Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

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INEGI

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN-AFRICA PEER EXCHANGE ON ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

November 5-7, 2019 | National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) Office, Mexico City

This report was prepared by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Cepei.

Purpose of the peer exchange

From 5-7 November 2019, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership) and Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepei) partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI) to host a peer knowledge exchange in Mexico City, focusing on administrative records. This is a key area of the data ecosystem that partner countries in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) had identified for strengthening.

The peer exchange brought together country, regional, and international partners to share experiences, identify common challenges, and create partnerships on administrative data. The workshop sought to:

- Share knowledge and practical ideas for strengthening administrative data.
- Facilitate country-to-country pairings/groupings for ongoing advice, technical assistance, or other forms of support.
- Bring in the Global Partnership partners and key organizations from the LAC and African regions— including the IDB, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Development Gateway, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and others—with cross-country subject matter expertise to advise and support country partners.
- Deepen understanding of countries' specific needs and refine what the Global Partnership and Cepei can offer to accelerate and scale action on administrative data across countries.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all the actors who made this peer exchange possible:

- **National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI) for being a great host and facilitating the success of the peer exchange.**
- **Inter-American Development Bank for supporting the participation of LAC colleagues in the discussions.**
- **International and multilateral organizations and independent consultants for their excellent interventions during the discussions.**
- **All governments that took part in the peer exchange for sharing their good practices, lessons, and challenges around administrative data.**

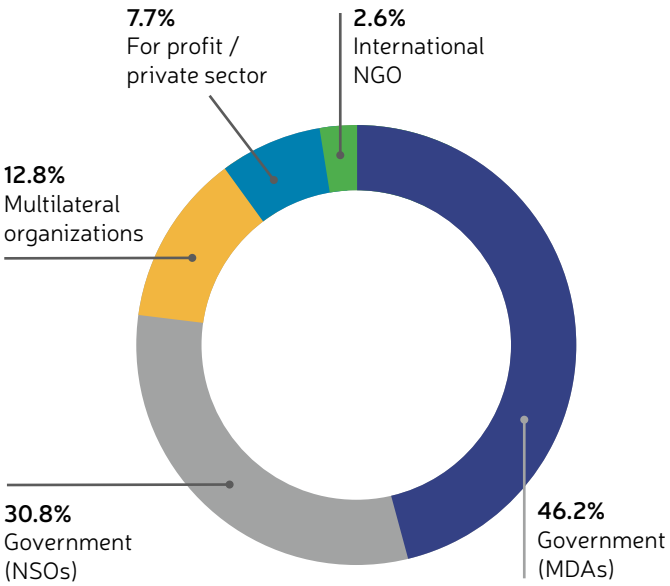
Feedback from participants demonstrated that this was a successful and unique event. We envision more opportunities for fostering peer exchanges across continents and countries to strengthen administrative data and support concrete initiatives to advance this conversation.

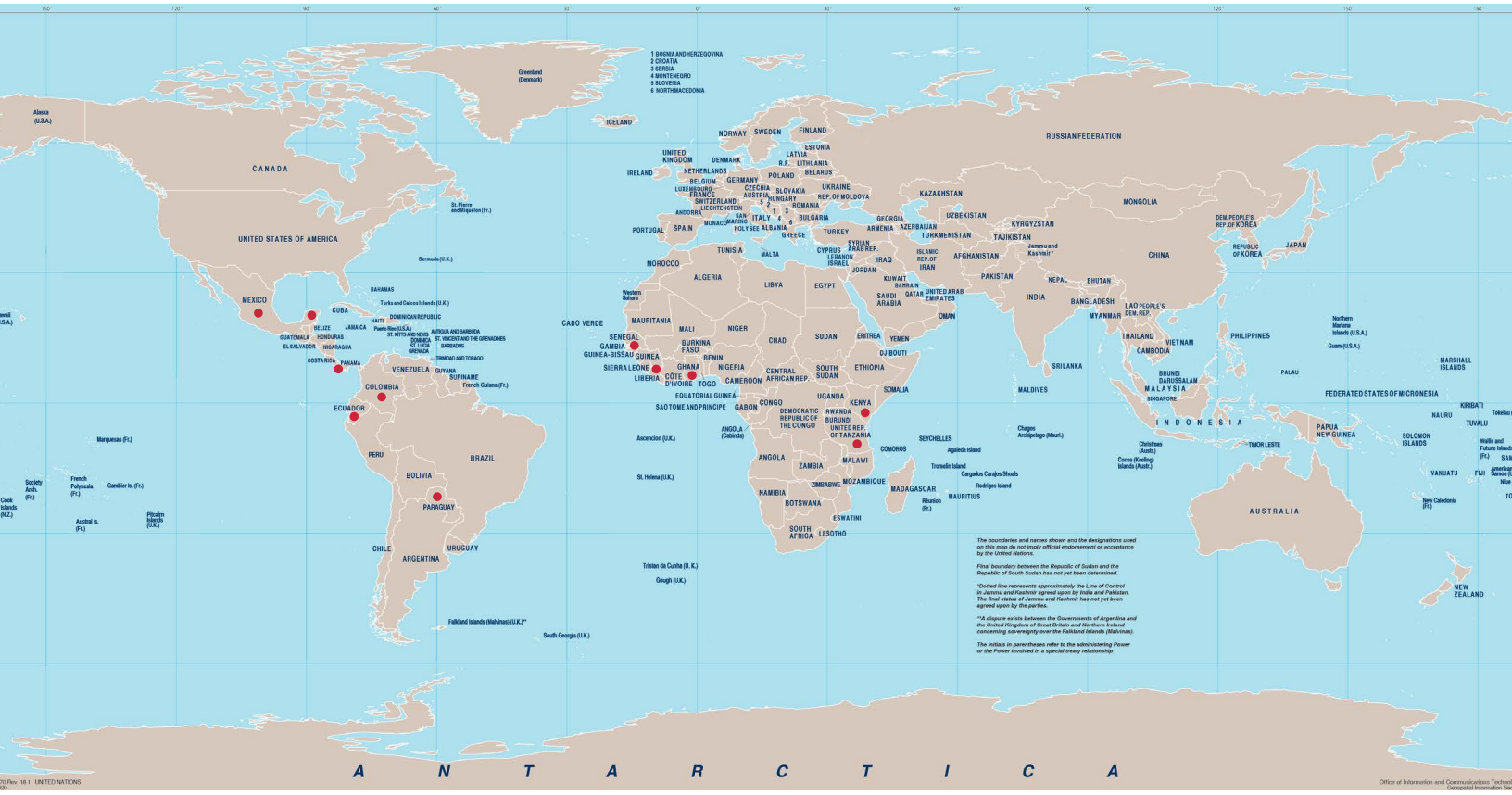
This report outlines the key areas that formed the discussions over the two-and-a-half-day peer exchange and presents learnings and next steps to further the discussion on strengthening administrative data.

Who joined us?

The event brought together 48 participants from national statistical offices; ministries, departments, and agencies; multilateral organizations; international organizations; and the private sector. This diversity of stakeholders was intentional to ensure that discussions included perspectives from data producers, holders, regulators, and users.

"The peer exchange allowed us to learn what other countries are doing in terms of administrative data and understand that we share many of the same challenges despite our different institutional types."





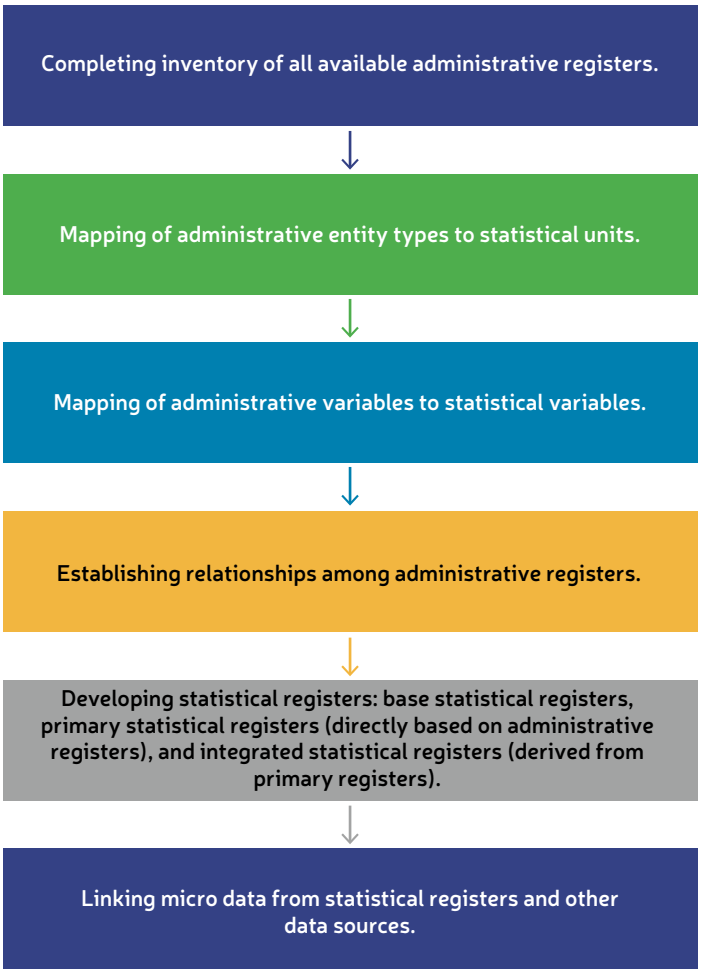
Administrative data and its relevance to generating statistics and measuring the Global Goals

It is increasingly common for countries to compile statistics based on administrative sources[1], especially to create or maintain base registers and to ensure that they complement other data sources to produce quality statistical outputs. The benefits of administrative data sources are well documented[2] and include:

- Cost reduction and cost effectiveness due to routine and point of access or delivery data collection.
- More timely data, given that data collection is often more frequent than other data sources, such as surveys.
- Greater efficiency because data is collected in a more seamless manner, reducing the potential response burden while improving the efficiency and quality of statistics.

However, there are also challenges or pre-conditions for countries to truly enjoy the benefits of administrative data and transform it to make it suitable for statistical compilation. Countries need sound legal frameworks for data sharing and governance that allow authorities to access and share data and collaborate without compromising privacy. The quality of their administrative data also needs to be high in terms of coverage, reliability, guidelines and standards, and timeliness.

Figure 1: Steps to integrate administrative data into official statistics



Source: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)[3]

[1] Administrative data includes data collected for legal compliance or for service delivery, data documenting government decisions, and data generated to support planning, implementation, and monitoring progress. This could cut across different sectors in a country.

[2] Connelly, R. et al. 2016. The role of administrative data in the big data revolution in social science research. Social Science Research. Vol. 59, pg. 1–12. statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-539-x/2009001/administrative-administratives-eng.htm and sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0049089X1630206X

[3] UN Statistics Division/DESA. 2018. Use of administrative data for official statistics: The Global Perspective. unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/sdg-inter-workshop-june-2018/Day2_Session3_Adm%20Data_UNSD.pdf

Many countries across the globe, including those with relatively well-developed administrative systems, continue to struggle with these challenges and have not fully completed the steps shown in Figure 1 to integrate administrative data into official statistics. As such, many regions have held workshops and conferences on this topic in recent years and continue to develop and share new approaches and practices.[4]

The peer exchange was designed to help countries learn how to strengthen their administrative systems and share their experiences with their counterparts. It was a unique opportunity that brought together a mix of stakeholders from government and non-government institutions.

"When we talk about administrative records, we find a wide variety of heterogeneous data that challenge us to properly unify them."

"We need to continue to unpack the usability and potential of administrative data. We need to draw more attention to it to fully harness its potential."

[4] **ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/ess-workshop-use-administrative-data-and-social-statistics_en** and Ababa, A. 2018. Sub-regional workshop in integration of administrative data, big data and geospatial information for the compilation of SDG indicators for English-speaking African countries. **uneca.org/sr-bigdata-geospatial-sdg-2018**

Data governance and data sharing to build trust

A major barrier to widespread use of administrative records is obtaining access to those records.[5] Legal frameworks (legislation) that support the generation and use of administrative data can help countries access the data. This type of legislation should highlight:

- Type of data generated by administrative systems.
- Methods used for reporting the data.
- Right to use data from administrative systems for statistical purposes.
- Responsible authorities.
- Accountability mechanisms for ensuring data quality and protecting data privacy and confidentiality.

With strong legal frameworks, national statistical offices can maintain close working relations with the ministries, departments, and agencies that generate administrative data and produce statistical outputs in a seamless and trusted manner.[6]

Conversations on this topic revealed that although most countries have laws that require access and administrative data sharing with a country's national statistical office, this does not happen in practice. The lack of trust among institutions that produce or use administrative data often results in limited data sharing. As such, a legal framework is necessary but insufficient.

Peer Exchange participants said:

"Even with Memoranda of Understanding, there is still resistance from government agencies. These types of documents are useful when combined with commitment and willingness from all parties."

"During this session, laws, regulations, and frameworks were recurring themes. Everybody assumes laws as an end in itself. However, national statistical offices need to be more proactive to provide incentives to government agencies and the private sector to promote data sharing and demonstrate its value proposition."

Some countries have addressed this issue through memorandums of understanding (MoUs). For example, Mexico's national statistical office, INEGI, signed an MoU with the Mexican Social Security Institute, IMSS, to guarantee confidentiality. As they engage with sub-national units of IMSS, INEGI also offers training, quality improvement tools, and other resources based on the MoU. Similarly, Statistics Sierra Leone has been working on engaging all heads of ministries, departments, and agencies to sign MoUs on data sharing to build political and institutional commitments to strengthen administrative data.

[5] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy. Ch. 3. **ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425873/**

[6] UN Statistics Division/DESA. 2018. Use of administrative data for official statistics: The Global Perspective. **unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/sdg-inter-workshop-june-2018/Day2_Session3_Adm%20Data_UNSD.pdf**

Case study 1: Country examples of building trust to strengthen data governance and data sharing

Information Exchange System: Linking data between public institutions in Paraguay

The lack of secure but easy-to-use systems or tools can make it difficult to build trust among institutions. The Government of Paraguay established the **Information Exchange System** (SII) platform to allow public institutions to share data. Users are classified into two groups: data producers and data consumers. Data publishing is subject to specific agreements signed between stakeholders.

Currently, the platform includes 14 institutions that produce data and 31 data consumers. The government continues to work towards adding users from the private sector, central bank, and universities, among others. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies manages and monitors SII and provides security protocols. One example of the use of this platform is the agreement between the Ministry of Planning for Economic and Social Development and the Ministry of Education and Science: in order to confirm that families who benefit from the Tekopora cash transfer program are meeting their commitments, the education ministry will share data with the social development ministry implementing the cash transfer program.

Partnership beyond the National Statistical System in Ghana

In some African countries, producing vital statistics poses a significant and pressing challenge, and Ghana is no exception. Although the law states that the Births and Deaths Registry must report data to the Ghana Statistical Service, the reported data contains gaps or inconsistencies. To guarantee the quality of the data and produce robust statistics, the Ghana Health Service, the Births and Deaths Registry, and Ghana Statistical Service have signed an MoU established under the Bloomberg Health Data Initiative to share data on birth and deaths.

"This MOU permits the Ghana Health Service to notify the Births and Deaths Registry of all vital events occurring at health facilities, as well as home-based vital events identified by community health workers. This has now allowed the civil registrar to identify the number and location of many births and deaths that are not registered and has contributed to an increase in registrations."[7]

Belize's National Statistical System Portal

Providing mechanisms to report and use quality data increases trust among data-producing organizations and with users. Under this premise, in July 2019, the Statistical Institute of Belize partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank to launch the **Belize National Statistical System Portal** available on the institute's website. This portal seeks to:

- Be the official source for indicators and metadata for the country, and specifically for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Improve coordination and data sharing between the Statistical Institute of Belize and portal members.
- Link ministries, government agencies, researchers, non-governmental organizations, and technical support to the platform and encourage them to share data.
- Standardize and reduce the amount of effort needed to exchange data across organizations.

Users can generate data from the country's 1991, 2000, and 2010 Population and Housing Census data sets.

[7] Frederes, A. and Setel, F. 2018. Outdated Legal Frameworks Leave Millions Without a Legal Identity. Here's How Four Countries Took Action. **vitalstrategies.org/outdated-legal-frameworks-leave-millions-without-a-legal-identity-heres-how-four-countries-took-action/**

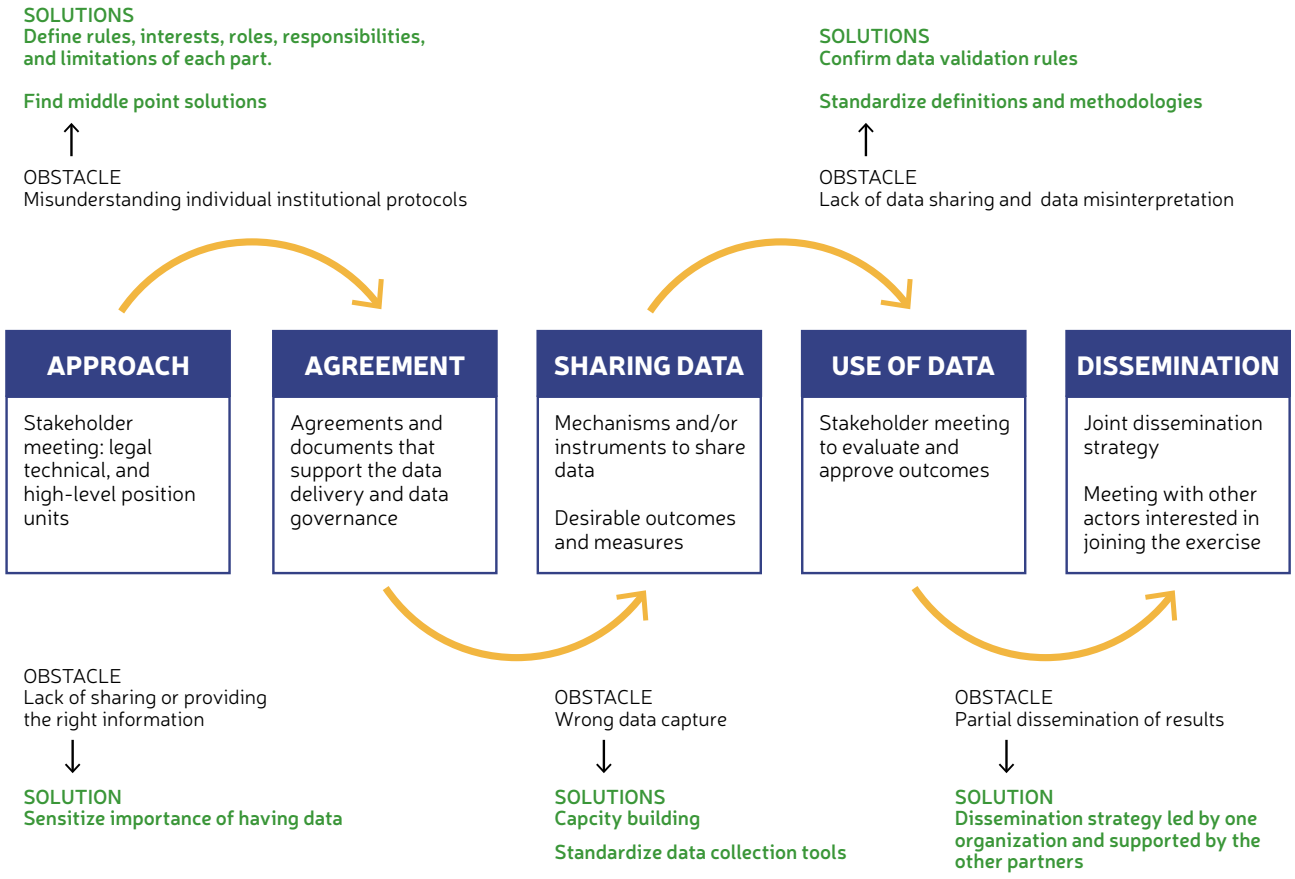
The protection of personal data poses an additional challenge for data governance and building trust. There are several recommendations on how countries can navigate this issue based on experiences from Latin America. The peer exchange presented a proposed **Generic Law on Official Statistics for Latin America** which includes:

- Recommendations that official statistics producers use individual data exclusively for statistical purposes.
- Recommendations that official statistics producers protect confidential data so that statistical units cannot be identified, directly or indirectly. The approach should consider all possible means that a third party could reasonably use.
- Guidelines for secure data processing and storage.
- Guidelines on access to individual data in the national statistical system and access to confidential data for academic research purposes.
- Guidelines on confidentiality commitments.
- Guidelines on sub-contracting.

"In African countries, administrative data is underutilized due to a lack of cooperation on all levels: between government agencies, public and private data providers, and users."

Through an interactive exercise, participants developed data flow processes and discussed challenges and potential solutions during each stage. Figure 2 provides a summary of the discussions.

Figure 2: Flow chart for sharing data – challenges and solutions



Strengthening data quality

Once a national statistical office has overcome the hurdles of data governance and legal frameworks to access administrative data, it must evaluate the data for statistical use. Administrative data are collected by government ministries, departments, and agencies—including sub-national governments—for their own regulatory, monitoring, or decision-making purposes. As a result, data may not be presented in a format that is useful for statistical purposes. Reasons for this include:

- Lack of quality control.
- Incomplete data.
- Differences between the program and statistical agency requirements.
- Lack of timeliness (e.g., long delays in receiving some or all of the data).
- Cost of processing the data (e.g., staff time and computer systems may be needed to clean and complete the data).[8,9]

National statistical offices are responsible for sharing information on the quality of their statistics and data sources. While the quality guidelines for surveys and censuses are more straightforward because the data are produced within the national statistical office, the production of administrative data is often beyond the office's full control.

Administrative data quality determines data reliability for decision-making. It also strengthens trust between citizens and the national statistical system, and requires greater collaboration among actors.

[8] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy. Ch. 3. ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425873/

[9] Eurostat. 2003. Working Group. Assessment of quality in statistics. Item 6: Quality assessment of administrative data for statistical purposes. unstats.un.org/unsd/EconStatKB/KnowledgebaseArticle10264.aspx

Participants shared good practices including standardizing definitions, methodologies, and processes to allow for data sharing, comparability, and integration with other government organizations. Countries like Paraguay and Colombia also have specific units focusing on administrative data. Paraguay's national statistical office, DGEEC, includes an administrative data unit that ensures that guidelines and methodologies are implemented. Colombia's national statistical office, DANE, has a similar statistical quality unit that assesses the quality of administrative records and maintains guidelines and a code of good practices on data quality (see Case study 2).

Through its **Administrative Data Maturity Model**, UNICEF is helping further the conversation on administrative data to develop a common system that prioritizes investments and needs across sectors. The model is built on three main elements:

- It is child focused.
- It is built from the community up.
- It recognizes the need for strong cross-sectoral foundations at the national level to support the effective and sustainable functioning of administrative data systems.

"Eliminating survey questions that can be completed through administrative records improves response rates and reduces the response burden. It also enhances the quality of administrative records so that available administrative records and information gaps that should be captured are aligned when the survey is designed."

The approach also places administrative data as part of a broader national data landscape—recognizing the importance of integrating multiple data sources to validate data quality, address data gaps, and meet national data requirements.[10]

[10] Carter, K. 2019. An Administrative Data Maturity Model – Building national administrative data capacity to produce best results for children. International Journal of Population Data Science. UNICEF. **ijpds.org/article/view/1321**

Table 1: Tools, initiatives, and processes to improve data quality

Country	Approach to strengthening data quality	Implications for improving data quality
Costa Rica: National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC)	INEC has created an inventory of administrative data categorized by institution, characteristics, and end purpose. CECRA is a tool used to evaluate the quality of administrative records (Figure 3).	So far, 54 institutions and 145 administrative records have been registered in the inventory, along with 6 applications of CECRA in different administrative registries.
Zanzibar: Office of the Chief Government Statistician	The office has created a compendium as a social statistics guide that provides a list of indicators for required data. It also explains what variables can be collected from primary sources and how often each indicator can be produced based on good practices.	The compendium has helped make the initial approach to statistics easier.
Ghana Health Service	Ghana Health Service deployed the District Health Information System (DHIS), which allows data providers to share their data.	Currently, 6,000 health facilities report via the DHIS. The system allows users to triangulate, or use more than one method, to collect data to identify trends, improve data quality, and create reports. Although this system has strengthened health statistics in Ghana, it still faces significant challenges as it does not include private sector data, and data providers lack the skills to use the system.
Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)	DANE is working to have a population-based statistical register.	Census data have improved with the use of administrative records, such as data on birth records and links to death records and the migration register.
Global: Interoperability: A practitioner's guide to joining-up data in the development sector	The guide was launched in October 2018 at the second UN World Data Forum in Dubai. It is the product of a multi-stakeholder collaborative on data interoperability jointly convened by the UN Statistics Division and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development data. The collaborative laid the foundations for a joint endeavor to explore opportunities and identify good practices to enhance data interoperability in the area of sustainable development[11]	The guide is structured around five areas to address some of the key dimensions needed to scale interoperability solutions to macroscopic and systemic levels: » Interoperability, data management, and governance. » Canonical data and metadata models. » Classifications and vocabularies. » Standardized interfaces. » Linked data. The guide was developed as a practical tool to help improve the integration and reusability of data and data systems, including strengthening administrative data.

[11] Gonzáles Morales, L. and Orrell, T. 2018. Interoperability: A practitioner's guide to joining-up data in the development sector. data4sdgs.org/resources/interoperability-practitioners-guide-joining-data-development-sector

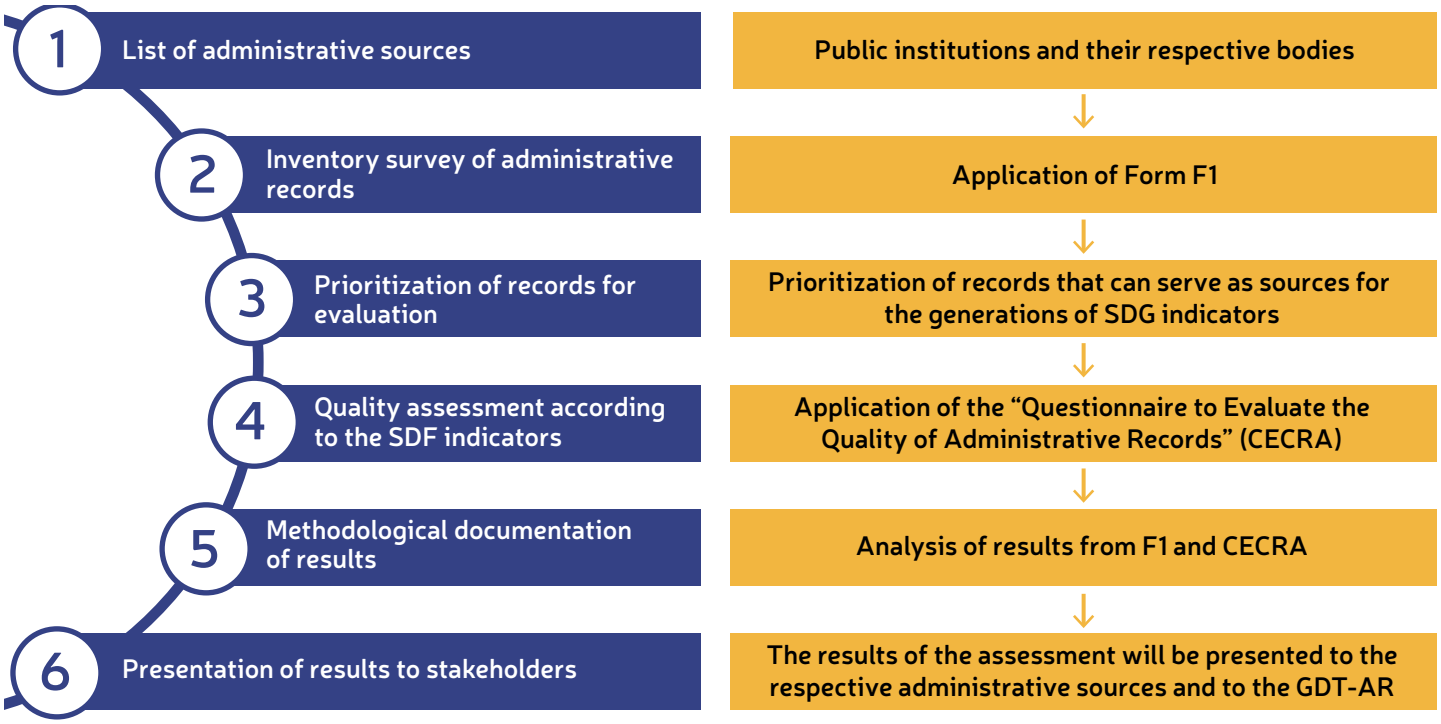
Case study 2: Country examples of strengthening data quality

Colombia pioneers statistical quality assessment
Quality is one of the main requirements for building trust in statistics and administrative records. Through DANE, the National Administrative Department of Statistics, Colombia has led annual plans to evaluate entities' statistics in the national statistical system to certify their quality, harmonize statistical production among institutions that collect similar data, and avoid duplication that may cause mistrust in statistics.

In 2017, DANE launched the Technical Standard for the Quality of the Statistical Process: Quality Requirements for the Generation of Statistics, outlining the necessary attributes for a statistic to be of good quality. DANE also published the National Code of Good Practices for Official Statistics, which "promotes the identification of strengths and improvement mechanisms that allow the production and dissemination of country statistics to be strengthened."

Ethiopia's data quality assessment framework
The Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia has developed the **Ethiopian Data Quality Assessment Framework** that supports the sectoral management information system to produce quality, timely, and reliable data. This framework evaluates statistical information produced by ministries to ensure that it conforms to their quality, relevance, accuracy, and timeliness guidelines. These statistics are authenticated as official data and can be used to inform decision-making. Similarly, this framework acts as a tool to identify critical bottlenecks that may affect evidence-based decision-making.

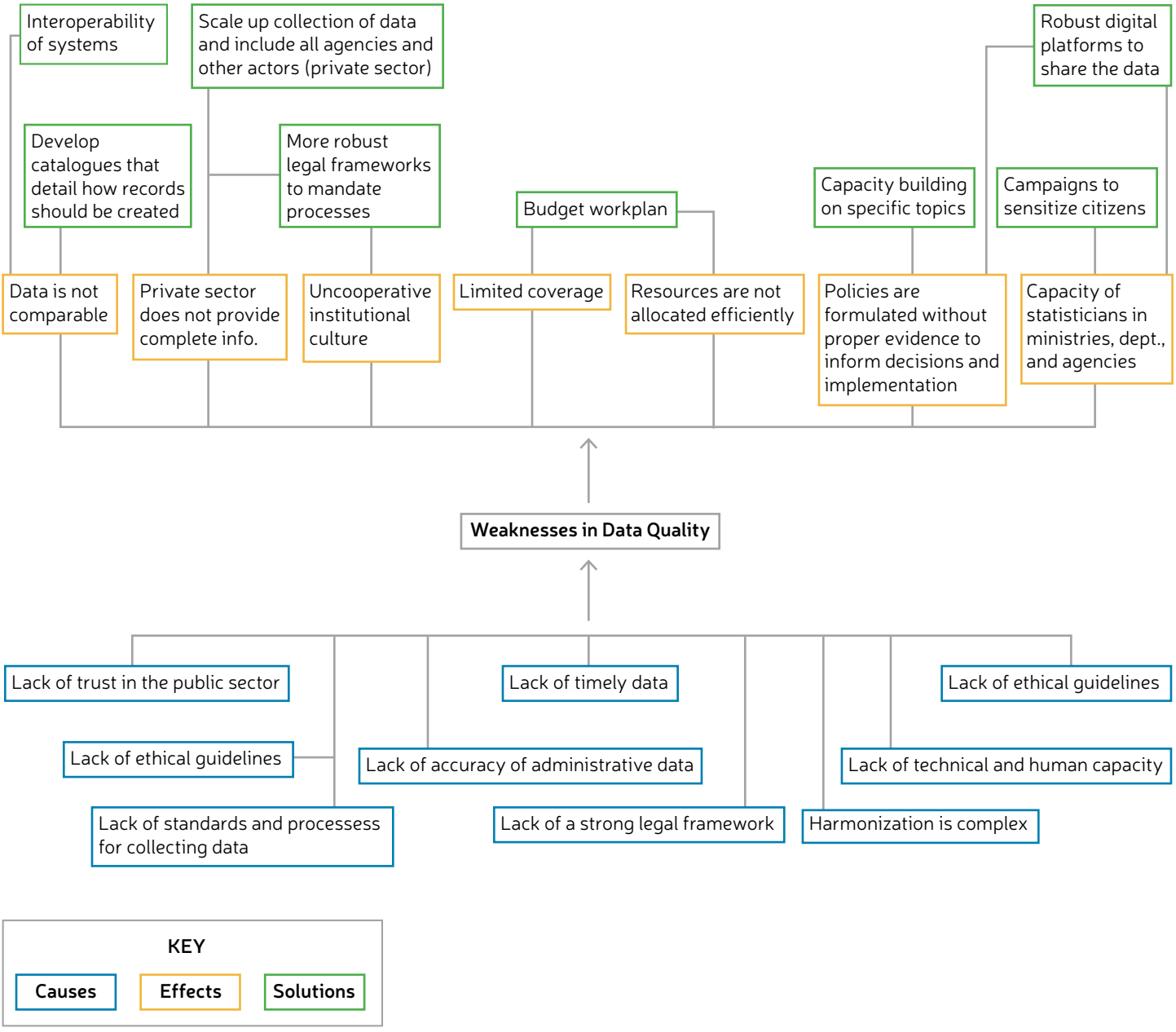
Figure 3: Stages of the administrative records inventory process in Costa Rica



Challenges and solutions for strengthening data quality

Participants split into country groups and worked together to identify the challenges and solutions that they face in strengthening data quality. They used a decision tree to outline causes, effects, and solutions. The reflections of these country groups are presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Decision tree on strengthening data quality

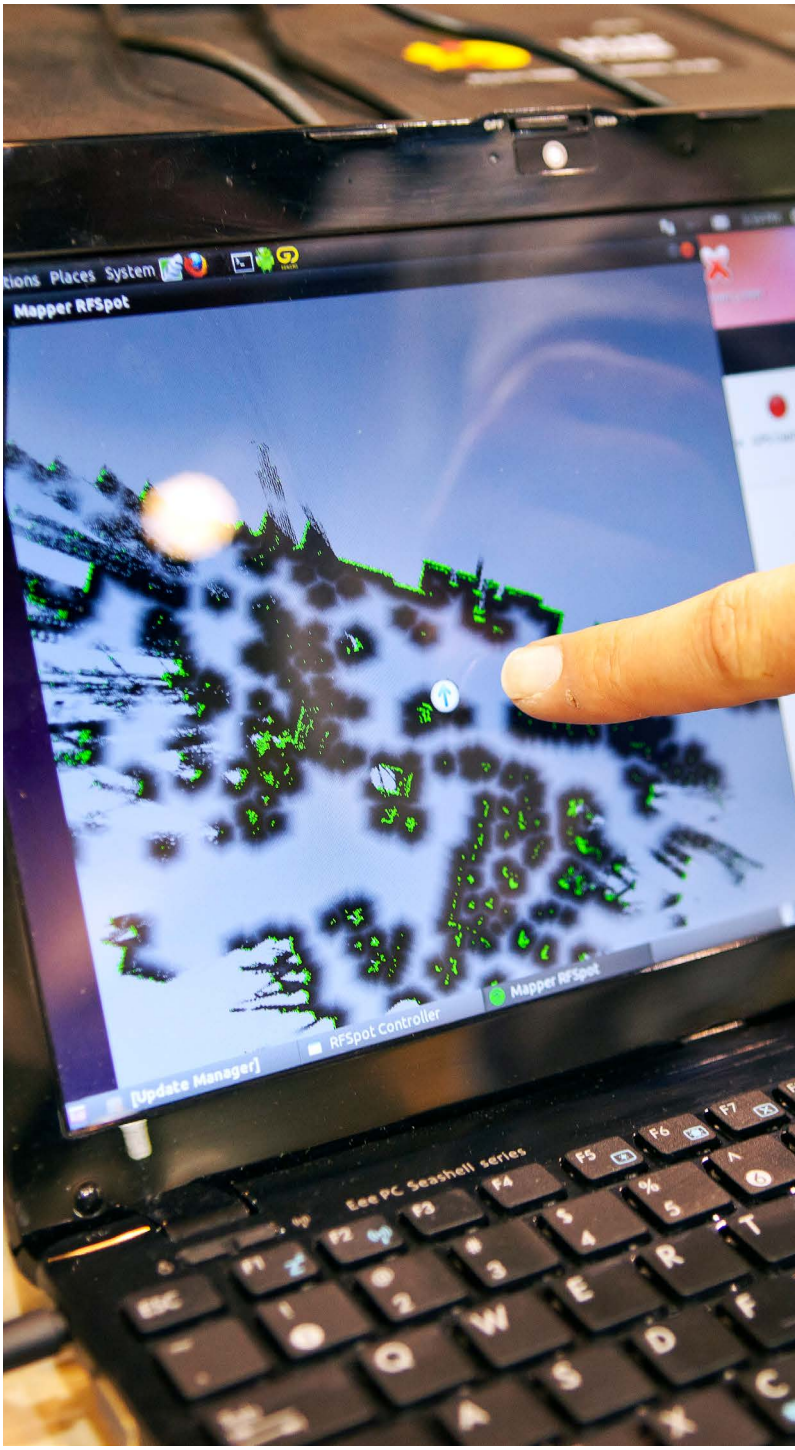


Innovations in data production

To monitor the 2030 Agenda and related regional and national development plans, national statistical systems must produce many additional statistics and indicators more quickly and more frequently than ever before. The need for statistical organizations to adapt and incorporate innovative tools, methods, and processes has been stressed. Modernizing official statistics requires reviewing the statistical business processes followed to collect, process, and disseminate data. It is crucial to meet the expanding demands of policymakers, researchers, the media, and civil society for high-quality, timely, and disaggregated statistics.

Innovation in official statistics refers to innovative data collection tools and the innovative incorporation of administrative data through:

- Establishing common frameworks for processes.
- Increasing the statistical production process' efficiency.
- Producing and disseminating outputs that more effectively meet user needs.
- Working with other actors—ministries, departments, and agencies; private sector; civil society; and others—to increase collaboration and coordination around data and apply innovative data collection methods.[12, 13]



[12] United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2018. Data collection and data sources. unece.org/stats/mos/dcoll.html

[13] Hussein, A. 2017. Modernization of Official Statistics in Qatar: The Road Map. psa.gov.qa/en/media1/events/Documents/sdgworkshop/presentations/Dr_Ahmad_Hussein_presentation.pdf

Table 2: Country-specific examples of innovation in administrative data

Country	Innovation	Implications
Ecuador: Population registry in the Galapagos 2020 census	An innovative way of using administrative data for census was piloted in the Galapagos. Sources of data: » Civil registry. » Ministry of Education. » Ministry of Electricity (if they are using electricity, it is easy to know where people live).	Benefits: » Cost savings. » Greater quality: quality assurance framework. Timeline: » Traditional census running in parallel with the Population and Housing Census based on Administrative records (CPV-RA for its acronym in Spanish). » Plan to replace paper data collection with an electronic version. » 2030 vision of census-based only on administrative records.
Mexico: Mechanisms based on information and communications technology (ICT) to improve data collection and processing	Within INEGI, there are various types of administrative records produced at different frequencies and from different sources. They interact through different systems but are linked to a central system or inter-institutional platform, Administrative Records Archive File Management System (SIGA-ARA for its acronym in Spanish), which allows each state unit to access it safely. Information is disseminated nine months after it is gathered to generate demand for data.	Mexico is currently working on population statistical patterns based on administrative records. INEGI estimates that it can collect information on 7 million people from existing administrative data sources. Success will be subject to the willingness of other entities to share data and collaborate.
Kenya: Digitization of social assistance records	Kenya's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection manages three of the four social assistance programs that target vulnerable groups in the country through cash transfers. Digitization of these systems helps target and track beneficiaries, identify gaps, and remove duplication. through the Single Registry cash transfer platform.	The Single Registry enables online payments to beneficiaries and includes a feedback mechanism. The platform compares beneficiaries' identification numbers with those in the Integrated Population Registration Services. Currently, only aggregate data is shared with the national statistical office. This level of granular data is worth sharing, in addition to the digitized labor records that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is currently working on, as long as safeguards are in place for data protection and privacy.

Strengthening administrative data now and for the future: lessons learned and next steps

The peer exchange included networking sessions for participants to learn and build partnerships and collaborations with one another. We used a Partnership Wall and Learning Wall approach that allowed participants to identify potential activities they wanted to work on and the institutions with which they wanted to engage. These inputs were used to structure regional and cross-regional sessions that matched participants based on their interests and provided opportunities to network on specific topics where they were seeking collaboration to strengthen their administrative data systems.

African participants established plans to collaborate around the following topics:

- Establish national strategies for timely and disaggregated statistics from administrative records, including data validation and accreditation systems.
- Collaborate with national statistics offices around the UNICEF administrative data maturity model and action plan.
- Strengthen administrative data in the migration, civil registration and vital statistics, tourism, education, and justice (including crime) sectors.
- Develop checklists and guidelines on best practices in choosing the best source of administrative records.
- Plan learning exchanges between countries to modernize administrative records.

Latin American and the Caribbean participants established activities to collaborate around the following:

- Build capacities to disseminate statistical information, including presenting data through interactive visualizations.
- Promote knowledge and experience exchanges among ministries and other government agencies focused on the same work area to identify potential partnerships and initiatives that can be replicated in each country.
- Advise the processes related to implementing interoperability in the statistical system.

Participants from Latin America and the Caribbean established different commitments to share methodological documents, regulations, and guidelines, among others, and plan for cross-country sharing on certain themes (e.g., register-based census in LAC) and country-to-country knowledge exchanges.

The Global Partnership and Cepei have already been engaged in supporting and facilitating these partnerships and will continue to do so. We will continue updating our **Administrative Data Initiative page** with progress on this work.

What did we learn?

We summarized the learnings based on participant feedback as well as our own reflections on the peer exchange.

- **Uncover commonalities:** The event allowed participants to observe the strengths and weaknesses that were often widespread among countries. Countries that have successfully addressed these issues shared possible solutions with other participants.
- **Disseminate best practices:** There are valuable initiatives, projects, and practices that can be used to strengthen administrative data that have not been efficiently disseminated among countries.
- **Nurture the emerging community of practice:** There is a wide field of work with very interesting ideas to develop. This will help continue to improve the quality of administrative records and incorporate them into official statistics.
- **Support the development of regional public goods:** Countries are willing to create regional public goods to improve the use of administrative records.
- **Work across government:** Discussions on administrative records for statistical purposes must include ministries, departments, and agencies, and other government agencies to create synergies on methodologies, legislation, and best practices.

"The event provided me with new ideas and an understanding of how issues have been managed in other countries so I can try to promote changes in my institution's processes."

"Although each country has advanced at its own pace and with its own limitations, it was good to find commonalities, and to know that we share common challenges and can learn from each other."

"I gained knowledge and made key contacts that will help solve our organizations' various challenges. For example, I discovered institutions with guidelines for information quality treatment and anonymization, among others."

"The most important takeaway is that we are no longer in a bubble. Sometimes we need to step outside of our box and collaborate to avoid duplication."

ANNEX 1: Main findings of the pre-survey[14]

We shared a pre-survey with peer exchange participants to capture their expectations and learn more about country partners' experiences in producing and using administrative data. The survey helped us shape the agenda for the event to ensure that it responded to our partners' needs. It was split into four parts.

Table 3: Country experiences and expectations related to administrative data

Data collection and its purpose	Data sharing across government	Successes and challenges in producing and using administrative data	Learning expectations
44% of participants use administrative records to produce vital statistics. The main purpose of collecting and/or using administrative data is to produce statistics, inform decision-making, and evaluate policy. 20% use administrative records to produce statistics on nutrition and health. The 'Other' category presented the highest percentage of responses (72%) and was divided into a wide variety of statistics produced.	Although 60% of participants report that there are laws and policies that support data sharing, 12% report a lack of laws or policies and 16% say they require improvement. Key challenges to data sharing are privacy and confidentiality, lack of mandate or requirement that ministries, departments, and agencies share data, and data may not be equally relevant across all government organizations.	44% of respondents reported that improved data quality has been their most significant success or gain in producing and/or using administrative data. 24% reported that data quality has enabled them to form partnerships with other institutions.	76% of respondents would like to identify more efficient mechanisms to capture, manage, analyze, and share data using different tools and technologies. They would like to understand which tools are relevant to different circumstances. Respondents were also keen to learn how countries have strengthened technical capacities and what strategic alliances they formed to make this happen. Lastly, they were interested in learning about the challenges that other countries face in the use of administrative records as one of the main sources of government information.

[14] Participants who completed the survey were nominated by their countries to attend the peer exchange. The results are therefore not based on a systematic sampling of data producers and users in the country. There is a likelihood therefore that the sample and findings may be skewed and may not be an accurate representation of the country they represent. The purpose of the survey was to collect some indicating information on country experiences with administrative data and help shape the agenda for the peer exchange. Twenty-five participants responded to the pre-survey, representing 12 African countries and 13 Latin American countries.