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DATA FOR GOOD: UAE SDG DATA HUB, AN INNOVATIVE WAY IN JOINING HANDS FOR A
BETTER WORLD

Abstract

The UAE SDG Data Hub was launched to address the challenge of data reporting to the UAE Cabinet and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) by having a centralized platform for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) data. The SDGs demands member states to undertake new data acquisition and integration approaches and focus on high-quality, timely, and disaggregated data to measure the progress of countries in achieving the SDGs. At the national level this will support stakeholders to make informed decisions and policy recommendations to specific SDG targets and indicators. Furthermore, the hub leverages geospatial technology techniques to collect, geo-represent and disseminate SDG open data while promoting societal awareness and civil society engagement on the SDGs. The Hub aims to disseminate SDG data and establish an integration with UN Federated Information System for the Sustainable Development Goals (FIS4SDGs), to report UAE progress on the SDGs. It advocates open data principles, and provides an effective tool to educate and partner with the civil society as SDGs will not be achieved without significant public awareness and engagement. Thus, the UAE took lead to add a context on the hub for publishing national government and private sector initiatives that shows projects to address SDGs with many story maps embedded, sharing UAE practice with the international audience. This was done by taking advantage of web GIS principles to connect data from multiple organizations and leveraging the platform system to system capabilities. Further, the Hub established a 2-way communication with society through online surveys to help better understand people perceptions, preferences and calls for their action. The Hub Return on Investment is to impact the local and global society and help achieve the SDGs through: ● Societal Impact by increasing public awareness about SDGs, informing them about governmental and private sector efforts and encouraging society to adopt routines that will help achieve SDGs. It also help stakeholders better understand the community needs by getting their feedback. ● Promote Open data and Government Information Sharing principles while utilizing state-of-the-art GIS web solution that connects multi systems ● Increase sector-wide awareness and contribution through multiple partnerships between governmental, private sectors and UNDESA as well as inspire members by exchanging practices ● A global best practice in supporting UNDESA to have a centralized platform for SDGs data where it connected UAE SDG indicators initiatives with UNDESA FIS4SDGs and shared national practices on the global platform.