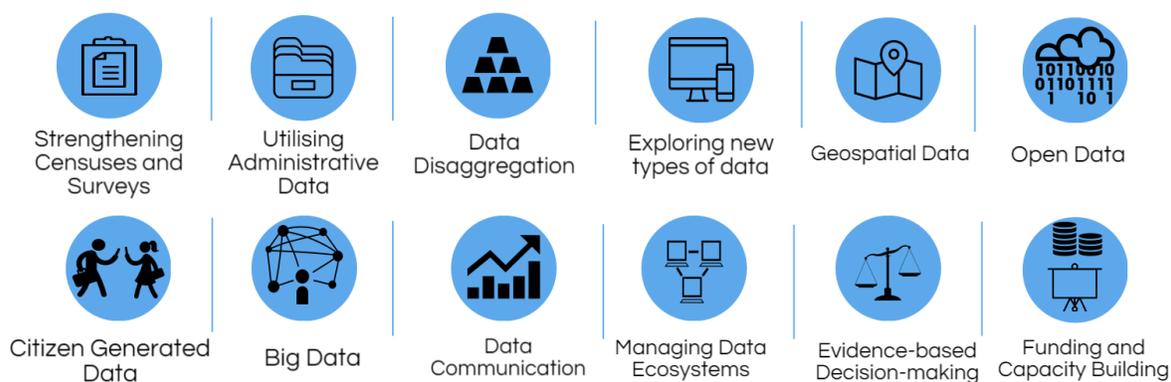


# Ghana's Data for Sustainable Development Roadmap Forum

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GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA

## 1. Background

### Why is this data roadmap Forum being held?



The global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which came into effect on 1st January 2016, will shape global sustainable development policy through to 2030. In addition to adopting the 17 goals and 169 targets in March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission agreed on an indicator framework to track the SDGs.<sup>1</sup>

To fulfill the commitment to “*Leave No One Behind*” on which Agenda 2030 is based, the SDGs require a nuanced approach to assessing progress at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. This will require robust data production and tracking systems to be built in every country so that achievements at the national and local levels can be assessed and fed into the wider global framework. These national mechanisms must be effective and integrated, and should not only allow for accurate measurement but also be used to inform decisions about resource allocation and policy implementation in pursuit of the goals themselves.

Ghana was one of the initial 20 nations selected for national consultations on the theme “*The World We Want*” for the post-2015 development agenda in 2012 and has played numerous other roles at the global level throughout the process leading to the adoption of the SDGs. In Ghana, an SDG Implementation Coordination Committee has been established to provide technical support to the implementation and monitoring of the agenda at the national level.

The alignment of Ghana’s Long Term National Development Plan (2018-2057) and the upcoming medium term development plan with the SDGs, alongside other global and regional strategies (e.g. Agenda 2063, COP21 etc.) places increased demand on the National Statistical System (NSS).<sup>2</sup> At the same time, new technologies, approaches, methods of collecting data, and engagement of different stakeholders offer some opportunities to rise to the challenge. In recognition of the critical juncture that the country finds itself now, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), in collaboration with the SDGs Implementation Coordination Committee and with support from the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and UNDP, with guidance from the UN Data Group, is hosting a National Data Roadmap Forum in April 2017 to

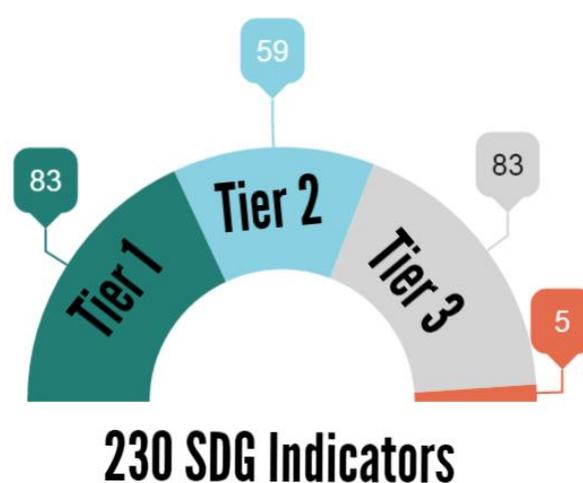
<sup>1</sup> See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>. Also see [Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators \(as of 21 December 2016\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> With regard to Africa’s Agenda 2063, analysis by UNECA indicates that there is a strong association with SDG indicators for 39.8%, weak matching for 27.4%, and no association for 32.8% of the indicators.

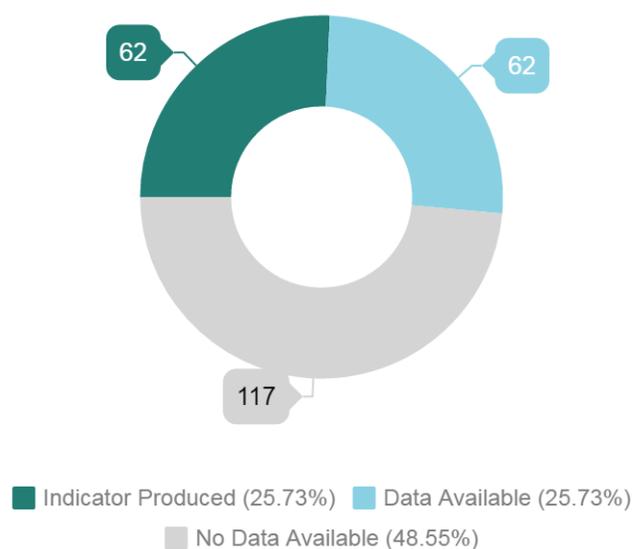
begin to deliberate on how best to move forward regarding the production of and access to relevant user friendly data, to enable the achievement and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. This Forum will mark the beginning of a Data Roadmap Process which will continue over the lifetime of the SDGs.

### SDG Indicators: what is the state of play?

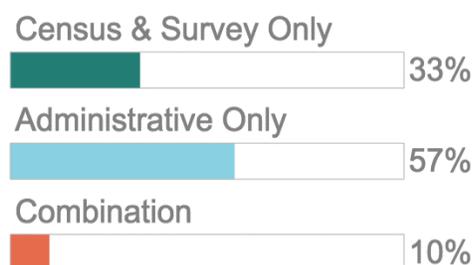
While 230 indicators have been put forward at the global level, not all of them are ready to be monitored. As per the most recent classification of SDG indicators, there are 83 Tier I (indicators which are conceptually clear, for which there is agreed metadata and countries regularly produce them) and 59 Tier II (indicators which are conceptually clear, for which there is agreed metadata but countries do not regularly produce them). There are a further 83 Tier III indicators (those for which there is no agreed metadata and which countries do not regularly produce); 5 indicators are multiple tiers, i.e. they have elements of more than one tier.<sup>3</sup> Some indicators are repeated more than once, bringing the total number with repetitions to 241.



A metadata analysis has also been carried out by Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in collaboration with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to assess whether SDG indicators are already produced, data exist for computation, the specific data source, institution producing the data, level of disaggregation, other feasible level of disaggregation and data gap. Following stakeholder consultations carried out in 2016, GSS has determined that Ghana currently produces 62 Tier I & II SDG indicators, and holds some data that with improvement could be used to produce a further 62 indicators. The assessment did not deal with Tier III indicators for which it was assumed that no data was available.



<sup>3</sup> See [Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators \(as of 21 December 2016\)](#).

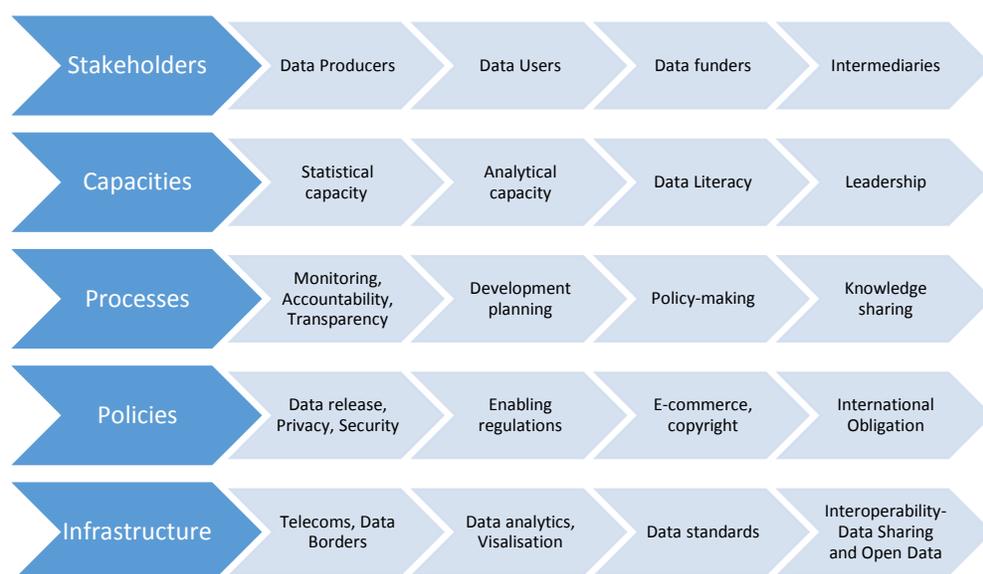


A further key finding of this analysis highlights the importance of administrative data.<sup>4</sup> Of the Tier I, II and Multiple Tier indicators that are already produced or for which there is data available, 33% come from censuses and surveys only, while 57% come from administrative data sources and 10% come from a combination of census/ survey and administrative data<sup>5</sup>.

## 2. Identifying a roadmap for the way forward

Building on the foundations of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (2009-13 and 2017-21), various sectoral initiatives and fora (e.g., recent Strengthening Statistics In National Development Planning), and the mapping and alignment exercises that have been carried out with MDAs and MMDAs which produce key data sets for SDG reporting, this data forum intends to bring together a diverse set of data producers and users, as well as innovators in the field to discuss the way forward, including through exploring how new technologies and approaches can be used to strengthen the data ecosystem in Ghana.

### *Elements of the Data Ecosystem*



<sup>4</sup> Administrative data is that which is collected usually in the process of delivering a service, e.g. by a government agency and not necessarily for official statistics.

<sup>5</sup> See the *Data for SDGs in Ghana* report available at [www.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh).

The term ‘data ecosystem’ refers to a diverse set of actors and considerations, such as:

- National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and statistical activities in government organizations at the national and sub-national levels;
- non-state actors who produce and use data;
- practical innovation and new technologies for enhancing participation in the statistical cycle;
- technological infrastructure requirements for improved collection, dissemination and use of data; and
- appropriate legislative, policy and data quality and harmonization frameworks.

In Ghana, it is expected that the Data Roadmap Process will have the following outcomes:

1. Data producers will be clear about their responsibilities with regard to data production for the SDGs in the short, medium and long-term. The objective is also to engage with non-state actors in this regard as part of a broader ecosystem for data.
2. Data users will be facilitated in finding information and will have fora where they can also interact with the data producer community.
3. Ghana’s National Statistical System (NSS) will have a clearer picture of resource availability for its activities and ways to manage coordination.

These are long-term objectives which will take much concerted effort from multiple stakeholders to achieve. The National Data Roadmap Forum is designed to initiate this conversation between stakeholders.

## Themes to be addressed by the forum

A number of different themes will be addressed in the forum through a combination of plenary and parallel sessions. Participants will also have the opportunity to contribute through social media during the forum and through data communities thereafter.



### 3. Objectives of the Forum

The forum is organized around 3 themes, each of which has several objectives:

#### Theme 1: Addressing data gaps

- Present the current situation for Ghana to produce SDG indicators and highlight data gaps.
- Discuss opportunities to strengthen census and survey regimes.
- Discuss opportunities to further develop the administrative data system with a view to ensuring harmonization, comparability, and quality of data.
- Present possibilities for using new data/ technology to address identified data gaps and engage new actors.
- To determine how alignment with national and regional agendas will impact data collection and indicator production and reporting.

#### Theme 2: Encouraging data use

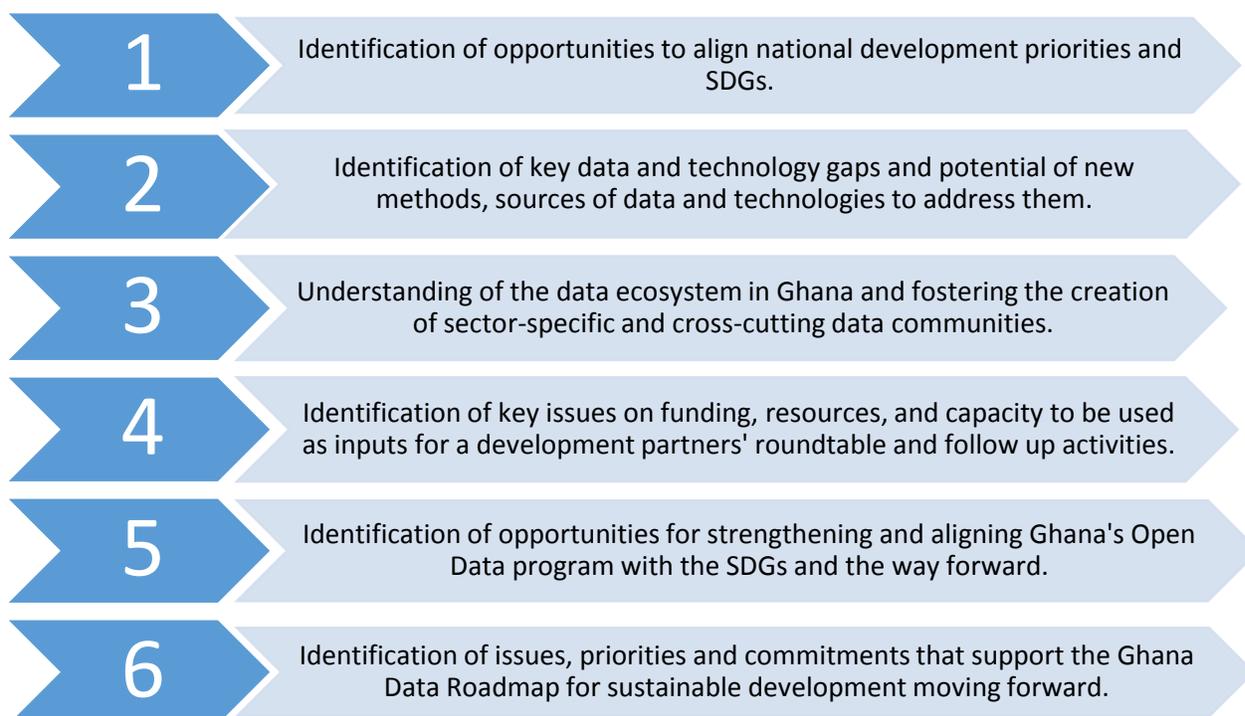
- Have an open dialogue with key users on how data/ statistics produced can better meet their needs.
- Identify ways to harness the opportunity of the momentum around data for the SDGs to strengthen the sharing, accessibility and presentation of data.
- Raise the profile of data production and use with key stakeholders including policy-makers to encourage the use of improved data for evidence-based decision-making and accountability.

#### Theme 3: Strengthening the Data Ecosystem

- Solidify the multi-stakeholder approach to achieving and measuring the SDGs, and create new data communities.
- Identify and discuss solutions to major funding gaps.
- Identify and discuss solutions to major capacity gaps.
- Provide an opportunity for country-to-country learning in the SDG indicator production process.
- Ensure high-level political and policy-maker buy-in for the Roadmap process.
- Identify key issues for the policy and enabling environment for the data ecosystem.

## 4. Expected Outcomes of the Forum

This two-day forum will provide opportunity for stakeholders to meet to discuss new ways of working to generate and use the data required for the SDGs, as well as meet with counterparts from other countries and experts in particular areas. While the Forum will mark just the beginning of the Roadmap process, the expected outcomes for this activity are:



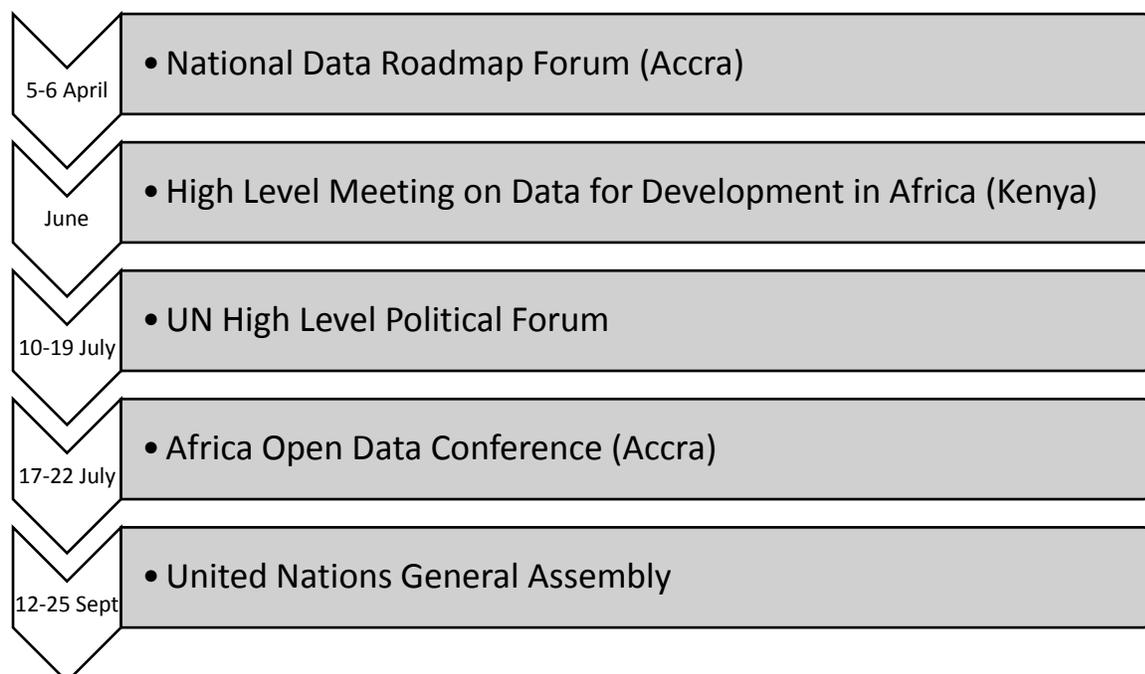
### Taking the Roadmap Process Forward

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) underscores that a data roadmap is an action plan with short and long-term goals for addressing specific data needs and priorities with regard to SDG implementation. It is ideally developed in line with national and local contexts and priorities and involves: (i) multi-stakeholder involvement; (ii) situation assessments; (iii) priority mapping; (iv) data/technology gaps assessment; (v) ecosystem mapping, resource requirements analysis and commitments to action.

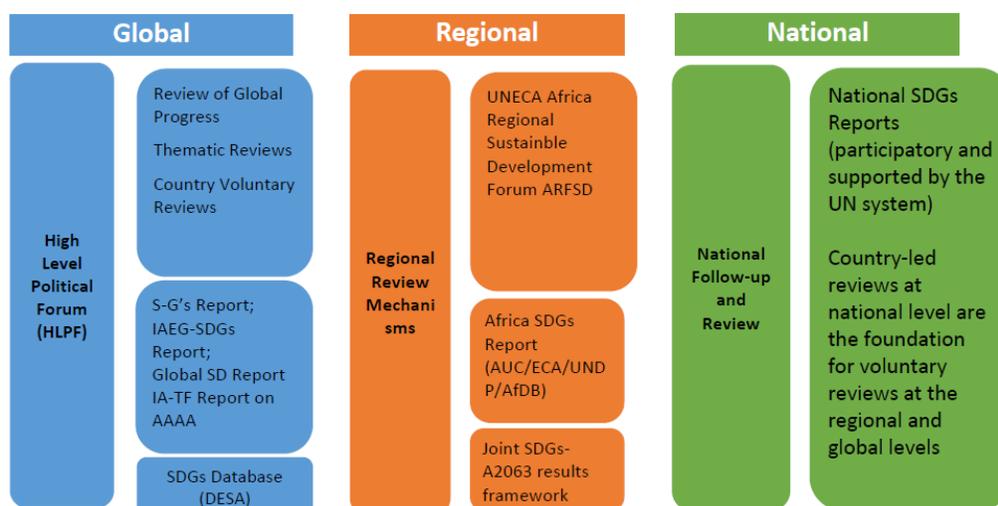
Going forward, the roadmap will provide a structured approach to identifying additional opportunities to form innovative partnerships and to engage in south-south exchange. More importantly, it is part of an iterative and adaptive planning process. Drawing on the outcomes of the data forum and ongoing processes, an initial roadmap will be formulated. Oversight of the implementation of the roadmap will be provided by a multi-stakeholder advisory committee that has been established. The committee will work in conjunction with the National Committee of

Producers and Users of Statistics (NACPUS), upon its revival, and other institutional coordination mechanisms to ensure that the roadmap is responsive to needs and opportunities over the lifetime of the SDGs.

Ghana's National Data Roadmap Forum is the first of many fora and meetings relating to data and the SDGs over the next year. These subsequent meetings can also be used as opportunities to share Ghana's experience and/or stimulate action on issues outlined by the data roadmap process in Ghana.



The Roadmap process also provides an opportunity to add momentum to and strengthen Ghana's engagement in the follow-up and review processes for the SDGs as depicted below.



## Key Actors in the Roadmap Process

### ***Ghana Statistical Service***

Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) is the National Statistical Office of Ghana mandated to:

- Advise Government and all stakeholders on all matters relating to statistical information;
- Collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information;
- Conduct statistical surveys and censuses in Ghana;
- Organise a coordinated scheme of economic and social statistics in Ghana.

As such, GSS is both a primary data producer (for example conducting the decennial census and regular household surveys) and the coordinator and technical backstopper of the National Statistical System (NSS). In this capacity, GSS is to ensure that the suite of information required for monitoring the SDGs alongside other national, regional and global strategies is produced across the NSS.

### ***Ghana's SDG Implementation Co-ordination Committee***

In Ghana, an SDG Implementation Co-ordination Committee has been established and is led by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). GSS and representatives of other key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) also sit on this committee alongside a representative from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) which have formed their own platform around the SDGs with over 100 members, and the private sector. GSS acts as the national data champion on this committee. The overarching task of the committee is to ensure that Ghana incorporates the SDGs into its national development agenda, over the short, medium and long term, while sharing its experiences and learning from others around the globe.

### ***Ghana UN Data Group***

The UN Data Group brings together the work of the UN System in Ghana and provides fora for coordination in support to Ghana's national statistical system and its relevant entities as well as for knowledge sharing and collaboration on data issues. It is currently chaired by UNDP.

### ***Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)***

The GPSDD was launched in September 2015 when the SDGs were formally adopted.<sup>6</sup> It is a network of more than 200 organizations across all sectors committed to building an enabling environment for data production for supporting sustainable development policies. A key

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.data4sdgs.org/>

objective of the GPSDD is to support countries to develop a data roadmap process using a whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder approach to harness the data revolution for sustainable development. This process is defined based on national priorities, in line with national development policies and uses a national workshop process to bring together the key stakeholders across sectors, to address the key issues, challenges and opportunities with regard to the SDGs, that supports defining a path forward. The GPSDD also facilitates the participation of international experts in national forums.