

Mongolia: Data governance profile

1. Vision and policy intent

The objective of the [National Statistics Office](#) (NSO) is to serve both public and private users with reliable and accurate economic, social, and population statistics.

As the primary state organization authorized to collect data from all enterprises and households at the national level, the NSO bears the responsibility of delivering reliable and validated data and statistics.

With the increasing capacity to store and process vast amounts of data, coupled with the expanding data supply and growing demand, the NSO is collaborating with the Ministry of Digital Development and Communication to develop national data policy and strategy of Mongolia. This objective aligns with the Digital Mongolia goal outlined in Vision 2050, Mongolia's long-term development policy. It aims to create an integrated digital database and infrastructure, promote digital governance and a digital economy, and establish an evidence-based decision-making framework.

2. Data Management: policies, rules & institutions

At the national level, regulations related to data and information are overseen by both the National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Digital Development and Communication. The NSO of Mongolia operates in accordance with 7 principles outlined in the Law on Statistics, which aligns with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics set forth by the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Law on Statistics serves as the cornerstone for statistical activities. In compliance with this law, the statistical organization develops and executes a five year strategic plan. In response to the evolving data ecosystem and the shifting landscape of regulatory requirements, updates to the Law on Statistics are currently underway.

The "Law on Transparency of Public Information," the "Law on Protection of Personal Information," and the "Cybersecurity Law" regulate the data collection, and processing and usage of data and information, and are currently being enforced by state

organizations.

3. Data custodians and data stewardship

The terms "data steward" and "data custodian" lack clear definition and utilization within the context of the country, while the National Statistical Office (NSO) primarily fulfills the role of data custodian, particularly concerning their traditional responsibilities in official statistics.

In accordance with the " Law on Transparency of Public Information," the term "Public Information Respondent" is defined, which is similar to the concept of a "data custodian." However, this definition is more generalized and not precisely equivalent to the roles of data custodians or data stewards. A Public Information Respondent encompasses both government and non-government organizations that hold responsibility for data and databases within the scope of their activities.

4. Data sharing, accessibility and integration

Mongolia has implemented the "KHUR" system, which serves as the "State Data Exchange System". This system facilitates connections between government organizations and enterprises to the government data exchange system through services accessible via the unified portal of government services.

The NSO shares its data and information through this system and can also receive data from other government organizations via the service. However, this system is not designed for data integration purposes and lacks data encryption tools. Moreover, citizens are required to receive mandatory notifications under the Public Information Transparency Act if third parties intend to use their data.

The NSO is planning to obtain the right to access and use databases from government organizations primarily as outlined in the proposed amendments to the Law on Statistics. Secondly, it will have tools and methods to handle data integration in accordance with confidentiality protocols. Thirdly, measures are planned to regulate data privacy principles and address data ethics concerns when linking data.

5. Data sharing risks & mitigation

According to the Law on Statistics, the confidentiality of data gathered from citizens and legal entities is protected. This principle is further reinforced by provisions outlined in laws on transparency of public information, personal privacy protection, and cybersecurity, which came into effect in May 2022 and marks a significant stride towards safeguarding data privacy.

The NSO operates internally in alignment with both the "Information Security Procedure" and "the Professional Code of Conduct for the Staff of the Statistical Organization". These protocols include measures for safeguarding data and information security while also ensuring confidentiality for data suppliers.

As part of the "Government Integrated Database Development and Management" project, being implemented with assistance from ADB, the information security management standard ISO 27001:2022 is set to be introduced. This is anticipated to be a crucial step and a prerequisite for NSO data integration activities, enhancing the agency's reputation as a reliable and trustworthy institution in Mongolia.