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Better Statistics for Better Results

A New Facility to Scale-Up Investment in
Statistical Systems through National Partnership

Framework Document

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Goals

The goal of the Statistics for Results Facility is to accelerate the strengthening of statistical systems in participating countries, so that there is a sustained improvement in the availability of and access to reliable statistics in order to better measure and manage for development results.

The Facility aims to build capacity to manage for development results. This will be accomplished by linking national development plans and Poverty Reduction Strategies more closely to statistical efforts, to accelerate the implementation of country-owned statistical improvement plans, building on the foundation that has been built by PARIS21¹ and others. But it takes a new approach, by explicitly linking improvements in statistics with development results to trigger more effective donor and government collaboration for substantial scaling-up of investments in national statistical systems and results measurement.

It aims to achieve its goals by:

1. Providing incentives for donors and government to work together towards a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) in statistics, and to ensure a substantial increase in investment for implementing country-owned National Statistical Development Strategies (NSDS). Resources made available from the facility will aim to complement those from governments and donors at country level.
2. Explicitly linking improvements in the statistical system to the needs of national and sectoral policy monitoring frameworks, and promoting an improved national dialogue and partnership between statistics users and statistical producers.
3. Delivering aid and technical assistance for strengthening statistical systems and results measurement more efficiently, through better coordination and alignment to NSDS action plans, and through improved harmonization of procedures in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
4. Establishing key input, output, and outcome indicators for monitoring improvements in statistics and statistical systems for results measurement, and monitoring these against agreed benchmarks.

Why has this new Facility been created?

Good, reliable statistics are essential for measuring progress in reaching development goals. They provide essential information about the effectiveness of policies and investments. They help governments improve their policies and investments, and to be accountable to their parliaments and citizens about the delivery of development results. And they help donors to monitor overall progress in their areas of support and assess the results of their aid.

Despite some improvements, many developing countries have weak statistical systems and mechanisms for measuring results. For instance, less than a half of low income countries have a reliable measurement of the total number of people living in poverty taken within the last five years. Very few low income countries in Africa have reliable data on the cause of death of their citizens. And many

¹ PARTnership In Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

even lack reliable estimates of the size of their population. In these countries, policies are designed and implemented without reliable evidence from the field about what is needed, what works, and what doesn't. Even in countries where donors have supported data collection activities to produce relevant data, these efforts have often given priority to short-term data needs and have been piecemeal, uncoordinated, and were not designed to improve statistical capacity.

There have been important initiatives in the past ten years or so to change this situation. The most notable is that with support from the international community, especially through the PARIS21² initiative and the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), many countries have developed National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs). Of low income countries, about a half of countries have now developed such a strategy, and almost all of the remaining countries are either developing a strategy or have committed to do so in the near future. These strategies are intended to set goals, address priority data needs, and provide a basis for investment and building statistical capacity.

However, a major problem has been that implementation of NSDSs has been uneven and improving the capacity to produce, analyze, and use statistics is still not given appropriate priority in national budgets. Similarly, the increase in donor support to assist NSDS implementation has not been forthcoming to the extent needed, and in many countries donor efforts in this area remain ineffective and in some cases undermine efforts of the country to improve their statistical capacity.

These constraints and concerns were emphasized by countries attending the Third International Roundtable for Results in Hanoi in January 2007. In response, following extensive discussions with development partners in 2007 and 2008, this new Statistics for Results Facility (SRF) has been created to provide renewed momentum to scale-up investments in statistics, and to make these investments more effective.

How does the Facility work?

The 'Facility' consists of both a new way of working, and a fund. The Facility *fund* aims to provide the incentives for this new way of working, i.e. donors and countries working more closely together in strengthened partnerships for statistics and results measurement, and mobilizing additional resources at the country level for NSDS implementation. The primary role of the Facility fund is to provide grant funds to meet any remaining financing gaps, if needed.

A major feature of the new way of working promoted by the Facility is that of a compact between donors and countries. The basic principles of this compact are that donors and governments work together – if necessary, with support from the Facility - to agree a national plan for implementing a single, agreed, comprehensive plan or strategy for improving statistics that is aligned to the priority needs of the poverty reduction strategy and other national development policy instruments. Resources for this plan are then identified locally, and, if commitments are insufficient, finance to bridge the gap may be made available from the Facility fund.

This new way of working can, of course, also take place without the involvement of the Facility, and in fact this is already happening in a number of countries. But the establishment of this Facility is an attempt to provide incentives for this new approach to be used in many more countries, so that they may identify the resources needed to put their improvement plans into action.

² PARTnerships in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

The Facility also supports countries where the capacity or environment to develop, agree and implement a comprehensive statistical strategy or improvement plan is limited, such as fragile states. In these countries a flexible, case-by-case approach will be taken, but the facility will aim to bring donors together around a common statistics and results agenda, and promote better coordination of support to statistical capacity building and data collection in the short term.

The principles of the compact are consistent with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and are:

Ownership

- *Countries* commit to exercising effective leadership over their statistical development, normally by developing and agreeing comprehensive, realistic, and prioritized NSDSs, and NSDS implementation plans.³ These plans should be consistent with good practice, have clear government commitment and approval, and have been developed by national authorities through an inclusive process, ensuring that the needs of data users such as government ministries, parliament, academics and other key stakeholders and donors are met.
- *Countries* commit to take the lead in coordinating donor aid in statistics, statistical capacity building and results measurement, in conjunction with other resources and within overall aid coordination frameworks.
- *Donors* commit to respect country leadership and help build country capacity to develop and implement high quality, actionable and costed NSDSs.

Alignment

- *Countries* commit to undertake the administrative reforms necessary for implementation of their NSDS. They also commit to ensure that the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are put into effect, in particular to ensure that users have confidence in the quality and integrity of national statistics.
- *Donors* commit to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of NSDSs, and to deliver their support for statistics and results measurement in a manner consistent with the principles of the facility.
- In fragile states and countries where the capacity to develop and implement an NSDS is limited, *donors* commit to align their support behind a short-term statistical improvement plan.
- Whenever they sponsor data collection efforts, *donors* commit to strengthen rather than undermine national statistical systems. In particular, they will not support activities which divert scarce resources from nationally agreed statistical priorities.
- *Countries and donors* commit to work together to provide periodic harmonized and joint assessments of statistical capacity and data quality, utilizing existing frameworks and mechanisms.

³ In fragile states and other countries where a comprehensive NSDS is impractical, other approaches can be taken.

Harmonization

- *Donors* commit to deliver statistical capacity building programs in a harmonized and coordinated manner through program-based approaches, including through Sector Wide Approaches (SWAs) and utilization of country systems and procedures wherever possible.
- *Donors* commit to coordinate their support for statistical processes across sectors, to avoid parallel capacity building efforts and parallel systems of data collection.

Mutual accountability

- *Countries* commit to allocate resources to the implementation of national statistical improvement plans and to complete the policy reform measures needed to strengthen the statistical system.
- *Countries* commit to dissemination policies consistent with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- *Donors* commit to only support statistical activities if they are part of a national strategy or action plan and are supported by the statistical partnership. They will submit their plans for supporting data collection activities to the partnership group for review.

Managing for development results

- *Countries* commit to make improvements in both the use and production of statistics that respond to national data needs and priorities, including the design, monitoring, and evaluation of Poverty Reduction Strategies, sector strategies and other national development plans, as well as assessing progress toward the Millennium Development Goals.
- To achieve this, wherever possible, *countries* commit to realistic, actionable, and costed NSDSs that are grounded in outcome-oriented monitoring frameworks of national poverty reduction strategies and other national or sectoral development plans. NSDSs should reflect the priority data needs of all development stakeholders, including government ministries, sub-national institutions, civil society, and academia.
- *Countries* commit to measure improvements in statistics and statistical capacity using a clear results framework, with well-defined output and outcome indicators to measure progress. The Indicative Results Framework should be used as a tool to establish this results framework.
- *Donors* commit to support countries that demonstrate a willingness to use good quality data in decision making, for example in public expenditure resource allocation processes.
- *Donors* commit to support countries in their efforts to establish results-oriented frameworks for national and sectoral development plans.

National partnerships around Statistics for Results

A key feature of the facility is that it aims to trigger improved functioning or expansion of a partnership among stakeholders around statistics and the monitoring of national development efforts. This is essential for more effective management and coordination of statistical capacity building, especially in the provision of technical assistance, and for scaling up support for statistical development through a SWAp. It also will help ensure a strong link between statistical development and efforts to promote monitoring of outcome-oriented national and sectoral development plans.

The national partnership approach is intended to result in better alignment of donor support to the NSDS implementation plan, increased mobilization of resources at the country level, and the use of more efficient and better coordinated funding arrangements and aid management processes for statistical development activities. In other words, it is the vehicle for putting the principles of the Statistics for Results Facility into practice.

The primary role of the partnership is to agree the statistical capacity improvement plan and provide oversight of its implementation.

- In countries which have prepared an agreed National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), the national partnership will normally help develop and agree a ***plan for implementing the NSDS***, with identified costs (including recurrent financing needs), and help with developing proposals for its implementation. Partnership members should support broad consultation processes with data users, and help government agencies better express their data demands (for instance, by helping to develop outcome-oriented results frameworks for their national and sectoral development plans).
- In countries which are not ready to implement a full NSDS, the partnership process should result in a prioritized ***statistical improvement plan*** appropriate to their situation, including, where appropriate, actions to conduct priority data collection and dissemination activities. This may be considered an interim NSDS, similar in function to an interim PRSP. In these countries it is likely that donors in the partnership group will have a much stronger role in implementation of these plans, particularly if national implementation capacity is weak or constrained.

An important action for countries to participate in the facility, therefore, will be to ensure that such partnership arrangements exist. The precise arrangements for operation of these partnerships will vary from country to country, but the following features are recommended:

- The partnership should make use of existing partnership groups that have been created to support the monitoring and evaluation processes of Poverty Reduction Strategies;
- The partnership should include all key stakeholders, and would normally include representatives of the national statistical agency, ministries of planning and finance, key sectoral ministries, national Poverty Reduction Strategy coordination and monitoring/evaluation bodies (including those responsible for performance assessment frameworks), and key stakeholders from academia and civil society.
- The partnership should include representatives from all key donors involved in supporting statistical systems, including those financing statistical work in key sectors. Donors involved in the partnership should formally commit to the principles of the facility.

- Lead government agencies should be identified. It is important that one of the lead government agencies – in addition to the national statistical agency - is a key policy body (such as the finance or planning ministry, or the convening body of the PRS monitoring and evaluation group), to ensure that the partnership efforts respond to demand. In many countries a joint leadership arrangement will be appropriate.
- Similarly, lead donor agencies should be identified. Lead donors will liaise with national authorities, take the lead in promoting coordination, and convene donor consultation processes where required. Lead donors may not necessarily be the supervising entity for any funds allocated to countries by the Facility.
- The partnership should make connections with other sectoral partnerships, to better understand the nature of statistical requirements in those sectors.

Where needed, the Facility may support the placement of an adviser or facilitator with the country office of the lead donor (or other appropriate arrangement) to help initiate or strengthen the partnership process, and help mobilize resources - including preparing an application for funding from the facility.

Technical Assistance and capacity building

Capacity building activities involve the provision of technical assistance. Countries will usually be expected to identify, recruit, procure, and manage technical assistance which responds to their needs, which should be identified as part of the NSDS preparation process. Depending on the capacity of the country the lead donor and the Secretariat may need to provide support to countries to complete these processes. The lead donor will work with the country government to ensure technical assistance requirements are clearly articulated and that they are prioritized and costed. The lead donor will also work with the country to ensure the provision of technical assistance is managed effectively and that it is carefully monitored.

In the field of statistical development and results measurement, technical expertise is relatively scarce and is a constraint; specialists with the necessary skills are to be found in specialized technical agencies of developed countries, and in multilateral agencies. This facility aims to enhance the supply of technical assistance from these sources, from within developing countries themselves, and to encourage south-south cooperation.

The facility will look at a range of options for providing technical expertise to ensure it is both efficient and effective and that it meets country needs. These may include the development of expertise “pools” in southern based regional centers, and long-term collaboration or “twinning” between southern organizations with different capacity levels. The Secretariat of the Facility will actively promote such approaches.

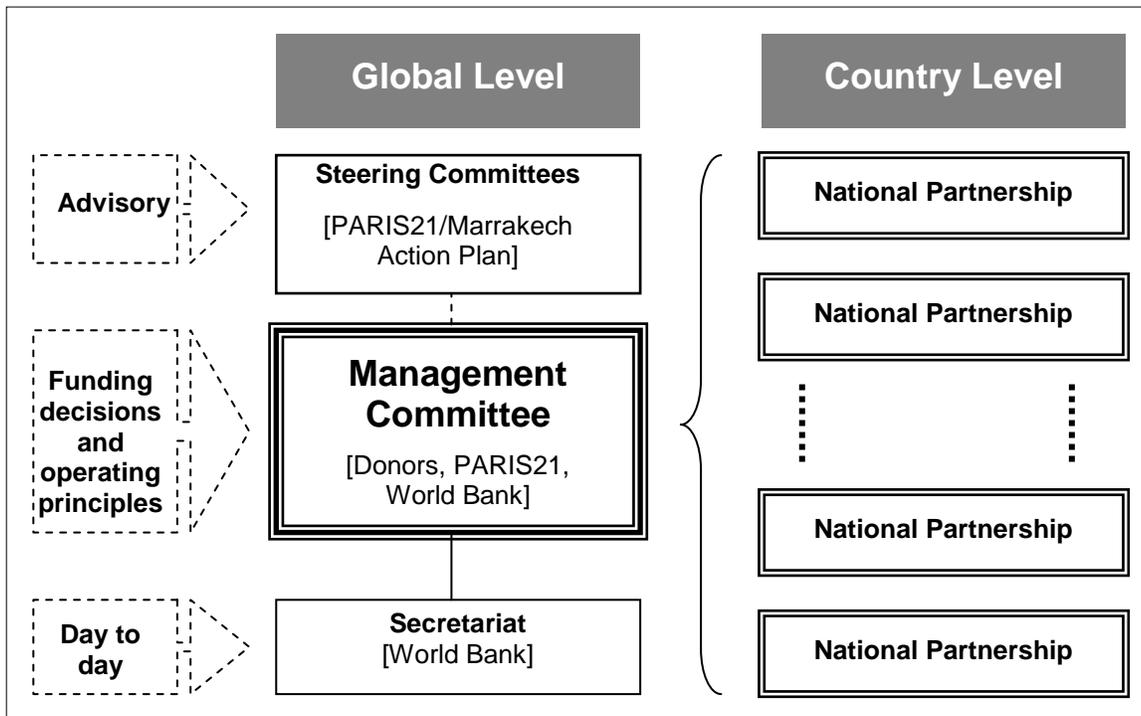
Governance

The facility is designed to receive and pool resources from multiple donors and make these available to low-income countries. The World Bank has been selected by donors to be the trustee of funds that support the facility at the central level, because it has the institutional capability and experience to manage a large global multi-donor fund and disburse these funds at the country level.

The World Bank’s role will be key in providing fiduciary oversight consistent with the Paris Declaration principles. However, at country level, other donors may take the role of lead donor – the donor which plays a leadership role among all donors in organizing the partnership group and liaising with the country concerned. Further, the intention is that the fund will allow the transfer a of specific grant to a donor or other trustee at country level if agreed by fund donors. In this case, that donor or trustee will supervise implementation of the grant using their own procedures and will take on fiduciary responsibility for the grant.

The facility is governed by a Management Committee which makes decisions concerning the allocation of resources to countries and which reviews and amends the framework of the facility from time to time, including the principles, eligibility criteria, and governance arrangements. The Management Committee includes representatives from contributing donors (provided their total contribution exceeds \$1m), the developing country co-chair of PARIS21, and representatives of the World Bank. Specific terms of reference for the Management Committee are available.

The World Bank, as trustee of the facility funds, provides the Secretariat of the facility. The Secretariat’s functions include the preparation of progress reports twice a year, which are submitted to the Management Committee for review. These reports, once approved, are also submitted to the PARIS21 Steering Committee and to the MAPS Advisory Board for comments and advice, although these bodies do not have any decision making role. The Secretariat also supports the work of the facility generally, and provides a point of contact for donors, agencies, countries, and World Bank staff. The Secretariat administers the funds of the facility, and provides support for meetings of the Management Committee. The World Bank ensures that there is good coordination and communication between the Secretariat and the operational teams of the World Bank.



At country level, the actions of the Statistics for Results Facility are driven by the country level national partnerships, including processes to agree plans to implement NSDSs (or statistical improvement plans) through Sector-Wide or Program Based Approaches.

How can the Facility provide financial support?

The Facility can provide financial support if resources are insufficient at the country level. Support is normally provided in the form of grants, for activities to both prepare and implement statistical improvement plans agreed by national partnerships. It can also provide financial support for the implementation of interim plans for statistical improvement in Fragile States, or in countries where donors are absent and national partnerships cannot be formed.

- For preparation, the Facility can help to identify resources to support national partnership processes, and for preparation of NSDS implementation plans (or interim statistical improvement plans in countries without NSDSs) and associated consultation processes. The existing World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)⁴ and the PARIS21 Secretariat can provide resources and technical expertise. The Facility may also finance the placement of an adviser/facilitator to the country office of the lead donor.
- For implementation, resource mobilization first takes place at the country level with the support of government and active donors; if there is a financing gap that cannot be met by donors or government or through other forms of finance, including borrowing from multilateral development banks, then a request for the remaining amount can be submitted to the Facility.

What activities can be financed?

The Facility may finance activities that support the improvement of both the production and use of statistics for managing for development results. Activities may involve organizations such as government ministries and organizations, legislative and policy bodies, and civil society groups. Programs financed would normally be for up to five years.

Grants may be used to co-finance projects funded by other donors. Grants may finance a specific agreed program of activities, or may be used to provide direct budgetary support where this is desirable and recommended by the national statistical partnership.

The Facility may finance administrative and technical costs related to the management of the Facility and the management of related funds.

Who is eligible to participate?

Participation is restricted to low income⁵ countries. In the first pilot phase of the Facility, a limited number of countries will be identified to apply to participate in the Facility by the Management Board, based on the principles of the Facility. Pilot countries may include those where:

- Results are highly likely, in terms of better statistical data to meet priority statistical needs for managing for development results, for instance through better coverage of statistics to meet the national monitoring requirements for the Poverty Reduction Strategy or other national or sectoral development plans, and the data needed to monitor the Millennium Development Goals.

⁴ The TFSCB application guidelines give more details

⁵ In this case, low income means countries that are eligible to receive concessional finance from the International Development Association at the time of application.

- Existing statistical capacity is weak (including fragile states).
- There is a strong commitment of government to improve and utilize statistical data for managing for results.

The pilot stage is expected to last around two to three years. Once completed and provided results are demonstrated, the scope of the facility will be widened to other low income countries.

Participation is not restricted to countries which already have an approved National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. However, countries which have the capacity to produce and implement a NSDS will be expected to base their improvement plans on an NSDS. Countries which do not have this capacity may base their improvement plan on short-term actions designed to meet immediate priority needs for statistical data, without preparing an NSDS. The Management Committee of the facility will determine whether short-term action plans are eligible for funding on a case by case basis.

Who can receive funds?

The national statistical partnership and the Management Committee will determine which entity will be the recipient of the funds, in a manner that reflects harmonization efforts at the country level. The World Bank, being the trustee of the Facility at global level will need to approve the selection of this entity and ensure consistency with its policies in the country concerned. Eligible recipients of grant funds may include:

- National authorities of participating countries
- Country-specific Trust Funds established to support the improvement of statistics and results measurement in a participating country

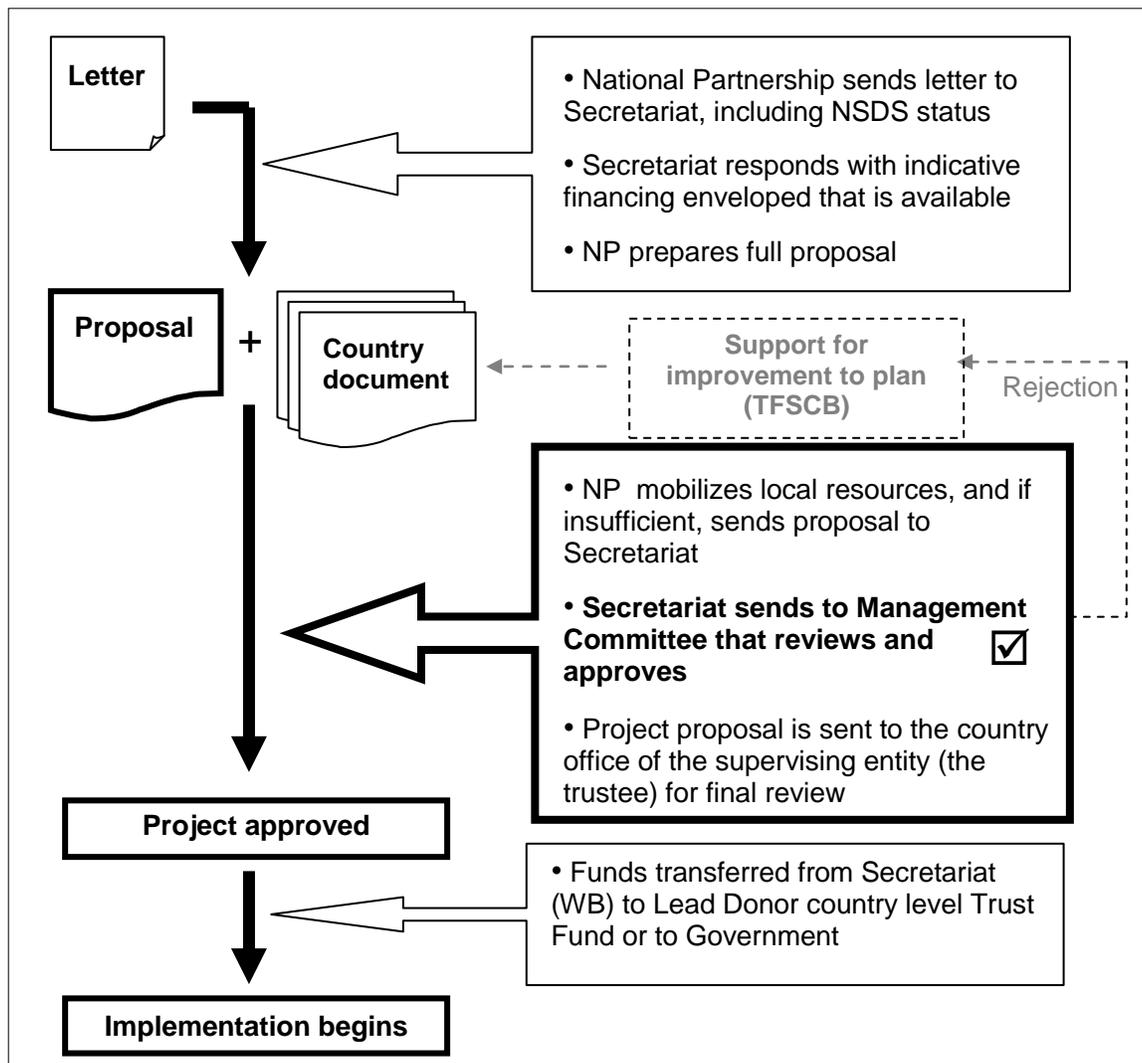
If appropriate, fund donors may instruct the World Bank to pass funds to other aid agencies of governments that provide assistance to participating countries.

How can countries participate?

Countries and donors can scale up resources for statistics and results measurement without the involvement of the facility. But if support from the facility is seen as desirable then its principles - such as better coordination of support and pooling of donor resources, eventually leading to a SWAp - should be accepted and implemented through a national partnership in statistics. In the pilot phase of the Facility pilot countries will be selected by the Management Committee and will be invited to participate formally. In later stages, following the pilot stage, the intention is that the Facility will accept applications for formal participation from any low income countries.

Participants may be eligible to receive funds from the Facility to implement statistical improvement plans. Mobilization of resources for implementing statistical improvement plans should start among partners at national level. If this process leads to insufficient results, proposals for funding a remaining financing gap can be made by participating countries to the Secretariat (which is based in the World Bank), either directly by national authorities or through the lead donor(s) of the national partnership.

The Secretariat will provide countries with a simple template for use if making funding applications, but the process should not increase bureaucratic burden on countries; existing documents should be used as far as possible, and documentation used for other donors will normally be acceptable. The proposal should be agreed both by government and by development partners, through the national partnership group. It should normally include indicative budgets, financing plans, and the need for and technical assistance resources. It should also include any policy and administrative reforms (such as changes to statistical legislation or institutional frameworks) that need to be undertaken to implement the statistical improvement plan. Ultimately, supported programs will need to define an agreed framework for monitoring and assessing results on an annual basis, in terms of improvements in the quality and availability of statistical outputs and their use. The facility promotes the use of an Indicative Framework for this purpose (see Annex).



In summary, the process involves the following steps:

- Countries invited to participate should submit a letter to the Secretariat to confirm their interest in participating in the facility and to commit to its principles.

- Through an identified national partnership of donors and other stakeholders, countries will submit a summary of their national statistical improvement plan⁶ using a simple standard template, including a financing plan and current government and donor funding commitments.
- The Secretariat will review the summary against the principles of the facility, and will determine, in consultation with the Management Committee, an indicative amount to be provided by the facility.
- In the case that the proposal is rejected, the Secretariat will normally provide assistance to help national authorities address any identified issues or weaknesses.
- In the case that proposals are accepted and funds are agreed, proposals will need to be fully appraised and approved according to the procedures of the World Bank (as trustee of the funds) and standard procedures for supervision of the World Bank will apply. In cases where funds will be transferred to another donor institution, the procedures of that institution will apply.

Can Fragile States participate?

The Facility will aim to promote better statistics for results in all countries, including those where statistical capacity is weakest. The lack of existing institutional capacity to develop and manage a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics is not a barrier to participation. However the basic principles of the Facility (and national partnerships in particular) will apply. Statistical improvement plans may need to focus on short-term needs, and the lead donor may need to play a program implementation role. Participation of countries with weak institutional capacity will be determined by the Management Committee.

How will grant amounts be determined?

There is no pre-determined upper limit on the size of grant that can be provided. Since the purpose of this facility is to promote a major change in statistical capacity, projects supported are expected to be substantial in scale (at least \$5m over 4 years), and the Management Committee may impose a lower limit.

The Management Committee determines grant amounts on the basis of need, the availability of resources, and the extent to which the grant proposal will further the objectives of the Facility and meet its principles.

How are grants implemented?

In most cases the trustee of the funds will be the World Bank and normal procedures of the World Bank will apply. In these cases national authorities of participating countries will normally be the implementing agencies for activities sponsored by grant funds, and a grant agreement between the World Bank and the country concerned specifies the flow of funds and eligible expenses. In exceptional circumstances, where there are implementation capacity constraints, the World Bank may implement the grant on behalf of the country concerned. In all cases where the World Bank is trustee of

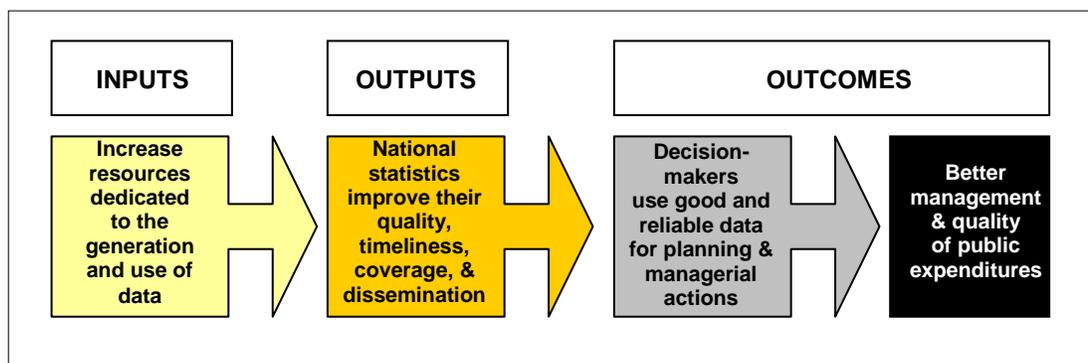
⁶ In countries with the capacity to develop an NSDS, this will normally be a plan for its implementation. In countries where there is a weak environment for preparing or implementing an NSDS, this would normally be an interim plan for improving statistics for results.

the funds on behalf of donors, the World Bank will perform supervision activities relating to the grant. The facility will provide standard supervision costs to the World Bank’s supervising unit.

In the case that the role of trustee is transferred to another agency, that agency will become responsible for the use of funds to donors, and will supervise the grant, and determine the implementing agency.

How are results measured?

The SFR Facility works under the following results chain logic: increased resources (finance, staff, and training) dedicated to the generation and use of data will improve the quality, timeliness, coverage, and/or dissemination of national statistical information and data. Based on this, the availability and use of good and reliable data by decision makers will increase in managerial and planning settings inside the Government. It will also have an effect on actors outside the Government that reinforce the use of data for decision making. The final outcome will be that as part of this new process and managerial use of data, the overall management and quality of public expenditures will improve (see diagram).



In addition to this underlying logic, the SFR Facility has an overall Indicative Results Framework (IRF) with one main goal:

‘Accelerate the strengthening of statistical systems in participating countries, so that there is a sustained improvement in the production of reliable statistics in order to better measure and manage for development results’.

and four major objectives:

1. *Improve statistical practice:* Meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in macroeconomic and social statistics
2. *Improve data collection:* Increase country’s capacity to collect relevant data at appropriate intervals
3. *Improve data availability:* Increase the country’s capacity for making data available and accessible to users
4. *Strengthen institutional capacity:* Strengthen the country’s institutions to better generate and use data for decision making

Each objective is based on four building blocks (see annex 1) which are linked to a number of measurable and verifiable indicators and suggested benchmarks for guidance (see annex 2). This will allow monitoring of overall progress of the facility and will provide a tool to guide the development of

results frameworks within individual proposals, against which the progress of specific projects can be measured. Specific proposals, dependent on country circumstances, might choose to work on selective areas and may use relevant sections from the IRF to help to measure progress.

A commitment to setting targets against the IRF is important; however the framework is not intended to substitute for a broader or different range of indicators that may be developed at country level; they may adapted locally as needed, and may be supplemented or adjusted depending on local circumstances and priorities. However, the indicators in the framework will be tracked globally as part of the Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity that will be maintained by the World Bank.

Dimension	Objective
Statistical Practice	Meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in macroeconomic and social statistics
Data Collection	Increase country's capacity to collect relevant data at appropriate intervals
Data Availability	Increase the country's capacity for making data available and accessible to users
Institutional Capacity	Strengthen the country's institutions to better generate and use data for decision making

Who does what?

At global level:

- Participating donor agencies support the Facility and commit to its principles. Donor agencies may also contribute to the Facility fund.
- Regional statistical agencies provide a coordinating mechanism for the provision of technical assistance by national statistical institutes of both developed and developing countries.

At country level:

- Donor agencies participate in (an, in some cases, lead) national partnership arrangements (this is already happening in a number of countries), consider scaling-up their support to statistical development, and consider ways to make their support coherent, harmonized with country systems, and aligned to the NSDS. In pilot countries, donors work towards joint

funding of NSDS implementation. Lead donor agencies help the country concerned develop a funding proposal for submission to the Management Committee.

- Participating pilot countries strengthen the dialogue national between users and producers of statistics, and develop a statistical improvement plan, based on the NSDS, if needed. They will also develop partnerships with donors to encourage alignment with the NSDS action plan and to obtain joint funding to implement it. If country level resources are insufficient, the country will develop a funding proposal together with the lead donor and the Facility Secretariat.
- Statistical agencies provide co-ordinated technical assistance and support to participating developing countries

**Annex 1. Indicative Results Framework (IRF) benchmarking tool for statistical improvement plans:
Objectives and Building Blocks**

Dimension	Objective	Building Blocks			
Statistical Practice	Meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in macroeconomic and social statistics	Extent to which national accounts & CPI are in accordance to SNA93	Extent to which reporting to UNESCO and WHO is successful	Extent of use of administrative records and data	Subscription to IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard
Data Collection	Increase country's capacity to collect relevant data at appropriate intervals	Increase the periodicity of population and agricultural census	Increase the periodicity of poverty, health, and business surveys	Improve health and education administration records	Complete or strengthen vital registration system
Data Availability	Increase the country's capacity for making data available and accessible to users	Increase the frequency and timeliness of GDP and income poverty indicators	Increase the frequency and timeliness of health, HIV/AIDS, gender and education indicators	Increase the frequency and timeliness of water, transport, energy, IT & environment indicators	Increase dissemination of statistical data to users
Institutional Capacity	Strengthen the country's institutions to better generate and use data for decision making	Strengthen National Statistical Office	Create an institutional setting for regular dialogue between data users and producers, and alignment to NDS priorities	Increase the capacity of sector ministries to generate, access & use data	Increase the capacity of legislative bodies and civil society to access and use data

Annex 2. Indicative Results Framework (IRF) benchmarking tool for statistical improvement plans: Sample Indicators and Benchmarks

Objective 1: Statistical Practice

‘Meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in macroeconomic and social statistics.’

Indicator	Suggested benchmark
National accounts base year	Within last 10 years or annual chain linking and data are mostly in accordance with System of National Accounts 93 (SNA93)
Balance of payments manual in use	Balance of Payments Manual, the fifth edition
External debt reporting status	Actual or preliminary
Consumer Price Index base year	Within last 10 years or annual chain linking
Industrial production index	Produced and available from IMF
Import/export prices	Produced and available from IMF
Government finance accounting concept	Consolidated central government accounts
Enrolment reporting to UNESCO	Annual or missed reporting only once in the last 4 years
Vaccine reporting to WHO	Nationally reported data on measles vaccine coverage consistent with WHO estimates
IMF’s Special Data Dissemination Standard	Subscribed
Household surveys	Micro-data are available for use, preserving confidentiality. Survey methodology and quality assessment are published.
Population estimates	Annual population estimates are calculated using surveys and administrative data.

Objective 2: Data Collection

‘Increase country’s capacity to collect relevant data at appropriate intervals.’

Indicator	Suggested benchmark
Population census	Source data are of high quality for statistical purposes and relate to the entire population. Publication of census results occurs within 18 months and census is conducted within last ten years.
Periodicity of agricultural census	≤10 years
Periodicity of poverty related surveys (IES, LSMS, etc.)	≤ 3 years
Periodicity of health related surveys (DHS, MICS, Priority survey, etc)	≤ 3 years
Completeness of vital registration system	Complete
Multi-topic household survey with expenditure or consumption data	Source data are of high quality for statistical purposes and relate to the entire population. Publication of survey results occurs within one year. A nationally representative survey has been conducted within last five years.
Plan of household surveys for next five years published	Yes
Price surveys	Data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. Conducted monthly at sites representative of urban and rural areas.
Business survey	Source data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. The target population may be incomplete but this deficiency does not seriously invalidate use of the data. Nationally representative stratified surveys are conducted annually.

Business register	Source data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. The target population may be incomplete but this deficiency does not seriously invalidate use of the data.
Health administration records	Source data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. Annual statistics are compiled and published from these data, and include mortality, morbidity, and facility usage indicators.
Education administration records	Source data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. Annual statistics are compiled and published from these data, and include primary net and gross enrolments, and completion rates.
Customs declarations	Source data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. Quarterly statistics on are compiled and published from these data, and include primary net and gross enrolments, and completion rates.

Objective 3: Data Availability

‘Increase the country’s capacity for making data available and accessible to users.’

Indicator	Suggested benchmark
Periodicity of income poverty indicator	≤ 3 years
Periodicity of child malnutrition indicator	≤ 3 years
Periodicity of child mortality indicator	National or international estimates available
Immunization indicator	Annual
HIV/AIDS indicator	National or international estimates available
Periodicity of maternal health indicator	≤ 3 years
Periodicity of gender equality in education indicator	≤ 3 years
Primary completion indicator	At least one observation in the last 5 years
Access to water indicator	National or international estimates available
Periodicity of GDP growth indicator	Annual
Publication of statistical outputs	Data published via website according to a pre-released publication schedule. Statistical indicators for PRSP monitoring easily accessible.

Specific Indicators	Suggested benchmarks	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Timeliness</i>
GDP by major expenditure category	Quarterly	One quarter
GDP by productive sector	Quarterly	One quarter
Indices for industrial production	Monthly	Six weeks
Employment	Quarterly	One quarter
Unemployment	Quarterly	One quarter
Wages/Earnings	Quarterly	One quarter
Consumer prices	Monthly	One month
Producer prices	Monthly	One month
Agriculture: Production crops, livestock	Annually	Two quarters
Balance of payments	Quarterly	One quarter
Merchandise trade	Monthly	Eight weeks
Export/import price indices		
External debt	Quarterly	One quarter
Population aggregates	Annually	To be estimated
Child mortality	Every five years	To be estimated
Age dependency ratio	Annually	To be estimated
Primary pupil-teacher ratio	Annually	To be estimated
Ratio of boys to girls in primary and secondary education	Annually	To be estimated
Primary completion rate	Annually	To be estimated
Out of school children	Annually	To be estimated
Physicians (per 1,000 people)	Annually	To be estimated
Measles immunization (under 1)	Annually	To be estimated
Attended births	Annually	To be estimated
Prevalence of HIV (adult aged 15-49)	Annually	To be estimated
Poverty (below \$1/day)	Every five years	To be estimated

Malnutrition (under 5)	Annually	To be estimated
Improved water source	Every three years	To be estimated
Improved sanitation	Every three years	To be estimated
Rural access indicator	Every three years	To be estimated
Phone subscribers	Every three years	To be estimated
Land use	Every three years	To be estimated
Particulate matter concentration	Every three years	To be estimated
Access to electricity	Every three years	To be estimated

Objective 4: Institutional Capacity

‘Strengthen the country’s institutions to better generate and use data for decision making.’

Indicator	Suggested benchmarks
Sector ministries involvement in statistical priority setting processes	Existence of processes and institutions that enable this.
Legislative and civil society involvement in statistical priority setting processes	Existence of processes and institutions that enable this.
User survey of satisfaction with official statistics (availability, quality, credibility)	Conducted annually, involving all key statistical products and user groups (including non-government users)
NSO resource allocation (staff, budget)	TBD --OECD standards as reference (relative terms)
Share of public recurrent expenditure on national statistics (previous year)	TBD
Donor expenditure on statistical activities (previous year)	TBD
Total number of professional statisticians in Civil Service	TBD
Turnover rate in statistical cadre	TBD
Interagency body of users and producers of data	In existence, and meeting regularly. Informs NSO on priorities.
MfDR principles underpin national planning processes	Expected outcomes, results and targets are consistently and appropriately identified throughout the National Development Plan and associated budgets
	Relevant data are collected and used to adapt implementation of the plan.
	Utility of the data is recognized and data are integrated into the decision-making process
Development plans are outcome focused and results-based	National and sectoral plans contain outcome focused results frameworks, linking inputs to outputs and outcomes
MfDR principles inform policy	Results-based management systems are funded, staff at all levels appreciate their utility, they use good and reliable data to revise policy and procedures, and systems are in place to continuously improve them.