Unmasking inequalities, accelerating change: using disaggregated and citizen-generated data to foster SDG reporting and Accountability
Tuesday, 6 July 2:00 – 3:45 PM EDT

Hosted by World Vision International, Save the Children, TAP Network and Kwantu,

Brief description of the course proposal *

The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing inequalities and pushing hundreds of millions of people into poverty. A growing body of evidence from the current pandemic and experiences from past epidemics and disasters indicate that the impact on child poverty and children's rights will be profound, particularly for girls and the most marginalized and deprived. The combination of a global pandemic and the economic equivalent of the Great Depression threatens the wholesale reversal of progress achieved over the last 20 years across the SDGs and a range of child development outcomes, including child survival, nutrition and education. Failure to prevent the reversal of these hard-earned gains represents not only a setback for human development, but also an erosion of children's rights.

While there has been an increase in reporting on the pledge to Leave No One Behind in Voluntary National Reviews in recent years, key challenges remain. While there has been progress over the years in the use of age and gender disaggregated data among countries, data availability has frequently been cited as a continued challenge. The predominant practice is to utilise national averages when reporting on progress towards the SDGs, which masks persistent, glaring inequalities that can exist between groups in society, for example those residing in urban versus rural areas.

In addition, while the value of community driven or citizen-generated data is increasingly apparent, there has been insufficient use of this rich and real time data to complement official data.

Both these issues are especially crucial against the backdrop of COVID-19 and rising inequalities.

This capacity-building event will first spotlight the central role of disaggregated and citizen generated data in accelerating progress on the pledge to Leave No One Behind. It will examine why tackling inequalities within and between countries is critical to the achievement of the SDGs and how governments, civil society, and other stakeholders can report meaningfully on the pledge to Leave No One Behind through the Voluntary National Review process.

The session will go onto provide participants with insights for maximising the impact of social accountability approaches for SDG monitoring and accountability through scale and the aggregation of citizen-generated data for evidence-based advocacy. Practical examples will be shared by field practitioners on what has worked well, what remains a challenge, innovations and the opportunities to scale up what works.

Key Objectives of the learning session *

The objectives of the learning session include:

- To discuss the importance of disaggregated data in tracking progress on the SDGs and the pledge to Leave No One Behind;
- To demonstrate how governments, civil society organisations and other stakeholders can produce robust, substantive sections/chapters on the pledge to LNOB as part of the Voluntary National Reviews;
- To highlight how data on inequality can help to inform strategies and policies in SDG implementation.
- To demonstrate the opportunities from CGD for monitoring Covid-19 vaccination national deployment plans
- To show how CGD facilitates a window into peoples lived experience of public services pre and post Covid-19
- To provide insights to opportunities for new collaborations for scaled approaches and joint advocacy
- To illustrate how interoperability of CGD across different programmes can help create a nationally representative dataset

Panellists/Trainers

Moderator:
John Romano – Executive Director – Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network.

Opening statements

- Kevin Watkins, CEO, Save the Children UK
- Sofia Borges, Senior Vice-President and Head of New York Office - UN Foundation.
- Dana Buzducea, Global Lead on Advocacy and External Engagement - World Vision - TBC

Panellists:

Session 1: Tracking inequality: Making the most of disaggregated data to progress the pledge to Leave No One Behind

- Oliver Fiala, Senior Adviser – Research, Save the Children
- Chiara Orlassino, Adviser – Research, Save the Children
- Lilei Chow, Senior Adviser – SDGs, Save the Children

Session 2: Community voices and citizen generated data

- Robert Worthington, Director - Kwantu
- Winfred Ongom, Social Accountability Coordinator, World Vision Uganda
- Mathieu Andre, Technical Lead, Advocacy, World Vision Cambodia
- Besinate Mpepo, Technical Director, Social Accountability, World Vision

Please, provide concrete examples of how the learning session will be addressing the impacts of COVID-19 and share concrete knowledge to support the path towards a sustainable and resilient recovery, in line with the 2030 Agenda

While the COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented public health crisis for the global community, the immediate shock to the global economy and the projected long economic recession is threatening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Agreement and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It is pushing the most marginalized and deprived group's further behind. It has never been more urgent to recommit to the pledge to Leave No One Behind and the principles underpinning the 2030 Agenda in charting a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

There is increasing consensus that addressing group-based inequalities, also referred to as horizontal inequalities, is critical to peace, stability and sustainable development. In order to track progress on the SDGs, we need to build understanding on who and crucially, why, certain groups are falling behind or being excluded from broader development gains. This is essential for policy makers to make better decisions and to address specific vulnerabilities facing the most deprived and marginalised children. In addition, it allows civil society organisations and citizens to hold governments and other actors to account for their commitments and policy decisions.

In practice, monitoring inequalities requires disaggregated data, which means indicators on the SDGs need to go beyond national averages and reveal group-based inequalities (for instance by gender, socio-economic status, geographic location, ethnicity or other characteristics). Global and national level statistics can be helpful in showing aggregate progress, but they mask persistent, underlying inequalities and much slower rates of improvement for the hardest to reach or most marginalised populations. In different contexts and for different thematic areas, the disaggregation dimensions may look slightly different, but in almost all circumstances, a national estimate alone will not tell us what we need to know.

Monitoring inequalities at national scale also requires interoperable data. This means that different programmes can generate CGD that is comparable and can be aggregated into a national scale dataset.

While large data gaps exist, there is currently considerable evidence to monitor inequalities and crucially, to use the evidence that we have, including that generated by local communities, to pursue an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Further, citizens as claimants of rights should not only be provided with system and service information, but they are also sources of service-useful information. Enabling, spaces and opportunities for feedback on their experience with these services are important ways to bring citizens as part of the systems as agents in the restoration services. This is even more crucial during Covid-19 recovery, following an extended period in which systems, processes and relationships have been strained. There are growing examples of the opportunities brought about by aggregating

citizen-generated data, to identify trends and insights to inform policy dialogue and collective action, as well as evidence-based advocacy.

Training Methodology (panel discussion/technical briefing/ presentation of case studies/ workshop with practical exercises) - (Max 700 characters) *

Please, indicate the proposed format for the session. The 2021 SDGs Learning, Training and Practice Special Event session will be held in a virtual format via an online meetings platform. However, conditions permitting, the organizers will explore the possibility of hosting a few sessions at the UN Headquarters, in New York. Ten learning sessions will be organized with 1.5-hour long each.

Virtual workshop
6th July 2021 - 2.00-3.45 pm EST

DURATION	ACTIVITY
5 MIN	**Open the session, housekeeping, agenda, panellists.** **Moderator: John Romano, TAP Network.** **Opening remarks and introduction to Workshop** **To discuss the importance of disaggregated data in tracking progress on the SDGs and the pledge to Leave No One Behind (Objective 1)**
20 MIN.	**Opening statements** • Kevin Watkins, CEO, Save the Children UK • Sofia Borges, Senior Vice-President and Head of New York Office - UN Foundation. • Dana Buzducea, Global Lead on Advocacy and External Engagement - World Vision - TBC
30 MIN	**Session 1: Tracking inequality: Making the most of disaggregated data to progress the pledge to Leave No One Behind** • Oliver Fiala, Senior Adviser – Research, Save the Children • Chiara Orlassino, Adviser – Research, Save the Children • Lilei Chow, Senior Adviser – SDGs, Save the Children
30 MIN	**Session 2: Community voices and citizen generated data** • Robert Worthington, Director – Kwantu • Winfred Ongom, Social Accountability Coordinator, World Vision Uganda • Mathieu Andre, Technical Lead, Advocacy, World Vision Cambodia • Besinate Mpepo, Technical Director, Social Accountability, World Vision
20 MIN	**Interactive Q&A – All panellists** **Closing**

Additional information, including links to partner organizations and materials

Please, add her links to relevant materials, including links to partner organizations or any additional information about the proposed learning session.

World Vision - https://www.wvi.org/
Kwantu - http://www.kwantu.net/
TAP Network - https://tapnetwork2030.org/

World Vision´s report: Putting People at the Centre of the Data Revolution – the case of Citizen Generated Data for SDG Accountability - https://bit.ly/2QAUAzH
Citizen_Voice_and_Action_Nobo_Jatra_Evaluation_Summary.pdf (wvusstatic.com)
Scaling Social Accountability: Evidence from Asia, Africa and the Caucasus | Social Accountability | World Vision International (wvi.org)
ISAF Booklet-01stJuly20.pdf (wvi.org)
A light in the COVID-19 darkness: Social Accountability | View | World Vision International (wvi.org)
Save the Children https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/
Save the Children's Child Inequality Tracker: https://www.savethechildren.net/grid
Save the Children, User Guide to GRID:
https://www.savethechildren.net/sites/www.savethechildren.net/files/grid_guide_md.pdf