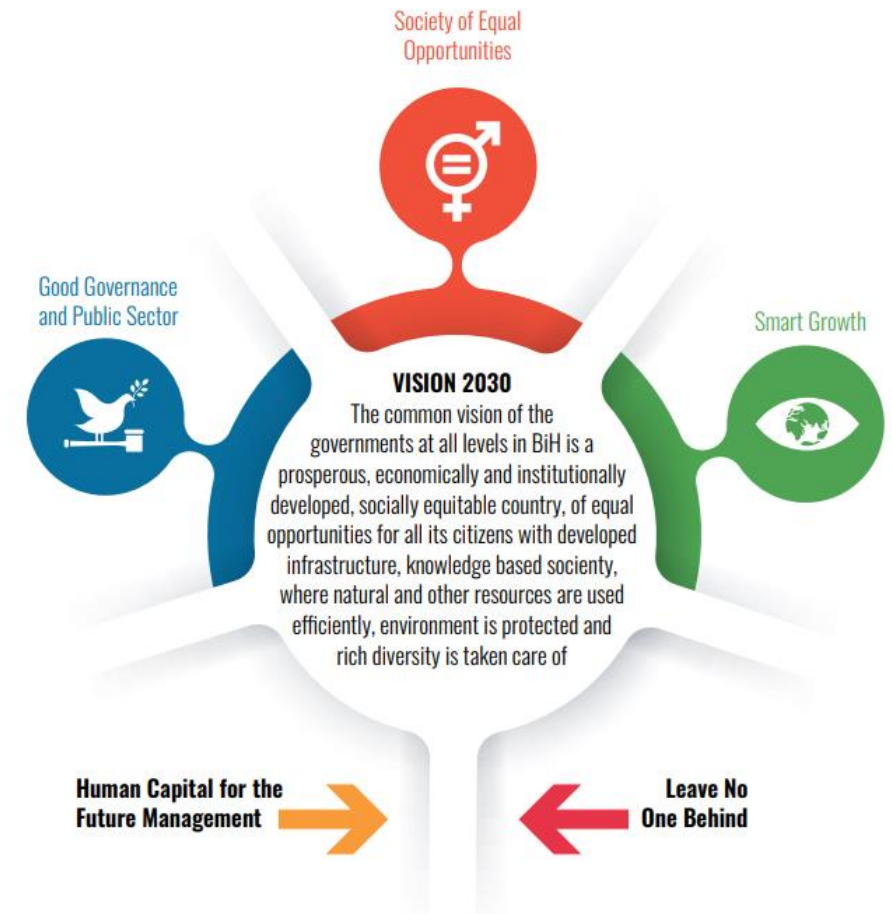
Trends in France for achieving the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals (SDG)





Leaving No One Behind- Count the uncounted

- Due to age, socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity and geography, vulnerable groups tend to be excluded from access to good education, health care, electricity, safe water and other critical services
- With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Member States have pledged to **leave no one behind** and to **reach the furthest behind first**
- Those who are the furthest behind are often **uncounted**
- The lack of sound disaggregated data for many of these vulnerable groups **exacerbates vulnerabilities** by masking the extent of deprivation and disparities. As a result, planning and budgeting for necessary services along with effective policymaking have suffered.

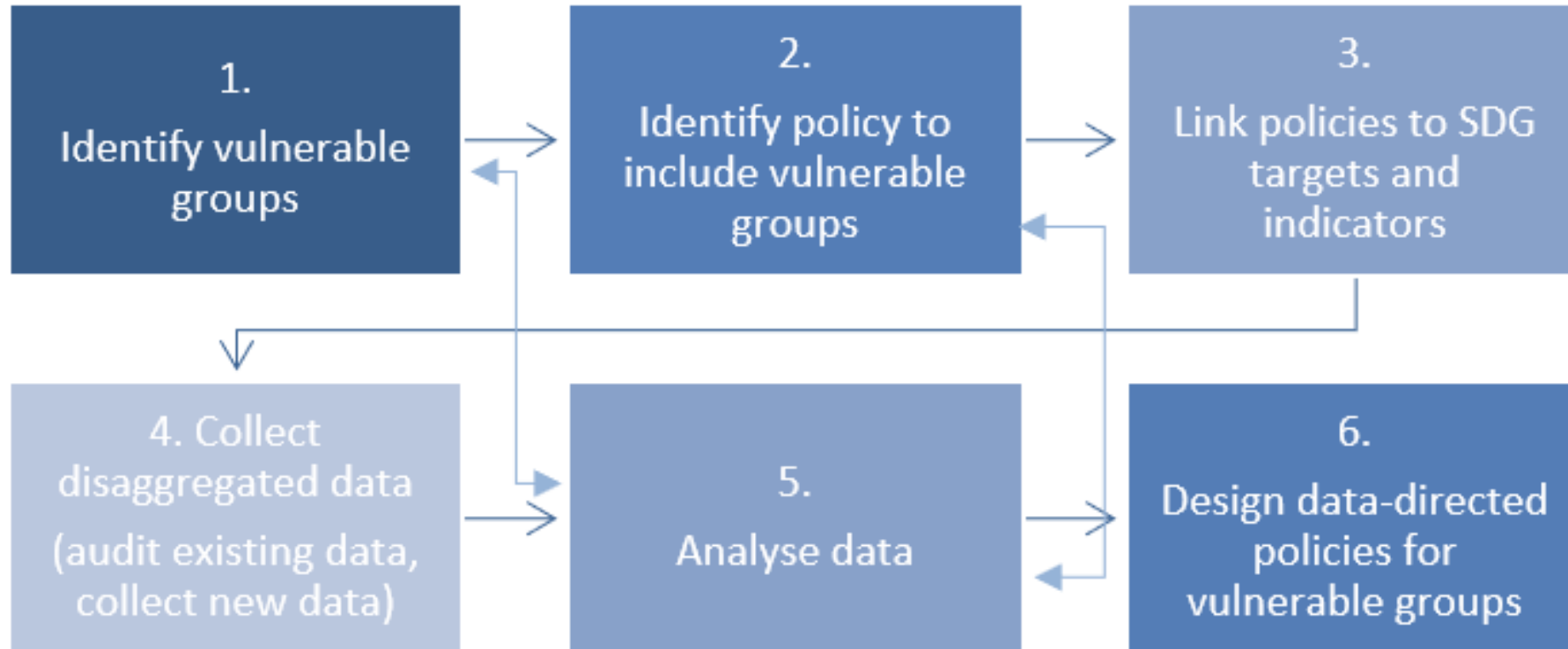


Source: [VNR 2023 Bosnia and Herzegovina Report](#)



Leaving No One Behind

Steps to improve data inclusiveness in SDGs





Leaving No One Behind

Countries' experiences in the production of disaggregated data are important to highlight in the VNR

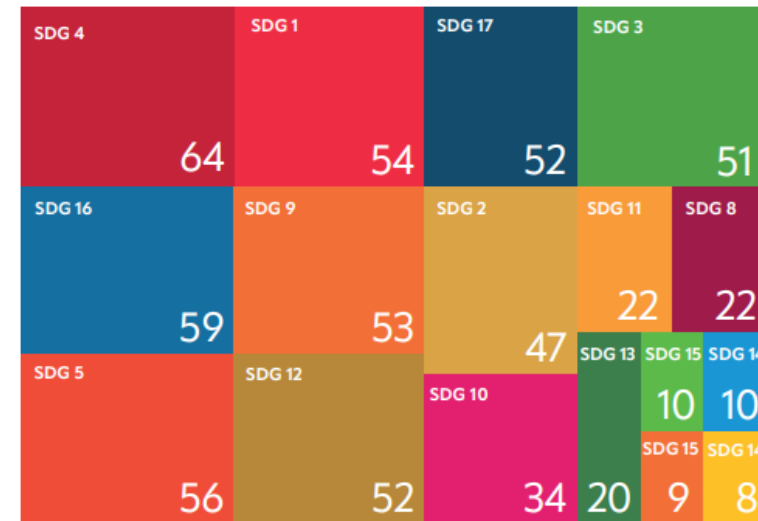
European Union

Portugal

Figure 1: The EU's 'whole-of-government' approach



Figure 18 – Average of PIs Adopting the LNOB Principle by SDG



Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023



Considerations/deepening the data analysis in the VNR

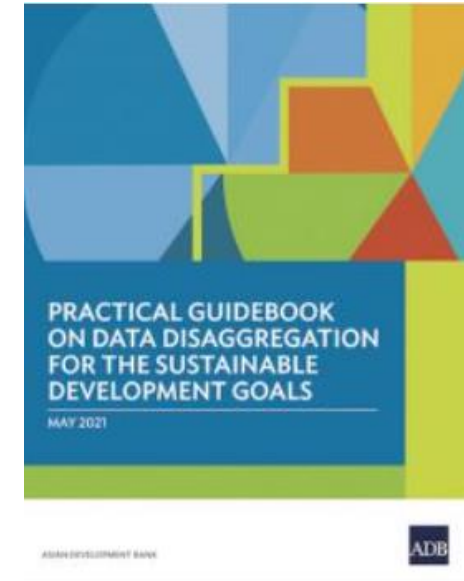
- **Stand-alone data chapter or section in the VNR**
- **Progress assessment/progress chart- does your country have an established methodology to develop a progress assessment for the VNR?**
- **Data analysis on intersecting vulnerabilities- looking at compounding deprivations**
- **Data analysis on how well SDG policies have worked or not. Who has benefited? Who is still left behind?**
- **Analysis of the interconnectedness of the SDGs**
- **What were the data recommendations in your countries' first VNR? How will they be addressed in this subsequent VNR? How much progress has been made and what challenges remain?**





Other useful resources for VNRs and SDG Monitoring

1. Additional resources & Guide for Evidence-based VNRs (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/data4vnrs/>)
2. Wiki Site on Good Practices and Resources on Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring (<https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/sdgGoodPractices>)
3. Data Disaggregation for the SDG Indicators (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/disaggregation/>)
4. UNSD-FCDO Project on SDG Monitoring (<https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/UNSD-FCDO/>)
5. Data for Now Initiative (<https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/data-for-now>)





Thank you



United Nations

DESA
Statistics Division



Next Steps: Data Roadmap Guiding Questions

Guiding Questions for each Roadmap step that you can complete/review with your data focal points

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

DEVELOPING THE DATA ROADMAP: GUIDING QUESTIONS

The data roadmap included in the [Practical Guide](#) and illustrated below is a systematic and stage-focused tool with examples of the sequence of steps that a country can undertake to ensure a more evidence-based VNR. The roadmap, though, will likely not reflect each countries' experience, considering the myriad approaches to collecting and processing SDG data for VNRs. For some countries, many of these steps will be addressed concurrently or could take longer than the estimation provided. The steps of the data roadmap are intended as a guide to getting started and the following guiding questions can be used to help identify any potential overall gaps and/or opportunities.

Data roadmap for VNRs

Preparation & Planning
OCT-NOV

- Identification of needs and planning
- Establishing a VNR data team
- Review of data institutions and SDG processes for VNRs

Data Compilation
JAN-MAR

- Data collection and processing
- Filling data gaps
- Data analysis

Data Assessment
NOV-JAN

- Mapping/consultations with data stakeholders
- Data inventory and data gap assessment

Data Incorporation
MAR-MAY

- Preparing the narrative and communicating data
- Including a Statistical Annex and SDG data platforms

Presentation & Post-analysis
JUN-JUL+

- HLPF presentation
- Post-evaluation of VNR data process

Preparation & Planning

- **SDG data reporting frameworks**
 - Is there a nationally agreed SDG indicator/data framework? If yes, link to the framework:
 - Are there any other data reporting frameworks that will be used for the VNR (i.e. SDG monitoring and evaluation reporting frameworks, regional, sub-national, etc.)? If yes, which frameworks?
- **VNR data team- central role for National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and NSO**
 - What is your VNR data coordination mechanism and is the National Statistical Office leading it? If yes, how so? If not, how is the NSO involved and how can it be improved?
- **Review of data institutions, SDG processes and institutional mechanisms for VNRs**
 - Is there a current institutional framework for SDG progress tracking in your country? Please describe.
 - If reporting for a second or third time, will the same institutional framework for VNR that was used last time, and is there any plan to improve it?
- **Building on existing reporting processes**
 - Do you have an SDG baseline report? If yes, link to the report:
 - What other reports do you envision could be used for the VNR?

• Population or other census	• Inputs/country statistics
• Specific survey reports	• Specific reports (i.e. national/ministry)
• National SDG progress report(s)	• Other (please specify)
 - Audits
- **Data management and data sharing agreements: data manager**
 - Have you established MOUs or other formal agreements for data sharing with government? Is this an area that can be enhanced for the VNR process?
 - Do you have a designated data manager or entity for the VNR process?

Country Data Roadmap: Preparation & Planning NOTES

Data Assessment

- **Mapping of and consultations with data stakeholders**
 - Does a stakeholder mapping already exist for data partners within and outside of government?
 - Has a consultation or workshop calendar been established with data stakeholders?
 - Are there plans for stakeholder engagement at the local level? How will they support/lead the VNRs (VLRs) be conducted? How will they support/feed into the VNR process?
- **Innovative approaches for stakeholder engagement**
 - Do you have any innovative approaches already established for stakeholder engagement? If yes, what types of approaches (i.e. [U-reports](#)) are being used?
- **Data inventory and data gap assessment**
 - **Data sources: traditional and non-traditional data sources**
 - What are the main data sources for SDG monitoring (traditional and non-traditional data)? Examples/links?
 - How will or can administrative data be used to help fill data gaps?
 - **Data availability and data gaps**
 - Is there an existing data availability and data gaps: inform the VNR? If so, which Goals and/or indicators are affected and why?
 - If conducting a second or third VNR, how has the data availability improved?
 - Which Goals or areas do you need support from the international community for?

Data Assessment NOTES

Data Compilation

- **Data Compilation**
 - How are SDG data for the VNR collected in country? Please describe. Are any mechanisms or tools used for data collection and processing (i.e. digital platform, etc.) that can be used to compile data for the VNR?
- **Filling data gaps**
 - What innovative ways to collect and use data for the VNR has your country already identified to fill data gaps?
 - Is there a quality assurance framework to validate non-traditional data sources? If yes, link to the framework?
- **New and emerging challenges in VNRs**
 - What are the challenges/crises limiting SDG progress in the country?
 - Have data been collected to show these impacts?
 - Has the VNR team considered how it will include these challenges in the VNR?
- **Data Disaggregation: counting the vulnerable in VNRs**
 - Have the vulnerable groups in the country been identified?
 - How is disaggregated data planned to be included in the VNR?
 - Are there existing analyses on intersecting vulnerabilities that can be included in the VNR?
- **Data analysis**
 - Is there a plan for how the data analysis will be incorporated with the drafting of the VNR?
 - For those presenting a second or third time, will the VNR present statistics that follow-up on progress since and data recommendations from the first VNR?
 - Have any impact analyses been conducted on policies for SDG implementation that can be included in the VNR?
 - Have any cross-sectoral, cross-thematic analyses of the SDGs been conducted that can be included in the VNR?

Data Compilation NOTES



Working Groups: Lessons Learned



What are your country's top 3-5 lessons learned (data) since the last VNR?

UK experience

- Read the [UNECE road map](#) chapter on VNRs
- Start earlier
- Build relationships- even with a data platform, it was not entirely joined up
- Criteria from the start- to ensure not cherry picking the indicators
- Longer time series- for some indicators, you may need longer time series
- 'so what' stories- to understand the impact of policies, changes, etc. and to have the circle of data

Colombia/Somalia experience

- In the VNR, have a chapter on new data available
- Beyond the VNR, the data can be used for other quantitative uses as well as the use and reuse of data for policy decisions
- VNR gave us an opportunity to get information that we would not normally have access to- helped us to fill statistical gaps

Examples from [UNSC side event](#)



Lessons learned & data opportunities with VNR process

Some responses from the 2023 VNR cohort

Bahrain: Disaggregated data is key to the successful implementation of the SDGs.

Canada: It takes a lot of time to complete a VNR and validate its content and data by various stakeholders involved in the drafting process.

Ireland: Collaboration with the subject matter experts is key – Policy, statistical, geospatial, environmental scientists, etc. ; SDG Data Hub is essential

Maldives: Localizing some of the indicators and setting national level targets are necessary.

Romania: A reliable and formal partnership between the National Institute of Statistics and the VNR coordinator is improving the quality of the report along with the national set of indicators for sustainable development (NSDI). The political engagement, at the center of the government this time is a tool that will assure better, faster results.