Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

WHERE ARE ALL THE POLICY MAKERS?

Moving from data production to data use

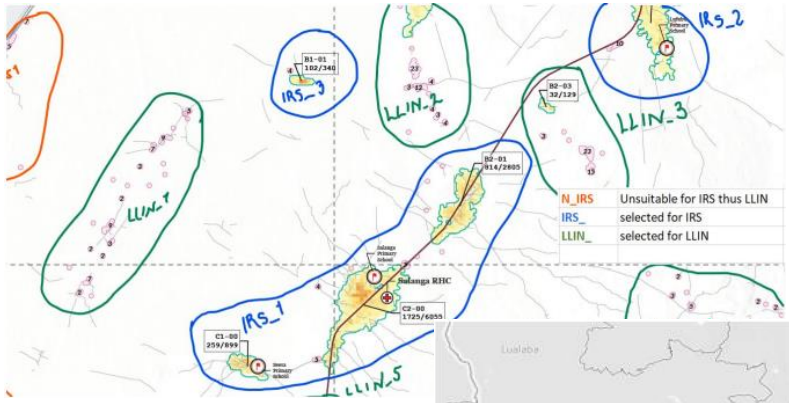
UN World Geospatial Information Congress
October 2022

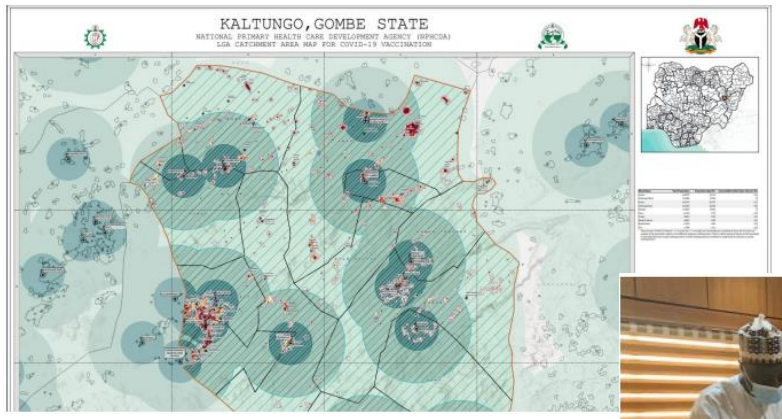
“We are not going to achieve the [Sustainable Development] Goals by the next decade. We are all lagging far behind”.

- Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands Permanent Representative to UNFAO)

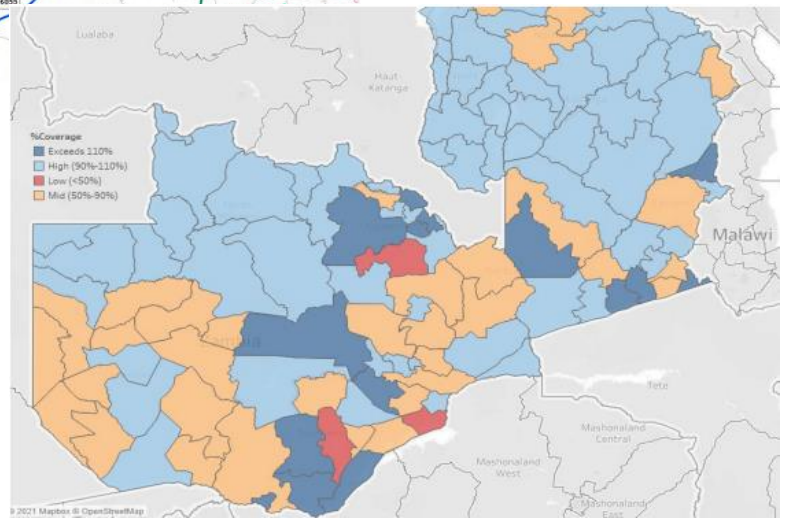
KEY
RHC/HP Operating
DHO SITE
MAIN Road
DOG BITE
Snake bite
Chicken pox
Suspected
Suspected
Suspected
Ebola centre.
CHIPILI DISTRICT, LUAPULA PROVINCE (PAGE 2 OF

Working with policy makers on the design of interventions





COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Nigeria needed data on settlements and population broken down by age and sex



Malaria campaigns in Zambia needed 100% vector control coverage to ensure efficient resource allocation and that no settlements are missed

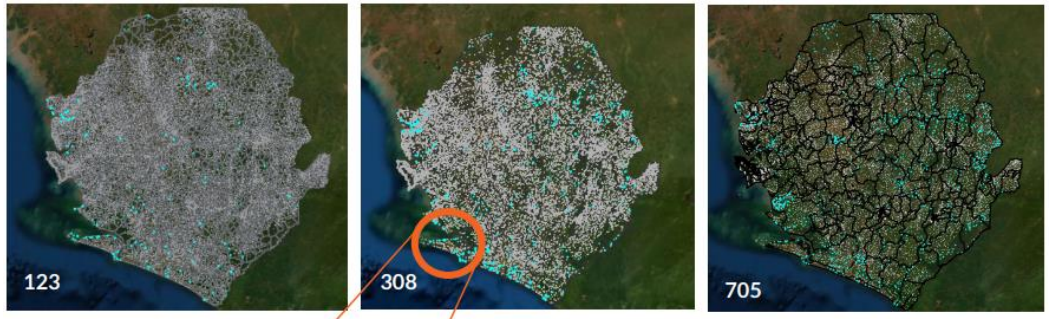
Improving access to education in Sierra Leone

GRID3 worked with Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) on school population coverage analysis.

This analysis informed the 2021 School Infrastructure and Catchment Area Planning Policy.

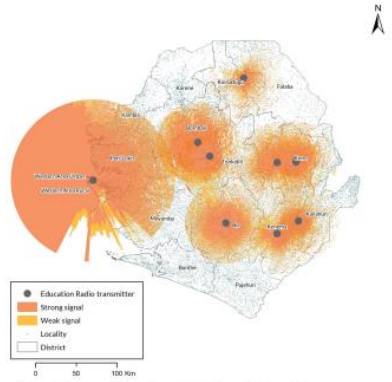
GRID3 are also supporting MBSSE with policy guidelines on staffing allocations and placement optimisation of new classrooms and schools.

How many settlements are more than an hour from the nearest school?



Primary school | Junior Secondary School | Senior Secondary School

Bonthe has the highest share of 12-14 year olds over an hour away from the nearest JSS



Readiness for Radio Teaching Program

Data graveyards – where data goes to die!

If we want to get data used effectively we have to break it out of siloes.

Effective data use requires human interoperability – Individuals, not platforms are at the heart of data sharing and use.

Breakdowns in communication and coordination leave data untapped to address public challenges.

Ability to join data without losing meaning or context are crucial factors in enabling data use that empowers people and leads to better policy

“you cannot have trust in the usability of statistics if the data that underpin them are of poor quality and those producing them lack integrity.”

- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data – Data Values Project

Better use of data comes from trust

For decision makers to use data, they must trust in its validity and reliability.

Trustworthy data practices start with establishing participatory governance holding decision makers accountable for effective data use

Misuse and ignorance of data leads to bad policy outcomes and results in declining levels of trust in public authorities.

We need to build stronger advocacy for data use

Discourse on improving use of data has grown – more work necessary to reach policy-makers and create data use across Governments.

Political will recognised as binding constraint on the ability of data producers to reform governance mechanisms

Data requirements and funding should be explicitly included in planning for all government programs

Virtuous cycle (data production responding dynamically to data use) – joint effort needed to grow evidence base

Example – No 10 Data Masterclass for Senior Civil Servants

Data Masterclass equips UK public sector leaders with skills to create and support a data culture in their organisation.

Data Driven Policy Making

- why data matters in government
- what happens when we get it wrong.
- why approach to any problem needs to start with data
- Evaluating policy interventions by testing different solutions.
- practical considerations of data projects

Communication

- why appropriate use of data in communications is critical
- how to understand numbers behind headlines
- using data for storytelling and importance of data visualization.
- Explanation of dashboards
- tips for how to communicate data in the public sector

Data Science

- harnessing the power of data science techniques
- how you can spot good opportunities to apply data science techniques to solve real challenges
- how to be an effective leader when it comes to fostering data science projects

SO WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENGAGE POLICY MAKERS?

Practical actions for better engagement

Call to action – engaging with policy makers

Legislation – policies, strategies and legislation must ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to maximise data use

Engagement – Relationships with policy makers must be established and nurtured.

Communication strategies – targeted, user-oriented communication can be an effective enabler of greater data use.

Capability – New skills and competencies are needed among data organisations for improved data dissemination

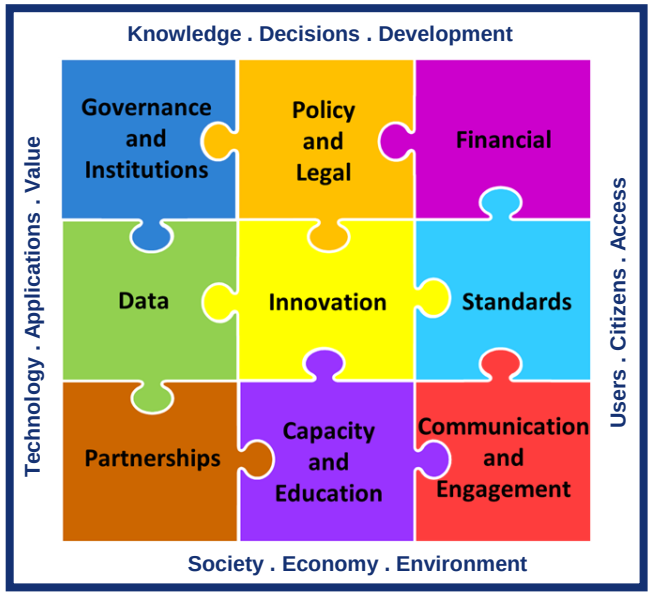
Better date use requires fostering a data-driven culture across the whole of government.

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Governance →

Technology →

People →



Outcomes

- Elevated Trust, Confidence and Increased Use of Geospatial Information

Elements

Tools

- Identifying Stakeholders
- Stakeholder Analysis and Comms
- Stakeholder Comms Plan
- Comms Methods

Guiding Principles

- Trusted and Transparent

Interrelated Actions

- Benefits Realisation Plan
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Actions

- Providing Leadership
- Understanding Opportunities
- Communicating Value

Summary

Data has the power to be truly transformative….but not by us

We need to break data out of siloes and put it in the hands of decision-makers

This means advocating the value of data to policy makers and building trust

We do this by building the environment for data use – legislation, engagement and communication

Build policy engagement into country level action plans as part of the delivery of IGIF Pathway 9

Questions?

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Email: Ian.Coady@fcdo.gov.uk

@iancoady

Linked.in/ian-coady-fcdo