ACCELERATING OPEN DATA POLICIES
IN AFRICA

Wisdom Donkor
Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation /
Africa Geospatial Data and Internet Conference (AGDIC)
Role of data in development

• Country-level commitments to the SDGs will not be feasible without fast-tracking the data revolution
• Provide the right information at the right time and made universally accessible to all
• The link between data and development cannot be over-emphasized.
• Statistics has moved from being a simple tool for progress monitoring and evaluation,
• Key driver of development programs that allows for more accurate targeting of interventions, development of new products and services, and better accountability among decision-makers
Data use cases in Ghana

• In 1985, official statistics put Guinea worm cases at 4,060 in Ghana
• By 1989, the number of recorded cases had increased to 179,556 following a nationwide case study.
• With increased attention and investments in monitoring (data) during the crisis management period, with well targeted interventions
• 2010 only eight cases were recorded across the country
• August 2014, the International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication, declared Ghana FREE FROM GUINEA WORM
• This is one of many data use cases that demonstrate the need to build an efficient data system
Three themes to address in Africa:

- **Addressing data gaps**
  - Present baseline situation for Ghana’s capacity to produce indicators and highlight data gaps.
  - Discuss opportunities to strengthen census and survey regimes.
  - Discuss opportunities to further develop the administrative data system with a view to ensuring harmonization, comparability, and quality data.
  - Present possibilities for using new data/technology to address identified data gaps and engage new actors.
  - To determine how alignment with national and regional agendas will impact data collection and indicator production and reporting.

- **Encouraging data use:**
  - Have an open dialogue with key users on how data/statistics produced can better meet their needs.
  - Identify ways to harness the opportunity of the momentum around data to strengthen the sharing, accessibility and presentation of data.
  - To raise the profile of data production and use with key stakeholders such as policy-makers and the media to encourage improved data for evidence-based decision making and accountability.
Strengthening the Data Ecosystem:

- To solidify the multi-stakeholder approach to achieving and measuring the SDGs, and create new data communities.
- To identify and discuss solutions to major funding gaps.
- To identify major capacity gaps for the data ecosystem.
- Provide an opportunity for country-to-country learning in the SDG indicator production process.
- Ensure high-level political and policy-maker buy-in for the Roadmap process.
- Identify key issues for the policy and enabling environment for the data ecosystem.
Community Development: IATI Data Awareness Creation

**Demand Side**
- Data Education (around Citizen Empowerment)
- Data Relevance Discussions (Citizen Centric Data)
- Boot Camps and Apps Challenges

**Supply Side**
- Data Education (around data principle and Government Use)
- Data Management Capacity Building
- Technical training of data Controllers for Incorporation of Workflow
Short- to medium-term action plans for moving forward

**Action Plan 1:** Capacity and training of national data officers for data management on portal
• This will include a hands-on pilot on operationalizing data portal and piloting how this can enhance the timely dissemination of data on the national data portal (mobilising private sector here is one rationale behind this)

**Action Plan 2:** Development and piloting of training programme for regional and district officers for mobilising open data flows from local to district, regional and then to national
• This should be piloted with at least one regional office and its district officers, and should include hands on training associated with data

**Action Plan 3:** Collating and developing potential data on the data portal, including best practice on use data

**Action Plan 4:** Formalizing policy for empowering all stakeholders – this needs to be developed e.g. code of ethics; etc]