



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Financing geospatial data in the post COVID-19 world

How the changing economic outlook impacts the implementation of the IGIF

UN World Geospatial Information Congress
October 2022

Who we are

FCDO

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office pursues the UK's national interests and project the UK as a force for good in the world. Some of the ways we do this include reducing poverty and tackling global challenges with our international partners.

Data for Development

The Data for Development team, supports partner countries to produce and use responsible inclusive open data and to improve the quality and availability of essential data including census and surveys.

Examples of our programmes:

- Monitoring the SDGs
- GRID3
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- PARIS21



Counting the cost of COVID

Impact in the UK

Total estimated bill for fighting COVID is £400bn

Health procurement spending increased by 40% to £142bn

Coronavirus job retention scheme cost estimated £70bn

Costs are ongoing – fixing backlogs in healthcare and lost education



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13 July 2021



Features



The traditional model of international development

Portfolio of data related development programmes

Wide geographic coverage (40+ countries)

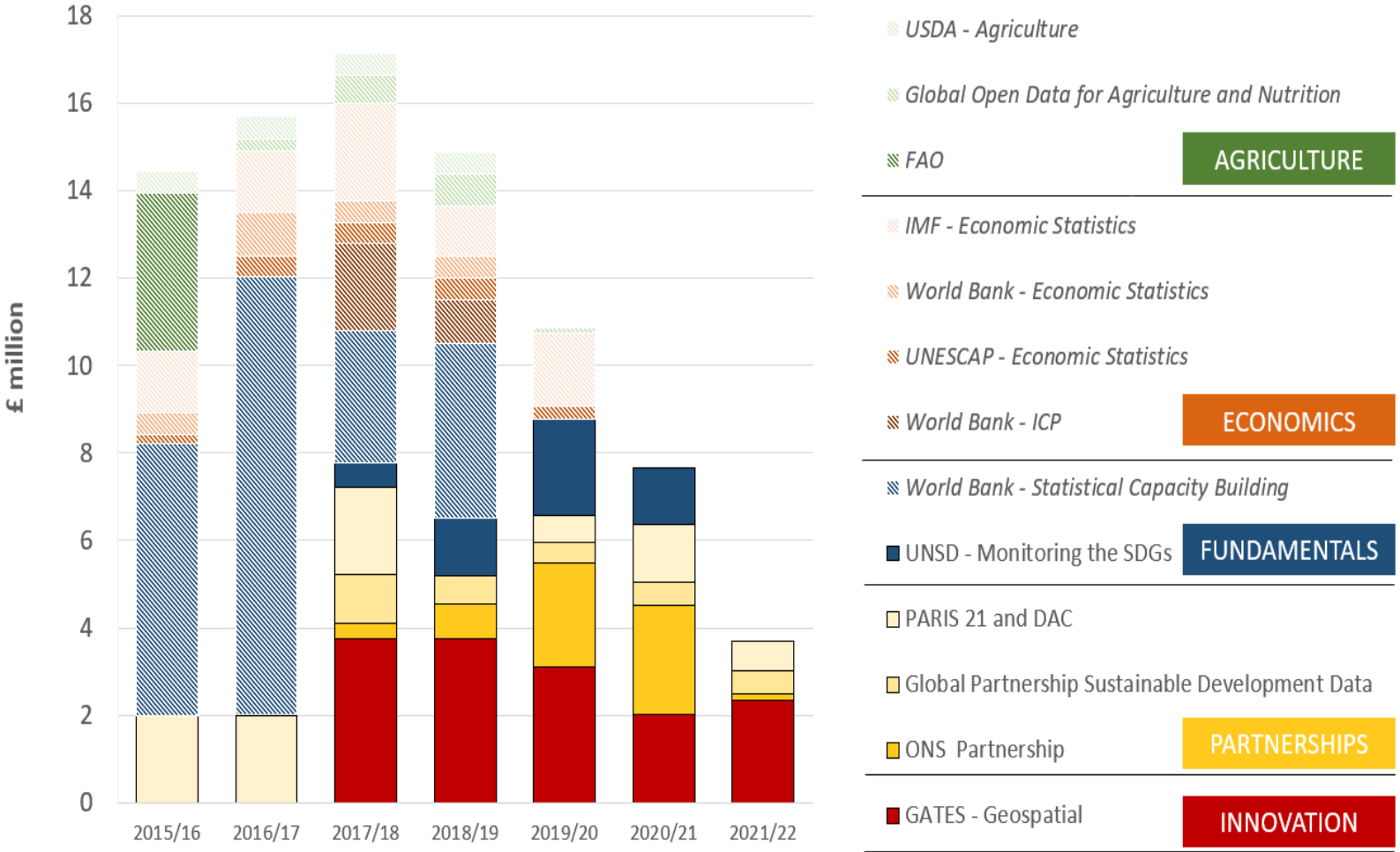
Specific deliverables targeting parts of the data system – funding parts of the census or specific surveys as requested

Good impact but difficult to maintain with smaller budgets and less staff

UK example but applies globally



FCDO and Data – Programmatic Shift



Year on year reduction in development budget for data

Shift away from supporting sector specific activity to core support

Sits alongside a reduction in staffing levels

All of this before COVID-19 pandemic

“As overseas aid spending is squeezed, it’s more crucial than ever that we bring the world’s best data to the world’s worst problems”

- Claire Melamed – Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

The value of data



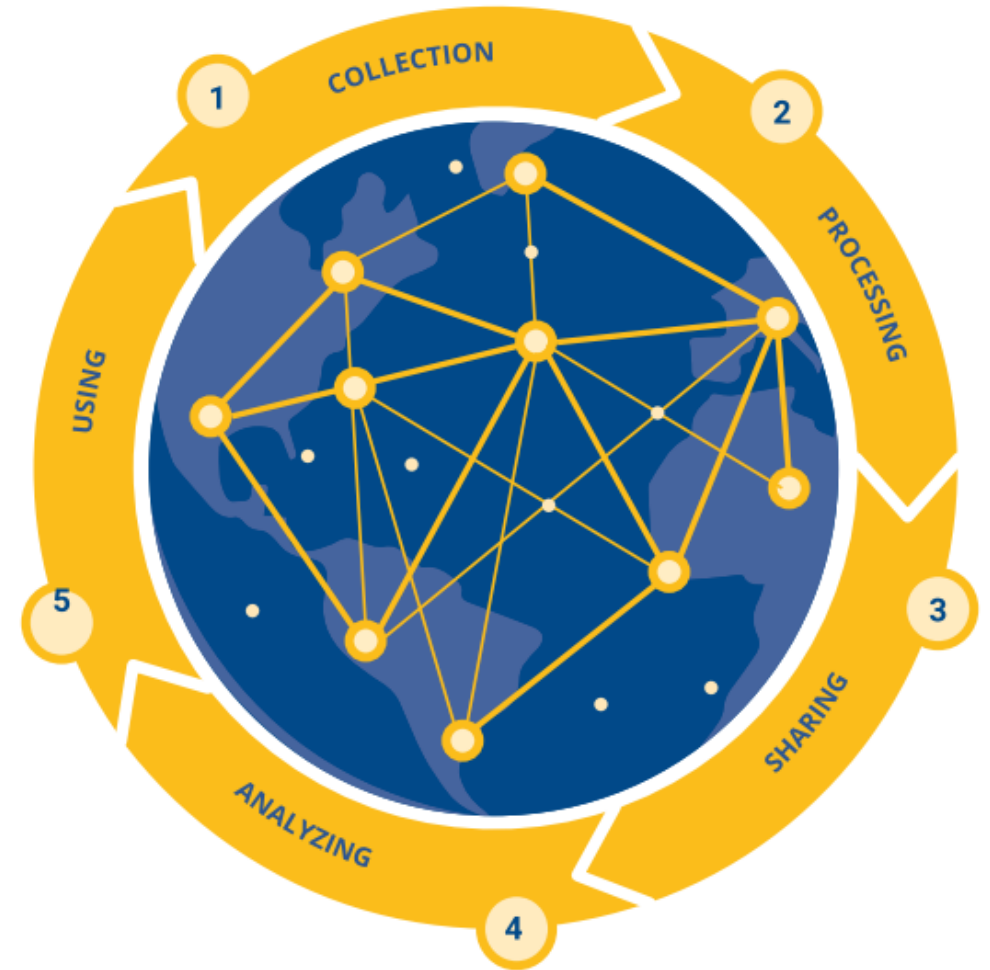
Making the case for investment in data

Difficult to make the case for data when for past 30 years data resources have not been distributed with optimal efficiency or equity

Makes it difficult to integrate data into policy and demonstrate its value – too many data siloes

Average return on investment of strengthening data systems is \$1:32 – goes up to \$72

Need evidence – use cases demonstrating impact – lean in to sectoral expertise



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

New models – example from the Office for National Statistics

Deep partnerships rather than development programmes

Peer to peer relationships rather than development programmes

ONS staff embedded within partner statistics office – not the FCDO country office

Agile and able to respond to requests





UK National Reporting Platform

to see our website

Discuss each country regarding SDG platform

Need to bring data together – breaking down the barriers

Data and data ecosystems enable decision makers to improve lives and livelihoods by better understanding the world around them and acting in more effective and targeted ways.

Imperative that every dollar is spent in the most efficient and equitable way.

Enables decisions that are more collaborative, effective, efficient, equitable, timely, and transparent.

data ecosystems enhance dialogue between leaders and their people, strengthening accountability and the democratic process.



How do we break down the barriers

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

Summary

- COVID has changed the macro-economic landscape for the foreseeable future
- This is likely to have knock-on effects for development funding – including investment in data systems
- Make the case for data – better demonstrate the return on investment
- Need to explore new models for increasing capacity – strategic partnerships and data sharing

QUESTIONS?



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