



COUNT US IN Breaking the Cycle of Invisibility in Data

Side Event



Tuesday, 15 February 2022

9:00 am - 10:30 am (NYC EST) / 3 pm - 4:30 pm (Central European)

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LpB2xrvRTimh23O4c7Tujw

It is not easy to collect adequate data on marginalized groups and those left behind, and they are too often excluded from current censuses, household surveys, and administrative data. In some cases, this may be due to design limitations. For example, when surveys conducted at a person's home exclude the homeless, when the person conducting the survey cannot communicate with a member of a linguistic minority, or when groups are simply not considered at the stage of determining weighting or other statistical methods for the survey. Other times, it can also be due to fear and stigmatization of identifying as a member of a particular minority, objection to the use of outdated or even offensive terms to describe the group or mistrust as to the purposes for which personal data may be accessed or used. All too often, States continue to be reluctant to collect and publish such data for varying reasons.

Overcoming these challenges will require a 'data revolution' that begins with listening to the voices of those who are invisible in data. We need a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data. We need to produce data following international human rights and statistical standards and to put people at the center. Implementing voluntary, consensual and participatory approaches with strong safeguards requires building trust, actively involving marginalized groups, developing new data partnerships and even structural changes. All of this requires political will.

Under the human rights treaties, it is critical that States collect disaggregated data as part of their necessary 'steps' and 'measures' to give effect to the rights provided under the treaties. Leaving no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, all UN Member States made an unequivocal commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind. For instance, target 17.18 in the 2030 Agenda requests that SDG indicators are disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Data must capture the situation of the most disadvantaged and allow detection of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. States, Statistical experts, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, service providers and, most importantly, marginalized populations themselves must drive this revolution forward.

Objectives

The side-event will:

- Provide a platform to exchange views among data users and providers on the elements of a human rights-based approach to data and statistics and listen to the voices of marginalized populations and those invisible in data (gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity/race/people of African descent, homeless, migrants, stateless)
- Share national and sub-national experiences of implementation of elements of a human rights-based approach, identify good practices and learn lessons from the past

Expected Outcomes

The discussions and examples will contribute to 'OHCHR's mapping of good practices and identification of lessons learned on the dissemination of the guidance note on Human Rights-Based Approach to Data, and to strengthening institutional linkages and collaboration between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) on data collection, dissemination and analysis.

Related Agenda Item/Topic

Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Population and Housing Statistics; Civil registration, vital statistics and statelessness statistics; Gender statistics

Format

Zoom for 1.5 hours; HARDtalk format with in-depth dialogues, hard-hitting questions on complex but essential topics and practical examples and solutions.

The event will be recorded and uploaded to OHCHR and other UN platforms