

# PARIS21 at Ten

Improvements in statistical capacity since 1999



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The Partnership in Statistics  
for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



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## 1. Background

1. PARIS21 was created in November 1999, at the conclusion of a senior expert meeting on statistical capacity building. The meeting was in response to a call by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for better co-ordination in the area of statistical capacity building. It was the first meeting of its kind, bringing together policymakers and statisticians from donor and partner countries. That has remained the hallmark of PARIS21 in its 10 year existence—fostering a dialogue between those who demand and use statistics and those responsible for their production. And ECOSOC interest remains strong with recent endorsement of a resolution highlighting the urgent need to build statistical capacity in countries where resources are limited.
2. After 10 years, it is right to ask what has been achieved. The initial objective of PARIS21 was by the end of 2000 to initiate statistical capacity building programmes as part of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Comprehensive Development Frameworks and/or UN Development Assistance Frameworks. That ambition was refined to a more specific target of having a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in every low income country by 2006 so that they could have nationally owned and produced data for all MDG indicators by 2010.
3. The link to international development goals has been a key factor in support for and the achievements of PARIS21. The original meeting was set against the backdrop of the seven “international development goals” that the OECD Development Assistance Committee selected in 1996 and for which 21 indicators were chosen in 1998. It was seen that for many, particularly the poorest, countries the data were simply missing with which to assess progress against the goals. Since 2000, the Millennium Development Goals and indicators have intensified and broadened support for the need for better data. The long term objectives of PARIS21 remain to address this lack of data by developing an evidence-based culture for setting and monitoring policy and well-managed statistical systems, utilising available resources effectively.
4. This paper examines progress on meeting these objectives. Section 2 addresses how PARIS21 has fostered a dialogue to increase the demand for statistics as part of promoting an evidence-based culture. Section 3 examines progress with NSDS preparation and implementation. The remainder of the paper looks at various dimensions of how statistical systems are performing: Section 4 on indicators of statistical capacity, Section 5 on availability of MDG data and economic and financial statistics, Section 6 on efforts to improve the sources of data, Section 7 on improving the quality of data, and finally Section 8 on funding for statistics. Section 9 provides conclusions and some suggestions of how PARIS21 can contribute to accelerating improvements in the next ten years. The Annex provides scores on the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator by country for 1999 and 2009.

## 2. Dialogue to build demand for statistics and an evidence-based culture

5. PARIS21 was created at a time of increasing demands for measurement, particularly of development progress. Donors sought evidence that “aid works” by moving from a focus on aid inputs to outputs and outcomes. This was characterised by the adoption of the international development goals/MDGs, by the creation of Poverty Reduction Strategies for all low income countries, and by the move to “managing for development results”. Indeed the best evidence of a dialogue between users and producers has been seen in the three International Roundtables on Managing for Development Results held in Washington (2002), Marrakech (2004) and Hanoi (2007). At each of these events the need for improved statistical systems in order to provide the data to measure results was prominent. The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) set six actions to improve

national and international statistical capacity<sup>1</sup>. The MAPS remains the reference point for much of the work of the PARIS21 partners.

6. But the demand for more measurement has not always been directed to reinforcing sustainable statistical capacity in countries. Too often the demand for ‘quick and dirty’ data to support the business case for a project, or to complete a PRSP, or to do a quick evaluation has led to one-off surveys and other data collection that has frequently undermined already weak statistical capacity in countries.

**Nigeria National Data Archive bridging gap between demand and supply**

The National Bureau of Statistics in Nigeria (NBS) is releasing microdata on their web site through its National Data Archive, installed with support from the Accelerated Data Program (ADP). The NBS is monitoring the use of this service and thereby monitors the demand for its data. As of July 2009, the NBS has tracked over 100 downloads for its survey microdata of which 50% were from Nigerian institutions, most of them academic institutions involved in research.

PARIS21 has helped to move away from this “vicious circle” draining capacity to a “virtuous circle” of building sustainable capacity by raising the importance of including sustainable support to statistical capacity within national development strategies.

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### 3. National Strategies for the Development of Statistics

7. An NSDS provides a country with a strategy for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS). The NSDS provides a vision for where the NSS should be in five to ten years and sets milestones for getting there. It presents a comprehensive and unified framework for continual assessment of evolving user needs and priorities for statistics and for building the capacity needed to meet these needs in a more coordinated, synergistic and efficient manner. It also provides a framework for mobilising, harnessing and leveraging resources (both national and international) and a basis for effective and results-oriented strategic management of the NSS.

**Table 1: Summary table of NSDS status for IDA countries**

	Countries currently implementing a strategy		Countries currently designing a strategy or awaiting adoption		Countries with strategy expired or without strategy and currently planning an NSDS		Countries without a strategy nor planning one		TOTAL
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
AFRICA	18	45%	18	45%	3	7.5%	1	2.5%	40
ASIA and PACIFIC	12	44.4%	4	14.8%	9	33.3%	2	7.4%	27
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	3	33.3%	2	22.2%	2	22.2%	2	22.2%	9
EUROPE	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>78</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) with background on each action (<http://go.worldbank.org/2BYLXB5V10>) and an overview of progress (<http://go.worldbank.org/VD2BR27RN0>)

8. Of the 78 International Development Association borrower countries (as of May 2009), all but 20 are designing or implementing a NSDS (see Table 1)<sup>2</sup>. There are 25 countries currently designing or awaiting adoption of their NSDS (representing 32% of the total); of these 18 are in Africa—the region where PARIS21 has been most active. However, a strategy is of limited use if it is not implemented. For this reason, PARIS21 has redoubled its efforts to assist those countries who already have a strategy to put it into action. Of the 78 IDA borrowers, 33 are currently implementing their NSDS (42%)—18 of whom are African countries (45%). In contrast 11 out of 27 IDA borrowers in Asia and the Pacific are without a strategy.
9. Countries embarking on a strategic approach to statistical development face a major challenge to ensure that the priorities identified in the strategy—increased investment to address structural and capacity issues and, ultimately, improved performance of the statistical system—are actually put into place. To help countries meet the implementation challenge, PARIS21 stresses: (a) translating the priorities into realistic, budgeted action plans; (b) bringing donors into the process, so that costs and financing plans can be prepared on a realistic basis and that donor interest in and commitment to the NSDS can be followed through; and (c) reporting on progress in NSDS implementation against appropriate outcome and output indicators.

#### 4. Indicators of statistical capacity

##### *Task Team on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators*

10. In May 2001 PARIS21 set up a Task Team on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators, as the absence of an overall framework to assess statistical capacity made it almost impossible at the international level to monitor progress over time and to identify and change priorities. The task team, led by the IMF, reported in September 2002<sup>3</sup>.
11. The task team proposed 16 quantitative indicators and 18 qualitative indicators. The quantitative indicators cover resources (domestically and externally funded annual budget, staff, and equipment), inputs (surveys and administrative sources) and statistical products. They serve to assess if an agency has attained its goal of delivering its products. The qualitative set covers relevant aspects of the statistical environment (legal, institutional and organisational), of core statistical processes, and of statistical products. They serve more as measures of efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production.
12. The SCB indicators represented the first systematic approach at the international level to produce indicators of statistical capacity building applicable across countries. They help shed further light on the statistical circumstances of countries, provide a means to share results systematically, and present a comparative view of statistical capacity building across countries.
13. In practice, the full set of indicators has proved too burdensome—to both countries and international agencies—to administer widely. Some of the measures and principles continue to be used in the Data Quality Assessment Frameworks and Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (see Section 7). They have been used in monitoring projects supported by STATCAP loans from the World Bank and some of the concepts have been built into the World Bank's indicator described in the next section.

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<sup>2</sup> For the status of NSDS in low and lower middle income countries as of May 2009, see <http://www.paris21.org/documents/3517.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Final report of the PARIS21 Task Team on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators: <http://www.paris21.org/documents/1084.pdf>.

## World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator

14. Since 2004, the World Bank has been compiling an annual composite statistical capacity indicator to provide an overview of the statistical capacity of each developing country<sup>4</sup>. The indicator is based on information publicly available for most countries to assess three aspects of statistical capacity against appropriate benchmarks<sup>5</sup>.
15. The first aspect, **statistical methodology**, measures the capacity to meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in economic and social statistics. The second aspect, **source data**, assesses the ability to collect relevant data at recommended intervals, such as the periodicity of censuses and surveys. The third aspect, **data periodicity**, reviews the capacity for making data available and accessible to users. The periodicity of key socioeconomic indicators is assessed by examining the contents of international databases. A "score" for each aspect is derived, and an overall score is calculated by combining the scores for the three aspects, giving equal weight to each. The score is scaled to provide a value between 0 and 100; a score of 100 indicates that the country meets all the benchmarks in all three aspects of statistical capacity.
16. Table 2 shows the aggregate scores of the Statistical Capacity Indicator for 111 middle and low-income IBRD/IDA countries with a population of a million or more. The table also presents a breakdown of the indicator for IDA (mostly low income) countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions. On average, the scores increased for all the aspects over this period, which demonstrates that countries generally made progress in the way statistics are collected, compiled, disseminated, and reported to international agencies. For instance, significantly more countries are now using an updated base year for national accounts and reporting enrolment data to UNESCO than in 1999. Health survey periodicity has also improved considerably, almost doubling the number of countries conducting a health related survey at least every 3 years (or 3 or more surveys in a 10-year period). Indeed, data periodicity is the area in which country scores increased most over the last 10 years.

**Table 2: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator (on a scale of 0–100)**

	All countries <sup>6</sup>		of which: IDA Sub-Saharan Africa		of which: IDA Non-Sub-Saharan Africa	
	1999	2009	1999	2009	1999	2009
<b>Overall</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	45	56	35	37	40	58
<b>Source Data</b>	53	63	46	47	50	67
<b>Periodicity</b>	59	77	61	76	54	78

Source: Development Data Group, World Bank

17. These results indicate that real improvements in the capacity of national statistical systems have taken place in the last ten years. But it should also be noted that efforts of international agencies have had a significant impact. For example, the improvements in data availability from international databases also reflect the efforts of international agencies to fill data gaps using estimates from models or other sources. Efforts of international

<sup>4</sup> Scores for 1999 were calculated retroactively in 2004. Scores are available for 1999, and 2004–2009.

<sup>5</sup> For a May 2006 Progress Report which explains the methodology see: <http://go.worldbank.org/VD2BR27RNO>

<sup>6</sup> This includes 111 non-high income IBRD/IDA countries with a population of a million or more in 2009.

agencies also impact on national data collection practices. For instance, increased financial support for health surveys through global programmes has resulted in a greater number of surveys being undertaken.

18. It should also be noted that the progress made in statistical capacity has varied across regions and countries. For instance, Table 2 demonstrates that the group of IDA-eligible countries from outside of the Sub-Saharan Africa region have made remarkable improvements in all three areas measured by the indicator, with an overall score increase of 20. On the other hand, the positive change achieved by IDA-eligible countries in Africa, as a group, was much lower, especially for the areas of methodology and source data.
19. The Annex shows scores by country for 1999 and 2009. At the country level, 31 out of the 111 countries covered showed a substantial increase in their scores (by 20 percentage points or more) between 1999 and 2009. Of these 31 countries, about a third are from Europe and Central Asia, with 8 countries from the region being among the top 10 countries with highest score increases. There are 19 countries whose scores declined compared with 10 years ago, of which 13 are from Sub-Saharan Africa. Most of these declines are minor, but for three countries they exceed ten percentage points.
20. The statistical capacity indicator is useful to provide “snapshot” pictures of country statistical capacity. Because it uses available metadata, it is consistent over time and across countries, and there is no data reporting burden on countries. However, it is important to understand that this limits the choice of components of the indicator – and that there can be occasional large year-to-year fluctuations in measured statistical capacity, when specific surveys are conducted, for example.
21. To address some of the limitations, the World Bank is working to improve its database of information relating to measuring and monitoring country statistical capacity. The improved system, called the “Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity”, includes options for countries to provide updates to the data on a regular basis, either through correspondence or directly on-line. Regular input from countries will improve the collection and dissemination of key information about statistical capacity that is currently missing from the database, such as financial, human and material resources. It will also help to align the information with other data quality and statistical capacity frameworks, such as the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework, the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Building Indicators, and the African Statistical Development Index of the African Centre for Statistics.

## 5. Availability of MDG data and economic and financial statistics

### *United Nations—availability of MDG data*

22. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and of the MDGs in 2001 has led to a focused effort across all UN and other international agencies to measure progress on the MDGs and to improve the data with which to do so. This work is led by the UN Statistics Division, which reports annually to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) on progress in statistical capacity building. A key concern of the UNSC has been the degree to which MDG indicators are produced based on UN agency estimates rather than from actual national statistics. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG) continues to address this issue through an ongoing dialogue with national statistical systems and workshops to reconcile national and international sources.
23. Since 2006, the UN Statistics Division has introduced in the MDG database a colour coding to indicate the nature of the data and detailed metadata to fully explain the methodology for the compilation of the indicators. This was to ensure full transparency and help users, especially national statisticians, reconcile national sources with the data available in the international database. For each data point of the series presented in the database (for every country and every year considered), the responsible agency provides the explanation of how the figure is obtained, in relation to the level of adjustment of the original country data the agency performs to obtain the desired level of international comparability or to resolve data quality issues.

24. The UN Statistics Division also regularly monitors the availability of data in the MDG Indicator database (<http://mdgs.un.org>). This assessment has served as a way to determine to what extent the regional aggregates used for the global monitoring reflect the actual situation around the world, as well as an indirect measure of countries' capacity to produce the necessary data.
25. Over the years, international agencies, regional commissions and other development partners have engaged in a number of initiatives to help developing countries strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data to monitor development. These activities, especially the increased dialogue between countries and international agencies within the IAEG, PARIS21 and in various other fora, have yielded important results.
26. Table 3 shows the progress in the availability of data for 22 of the MDG official indicators, from 2003 to 2009. The improvement in the country coverage is evident, especially over the first few years since the beginning of the monitoring exercise. In 2003 only 4 countries (2%) had two data points for 16 or more of the 22 indicators. By 2006 this had improved to 104 countries (64%) and now stands at 118 countries (72%). The converse is that while in 2003 half the countries had 10 or fewer indicators, this is now down to just 11%. The overall increase in availability of two or more data points has gone from less than half to three-quarters. Although this is not solely due to actual progress taking place in countries, it does reflect, at least in part, an increased availability of data in national sources and a stronger capacity of national statistical systems in addressing the monitoring requirements. Other factors play a role, including improvement in the reporting mechanisms from countries to international agencies and increased access and understanding by agencies of existing national sources<sup>7</sup>.

**Table 3: Number of developing countries and territories by number of MDG indicators with at least two data points\***

Countries with data in the MDG Indicators Database						
Number of Indicators with at least two data points	as of July 2003		as of July 2006		as of July 2009	
	Number of Countries	Percentage of Countries	Number of Countries	Percentage of Countries	Number of Countries	Percentage of Countries
0 - 5	31	19	9	6	9	6
6 - 10	49	30	19	12	8	5
11 - 15	79	48	31	19	28	17
16 - 22	4	2	104	64	118	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>

\* The two points in time considered in this table refer to any time between 1990 and the latest available year, which varies from one indicator to the other.

*World Bank—Economic and financial statistics from World Development Indicators*

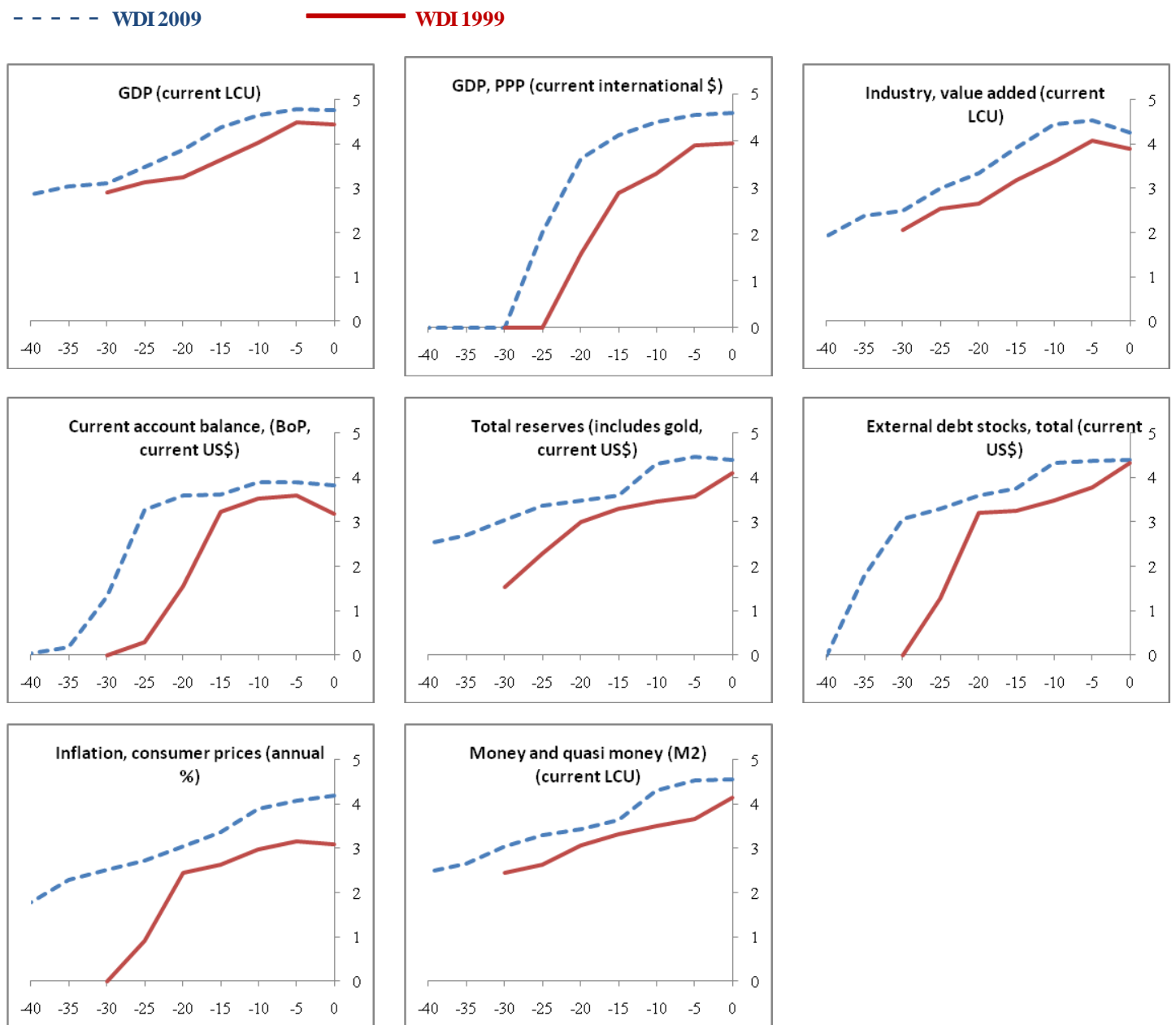
27. The World Bank have analysed 60 economic and financial indicators to assess progress in the availability of economic and financial statistics for developing countries, using archived copies of the databases for World Development Indicators (WDI) 1999 and WDI 2009 databases. The indicators were selected to represent key topics: the external sector, real (production and expenditure) sector, financial sector, and the fiscal (central government) sector.

<sup>7</sup> For more details, see the 2008 report to UNSC on the MDGS at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/2009-16-MDGIndicators-E.pdf> and background tables <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc09/BG-MDGTables.xls>

28. Table 4 shows a subset of nine indicators that give broadly the same picture as for all 60 studied. It shows for each indicator the percentage of data points available (out of 100%), for the five most recent years prior to publication. Figure 1 shows the trends of the average number of years for which data are available for eight of these indicators in five-year intervals ever since 1963–67.

**Figure 1: Comparison of average years for which data are available in WDI 2009 and WDI 1999**

Y axis shows average number of years with data (averages for all developing countries, 5 is maximum). X axis shows the lag (in years) from the beginning of five-year intervals for which WDI has published these data; the most recent five-year interval ends with 2007 for WDI 2009 and 1997 for WDI 1999.



**Table 4: Comparison of available data points in WDI 2009 and WDI 1999**

	WDI 1999	WDI 2009	Change
<b>Period</b>	1993-1997	2003-2007	WDI 1999 to WDI 2009
<b>Indicators</b>	Percent of available data points (country year combination)		Percentage points
<b>GDP (current)</b>	88.7	95.3	6.6
<b>GDP, PPP (current international \$)</b>	79.1	91.9	12.8
<b>Industry, value added (current)</b>	78.0	85.1	7.1
<b>Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)</b>	61.8	83.8	22.0
<b>Current account balance (BoP, current US\$)</b>	74.9	76.4	1.5
<b>Total reserves (includes gold, current US\$)</b>	81.9	87.8	5.9
<b>External debt stocks, total (current US\$)</b>	86.4	88.1	1.7
<b>Money and quasi money (M2) (current)</b>	82.8	91.1	8.3
<b>Revenue, excluding grants (current)</b>	37.5	44.7	7.2

29. There have been clear improvements in data availability in recent years. Comparing the most recent five-year interval published in WDI 2009 (2003–2007) with the corresponding interval from WDI 1999, there is much better availability for many indicators, as shown in the final column. For instance, WDI 2009 has only 8% missing data points between 2003 and 2007 for GDP in current international dollars (PPP), compared with WDI 1999, which had 21% missing data points for the period 1993 to 1997. The consumer price index is another key indicator that is heavily dependent on national statistical capacity; in WDI 1999, around 38% of cells for the five-year period 1993–1997 were empty; but for WDI 2009, there were only around 16% of cells empty for the comparable period (2003–2007).
30. On a simple equal weighting of all 60 or just these nine indicators, the improvement over the ten-year lifespan of PARIS21 is some 8 percentage points in the availability of economic and financial data, to around 82% average availability. This masks, however, some continuing significant gaps in data. Government finance data seem to be weakest, with coverage of revenue and expenditure still at less than 50% in WDI 2009. This is of particular concern as development progress, as well as building sustainable statistical capacity, relies first and foremost on national public expenditure resources. If basic statistics about public expenditure are lacking, it is difficult to see how priorities can be set and successfully monitored.

## 6. Improving the sources of data

### *Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals*

31. Between 2003 and 2005 a PARIS21 task team worked on Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals<sup>8</sup>. It had three activities: **Country Case Studies**, to investigate issues relating to the production of key indicators at national level; **a study of the International Statistical System** in relation to the production of key indicators; and **a study of Internationally Sponsored Household Survey Instruments** in developing countries in relation to the use of survey data. This work has helped to shape subsequent work by the PARIS21 partners and was a major input to defining the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, which was prompted by a request of the IMF/World Bank Development Committee for a time-bound and costed plan of actions to improve statistics for measuring development outcomes.

<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.paris21.org/pages/other/?id\\_news=17](http://www.paris21.org/pages/other/?id_news=17).

## Preparations for the 2010 Census Round

32. Setting and monitoring policies requires good basic data on the population being served. Over 550 million people in 27 countries and areas were not included in a census in the 2000 round. In order to improve the census participation rate for the current 2010 round, the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Census was initiated. This followed approval by the UN Statistical Commission in 2005 and adoption by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Major activities of the 2010 World Programme include monitoring implementation of the round, development of census methodological guidelines, facilitating exchange of experience, and assisting countries in improving their statistical capacity in census taking through training workshops on different aspects of the census operation. An increasing number of participants have attended census workshops in recent years (118 in 2006, 200 in 2007 and 282 in 2008). As part of its activities, the Programme implemented an online resource centre in 2007 disseminating information on census activities in the world and providing resources on methodology and census best practice. The website receives on average over 100 visits per day which, in September 2009, came from 132 countries/ territories.

### The importance of the census

Censuses are important, particularly in countries lacking vital registration systems (all countries in Africa), because they are the only source of data on the geographical distribution and the age and sex structure of the population. These data are fundamentally important for good governance, determining participation in political processes, and for decision making by both the public and private sectors. Yet in Africa, usually for financial or political reasons, countries comprising almost half the population of Sub-Saharan Africa did not conduct a census during the ten year period 1996 and 2005.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SCBINTRANET/Resources/Statistical\\_Capacity\\_Improvement\\_in\\_IDA\\_Countries-May16\\_2006.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SCBINTRANET/Resources/Statistical_Capacity_Improvement_in_IDA_Countries-May16_2006.pdf)

33. For the 2010 round only nine countries or areas have not yet scheduled a census, seven of which did not participate in the last census round. Three of the nine countries without a scheduled census were preparing for a census but delayed the enumeration *sine die* due to political reasons or unrest. According to the current situation, around 140 million people will not be included in a census in the 2010 round, a drop by 75% compared to the 2000 round.

## Survey Capacity

34. The International Household Survey Network (IHSN <http://ihsn.org/>) is a partnership of international organisations seeking to foster the improvement of the availability, accessibility and quality of survey data in developing countries, and to encourage their analysis and use by national and international development decision makers, the research community, and other stakeholders. This informal network was established as a recommendation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics. Current activities of the IHSN include:

- The development and maintenance of tools and guidelines for better management of survey and census microdata.
- The development and maintenance of a Question Bank, a central repository of survey guidelines, to provide easy access to international survey guidelines, and the related concepts and indicator definitions, interviewer instructions, and classifications.
- The maintenance of survey and census catalogues to inform data users on the existence of data.
- The development of an Information System on Planned Surveys and Censuses, to improve coordination of internationally sponsored survey programmes.

## UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

35. For more than a decade, UNICEF has supported countries in collecting statistically sound and internationally comparable data through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). MICS have been conducted in 1995 (MICS1), 2000 (MICS2), and most recently in 2005-2006 (MICS3). Altogether, nearly 200 MICS surveys in approximately 100 countries and territories have been implemented through national statistics offices with technical support from UNICEF. The third round of MICS was conducted in 56 countries. Until the third round, MICS surveys were conducted at five-year intervals. In 2007, UNICEF decided to increase the periodicity of MICS surveys to 3 years. The current round of MICS4 is expected to be implemented in 50 countries. A total of 22 MDG indicators are included in MICS4, including a number of new MDG indicators such as unmet need for family planning and adolescent birth rate.

## Accelerated Data Program

36. The Accelerated Data Program (ADP [www.ihsn.org/adp](http://www.ihsn.org/adp)) is currently supporting more than 50 countries in producing statistical data relevant for policy design, monitoring and evaluation, by making better use of existing data and aligning survey programmes and statistical outputs to priority data needs. This goal is achieved by:

- Building national capacity in micro-data preservation, analysis, anonymisation, and dissemination;
- Working with national data producers and secondary users on the production of updated estimates of key indicators, by further exploiting existing datasets and collecting new data; and
- Assisting countries that do not have a coherent long-term survey programme in strategising their data collection activities.

37. The ADP is focused on household sample surveys because they provide estimates of many key outcome indicators, as well as data needed for research and impact evaluation. The ADP takes advantage of tools and guidelines developed or provided by the International Household Survey Network.

## 7. Improving the quality of data

### Data Quality Assessment Framework

38. The IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) contains a set of prerequisites for data quality, as well as five other dimensions of data quality (assurances of integrity, methodological soundness, accuracy and reliability, serviceability, and accessibility). The current generic DQAF (July 2003 version<sup>9</sup>) serves as an umbrella for seven dataset-specific frameworks (covering national accounts, consumer price index, producer price index, government finance, monetary, balance of payments, and external debt statistics). The DQAF covers

### Capacity building through MICS

Through its MICS programme, UNICEF helps local researchers and organizations and contributes to improving national monitoring systems for children and women. It conducts regional workshops in conjunction with its government counterparts to enhance their capacity to understand, interpret, analyse, disseminate, and use statistics on children and women. The goals of these workshops include supporting analysis of malaria data for improved policy formulation and programme monitoring, harmonizing methodologies to derive estimates on access to water and sanitation, and improving AIDS and child or maternal mortality coverage estimates.

<http://www.childinfo.org/analysis.html>

### Ethiopia National Data Archive (ENADA)

One example of ADP's contribution to building sustainable capacity is with the Central Statistics Authority (CSA) in Ethiopia. The CSA now regularly adds surveys to the Ethiopia National Data Archive (ENADA), an ADP-based, web catalogue. Over 75 surveys are now online, and most importantly this has been done without external technical assistance.

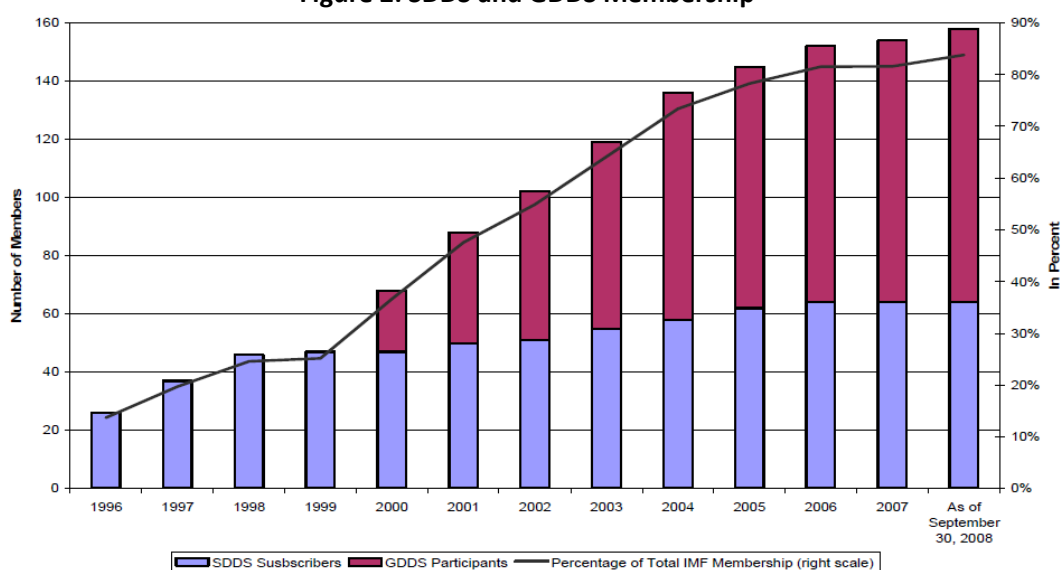
<sup>9</sup> [http://dsbb.imf.org/vgn/images/pdfs/dqrs\\_Genframework.pdf](http://dsbb.imf.org/vgn/images/pdfs/dqrs_Genframework.pdf)

institutional environments, statistical processes, and characteristics of the statistical products, including data dissemination. Since 2003 it has been used to restructure the metadata in the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), and for comprehensive assessments of countries' data quality in the data module of the Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (Data ROSCs). In collaboration with the World Bank, a DQAF module on household income in a poverty context has also been developed.

### SDDS and GDDS

39. Since 1996 there has been a major push to improve the quality and dissemination of statistical data, with the IMF's introduction of the SDDS (March 1996), which mainly targeted Fund members accessing international capital markets, and the GDDS (December 1997), in which all other Fund members can participate. Both initiatives are voluntary; however, once a subscriber adheres to the SDDS, it must comply with requirements that are monitored by the IMF. Annual reports on the observance of the SDDS requirements for 2006, 2007, and 2008, are publicly available on the Fund's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB, <http://dsbb.imf.org/>). These reports generally show an improvement in data dissemination practices by SDDS subscribers over time.
40. As of September 2009, the SDDS has 64 subscribing countries (of which 35 are emerging or developing economies), but only four are from Africa and the Middle East (Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia). Countries began their GDDS participation in May 2000, and since then 6 countries have graduated to the SDDS. There are now 96 countries that participate in the GDDS, of which 94 are emerging or developing economies (see Figure 2). For Africa the number of countries has jumped from 5 in 2000 to 39 in 2009. Only 28 IMF member countries are neither GDDS participants nor SDDS subscribers. Of these, about half have expressed interest to begin GDDS participation and one is working toward SDDS subscription. Most of the other countries are constrained by limited statistical capacity.

**Figure 2: SDDS and GDDS Membership**



Source: IMF Statistics Department.

41. The great success of the GDDS has been its widespread adoption by IMF member countries. It has proven to be an effective focal point for statistical development. Many countries have met their developmental objectives and achieved improvements in the comprehensiveness and quality of their statistical systems. On the other hand, progress towards meeting data dissemination goals been slower. More emphasis will now be placed on data dissemination in the GDDS by streamlining the GDDS format and aligning the data categories with the SDDS.

## Data Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes

42. Roughly 120 Data ROSCs have been completed and published on the IMF's website ([www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp](http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/rosc.asp)). Each report provides a snapshot of a country's statistical system. This has been accomplished since 2003 using the DQAF. Among these Data ROSCs, 14 are updates of an initial assessment and 15 are reassessments. These updates and reassessments show substantial progress in some areas, following up on the recommendations of the original Data ROSC. While the trends do not always show uniform improvements in all areas, the Data ROSCs, through the DQAF framework, set a baseline against which progress can be assessed.

### Statistical Improvements through the IMF Data ROSCs: The Cases of Botswana and Mozambique

**Botswana, 2002–2007:** Botswana published its initial Data ROSC (which took place in October 2001) in April 2002. It provided updates in March and June 2004, and held a reassessment in April 2007. Comparing April 2002 with April 2007, these reports show marked improvement in relevance, transparency, revisions studies, and various elements of accessibility over a five-year period. While many improvements were made to the national accounts, consumer price index, monetary, and balance of payments statistics, the trend was more mixed for the wholesale price index (WPI) and government finance statistics (GFS), especially concerning methodological soundness. Nevertheless, even for the latter two categories, important improvements were made in serviceability, especially the periodicity and timeliness of GFS and consistency and revision policies concerning the WPI.

**Mozambique, 2002–2005:** Mozambique published its initial Data ROSC (which took place in 2002) in March 2003, and held a reassessment in August 2005. The latter report shows substantial improvements in all data categories over the three-year period, as well as more explicit and detailed plans for improvements in the future.

- For the **national accounts**, the shortage of human and financial resources was addressed and for the **consumer price index (CPI)**, computer and working conditions improved. Data quality awareness improved for both, in part through establishment of a data quality management team. The scope of the CPI was broadened to cover the two largest cities, in addition to the capital. Source data improved, especially through better classification of trade data, a household income expenditure survey, a census of establishments for the CPI, and the establishment of a business register. To improve relevance, the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) intensified contacts with users to assess their needs, including through an annual survey. To enhance consistency, coordination among statistics producing agencies was strengthened. NIS improved accessibility by posting an advance release calendar and metadata on the NIS website. Assistance to users was provided by the NIS through the posting and publication of contact information and a list of publications.
- On **government finance statistics (GFS)**, the institutional environment was strengthened with resources dedicated to compiling GFS and the scope improved through statistical reporting of foreign grants. On transparency, it was clarified that no government officials outside the Ministry of Finance (MOF) have access to the data prior to their release. The launch of an integrated financial system contributed to progress on adoption of internationally accepted GFS compilation methods and procedures. Validation of source data was strengthened to cross-check primary and secondary sources. On accessibility, GFS formats were improved and more disaggregated data were disseminated to the public and metadata were posted on the NIS website and the DSBB.
- For **monetary statistics**, classification improved through applying residency criteria fully consistent with the fifth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual*. Source data were strengthened so that off-balance sheet records on foreign correspondent banks rely exclusively on accounting records. In addition, accessibility was strengthened, and data formats and the means of dissemination improved.
- For **balance of payments (BOP) statistics**, the legal and institutional environment was clarified when the NIS delegated to the Bank of Mozambique (BOM) the responsibility for compiling and disseminating BOP statistics. Resources were augmented through the hiring of new staff and computerization of BOP compilation, which has further enhanced verification of reported statistics and consistency checks across statistics producing agencies (especially the NIS and MOF). Transparency was enhanced through identifying the sources of BOP in all publications. Source data improved, with a reduction in the lag for customs data, which reduced errors and omissions. Statistical techniques were strengthened due to dialogue with major data providers to reduce misclassifications and correct reporting errors, as well as the incorporation of estimates for missing observations. Accessibility was further enhanced for both the MFS and BOP: detailed metadata were posted on the NIS website and DSBB; the BOM *Quarterly Bulletin* includes some methodological notes on breaks in series for the BOP; support services were made available to users; and contact information and a list of publications were provided on the BOM website and in its *Quarterly Bulletin*.

## 8. Funding for Statistics

### *Domestic resources*

43. Determining how much countries spend on their national statistical systems is complicated by the absence of aggregated data on statistical expenditures. According to data available on the programming of expenditures linked to the NSDSs of 26 countries, expenditures (excluding those related to censuses) are estimated to average 0.06% of GDP and 0.08% of GDP for Least Developed Countries, and around 0.26% of public expenditures<sup>10</sup>. These averages mask wide variation and are likely to be underestimates, as some relevant expenditure is so integrated within administrative systems that it cannot be separately identified as being for statistics.

### *External support*

44. Given the focus of donors on better evidence and development results, have they been putting more money into statistics? The answer is complicated. Overall, estimated figures suggest encouraging trends, yet support remains concentrated on a small number of countries and from a small number of donors.
45. PARIS21 conducts an annual exercise — the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) — that gathers information from financial and technical partners on their support to statistical development. These data are drawn from an extraction from the OECD’s Creditor Reporting System (CRS) for DAC members and a questionnaire for all other partners. Table 5 below shows the evolution of support from the major donors reporting to the DAC during the period 2002 to 2005, based solely on CRS reporting. Table 6 presents the trends in support from major donors during the period 2006 to 2009, drawn from the more comprehensive PRESS exercise. It is important to recognise the limitations of these data — e.g. not all donor support is captured in these exercises (especially where it is embedded in a broader sector programme), disbursements are often estimated by dividing a project amount evenly across the project period, double-counting is filtered out as much as possible yet some may still leak through. Nevertheless, an overall trend toward increased support to statistics is clearly shown.

**Table 5: Estimated Annual Disbursements of Support to Statistical Development by Partner in US\$ million, 2002–05**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>European Commission</b>	8.6	7.8	41.3	52.8	<b>110.5</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	10.3	10.1	20.3	23.9	<b>64.6</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	22.7	18.6	3.1	2.7	<b>47.1</b>
<b>Japan</b>	0	16.6	13.0	12.5	<b>42.1</b>
<b>World Bank</b>	1.2	1.2	8.3	19.6	<b>30.3</b>
<b>Other bilateral partners</b>	16.9	18.8	27.3	33.1	<b>96.1</b>
<b>Other partners</b>	1.5	3.7	11.1	15.2	<b>31.5</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>124.3</b>	<b>159.7</b>	<b>422.0</b>

Source: OECD/DAC Creditor Reporting System

<sup>10</sup> Source: “Partnership for the Development of Statistics” paper prepared by Dr. Zeine Ould Zeidane for the 2009 PARIS21 Consortium meeting. (<http://www.consortium-paris21.org/>).

**Table 6: Estimated Annual Disbursements of Support to Statistical Development by Partner in US\$ million, 2006-09, for projects ongoing during the period 2007–09**

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009 (estimates)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>European Commission</b>	64.5	89.5	77.1	41.3	<b>272.3</b>
<b>World Bank</b>	26.0	33.1	44.2	45.3	<b>148.6</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	22.4	28.3	26.6	35.1	<b>112.4</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	3.5	48.3	3.7	0.0	<b>55.5</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	7.6	10.5	12.2	8.7	<b>39.0</b>
<b>Other bilateral partners</b>	16.7	71.2	29.0	29.0	<b>145.9</b>
<b>Other partners</b>	20.0	53.4	48.3	37.6	<b>159.3</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>160.6</b>	<b>334.2</b>	<b>241.2</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>933.0</b>

Source: PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (Data for 2009 are provisional estimates, subject to revision)

46. Among the points emerging from the 2009 Round of the PRESS are the following for the period 2007–09:

- Africa received well over half of total statistical support, equivalent to USD 531 million, while Asia and Pacific received USD 192 million (21%), Europe USD 57 million (6%), Latin America and the Caribbean USD 81 million (9%), with USD 72 million (8%) for global programmes.
- Three partners (European Commission, World Bank, and United Kingdom) provide over half of total support.
- Estimated disbursements to 13 countries (Afghanistan, Albania, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Ukraine) accounted for 55% of total country-specific disbursements.
- For most recipient countries, disbursements supporting statistics were well below 0.1% of their GDP, but the range was from 0.01% to 0.34%, the higher figure including funding for a population census.

## 9. Conclusions

47. PARIS21 has made a difference. It came at a suitable moment. The MDGs have brought unprecedented attention to measuring progress and results, which in turn and albeit slowly has focused country and donor attention on the need for better data to set and monitor policies.
48. Statistical capacity for 111 IBRD/IDA countries has improved by 13 percentage points overall, according to the World Bank indicator. But for IDA countries in sub-Saharan Africa the improvement was only half as much and was nearly all through improved periodicity, with methodological and source data capacity almost unchanged over the ten years. In contrast IDA countries in other regions improved their capacity by over 20 percentage points.
49. Overall availability of data has improved. The coverage of 22 MDG, mainly social and environmental, indicators having at least two data points has increased by around 30 percentage points between 2003 and 2009, with some three quarters of the possible data points on this measure now available. Starting from a higher level, availability of economic and financial data has improved by 8 percentage points, to reach around 82% in the 2009 World Development Indicators. The quality has also improved as measured by IMF data quality assessments. And there is now more attention to sustainability than hitherto, particularly through NSDS and better co-ordinated survey activities (e.g. through the IHSN and MICS).
50. But there are still challenges for the future. 140 million people will not be counted in the next census round, although this is a 75% reduction on the numbers missed in the 2000 round. There are still over 60 countries without good measures of income poverty – the first MDG; only 67 developing countries have two or more data points on the official \$1 per day indicator; even fewer have data to monitor a national poverty line. External

support for statistics has increased, but half the total comes from just three donors that have more than doubled their spending, while the total seems to have peaked in 2007. Africa has received annually some \$134 million on average over the past five years, but this is only just over half the annual needs of \$250 million identified by the MDG Africa Steering Group<sup>11</sup>.

51. PARIS21 largely succeeded in its aim to have NSDS in most poor countries by 2006. And yet, a continuous effort is necessary to build on this success. As of May 2009, three quarter of low and lower middle income countries were in the midst of an NSDS process (strategy design or implementation). But implementation remains a challenge, as many countries understandably only conduct those activities for which funding is available.
52. So the ten years since PARIS21 was created have shown substantial progress in terms of attention to capacity, availability and quality of data, and financial support. But substantial challenges remain that the coalition of PARIS21 partners are well placed to address. Given the experiences over the last ten years and the emerging issues the statistical community is now facing, renewing PARIS21's mandate over the next period could be articulated around the following objectives:
  - **Increased and better use of data** for policy-making in developing countries as well as donor institutions. PARIS21 should continue to help stimulate demand for better data among not only government users but also civil society, NGOs, research institutes, the media, and the donor community.
  - **NSDSs that are more relevant, realistic and sustainable.** PARIS21 should promote the NSDS as a continuous process—fed by regular feedback on implementation progress—highlighting the centrality of a user–producer–donor dialogue to agree national priorities.
  - **Increased national and international support to statistics.** PARIS21 should help increase the volume and improve efficiency and delivery of technical and financial resources to develop statistics, not just from donor institutions but also from national budgets, and act as a catalyst for new ideas and innovations to provide methodological guidance to developing countries.

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<sup>11</sup> *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group*, June 2008 ([www.mdgafrica.org/recommendations.html](http://www.mdgafrica.org/recommendations.html))

**Annex: Statistical Capacity Indicator by country for 1999 and 2009**

Country	1999	2009	Country	1999	2009
Africa			Sierra Leone	24	49
Angola	31	34	Somalia	14	23
Benin	47	48	South Africa	61	78
Botswana	51	47	Sudan	32	43
Burkina Faso	62	58	Swaziland	43	64
Burundi	29	56	Tanzania	63	59
Cameroon	36	64	Togo	47	53
Cape Verde		63	Uganda	55	61
Central African Republic	43	46	Zambia	76	59
Chad	52	49	Zimbabwe	66	46
Comoros		49	East Asia and the Pacific		
Congo, Dem. Rep.	34	29	Cambodia	43	72
Congo, Rep.	26	54	China	61	54
Côte d'Ivoire	63	62	Fiji		50
Eritrea	33	29	Indonesia	75	82
Ethiopia	57	78	Kiribati		27
Gabon	33	38	Lao PDR	46	61
Gambia, The	38	62	Malaysia	61	82
Ghana	48	59	Marshall Islands		36
Guinea	64	50	Micronesia, Fed. Sts. of		30
Guinea-Bissau	43	39	Mongolia	52	78
Kenya	61	54	Myanmar	40	42
Lesotho	57	60	Palau		32
Liberia	13	32	Papua New Guinea	44	43
Madagascar	59	61	Philippines	66	86
Malawi	54	64	Samoa		51
Mali	46	61	Solomon Islands		30
Mauritania	50	60	Thailand	68	83
Mauritius	58	74	Timor-Leste		39
Mozambique	62	62	Tonga		54
Namibia	49	51	Vanuatu		44
Niger	57	56	Vietnam	50	61
Nigeria	47	57	Europe and Central Asia		
Rwanda	42	66	Albania	60	77
Sao Tome and Principe		55	Armenia	50	92
Senegal	67	68	Azerbaijan	46	77
Seychelles		58	Belarus	67	86

Country	1999	2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	31	61
Bulgaria	68	84
Georgia	47	85
Kazakhstan	58	96
Kyrgyz Republic	58	89
Macedonia, FYR	64	72
Moldova	61	81
Montenegro		52
Poland	72	86
Romania	73	93
Russian Federation	71	80
Serbia	32	66
Tajikistan	44	77
Turkey	63	79
Turkmenistan	36	43
Ukraine	52	87
Uzbekistan	36	64
Latin America and the Caribbean		
Argentina	64	82
Belize		53
Bolivia	63	70
Brazil	78	77
Chile	83	88
Colombia	77	86
Costa Rica	52	73
Dominica		48
Dominican Republic	58	67
Ecuador	61	80
El Salvador	66	82
Grenada		44
Guatemala	44	84
Guyana		53
Haiti	32	41
Honduras	61	76
Jamaica	58	74
Mexico	68	81
Nicaragua	55	69

Country	1999	2009
Panama	57	75
Paraguay	67	58
Peru	75	81
St. Kitts and Nevis		58
St. Lucia		50
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		48
Suriname		57
Uruguay	62	91
Venezuela, R.B.	52	69
Middle East and North Africa		
Algeria	47	61
Djibouti		35
Egypt, Arab Rep.	74	83
Iran, Islamic Rep.	56	70
Iraq	21	37
Jordan	66	64
Lebanon	26	49
Libya	17	36
Morocco	69	77
Syrian Arab Republic	47	53
Tunisia	72	71
Yemen, Rep.	41	47
South Asia		
Afghanistan	11	33
Bangladesh	56	65
Bhutan		70
India	74	79
Maldives		56
Nepal	51	72
Pakistan	62	82
Sri Lanka	46	76





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## PARTNERSHIP IN STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY (PARIS21)

PARIS21 is a 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 United Nations, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 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.

To achieve this, PARIS21 focuses its efforts on assisting countries to design, implement, and monitor a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.