Open Government Data
principles, concepts & best practice
Introduction

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Agenda

‣ Why we are here
‣ What is Open Government
‣ What is Open Data
‣ Why is Open Data important
‣ 10 Elements of sustainable Open Data programs
‣ Best Practice Examples
What is this all about?

› Data enables more informed decision making, increased efficiency, improved measurement and greater transparency.

› More data is being collected, we have more capacity for storing and sharing that data, and there are more tools available that can provide insights into data.

› In order for this potential to be realised, however, data must first be made available, in a usable way, to the wide variety of actors who need to collaborate to deliver development outcomes.
Improving data is so fundamental to global growth and poverty reduction that it should be seen as a development agenda in its own right.

* November 2014 report of UN Secretary General’s expert panel on the data revolution.
From e-gov to we-gov!
The tools: e-Government is an important tool to improve public services and help for better communication between Governments and Citizens

The policy: Open Government is a global trend in policy for Governments to become more open, responsive, inclusive, transparent, accountable and efficient.

The resources: Open Data is a resource that we can use to address issues and create social and economic value in society
Open Government

- Open Government is a cultural change towards new relationships between governments and citizens.
- Open Government policies embrace the use of modern ICT and data as resources and tools to create more meaningful interactions between citizens and governments.
- This is culture change about how Governments and Citizens interact and cooperate towards to a “Government of the people, by the people, for the people”

*President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, 1863*
What is Open Data
What is Open Government Data

Data is ‘open’ reused, and redistributed by anyone, for any purposes, including commercial reuse, free of charge and without any restrictions.

–www.unpan.org/dpadm
Exceptions

› Any information and data collected by government authorities can be open government data.

– with the exception of personal data, and data that must not be public because of national security reasons!
What does ‘open’ exactly mean

Data needs to be used to create value. For data to be usable it needs to be:

- raw data, free of charge
- technically open: structured information in formats that can be processed by machines
- legally open: published under an open standard license allowing for reuse for any purposes
5 reasons for Open Data
Open Government Data - why

› is a **precondition** for any Open Government policy as it builds the basis for:

1. a well-informed public; citizens that understand why decisions are made and how tax money is spent, thus enabling them to effectively engage and actively participate in society.

2. a more transparent and accountable government; as a basis to mitigate corruption and rebuild trust in public institutions.
3. better data management and data sharing practices within governments; leading to a more efficient government and save tax money.

4. better, because evidence-based, decision-making within government, that lead to better policies and better public services.

5. the creation of innovations, new products and services build by third parties reusing OGD, leading to the creation of jobs and economic growth.
Data for everybody

OGD can only lead to the desired objectives if it is available as **high-quality and usable data** that is relevant for different stakeholders, including:

- Government itself!
- Civil Society
- Intermediaries (CSOs, Media)
- Businesses
- Academia
- International Donor Organisations
Elements of sustainable Open Data programs
Implementing Open Data programs

1. Understand the local conditions for OGD
2. Create an open process & action plan
3. Understand Supply and Demand
4. Prioritise data release
5. Publish data following open data principles
6. Implement pilot projects that show impact
7. Promote and support reuse uptake
8. Institutionalise an open data policy
9. Make open data part of standard data management
10. Improve data analytical capacities
8. Institutionalise an open data policy

› An open data policy should help:
  
  – mainstream open data
  – open by default
  – align it with main national development goals
  – set a national strategy and priorities with S.M.A.R.T. goals
  – make it part of routine data collection and management
  – establish supportive actions for the open data ecosystem
9. Make open data part of standard data management

- Make open data become part of the default routine of government data collection and management practices at all levels, so:
  - open data is a default product rather than an expensive extra
- Improve data sharing within government
10. Improve data analytical capacities

- Help government agencies at all levels to make better use of data (their own and from other agencies)
- Capacity building on data analysis for middle-layer of government public servants, to help them:
- Use data to create better, thus evidence based policy decisions
Best Practice Examples
OGD for Environment Sector

- In Brazil Infoamazonia updates a map of official alerts of deforestation in Brazil. 12 GB of updated datasets on the most pressing issues of the Amazon rainforest to inform policy. *www.infoamazonia.org/about*

- In the USA the Energy Data Initiative (EDI) aims to help Americans benefit from entrepreneurial innovation enabled by open energy data from the US government and other sources. *www.data.gov/energy/energy-data-initiative*
OGD for Health Sector

- In 2004, the UK heart surgeon Sir Bruce Keogh persuaded his colleagues (there are 240 heart surgeons in the English NHS) to publish comparable data on their individual clinical outcomes.
- 7 years later, dramatic improvements in survival rates are reported – in some procedures, more than a third of patients are living when they might previously have died; in all, there are 1,000 fewer deaths in English heart surgery units each year than there were.
OGD for Sustainable Development

- In Nepal by 2013-14, foreign aid made 22% of the national budget, financed most development spending.
- In June 2013, the Aid Management Platform was launched. All donors are now required to report details about their funding to the platform.
- The Ministry of Finance uses open data to formulate the entire government’s budget, helping to trace gaps between spending and output.

Open data saves money!

- One of the primary users of open government data is government itself. Even from within government itself, it is not necessarily easy to gain access to the data needed as it is often locked up in departmental silos.
  - Greater Manchester area: over 600 public officials a day are unable to find or use data that they require for their jobs – costing authorities over £8.5 million a year.
  - FOI requests cost Greater Manchester public bodies over £4 million a year.
How to make this work for Bangladesh
Thank you!

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- UNDESA OGD Project
- OGDCE Guidelines
- Open Data Study
- This Slides