



# Why statistics are crucial

**GOOD STATISTICS** are essential to paint an objective picture of a country's economic and social condition. Good statistics allow comparisons with other countries and are the key to effective policy-making.

Official statistics are essential in indicating those people and regions in greatest need, and best use of scarce resources in improving health, housing and education.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

has agreed that by 2015:

- the proportion of people in extreme poverty should be reduced at least by half
- there should be primary education worldwide, for both boys and girls
- death rates of children under five should be cut by two-thirds – and maternal mortality by three-quarters.

Such goals demand good official statistics to track their progress.



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## GOVERNMENT PRODUCE GOOD STATISTICS BUT EVERYONE BENEFITS

### COOPERATING WITH OFFICIAL SURVEYS

Surveys monitor such things as size and structure of the workforce and activities of households such as spending patterns, family structure, housing conditions, education, health. They can help governments plan a better life for all.

### USING STATISTICS TO MAKE INDIVIDUAL CHOICES

An informed citizen is a better citizen. Statistics enable people to make better decisions about their everyday lives. Statistics are essential for business and industry to make informed decisions.

### USING STATISTICS TO JUDGE A COUNTRY'S PROGRESS

Good statistics allow governments to report back to the people on the progress of its policies and empower the citizen to evaluate their success. They are a key factor in making governments transparent and accountable to the people. Good statistics are a cornerstone of democracy.