



Second World Summit for Social Development

Ensuring that no one is left behind: The role of disaggregated data

Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 13:15-14:30 pm, in person

Organized by:

Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN System (CCS-UN)

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Background on the event

The event focused on the critical role of disaggregated data in realizing the promise of the 2030 Agenda that no one will be left behind. Achieving this commitment requires more than national-level progress tracking; it demands data that capture the realities of groups at risk of exclusion. The 2030 Agenda calls for increasing the availability of data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location, and other relevant characteristics. Such data are essential for exposing disparities, informing inclusive policies, and ensuring accountability. Despite broad recognition of their importance, systematic production of such data remains challenging due to gaps in coverage, lack of harmonization across sources, and small sample sizes that limit reliability. The session aimed to showcase successful approaches for improving data disaggregation and to explore practical solutions for scaling these efforts globally.

Key Issues discussed

- **Intersectionality of inequalities:** compounded disadvantages across gender, ethnicity, wealth, and location remain invisible without granular data.

- **Challenges in data collection:** hard-to-reach populations, small sample sizes, legal restrictions on collecting sensitive characteristics, and reliance on household-level data obscure intra-household disparities (e.g., by age or sex).
- **Limited integration of data sources:** traditional data sources (censuses, surveys, administrative records) are not fully integrated with new data sources like geospatial information and mobile or citizen-generated data.
- **Migration data gaps:** lack of timely, comparable, and disaggregated migration statistics affects planning for labour markets, social protection and humanitarian response.
- **Insufficient geographic disaggregation:** absence of fine-grained spatial data undermines targeted policy interventions and resource allocation .
- **Data interoperability challenges:** lack of common standards between statistical and geospatial domains hinders efficient data sharing and integration .
- **Capacity and resource constraints:** financial limitations and insufficient technical skills impede implementation of advanced disaggregation methods.
- **Risk of masking inequalities:** reliance on averages without disaggregation hides disparities, leading to ineffective policies.

Key recommendations for action

- **Strengthen national statistical systems** to produce and integrate disaggregated data across multiple dimensions, including disability, migration status and geographic location.
- **Adopt and implement global frameworks** such as the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework to support geographic disaggregation and integration of statistical and geospatial data.
- **Promote data collaboratives and partnerships** among governments, international organizations and private actors to leverage administrative and non-traditional data sources.
- **Invest in capacity building and resources** for advanced methods (e.g., small area estimation, geocoding, interoperability standards) and FAIR data principles.
- **Ensure regular collection of migration-related data** in censuses, labor force surveys and household surveys for comparability and disaggregation, including by developing specific migration profiles and modules.
- **Ensure data protection and confidentiality** while expanding the scope of disaggregation, particularly for vulnerable and legally sensitive groups.
- **Mainstream gender and intersectionality perspectives** in all data initiatives to reveal compounded inequalities and inform inclusive policies.