

COUNTING DOWN POVERTY



**The role
of statistics
in world development**

Photographer: Alejandro Lipszyc / World Bank



Why do we need good statistics to count down poverty?

Statistics play a vital role in poverty reduction and world development. The power of statistics is recognised in their use which spans the design and implementation stages of country policy frameworks, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies. Statistics are also deployed to monitor progress towards the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDG). **The headline MDG targets — to halve the proportion of people living in abject poverty and suffering from hunger; to reduce the number of underweight children and the percentage of children, especially girls, who do not go to school; to push back child and maternal mortality; and to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS — mean literally that statistics are needed to count down poverty.**

Reliable statistics describe the reality of people's everyday lives. This picture of society tells us where the poor are, why they are poor and what their lives are like. This information provides the evidence required to develop and monitor effective development policies. It highlights where resources are most needed, and provides the means to track progress and assess the impact of different policies. Good statistics also improve the transparency and accountability of policy making, both of which are essential for good governance, by enabling electorates to judge the success of government policies and to hold their government to account for those policies. And good statistics are essential to manage the effective delivery of basic services.

But while statistics enjoy a higher profile than ever before, many developing countries still lack the capacity to produce, analyse and use the range and quality of statistics required to support effective development progress. As a result, policy making suffers, governments cannot be held accountable for their decisions and their peoples remain poor because of it. Because resources in developing countries are very limited, good statistics are necessary to help ensure that the available resources put into development are used as effectively as possible. Those countries that need statistics most are often those that can least afford them, but investment in statistics will pay for itself many times over by improving how resources are allocated.

Cost-effectiveness of health spending in Tanzania

For public health spending to have the greatest possible impact on reducing mortality and disability, information is required about which diseases have the largest effect on reducing the health status of a population (burden of disease), and how health expenditure is allocated to combat different diseases (expenditure mapping). But often the countries with the biggest health problems are precisely those with the weakest health information systems.

In the mid-1990s, rural districts in Tanzania lacked both kinds of information. An innovative pilot scheme in two districts of the country combined information on cost-effective health interventions with data on the local disease burden and the distribution of local health expenditures. Resources were then reallocated to improve the efficiency of health spending. **It is believed that this evidence-based reallocation of existing public sector resources, supplemented by minimal additional funds, had a major impact on health outcomes, achieving a 50% reduction in infant and child mortality over a period of three years with only an 18% increase in the investment for health (marginal increase of US\$ 0.80 per capita).**

“An essential component of any development planning is data. Without data, a country’s efforts to plan for future growth and welfare of its people cannot be grounded in reality and therefore may be severely flawed”

Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, Minister for Planning and National Development, Kenya

The development context

Country strategies and frameworks

Most low-income countries are developing national policy frameworks — such as Poverty Reduction Strategies and macroeconomic and sector management frameworks — as part of their policy processes to deliver development progress and reduce poverty. These strategies and frameworks highlight the need for statistics to provide a strong foundation for the diagnosis of poverty and the development situation as well as to monitor the effectiveness of policy implementation. **So, statistics are needed to help drive the outcomes that the policies are aiming at, not just to measure progress towards those outcomes. National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) provide a framework for building and sustaining capacity to produce national statistics.**

Millions of people living on less than \$1 a day in 2003

(based on most recent estimates per country)

South Asia	472
Sub-Saharan Africa	320
East Asia and Pacific	213
- of which China	179
Latin America and Caribbean	49
Europe and Central Asia	9
Middle East and North Africa	5
Total	1,068

“Sound data represent
a key weapon
in the battle against poverty”

Tadao Chino, former President, Asian Development Bank

Evaluation of institutional cooperation between Vietnam's General Statistics Office (GSO) and Statistics Sweden (SCB)

The GSO of Vietnam and SCB have been “twinned” since 1995 with the objective to develop the “timely supply of economic statistical information of appropriate quality and in cost-efficient forms”. Under this cooperation arrangement, SCB has provided both long-term advisors and short-term technical assistance to GSO. The three project phases have funded training in statistical subject areas, English-language training, study tours and participation in international meetings. An IT component, including extensive provision of IT equipment, has enabled the project to establish an overall IT strategy for GSO, which has guided subsequent investment in IT.

A recent evaluation found that the project has been very successful in supporting Vietnam’s transformation to a market-based economy, which in turn is a major cause of the economic growth that is responsible for most poverty reduction. Because public statistics are part of the “infrastructure” of a modern democratic society, the project has also contributed to promoting openness and democracy. Key economic statistics of improved quality are available rapidly from GSO. Statistical capacity has been built and the Vietnam Government has increased its willingness to provide resources to GSO.

Based on interviews with stakeholders, the evaluation concluded that the improved statistics from GSO reach policy makers and planners, and that they in turn base policies, plans and programmes on the statistics — a clear case of how building sustainable statistical capacity can underpin evidence-based decision-making.



Photographer: Gennadiy Ratushenko / World Bank

Millennium Development goals, targets and indicators

Heads of state agreed upon the MDGs and global targets for international development in September 2000 during the UN Millennium Summit, with the aim to dramatically reduce world poverty by 2015. The MDGs have proved to be a powerful tool for building the political will needed, and the Goals provide a focus for both government and civil society. But to meet the Goals, comprehensive information is needed to monitor progress towards national and international targets, to inform policies and development strategies, and to spur the international community into action. A set of indicators has been developed to measure progress towards the MDGs and targets and, in turn, **the indicators rely on information from robust and reliable national statistical systems.** MDG Country Reports document the progress in individual countries and assess each country's statistical capacity as a fundamental part of weighing whether the country is likely to meet its own MDG targets.

Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
 - Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
 - Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
 - Goal 5: Improve maternal health
 - Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
 - Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
 - Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development
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Aid Effectiveness

Good statistics help donors by informing aid allocation decisions and by monitoring the use of aid and development outcomes. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (March 2005) recognises the need for better statistics for more effective aid. Ministers of developed and developing countries responsible for promoting development and Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions stressed the need to:

1. Put control in the hands of partner countries,
2. Align donor support with partner countries' development strategies, institutions and procedures, and

3. Harmonise donor actions to be collectively more effective,
4. While monitoring implementation and outcomes within a framework of mutual accountability between development partners.....

.....Acknowledging the need for better statistics for more effective aid.

Evidence for all: DFID statistics strategy

As part of their strategy to improve aid effectiveness, statisticians at the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) will ensure the effective use of statistics and evidence by:

- *Encouraging everyone in DFID to monitor progress (at all levels such as project, programme and policy) as part of routine management behaviour — and to use that information in decision-making.*
- *Improving DFID data collection systems and quality control.*
- *Improving dissemination and communication of evidence and results.*

Governments and donors are more focussed than ever before on the desired outcomes and impact of their development efforts, and on using information to improve policy and decision-making. Citizens, meanwhile, need statistics to hold their governments to account. So, statistics are important to development progress, not just to monitor progress but to help drive the outcomes that the statistics are measuring. **But recognising the critical role of statistics is one thing; doing something about it is another. Much more remains to be done to ensure the better use of better statistics as part of the enabling environment for development.**

Countries need both financial and technical assistance, in addition to their own resources. This will be a long-term process, which will need to be both scaled-up and sustained. And countries need this support to be well coordinated and effective. A 2005 review of donor support for statistical capacity building in Africa by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) showed that this is not always the case, with some donors remarking that there is insufficient donor collaboration and that programmes are not always designed with capacity building as an objective. Coordination is a key consideration with, for instance, 13 donors assisting statistics in Mozambique, 11 in Tanzania, 10 in Uganda and 9 in Cape Verde. That is not to say that coordination is not working well in any of these countries, just that it is an issue.



Photographer: Curt Camemark / World Bank

“Information gives you
the power to make
the right decisions”

Dr Roberto Tapia Conyer, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Health, Mexico

Building statistical capacity for better development results

Experience has shown that statistics can best be improved through a comprehensive strategic approach, aimed both at producing better data now as well as building sustainable statistical capacity for the future — rather than through the often piecemeal efforts of the past which tended to produce statistics but not the capacity to replicate them in the future.

In most developing countries, financial resources are very limited, and careful decisions need to be made about how best to develop statistics most effectively and efficiently. This can be facilitated through the design and implementation of strategic statistical plans, **National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs)**, aligned with the wider national policy frameworks and strategies. It also makes sense to build on what exists and what is already being developed through programmes such as the IMF’s **General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)**, in which a large number of countries already participate, and the work of the **Health Metrics Network (HMN)**, to expand the availability and use of timely and accurate country-based health information systems.

The GDDS Phase 2 project for Anglophone Africa

As a successor to the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) project for Anglophone Africa, a new project is being sponsored by DFID. It will continue to help countries to introduce internationally accepted methodologies and good practices for official statistics. The project will focus on results and regional interaction by offering defined technical assistance modules, which can be planned, implemented and assessed in a coordinated manner. This approach aims at sustained capacity building through measurable improvements in agreed areas, and encourages mutual commitment to results and ownership both from the participating countries and the providers of technical assistance.

The new project ("Modules for Strengthening Statistics" 2006–2009) has been expanded to cover 21 countries in Africa, practically all that use English as a working language. The project is executed jointly by the IMF and World Bank, so as to support countries in improving the quality of key macroeconomic and financial as well as socio-demographic statistics and poverty reduction strategies. Technical assistance will include expert visits, hands-on training, and country group workshops to share experiences and learn best practices. The expanded project was launched in September 2006 in Cape Town.

The project will continue to encourage countries to align the activities to national priorities and enhance coordination and effective use of intra-agency arrangements. To ensure enhanced interaction and collaboration, the countries will work closely with sub-regional and regional agencies and with other technical assistance providers in statistics. Efforts will be made to assist countries which wish to graduate from the GDDS to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) to promote access to capital markets and better integration into the global economy.

The first phase of the project, 2001–2006, involved 15 countries and all except one reached the objective of becoming a GDDS participant, having successfully prepared metadata and plans for improvement, and posted both on the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB). The original project sponsored more than 200 technical assistance visits and supported national GDDS awareness workshops in most countries.

Health Metrics Network: “Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health”



Photographer: Ami Vitale / World Bank

The Health Metrics Network (HMN) is a global partnership founded on the premise that better information means better decision-making, resulting in better health for everyone. The partnership brings together users and producers of health data in a shared endeavour to increase the availability and use of timely, reliable health information through country-led plans to strengthen information systems. The bringing together, under the aegis of HMN, of the health and statistical constituencies, at global, regional and country levels, has proved to be transformative in the countries that have been receiving HMN support since its launch in 2005.

HMN is laying the groundwork for significant improvements to health information systems around the world. The partnership is working with local officials in dozens of low- and middle-income countries to build greater capacity and expertise for strengthening health information systems. Countries are using HMN support to assess the current status and develop comprehensive plans for strengthening their health information systems, plans which HMN partners are helping countries to implement. Such plans should be integrated into National Strategies for the Development of Statistics and general health and development plans including poverty reduction strategies. With HMN support, several low-income countries are working to identify ways of increasing the coverage and quality of their systems for recording vital events: births, deaths, and causes of death. And HMN is working with countries to find innovative approaches to sharing experiences and lessons learned on how to enhance availability and use of data for decision-making. The aim is that by 2011, the HMN standards for health information systems will be universally accepted for guiding the collection, reporting and use of health information by developing countries and global agencies leading to more timely and reliable reporting on key indicators of health, disease and health system function.

Mainstreaming strategic planning of statistics

Mainstreaming strategic planning of statistics is the first, and overarching, action in the **Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS)**, agreed at the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results that was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in February 2004. MAPS stressed the intent of PARIS21 partners to help developing countries to establish sustainable statistical capacity and national commitment to statistics. MAPS aims to accelerate progress in improving development data, based on actions to help both national and international statistical agencies. The actions were brought together through collaboration with a number of partners, and built on the results of a PARIS21 task team which looked at ways to improve statistics for monitoring development goals.

The six actions of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

The first set of actions addresses national needs:

1. *Mainstream strategic planning of statistics*
2. *Prepare for the 2010 population census round*
3. *Increase investment in statistics*

The second set addresses international responsibilities:

4. *Set up an International Household Survey Network*
5. *Improve MDG monitoring*
6. *Improve international accountability in statistics*

The objective of **mainstreaming strategic planning of statistics** is to enable all developing countries to base their statistical development around National Strategies for the Development of Statistics as an integral part of development processes. MAPS endorsed the PARIS21 target for all low-income countries to implement NSDSs with a view to producing better national statistics by the time of the next Millennium review in 2010. In 2007, the emphasis is moving from helping countries to design their NSDSs to helping with implementation.

National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

The added value of the NSDS approach is that it looks at statistical capacity building through a development and management lens; and looks at development policy and best management practices through a statistical lens — all in pursuit of better development outcomes. It sets strategic planning and priority setting within the context of the entire statistical system, including statistics produced by line ministries, as well as addressing essential organisational and institutional issues.

An NSDS will provide a vision for where the National Statistical System (NSS) should be in five to ten years. It also provides a robust framework and action plan for building statistical capacity to meet both current and future data needs across all sectors, so that improvement plans can focus on areas where capacity building is needed most. It builds on existing work and provides a coherent framework for funding decisions by governments and for coordinating the contributions of external donors.

NSDSs may take many forms, depending on country experiences and progress. A good strategy, adequately funded and successfully implemented, can make a big difference to the performance of an NSS and help those countries locked in the vicious cycle of under-funding and under-performance to break free.

Many countries have found that they need strong leadership to see the strategic planning processes through and to gain the necessary high-level government support to implement their strategic plans. Coordination across the NSS and coherence of donor support is essential. To be fully effective, all national and international statistical activities should be placed within the context of a country's NSDS.

Overall, out of 105 countries covered by a recent PARIS21 report (April 2006), 34 have strategies in place while 54 are at various stages in preparing strategies. But another 17 neither have strategies in place nor have started to design one, though a number of these countries have expressed their intention to do so. It should be noted that some countries with existing strategies also intend to update and develop them, following the NSDS approach.

Helping countries to prepare for the 2010 Census Round

Population censuses are the backbone of any national statistical system and are vital to set baselines at least every decade. They establish the size, nature and location of a country's population. They provide essential data for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; allow sound estimates of the country as a whole to be made from sample surveys; and provide the foundation for deciding on the structure for political representation. They also provide key information on the location and composition of the population, a fundamental need, for instance, to plan efforts to provide education and health for all.

The complexity and cost of censuses, and their high political profile, put them in a different league from other exercises run by national statistics offices. Populations are substantially larger than they were ten years ago so costs have risen, while it is often more difficult to attract funds for censuses than before.

MAPS activities include finding ways to reduce the cost of census-taking; improving methods to make inter-census population estimates; assisting countries in advocating for the importance of census-taking, for securing funding, and for planning; and providing countries with technical knowledge and guidance.



**“Whatever we do,
we are guided by figures”**

Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda

Carrying out the 2006 population census in Nigeria — the role of the EC

Census taking in Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is a complex, difficult and controversial task. With an election due in Nigeria in 2007, a successful census was carried out in early 2006. The census not only enables the constitutionally required demarcation of election areas, but also helps Nigerians build much-needed trust in Nigerian institutions, electoral or otherwise. To support this task, the European

Commission signed a Financing Agreement for the Census Support Programme at the end of 2004, which is implemented through a Contribution Agreement signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This Nigerian programme will strengthen evidence-based policy-making, people-oriented service delivery and a culture of transparency and accountability.



Photographer: Trevor Samson / World Bank

The EC contribution of Euro 116.5 million from 2004–2007 is financing payments to over 800,000 census staff. Training for census staff, the provision of census questionnaires, data capturing and processing technology, plus the support for national census monitoring projects and external monitoring missions — all these actions equally enhance the credibility of the census.

The National Population Commission (NPopC) in Nigeria put in place a strategy to promote gender equity throughout the census-taking process. Once data become available, they will form the basis of knowledge on pertinent demographic, socio-economic and cultural issues for many years to come. The census helps Nigeria ensure that policy decisions and monitoring efforts are rooted in sound information and can thus be better implemented to the greater benefit of its population.

HMN's MoVE initiative

A fundamental prerequisite for, and sign of, good governance is knowledge of population size, structure and change — births, deaths and causes of death. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), several of which relate to mortality, have drawn the attention of policy makers at national and global levels to the need for accurate and timely population data. Yet such information is lacking in the majority of developing countries, where births and deaths too often go unregistered and causes of death remain poorly understood.

Tackling this striking imbalance between demand and supply is one of the objectives of the Health Metrics Network. To this end, HMN is involved with other partners in launching an international advocacy and research effort to improve the coverage and quality of vital statistics — the Monitoring of Vital Events (MoVE) initiative. Both the need and the responsibility for population statistics extend well beyond the health sector and key partners in the initiative include national statistics offices, local government and interior ministries as well as the multilateral statistical and development partners. Anticipated outcomes include consensus around innovative approaches to improving vital statistics such as use of demographic surveillance, sample registration systems and use of verbal autopsy for settings where medical certification of cause of death is not possible.

For countries without strong civil registration systems, monitoring progress towards the achievement of MDG 5 by tracking levels of maternal mortality remains a huge challenge. As the year 2015 is fast approaching, HMN and its partners are advocating better ways of measuring maternal mortality for countries where other data sources are not currently available. The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses is a potential source of information that has hitherto been inadequately exploited. Where the census already includes questions on household deaths during the previous year, a few additional questions related to the timing of the death in relation to pregnancy can generate important information in a cost-effective manner. Whilst recognising that the census cannot meet all information needs on maternal mortality, for those countries able to mount a census this is a key opportunity not to be missed. To this end, HMN partners are developing guidance and support capacity building in countries through data analysis workshops.

Increasing financing for countries to improve their statistical capacity

There has been considerable under-investment in national statistical systems in developing countries. But new financing opportunities have arisen, such as direct budget support, including monitoring and evaluation of Poverty Reduction Strategy programmes. New instruments have also been created, such as the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), which has helped many countries to design their NSDSs; and STATCAP, which can help in implementation. STATCAP projects are underway in seven countries, with projects in the pipeline in several others.

“...we urged all Multilateral Development Banks and all donors to step up support for strengthening statistical and related institutional capacity in partner countries”

World Bank and IMF Development Committee Communiqué, April 23, 2006



Photographer: Curt Camermark / World Bank

Strengthening the Tajikistan National Statistical System: Partnership in action

In Tajikistan, TAJSTAT (STATCAP) is a co-financed project aimed at helping the State Statistics Committee (SSC) to implement a Multi-year Integrated Statistical Plan (MISP). The UK and Sweden are the main financial partners, and they are putting their contributions into a World Bank managed trust fund. Technical partners include TIKA (Turkey), JICA (Japan) and EUROSTAT (EC). The partners have agreed to joint monitoring and mid-term reviews. Project components are being co-ordinated with IMF, FAO, UNICEF and Asian Development Bank to avoid duplication and to increase efficacy.

As a precursor to TAJSTAT, SSC received funding from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building for technical assistance to develop the MISP to cover the whole national statistical system, including relevant line ministries and agencies. The Government has approved the MISP and been very supportive of its implementation, which will significantly improve the capacity of SSC and other agencies that deal with data collection and dissemination. The main objective of the project is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the National Statistical System to enable it to provide relevant, timely and reliable data for evidence-based policy-making in support of the government's poverty reduction strategies and the process of economic development.

A high-level Project Steering Committee that meets twice a year has been established by the government. Also, a project coordination team will carry out the implementation and daily project administrative work. It is important to note that this team will assist SSC staff to implement the project, but it will not implement the project itself, in line with the Paris Declaration guidelines and the Bank's policy on project implementation arrangements.

As part of their commitment to the results-based agenda, other institutions have also provided resources to assist countries to design or update their NSDSs — for instance, in Africa, the African Development Bank and the UK's DFID.

Set up an International Household Survey Network

Key development data are obtained from household surveys, but there are weaknesses in existing systems. Surveys are not conducted with the appropriate frequency, many developing countries do not fund their own household survey programmes, international



International Household Survey Network

Microdata Management Toolkit

For the documentation, dissemination and preservation of survey/census data

Survey and census datasets are often poorly documented and difficult to access.

The IHSN Toolkit provides a user-friendly solution to:

Document datasets in accordance with international standards and best practices:

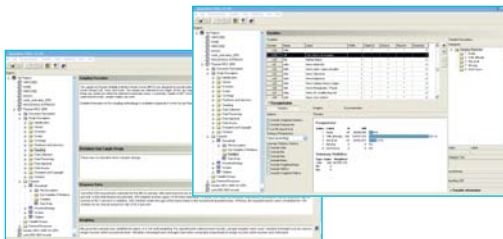
- > Data easier and safer to use
- > Information preserved for future use
- > Identification of reliability and comparability issues, hence improvement of quality of future surveys.

Generate user-friendly output for easy dissemination of data and metadata.

- > Wider and more diverse use of existing data
- > Strengthening analytical capacity in the country
- > Increased transparency and good governance

Contact: info@survenetwork.org

- 1 Import your data and add detailed documentation using a specialised DDI Metadata Editor.

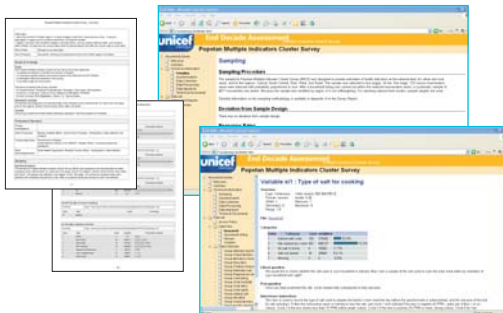


ID	Name	Label	Def	Units	Src	Crpt	Prctd	Overest	Posttd	Inst
V223	Inf									
V224	Inf									
V225	Hchl									
V226	Hemgn									
V227	Hendcd									
V228	Info									

- 2 Run metadata diagnostics.

Coverage
 Country: required element is missing
 Geographic Coverage: [The sample was designed to provide estimates of t... (more) (DDI characters)
 Universe: recommended element not provided

- 3 Automatically generate output (PDF, CD-ROM, website) for easy data sharing (country to define its dissemination policy).



programmes are not always well coordinated, and household survey datasets are often under-utilised. The International Household Survey Network (IHSN) is intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of household surveys in developing countries, through improving knowledge of survey programmes and methods, and through better dissemination and use of data. The IHSN brings survey producers, sponsors, and data users together to improve the use of survey data for policy making and monitoring. The network identifies, promotes, and implements coordinated and sustainable solutions to problems of availability and timeliness, reliability and relevance, comparability, and dissemination and use of household survey data.

Make urgent improvements for MDG monitoring

Three main activities are planned as part of MAPS. The first is for relevant international agencies to improve definitions and methods for calculating key development indicators, where needed. The second is to improve knowledge of users and producers of the MDG and other key indicators. The third is to help countries identify weaknesses and make short-term improvements to relevant statistical processes, such as household surveys — the objective will be to quickly obtain (or improve) estimates of key indicators. This last activity is called the “Accelerated Data Programme” (ADP), and will be developed initially in twelve pilot countries. The goal of the ADP is to help the twelve pilot countries identify weaknesses and make short-term improvements to relevant statistical processes, such as household surveys, in order to quickly obtain or improve estimates of key indicators, including those for the MDGs.

**“Information is at the root
of everything we do”**
Prof. Francis Omaswa, former Director General, Ministry of Health, Uganda

The Pilot Accelerated Data Programme (ADP)

So much has been invested in conducting household surveys.

Why can't we better measure and monitor results?

Measuring and monitoring development outcomes require timely, reliable, comparable, relevant, and accessible survey datasets. But:

Issue 1

Existing data are not always fully exploited

- Low capacity/interest from data producers
- Data not always accessible to secondary users (due to technical, financial, legal, political obstacles)
- Lack of metadata makes data difficult/risky to use

Issue 2

Methods and concepts are not harmonised

- Surveys are often ad-hoc; little attention is paid to harmonise concepts and methods across surveys
- Resulting indicators are not fully comparable; conflicting and confusing results are sometimes produced

Issue 3

Timeliness and frequency are not optimal

- Survey programmes are often donor driven
- Data gaps in some cases, duplications of activities in others

ADP Task 1

Data documentation and dissemination

- Documenting existing datasets following international standards/best practices (IHSN Toolkit)
- Anonymising microdata
- Defining and implementing transparent and more open dissemination policies

ADP Task 2

Analysis and assessment of survey data

- Assessing the relevance, comparability, reliability of existing survey data
- Analysing data for PRSP or other sector strategies
- Formulating recommendations for improved, harmonised survey programmes

ADP Task 3

Support for data collection

- Assist countries in implementing more modular survey programmes, aligned to clearly defined priorities

The Accelerated Data Programme is funded by the World Bank MAPS Development Grant Facility. It is implemented as a PARIS21 Satellite Programme, with various international partners.

Increase the accountability of the International Statistical System

The key action under MAPS is for international statistical agencies to develop and adopt a set of consistent principles for their work. Consistent, coherent and reliable international datasets are an important requirement for managing for results.

Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators includes departments within the United Nations Secretariat, a number of UN agencies from within the United Nations system and outside, various government agencies and national statisticians, and other organisations concerned with the development of MDG data at the national and international levels, including donors and expert advisers.

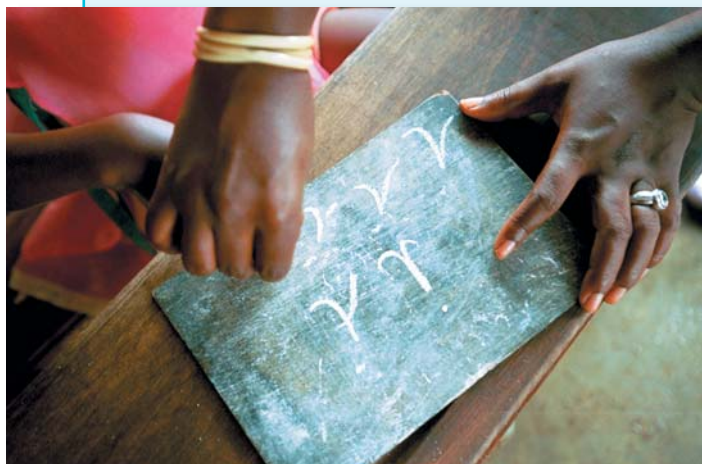
IAEG is responsible for data preparation and analysis to monitor progress towards the MDGs. The Group also reviews and defines methodologies and technical issues in relation to the indicators, produces guidelines, and helps define priorities and strategies to support countries in data collection, analysis and reporting on MDGs.

Over the past few years, the IAEG has promoted improvement and better documentation of the standards and methods used in compiling and analysing MDG indicators — including finding ways to aggregate country data in a meaningful way, overcoming problems of comparability and, even more importantly, providing a meaningful analysis of the aggregate figures that represent the local situation. This work is done through thematic sub-groups established within IAEG and through other inter-agency mechanisms that connect specialised agencies in the various fields covered by the MDGs.

Other examples of how PARIS21 partners are assisting statistical development

Example: AFRISTAT (Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa): A regional approach to technical assistance

The mission of AFRISTAT is to strengthen the development of economic, social and environmental statistics in member states and to improve their competence in these areas. It is recognised as an African skills centre in the development of statistics, carrying out programmes and projects for many international financial and technical partners in a number of African countries.



Photographer: Ami Vitale / World Bank

AFRISTAT supports the activities of national statistical offices in member states (presently 18 members, though any sub-Saharan African country can become a member). Its statutory power in relation to its members is in the area of harmonisation of concepts, international standards and statistical

methods. AFRISTAT also promotes regional and economic integration, by aiming for consistency and better comparability of statistical data. To this end, it supports national statistical offices in data collection, processing and dissemination, as well as data analysis and interpretation.

Its work covers these areas: organisation and administration of statistical systems, national accounts and macro economics, prices and household expenditure surveys, informal sector statistics, agricultural statistics, data processing and data dissemination. Its main activities are on-site technical assistance and training through seminars and workshops, as well as occasional regional or sub-regional workshops on relevant topics.

Example: The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) supports Kenya's statistics system

Kenya's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has developed a strategic plan to strengthen its national statistics system. Over the next five years, the Kenya Government, the DFID (UK£6.5 million) and the World Bank (US\$20 million) will commit significant funds to implement this plan.

Kenya has passed a new Statistics Act as a key strand of this strategic plan. The Act gives CBS more independence in delivering statistics, and greater autonomy in recruiting and retaining high-quality staff.

A household survey programme has been developed and DFID support has already led to the completion of the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey. New surveys on governance and disability are also planned for the near future.

The DFID funding also covers statistics production in other government ministries, plus support to external research institutions. Administrative data systems in the police and prison services are already being boosted with equipment and technical support. Similar work is planned in the area of trade and industry. And a Chronic Poverty Research Centre has been set up at the University of Nairobi to explore how and why people move into and out of poverty.

Besides supporting the production of statistics, DFID is bolstering the use of information. The Ministry of Planning and National Development has set up a monitoring and evaluation directorate. This coordinates the production of annual progress reports for Kenya's Economic Recovery Strategy, and also wider monitoring and evaluation issues across government.

Example: Building capacity through Institutional Cooperation — a unique “twinning” arrangement in Mozambique

Since 2002, Mozambique’s National Institute for Statistics (INE) has “twinning” with the three national statistical bureaux of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The principal idea behind this institutional cooperation is for INE to use the relevant parts of the competence, methodology, institutional arrangements, work processes, etc of the three Scandinavian bureaux in a long-term arrangement, supported by donors from the same

three countries. The project assists in implementing a 5-year strategic plan to strengthen the National Statistical System in Mozambique, with a focus on supporting poverty reduction. The project arrangements emphasise donor coordination, with Denmark as INE’s lead partner, as well as INE’s responsibility for project activities and their integration into INE’s plans and processes.



Photographer: Ray Witlin / World Bank

The three Scandinavian bureaux have very similar statistical systems, which facilitates this unique “twinning” arrangement. Three external reviews have been carried out and they were all positive. For instance, a mid-term review highlighted the main reasons for success as the focus on capacity building, long-term engagement, assured finance, commitment of INE and quality of the support.

Example: United Nations Development Account: Spurring regional action

The United Nations Statistics Division helps countries to foster strong statistical systems through training, advisory services, and regional and sub-regional projects. The focus in recent years is on improving south-south collaboration and building networks of statisticians in the regions and sub-regions, to create strong communities of statisticians who draw on each other's strengths and achievements.

The United Nations Development Account is a funding mechanism provided by the General Assembly. Project proposals are approved every two years. Such proposals are actively oriented towards regional capacity-building. Since 1999, UNSD has executed five projects covering over 65 countries in these regions: the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Each project is implemented under the leadership of a steering committee composed of Chief Statisticians of member states. They decide on project priorities and implementation modalities, and ensure project sustainability. A clear outcome is the stronger regional cohesion and collaboration in statistical development.

In the Southern African region, the steering committee of the recently launched project includes international partners with activities in the region. This spurs coordination of the ongoing work, and encourages learning from each other's experience while avoiding duplications. At the same time, it ensures that the various project components are fully consistent with their overall National Strategies for the Development of Statistics.

**Example: Health Metrics Network —
Stakeholder alignment to support managing for development results in Sierra Leone**

Key stakeholders in the health information system of Sierra Leone include the central statistics office (Statistics Sierra Leone), select offices and programmes of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and various agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS). With support from the Health Metrics Network, these stakeholders have completed an assessment of the health information system (HIS) and drafted a 10 year HIS strategic plan. Key strategies adopted include:

- An integrated data warehouse to bring data together at district level from multiple routine sources (specific vertical programmes, surveillance, facility services, logistics, human resources, finances) to provide regular summaries for action at the district level, feedback to health facilities and timely, complete electronic transmission to multiple users at national level;*
- A ten year plan to coordinate nationally representative household and health facility surveys;*
- Precise measurement of maternal mortality with the 2014 national population census;*
- National health accounts to be completed for the first time in 2007 and updated annually thereafter.*

This improved coordination and investment in key health information strategies comes just as the World Bank and DFID are collaborating with government officials on design of major new support to the health sector: a \$30 million, 4 year grant from the World Bank's Africa Catalytic Growth Fund for Accelerated Child Survival and Development and a UK£40 million, 10 year DFID program for Scaling Up Basic Services for Sexual, Reproductive and Child Health. The improved coordination and direction for the country's health information system will permit monitoring and evaluation needs for these new programmes to be aligned with and largely met by key activities included in the 10 year HIS strategic plan.

What Next?

This booklet has outlined the need for good statistics in order to eliminate poverty effectively. Over the last few years there has been an increased awareness of the value of statistics, particularly in the context of Poverty Reduction Strategies, the Millennium Development Goals and the Managing for Development Results agenda. However, this has not been matched by an increase in the resources and effort put into building sustainable statistical capacity, either by developing countries or their donor partners.

“We need to prove that our policies are working. It is vital therefore that we can reasonably accurately measure which policies are delivering. I am of the view that we are not investing enough in building statistical capability.”

Hon. Dr. Donald Kaberuka, former Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda

Currently, in many of the poorest countries, the availability of data is not sufficient to support effective progress. A step increase is required in the commitment of resources to statistical development. To be sustainable, this increase in commitment needs to come from both donors and the developing countries themselves. In the long run, investment in better use of statistics will pay for itself many times over through improved effectiveness of resources put into development. Increased investment does not need to come directly in the form of stand-alone statistical support. It is a natural and essential part of existing wider frameworks and strategies for development. For example, direct budgetary support, poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches all require reliable and timely statistics to direct and monitor policies. The required information will only be available with improvements to country and international statistical systems.

Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results, Hanoi,
5-8 February 2007



Photographer: Curt Camemark / World Bank

The Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results, held in Vietnam in February 2007, provided a platform for the international statistical community to signal the move from designing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics to implementing them, incorporating other elements of the MAPS such as the International Household Survey Network and Accelerated Data Programme. PARIS21 partners will place dual emphasis on countries satisfying immediate data production needs during NSDS implementation as well as building sustainable statistical systems for the future.

To ensure sustainability of statistical systems, national funding for statistics must be increased, complemented by a step increase in international support to reinforce capacity building. The Third Roundtable

reviewed what is working and what is not working in building statistical capacity, and the application of Paris Declaration principles to technical and financial support for developing countries' national statistical systems within the broader context of Managing for Development Results.

How can PARIS21 help?

PARIS21 is focussing its efforts on assisting all low-income countries to implement National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) with a view to producing better national statistics by the time of the next Millennium review in 2010. The emphasis is moving from helping countries to design their NSDSs — mainly through regional workshops addressing key stages of NSDS design — to helping with implementation. PARIS21 is not a funding agency but works mainly through advocacy, influence, facilitation and lesson learning. Operational activities depend on efforts by countries in partnership with regional organisations, specialised UN agencies and donors.

Much of what the PARIS21 Secretariat does is about building and maintaining effective communication and co-operation across the partnership; and advocacy:

- Advocacy for evidence-based policy and decision-making*
- Advocacy for NSDSs to provide a coherent framework for all statistical capacity building processes, whether funded nationally or by donors*
- Advocacy for more funding and technical support for statistical capacity building.*

A range of advocacy materials is available to suit various audiences. And PARIS21 partners have developed guidance to assist countries to design and implement their NSDSs. All of this documentation — as well as a wealth of information from other bilateral and multilateral institutions — is available in the NSDS Knowledge Base on the PARIS21 website.

PARIS21 is working with regional partner organisations to roll out the NSDS approach, including helping to identify specific messages and target audiences; supporting advocacy activities and launching of NSDS implementation; identifying international and national stakeholders and participating in stakeholder workshops; disseminating NSDS documentation to stakeholders; providing briefing sessions to help develop expertise in strategic planning; and facilitating peer review missions for countries.

PARIS21 has been given the responsibility for managing the pilot phases of setting up the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and the Accelerated Data Programme (ADP) in pilot countries as well as the Metagora project on human rights statistics, which entered its second phase in 2007.

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Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)

PARIS21 is a unique global partnership of national and international statisticians, development professionals, policy makers, analysts and other users of statistics who are committed to making a real difference to the contribution of statistics to development progress. The partnership was established following an international meeting in November 1999 by the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations, and the World Bank. Its secretariat is hosted by the OECD.

PARIS21's goal is to develop a culture of evidence-based policy making and implementation which serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



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