VNR Lab 8: Bridging the policy-statistics gap:
Evidence-based VNRs in the time of COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday, 9 July 2020
1:00pm to 2:00pm

Virtual Event at the HLPF

Concept Note

Objective of this event

This VNR lab aims to bring together national statisticians and policy makers from countries who have recently prepared the VNRs or plan to do so in the coming years. They will take the opportunity to discuss countries' responses to the COVID-19 crisis in term of data collection for policy making in general and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals more specifically.

The global crisis is affecting critical operations across the entire global statistical and data system. There are delays in planned censuses and surveys and serious disruptions in all statistical operations. This VNR lab will provide policy makers and statisticians an opportunity to share experiences on how data and statistics are used to help designing and targeting effective policy interventions in the crisis and supporting SDG acceleration efforts in the long run, which are the core for the VNRs in the coming years. In addition, data producers can also discuss their countries' response mechanisms for ensuring continual data collection during the global pandemic and the effects on data availability for the SDGs.

This pandemic is also threatening the achievements already made in many of the SDG areas. In this time of crisis, data and statistics are key for the preparation of the Voluntary National Reviews to understanding, managing, and mitigating the human, social and economic impacts of the outbreak. They are also essential for designing short-term response interventions and long-term acceleration actions to set countries back on track to achieve the SDGs. The countries will therefore also present the work they have started to assess the situation through data, including the impact on the SDG achievement.

The VNR Lab event will take place in English only. Ms. Francesca Perucci, Associate Director of Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), will moderate the event. The virtual event will be convened on Webex. Registration for the event is available here: REGISTER

For additional information contact Ms. Vibeke Nielsen, vibeke.nielsen@un.org

Agenda

1.00-1.05 pm Welcome

1.05-1-10 pm Introduction to the Global SDG report and how the pandemic has affected SDG achievement at global level (Ms. Yongyi Min, UN DESA, Statistics Division)

1.10-1.40 pm Panel discussion (7 minutes each)
- How the pandemic has disrupted data collection and what has been done to mitigate the challenges (Mr. Andrew Tellewoyan, Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo Information Services)
- Development of a statistical framework for the SDGs and ongoing work to assess impact on COVID-19 on the indicators (Ms. Nazira Kerimalieva, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic)
- Adapting the VNR to reflect COVID-19 impact on society (Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda)
- COVID-19 response and how data and statistics, including the SDG indicators, play a role in this (Ms. Sabine Schneeberger, Federal Chancellery of Austria jointly with Ms. Alexandra Wegscheider-Pichler, Statistics Austria)

1.40-1.55 pm Q&A

1.55-2.00 pm Conclusions and closing