DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT FESTIVAL

2018

REPORT

March 21-23, 2018
Bristol, UK

#Data4DevFest

Global Partnership
for Sustainable
Development Data

DATA *for*
DEVELOPMENT
FESTIVAL

March 21-23, 2018
Bristol, UK

Introduction

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data's first Data for Development Festival brought together 400 delegates in Bristol, UK from 21-23 March 2018. This event for the partners and friends of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data focused on driving action and fostering strong links to lead to improved outcomes as the Global Partnership community looks ahead. The three main objectives of the Festival were to:

- Convene Global Partnership members, funders, and stakeholders to inspire and innovate,

- Connect expert communities to share progress, and discuss challenges and solutions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

- Catalyze action, match-up initiatives, and forge progress ahead of the World Data Forum and 73rd UN General Assembly in the short term, and looking ahead to 2030 in the longer term.

The Data for Development Festival provided an opportunity to participate in numerous thematic events, network with the global data for development community, meet representatives of the Global Partnership's new Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Group, and shape the partnership's future. The Festival was co-organized by 49 GPSDD partners, and sponsored by 15 partners. The 400 delegates came from around the globe representing a diversity of sectors including government, civil society, research and academia, multilateral institutions, and government. Nearly 1,500 people joined the conversation online using #Data4DevFest, helping to reach more than 6 million people across six continents.

> 66 *I'm continually amazed at how this community of practice has come together to not just talk, but to put the wheels of action in motion.* 99

Private sector delegate

> 66 *I really enjoyed it and appreciated the variety of content, format, and snacks.* 99

Multilateral delegate

> 66 *… insightful, engaging, and truly productive conference. I met so many inspiring and useful leaders.* 99

Civil society organization delegate

> 66 *I thought folks were highly engaged and heard great feedback from the participants re [sic] the various sessions. I met a few folks and learned a few things… which is all one can really ask for!* 99

Civil society organization delegate

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DATA for **DEVELOPMENT FESTIVAL**
March 21-23, 2018
Bristol, UK

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

Where did *people come from?*

Map displays the many locations from which delegates came. When delegate origination locations were unclear, the delegate's organization's headquarters location was used.

Map developed by CARTO

View the interactive map

CONVENE

Convene Global Partnership members, funders, and stakeholders to inspire and innovate

The Data for Development Festival featured a total of 41 sessions in a variety of formats, including plenaries, debates, panel sessions, roundtable discussions, and storytelling competitions. The event showcased speakers from a diverse range of sectors and geographic regions. The Festival created a space for people to unpack "difficult" or "wicked" issues and was structured to focus on four tracks: planet, process, prosperity, and people.

🌍 Planet	🥧 Process	👥 People	👍 Prosperity
Planetary Data for Development *Plenary session	Making the Case: More and Better Financing for Data *Plenary session	Everybody Counts: the Disaggregated Data Revolution *Plenary session	Beyond GDP *Plenary session
Artificial Intelligence for Development: Case studies from Tanzania and Beyond	From Paper to Practice: Shaping a Common Vision for the Data Revolution *Plenary session	Data Privacy Debate This festival believes personal data privacy concerns are obstructing our ability to use data to save lives.	Private Sector Contribution to the SDGs
Immersive Communications: Data-driven Virtual, Augmented and Mixed Reality	Artificial Intelligence Debate Rise of the Bots: Should Machines be Making Decisions for US?	Community-led Monitoring	Geospatial Demography Hands-On Data Session
Earth Observation Applications for SDGs	Building Data Ecosystems for Decision-making	Citizen-generated Data	An Action Plan for Agriculture and Nutrition Open Data in Africa
Making it Stick: Designing Data for Sustainable Development	Open Standards for Data	Improving Migration Data and Analysis for Sustainable Development	Mind the Spend: Accountable Financing for SDGs
Harnessing Open and Proprietary IP Conditions to Increase Data Impact	Approaches to SDG Monitoring and Reporting	Making People Count in Humanitarian Crises	Count to Deliver: Strengthening the Census and Civil Registration Systems
Sharing Water: Technology for Transboundary Water Management	Why Invest in Data? Data Impact Storytelling Competition	Geospatial Reference, Infrastructure and Demographic Data: the GRID3 Program	Access **session notes here** **Special thanks** to our Festival note-takers: Alyson Neel, Sarah Burns, Emma Sweeney, Carolyn Culey, Janet Chapman, Ralitza Naydenova, John Vesey, Maddie West, Jamie Gibson, Terrie Freemantle, Angelica Palma, Tyler Bird, Deirdre Appel, Greg Danis, Fiona Smith, Audrey Ariss, Derval Usher, Olivia Beecham, Paige Kirby, Tom Orrell, Muchiri Nyaggah, Hayden Dahmm, Leslie Rae
	The Future of Data Privacy and Digital Ethics	Understanding Disability Data	
	Visualizing the Gender Data Revolution	Data for Advocacy and Social Change	
	Open Data Portals: Challenges and Best Practices		
	Data Pop Alliance Training		
	Let's Get Practical: Problem-solving Data for Development Challenges		

Percent of official sessions that featured speakers or panelists from developing countries:

80%

Percent of respondents who feel better equipped to contribute to achieving the SDGs:

78%

In addition to the 41 sessions, the Festival also featured a number of innovative and interactive activities, that over 60% of attendees participated in:

VR Playspace

The Data for Development Festival's VR Data Playspace showcased interactive, immersive experiences, content, and technology with a social impact focus. In the VR Playspace, Data Fest attendees experienced UNFPA's Born Into Exile, Nothing But Net's (a UN Foundation program) Under the Net, Big Picture by UNHCR, There's Something in the Air, a VR room-scale experience produced by Datavized and UNEP, the Dominica Air Drop by DFID, two films by ONE, and GSMA's Case for Change.

Data Bazaar/ Innovation Showcase

The Data Bazaar provided an opportunity for Festival participants to demonstrate interesting and inspiring data for development projects and collaborations in an expo and networking component of the festival. The Data Bazaar featured 28 projects, each displaying innovative initiatives that are strengthening data and driving evidence-based decisions for improved development outcomes.

Google Cloud: problem-solving with public data sets

This activity provided participants an opportunity to translate the principle of open data into action with Google Cloud. The activity demonstrated how non-profits and NGOs can access freely hosted public data sets on Google Cloud Platform and Kaggle in order to drive social impact.

HiveMind 2030

HiveMind 2030 is a multi-platform, policy simulation game. 194 Festival attendees participated in the game over the course of the three days. The game allows participants to act as a government minister in a low-income country, each tasked with the goal of reaching the department's SDGs, through collaboration with fellow delegates and a limited budget. Goal 5: Gender Equality was the most successful with participants also using all available resources, including the Festival app, to encourage collaborations and win.

Data Dive

The Bristol Data Dive was an opportunity to play with and explore data for sustainable development in an informal yet energetic setting. Approximately 50 data enthusiasts and data scientists, developers, designers, and development practitioners came together to leverage data and analytics tools to produce SDG-relevant visualizations and analysis. The Data Dive gave participants the opportunity to work with our team of experts, meet new people, learn, and apply unique skills to advance the use of data for sustainable development and social good.

ONS Field trip

The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) provided Data for Development Festival participants an opportunity to visit their Data Science Campus in Newport, South Wales.

Live/3D Drawing

Our Data for Development Festival artist-in-residence, Lorenzo Fonda, an award-winning filmmaker and artist, created live improvisational drawings based on the discussions and ideas that transpired during the sessions. Some of the drawings were created in 3D using a virtual reality headset.

Photo above by: Alison Adams

CONNECT

Connect expert communities to share progress, discuss challenges and solutions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The variety of sessions and activities facilitated rich discussions on a broad range of topics, challenges, and solutions. Some of the key opportunities discussed included the democratization of data; open data; leveraging non-traditional data and technology; and capitalizing on donor and political interest in data. Key challenges discussed included lack of funding/financing for data; the tensions between open data and data privacy; operationalizing the leave no one behind (LNOB) agenda; communicating the impacts of data and data investments; and coordination across different types of stakeholders, in setting and adopting standards, and between data demand and supply.

> " *[There is a] tremendous interest in building data capacity. [Partners] are building an awareness of the value of data in decision-making. However, it is a long-term endeavor and will require continued investment in local and regional ecosystems. This is an opportunity for GPSDD partners to find new ways to partner with one another to drive future capacity building efforts, building upon the work of those that have come before.* "

Speaker from 'Building Data Ecosystems for Decision-making' session delegate

Data Bazaar

Partners had the opportunity to showcase initiatives, ideas, and collaborations including the following:

Mapping Investments in Uganda

Spotlight on Uganda, which is part of the Development Initiative's DataActLab, provides a comprehensive source of Uganda's financial resource flow at the sub-national level. This data is coupled with additional indicators on poverty, population, education, health, water, and hygiene and sanitation to highlight the geographic variance in sector performance and financial resources. This enables stakeholders to evaluate whether the investments were good value for money. dataactlab.com/our_work/devinit

The Open Data Barometer

is a collaborative work of the Open Data for Development network led by World Wide Web Foundation and Omidyar Network and provides comparative data on countries and regions on the prevalence and impact of open data initiatives. It encourages a "race to the top" with governments competing to be on top of the ranking for budget openness and publishing spending data. opendatabarometer.org

Open Data Council

Sierra Leone has established an Open Data Council and Portal under the Open Government Partnership Action Plan, which aims to increase transparency and accountability across government by bringing government activities closer to citizens. opendatasl.gov.sl

Mazao Plus+ Smallholder Farmers Market Data

One of the GPSDD Innovation Fund recipients, R4D, in partnership with Local Development Research Institute, has developed data-driven innovation to provide farmers and vendors with fertilizer information via an SMS service that enables the collection and usage of key fertilizer market data to improve market efficiencies. r4d.org

Data Collaboratives for Local Impact's Masters in Data Science

DCLI, created through a partnership between PEPFAR and MCC, has launched the first Masters in Data Science program in Dar Es Salaam. This is a first in East and Southern Africa (that DCLI is aware of). DCLI has incorporated as an NGO and will continue to further its work building the ecosystem in Tanzania. www.mcc.gov/initiatives/initiative/mcc-pepfar-partnership

Open-source SDG Reporting Tool

The UK's Office of National Statistics Data Science Campus has developed an open-source tool for reporting progress on the SDGs. The UK encourages other countries wishing to reuse the reporting platform to do so for free.

sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/about/

Ghana's National Identification Card Roll-out

Ghana will address the plight of unregistered children with the roll-out of the national ID card, which will also facilitate access to healthcare, education, and employment. A birth certificate will be required to receive that national ID card, so Ghana expects to enroll millions of additional children and adults in the coming months. The government plans to improve communication and advocacy around the importance of this initiative.

www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/news/4519-govt-equips-nia-for-national-id-card-registration

Colombia's eCensus

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) launched Colombia's first digital version of the national housing and population census in January 2018. The eCensus optimizes the data collection process, is easy to use, and is accessible. DANE will be releasing the open and accessible results in July.

unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/side-events/documents/20180307-2L-Colombia-2020-Round-of-Population-and-Housing-Censuses.pdf

Gender in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Data2X and the UN Economic Commission for Africa are working together on a project aiming to introduce innovative and practical ways to integrate a gender dimension into national CRVS plans through gender analysis of existing data.

www.data2x.org/partnerships/crvs/

Open Institute's LNOB Dashboard for Advocacy

The Open Institute works with communities at local level in Kenya to collect disaggregated data on leaving no one behind. This data is then made available on a dashboard to facilitate use by the community for advocacy purposes. The initiative has provided shared mobile phones to the community, reducing the cost of collecting disaggregated data.

Global Migration Data Portal

This collaborative effort across the UN system brings together key sources of data on international migration and explains in a series of thematic pages and interviews the strengths and weaknesses of some of the data that exists. The aims is to make it easier for everyone to access and understand the data.

migrationdataportal.org/?t=2017&i=stock_abs_

Joint Data Centre for Forced Displacement

A joint effort by World Bank and UN High Commissioner for Refugees, this initiative aims to fill in the data gaps using new technology (more accurately, more rapidly) and use analytic capabilities to interpret, analyze, and make data available for country planning and donors. The center will be operational by 2019.

www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/10/20/new-world-bank-unhcr-joint-data-centre-to-improve-global-statistics-on-forced-displacement

Percent of sessions that featured a private sector perspective:

54%

Number of sessions that explored public-private partnerships in service of delivering Agenda 2030:

14

Number of sessions that featured a training component aimed at boosting capacity to access, analyze, or apply data in the context of the SDGs:

12

CATALYZE

Catalyze action, match-up initiatives, and forge progress

The Festival was a platform for partners to galvanize action ahead of the World Data Forum and UNGA in the short term, and look ahead to 2030 in the longer term, allowing stakeholders to connect the dots between ideas and action.

> " *Our focus to-date has been 'upstream' and technical/process-focused. In time, we need to look more downstream - turning data into information into decisions, actions, and development impact.* "

Speaker in the citizen-generated data session

The African Regional Data Cube was announced at the Festival. The new tool harnesses the latest Earth observation and satellite technology to help address a range of issues including food security and water access. The data cube was developed by the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) in partnership with GPSDD, Group on Earth Observations, the Office of the Deputy President – Kenya, Amazon Web Services, and Strathmore University in Kenya.

Costa Rica was announced as the Global Partnership's newest country partner. In partnership with GPSDD, CEPAL, and CEPEI, the Government of Costa Rica hosted a national forum to initiate the formulation of a data roadmap to bring together stakeholders across sectors in April 2018.

Kenya and Ghana re-affirmed their commitment to the data revolution by stressing the need to use viable data to inform and shape government policies and positions.

Datavized launched the closed beta platform and "There's Something in the Air," a Virtual Reality data visualization experience exploring air pollution and global data over time around the globe. The collaboration between UNEP, Datavized Technologiess, Brookline Interactive Group, the Public VR Lab, and The EcoLearn Project demonstrate how VR can create a paradigm shift to a more hands-on understanding of environmental issues.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation publicly launched its data visualization dashboard to the international community. The dashboard will provide a forum to advocate for the use of data on development effectiveness to improve dialogue for more effective development partnerships and support achievement of the SDGs.

The United Nations and Tableau Software announced an agreement to provide access to Tableau's visual analytics to professionals working in 193 Member States across the UN System. The partnership is intended to enable timely access to easily understood information in a crisis.

The Group on Earth Observations extended an invite to attend the GEO Data Providers Workshop in 2-4 May at the European Space Agency in Frascati to continue developing the data dialogue, as well as the GEO Symposium 11-13 June in Geneva to learn more about the 70+ work program activities across the GEO community. This is an effort to bring communities of machine learning technology and social sciences together to ensure technical work incorporates engagement with decision-makers to lead to real change.

The GRID3 program, launched at the Festival, is collaboration between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Flowminder/WorldPop, and Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN). GRID3 augments broader national census work by providing new opportunities to substantially strengthen the geospatial resolution of data to be collected in upcoming census efforts, methods for supplementing census efforts where a full traditional census is not possible ('hybrid' census), as well as methods for processing, utilizing, and disseminating geospatial data in a wide range of applications for development.

Call for Action on Financing for data was highlighted to identify realistic funding mechanisms to deliver on the Cape Town Global Action Plan. It was noted that the mechanisms should include resources to coordinate and guide data investments and use qualitative and quantitative data to show impact. The call is to carry this discussion forward at the World Data Forum in Dubai in October 2018.

The General Data Protection Regulation, announced and discussed at the Festival, came into effect on May 25, 2018. This will likely spur other countries into action around the world and require the data for development community to think about what it means for developments in the wider data for SDGs sector.

Percent of respondents who met a person or organization that they are likely to collaborate with in the future:

98%

Percent of respondents who learned something new that will be useful in their work:

94%

THANKS FROM THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT

The inaugural Data for Development Festival was the first in-person gathering of the Global Partnership's members, and when we first set out to organize the Festival, we had a clear vision for what we hoped it would achieve. Firstly, we wanted to provide a space for our community to build and strengthen connections. Secondly, we believed that our community's complex challenges would greatly benefit from face-to-face time for problem-solving and collaborative brainstorming. Finally, we had high hopes for the practicality of proximity – huddles in the corner when an idea strikes, pressure-free conversations over dinner, innovations borne from the excitement and synergy of a great panel discussion. The Festival truly exceeded our expectations. Everything highlighted in this report is evidence, but we're very aware of the many outcomes we weren't able to capture – all of the conversations that began but have not yet materialized, the projects that are yet to come from relationships formed in Bristol, and the impact that will result when we continue to take these actions forward over the next week, month, year, and decade. Our community still has a lot to do to ensure we're fully leveraging data to achieve the SDGs, and we're confident that the next Data for Development Festival will again, exceed expectations of what we imagine to be possible. We hope to see you there in two years.

Find more Data for Development Festival
information and resources here.

Images by **Jon Craig** - @JonCraig_Photos. Unless otherwise noted

ANNEX A

Sincere thanks to the co-hosts, programme committee, and co-organizers of the Data for Development Festival 2018

Co-hosts

- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- The Department for International Development (DFID)
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Programme Committee

- The Department for International Development (DFID)
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- CARTO
- Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)
- Datavized
- Development Gateway
- Development Initiatives
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- Group on Earth Observations
- Open Data Institute (ODI)
- Open Institute
- RELX Group
- Southern Voice
- The World Bank
- UNFPA

Co-organisers

- ADET (Amis des Etrangers au Togo)
- AKTEK
- Athena Infonomics
- CARTO
- Catapult
- Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)
- Dalberg Data Insights
- Data2X
- Data-Pop Alliance
- Datavized
- Development Gateway
- Development Initiatives
- Equal Measures 2030
- Flowminder/WorldPop
- Global Reporting Initiative
- Group on Earth Observations
- Humanitarian OpenStreet Map
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Innovations for Poverty Action
- International Solutions Group
- I-Tech Mission Private Limited (iTM)
- Kwantu
- Mahiti
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- OneWorld UK
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- Open Data Watch
- The United States President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR)
- Publish What You Fund
- RELX Group
- Sightsavers
- Social Progress Imperative
- Southern Voice
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute
- South West International Development Network (SWIDN)
- Tableau
- The Demand Institute (Project 8)
- The Open Data Institute
- The Open Institute
- The World Bank
- UNFPA
- UN Global Pulse
- UNICEF
- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- Video Volunteers
- Vizzuality
- World Resources Institute
- World Wide Web Foundation

#Data4DevFest

Sincere thanks to the sponsors of the Data for Development Festival 2018, and the core funders of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, without which the event would not have been possible

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- Brunel
- CARTO
- Ford Foundation
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Google Cloud
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- RHEA Group
- RELX Group
- Tableau
- Twaweza*
- Wellcome

*Generously provided travel support to ensure that representatives from East Africa were able to attend Data4DevFest

Core Funders

- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Hewlett Foundation
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

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