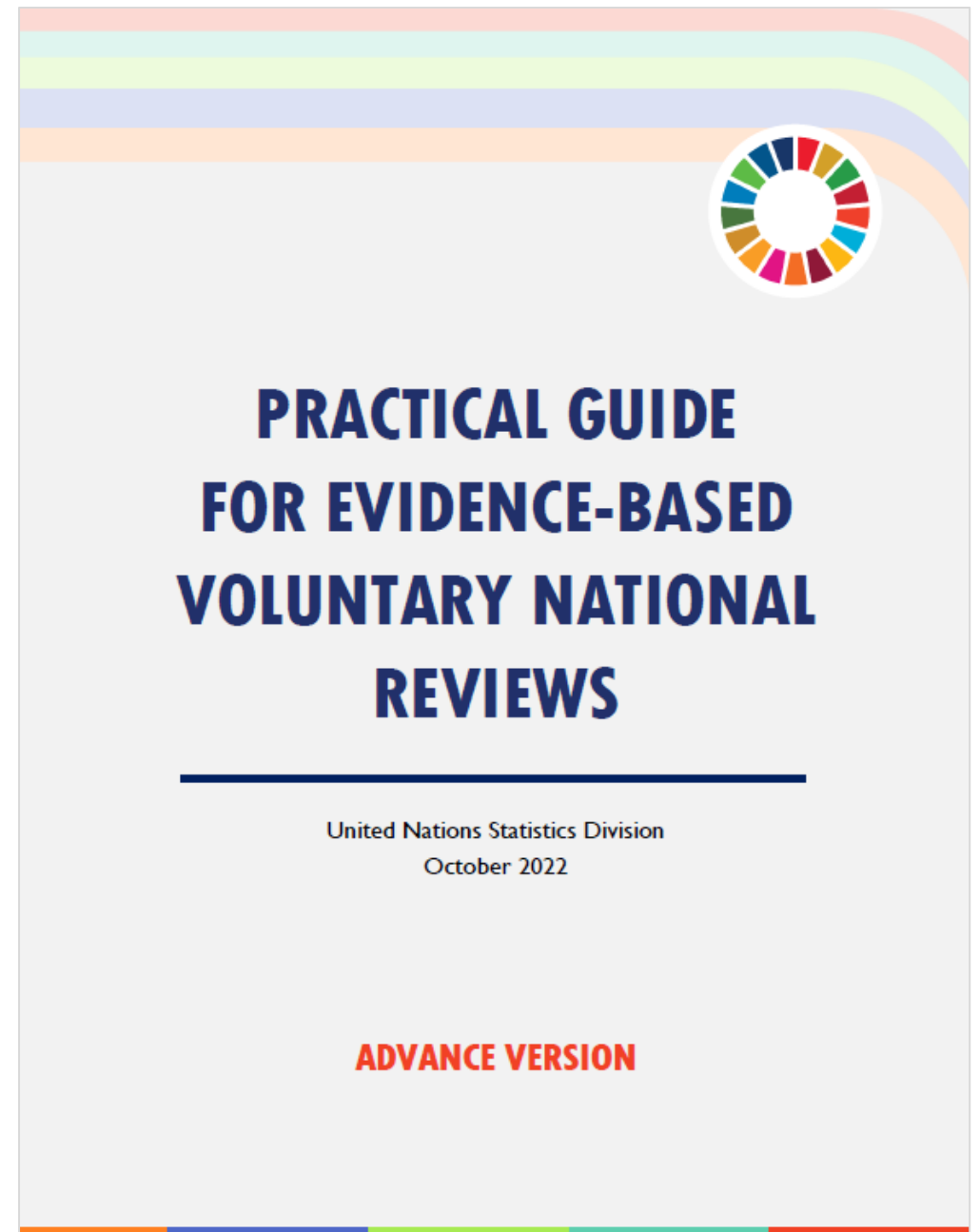


Preparing Evidence-Based Voluntary National Reviews

Yongyi Min and Heather Page
UNDESA/Statistics Division





Agenda



VNRs and the role of data



Practical Guide for Evidence-based VNRs



Deepening the data analysis



Leaving No One Behind



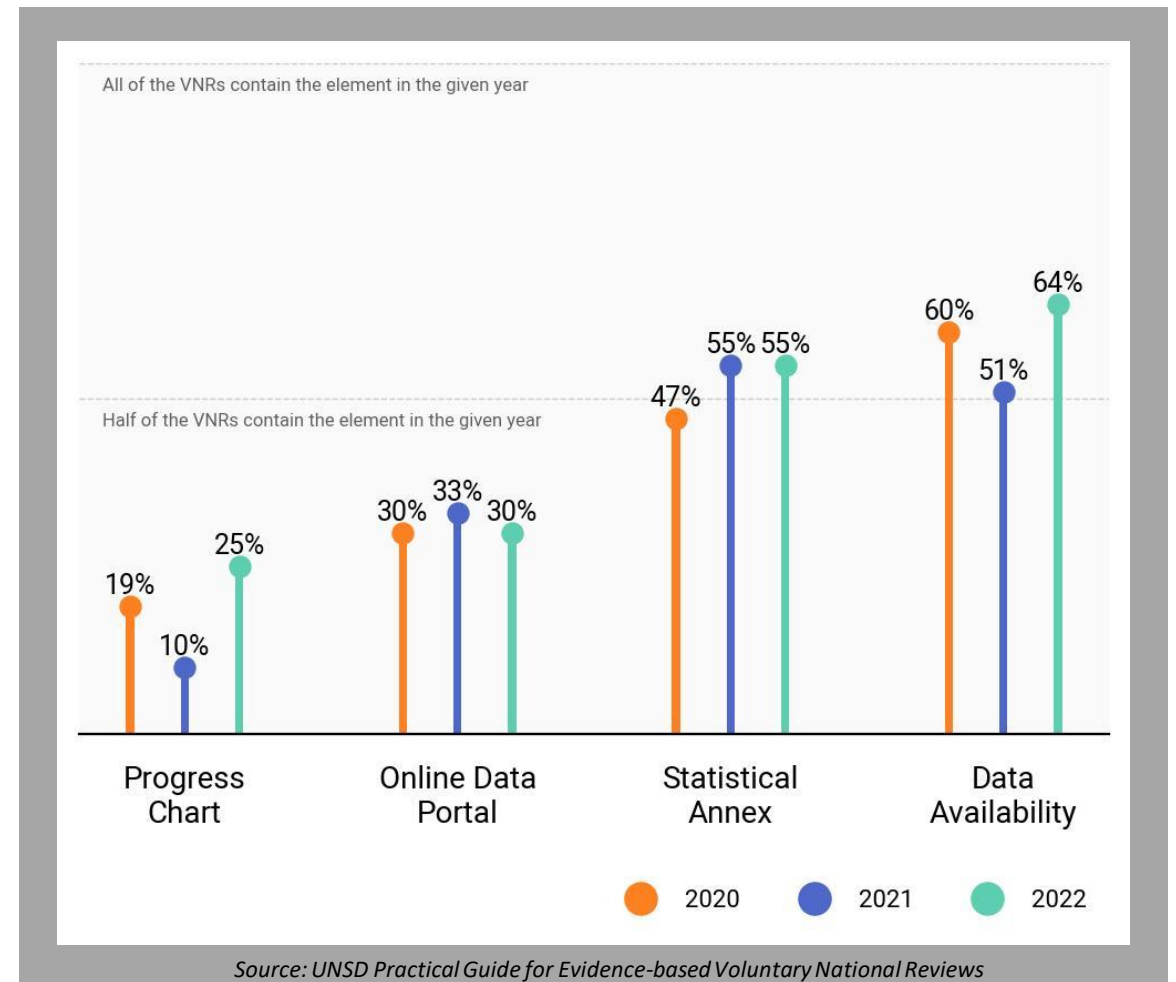
Useful resources for VNRs & next steps



VNRs and the Important Role of data

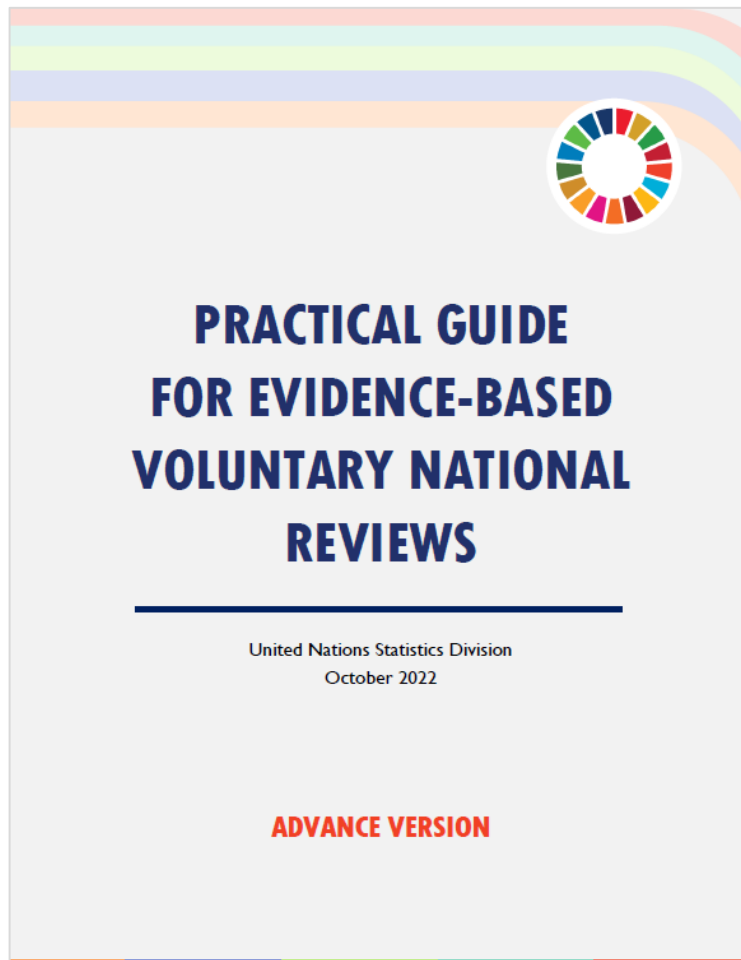
- Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) prepared by Member States are one of the **critical follow-up and review mechanisms** for the 2030 Agenda
- VNRs should be **underpinned by data** and should be **evidence-based**.
- The inclusion of data and progress assessments in VNRs has improved **as countries 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 (2020-2022)



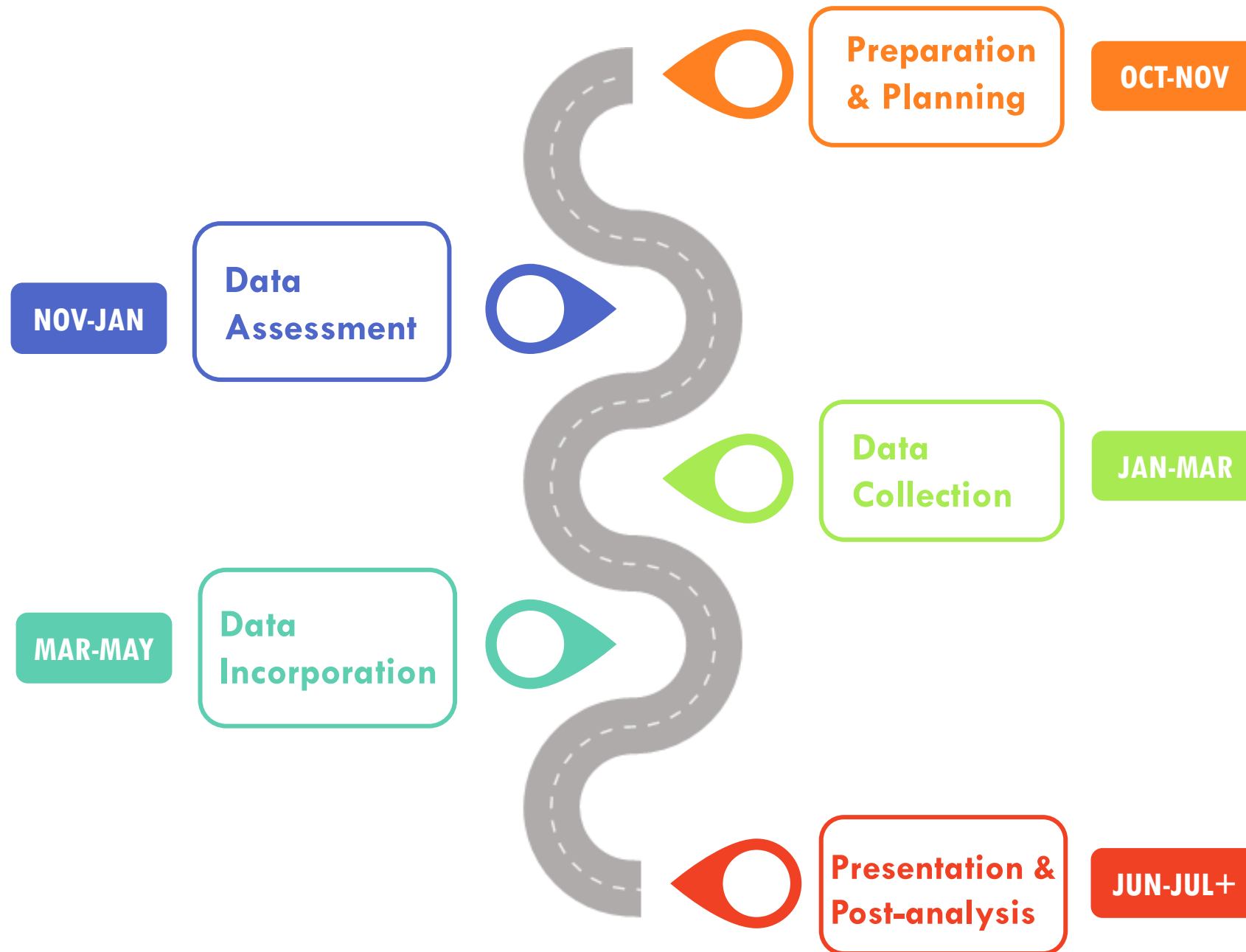


Practical Guide for Evidence-based VNRs



- **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.
- **Advance version currently available.**
- **Webpage:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/data4vnrs/>

A Data Roadmap for VNRs



NOV-JAN

Data Assessment

MAR-MAY

Data Incorporation

Preparation & Planning

OCT-NOV

Data Collection

JAN-MAR

Presentation & Post-analysis

JUN-JUL+

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**

Malawi: *Key documents that were gathered for the 2020 VNR including--*

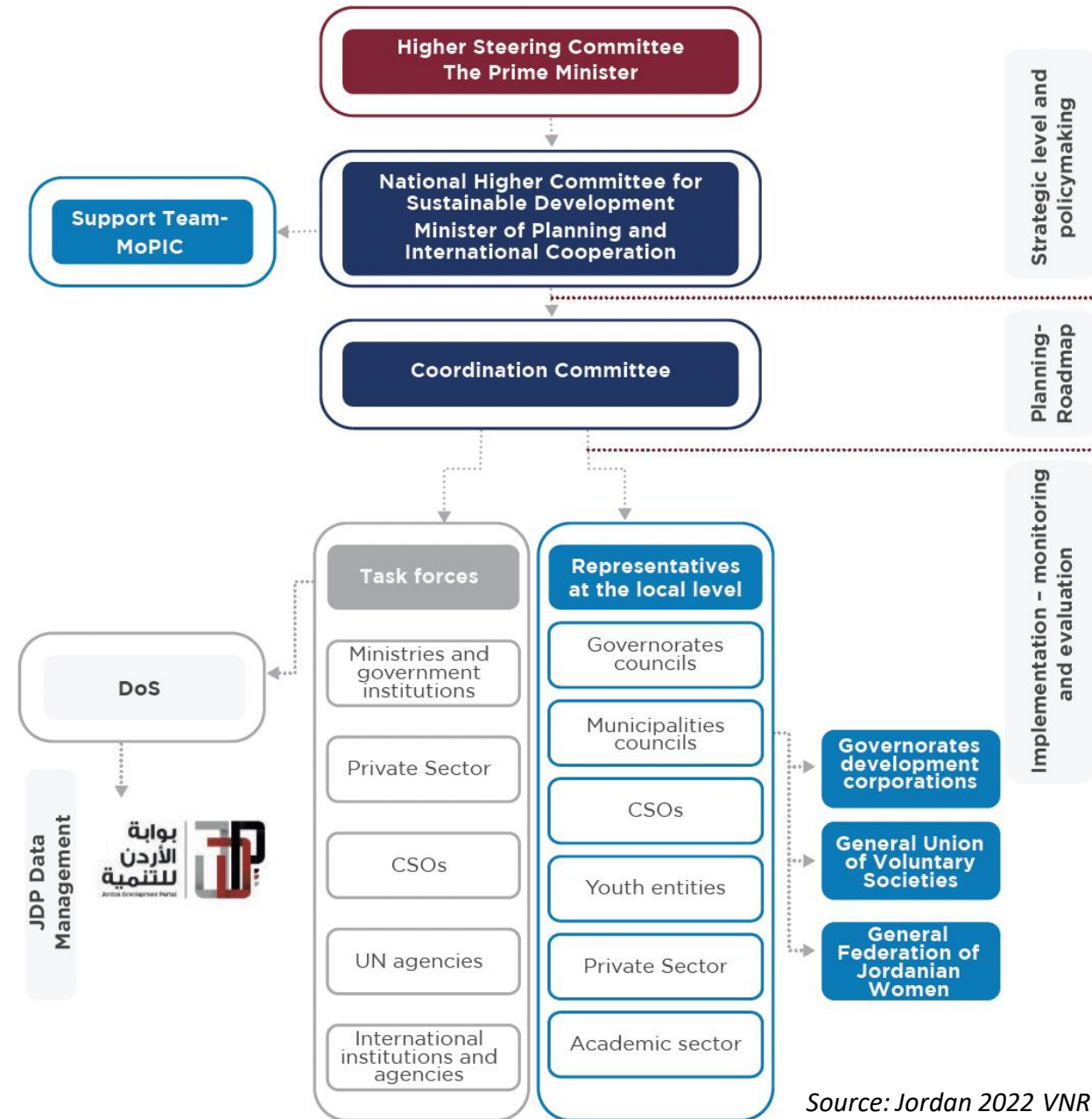
- MGDS III and sectoral policies and plans
- 2018 Population and Housing Census
- Integrated Household Survey 4
- Traditional Practices Survey
- 2015 MDG end-line survey
- 2018 SDG progress report
- National Child Poverty Report
- SDGs National Audit
- Multidimensional Poverty Report
- Equity Analyses
- Research and evaluation reports, others



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

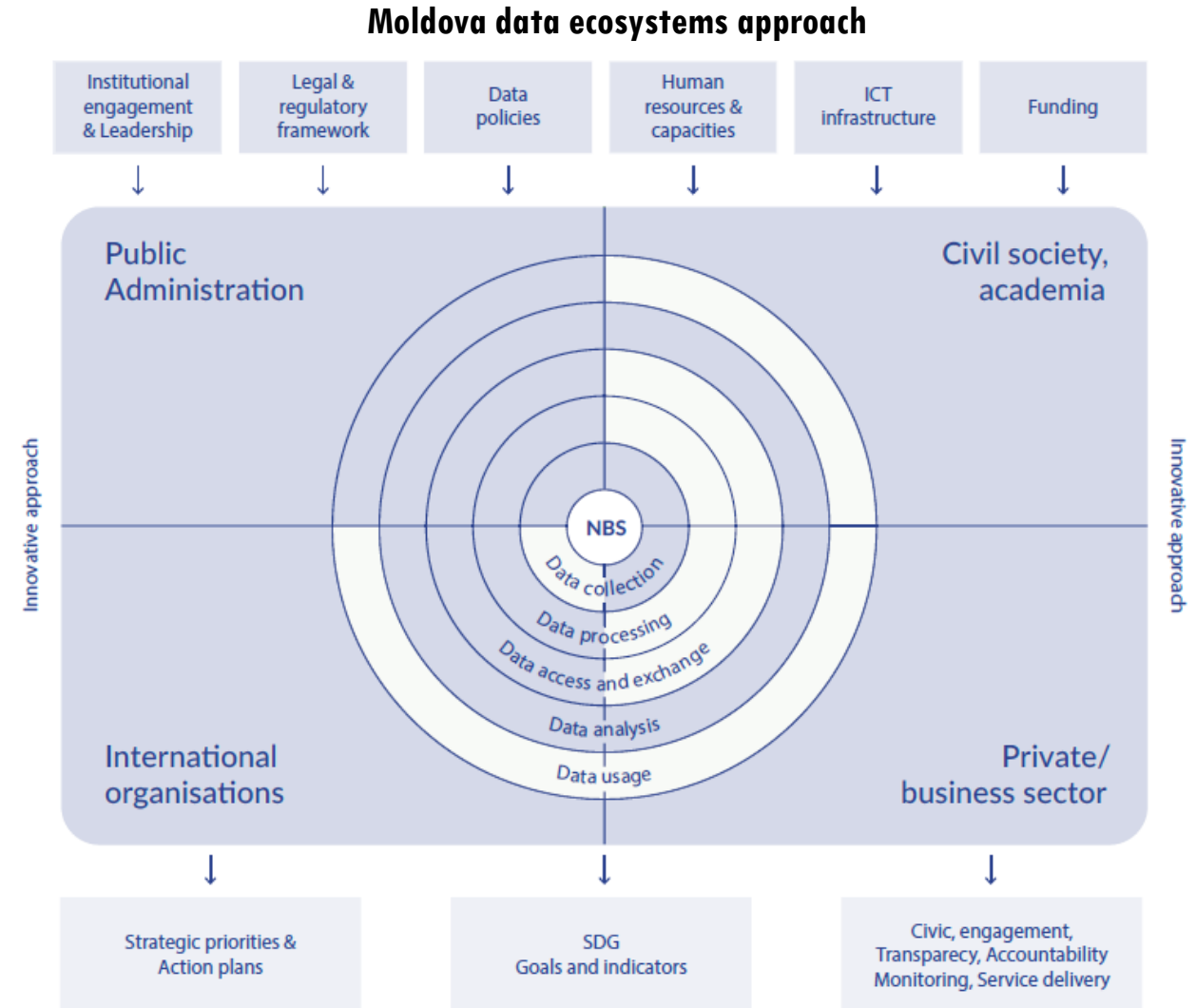




Data Roadmap: Data Assessment

NOV-JAN

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

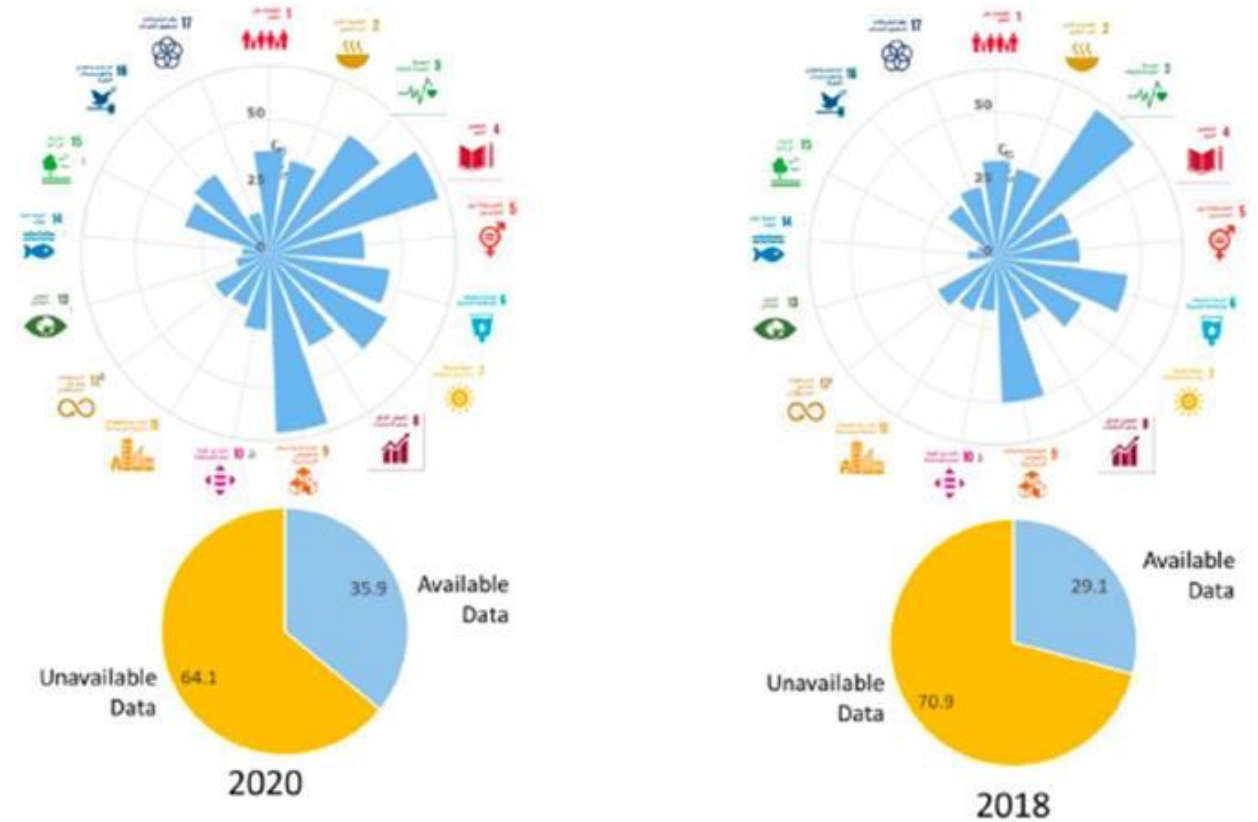




Data Availability & Data Gap

- ✓ 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

Iraq data availability analysis for 1st and 2nd VNRs



Source: Iraq 2021 VNR



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 Collection

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

JAN-MAR



Data Roadmap: Data Collection

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 HOCHWERTEGE BILDUNG 5 GESCHLECHTERGLEICHHEIT 6 SAUBERES WASSER UND SANITÄR-ERDICHLICHTUNGEN 7 BEZAHLBARE UND SAUBERE ENERGIE 8 MENSCHENWÜRDIGE ARBEIT UND WIRT. SCHAFTSWACHSTUM 9 INDUSTRIE, INNOVATION UND INFRASTRUKTUR 10 WENIGER UNGLEICHHEITEN 11 NACHHALTIGE STÄDTE UND GEMEINDEN 12 NACHHALTIGE VERBRAUCHS- UND PRODUKTION 13 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 - worum geht es?

Data Incorporation

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

MAR-MAY



Data Roadmap: Step 4

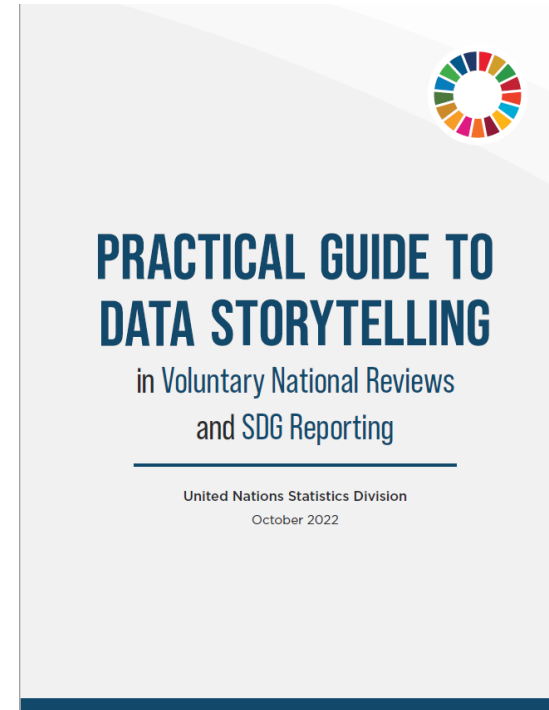




Data Roadmap: Data Incorporation

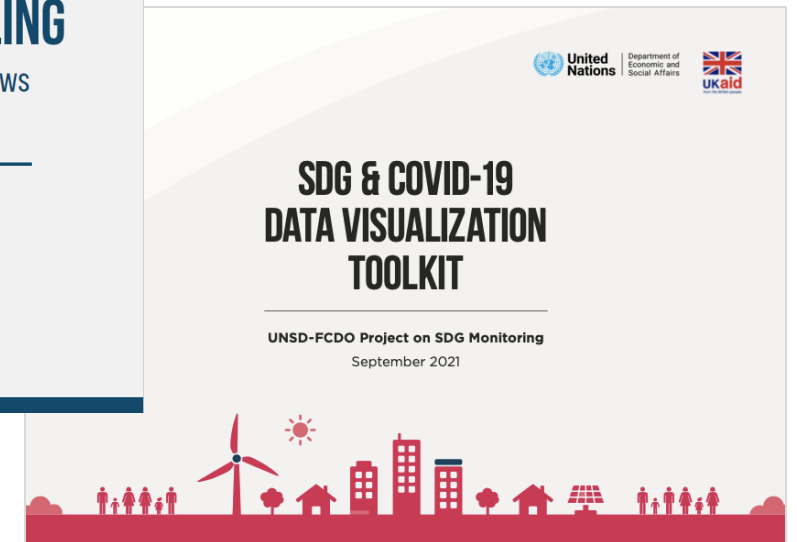
MAR-MAY

- **Preparing the Narrative:** supported by statistics in tables and charts
- **Data Storytelling & Data visualization**
- **Progress charts, Statistical Annex, SDG data platforms:** methodologies and visualization



Guide link:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/data-storytelling/>

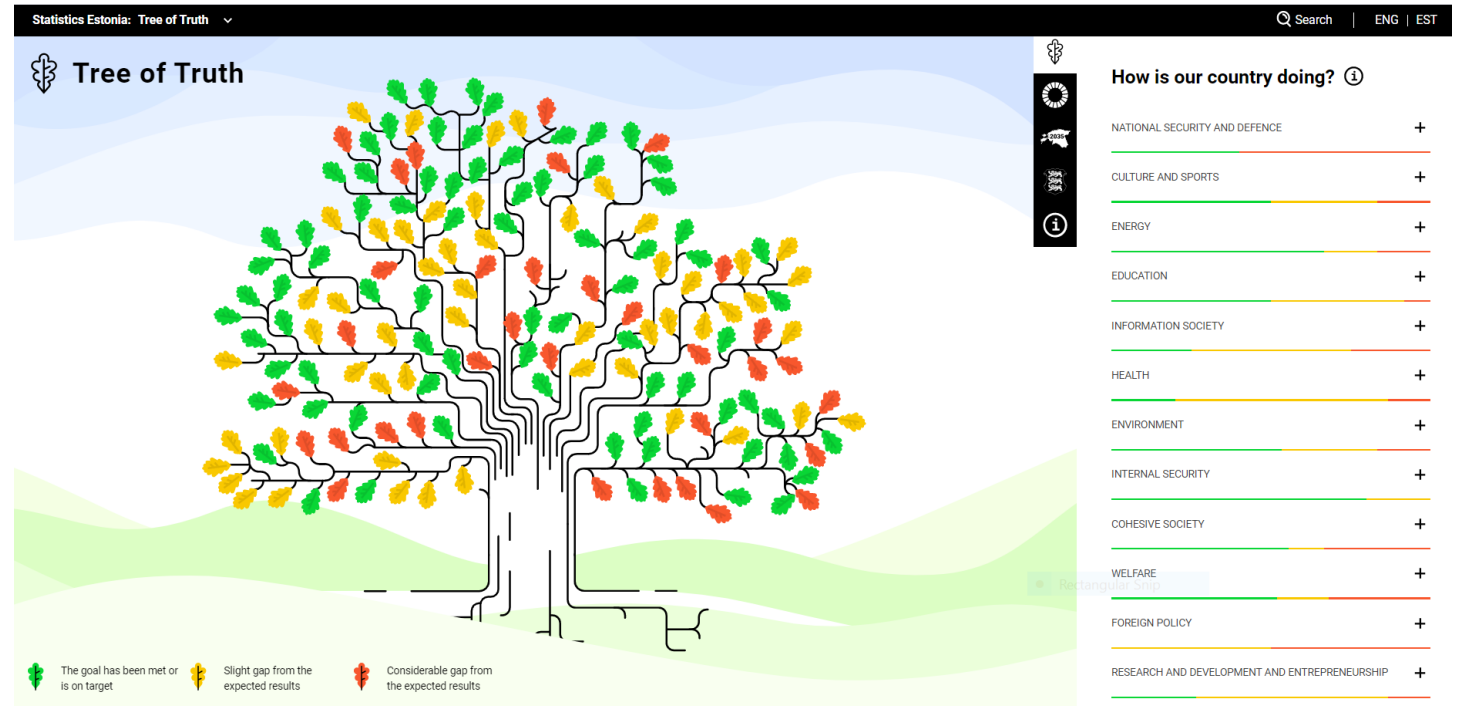


Toolkit link: <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/UNSD-FCDO/sdgs-data-visualization-toolkit/>



SDG data platform

- ✓ Estonia [Tree of Truth](#)
- ✓ Interactive platform for disseminating the country's SDG indicators
- ✓ 15 branches symbolize different areas important to society
- ✓ Digital yardstick of the country's important indicators- telling story of progress for multiple development objectives



Source: Estonia 2020 VNR and [webpgae](#)

Data Roadmap: Step 5



Presentation & Post-analysis

- HLPF Presentation
- Post-evaluation of VNR data process

JUN-JUL+



Data Roadmap: **Presentation & Post-analysis**

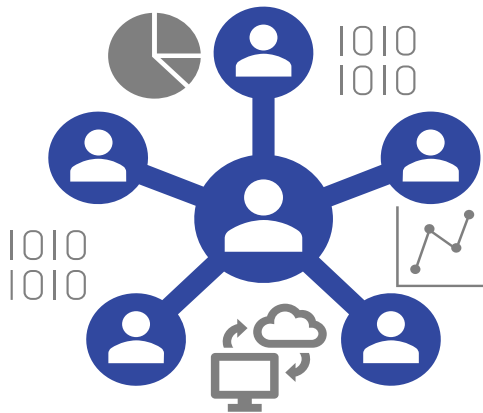
JUN-JUL+



Final considerations for the report:

Data chapter/section, include the 'so-what', explore impact of policies

Presentation: include your data stories, visualizations, infographics, etc.



Sustainable Data Goals: ensure thorough review of the data process to improve coordination and identify capacity building opportunities



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?**





Leaving No One Behind

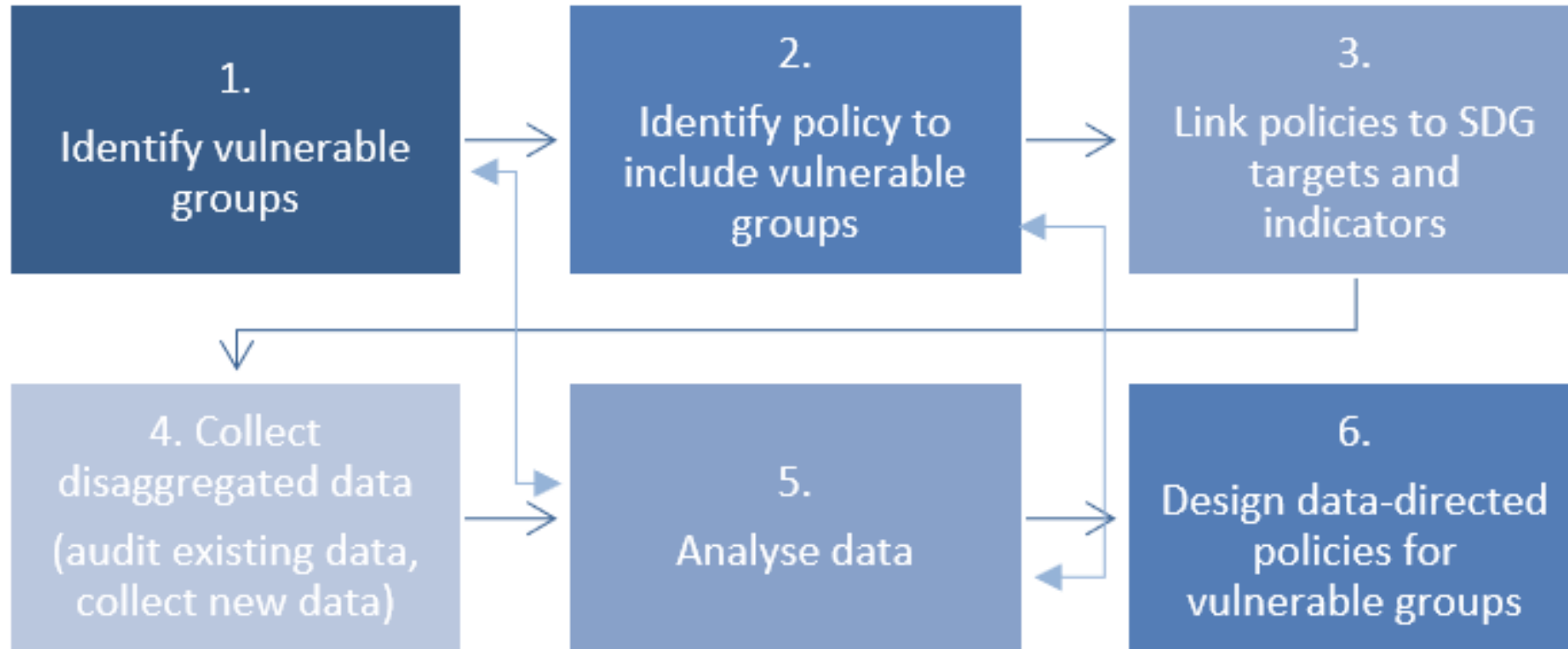
Count the uncounted

- 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.



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

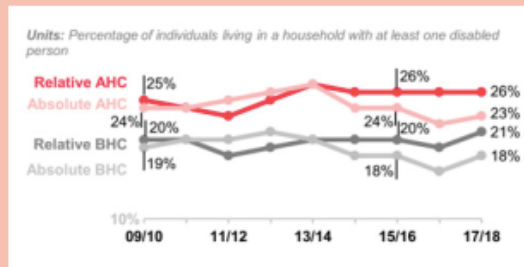
United Kingdom

The Data Picture: Disability poverty

Coverage: UK

Absolute poverty measures for families with a disabled member have fallen since 2013/14. Relative measures have remained more stable over the same time period.

Percentage of individuals in households where someone is disabled in poverty: 2009/10 to 2017/18

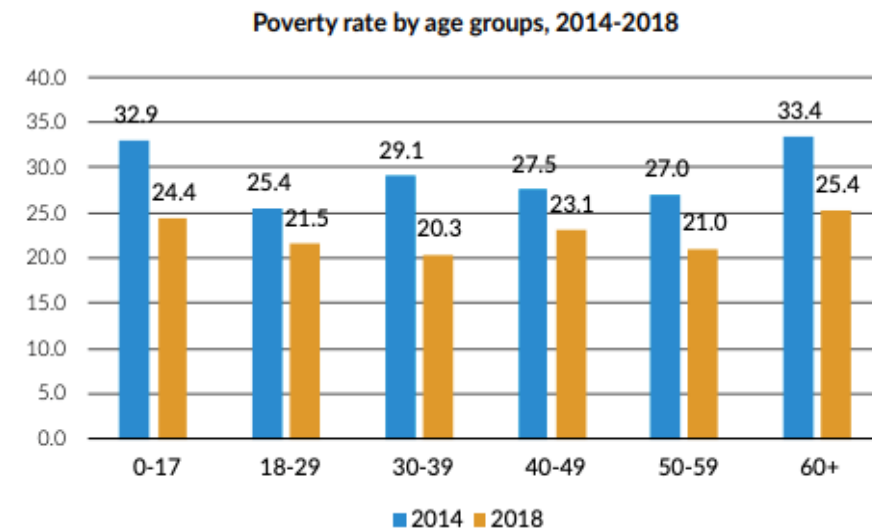


Source: Department for Work and Pensions, HBAI 2017/18

Republic of Moldova

Children and the elderly are more affected by poverty.

Figure: 09 POVERTY RATE AND LEVEL OF SELF-APPRECIATION OF POVERTY BY AGE GROUPS AND SEXES, 2014-2018





Next Steps



**Finalization of the
guide**

**Guiding Questions
for each step in
the VNR data
roadmap**

**Examples of
country VNR data
roadmaps**

We are grateful for any feedback and welcome any examples of VNR data roadmaps!

Please send to: pageh@un.org



Useful resources for VNRs

Custodian agency VNR resources and trainings

- Compilation of responses from SDG custodian agencies for VNR-specific and indicator and target-specific resources and trainings ([Excel file](#))

UNSD workshops and meetings

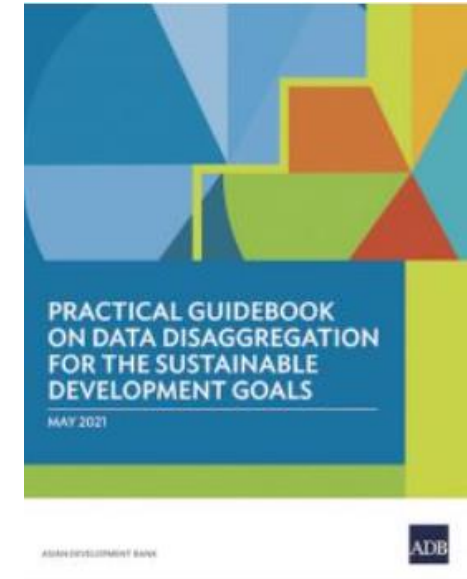
- [Preparing evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\): best practices and experiences](#) (UNSC side event, Jan. 2022)
- [Best practices in SDG monitoring and spotlight on the 2021 High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\) and Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\)](#) (IAEG-SDGs, June 2021)
- [Workshop on Preparing Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\) for 2021 HLPF](#) (Jan. 2021)
- [Workshop on Data and Statistics for Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\)](#) (Dec. 2019)

Webpage: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/data4vnrs/>



Other useful resources for VNRs and SDG Monitoring

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





Additional VNR data events

- 1. Virtual Expert peer exchange for VNR 2023 countries: data disaggregation and use of non-traditional data sources,
2 February 2023**
- 2. Supporting evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs),
Side Event of the 54th session of the UN Statistical Commission,
14 February 2023**



Thank you



United Nations

DESA
Statistics Division