

PARIS21 Secretariat

Accelerated Data Program (ADP)

DGF 401006-04

Final Report

April 2006 - June 2008

BACKGROUND

Since April 2006, the Accelerated Data Program has been implemented as a satellite program of the PARIS21 Secretariat at OECD. The ADP is supported by the World Bank MAPS Development Grant Facility (DGF).

A grant of US\$2.0m was allocated for year 2006 under the Grant Agreement DGF 401006-04. The grant was signed on 28 March 2006, with a closing date on 31 December 2006. The funds arrived at OECD on 24 April 2006. A first extension to the completion date to 30 June 2007 was approved on 7 December 2006. Due to the additional delays encountered in the processing of the Memorandum of Understanding between OECD/PARIS21 and ESCAP for the implementation of the ADP in Asia and the Pacific, another extension of the completion date of the Grant Agreement from 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2008 was agreed on 11 June 2007.

This final report is submitted in accordance with the Framework for Cooperation (article 9 of the Framework for Cooperation - Annex 2 to the Grant Agreement). It covers the full grant period. Progress and results on this grant have been reported through the required semi-annual reports on 31 December 2006, 30 June 2007, 31 December 2007 and 30 June 2008.

It should be underlined that the DGF has a one-year grant period, and therefore its implementation is challenging. The extensions of the closing dates gave some overlap in the consecutive grants operation periods, as follows:

	2006 First-half	2006 Second-half	2007 First-half	2007 Second-half	2008 First-half	2008 Second-half	2009 First-half	2009 Second-half
ADP 2006								
ADP 2007								
ADP 2008								
ADP 2009								

GRANT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the grant (as set out in the grant agreement) were to (i) test the ability of statistical systems to respond to emerging data needs, (ii) assist countries that do not have a coherent long-term survey program in strategizing their data collection activities, (iii) foster better inter-agency cooperation under the umbrella of the IHSN, (iv) build national capacity in micro-data preservation, analysis and dissemination, and (v) generate updated estimates of key indicators by collecting new data (to complement, not to replace, existing survey program).

The grant agreement stated that these objectives should be achieved in participating countries by:

- Making existing survey microdata more widely and easily accessible to secondary users, with a view to fostering better and more diverse analytical work and use of data
- Assessing the quality of survey data with a view to improve the relevance and quality of future surveys
- Assisting countries in designing improved mid- and long-term survey programs
- Co-financing the implementation of data collection activities

Later in the implementation of the program, these activities were organized in the three ADP Tasks below:

- Task 1: make existing survey microdata more widely and easily accessible
- Task 2: assess the quality of existing surveys, with a particulate focus on the relevance, reliability and comparability of the data
- Task 3: co-finance the implementation of data collection activities

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND RESULTS OBTAINED

Country participation

In accordance with the grant agreement, 12 IDA countries were selected jointly by the World Bank and PARIS21 to participate in the ADP. These countries were: Cameroon, Congo DR, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar¹, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Sri Lanka, and Uganda.

The program initially planned to implement the 3 Tasks in these countries. However, the ADP Team at PARIS21 and the World Bank quickly realized a change in the strategy was needed to better accommodate countries' needs. Therefore it was agreed to focus mainly (although not exclusively) on Task 1 of the program. It was also decided that this change could be compensated by a larger geographic coverage, though the focus should be on Sub-Saharan Africa.

At the end of the 2006 grant, activities had been completed and/or were undergoing in the following 37 countries:

¹ For various reasons, Madagascar never confirmed the interest it first showed. Therefore the implementation of the ADP has not been possible under this grant. As the demand from other countries to participate grew, the ADP support shifted to these new countries.

Argentina	Dominica	Honduras	Mexico	Senegal
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Indonesia	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
Bolivia	Fiji	Kenya	Mozambique	Swaziland
Botswana (*)	Gambia (The)	Lao PDR	Namibia (*)	Tunisia
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Lesotho (*)	Niger	Uganda
Cameroon	Guatemala	Liberia	Nigeria	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Haiti	Mali	Peru	Vietnam
			Philippines	Yemen

** in partnership with a TFSCB project.*

The ADP is being implemented with success in Africa. It is implemented directly by PARIS21 and the World Bank, with support from short-term consultants.

From January 2008, the ADP in Latin America has experienced a rapid take-off. The strategy chosen to support Latin America proved to be appropriate (highly qualified international consultants reporting directly to PARIS21), with relatively light administrative burden and efficient technical reporting. The 2006 grant did not fund a big part of the activities in the region though (the 2007 and 2008 grants did).

The mechanism put in place to implement the ADP in Asia was a formal Memorandum of Understanding between OECD and UNESCAP, with a sub grant of USD 687,000. UNESCAP selected 7 pilot countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Vietnam. This mechanism has proved to be not fully satisfactory, for the following reasons:

- The administrative burden to secure the agreement on the MoU was extremely heavy, and required two consecutive extensions of the grant end date to allow enough time for implementation.
- The agreement was expensive in terms of overhead.
- The technical reporting was not as quick and detailed as expected and needed for a pilot programme. In Africa and Latin America, sharing of experiences has proven to be extremely useful and efficient since the same activities are piloted and the same tools are shared.
- Much emphasis was given by the regional organization to regional activities as compared to country-level activities, where the biggest impact of the ADP lies.

In the close future, the strategy for implementing the ADP in Asia will be similar to the one successfully implemented in Latin America.

The ADP raised considerable interest from the international community and national stakeholders. It provides developing countries with urgently needed support to improve the collection and dissemination of key socioeconomic data. All countries invited to participate in the pilot Accelerated Data Program responded positively, and others spontaneously expressed interest in participating in the program. Initiating the DGF programs' activities has however proven a challenging task. The PARIS21 Secretariat faced various challenges of both administrative and technical nature. The strong interest shown by many agencies and stakeholders led to the necessity to coordinate with a larger number of partners than initially expected. Although a positive and encouraging development, this led to time-consuming discussions to build consensuses and partnerships. The administrative issues have been solved, and the implementation of the ADP reached full speed at the end of the 2006 grant.

Country level activities and outputs included:

Task 1 results:

- Training of trainers completed on the IHSN tools which are implemented in the context of the ADP national work programs: pool of consultants specialized in microdata management created.
- National staff trained on the IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit and on microdata management best practices (most of the countries above, more than 150 staff from more than 20 national institutions).
- National staff trained on the National Data Archive (NADA) application (Ethiopia, Mongolia, etc.).
- Past and on-going surveys documented and archived (most of the countries above).
- Past and on-going surveys metadata freely accessible on the web and on other digital support (Ethiopia, Mongolia, Honduras, etc.).
- Relevant sections of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics improved or implemented.

Task 3 results

- Household survey supported in Niger, with data entry on the field and innovations in data quality management (ENBC).
- Congo DRC: 1-2-3 survey data analyzed.

No Task 2 activity has been funded on this grant.

Additional details on each country are provided in the semi-annual progress reports.

Global level activities and outputs included:

- Partnerships with other agencies interested in contributing to the ADP established (AFRISTAT, ESCAP, FAO, Inter-American Development Bank, UNICEF, and others).
- Guidelines produced and implemented for countries, partner agencies and consultants participating in the ADP implementation.
- ADP website developed and launched: www.surveynetwork.org/adp
- Web-based Light Information System on the ADP (LISA) developed.
- Regional “communities of practice” of data documentation and dissemination specialists established to foster regional cooperation (Africa and Latin America).

The ADP implementation is benefiting significantly from the activities and results of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN).

Additional details are provided in the semi-annual progress reports.

Human resources:

The PARIS21 Secretariat has recruited a Project Officer and a Technical Project Officer for the ADP. Both are allocated part-time to the IHSN Satellite Program, and part-time to the ADP Satellite Program. The PARIS21 Secretariat has also recruited an administrative assistant. These staff members are recruited for the length of the ADP and IHSN programs.

USE OF THE FUNDS

16 contracts were processed with individual consultants, private companies and public institutions. The terms of reference and the summary of the outputs delivered under each contract are available upon request at the PARIS21 Secretariat.

Interim financial reports were submitted on 31 December 2006, 30 June 2007 and 31 December 2007. A final financial report was submitted at the end of the grant period. The grant budget (USD 2 million) was used as follows:

Project staff	153,744
Intellectual services	780,596
Missions	614,519
Conference, room rental, reception expenses	138,765
Translation	2,206
Hardware, software, IT costs, supplies, printing	82,938
Central services	15,297
Grant administration	50,000
Total expenditure	1,838,066
Balance (unspent)	161,934

Note on the unspent funds:

These funds were returned to OECD from UNESCAP, in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding. These funds were returned after the end date of the grant, and it was therefore not possible to make any new commitments or spend them at OECD/PARIS21.

This unspent balance was returned to the World Bank on April 2009.