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IPS Paper

Map 4 Census: experimenting answers to how civil society can partner with governments to monitor the SDGs with data

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Brief Description

This paper explains why and how civil society should be participating in the SDG monitoring process by partnering with governments as users of their data.

Such possibility is considered in this work as
desirable, as many governments are struggling to respond to the high demand for SDG indicators.

However, as partnerships to produce data can adequately respond to the 2030 Agenda, governments appear to nonetheless underestimate participation of citizens to collaborate in statistical operations. After discussing arguments for civic involvement in the SDG indicators' production, the storyline unpacks theoretical issues reinterpreting citizen participation through a pioneering participation model.

The
concept Citizen 2 Government data partnerships (C2Gdp) is revisited out of a classification partnering scheme.

Wrapping up argumentations, a general model maps and identifies potentials and limitations of the actions of actors in the C2Gdp.
Finally, the study is complemented with a case study, the Map4Census experiment, developed by the GeoCensos Foundation a non-governmental organization that partnered in 2019 with the National Statistical Office of El Salvador.

Findings ponder the outcomes of innovation with bottom-up data
disaggregation and pointing out to the needs for ensuring conditions to promote the studied data partnership.

Abstract

In 2015, UN member countries pledged their commitment to advancing the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although a considerable number of countries have made significant strides in measuring progress towards sustainable development, many specific indicators still require basic inputs.

This article describes and analyzes a case study in the frame of the growingly considered concept of third-party data from civil society for the sustainable development goals (SDG). The paper departs by modelling citizen 2 government data partnerships, then illustrated in a real-life practice. The featured case study, called Map4Census, is an experiment developed by GeoCensos Foundation, a non-governmental organization that essayed a prototype of data partnership supported the IADB to assist the National Statistical Office of El Salvador. Findings conclude evaluating the outcomes of data partnerships from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with governments for the SDGs. When discussing in depth the issue, it asserts positive tradeoffs between data quality validation and bottom-up data disaggregation in participative agendas. The research also warns about conditions to be revised in these kinds of initiatives for the 2030 Agenda.