

ACCELERATING OPEN DATA POLICIES IN AFRICA

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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.

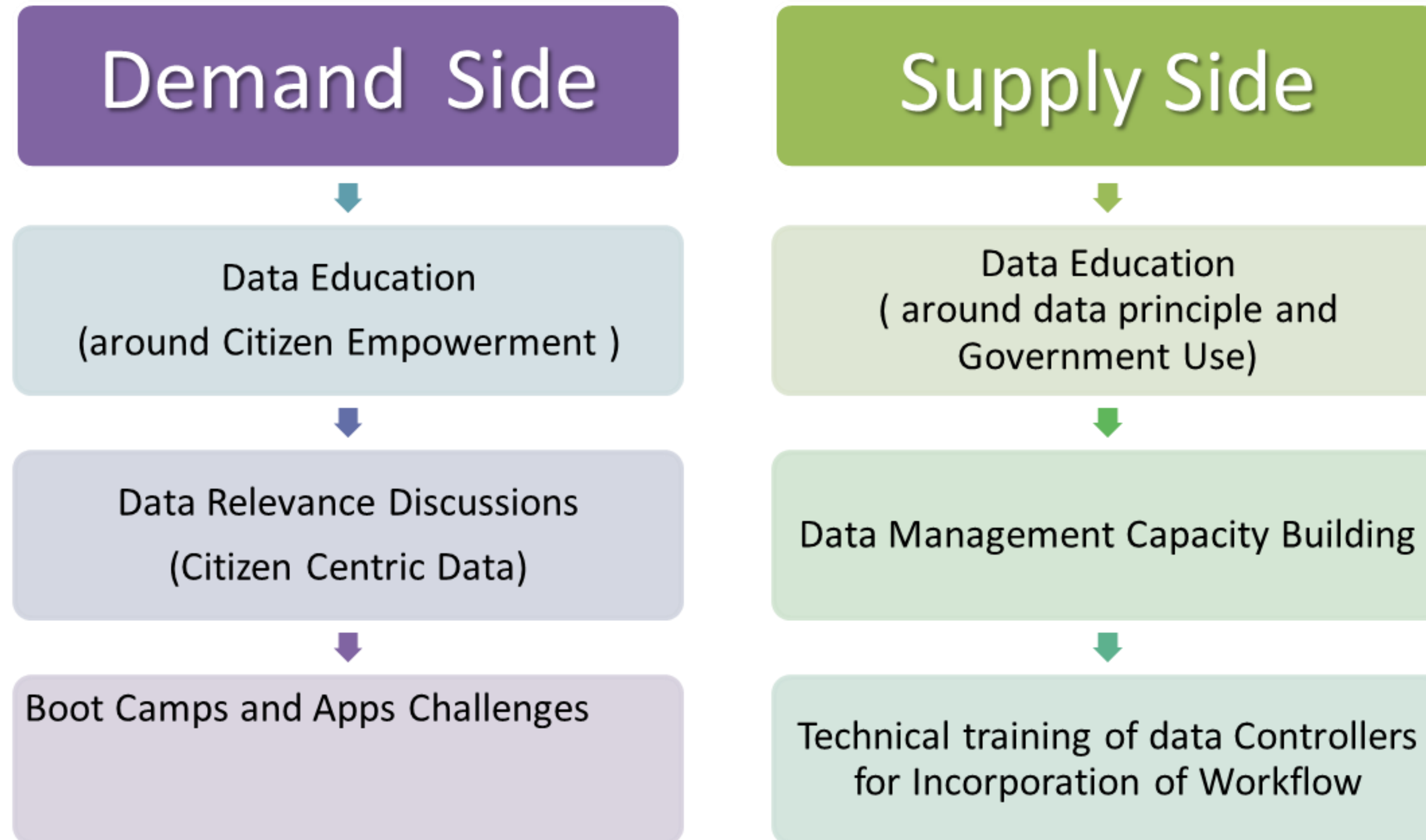


Strengthening the Data Ecosystem:

- 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



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]





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