Concept

Citizen-generated data (CGD), such as community-driven data, are flourishing globally, encouraging the participation of citizens, civil society and community-based organisations in the generation of monitoring data. CGD is a great channel for data collectors and governments to engage and connect directly with citizens, which further helps to improve transparency and accountability of government. Moreover, CGD has a potential to fill knowledge gaps in national SDG monitoring and review, particularly regarding insufficient information on marginalised groups.

Over the last few years, an increased interest to explore the potential of CGD can be perceived within the international statistical community. However, concerns over the lack of quality standards have created barriers for the extensive use of CGD for statistical and policy making purposes. To date, in most countries around the globe there are no binding guidelines for the generation and use of CGD. Some notable case studies are available, for example in the Philippines and Kenya where a first practical guide for CGD has been established in both countries respectively. These are promising developments – yet these examples remain an exception and not widely adopted.

Over the years, the Leave No One Behind partnership has been advocating for an increased use of CGD to allow for a more inclusive SDG and public planning process. The partnership has established national coalitions in seven countries of which four are located in the region: Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Viet Nam. Members are first and foremost national and local NGOs, who have been producing a wealth of citizen-driven SDG monitoring data over the last couple of years. This evidence was used to produce policy recommendations for decision makers and public service providers at the national and local levels. The national partnerships have been in close collaboration with relevant state institutions. For example in Nepal, the Central Bureau of Statistics is currently working together with national civil society organisations on a toolkit for the use of CGD in policy planning. This national toolkit will be linked to the Quality Assurance Toolkit for citizen-generated data producers that the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is currently producing.

The potentials to use CGD in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region are manifold, representing a great opportunity to improve regional SDG monitoring and review, while at the same time helping to increase accountability and good governance. What is lacking mostly is the availability of official guidelines that would help both civil society and governments to optimally benefit from CGD.

This ESCAP expert dialogue aims to discuss possible ways forward towards establishing a closer data collaboration between governments and civil society in the region. We invite you to join our webinar in which we will present some of the ongoing CGD work of UN ESCAP, UNSD, and of the LNOB civil society coalitions in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Viet Nam. We will also receive inputs from a government and a national statistics office on their perspectives of CGD.
Agenda

Moderators:
Peter Koblowsky, Senior Partnership Manager, International Civil Society Centre

- Welcome remarks:
  Rachael Beaven, Director, Statistics Division, UN ESCAP
  Peter Koblowsky, International Civil Society Centre
  Haoyi Chen, Coordinator, IS Working Group on Household Surveys, United Nations Statistics Division

- CGD implementation experiences in Asia and the Pacific: Joint presentation of the LNOB coalitions in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Vietnam.
  Shikha Shrestha, Head of Programmes, VSO Nepal
  Linh Phuong Nguyen, Executive Director, Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD)

- NSO’s perspective on working with CGD:
  Ram Hari Gaihre, Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal

- Government’s perspective on the use of CGD for policy making:
  Nguyen Thanh Nga, Focal Point for SDG report and VNR, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)

- Discussion and opinion poll with audience: your perspective on working with CGD

- Conclusion and wrap-up

This event is co-sponsored by:
### Moderation

**Peter Koblowsky**  
Senior Partnership Manager, International Civil Society Centre  

Peter Koblowsky is an experienced manager, strategist and facilitator of multi-stakeholder processes in the international NGO and development sector. In his career, he devised and led various strategic collaboration programmes for international NGOs, think tanks and other actors from across the sectors. Since 2017, he is the global coordinator of the Leave No One Behind Partnership, a coalition of nearly 100 international and national NGOs that aims to give voice and agency to marginalised groups, using a data-driven advocacy approach. He holds a M.A. in Political Science from Bonn University.

### Welcome Remarks

**Rachael Beaven**  
Director, Statistics Division, UN ESCAP  

Ms. Beaven has over thirty years of experience in govt statistics, in particular data preparation and analysis. She has also worked extensively with governments, multilateral agencies and the statistical community, most notably through the United Nations Statistics Division, ECA, ESCAP, World Bank and Paris21.  

She has provided a wide range of technical support, from improving economic and financial statistics to estimating local population using geospatial data. She is one of the founders of the Inclusive Data Charter, launched at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum, to mobilize political commitments and to advance inclusive and disaggregated data. Ms. Beaven also led a programme on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals with United Nations Statistics Division and established a data science hub with the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom to explore use of data science, in particular geospatial as well as big data, to monitor progress. She holds Master’s degrees in Statistical Applications in Business and Government as well as Business Administration, and a Bachelor’s degree in Geography and Geology.

**Haoyi Chen**  
Coordinator, IS Working Group on Household Surveys, United Nations Statistics Division  

Haoyi Chen is the Coordinator of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. Before she joined the current position in September 2019, she led the programme on international migration statistics at the UN Statistics Division. She has also worked on various statistical areas including gender statistics, population censuses, civil registration and vital statistics. She holds a Ph.D degree in Statistics from the University of Florida.
## Civil society input on CGD use

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<tr>
<td>Shikha Shrestha</td>
<td>Head of Programmes, VSO Nepal</td>
<td>Shikha Shrestha has professional experiences centred on gender equality and social inclusion promotion, strengthening social accountability and good governance. It perfectly aligns with her current responsibility in VSO Nepal as Head of Programmes – Inclusive Governance. She has been engaged in development sector since 1998 based in different parts of Nepal and coordinated regional initiatives of promoting knowledge management with strategic use of Information and Communication Technology. She has been actively engaged in supporting citizen driven data based social accountability and systematizing efforts of social norms transformation for promoting gender equality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linh Phuong Nguyen</td>
<td>Executive Director, Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD)</td>
<td>Linh Phuong Nguyen is the Executive Director of the Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) - United Way Vietnam. With MSD, Ms. Linh created the ODIC (Organization Development Methodology of Inspiring Culture) to build the capacity for local organizations and provided capacity building programs to hundreds of CSOs and business in Vietnam, and has coached more than 100 local organizations to achieve good governance, better practice of achieving SDGs, corporate social responsibility, transparency and accountability, resource mobilization and build the model of child-friendly organisations. She has also written and published numerous guidebooks and research papers related to CSO and Business Sustainability in Vietnam and Child rights education, Digital citizens and Digital Parenting skills, Young Voices in Vietnam, etc. Ms. Linh holds MA degree major in Strategic Management of London Metropolitan Business School (UK Queen Scholarship for International Student House).</td>
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## NSO perspective on working with CGD

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<tr>
<td>Ram Hari Gaihre</td>
<td>Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal</td>
<td>Ram Hari Gaihre is a Senior Statistician at the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal. He started his career as a government statistician in 1996. Earlier e worked as a resource person at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand for capacity building training on poverty mapping (SAE) for statisticians at ASEAN NSOs. He worked as a survey design expert in UNESCO office in Kabul, Afghanistan. He led identification of poor households in Nepal using proxy means testing (PMT). He holds M.Sc. in Statistics from Tribhuvan University, Nepal (1993) and M.A. in Economics from the University of Tsukuba, Japan (2013).</td>
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Govt perspective on the use of CGD for policy making

Nguyen Thanh Nga  
Focal Point for SDG report and VNR, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)