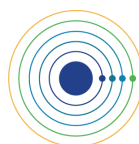




NIGERIA

# INCLUSIVE DATA CHARTER ACTION PLAN

2024 - 2028



**INCLUSIVE**  
DATA CHARTER

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## FOREWORD

It is our distinct pleasure to introduce the Nigeria Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) Action Plan for 2024 to 2028. This comprehensive document is a pivotal step forward in our commitment to inclusivity, equity, and data-driven decision-making in Nigeria.

The IDC Action Plan has been carefully crafted around the principle of “**Leaving No One Behind**” in our pursuit of accurate and representative data. It prioritizes the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, children, unemployed youths, women, older persons, internally displaced persons, and migrants. In a nation as diverse and multifaceted as Nigeria, recognizing the unique needs and challenges of all our citizens is not just a moral imperative, but an essential element of informed governance.

The IDC Action Plan outlines a series of principles and strategic actions, each aimed at fostering a culture of data inclusivity and empowering institutions at both national and subnational levels to adapt the plan to their specific contexts. It promotes the collection of disaggregated data to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of data management, empowering our leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources, and create targeted interventions that will benefit all Nigerians.

This document encompasses five key principles that guide our approach to inclusive data collection and management: **inclusion of all populations, disaggregation of data, data from all sources, accountability, and capacity improvement.**

However, we face a number of challenges in realizing this ambitious plan, ranging from complex governance structures to low political will. Nevertheless, the recommendations put forth in this document serve as a road map to navigate these hurdles successfully. By enhancing coordination, advocacy, and the commitment of all stakeholders, we can surmount these difficulties and achieve our shared goal of inclusive data collection.

The Action Plan signifies a collective commitment to a more equitable and data-informed future for our nation. It is our sincere hope that this document will inspire and guide the efforts of policymakers, government agencies, civil society organizations, and all individuals committed to a more inclusive Nigeria.

We extend our gratitude to all who have contributed to the development of this plan and to the dedicated professionals who will carry out its implementation. Together, we can make Nigeria a shining example of inclusivity and data-driven progress.



**Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, OFR.**  
Senior Special Assistant to the President  
on Sustainable Development Goals



**Prince Adeyemi Adeniran**  
Statistician-General of the Federation/CEO  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The tripartite organizations driving Nigeria's Inclusive Data Charter—the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, the National Bureau of Statistics, and Sightsavers—wish to convey their sincere appreciation to the organizations that contributed immensely to the development of this Action Plan, including the Centre for Accountability and Inclusive Development, the Centre for Citizens with Disabilities, the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All, the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Employment, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Youth, and the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities.

Other organizations that helped contribute to the Action Plan include the Lola Cater for the Needy Foundation; the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning; the National Agency for the Control of AIDS; the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities; the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons; the National Human Rights Commission; the National Population Commission; the National Senior Citizens Centre; the Universal Basic Education Commission; and United Nations Women.

We also wish to express appreciation for the technical support of the Global IDC Secretariat, the United Kingdom, and independent consultant Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje. Our regards also go to the States Bureau of Statistics, represented by the Statistician General of Anambra, Edo, Kaduna, Oyo, Plateau, and Yobe.

Last, but not least, we must commend the relentless efforts of the three IDC Nigeria focal persons from the tripartite organizations, namely, Dr. Zakariya Mohammed (Head/PSU), Mrs. Lohdir Anne Ibrahim (Head/IAP/SDGs), and Mrs. Esther Bature (Country Advocacy Coordinator) representing OSSAP-SDGs, NBS, and Sightsavers, respectively.



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

FMBEP	Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
FMHAPA	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
HIMS	Health Information Management System
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDC	Inclusive Data Charter
IDC-TWG	Inclusive Data Charter Technical Working Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
NASSCO	National Social Safety-Net Coordinating Office
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NITDA	National Information Technology Development Agency
NNSS	Nigeria's National Statistical System
NPC	National Population Commission
NSS	National Statistical System
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
OSSAP-SDGs	Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals
PRSD	Planning, Research and Statistics Department
SBS	State Bureau of Statistics
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 commits to the principle “Leave No One Behind.” To fulfill this pledge, more granular data is necessary to understand the needs and experiences of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society, so that resources can be appropriately allocated to assist them. These groups are usually at a higher risk of experiencing adverse health outcomes or facing social, economic, or environmental challenges due to factors such as age, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, disability, geographic location, or health status.

They may also have limited access to resources, face discrimination, or have specific needs that are not adequately addressed. Examples include children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, low-income individuals, ethnic minorities, refugees, and homeless people. Recognizing and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations through data is crucial for promoting equity and inclusion and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

For instance, homelessness exposes individuals to numerous health risks, including malnutrition, substance abuse, mental health issues, and exposure to the elements. Homeless people often lack access to health care and social services, making them highly vulnerable. Children, especially those living in poverty or unstable family environments, are vulnerable due to their dependence on caregivers for basic needs such as food, shelter, and protection. They may face risks of abuse, neglect, and inadequate education.

Older adults, particularly those with chronic illnesses or disabilities, may face physical, social, and economic challenges. They may also experience isolation, financial insecurity, age-related health issues, and limited access to health-care services. Individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental incapacities often encounter barriers to employment, education, health care, and social inclusion. They may face discrimination, stigma, and accessibility challenges in various aspects of life.

Racial and ethnic minorities may experience systemic discrimination, socioeconomic disparities, and limited access to health-care and educational opportunities. They may also face higher rates of chronic illnesses, including those exacerbated by social determinants of health. Refugees and displaced persons are frequently forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or environmental disasters. They may face challenges related to resettlement, language barriers, trauma, and limited access to essential services.

Currently, too many people are invisible within the available data, and too little data is routinely disaggregated. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Climate Agreement require a change in the implementation pattern of our policies to achieve success. To address these concerns, the Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) was launched at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in 2018 by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data as a global mechanism to mobilize political commitment and support evidence-based policy/decision-making and interventions in line with global best practices. Changing our approach to data also requires the engagement of governments (at all levels), civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development partners, philanthropists, and organized private sectors.

The Nigerian government has demonstrated its commitment to implementation of the SDGs, including the development of institutional frameworks, review of the National Statistical

System (NSS), and mainstreaming and integration into the Medium-Term National Development Plan. Similarly, Nigeria has demonstrated commitment to IDC domestication in line with the SDG principle of leaving no one behind, culminating in its signing up as an IDC Champion. It is also sustaining efforts toward successful implementation of the IDC through advocacy and development of this Action Plan. There is also an ongoing effort to carry out an SDGs-based survey and further review of the NSS, taking into consideration the requirements of the IDC.

The IDC Action Plan was developed to drive inclusive data actions involving marginalized/vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, homeless persons, internally displaced persons, indigenous populations, refugees, migrants, and minorities who experience the highest degree of socioeconomic marginalization. This document, therefore, serves as a blueprint for the relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and institutions at both national and subnational levels to adopt based on their priorities and local context.

A mixed methodology including quantitative and qualitative approaches was used for data gathering, with the main attention on focus group discussions. Gaps were identified within the participating MDAs at both the national and subnational levels and other stakeholders in data management; monitoring and evaluation (M&E); documentation and report writing; media engagement; information and communication technologies (ICT); and advocacy, communication, and social mobilization. Addressing these gaps requires a collaborative and holistic approach involving capacity development, intersectoral collaborations, resource mobilization, and effective policy implementation, among others.

The development of this IDC Action Plan for Nigeria will guarantee the availability of detailed data, greater political commitment and support for evidence-based decision-making, and interventions for vulnerable and marginalized groups in line with the principles of the SDGs.

### I. Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders during the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Climate Agreement require a change in our policy implementation pattern to achieve the desired outcomes. Implementing the ambitions of the 2015 agreement is being hindered by inadequate and non-inclusive data, capacity gaps, and lack of funding and/or support to generate data. To fulfill the “Leave No One Behind” promise central to the SDGs, timely, comprehensive, and disaggregated data is imperative to better understand the situation and complex realities faced by marginalized and vulnerable populations, particularly persons with disabilities, the poor, children, youths, women, older persons, indigenous populations, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, etc.

Prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable ensures that resources are allocated fairly, addressing systemic inequalities and promoting social justice. It also reflects a collective responsibility to ensure that those who are most in need receive support and assistance, regardless of their socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or other factors. This is in addition to having a more significant impact on reducing suffering and improving well-being, as these groups often face the greatest challenges and barriers to accessing resources and services.

Furthermore, neglecting the needs of vulnerable groups can perpetuate cycles of poverty, discrimination, and marginalization, exacerbating existing disparities and widening the gap between the privileged and the marginalized. Additionally, protecting the elderly, children, and those with underlying health conditions is crucial for public health efforts, as they may be more susceptible to diseases and less able to access health-care services. Paying attention to the needs of the most vulnerable fosters a sense of solidarity and community cohesion, as it demonstrates a commitment to leaving no one behind and building a more inclusive society.

Vulnerable populations often experience the highest degree of socioeconomic marginalization and, therefore, there is a need to make informed decisions based on reliable data that will have positive impacts on their lives. It is also crucial to prioritize data collection and analysis that include these groups to ensure that they are not left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development. To address the above concerns, the IDC was launched in 2018 at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. The IDC serves as a global mechanism to galvanize the commitment of governments, development partners, civil society organizations, development partners, philanthropists, and organized private sector to work toward improving the quality and availability of inclusive and disaggregated data and building the capacity to generate and use the data in line with global best practices.



## II. Principles of Inclusive Data Charter

To ensure “every person counts and will be counted,”<sup>1</sup> as the UK Department for International Development declared when it signed on to the Inclusive Data Charter in 2018, the IDC is founded on five principles:<sup>2</sup>

- **1. All populations must be included in the data.** Ensuring everyone counts and is visibly represented in our granular data supports good decision-making processes.
- **2. All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated to accurately describe all populations.** Ensure that data is disaggregated by age, gender, geographical location, disability status, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, employment status, educational qualification, etc.
- **3. Data should be drawn from all available sources.** Ensure that quality, accurate, and timely data produced and/or collected from official and unofficial sources are accessible and in line with global best practices.
- **4. Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable.** Ensure that data producers uphold the principles of transparency, confidentiality, and data protection. In addition, they must guarantee that personal data is not abused or misused and does not put anyone at risk of identification or discrimination, under national laws and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.<sup>3</sup>
- **5. Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing.** Ensure that data collection and analysis are adequately financed and that the right professionals are tasked with the responsibilities of data production and supported with the requisite skills, technical tools, and resources.

## III. Nigeria and the Inclusive Data Charter

On February 2, 2022, Nigeria signed up as an IDC Champion and committed to the five principles of the IDC to strengthen inclusion, coordination, evidence-based planning, decision-making, and resource allocation in line with the SDG principle of leaving no one behind. Nigeria has long pursued data-driven inclusion, as evidenced by the realignment of the National Statistical System with the requirements and indicators of the SDGs that was completed in December 2021. Furthermore, Nigeria has demonstrably advanced the rights of persons with disabilities. The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of 2018, signed into law in January 2019, was the first step toward operationalizing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which Nigeria ratified in 2007.

To drive IDC implementation, Nigeria has established a comprehensive framework. The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals

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<sup>1</sup> UK Department for International Development and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (2019) *Leaving no one behind: our promise*, Policy Paper, March 6. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise>.

<sup>2</sup> Sightsavers (2023) *Sightsavers Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan 2024–2027*. Available at: <https://www.sightsaversusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Sightsavers-inclusive-data-charter-action-plan-2024-2027.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> A/RES/68/261.

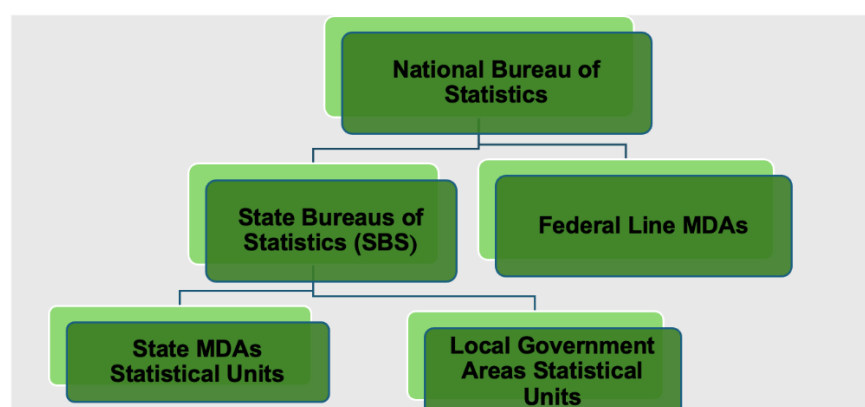
(OSSAP-SDGs) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) serve as the IDC focal points for Nigeria, with the Secretariat situated in the OSSAP-SDGs. In addition, a Technical Working Group on IDC (IDC-TWG) with membership drawn from across relevant ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) was inaugurated on October 13, 2021, with support from Sightsavers. A list of IDC-TWG members is included in Annex I.

#### IV. National Statistical System

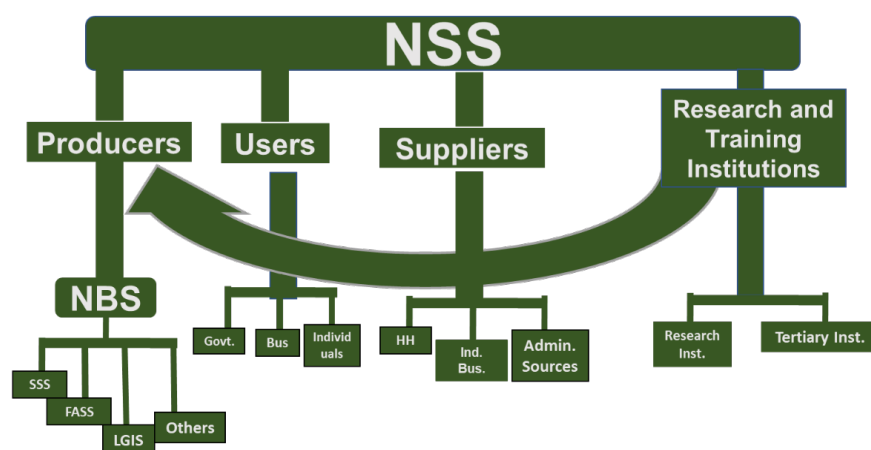
Nigeria's National Statistical System (NNSS) comprises the statistics agencies and line MDAs at both national and subnational levels (state and local government areas). Nigeria practices a decentralized statistical system across the three tiers of government, with the stewardship and coordination vested in the central organization at both national and subnational levels, namely, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and States Bureau of Statistics (SBS). The NBS is Nigeria's statistics hub and therefore provides overall coordination of the NSS.

### Structure of statistical operations in Nigeria

#### A Three-Tier Decentralized System



The four components of the NNSS as contained in the Statistics Act of 2007 include the producers, users, suppliers, and research and training institutions across the country.



Components/Key Players of NSS

## V. Data Inclusiveness and Disaggregation

Inclusiveness of data implies that all population groups are captured and that their experiences are represented without discrimination or bias in line with the SDG principle “leave no one behind.” This is reinforced by the principles of the human rights–based approach (HRBA) to data that include (1) participation of marginalized groups in data collection, planning, and analysis; (2) disaggregating data to compare situations across groups; (3) self-identification of demographic characteristics; (4) transparency in data methodology and usage; (5) privacy protections for personal data; and (6) accountability for proper data application. Adhering to these principles ensures that data gaps are addressed to facilitate effective monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making for all of society.

Data should be disaggregated wherever possible by age, sex, geographic location, disability status, income, ethnicity, migratory status, employment status, and other characteristics relevant to national contexts to accurately describe all population groups.

Persons with disabilities represent 16 percent of the global population, or 1 in every 6 persons.<sup>4</sup> The 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) published by the National Population Commission (NPC) yielded disability-inclusive data based on the Washington Group on Disability Statistics questions.

The survey reported that 92 percent of de facto household members aged 5 or older have no difficulty in any of the functional domains (seeing, hearing, communicating, remembering/concentrating, walking or climbing steps, and washing all over or dressing). However, 7 percent of the population over age 5 have some level of difficulty in at least one domain, while 1 percent either have a lot of difficulty or cannot function at all in at least one domain. One-third of the population aged 60 and older were reported to have some difficulty in at least one domain, while 7 percent had a lot of difficulty in at least one domain. Notably, the survey highlighted that “disability generally rises with increasing age,” with 1 percent of household members below age 40 facing a lot of difficulty or being unable to function at all in at least one domain, as compared with 9 percent of those age 60 and older.

The information collected through the 2018 NDHS is intended to assist policymakers and program managers in evaluating and designing programs and strategies for improving the health of Nigeria’s population. However, some gaps were identified in the data collection approach, as some vulnerable groups—such as persons aged 50 and internally displaced persons—were not adequately captured. These limitations of the NDHS data collection approach align with the HRBA’s emphasis on participation, transparency, and accountability for adequate data disaggregation. HRBA encourages broad stakeholder engagement in data collection and analysis, ensuring data reflects the diversity of lived experiences and serves the needs of all groups. By upholding HRBA principles in future data collection efforts, Nigeria can achieve truly inclusive and representative data that fuels informed decision-making for a more equitable society.

Inclusive data allows for a more comprehensive understanding of a population or phenomenon, leading to more accurate analyses, predictions, and decision-making, aside

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<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization (2023) *Disability*, Fact Sheet, March 7. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>.

from helping to mitigate biases that may be present in datasets that are not representative of the full range of human experiences. It fosters innovation by providing insights into previously overlooked needs and opportunities. It can inspire the development of services that cater to a broader audience and assist in identifying inequalities and disparities more effectively. It provides a more nuanced understanding of social issues and helps in the tailoring of interventions and solutions.

An added benefit is the promotion of engagement among stakeholders, as people are more likely to trust and participate in systems that accurately represent them and their needs. Inclusive data collection and analysis are part of being socially responsible. They demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, which society is placing increasing value on. Data inclusiveness and disaggregation guided by the principles of HRBA will guarantee full representation of all population groups for effective and need-based policy formulation and informed decision-making crucial for fulfilling the SDGs and leaving no one behind.

## **VI. Data Sources for Inclusive Data Charter**

To ensure all population groups are captured in line with the IDC principles, data should be accessible from all relevant sources (official and unofficial) at both national and subnational levels. These efforts include:

- The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities collects data on disability cluster types, geographical spread, and demographics.
- The National Human Rights Commission collects quantitative and qualitative data on human rights.
- The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and its agencies collect data on health indices/indicators.
- The NPC collects demographic and socioeconomic data.
- The National Social Safety-Net Coordinating Office collects data on the poorest of the poor.
- The National Senior Citizens Centre collects comprehensive and disaggregated data on older persons, including senior-led indigenous crafts/skills to revive traditional/local crafts/skills and developed portals for registration of older persons for continuing engagement.
- The Federal Ministry of Education and its agencies collect data on education indicators.
- The Gender-Based Violence Case Information Management System.
- State Bureaus of Statistics produce data at the subnational level.
- The NBS, as the custodian of official statistics for Nigeria, collects socioeconomic data in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

## **VII. Methodology**

In developing this document, quantitative and qualitative approaches were deployed, including the use of an assessment questionnaire, desk review, one-on-one interviews, focus group discussions, meetings with the IDC-TWG, and follow-up visits.



## **VIII. Gaps Analyses**

To assess the disparity between the current state of affairs and the desired state or potential, disaggregating data helps to illuminate important details. In the case of disability cluster types, geographical spread, and demographics, a gap analysis involves examining the existing data and identifying discrepancies or omissions between the current situation and what is desired. Additionally, such an analysis will reveal gaps in accessibility services in certain geographical areas and lead to targeted interventions.

By analyzing the gaps in available data, we can identify specific types of disabilities that are underrepresented or overrepresented in certain areas or communities. This understanding can inform the development of tailored interventions and support services for those disability types. It can reveal disparities in the distribution of disability services and resources across different geographical regions, leading to more equitable distribution of resources. It can shed light on demographic patterns within the disability community, such as age, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Understanding these demographics can help in designing targeted outreach programs, policy initiatives, and support services that are responsive to the specific needs of different demographic groups within the disability community, or to other sectors of most vulnerable persons. Many gaps across various areas hindering the realization of the IDC in Nigeria have been identified in the relevant MDAs and organizations. These include:

- Inadequate data management systems (collection, collation, disaggregation, processing, analysis, dissemination, etc.)
- Inadequate monitoring and evaluation
- Insufficient resource mobilization
- Inadequate human resources
- Poor capacity development in ICT infrastructure and digital literacy
- Poor documentation and reporting
- Staff attrition and poor succession planning
- Inadequate advocacy, communication, and social mobilization
- Unavailability and poor use of ICT
- Lack of political will
- National system for certification of data
- Lack of feedback mechanisms by end users
- Non-engagement of non-state actors in the data collection process

## **IX. Advocacy and Resource Mobilization**

The successful implementation of the Nigeria Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan for 2024–2028 is contingent upon a well-structured and sustainable financing and appropriation plan. As we embark on this crucial journey toward data inclusivity, it is essential to recognize the importance of adequate and consistent funding. Funding ensures that data collection processes are comprehensive and inclusive so as to reach marginalized or underrepresented groups. Many marginalized communities are often left out of traditional data collection efforts

due to barriers such as accessibility, language, and cultural differences. Without adequate funding, data collection methods may perpetuate biases and discrimination.

Inclusive data enables the development of policies and programs that address the needs of all members of society. Adequate funding supports research and analysis efforts to understand the unique challenges faced by different communities, leading to the creation of more effective and inclusive solutions. Adequate funding allows for the establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress toward inclusive goals. This promotes accountability among stakeholders and ensures transparency in decision-making processes. Funding can also be allocated to initiatives aimed at building capacity within communities to collect, analyze, and utilize data effectively. This empowers marginalized groups to participate more actively in shaping their narratives and advocating for their needs.

The IDC Action Plan is designed to address the pressing needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations in Nigeria. These groups are often underrepresented in official data, and this deficiency hampers our ability to make informed decisions, allocate resources effectively, and develop targeted interventions that address their specific needs. To address these challenges, we must prioritize the allocation of financial resources to support the plan's strategic actions and activities. The success of this plan hinges on our collective commitment to ensuring that the necessary funds are not only available but also accessible and utilized efficiently.

The Financing and Appropriation Plan will be structured around some key strategies:

- Resource mobilization: We will employ a multifaceted strategy to secure the necessary funding that will involve collaboration with government agencies, development partners, the organized private sector, and other stakeholders who share our commitment to inclusive data through:
  - i. Advocacy and sensitization to critical stakeholders, donors, and partners to support evidence-based policymaking and interventions. Their financial contributions will play a pivotal role in the successful execution of the IDC Action Plan.
  - ii. Efficient resource utilization: We are committed to ensuring that every single bit of funding allocated to the IDC Action Plan is used efficiently and effectively.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to track the progress of activities and assess the impact of investments.

The financing plan for the Nigerian IDC Action Plan is not merely a budgetary exercise, but also a commitment to ensuring that **no one in Nigeria is left behind**. It is a pledge to secure the necessary financial resources to collect and manage inclusive data that will drive equitable and informed decision-making.

We call upon all stakeholders, both within and outside Nigeria, to join us in this endeavor. Your support and financial commitments are essential to the success of the IDC Action Plan, and we believe that together we can create a more inclusive and data-driven future for our great nation.

### Capacity Development Plan

Capacity development is a transformative process of change, often involving multiple activities to enhance productivity. IDC capacity development must be integrated into program management processes across the MDAs and relevant stakeholders. Beforehand, however, understanding data systems and their gaps in Nigeria requires examining various aspects, including infrastructure, policies, implementation, and socioeconomic factors. Nigeria, like many developing nations, faces significant challenges in harnessing the full potential of data for socioeconomic development. Nigeria has a significant digital divide, with urban areas having better access to digital infrastructure compared to rural regions. This divide limits the reach of data collection and dissemination efforts, affecting the inclusivity of data systems. Inadequate internet connectivity and unreliable power supply hinder data collection, storage, and transmission. This limitation affects both the public and private sectors, hampering efforts to build robust data systems.

Many data systems in the country are incomplete and inconsistent due to factors such as outdated data collection methods, lack of standardization, and inadequate resources for data verification. Data in Nigeria often exists in silos across various government ministries, agencies, and private organizations, leading to duplication of efforts and inefficiencies in data management. Integrating these disparate data sources remains a significant challenge. While there have been some efforts to promote open data initiatives, such as the Open Data Portal launched by the Nigerian government, the availability of high-quality open data remains limited, hampering innovation and research efforts.

Importantly, there is a shortage of professionals with the literacy skills in data analysis, interpretation, and visualization that are essential for leveraging data effectively for decision-making. Building and maintaining robust data systems requires technical expertise in areas such as database management, data security, and software development. Nigeria faces a shortage of such expertise, hindering the development of sophisticated data infrastructure.

Additionally, limited budget allocations for data infrastructure and technology initiatives constrain the development and maintenance of robust data systems in Nigeria. This underinvestment perpetuates the gaps in data quality, availability, and accessibility. The high cost of accessing data, whether from government agencies or private sources, presents a barrier to policymakers and businesses, hampering innovation and decision-making processes that rely on data-driven insights. Aside from these hurdles, there is often low awareness among policymakers and the general public about the importance of data-driven decision-making. Without a strong demand for data, there is less pressure on stakeholders to address gaps in data systems.

Added to these challenges is the political interference that can undermine the integrity and independence of data systems, leading to biased data collection and reporting. This interference erodes trust in data and compromises its utility for evidence-based policymaking. Addressing the gaps requires a multifaceted approach involving investments in infrastructure, policy reforms, capacity-building, and fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making. Collaboration between government, civil society, academia, and the private sector is essential

to overcoming these challenges and unlocking the transformative potential of data for Nigeria's development agenda.

The Capacity Development Plan for the IDC will focus on two interdependent and mutually reinforcing areas for maximum impact on the individual and the organization. It is essential to enhance human and technical capacity to collect, process, analyze, and use disaggregated data. This can be achieved by leveraging modern tools and technologies to streamline the processes for data collection and analysis. It is also crucial to provide adequate and sustainable financing for high-quality disaggregated data collection, collation, analysis, dissemination, and utilization. This is particularly important for marginalized and vulnerable populations to ensure that their experiences and needs are accurately represented and addressed. By improving the capacity to work with disaggregated data, we can make more informed decisions and develop targeted interventions that effectively support these populations and promote greater equity and inclusion.

The following steps are recommended for the capacity development of the IDC across the MDAs and stakeholders:

- i. Engage stakeholders on capacity development.
- ii. Assess capacity assets and needs.
- iii. Formulate, implement, and evaluate capacity development response.
- iv. Create a sustainability plan – integrating CPD for IDC into ongoing program cycles. Sustainable financing. Building internal expertise and ownership.

These efforts entail working with stakeholders in the NSS and IDC to:

- a) Develop individual and organizational/systemic capacity for the promotion of the IDC at all levels.
- b) Develop objectives (short and long term) and targets.
- c) Define appropriate capacity development indicators.
- d) Develop activity budgets.
- e) Identify and implement interventions.
- f) Coordinate with existing strategies and plans.

#### **i. Individual Capacity Development**

Improving capacity for disaggregating data is crucial because it helps practitioners to provide a more detailed view of trends and patterns. By breaking down data into its constituent parts, such as demographics, geography, or time, analysts can uncover nuances and insights that might be masked in aggregated data. Additionally, the ability to target policymakers and decision-makers will be enhanced. For example, understanding which demographic groups are most affected by a certain issue can help tailor programs and policies to address those specific needs.

Modern skills for disaggregating data are essential for ensuring equity and fairness. They allow for the identification of disparities and inequities within a population, enabling targeted efforts to address these disparities and ensure that resources are distributed equitably. Evidence-based decision-making also provides a more comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing a particular outcome. Aside from these benefits, the capacity to disaggregate data will help in monitoring progress and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions. By tracking



outcomes across different groups, system stakeholders can assess whether efforts are making a difference and make adjustments as needed.

Transparency and accountability will be promoted through improved expertise compliant with modern trends, making it possible to track outcomes for different groups within the population. This transparency helps hold institutions and policymakers accountable for their actions and ensures that decision-making processes are more inclusive and responsive to diverse needs. Overall, improving the capacity for disaggregating data is essential for fostering a more accurate, equitable, and effective approach to understanding and addressing the country's complex societal challenges. Successful implementation of the IDC will begin at the individual level, to improve the knowledge and skills of frontline staff and other relevant stakeholders. Individual capacity development approaches include:

- a. **Training:** This could be in-person and/or virtual training to improve personnel knowledge and skills on data management and the IDC.
- b. **Mentorship:** Mentoring will provide intensive, hands-on, personalized guidance and build knowledge and skills in data inclusions and the IDC. By learning from those with expertise and experience, mentees will gain confidence and build personal and professional networks.

## ii. **Organizational Capacity Development**

Organizational capacity development is geared toward strengthening collaborations, organizational processes, knowledge, and behavior to achieve organizational goals. Capacity development is crucial for ensuring the necessary skills and knowledge to efficiently utilize available resources, including data, which leads to improved decision-making processes and better allocation of resources. It should focus on enhancing skills related to data collection, storage, analysis, and interpretation, which lead to better data management practices within an organization, reducing the risk of errors and ensuring data integrity. With the right capacity, staff can effectively analyze and interpret data to make informed decisions. Data-driven decision-making leads to more effective policies and programs.

The field of data generation and utilization is constantly evolving with advancements in technology. Capacity development ensures that staff are equipped to adapt to these changes, whether this means learning new data analysis tools or understanding emerging data privacy regulations. A workforce with strong data-related skills is more likely to innovate and find creative solutions to complex problems. Capacity development fosters a culture of innovation within an organization, driving continuous improvement and adaptation to changing circumstances. Improving data literacy among staff will promote accountability and transparency. When staff members understand how to effectively use data, they can provide evidence-based rationales for their actions and policies, fostering public trust.

Investing in capacity development creates a knowledge base within an organization. Employees trained in data generation and utilization can serve as internal resources, sharing their expertise with colleagues and ensuring continuity even during staff turnover transitions. This training will also help align the organization's strategic goals, ensuring that skills development initiatives support broader objectives such as improving public services, promoting innovation, and achieving regulatory compliance. Capacity-building is essential for public or government organizations to effectively leverage data as a strategic asset. It

empowers employees, enhances decision-making processes, fosters innovation, and ultimately contributes to better governance and service delivery, which ensures sustainability, improves governance, fosters synergy, and strengthens infrastructural development. Organizational capacity development encompasses the following:

- a. **Resource mobilization and management:** This focuses on strategic plans and annual budgeting processes, fundraising techniques, efficient allocation of resources, and fiscal management.
- b. **Hiring and outsourcing of skilled personnel:** This involves staffing and engaging persons with requisite knowledge and skills in the relevant field as necessary.
- c. **Building partnerships and collaborations with relevant organizations/stakeholders:** This helps to minimize duplication, foster synergy, and optimize efficiency in service delivery.
- d. **Investing in ICT capacity:** Embracing evolving ICT innovations will help to drive productivity, combat complacency, and ensure that workers can effectively discharge their duties.

### Nigeria's Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan

The Nigeria IDC Action Plan was developed to ensure the inclusion of all marginalized and vulnerable populations—particularly persons with disabilities, women, older persons, internally displaced persons, and migrants—in all data collection and statistical production processes in the country. This document serves as a blueprint for the relevant MDAs and institutions at both the national and subnational levels to adopt based on their priorities and local context.

Data mining involves extracting valuable insights and knowledge from large datasets. Once various entities have submitted their data, whether from different departments within an organization, external partners, or public sources, there are several steps to follow to effectively mine and utilize that data. All data collection and statistical processes in the country under the IDC Action Plan shall be guided by, but not limited to, the following directives:

- Clearly outline the goals of the data mining project. What specific questions are you trying to answer or what problems are you trying to solve?
- Define the scope of the project, including the types of data to be collected and the timeframe for analysis.
- Collect data from all relevant sources, including databases, spreadsheets, text documents, social media, and sensors.
- Ensure data quality by cleaning and preprocessing the data. This involves removing duplicates, handling missing values, and standardizing formats.
- Integrate data from different sources into a single dataset. This may involve merging datasets, resolving inconsistencies, and ensuring compatibility.
- Perform exploratory data analysis to understand the characteristics of the data. This includes summary statistics, data visualization, and identifying patterns and trends.
- Choose appropriate data mining techniques based on the objectives of the project and the nature of the data. Common techniques include classification, regression, clustering, association rule mining, and anomaly detection.
- Build predictive models or algorithms using the selected data mining techniques. This involves training the models on historical data and evaluating their performance.
- Evaluate the performance of the models using validation techniques such as cross-validation or holdout validation. Ensure that the models generalize well to new data and are robust enough to handle variations and uncertainties.
- Interpret the results of the data mining process to extract actionable insights and knowledge. Identify patterns, trends, correlations, and causal relationships in the data that can inform decision-making.
- Use the insights gained from data mining to inform decisions, optimize processes, improve services, or solve specific problems. Deploy the data mining models or algorithms in operational systems for real-time decision support or automation.
- Continuously monitor the performance of deployed models and algorithms. Iteratively refine and improve the models based on new data, feedback, and changing business requirements.
- Consider ethical and legal implications related to data mining, such as privacy, security, bias, and fairness. Ensure compliance with relevant regulations and

standards, such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, the United States' Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or industry-specific guidelines.

- Document the entire data mining process, including data sources, methods, assumptions, and results. Prepare clear and concise reports or presentations to communicate findings and recommendations to stakeholders.

The Action Plan aims to ensure the improved supply of granular data as well as data harmonization using international best practices that will guarantee effective and efficient data management, including the willingness and capacity to use data in decision- and policymaking, legislation, resource allocation, and interventions.

**Table 1: The IDC Action Plan for Nigeria, 2024–2028**

<b>PRINCIPLE 1: All populations must be included in the data.</b>					
<b>S/N</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>PRIORITY (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
1.1	Strengthen existing systems to ensure that target marginalized and vulnerable persons are included in the data.	Develop indicators and map the target marginalized and vulnerable groups. Develop a national framework and guidelines for data collection that promote inclusiveness, disaggregation, quality, privacy, security, interoperability, accessibility, and openness.	Q4/2023	H	NBS, MDAs, SBS, and other relevant stakeholders
1.2	Undertake monitoring (quarterly) and evaluation (annually) of the implemented activities.	Develop an M&E framework and tools that track implementation progress. Conduct periodic joint M&E. Document and share strategic actions, reports, and lessons learned by relevant stakeholders.	Quarterly/ Annually	H	FMBEP and other relevant stakeholders
1.3	Conduct periodic review meetings.	Hold stakeholders meeting (IDC-TWG and other relevant stakeholders).	Quarterly/ Annually	M	MDAs, SBS, and other relevant stakeholders
<b>PRINCIPLE 2: All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated to accurately describe all populations.</b>					
<b>S/N</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>PRIORITY (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
2.1	Coordinate multi-stakeholder collaboration/ engagement.	Conduct stakeholder mapping. Develop a database/monograph housed in NBS. Produce a fact sheet/ report. Establish a steering committee for the coordination and management of an inclusive data collection system.	Q2/2024 Q2/2024  Periodic Q2/2024	M H  M H	Data collection bodies (NBS, NPC); specialized data management bodies (HIMS, Education, FMHAPA, Disability, and others), SBS
2.2	Engage in advocacy.	Conduct a needs assessment. Develop advocacy framework/tools. Develop an advocacy plan to	Q2/2024	H	NBS, MDAs, SBS, and relevant stakeholders



		engage the media and other entities.			
2.3	Establish data management system.	Assess stakeholders' data maturity levels in line with compliance with data inclusiveness. Review existing data collection tools to include all relevant disaggregation variables (biannually).	Q2/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and other relevant stakeholders
		TWG will develop a standard survey tool for data collection and carry out periodic surveys.	Q1/2025	L	OSSAP-SDGs, NBS, Sightsavers, and IDC-TWG
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: Data should be drawn from all available sources.</b>					
<b>S/N</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>PRIORITY (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
3.1	Foster awareness (at all levels) of inclusiveness in data collection and disaggregation.	Sensitize key stakeholders about inclusive data on the target groups. Disseminate existing documents, protocols, policies, guidelines, etc., that guide data production, use, and sharing. Develop additional documents and disseminate them where necessary. Establish and strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders to enhance the inclusivity of data.	Q2/2024	M	MDAs at national and subnational levels and development partners
3.2	Establish a one-stop data shop within NBS that provides up-to-date data on marginalized and vulnerable persons.	Work with NBS/SBS to strengthen the harmonization of existing management information systems within government institutions to allow for data access and sharing. Provide the PRSD/M&E with human and technological resources. Identify all available sources of data on target groups (mapping). Develop standard tools and indicators for quality control of data to be included in the inventory. Develop a standard timeframe/calendar for accepting and including the data in the inventory.	Q3/2024, continuous	M	NBS/SBS and all relevant MDAs
		Ensure data management compliance guidelines align with IDC principles and establish standard guidelines for certifying data collected.	Q1/2024	H	NBS
3.3	Strengthen the existing coordination mechanism of national data systems to include disaggregated data	Strengthen human capacity, legal frameworks, and ICT infrastructure of NBS/SBS to coordinate the collection and management of data on the target groups.	Q2/2024, continuous	M	NBS/SBS and other relevant stakeholders
		NBS/SBS will provide technical support to the IDC stakeholders on	Q3/2024, continuous	M	NBS/SBS/FMHA PA/NASSCO

	on the target groups.	the registration of marginalized and vulnerable persons.			
		Verify and categorize marginalized and vulnerable persons.	Q2/2024	H	NPC, NBS, and other relevant MDAs
		Harmonize the data collection tools from various institutions and MDAs.	Q2/2024	H	NBS/SBS and other relevant stakeholders
3.4	Undertake quarterly monitoring and annual evaluation of the implemented activities.	Develop an M&E framework and tool that tracks progress against the implementation.	Q4/2024, continuous	H	MDAs, FMBEP, and relevant stakeholders
		Document strategic actions and the lessons learned by various stakeholders.	Q4/2024, continuous	M	MDAs and relevant stakeholders
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable.</b>					
S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	PRIORITY (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)	RESPONSIBILITY
4.1	Collaborate with key stakeholders to encourage the use of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other global standards during collection and management of data on marginalized and vulnerable persons.	Adopt accountability protocols and mechanisms within the roles and performance.	Q1/2024, continuous	H	NBS, national and state MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Convene a national summit on marginalized and vulnerable persons to bring IDC stakeholders together.	Q3/2024	H	NBS, SBS, OSSAP-SDGs, IDC-TWG, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Work with the NBS, OSSAP-SDGs, and National Data Protection Agency to come up with methods to ethically collect and protect data on marginalized and vulnerable persons.	Q2/2024, continuous	H	NBS, SBS, OSSAP-SDGs, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Work with the ICT unit in NBS to ensure that data on marginalized and vulnerable persons, once published online, is safe and secure.	Q2/2024, continuous	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Establish a disability and other vulnerable groups data inventory where citizens and other parties can access data (linked to principle 3).	Q3/2024	M	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Establish annual events across the country during the World UN Day for Persons with Disabilities (December 3) and other relevant celebration events in various MDAs.	Q4/2024, continuous	M	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders

4.2	Undertake monitoring and evaluation (quarterly) of the implemented activities.	Develop an M&E framework and tool that tracks progress of the implemented activities.	Q2/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Conduct quarterly M&E.	Q2/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Document strategic actions and the lessons learned by various stakeholders.	Q2/2024, continuous	M	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
<b>PRINCIPLE 5: Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing.</b>					
S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	PRIORITY (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW)	RESPONSIBILITY
5.1	Identify and address the gaps in human resource and technical capacity for inclusive data.	Identify and appoint inclusive data focal points (champions) in MDAs, the private sector, and implementing partners.	Q1/2024	M	NBS, Director PRS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Conduct capacity assessment for IDC Champions in the MDAs.	Q1/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Establish a coordination secretariat for all focal points.	Q1/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Acquire the necessary equipment for the officers.	Q2/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Train focal points (champions), program officers, and other relevant stakeholders on identified capacity gaps on inclusive data collection and analysis methodologies, etc.	Q3/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
5.2	Implementation of the Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan	Develop a resource mobilization strategy for the priorities in the action plan.	Q2/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Convene resource mobilization meetings with stakeholders to share the action plan and the resource gaps.	Q2/2024, continuous	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Mainstream the IDC into the MDA budget and resource mobilization and prioritization for comprehensive data management.	Q2/2024	H	NBS, SBS, MDAs, and relevant stakeholders
		Develop and implement the resource mobilization advocacy plan.	Q2/2024	M	

## Data Governance and Interoperability of Information Systems

Nigeria, like many countries, is increasingly recognizing the importance of data governance and interoperability of information systems in driving efficient public service delivery, promoting transparency, and fostering economic growth, as evidenced by the following efforts:

- **Policy frameworks:** Nigeria has been developing policy frameworks to guide data governance and interoperability initiatives. For instance, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has developed the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation to safeguard personal data and promote trust in the digital economy.
- **Regulatory bodies:** Regulatory bodies such as NITDA oversee the implementation of data governance policies and ensure compliance with regulations. They guide organizations on best practices for data management and interoperability.
- **Interoperability standards:** Nigeria promotes the adoption of interoperability standards to facilitate seamless data exchange between different information systems. These standards help ensure that data can be shared and used effectively across various platforms and organizations.
- **Capacity-building:** The Nigerian government invests in capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills of professionals in data governance and interoperability. This includes training programs, workshops, and partnerships with educational institutions and industry experts.
- **Public-private partnerships:** Collaboration between the public and private sectors is encouraged to drive innovation and implement interoperable information systems. Public-private partnerships can leverage the expertise and resources of both sectors to develop sustainable solutions.
- **Data infrastructure development:** Nigeria is investing in the development of data infrastructure, including data centers, networks, and platforms, to support the efficient storage, processing, and sharing of data. This infrastructure forms the backbone of interoperable information systems.
- **Awareness campaigns:** The government conducts awareness campaigns to educate citizens and organizations about the importance of data governance and interoperability. This includes raising awareness about data privacy rights, security best practices, and the benefits of interoperable systems.

The country is making strides in supporting data governance and interoperability to harness the potential of data-driven innovation and improve public service delivery. However, challenges such as limited resources, capacity constraints, and cybersecurity threats remain, requiring continued efforts and investment in this area.

To ensure good data governance, Nigeria has been taking steps through the implementation of laws and regulations like the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation enacted in 2019. This regulation sets out the framework for the protection of personal data and regulates its processing within Nigeria. It mandates that data controllers and processors comply with certain principles and requirements when handling personal data. The recent passage of cybersecurity laws and regulations, such as the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act of 2015, are also aimed at enhancing cybersecurity. These laws help in safeguarding data from cyber threats and breaches.

Added to these efforts are sector-specific regulations governing data in industries such as banking, telecommunications, health care, and e-commerce. These regulations address

specific data governance challenges and requirements within each sector. Further, the Nigerian government has issued policies and directives to promote data governance. For example, NITDA sets out guidelines and directives to ensure compliance with data protection regulations. The country also collaborates with international bodies and organizations to strengthen data governance. For instance, Nigeria is a member of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (known as the Malabo Convention), which aims to harmonize data protection laws across Africa.

Furthermore, Nigeria organizes capacity-building programs and awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders about data governance laws and best practices. This helps to foster a culture of compliance and accountability regarding data handling. The country is increasingly focusing on enforcing data governance laws through penalties and sanctions for noncompliance, to encourage organizations to prioritize data protection and governance. By leveraging these legal frameworks and mechanisms, Nigeria aims to enhance data governance, protect individuals' privacy rights, and foster trust in the digital economy. However, continuous monitoring, enforcement, and periodic updates to these laws are essential to adapt to evolving technology and data governance challenges.

United Nations agencies can support Nigeria's NBS in various ways to increase the disaggregation of data for policymakers and development:

- **Capacity-building:** UN agencies can provide technical assistance and training programs to strengthen the capacity of NBS staff in data collection, analysis, and disaggregation techniques. This could include workshops, seminars, and on-the-job training sessions.
- **Resource provision:** UN agencies can provide financial resources, equipment, and technological support to NBS to improve data collection methods and enhance the capacity for data disaggregation.
- **Methodological guidance:** UN agencies can offer guidance on best practices for data disaggregation, including methodologies for collecting, processing, and analyzing disaggregated data. This can help NBS to adopt internationally recognized standards and ensure the quality and reliability of the data.
- **Data sharing and collaboration:** UN agencies can facilitate partnerships and collaborations between NBS and other national and international agencies involved in data collection and analysis. This can help NBS access additional data sources and expertise to improve disaggregation efforts.
- **Advocacy and awareness:** UN agencies can raise awareness among policymakers and other stakeholders about the importance of disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking and development planning. This can help generate political support and resources for NBS to prioritize disaggregation efforts.
- **Technical support:** UN agencies can provide ongoing technical support to NBS in areas such as data management, data visualization, and the use of advanced analytical tools for disaggregated data analysis.
- **Capacity development for data users:** UN agencies can support capacity development efforts for data users, including policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations, to enhance their ability to utilize disaggregated data effectively in decision-making and advocacy.

### I. Challenges

Development and implementation of the IDC Action Plan require multi-stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and resources. Disaggregating data for effective use in development efforts involves breaking it down into smaller, more specific categories to reveal patterns and trends that might otherwise remain hidden. To tackle some of the challenges associated with this process, it is important to identify the specific requirements and goals of stakeholders who will be using the disaggregated data. The disaggregation process can then be tailored to meet these needs, ensuring that the data is relevant and actionable. It is also essential to standardize data collection methods and formats to ensure consistency across different sources. This facilitates the aggregation of data from various sources and simplifies the disaggregation process, in addition to ensuring quality by implementing measures to verify the accuracy, completeness, and consistency of the data at the point of collection and throughout the data processing pipeline.

There is also the need to invest in appropriate technology and infrastructure to support data disaggregation efforts, possibly including data management systems, analytical tools, and IT infrastructure capable of handling large volumes of data. Providing training and capacity-building initiatives for personnel involved in data collection, management, and analysis is similarly vital to ensuring that they have the necessary skills to effectively disaggregate and interpret the data. In addition, it is important to encourage collaboration and data sharing among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and research institutions. This can help fill data gaps and improve the overall quality and coverage of disaggregated data. Implementing data governance policies to address privacy and ethical concerns related to disaggregated data will ensure compliance with relevant regulations and standards to protect the confidentiality and security of sensitive data. Specifically, the following have been identified as factors/risks that may affect the implementation of the plan. Some of these challenges were already encountered in the Action Plan development process.

#### i. Governance and coordination

- a. Complex governance structures that complicate decision-making processes.
- b. Overlaps/duplication of roles of MDAs at national and subnational levels.
- c. Lack of clear coordination mechanisms across multiple stakeholders at all levels, within government and with partners/stakeholders.
- d. Inadequate engagement and information sharing with the organizations at subnational levels.

#### ii. Political and cultural

- a. Low political will and government commitment/support across all levels.
- b. Poor culture of documentation and record keeping.
- c. Poor awareness of the need for granular data on marginalized and vulnerable groups.



- d. Inefficient administrative processes that create bureaucratic bottlenecks.
- e. Inadequate intersectoral collaboration.

### **iii. Capacity and resources**

- a. Improper placement of professionals in Planning, Research and Statistics departments across the MDAs.
- b. Inadequate capacity/career development and succession plan.
- c. Lack/non-usage of modern ICT infrastructure in some MDAs.
- d. Staff attrition.

### **iv. Funding and financial appropriation**

- a. Inadequate budgetary allocation and release.
- b. Poor implementation of budgetary allocation and release.

## **II. Recommendations**

To overcome/mitigate the challenges and ensure successful implementation of the IDC Action Plan, the following have been recommended:

### **i. Strengthen governance and coordination.**

- a. Streamline governance structures and clarify roles and responsibilities of MDAs and partners at different levels to avoid duplication and inefficiency.
- b. Strengthen the coordination mechanism with a dedicated platform to facilitate communication, collaboration, and resource sharing among stakeholders. Also, establish the needed linkages with related data initiatives in the country.
- c. Members of the IDC-TWG serve as focal persons in their respective MDAs (recommendation from Planning, Research and Statistics Department).
- d. Ensure effective coordination and collaboration among stakeholders within the NSS.
- e. Ensure strategies and action plans involve subnational actors in all relevant issues.

### **ii. Enhance advocacy and awareness.**

- a. Significantly invest in IDC advocacy and sensitization of relevant stakeholders.
- b. Advocate for improved and sustained political will and government commitment/support for evidence-based decision- and policymaking and interventions.
- c. Promote political commitment through consistent engagement with decision-makers at all levels to build support for evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation.
- d. Actively improve data literacy.

### **iii. Strengthen targeted and sustainable capacity.**

- a. Ensure proper placement of qualified professionals to ensure a functional PRSD in all MDAs at the national and subnational levels.
- b. Ensure that the staff of government ministries, MDAs, and partners have the support and capacity to generate the statistical data needed for development.

- c. Promote and ensure proper documentation and reporting using modern ICT infrastructure and tools.
- d. Provide capacity and career development programs and effective succession plans across MDAs at the national and subnational levels.
- e. Ensure availability of granular data for equity, inclusion, and improved access.
- f. Ensure effective and efficient management of data from both official and unofficial sources consistent with internationally accepted statistical standards.

**iv. Streamline processes and ensure effective M&E.**

- a. Ensure adequate supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of all programs.
- b. Promote data transparency and accountability.
- c. Reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks by simplifying administrative procedures to expedite data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- d. Strengthen intersectoral collaboration. Foster partnerships and information exchange between different sectors to improve data integration and use.
- e. Develop an effective M&E system to guarantee quality assurance.

**v. Strengthen and foster sustainability of funding.**

- a. Increase budgetary allocation and release.
- b. Ensure proper utilization of budgetary allocation and releases.
- c. Actively solicit more support from donors and partners.

### **III. Conclusion**

The adoption of the Inclusive Data Charter by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria represents a pivotal step toward fulfilling the golden principle and commitment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: leave no one behind. This principle demands timely, comprehensive, granular, and disaggregated data from both official and nonofficial sources. This IDC Action Plan will inspire more political commitment and support for data-driven policies, planning, legislation, decisions, resource allocation, and interventions to maximize outcomes for the marginalized, vulnerable, and poorest populations in Nigeria.

The public sector reforms at both national and subnational levels that have resulted in the establishment of the myriad agencies that make up the NSS and the need to engage multiple stakeholders underscore the importance of effective coordination, collaboration, and advocacy in the IDC landscape. The PRSDs in MDAs at the national and subnational levels should be repositioned to effectively carry out their mandate and strengthen the NSS.

The OSSAP-SDGs and NBS, with the sturdy support of Sightsavers and other partners, have signed on to the principles of the IDC and driven its adoption in Nigeria. The successful implementation of this Action Plan requires effective and efficient management of resources, advocacy, data availability, capacity development and utilization, and intersectoral collaboration. Creating an effective Action Plan for disaggregating data requires a multifaceted approach and a commitment to several key values, including strong leadership, which will drive the implementation of the Action Plan. Leaders must champion the importance of disaggregated data and ensure that it remains a priority across all relevant sectors.

Allocating resources effectively is crucial for the success of the Action Plan, as it involves not only financial resources but also human capital and technology, toward efficient use of

resources to ensure that data disaggregation efforts are sustainable in the long term. Also important are ongoing advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the importance of disaggregated data and to garner support from stakeholders at all levels. This includes advocacy with policymakers, community leaders, and the general public. Access to high-quality disaggregated data is essential for informing decision-making and monitoring progress toward goals. Efforts must be made to improve data collection methods, ensure data quality, and make data readily available to relevant stakeholders.

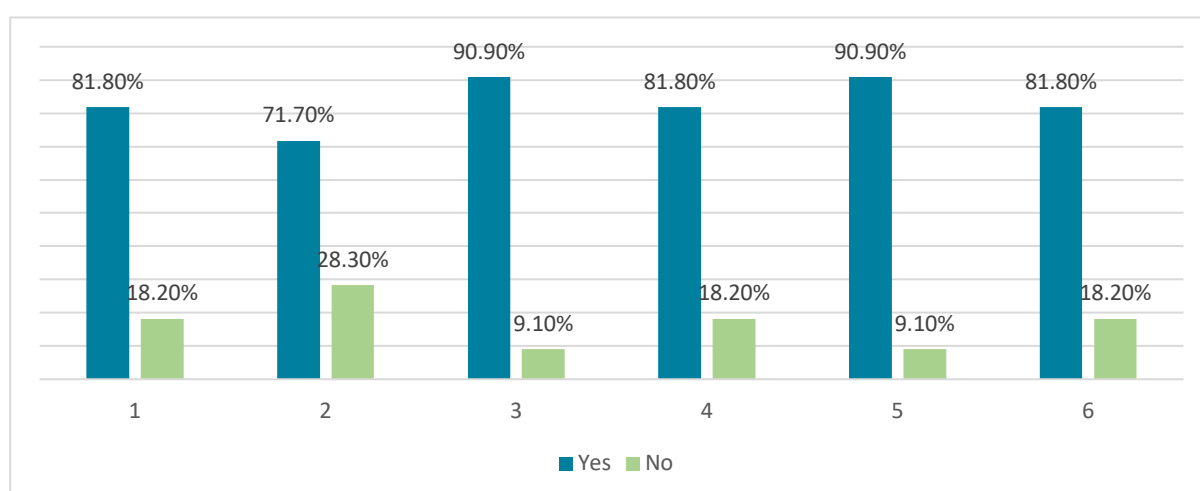
Added to this is the need to build capacity at all levels to ensure that stakeholders have the knowledge and skills necessary to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data effectively. This effort includes training programs, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Strong intersectoral collaboration is also important across sectors for addressing the complex challenges associated with data disaggregation. This includes collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, academia, and the private sector. By working together, stakeholders can leverage their respective expertise and resources to achieve common goals. By prioritizing these principles and incorporating them into the Action Plan, stakeholders can lay the foundation for more inclusive and evidence-based decision-making processes.

### Annex 1: Members of the Core IDC-TWG

S/N	MDAs/Organizations
1	Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals
2	National Bureau of Statistics
3	Sightsavers
4	Federal Ministry of Education
5	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
6	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
7	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
8	Federal Ministry of Labor and Employment
9	National Commission for Persons with Disabilities

### Annex 2: Gap Analysis

An IDC questionnaire was administered to 11 organizations. The questions were grouped into 5 IDC principles. A “yes” represents a positive response to the question, while a “no” represents otherwise, for both quantitative and qualitative responses.



#### ***PRINCIPLE 1: All populations must be included in the data.***

The chart above reflects the responses from the MDAs that participated on the first IDC principle, which summarizes their plans to make their services available and accessible to the poorest, vulnerable, and most marginalized populations. It also shows that a good proportion of MDAs have employment policies that encourage workforce diversity to cover the poorest, vulnerable, and most marginalized. See the questionnaire below:

**1. Does your Organization have a Working Group or similar mechanism or/and hold regular dialogue with Organizations of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations, including Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)/persons with disabilities, the poor, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including, women, the older persons, adolescents, youth, and children, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, refugees,**

*migrants, and minorities who experience the highest degree of socio-economic marginalization?*

From above, it shows that using principle 1, 81.8% of the respondents answered 'Yes' to having Working Group or similar mechanism. While 18.2% didn't have.

**2.** *Is there a clear term of reference or TOR/job description or JD for the working group or mechanism?*

71.7% of the respondents answered 'Yes' to having clear term of reference or TOR/job description or JD for the working group or mechanism. 27.3% didn't have.

**3.** *Does your organization plan to make services available and accessible to the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs, during emergencies, disasters, pandemics?*

90.9% of the respondents answered reported that they have the plan to make services available and accessible to the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations. 9.1% did not.

**4.** *How does your organization confirm that such services are duly accessed by the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/Persons with Disabilities?*

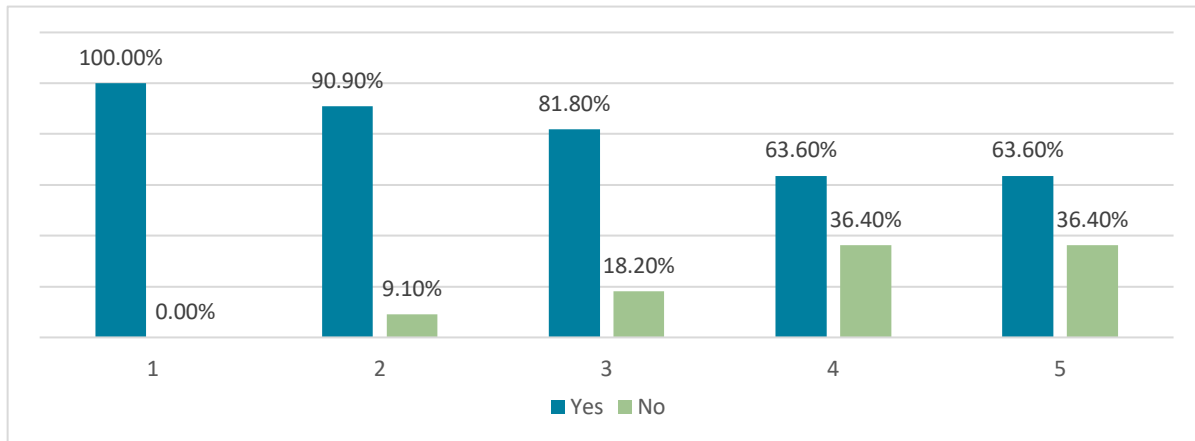
*81.8% of the respondents declared that such services they provide, are duly accessed by the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations. 18.2% didn't.*

**5.** *Does your organization have an employment policy that encourages workforce diversity to cover the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

90.9% reported having employment policy that encourages workforce diversity to cover the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized. 9.1% didn't.

**6.** *Does your organization publicly display a statement of its commitment to encouraging and implementing workforce diversity? Statement may read: "(Organization) is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, people living with HIV are particularly encouraged to apply."*

81.8% of the organizations reported publicly displaying a statement of their commitment to encouraging and implementing workforce diversity whereas 18.2% did not.



***PRINCIPLE 2: All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations.***

The chart above shows that more effort is needed to disaggregate data among agencies responsible for gathering it. All reporting organizations collect and collate data for and/or in their activities, but only a fraction of these organizations disaggregate their data and explain how these data are disaggregated.

***7. Does your organization collect data for and/or in its activities?***

100% of the organizations reported that they collect data for and/or in their activities.

***8. Has your organization clearly defined DI in its data collection activities?***

90.9% of the organizations reported that they have clearly defined DI in its data collection activities. 9.1% stated that they do not.

***9. Are all your data usually disaggregated***

81.8% of the organizations reported that all their data are usually disaggregated. 18.2% stated that they do not usually disaggregate their data.

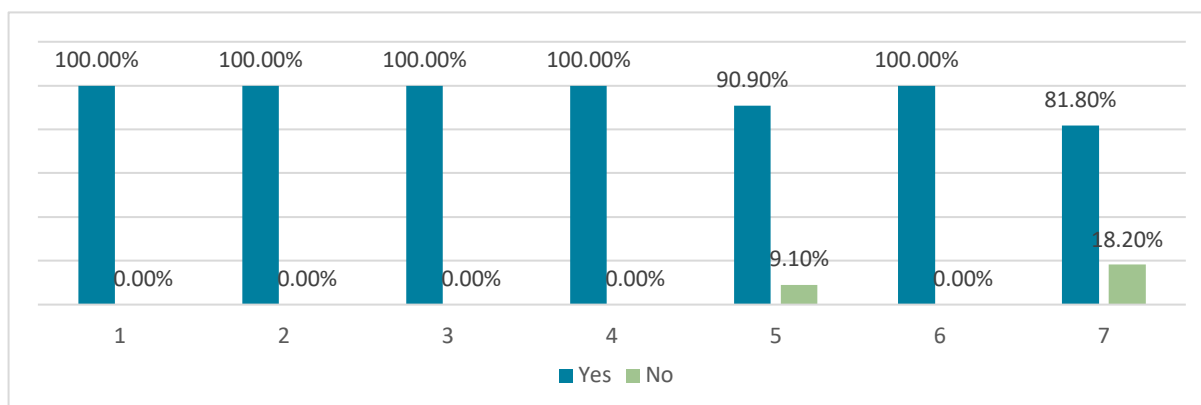
***10. What datasets does your organization hold/collect? Please list them***

63.6% of the organizations confirmed that they hold/collect datasets. 36.4% stated that they do not.

***11. How is the data disaggregated? Please explain in details***

63.6% of the organizations confirmed that they disaggregate their data. 36.4% didn't.





**PRINCIPLE 3: Data should be drawn from all available sources.**

The chart above shows that all the interviewed organizations confirmed having strategic plans, supporting easy access, making cases when discussing activities/interventions with other organizations, and always including issues concerning the poorest, vulnerable, and most marginalized populations.

**12. Do you have any available strategic plan or plans?**

100% of the organizations confirmed having available strategic plans.

**13. Are issues concerning the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/Persons With Disabilities always included in your organization's SPs?**

100% of the organizations confirmed that they always included issues concerning the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/Persons With Disabilities in their strategic plans.

**14. Are The poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/Persons With Disabilities involved in the development of your organization's SP or SPs?**

100% of the organizations confirmed that the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/Persons With Disabilities were involved in the development of their strategic plans.

**15. Does your organization support easy accessibility of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations, including OPDs/PWDs, to your events, facilities and other public premises?"**

100% of the organizations support easy accessibility of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations, including OPDs/PWDs, to their events, facilities and other public premises.

**16. Does your organization consider the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs in your procurement of venues/equipment/services?**

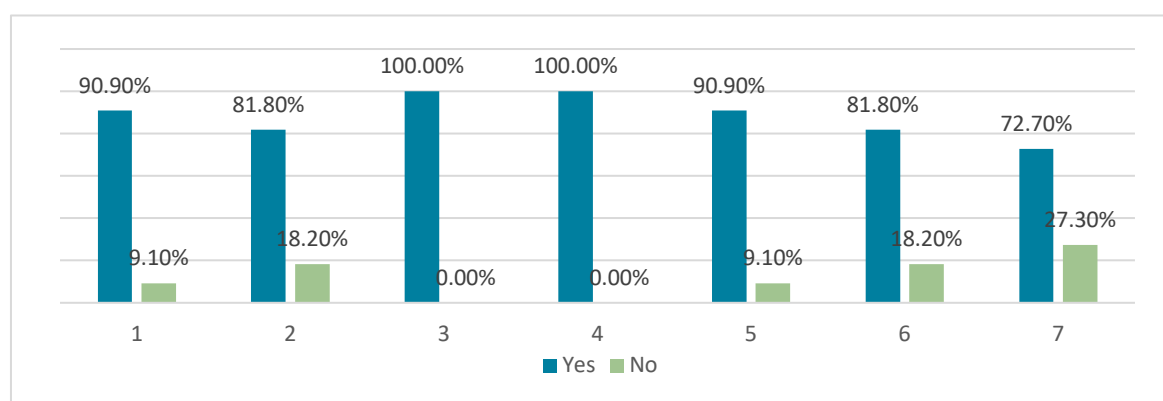
90.9% of the organizations consider the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs in their procurement of venues/equipment/services. 9.1% didn't.

**17. Does your organization make the case for the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/Persons With Disabilities when discussing activities/interventions with other organizations?**

100% of the organizations make the case for the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs when discussing activities/interventions with other organizations.

**18. Is disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations or DI always mainstreamed into programmes/policies/projects/plans your organization jointly undertakes with other organizations?**

81.8% of the organizations always mainstreamed disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations or DI into their programmes/policies/projects/plans they jointly undertake with other organizations. 18.2% didn't.



**PRINCIPLE 4: Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable.**

The chart above shows that a good number of the surveyed organizations produce periodic reports of their activities; acknowledge that they have a responsibility to persons with disabilities; encounter challenges in trying to ensure that the poorest, vulnerable, and most marginalized populations are included in their data; and have established/documented coordination mechanisms with the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations, including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs)/persons with disabilities.

**19. Does your organization produce periodic reports of its activities?**

90.9% of the organizations produce periodic reports of its activities. 9.1% does not.

**20. Does your organization have any responsibility to Persons with Disability?**

81.8% of the organizations acknowledged they have any responsibility to persons with disability. 18.2% did not.

**21. Does your organization work with Organizations of People with Disabilities or OPD?**

100% of the organizations work with Organizations of People with Disabilities or OPD.

**22. Are PWDs included in the people you serve/support/work with?**

100% of the organizations include PWDs in the people you serve/support/work with.

**23.** *Does your organization have an established/documented coordination mechanism with the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

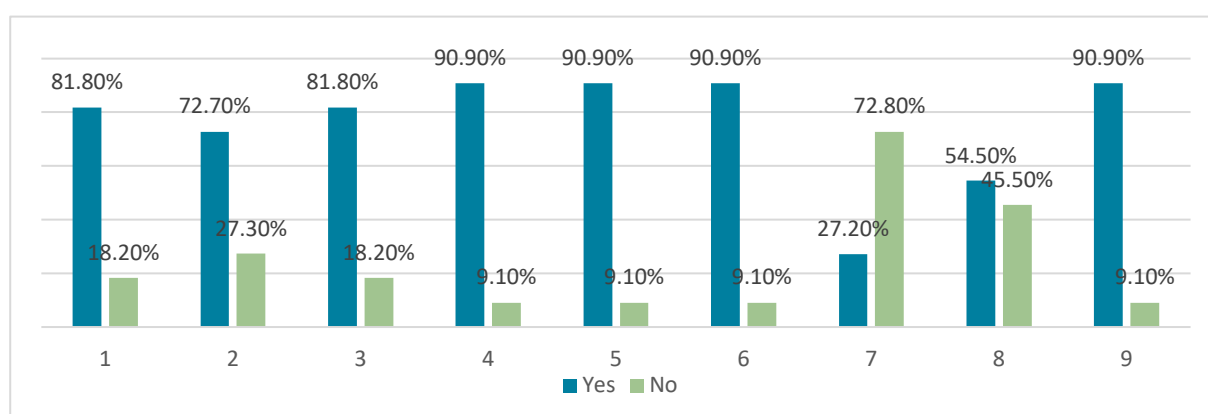
90.9% of the organizations have established/documented coordination mechanisms with the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs. 9.1% do not.

**24.** *Did your organization commemorate the International Day on Disability last year?*

81.8% of the organizations reported commemorating the International Day on Disability last year. 18.2% do not.

**25.** *Do your organization encounter challenges in trying to ensure that the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs are included in your data?*

72.7% of the organizations reported encountering challenges in trying to ensure that the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs are included in their data. 23.3% did not.



***PRINCIPLE 5: Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing.***

The chart above indicates that a significant number of the organizations reported providing technical training to their M&E staff and partners on data/indicators to measure disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations or DI; these organizations also reported that their data staff are exposed to training(s) (including online) on collecting data for the inclusion of the poorest, vulnerable, and most marginalized populations, including OPDs/persons with disabilities, including advocacy, communication, and social mobilization activities around DI in annual work plans and activities for the benefit of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/persons with disabilities; and documented the valuable contributions of the poorest, vulnerable, and most marginalized populations, including OPDs/persons with disabilities and the importance of supporting DI.

**26.** *Does your organization monitor and or evaluate data to measure disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations in your activities?*

81.8% of the organizations reported that they monitor and or evaluate data to measure disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations in your activities. 18.2% did not.

**27.** *Does your organization engage professional evaluators for its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) interventions?*

72.7.8% of the organizations reported engaging professional evaluators for their M&E interventions. 27.3% did not.

**28.** *Does your organization provide/include 'training/orientation on DI' for its staff and partners about the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

90.9% of the organizations reported providing technical training to their M&E staff and partners on data/indicators to measure disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations or DI. 9.1% did not.

**29.** *Does your organization provide technical training to its M&E staff and partners on data/indicators to measure disaggregated data for the marginalized and vulnerable populations or DI?*

81.8% of the organizations reported that they provide/include 'training/orientation on DI' for its staff and partners about the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs. 18.2% did not.

**30.** *Are your organization data staff exposed to any training (including online) on collecting data for the Inclusion of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

90.9% of the organizations reported that their data staff exposed to any training (including online) on collecting data for the Inclusion of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs. 9.1% did not.

**31.** *Does your organization include ACSM activities around DI in its annual work plans and activities for the benefit of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

90.9% of the organizations reported including include ACSM activities around DI in its annual work plans and activities for the benefit of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs. 9.1% did not.

**32.** *When last did your organization participate/launch media activities to advance of the International Day on Disability and or advocate for the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

27.2% of the organizations reported having previously participated/launched media activities to advance of the International Day on Disability and or advocate for the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs. 72.8% had not.

**33.** *Has your organization organized any training workshop for journalists, media persons and or civil society organizations who focus on disability issues, and or the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs?*

54.5% of the organizations reported having organized any training workshop for journalists, media persons and or civil society organizations who focus on disability issues, and or the

poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs. 45.5% had not.

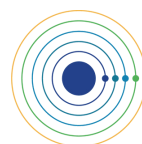
**34.** *Does your organization document the valuable contributions of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs and the importance of supporting DI?*

90.9% of the organizations documented the valuable contributions of the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized populations including OPDs/PWDs and the importance of supporting DI. 9.1% did not.

NIGERIA

# INCLUSIVE DATA CHARTER ACTION PLAN

2024 - 2028



**INCLUSIVE**  
DATA CHARTER