

International Collaboration: Capturing the Impact of Emerging Trends

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The surge in global population, over the past decade, has fueled technological innovation. Many advancements are developed to manage and forecast population growth rates while complexities in the political and economic landscape increases the level of difficulty to effectively measure and track emerging trends. The purpose of this research is to discover an effective approach to develop a sustainable technology infrastructure that aggregates international data. Thus, the research explores the best approaches to connect macro trends, political events and economic activity that are captured by the top intergovernmental institutions.

The United Nations, World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund are mission-heavy political and financial bodies that carry out a multitude of functions that serve a similar purpose; to inflict change in communities, directly and indirectly. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization tasked to promote international co-operation and to create and maintain international order. The World Bank Group is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries of the world for capital projects. It comprises two institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Development Association. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. These institutions carry out missions that capture the real-time political, social, and economic impact of emerging trends. The global poverty reduction agenda can achieve its targets with collaborative data interactions among these international bodies. International cooperation and data sharing will increase the speed and accuracy of the data received to make effective global economic and social policy decisions. The need for quality real-time statistical data continues to increase. Timely and reliable statistics are key factors to achieve targets in the 2030 development strategy. Improvements in the quality and quantity of data on all aspects of development are essential to achieve global poverty reduction targets (United Nations 2018). Quality data integration between the UN, World Bank Group, and IMF is needed to set benchmarks that measure progress and evaluate impact.

The UN, World Bank and IMF have dedicated resources for data collection. The Development Data Group coordinates statistical and data work and maintains a number of macro, financial and sector databases. This division of the World Bank is guided by professional standards in the collection, compilation and dissemination of

data to ensure that all data users can have confidence in the quality and integrity of the data produced (World Bank Group 2018).

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched a new internet based data service for the global user community. The United Nations System has been collecting statistical information from member states on a variety of topics. The information thus collected constitutes a considerable information asset of the organization. However, these statistical data are often stored in proprietary databases, each with unique dissemination and access policies. As a result, users are often unaware of the full array of statistical information that the UN system has in its data libraries. The current arrangement also means that users are required to move from one database to another to access different types of information. UNdata addresses this problem by pooling major UN databases and those of several international into one single internet environment. The innovative design allows a user to access a large number of UN databases either by browsing the data series or through a keyword search (United Nations 2018).

In addition, the IMF publishes a range of time series data on IMF lending, exchange rates and other economic and financial indicators. Manuals, guides, and other material on statistical practices at the IMF, in member countries, and of the statistical community at large are also available (IMF 2018). These three data infrastructures can serve different roles to achieve global targets by increasing data-collaboration among these international bodies.

There is global recognition that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts are complementary and should reinforce each other, and that development institutions and longer-term socioeconomic approaches are needed to prevent economic losses, the impact of disasters and violent conflict, reduce humanitarian needs, sustain peace and eliminate poverty (United Nations and World Bank 2017). In 2017, the United Nations and World Bank renewed the Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations. This is a joint effort by leaders of both institutions to make international engagement in crisis-affected situations more effective and sustainable. This commitment is based on a shared recognition that eliminating poverty, ending needs, and supporting peaceful societies in crisis-affected situations remains one of the most pressing challenges captured in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations 2017).

The research methodology used to explore the potential impact of data

collaboration among the World Bank, United Nations, and Internal Monetary Fund is a case study. In the case, the research explores how data collaboration can strengthen the Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations between the World Bank, IMF and the United Nations. The research examines the mandate and goals of the framework then explores how data collaboration strengthens or weakens the group's ability to achieve the desired goals. The primary sustainable development goal highlighted in the case is goal 1.A. To ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions. The overall purpose is to examine how data collaboration can support efforts to achieve the poverty reduction targets in the 2030 Agenda.