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National ownership to SDG monitoring, achievement and challenges

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring requires data from different areas and hence stakeholder engagement is very vital. Countries need to implement different mechanisms to make more SDG data available. SDG monitoring also requires increased collaboration among National Statistical System (NSS) members. The statistics act, which involves all NSS members, is very important to create this collaboration.

Countries can design different approaches to facilitate SDG monitoring. Generally, designing a user engagement strategy, creating the coordination structure, designing and formalizing agreements, disseminating SDG indicators using a common platform and also reviewing the statistics act to be more inclusive are important.

The Central Statistics Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia has designed a user engagement strategy which includes different mechanisms to reach out different groups of users. This strategy is expected to improve data quality and use. With the support of the SDG Monitoring Project funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division, a coordination committee based on thematic areas has been formed within the NSS, helping to reduce duplication of effort and minimize costs. A standard data sharing template has been prepared by CSA to be utilized by the NSS so as to facilitate data exchange and use. An SDG data and metadata handbook is also being developed to standardize SDG data production and monitoring. The Africa Information Highway (AIH) Open Data Platform is used as standard dissemination platform for SDG indicators, which has helped SDG data to be more accessible and usable. The statistics act is an entry point for statistical coordination and as such it is currently under revision and planned to be more inclusive to improve NSS coordination and facilitate the production and use of quality data.

Key words: Sustainable Development Goals, Statistics act, user engagement.