Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

The Culture of Data

Where Does the Caribbean Stand

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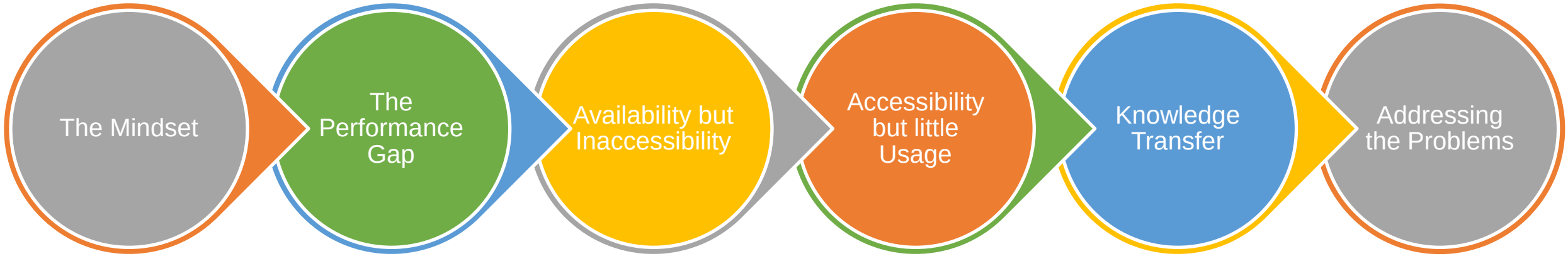
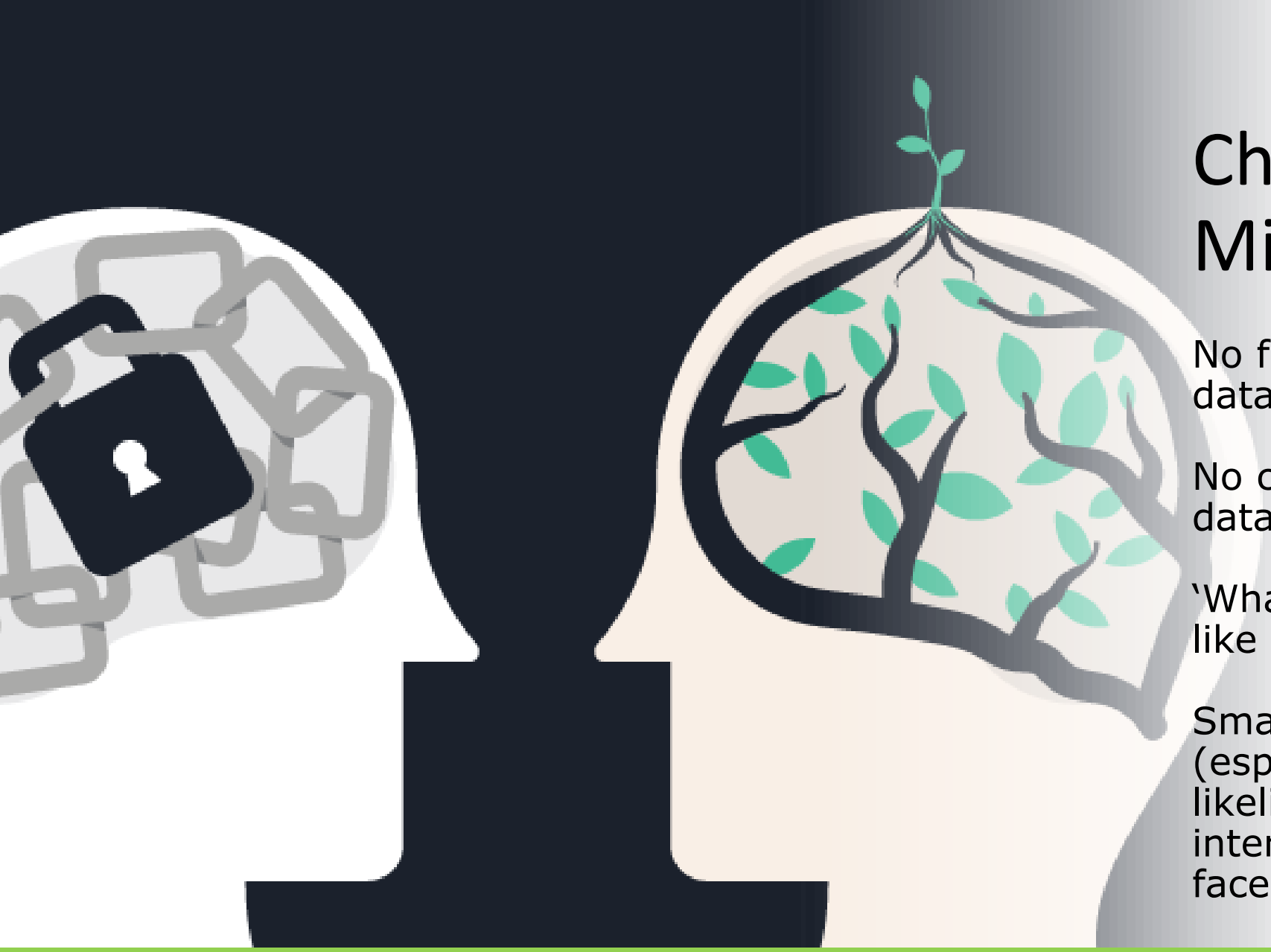

The Mindset
The Performance Gap
Availability but Inaccessibility
Accessibility but little Usage
Knowledge Transfer
Addressing the Problems



Changing the Mindset

No faith in confidentiality of data

No confidence in how the data will be used – 'taxes';

'What's in it for me' – seems like an empty promise

Small populations – (especially for sensitive data likelihood of being interviewed by a familiar face)

The Performance Gap

The World Bank produces the Statistical Performance Index (SPI) whose framework focuses on five key pillars of a country's statistical performance:

1. Data use - 'its of no value unless its used'
2. Data services – what services are provided?
3. Data products – what products are being produced?
4. Data sources – where can we actually find the data?
5. Data infrastructure – what infrastructure exist, even for accessibility and storage?

Availability but Inaccessibility

The Dissemination Problem

- Reports never generated
- Electronic format not available
- Website is not up to date
- Unable to anonymise microdata
- Political interference – no release
- No release calendars

Accessible but Little Usage

Are our Statistics Being referenced

Data literacy is the ability to read, write, analyze, communicate, and reason with data. It's a skill that allows individuals and organizations to make better, data-driven decisions

- Lack of understanding
- Data overload – what is reliable and what is spurious
- Difficulty in communicating data
- Poor quality data
- Insufficient tools and resources
- Low confidence in data skills
- Reluctance to adopt data-driven decision making.

Information Management / Knowledge Transfer

- What is the process for record keeping internally?
- Are the methods definitions and concepts documented for surveys?
- Is there proper succession planning?

OECSC Addressing the Problems:

Changing the mindset

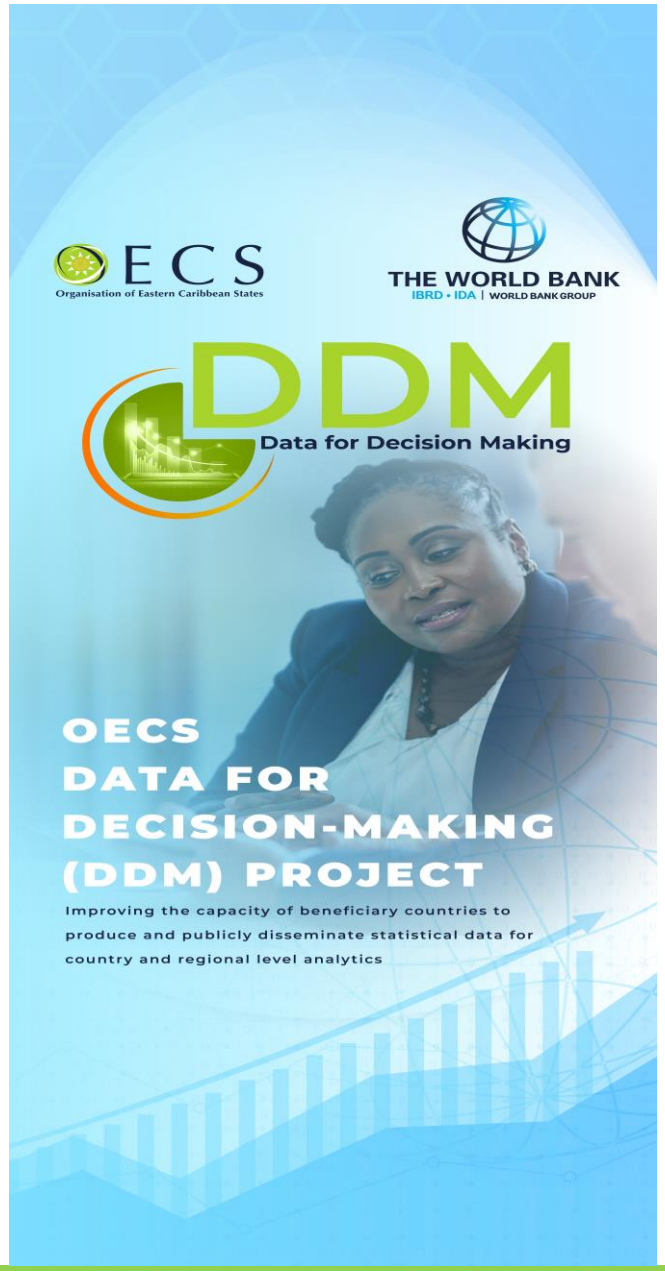
More Aggressive data literacy campaigns

Improve the SPI

Increasing accessibility

Increasing Usage

- Advocacy, Educational and Outreach Campaigns
- Capacity building within the NSOs with a change in focus to the NSS
- Disseminate! Disseminate! – release calendars!
- Data visualistation



Component 3.1

OECS Regional Data Governance Council (RDGC) – Launched October 11, 2023

Component 3.2

Data Innovation for Small Island Developing States

Using administrative data to complement survey statistics and perhaps replace censuses in future

Component 3.3

Regional Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Upcoming workshops on Data Anoymisation and Data Documentation

Component 3.4

Regional Data Aggregation, Analysis, and Dissemination

- Commissioned research and reports/ publication on the OECS MSs (migration, health, education, etc.) – Thematic report (*April 2024*)
- Popularisation of data and stats through infographics and other products – OECS Communication and Advocacy Group – OSCAG
- OECS Regional Data Catalog – activity commences in December