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SDG DATA ALLIANCE

SDG Data Alliance:

Geospatial Information Implementation Experiences and Challenges

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Our Purpose

POWERING
NEW POSSIBILITIES
FOR SOCIAL IMPACT
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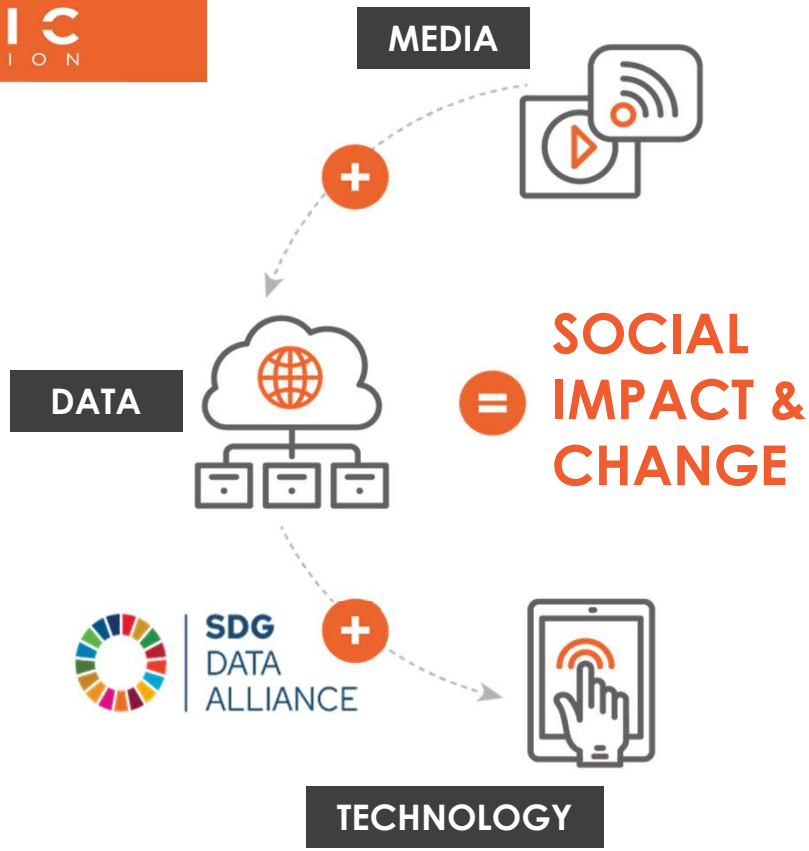
PVBLIC Foundation

Since 2012, **PVBLIC Foundation** has mobilized **media, data, and technology** for **sustainable development**, **social impact** and **change**, as part of our vision for a sustainable planet.

A **global leader** in reimagining solutions to the world's most pressing challenges, we are a **strong advocate** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** helping to accelerate and advance their implementation through **impactful partnerships and innovative programs**.

Our commitment to **collaboration** ensures we bring **people, ideas,** and **resources** together to drive groundbreaking **solutions** and achieve extraordinary **outcomes**.

Launched in July 2021, the **SDG Data Alliance** is a **strategic** '**impact program'** within PVBLIC Foundation, fostering **economic resilience in developing nations**, through **data-driven insights** and **innovative tools** and **technologies**.



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Creating Impact

SDG Data Alliance

The **SDG Data Alliance** is an open, **multi-stakeholder partnership** comprising the **private sector, foundations, UN organizations,** and **national and local governments**.

The Data Alliance brings **geospatial technology capabilities, resources and training** to developing countries (especially LDCs and SIDS) with the goal of **accelerating** the **achievement of national sustainable economic development**.

Our **vision** is for **governments** to be able to **achieve the SDGs** with **people, data, technology, and processes**, creating a just, healthy, and prosperous world where no one is left behind.

The **mission** of our **partnership** is to build the **capacity of governments** and other key stakeholders to **achieve the SDGs** through the creation of **effective systems and frameworks** for monitoring progress on sustainable development using **leading geospatial technology**.

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Why the SDG Data Alliance

Our Geospatial Data History

"Early SDI initiatives focused on data, accessibility, and services, the core components being policy, access network, technical standards, people (including partnerships) and data.

These soon led to the development of, firstly product-based SDI approaches, where models tended to be data producer and national mapping agency led, focusing on data production, database creation, and centralization;

and then process-based SDI approaches, driven more by data sharing and re-using data collected by a wide range of agencies for a great diversity of purposes."

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Why the SDG Data Alliance

Historical 'Data' Problems

In **2014** the **SAMOA Pathway** reaffirmed the commitment of small island developing States (SIDS) to:

- Strengthen the availability and accessibility of data and statistical systems, and to
- **Enhance the management of complex data systems, including geospatial data platforms, by launching new partnerships or scaling up existing initiatives**.

In **2015** the **United Nations 2030 Agenda** (in launching the 17 SDGs) committed to:

- **Exploit the contribution** to be made by a wide range of data, including **Earth observations and geospatial information**.

And **by 2020** to:

- Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to **increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by geographic location and other characteristics**.

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Why the SDG Data Alliance

Historical 'Data' Problems

Our World is data rich…and a data desert

Despite the significant advances in **data acquisition and geospatial technologies** across the world in the past decad many **developing countries** still **l ck the resources, tools technology to t ck prog ss t ard** their sustainability climate goals.

These gaps ma **ntries** to **achieve SDGs** and make **i ecisions** that le **better policies and i**

Countries continue to fac **imp diments** that limit their ability to address the **adverse impacts** of **climate change**, **inequality, limited resources**, **vulnerability to external shocks**, **geographic remoteness**, and **institutional challenges**.

And…… as a global community we **never really tried** hard enough **to disaggregate data** by **geographic location** and other characteristics.

Why?

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SDG Data Alliance

Our first 3 years

- Support developing countries with the creation of SDG Data Hubs and accelerate achievement of the SDGs.
- Support implementation of UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans in beneficiary developing countries.
- Strengthen geospatial skills development and increase access to GIS technology, data, and resources.
- Increase citizen engagement with the use of data, SDGs tracking and the SDG Data Alliance's work.
- Strive to make SDG Data Alliance funding sustainable and increase funding sources for countries.

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Tonga's National

Geospatial Action Plan

Tonga's **National Geospatial Action Plan** was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister in September 2023.

With a **Vision** for a "higher quality of life for all Tongans supported by **accessible, accurate and reliable integrated geospatial information**", the Action Plan emphasizes the importance of **data and technology** in addressing the changes that Tonga faces.

The **Mission** of the Action Plan is to "promote and support **coordination and collaboration to achieve integrated geospatial information management** and leverage it for **decisions and sustainable solutions** to national needs and opportunities."

Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Samiu Vaipulu:

"Today is a digital era; geospatial information is a digital fuel for government and services. Data from many sources. We need to act with knowledge and evidence."

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The Power of a National

SDG Data Hub

A **Data Hub** is an easy-to-configure **cloud platform** that organizes **people, data, processes and tools** to communicate **data-driven solutions** and **insights** more effectively with **government agencies**, and if you choose – stakeholders and the community.

Data Hubs can easily be **connected**, **expanded** and **integrated**, from one system to another, creating an information '**system-of-systems**' leveraging the Internet, web services and Cloud.

Data Hubs dynamically combine, **data, applications, maps, dashboards, stories** and status reporting.

Data is '**shared**' by agencies and access controlled. **Agencies remain custodians** of their data, and decide what data to share, whom to, how, and when.

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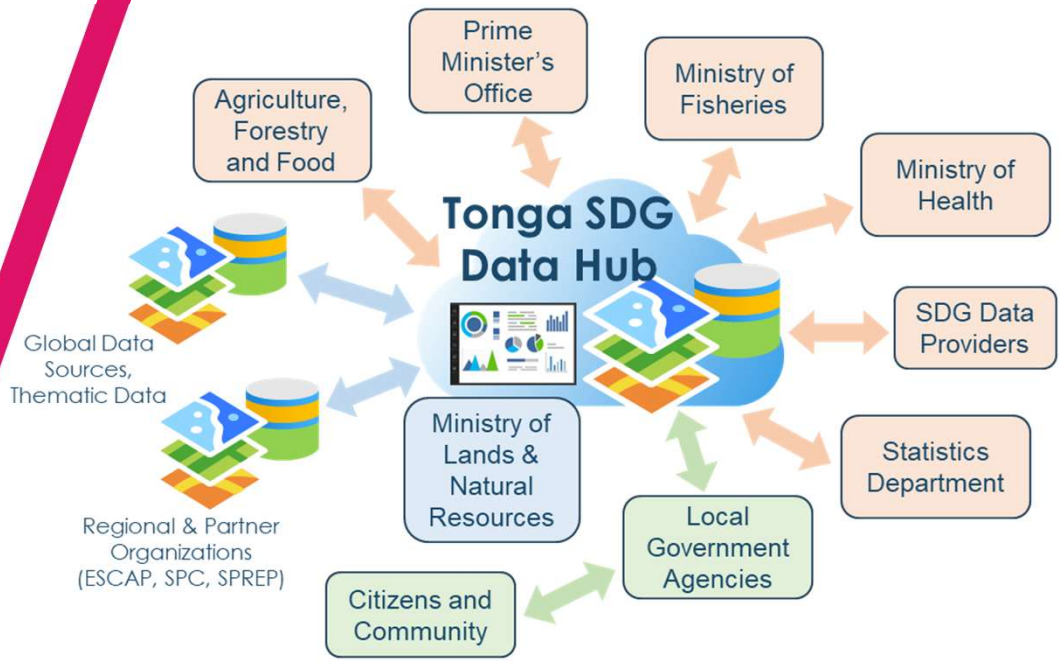
As an integrated system, **Tonga's SDG Data Hub** will be scalable, strengthening the technical capacity of Tonga and supporting national development priorities. It will leverage available and new data sources, enabling technologies, and information systems management; allowing government agencies to visualize and share their data, monitor public investments, identify critical interlinkages, track progress on the SDGs, and make better and more informed decisions towards investing in sustainable social and economic growth.



SDG Data Alliance

But…we have had challenges

Mixed levels of engagement by countries: Resulting in slower than expected progress in developing UN-IGIF Country-level Action Plans (CAPs) and subsequently deploying SDG Data Hubs.

Variability in rates of progress, completion and endorsement of CAPs: Although implementation was to be 'country led, owned and self-paced', it has transpired that demonstrating tangible progress and outcomes towards CAP implementation has taken much longer than originally anticipated.

Low implementation rate of SDG Data Hubs: A major challenge for countries has been limited access to reliable, relevant, timely and quality data; and then integrating, visualizing and sharing that data.

Limited ability to sustain and grow funding resources: While the Data Alliance continues to have its same four core partners, our ability to grow funds and resources has been a challenge. This directly impacts our ability to directly support the needs and expectations of countries engaged in the Alliance.

SDG Data Alliance

While learning along the way…

Even today, in our highly connected technological world, the availability of and accessibility to **data**, as a basic human right, **remains the missing link**.

Developing countries, and SIDS in particular, have **limited resources, capacities and capabilities** available to them. This often includes skills in **applied geography and specific GIS training**. To scale some of our efforts we will need to focus more such training packages. This may even have to include: 'How GIS fits into an organization?'

National geospatial agencies and institutions are finding it difficult to demonstrate the '**integrative systems**' nature of **data**, the power of being able to **integrate and visualize national fundamental data themes with SDG-relevant data** requirements and leveraging web services and the cloud with innovative **Data Hub technology** capabilities.

We need to '**keep things simple**' while also advancing the 'starting point' for countries. For example, providing **pre-populated Data Hubs** that countries can then **build upon** and configure themselves. This will quickly **build skills, capability, momentum, and impact**.

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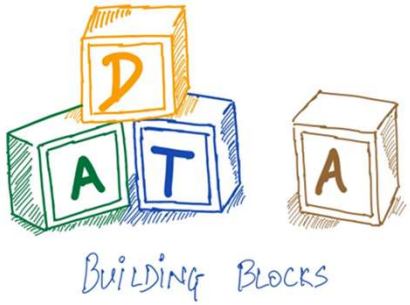
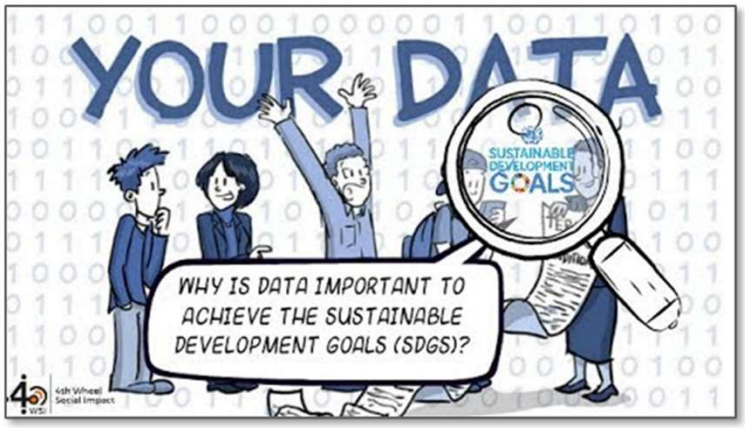
Our Focus on 'Data'

Often the missing link!





There is a recognition of the urgent **'data needs, availability and use'** towards the wider digital data and information ecosystem, including **geospatial, Earth observations** and other **location-based** information.

However, **data on its own has no inherent meaning**. It is like a pile of building blocks – you can't tell what they represent without arranging them.

While many innovative **technologies** and **data acquisition** capabilities exist, many countries either **do not have access to data** or know how to extract more **value and purpose** from it.

New opportunities exist for countries and communities to take a proactive **'data centric'** approach, to evolve the SDG and SIDS frameworks towards a more **robust and implementable geographic approach.**

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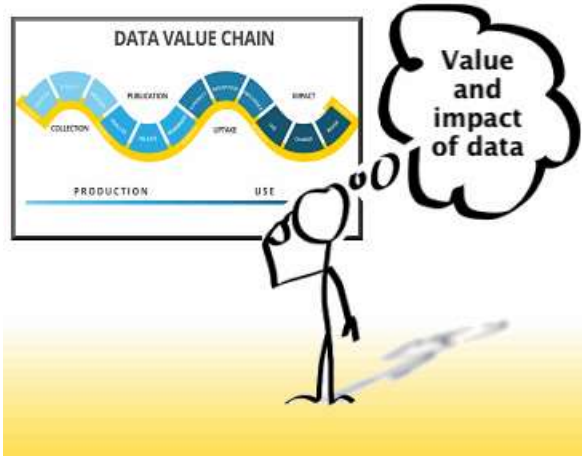
The Data Value Chain

Ensuring Data has Impact

If data is **arranged, organized and structured**, it then becomes the building blocks of information.

Then the real value begins…

From (often integrating) **Data**
we build **Information**
enabling us to create **Knowledge** (or **Understanding**)
which provides with it **Insights**
enabling us to then make **Decisions**
in such a way as to take **Action**
that has measurable **Impact**.



The Data Value Chain:

Data > Information > Knowledge/Understanding > Insights > Decisions > Action > Impact

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The Data Value Chain

Applying Data to real problems

Aligning national data assets

Housing
Parcels
Coastal data
Road assets and conditions
Emergency services
Gas pipelines, oil, power lines
Water networks
Building Layers
Population
Schools and education
Health facilities and services
Statistical values

…to national priorities

Disaster resilience
Oceans and resources
Economic prosperity
Employment
Social well-being
Tourism
Climate mitigation
Health services
Social programs
Rising sea levels
Tourism
Environment

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2025 Program of Work

SIDS Global Data Hub
SIDS Voices | SIDS Future | SIDS Solutions
Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity

Building Country Map Portfolios

We are now building **Country Map Portfolios**, collections of **country data** compiled into **specific themes** across all 3 development pillars (social, economic and environment). They will be developed and deployed online as part of our **Data Hub service**.

Countries will then take on responsibilities for adding their **national and local data** as appropriate for topics that are important for their national needs.

Countries will have **direct access** to the **templates and models** to build on these **data resources** with their own **national and sub-national data**. They will also be able to create individual maps, applications, stories and dashboards as required.

These **high-impact visualization capabilities** will have the additional benefit of being able to **demonstrate and communicate**, through relevant and targeted **data stories**, what is being achieved and what **capabilities and SDG products** will be available to decision-makers.

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For more information

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