

Our Principles



Statistics for Sustainable Development

Company Registered in England & Wales Number 10168747

Tel: +44 (0)118 375 3738

Email: hello@stats4sd.org

March 27, 2019

Stats4SD

Stats4SD's Contribution to Sustainable Development

Values and Operational Principles¹

Stats4SD has as a mission to support progress towards sustainable development. Until 2030 this means working towards meeting the UN's sustainable development goals. This mission underlies the values of the organisation and the principles we use in managing ourselves. These values and principles apply to the three domains of our operations:

1. The work we do for our clients and with partners.
2. The way we run the organisation.
3. Our function as a not-for-profit social enterprise.

These are not simply matters of 'the bottom line'. We see them as 'top line' principles, used to guide the strategy and the way in which we operate. Each is described separately in the following sections, though there are overlaps and links between them.

The work we do

The mission of Stats4SD is to support the pursuit of the sustainable development goals through better use of research, data, statistics and information. This sets the boundaries on the activities we will undertake. Within these bounds, we are open to work anywhere and with anyone, as long as:

- It is feasible from a business perspective.
- We have a team interested, willing and able to undertake the work.
- The client or partner shares our aims and values with regards to working towards sustainable development.

The way we run the organisation

The organisation is a social enterprise that must be financially viable to survive. As a not-for-profit company, our only income is from the work we do and services we provide, so we cannot avoid paying careful attention to financial costs and benefits. However, we are also driven by two more concerns: people and planet.

¹ There are numerous sources on which to base this. One that is more comprehensive than we need, but covers many of the dimensions is: <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/news-analysis/sign-9-principles-green-economy>

¹ The Bruntland Report (1987) introduced the idea that sustainable businesses need to pay attention to 3 Ps – people, planet and profit.

² Picture on front page: The photo was taken by the crew of Apollo 17 on their way to the Moon. Antarctica, Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Madagascar, and part of Asia are visible. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/78/The_Blue_Marble.jpg

People

As service providers, we aim to treat all clients:

- Fairly and openly.
- With respect and understanding.
- With the highest level of professional standards.

As employers, we aim to:

- Treat all staff fairly and openly.
- Treat all staff with respect for equality, diversity and inclusiveness.
- Support staff members' professional and personal development.
- Recognise staff needs to balance work and other aspects of their life.
- Make sure staff understand these principles, are committed to implementing them, and are able to help monitor and update them.

As members of local communities, we aim to:

- Be good citizens; respecting and contributing to the well-being of those communities.
- Contribute to building understanding of the connected world and sustainable development.

We strive to be transparent in all our areas of our operations, so that anyone with good reason to examine the organisation's details can do so.

Planet

We strive to minimise negative environmental impacts and restore environmental functions. This means:

- Minimising fossil fuel consumption and compensating for carbon emissions where possible.
- Reducing waste and maximising recycling.
- Avoiding products and services that are environmentally damaging.

Social enterprise

As a not-for-profit social enterprise, any operating surplus we make is invested back into the community. In this context, we recognise and aim to support two communities:

- The global community of people committed to a mission like ours in improving the use of data and statistics within a sustainable development context.
- The local communities of citizens in which our staff members live, and which host our offices.

For either of these, we use our operating surplus to contribute, either financially or in-kind, supporting causes that Stats4SD members feel passionate about. The process used to manage these resources is described below.

Putting our principles into practice

It is the responsibility of every staff member to follow these principles. Specific practices that are part of this will depend on time, place and circumstances, and will continue to evolve as opportunities and awareness changes. However, there are some practices that we use consistently.

These include:

1. We expect all staff members to be familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals and to follow debates around them.
2. Publishing regular reports that describe what we have been doing and with whom.
3. Finding champions among our staff members who promote and monitor practices in each area.
4. Holding regular staff consultations to review these principles and practices and update them when needed.
5. Adopting the Royal Statistical Society's code of professional conduct.

Examples of specific practices:

- Minimise travel by using remote working methods.
- Encourage walking, cycling and public transport for commuting and working.
- Compensate flights for CO2 emissions.
- Use environmentally friendly office products.
- Minimise waste and maximise recycling when purchasing and disposing of office supplies and equipment.

Community funding

The operating surplus that Stats4SD distributes is also used to support the values of the organisation. This means it is used for good causes connected with sustainable development, data and information, and our local communities.

Support can be provided as a cash grant or in-kind. In the latter case, staff members provide professional services either free or at below the usual rates.

Requests for support are submitted to the Managing Director by any staff member, associate or consultant to Stats4SD. If anyone else wishes to submit a request they need to find a staff member willing to submit it on their behalf. There is no application form. Simply write an outline of the case for support; describing the purpose, how it aligns with the organisational values and aims, and how the money will be spent (or other inputs used). The case should be no more than 200 words. The applicant will be asked for any additional information that is needed before a decision can be made. When a decision is made to support a request, then any additional requirements, such as reporting and accountability, will be explained to the applicant.

There are no upper or lower limits to the amounts of support that can be requested. However, the total to be dispersed is modest (£20,000 for our first two years of operation 2017 and 2018), and we will be careful not to let administering the funds become a burden by avoiding dispersing very small amounts.

Stats4SD reserves the right to share information on causes supported via its websites and reports.