OPEN DATA INTERMEDIARIES

FOR NON-STATE ACTORS IN CAMBODIA

KEY FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

26 March 2024

Content

1. Key concepts and terminologies

2. The rationales and the feasibility

3. Key recommendations

KEY CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGIES

Key terminologies

- **Data** is defined as 'information about people, things, and systems.' Data can be both quantitative and qualitative and can be stored on analogue or digital media.

- **Public data:** Based on its intent, data can be either public-intent or private-intent (i.e., for a commercial purpose). In this study, we focus on public intent data.

- **Data vs statistics:** Data refers to raw inputs from various sources while statistics are results of processing, analysing, and interpretation
  - In this presentation, we focus more on **statistics (admin and surveys)**

- **Open data.** According to the Open Definition, open data means "any data that can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose, subject at most to requirements that preserve provenance and openness."
  - **In this presentation, open data** is defined as "public data which is, by laws, supposed to be made publicly available and which can be used for private or public purposes in accordance with relevant rules and regulations."
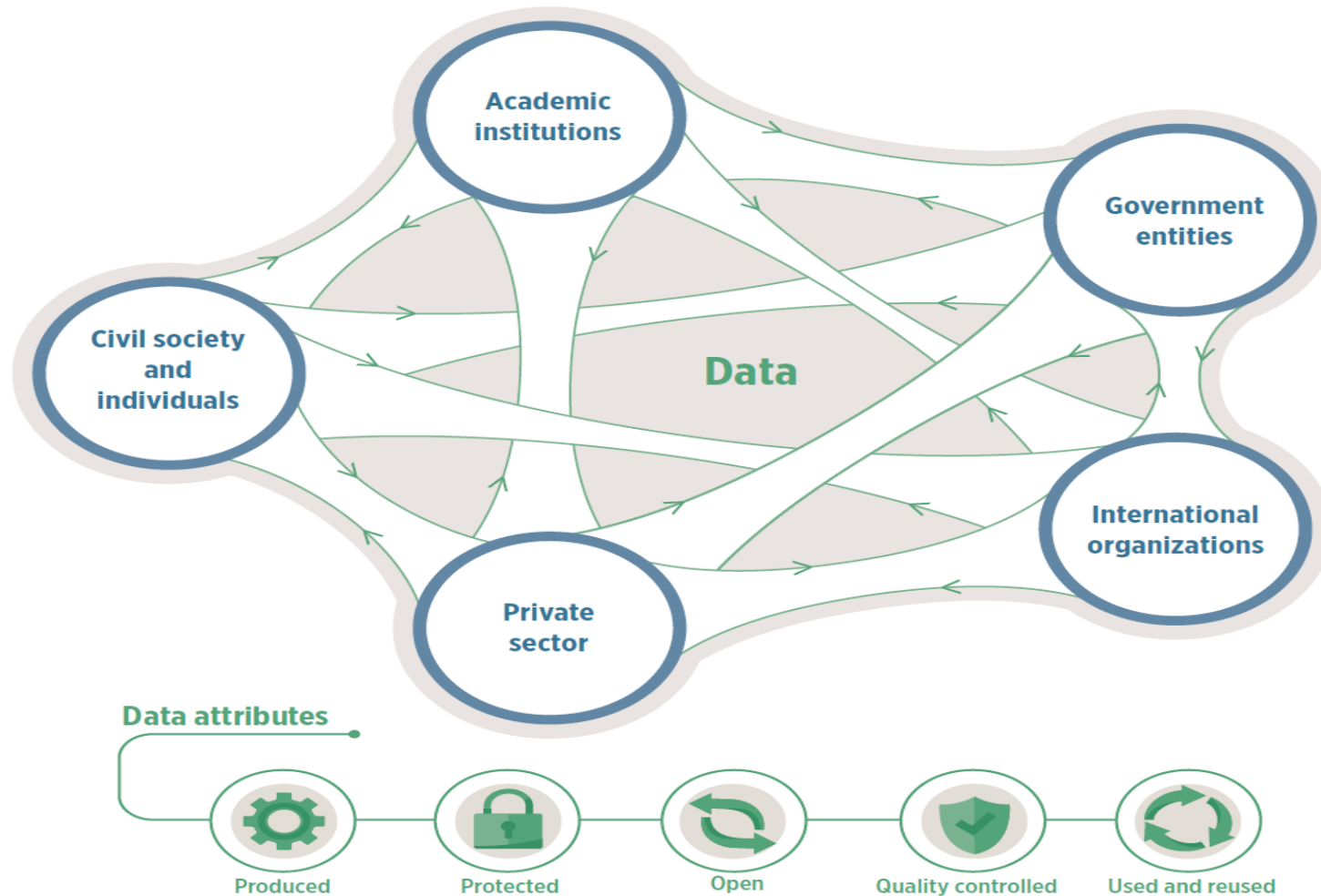
Demand and supply dynamics of data
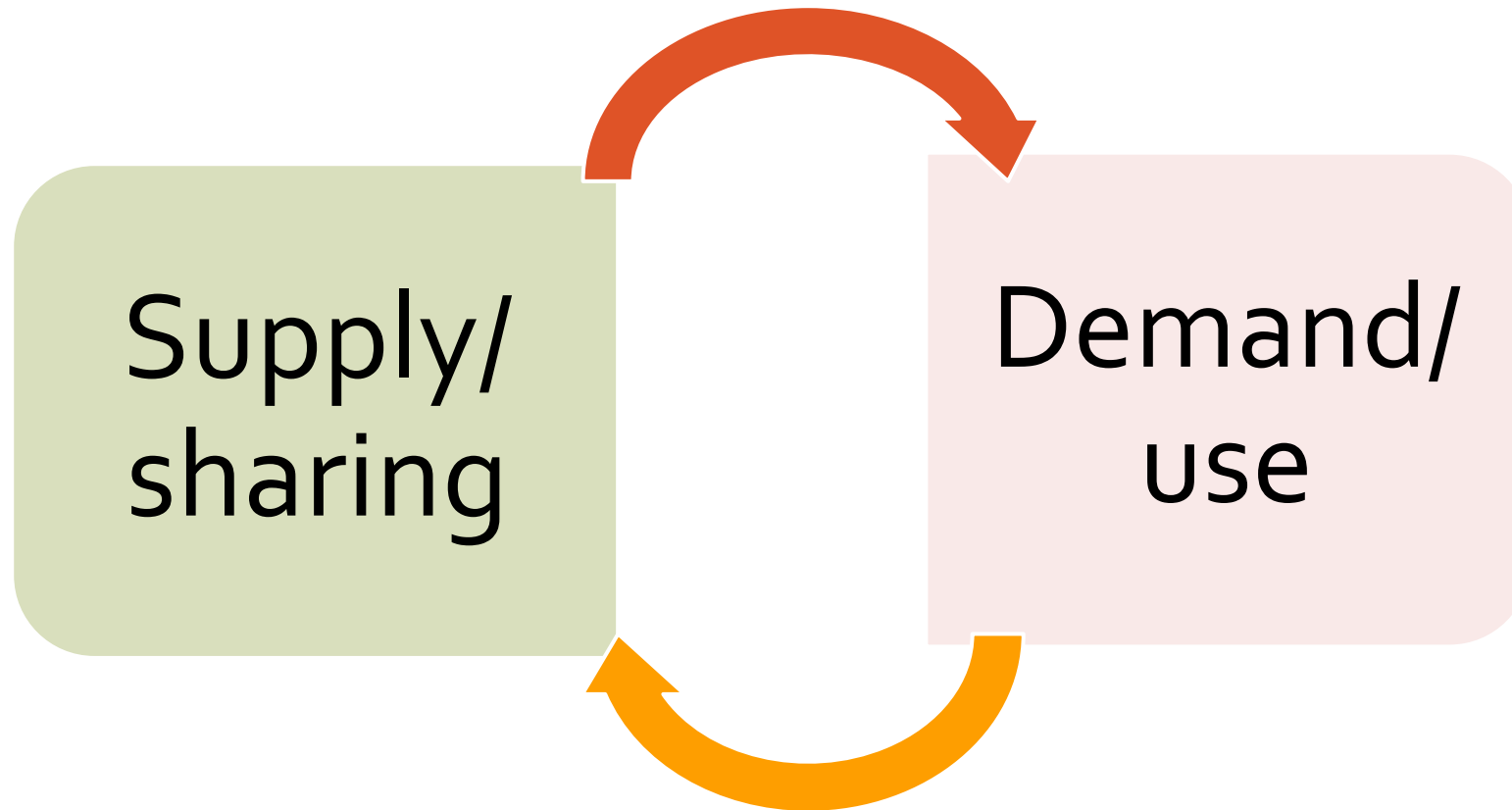
Three pathways along which data can foster development
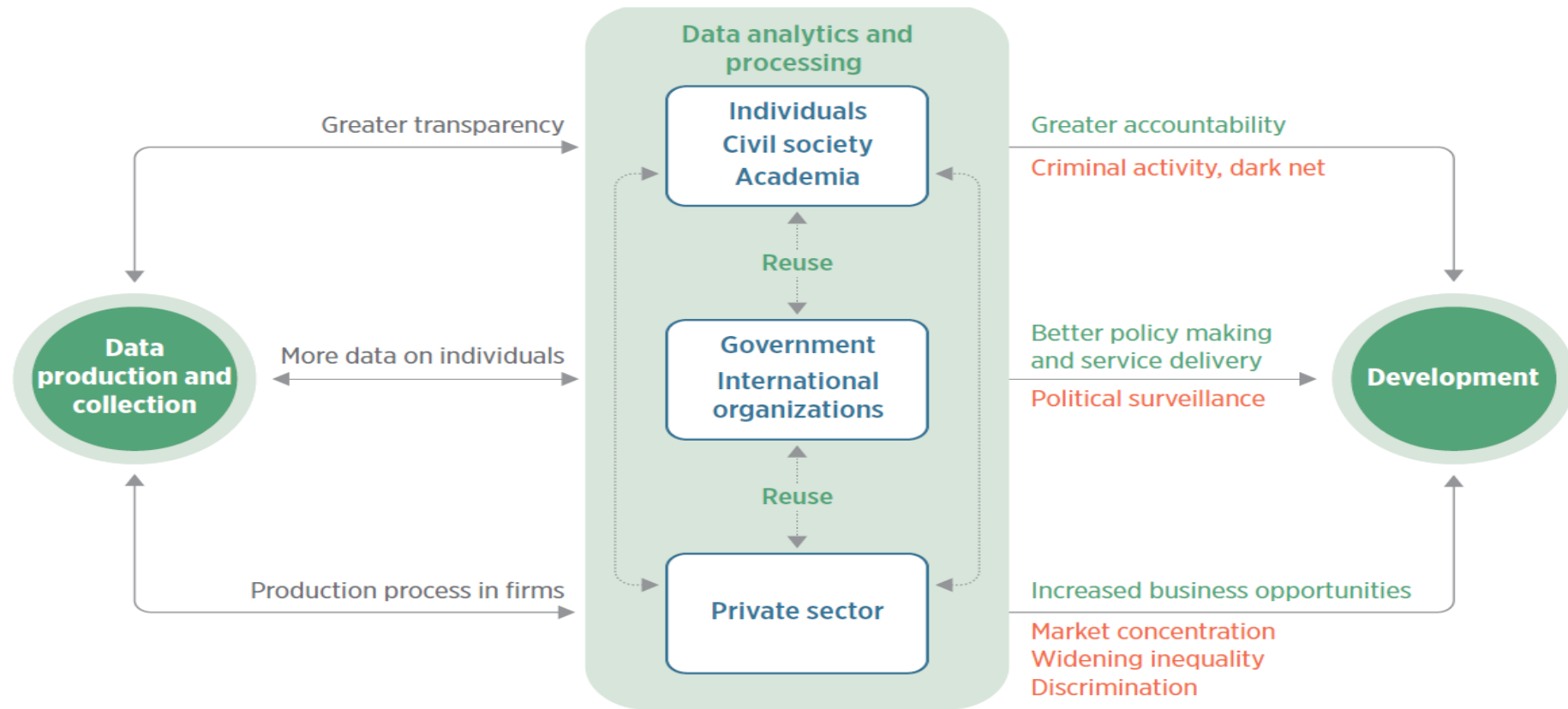
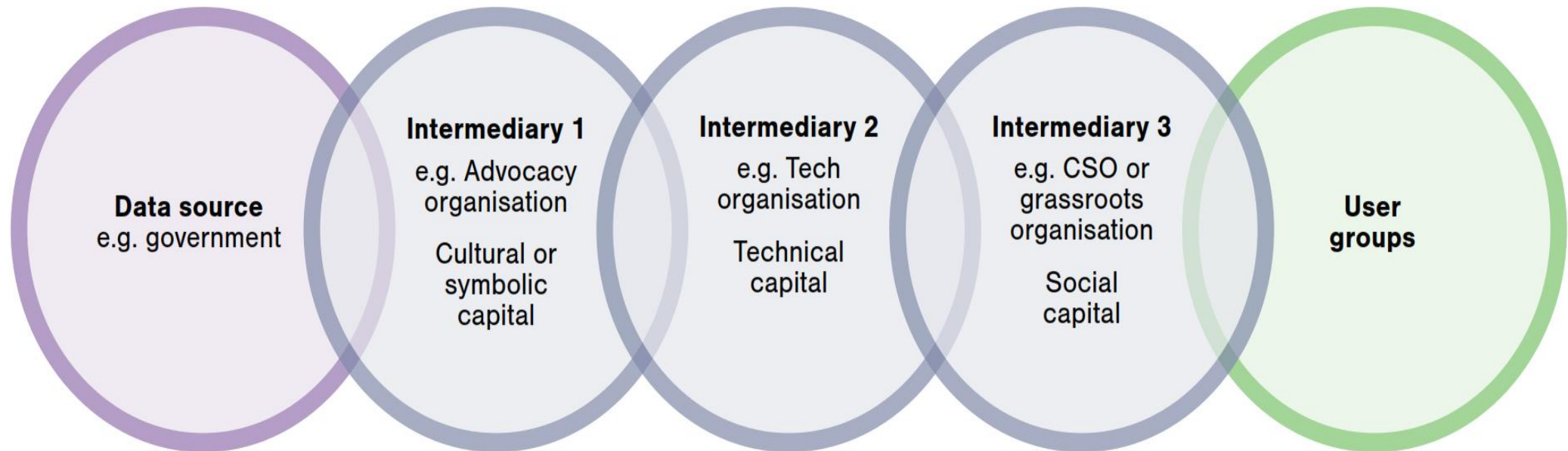Source: WDR (2021)

Data flow among different actors

Source: WDR (2021)

What is an open data intermediary?

- An open data intermediary is defined as 'an agent
  - Positioned at some point in a data supply chain that incorporates an open dataset,
  - Positioned between two agents in the supply chain, and
  - **Facilitate the use of open data that may otherwise not have been the case.**

- An open data intermediary uses and builds its **'capital'** to play its roles:
  - **Social (Trust)**
  - **Technical**
  - **Financial**

- Open data supply chains may comprise multiple intermediaries, and multiple forms of capital (social, political, technical, financial) may be required to connect the supply and use of open data.

Data intermediaries… a visualization

Data source
e.g. government

Intermediary 1

e.g. Advocacy
organisation

Cultural or
symbolic
capital

Intermediary 2

e.g. Tech
organisation

Technical
capital

Intermediary 3

e.g. CSO or
grassroots
organisation

Social
capital

User groups

BUT… first is to build/strengthen individual actors
before focusing on collaboration…

The roles of data intermediaries in addressing the challenges of data sharing

- The roles of data intermediaries vary by context.

- But they are expected to address/ **overcome the challenges** hindering data sharing and use.

- Common challenges are identified across countries.

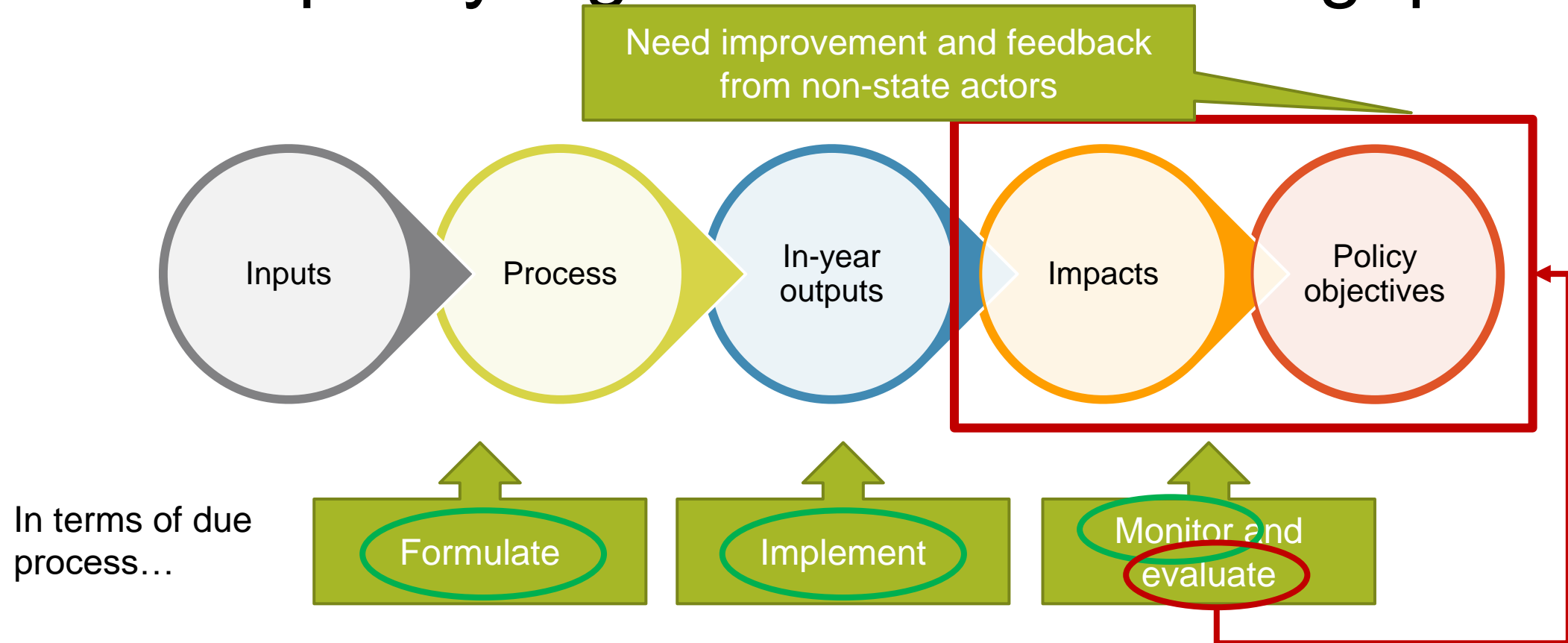|	
Lack of incentives to share data	Lack of awareness & capacity
Risks (regulatory, ethical, reputational, Commercial)	Cost/work burden of data access and sharing

Missed opportunities to use data in the public interest
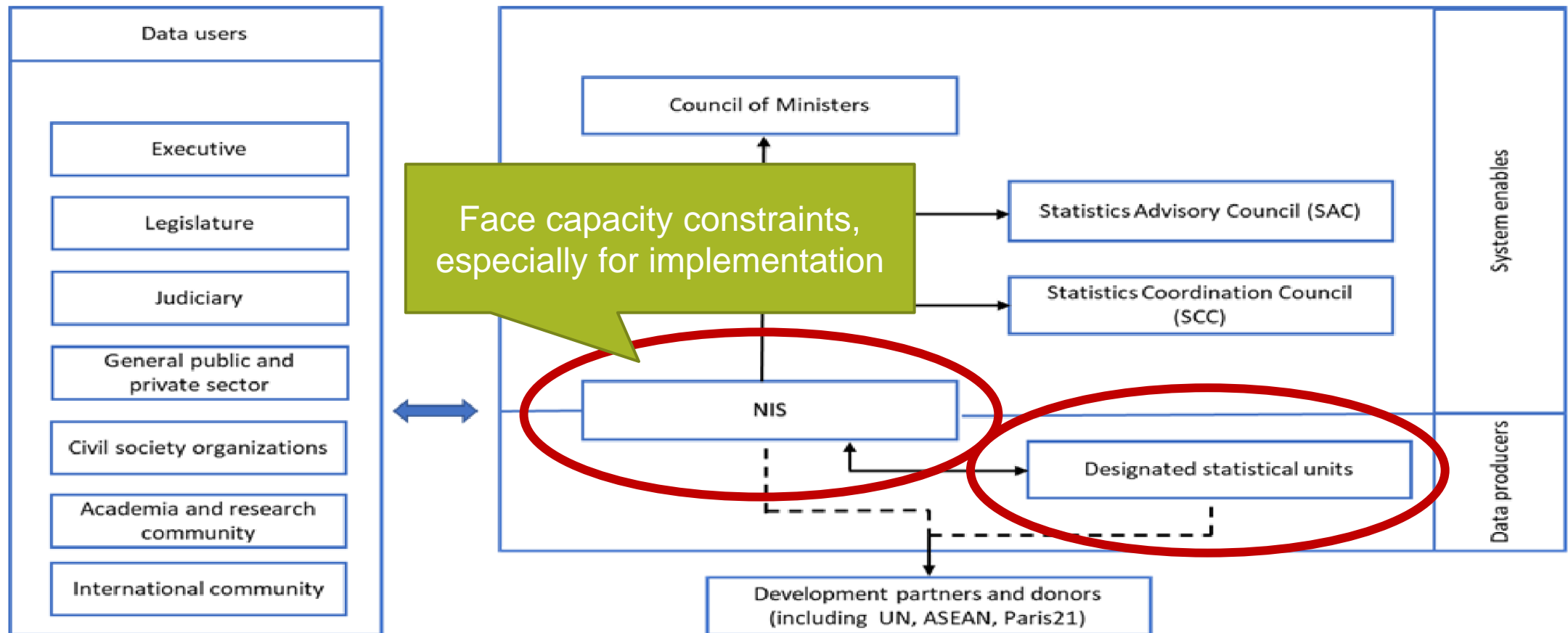
RATIONALES AND FEASIBILITY

Rationales

- As Cambodia becomes more developed, **policy interventions** need to be more effective and based on reliable data.

- Much data produced but not shared/used > RGC interested in improving these areas
  - Improved demand/use > Incentive to improve data production/sharing

- In Cambodia, **non-state actors have made relatively slow progress** regarding data access and data use for policy purposes.
  - Non-state actors include **NGOs, academic institutions, universities, think tanks, researchers (especially young researchers), media, and the public**

- Data limitations have **prevented non-state actors from contributing to the public process**, despite the **reasonable space provided** to them.

- > All the key informants and participants in the study **express strong support** for having open data intermediaries for non-state actors.

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RGC's policy logical framework and gaps

Need improvement and feedback from non-state actors

Inputs → Process → In-year outputs → Impacts → Policy objectives

Formulate

Implement

Monitor and evaluate

In terms of due process…

The NSS (The ecosystem of open data)

The feasibility - SWOT

Strength	Weaknesses
- Existing engagement and trust between non-state actors and state actors - Existing capacity among non-state actors - **Existing works to promote data sharing and use**	- **Non-state actors' limited knowledge on the policy landscape (e.g., what policy questions, indicators (national, SDG) to focus, what data is needed…?** - Limited technical and financial capacity to perform necessary roles as open data intermediaries - Still limited trust between non-state actors and government - Limited long-term institutional commitment to perform and build capacity
Opportunities	Threats/risks
- **Conducive and encouraging policy environment** - Specific areas for contribution by non-state actors, especially on M&E and feedback - Willingness to collaborate from different stakeholders - Existing progress and a large amount of data already made publicly available - Potential young researchers with the capacity to absorb new technical knowledge, including digital technology	- **Both state and non-state actors' limited attention to the question of risks when sharing data and how to mitigate them** - Limited appreciation from development partners to support data related capacity (especially for long-term)

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KEY SUGGESTIONS

The expected roles of the intermediaries

Promoting data sharing
- from RGC to data users

Raise awareness & build skills
- Aware of available data
- Data skill training

Feedback on data quality
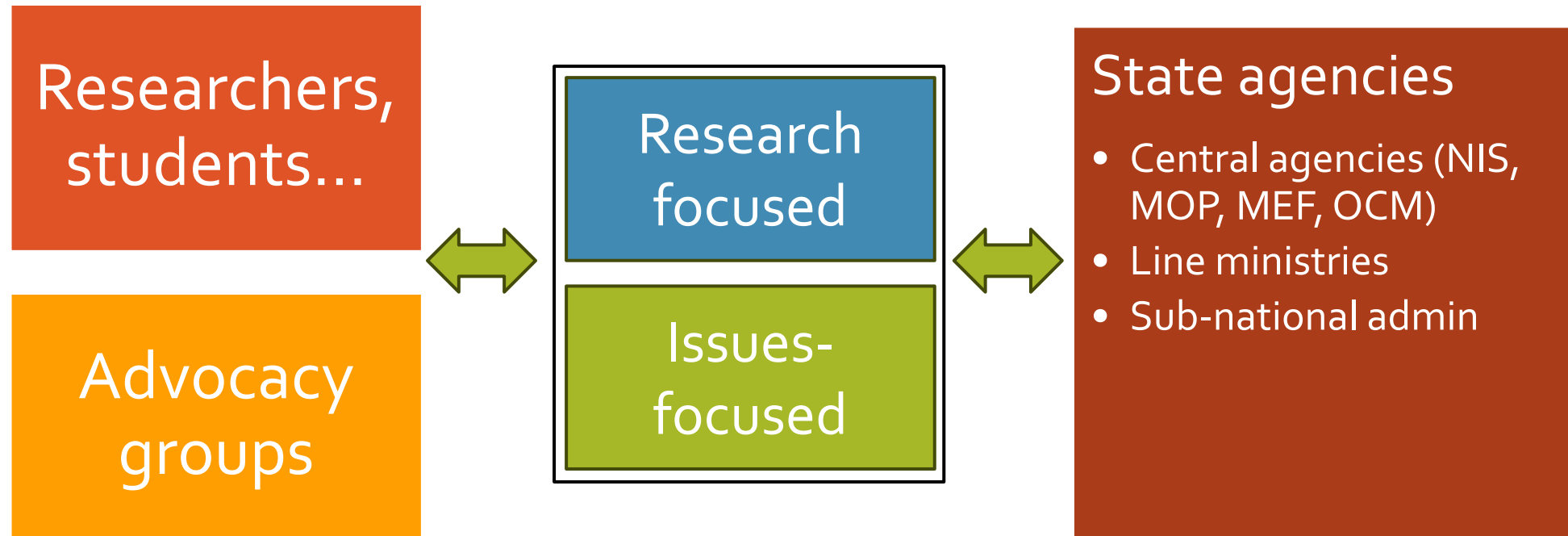- To statistical agencies
- Data sharing agencies

Promoting data use
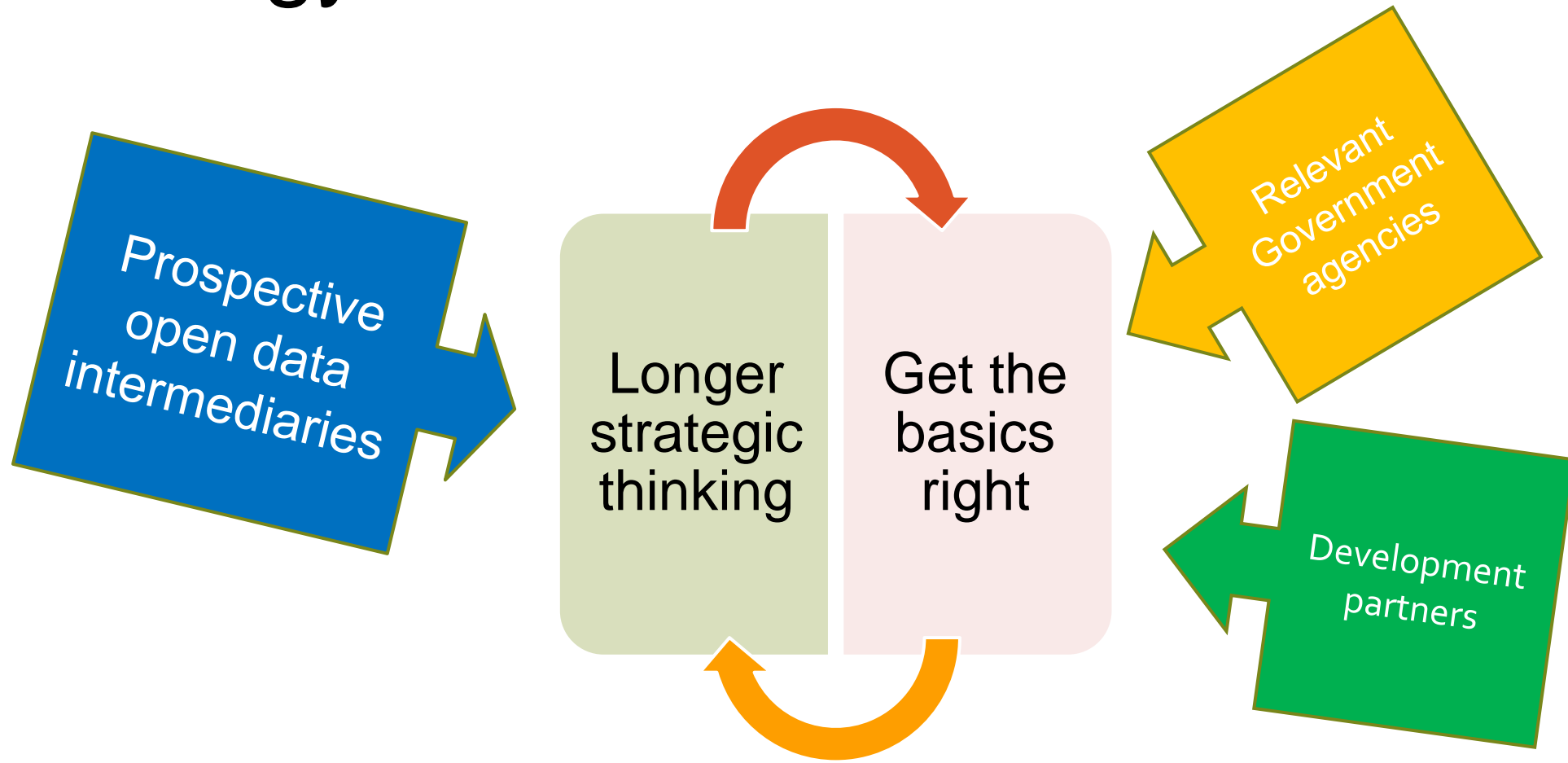- Issue/policy briefs
- Dashboards
- Policy feedback

Build mutual trust
- State and non-state

Two types of data intermediaries

Researchers, students...

Advocacy groups

↔

Research focused

Issues-focused

↔

State agencies

- Central agencies (NIS, MOP, MEF, OCM)
- Line ministries
- Sub-national admin

Strategy and the basics

Prospective open data intermediaries

Longer strategic thinking

Get the basics right

Relevant Government agencies

Development partners

How each actor can contribute…

Prospective open data intermediaries	Government agencies	Development partners
• Areas to focus	• Formal collaboration	• Financial and TA
• Long-term plan	• Data access	• Advocating for more data access
• Relations for trust	• Shared concerns/ solutions	• Connection to regional/intl networks
• Potential support from DPs	• Continuous dialogues	• Sharing own data
• Internal capacity building*		

At starting phase

- Setting up long-term objectives

- Identifying the areas of engagement

- **Identifying the policy questions (and indicators) to focus on**

- Identifying data needs and mapping availability

- **Seeking formal collaboration with relevant government agencies**

- Identifying needed technical and financial capacity and

- **Seeking potential funding support**

Too much data as useless as too little data

Expertise in subject matters as important as on data issues

Policy & BSP

What questions to ask? Why?

SDG Indicators

M&E Framework
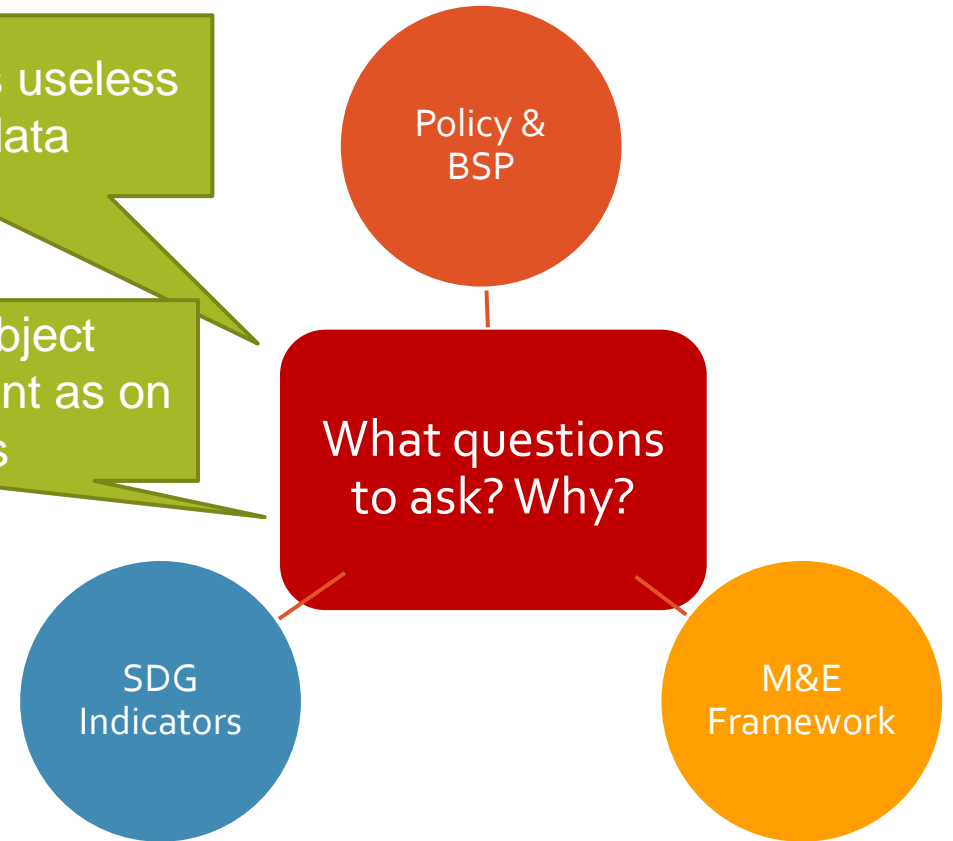
At implementation stage

- **Making use of the already publicly available data**

- Advocating for public sharing of the more user-friendly data format (Ms Excel)

- Investing in the necessary effort to turn existing key datasets from PDF to Ms Excel format

- Using digital platforms to share the data, ensuring user-friendliness

- Establishing dashboards to tell stories from the data

- Considering specific terms and conditions of data use from the website

- **Engaging youth in the process (especially in areas relating to digital technology)**

- Providing regular updates and training on data availability awareness, data analysis, and data visualization

- Collecting regular feedback from data users

- Interacting regularly with relevant Government agencies to provide inputs and feedbacks

Sustaining and expanding

More advanced areas of data governance (e.g., data quality, big data)

Collaboration with other non-state actors (e.g., Think Tank Association)

More advanced functions as data intermediaries

Demonstration effects through learning by doing

THANK YOU

Questions and comments…