

# Executive Summary

Data is power. It's a power that is often obscured by technical detail, but it's a power that can change minds, change policies, and change lives. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data was created in 2015 to put that power at the service of sustainable development.

Five years on, our global reach means we can make connections between countries, institutions, and sectors that no one else can make. Our approach to partnership builds relationships that endure over time and create lasting impact. Our roots in the Sustainable Development Goals give us a laser focus on data that drives progress for people and the planet. And our unique network means we can bring together the key players to build a just and robust data system that supports human progress.

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data:  
Five years, five facts.

1

We have **260** registered partners from **59** countries across **111** cities

2

Our work is powered by **39** working groups, task teams, committees, and collaboratives, solving problems together

3

**27** governments are partnering with us to create impact in their countries

4

The Secretariat has brokered **70** strategic partnerships, and...

5

...delivered **150** convenings (high-level meetings, events, webinars, and workshops)

## Data for better decisions

Data is an essential tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and over the last five years, the team has worked with governments around the world to build national and regional partnerships for data production and use. Thanks to Global Partnership brokering and support, better data means that:

- The government of Sierra Leone can better protect its vital mangrove forests.
- In Senegal, farmers can get prices for their crops more quickly at harvest time.
- The government of Paraguay can more effectively track flood risk and manage water systems.
- In Nigeria, the government is better able to track COVID-19 cases and health center availability.
- In Kenya, wildlife conservation groups can find the best location for resettling endangered rhinos.

## Data for better lives

The commitment to “leave no one behind” has always been at the heart of the Global Partnership’s work. From the earliest days, we have focused on how data can improve the lives of the poorest people in the world. Our work with partners means that:

- In Colombia, the statistics office now takes into account gender, life cycle, ethnicity, and disability, to create a fuller understanding of people’s needs in data.
- The government of Zanzibar is using data to understand the gendered dimensions of migration and crime.
- The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center published the first-ever global estimates of the number of internally displaced children and women.
- The government of Sierra Leone has data on gender and disability for the nation’s children.

## A better world of data

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data aims to drive systemic changes in the field of data, facilitating

useful innovation and responsible data sharing, making systems interoperable, and increasing funding for data. In the last five years, we have:

- Worked with the World Bank to support 38 collaborative data innovation projects with US\$7.2 million.
- Produced a guide on data interoperability, based on learning from nearly 100 partners, which has been endorsed by the UN Statistics Commission and is already being used to inform practice in at least nine countries.
- Worked with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO, the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, and several governments, launched the 50x2030 initiative, a donor plan to spend \$236 million through 2030 for data to support smallholder farmers.

## What we have learned

We have learned so much since 2015 about what works and how we can best enable our partners to work together towards the future we all want. Our five most important lessons in the last five years are:

- Good data takes time: time to build relationships, change institutions, and learn together.
- Progress depends on people: understanding and trust are the keys to good partnerships.
- Politics drives technical change: political support is critical for sustainable change at scale.
- Values count: inclusivity and equity must underpin progress on data.
- Systems not silos: interoperability and openness strengthen systems and increase impact.

What has remained constant is the energy, enthusiasm, and expertise of the organizations and people who drive our mission — our 260 partners who power the network and must take credit for our success and the impact we have had in the world. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with them every day. Together we are doing something quite extraordinary.