The World Bank and Statistical Capacity Building

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The World Bank

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Some Key Issues

• Statistical capacity improvement is not on top of the priority list,
• Overall levels of financing for capacity improvement in statistics remain low,
• Special interests of donors, often sectoral, tend to get priority – results in a piecemeal approach,
• Technical expertise is relatively scarce,
• Statistical offices not always in a good position to coordinate and harmonize donor programs.
Resulting Vicious Cycle

- Low investment in statistics
- Donors and others create parallel systems
- Weak demand in-country
- Weak statistical systems
- Poor quality data and dissemination
New Approach

- Coordinate support for statistics through a “sector wide approach”,
- Increase funding for statistics,
- Coordinate technical assistance to NSOs,
- Build on existing mechanisms and programs, with improved monitoring and feedback,
- Focus on implementation of country-owned strategies,
- Pool donor funding to support country-led programs,
- Target countries with weak statistical systems and with a commitment to change.
Funding Options for Investment

- Government
- Bilateral donors
- Multilateral Development Banks
- Other multilateral donors
WB Programs for Supporting Statistical Capacity Development

• Existing programs
  • Regular lending operations, including the STATCAP program
  • Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)
  • General Data Dissemination System project (GDDS)
  • Accelerated Data Program (ADP)

• New initiatives
  • Statistics for Results Facility Catalytic Fund (SRF)
  • Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity
  • E-learning course
Regular Operations and STATCAP

• STATCAP program provides framework for supporting implementation of NSDS with regular lending operations

• Active investment projects in OIC for building statistical capacity:
  • Burkina Faso ($10m)
  • Nigeria ($18m)
  • Tajikistan ($5.9m)

• Projects in development in OIC countries:
  • Nigeria
  • Kazakhstan
  • Indonesia

• See www.worldbank.org/data/statcap
Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)

• Provides grants up to $400,000 for developing countries to strengthen the capacity of their statistical systems, in three ways:
  • Preparation of NSDS (fast-track approval)
  • Other statistical capacity building activities (approval twice a year, April/November)
  • Participation in international meetings (fast-track approval, but limited amounts available)

• Can be country-specific, regional or global
• Most projects implemented by recipient (e.g. national statistical office)
Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)

• TFSCB projects in OIC:
  • Over 30 projects in OCI countries since 2005 to prepare NSDS and improve statistical capacity
  • There are other regional projects, including recently approved project “Household International Migration Surveys in the Mediterranean Countries”

• See www.worldbank.org/tfscb

- Funded by DFID
- Seven topics:
  - Agriculture, Justice and Security, Population, Labor, Health, Management, GIS
- 18 participating countries picked two topics each, including OIC countries:
  - The Gambia
  - Mozambique
  - Nigeria
  - Sudan
  - Uganda
- Projects were mixture of regional training events and visits to countries by subject specialists
- All materials at www.worldbank.org/data/gdds
Accelerated Data Program (ADP)

To better use of existing microdata and to improve data collection ADP has three tasks;

• Data archive
  • Inventory of existing datasets
  • Documentation
  • Dissemination
  • Cataloguing

• Improving quality
  • Assessment of data quality, and harmonization of data collection practices

• Data collection
  • Limited budget, only to “rescue” operations
SRF Catalytic Fund

- Multi-donor fund for large-scale investment in statistical development
  - Donors are UK (GBP 50m) and Netherlands (Euro 27.5m)
- Provides “catalytic” grants to help countries implement NSDSs
  - Promotes a Sector-Wide Approach and better aid effectiveness
  - Requires close alignment to statistical needs of national development policy
  - Grants normally expected to be in 5m–10m range
SRF Country Selection

- Restricted to IDA countries,
- Pilot phase: the fund’s governing Council agreed on five countries at its first meeting,
  - Afghanistan, DR Congo, Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria
- Applications from four pilot countries were approved,
- Process for future country selection not yet determined.
Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity

- New on-line database
- Collects and presents key information on national statistical systems, to facilitate assessment of statistical capacity
- Includes all developing countries (but focus on IDA countries)
- Database **easy to update by countries**, through interactive features
- Uses existing assessment frameworks, including the African Statistical Development Index of UNECA
- Useful for self-assessment and monitoring of progress
### Basic Country Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ECA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (in million)</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lending category</td>
<td>Blend (PRSP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI per capita ($US)</td>
<td>2710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2008 Statistical Capacity Indicator (on a scale of 0-100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Azerbaijan</th>
<th>All Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Data</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicity &amp; Timeliness</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statistical System Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sub-Categories</th>
<th>Country Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility and organization</td>
<td>Legal status of NSO</td>
<td>Agency status (independent government agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSO's autonomy in terms of spending decision</td>
<td>NSO receives funds from government and accounts for spending them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal basis</td>
<td>Statistical legislation</td>
<td>The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Assessment Criteria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Legal framework**       | Adequacy of statistical legislation  
There is a statistical law which takes into account the UN principles of official statistics.  
Grade of the head of the National Statistical Office  
The hierarchical level of the head of the National Statistical Office is comparable to Minister (or senior political position) or highest (non-political) public servant.  
Mechanism to make statistical system accountable  
There is an independent mechanism to make the statistical system accountable (e.g. national statistics council, board of directors, etc). |
| **Strategy/work plan**    | Existence of an adopted national strategy/program for the development of statistics  
The country has adopted a national strategy or a program for the development of statistics (NSDS).  
Integration of NSDS into development policies and PRSP  
The above strategy/program is taken into account in the development policies and the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP).  
Monitoring of statistical activities  
The National Statistical Office regularly produces reports on statistical activities. |
| **Coordination**          | Effective coordination of NSS activities  
There is a formal mechanism to coordinate statistical programs across data producing agencies which meets at least once a year (e.g. national statistical coordinating committee, etc).  
Effective coordination of development partners  
There is an effective national mechanism to coordinate development partners’ support for statistical development. |
| **User consultation**     | Existence of assessment of users’ needs  
There is an assessment of users’ needs based on the process of consultation with users within and outside government, including user satisfaction surveys. |

Rating: ☑
E-learning on Statistical Capacity

• An online and CD-ROM based self-learning course
• Provides knowledge and skills to develop and manage successful statistical development projects
• Targeted at managers and staff in national statistical agencies and international development agencies
• 12 modules, includes exercises, background reading, links to tools and resources
• Full course currently in English; some modules are available in French and Spanish on CDROM
• Translation of full course to French is underway
• Course is free: to receive CD-ROM or access on-line, send email to invstatcap@worldbank.org
Content of E-learning

- Tools for assessing statistical systems
- NSDSs and managing NSDS preparation
- Legal frameworks, accountability, reporting, coordination, and management
- Data collection and dissemination
- Using administrative data
- Human resource development and management
- Costing and financing of statistical development
- Implementing statistical capacity building programs
Welcome to
Module 2
National Statistical Systems: Activities, Principles, and Organization

To begin the course click the menu button or select Start Course above
Organizational Models

The UNSD Handbook summarizes the various organisational models as follows. The illustration includes three different sets of relationships between the minister, the national statistical council and the chief statistician. Even though the presiding body is indicated as national statistical council in all three cases, in fact its role ranges all the way from that of a board of directors to that of an advisory board.

Click on the models below to read more.

The chief statistician appoints the council. Their advice may be freely shared with the minister, but only the chief statistician is ultimately accountable to the minister.

Minister: Elected officer (generally a cabinet officer) responsible for statistical agency
NSC: National Statistical Council
CS: Chief Statistician