

Statistical Capacity Building Program: Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

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Web Address:	www.worldbank.org/data/action
Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million)	
Total Budget:	101.40
DGF Funding Request:	5.70
DGF Percentage:	5%
Objectives and Expected Outcomes	
<p>This program supports the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), which was developed and agreed at the second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results held in Marrakech, Morocco in February 2004. The objective of MAPS is to support the achievement of better development results by improving the availability, quality, and use of national and international statistical data.</p> <p>Expected outcomes of MAPS are the preparation of national strategies for developing statistical systems in low income countries; mobilization of additional resources to implement these plans; participation of low income countries in the 2010 census round; better data from household surveys; improved data for measuring development progress against key indicators – including the Millennium Development Goals, and in specific areas such as urban development, gender, and education; and improved coordination and harmonization of the international statistical system in support of these efforts.</p> <p>The objectives and actions of MAPS were reaffirmed by countries and donors at the Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Hanoi in February 2007.</p>	
Main Components	
<p>The components of the MAPS program are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting the preparation and adoption of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); 2. Supporting preparations for the 2010 census round; 3. Increasing investment in statistical capacity, based on implementation of NSDSs; 4. Support the operations of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN); 5. Accelerating improvements in measurements in key areas and development indicators, particularly the MDGs; 6. Improving the harmonization and coordination of the international effort to support statistical capacity building. <p>For FY09 the DGF will support components 1, 2, 4 and 5 through grants to PARIS21 (for supporting countries preparing NSDSs, for the IHSN, and for an Accelerated Data Program to improve household survey data), the United Nations Statistics Division (for supporting developing country participation in the 2010 World Census Program and for improving sex-disaggregated statistics on informal employment), and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (as part of a program to improve gender statistics in countries in the Central and Eastern Europe).</p>	
Performance Indicators	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Number of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) completed or under preparation in IDA countries, (ii) Number of countries participating in the 2010 census round, (iii) Amount of investment in statistical capacity in countries, particularly that based on NSDS, (iv) Past and future surveys documented by the International Household Survey Network, (v) Countries participating in Accelerated Data Program, (vi) Improved data and MDG indicators on specific sectors supported by the DGF (education, urban, gender). 	

Progress and Achievements

- (i) There has been good progress in supporting the development of National Strategies for the Development or Statistics in countries, both through the efforts of PARIS21 and through grants to countries from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and the African Development Bank. Latest estimates are that 75% of low income countries now have some form of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, or are working on one. In most cases the NSDS has provided an important basis for consideration of plans to improve statistics by both government and donors; however investment to support implementation has so far been less than required.
- (ii) More awareness has been raised for the 2010 Census Round, including developing stronger international partnership, in particular with South Africa. UN Statistics Division organized several international events during 2007 to convene developing countries, share technical methodology (including new census guidelines) and monitor progress. They have launched a new website which makes technical documents from past censuses available to developing countries. Of particular note, UNSD reports that 13 of the 21 non-participants in the 2000 round are now participating in the 2010 round.
- (iii) There has been some increase in resources, although this is not yet sufficient. The World Bank STATCAP program is financing the implementation of NSDSs in five countries, and six more countries are in the process of preparing large scale projects. Following the Third Round Table on Managing for Development Results in Hanoi, a process has been launched to raise additional finance for scaling-up, at the Spring Meetings in April and with a specific group of donors in November in Paris. As a result, some donors have agreed to scale-up their efforts, including around an additional \$140m to support a "Statistics for Results" Facility which will provide country level financing for implementation of NSDSs.
- (iv) The International Household Survey Network has produced important results. These include a catalog of over 3,000 existing household surveys, tools to improve access to survey microdata, and guidelines on methodological issues such as microdata confidentiality. In 2007 the IHSN started to work on harmonizing survey questions. The Accelerated Data Program is promoting the use of these tools and guidelines at country level, and is helping countries make best use of available data. 20 countries are now participating in the pilot phase.
- (v) Improvements have been made to MDG indicators through Specialized Agencies participating in the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group. The UN has delivered training on statistical literacy to users and has helped countries make indicators accessible through the use of the DEVINFO system. Further improvement requires improvements in statistical capacity at country level. UNECE have improved production and use of Gender Statistics through training courses supported by the DGF.
- (vi) UN Specialized Agencies have adopted a voluntary set of good practice principles, to help guide and improve their statistical work. Some Agencies have also improved their statistical work programs to better incorporate the needs of developing countries on issues related to statistical capacity building.

Partners

Planned recipients of DGF grants for FY09 are: UN Statistical Division (\$1m for Census and \$0.2 for gender statistics); PARIS21 Secretariat (\$1m for NSDS; \$1m for IHSN; \$2.2m for ADP); UNECE (\$0.15m for gender statistics).

External partners in MAPS include regional UN Commissions and Development Banks and bilateral donors contributing to national and international statistical capacity building. A meeting of partners was held at the OECD in November 2007 and again with a smaller group at the 2008 Spring meetings; two donors (UK and Netherlands) have committed \$140m to a central fund to help scale-up support for MAPS at country level.

Governance and Management

The MAPS Advisory Board met in November 2007. The Bank's internal Statistical Capacity Building Committee met in September 2007 to consider proposals for the FY08 program. There is a small MAPS unit in DECDG to coordinate activities, act as secretary to the governing bodies, monitor global progress and prepare monitoring reports, and to oversee DGF grant processes, including the independent evaluation. \$0.15m is planned for FY08 to support these activities.

Exit Strategy

An independent evaluation is underway; phase 1 will be completed by the end of June 2008 and phase 2 will be completed by October 2008. It is anticipated that country-level activities of MAPS will be scaled-up and increasingly incorporated in regular country programs.