

**STATISTICAL CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT IN IDA
COUNTRIES**

MAY 16, 2006

Progress Report

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAA	Analytical and Advisory Activities
ADP	Accelerated Data Program
CAS	Country Assistance Strategy
CCSA	Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities
CODE	Committee on Development Effectiveness
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CWIQ	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire
DECDG	Development Data Group, Development Economics
DGF	Development Grant Facility
EU	European Union
FASDEV	Forum for African Statistical Development
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICP	International Comparisons Project
IDA	International Development Association
IEG	Independent Evaluation Group
IHSN	International Household Survey Network
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSD	National Institute of Statistics and Demography, Burkina Faso
MAPS	Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MECOVI	Mejoramiento de las Encuestas de Hogares y la Medición de Condiciones de Vida
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPCS	Operational Policy and Country Services
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRS(P)	Poverty Reduction Strategy (Paper)
PRSC	Poverty Reduction Strategy Credit
ROSC	Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes
RRSF	Reference Regional Strategic Framework
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
STATCAP	Multi-Country Statistical Capacity Building Lending Program
TFSCB	Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Statistical Capacity Improvement in IDA Countries – Progress Report

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I. Executive Summary

1. This paper¹ is the first progress report on statistical capacity improvement in IDA countries. It reports on improvements made by IDA member countries to their capacity to produce good quality official statistics. It also reviews the support given to countries by the World Bank and by other development partners, discusses key issues and constraints, and outlines plans for further work. This progress report follows an earlier presentation of key issues to Executive Directors in October 2002 and a paper prepared for IDA Deputies during the negotiations leading to the fourteenth replenishment.²

2. Measurable improvements have been made in statistical capacity and in the availability and quality of data. Following the Second Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Marrakech, Morocco, February 2004, activities of the World Bank have focused on implementing the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS). International partners have found the approach attractive and are mobilizing additional support. Financial instruments managed by the World Bank, including the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, the STATCAP multi-country lending program, and support for MAPS through the Development Grant Facility, have created significant momentum.

3. The key strategy of MAPS is the improvement of statistical capacity based on national strategies for the development of statistics, or NSDSs. Much has been learnt about this approach since it was first discussed by the Board in October 2002, and the PARIS21 partnership has played a crucial advocacy role and has helped countries with guidance and tools. Many IDA countries have developed (or are developing) an NSDS; the challenge going forward is to help countries put these plans into effect with more urgency. Investments in statistical capacity are still given low priority by countries and World Bank teams, and new incentives are needed for this situation to change.

4. Making sustainable improvements in statistical capacity is widely recognized to require a long-term effort, but the data needs of the results agenda at subnational, national, and international levels calls for near-term enhancements in data availability and quality. These improvements are possible and, working with countries and international organizations within the MAPS framework, new activities that focus on Africa are proposed through an Accelerated Data Program (ADP-Africa). This will require additional financing and support.

5. The paper identifies a number of issues and constraints which are holding back some countries from making statistical capacity improvements and limiting the World Bank in supporting those improvements. These include low levels of financing, weak incentives to treat statistical capacity as a priority, the supply of technical expertise, and the lack of rigorous data quality and statistical capacity assessments of development statistics.

¹ Prepared by the Development Data Group (DECDG) of the Development Economics Vice-Presidency.

² Measuring Results: Improving National Statistics in IDA Countries (DC2005-0017), November 2004.

6. Future plans build on the momentum created by the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics. A key activity is to implement the ADP-Africa, but practical steps are also needed to increase the priority given to this work in country programs. One option, to encourage greater focus on the issue of statistical capacity and data improvement, is to develop a bulletin board system where countries post detailed information about data compilation and dissemination practices for development statistics, and where those practices can be assessed against international standards. Other options include data quality and statistical capacity assessments as part of CAS dialogue and preparation, and the allocation of additional IDA resources to finance investment in statistical capacity.

7. The World Bank is a champion of and active participant in the international effort to improve the statistical capacity of developing countries, particularly through the implementation of MAPS and its facilities to encourage investment in statistics. This important role should be sustained and expanded to respond to the recent call of the Development Committee for donors and multilateral development banks "...to step up support for strengthening statistical and related institutional capacity in partner countries."³

³ Development Committee Communiqué, Washington, DC, April 23, 2006, paragraph 4.

II. Background

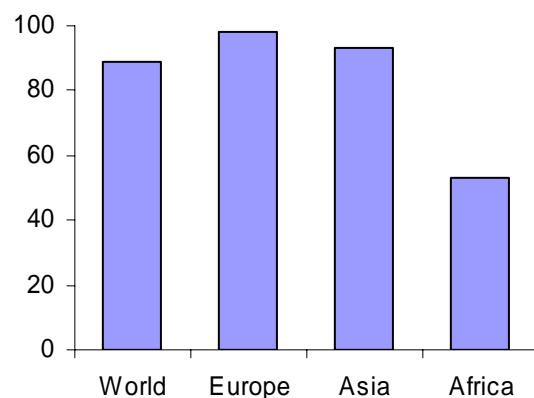
A. The problem of weak statistical capacity and previous discussions

8. Good quality statistical data are needed to manage for results: to set targets and monitor outcomes, to design development policies and strategies, to make evidence-based decisions about the allocation and management of scarce resources, and to enable citizens to make informed choices. Weaknesses in national statistics limit the ability of both national governments and their development partners to measure success and correct mistakes. In many developing countries, because statistics are of low quality and little use is made of them, there is a vicious cycle of under-use, under-funding, and under-performance. The poor quality of national statistics is reflected in international databases, where missing or unreliable data limit cross-country analysis and undermine efforts to implement global programs.⁴

9. In their report to the UN Statistical Commission, the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals Indicators concluded that “Despite improved collaboration among international agencies and improvement in the data available to support indicators, the quality and availability of data is not yet sufficient to reliably monitor progress in the achievement of the MDGs.”⁵ They note that international agencies frequently modify country estimates or substitute modeled estimates, which may reflect efforts by agencies to improve or standardize national estimates, but may also reflect an ineffective system for collecting national data. They also comment on the “low awareness among national statistical offices of ... programmes to improve MDG indicators.”⁶

10. There are many examples of the weak statistical capacity of poor countries. Consider the case of the last round of censuses. 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 (figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of population included in a census in years 1996 - 2005



⁴ The recent debate over the accuracy of HIV/AIDS prevalence estimates is a case in point.

⁵ Report of the Friends of the Chair on MDG indicators presented at the 37th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, New York, March 7-10 2006 (UN Document CN.3/2006/15), paragraph 53.

⁶ Ibid. paragraph 47.

11. There is a broad awareness of the need for better statistics to underpin improvements in development effectiveness. The need for improved statistics and statistical capacity was noted by the Development Committee on September 28, 2002, and again at its meeting on April 23, 2006, which called all donors and multilateral development banks “...to step up support for strengthening statistical and related institutional capacity in partner countries.”⁷ The need for improvements in national statistical systems is a core element of the World Bank’s strategy for implementing the results agenda. The recent report to the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) on “Accelerating the Results Agenda”⁸ reviewed proposals for improving statistical capacity, and stressed the need for improvements in the capacity to interpret and utilize statistical data.

12. Statistical capacity improvement was first discussed by Executive Directors at an informal session of the Board on October 23, 2002.⁹ This followed a discussion of statistics at the first Roundtable on Better Measuring, Monitoring, and Managing for Development Results on June 5-6, 2002. At the October meeting, the Board agreed that support for the international statistical system should be expanded, to underpin the results agenda and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs); that the priority was to improve statistical capacity at country level; that a robust approach was through the implementation of strategic statistical development plans aligned with national development policy; and that the World Bank should play a leadership role.

13. The constraints caused by weak development statistics were also highlighted during the negotiations leading to the fourteenth replenishment of IDA. The IDA 14 Results Monitoring System,¹⁰ which specifies 14 indicators measuring growth and poverty, education and health outcomes, and access to basic infrastructure services, requires an underpinning of good quality data at the national level. This issue was presented to Deputies in November 2004.¹¹ It was recommended that the Development Data Group should compile information on the statistical systems of IDA countries; prepare an annual note on progress being made in improving national statistics for Executive Directors; continue to assist countries prepare national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS); initiate a pilot program to align and harmonize internationally sponsored household surveys; and make improvements in statistical practices consistent with national statistical development plans.

14. The present paper builds on previous discussions and commitments. It reports on progress toward improving the statistical capacity of the poorest countries and makes recommendations for carrying this work forward more urgently, both by the World Bank, partners, and donors.

⁷ Development Committee Communiqué, Washington, DC, April 23, 2006, paragraph 4.

⁸ Accelerating the Results Agenda: Progress and Next Steps (CODE2006-0016), February 28, 2006.

⁹ Building Statistical Capacity to Monitor Development Effectiveness: Information Paper prepared for the World Bank Board of Executive Directors, October 23, 2002.

¹⁰ IDA Results Measurement System: Recommendations for IDA14, June 24, 2004.

¹¹ Measuring Results: Improving National Statistics in IDA Countries (DC2005-0017), November 2004.

B. The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

15. Following an International Conference on Improving Statistics for Measuring Development Outcomes held at the World Bank in June, 2003, an action plan was agreed at the Second Roundtable on Managing for Development Results held in Marrakech in February 2004. Known as the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), it is a time-bound, costed plan to improve development statistics with a broad base of support in the international community. It aims to ensure development of sustainable national statistical systems, while bringing about rapid improvements in the availability, frequency, and use of estimates of important outcome indicators, such as those in poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

16. MAPS provides the basic framework for the World Bank's program for improving national and international statistical systems. It identifies six key actions which the World Bank has championed. Three are aimed at the national level:

- (i) Mainstream strategic planning of statistical systems in national development processes;
- (ii) Ensure full participation in the 2010 round of population censuses; and
- (iii) Increase financing by countries and partners for statistics and statistical capacity building.

The remaining three are aimed at the international level:

- (iv) Set-up an International Household Survey Network (IHSN) to improve the effectiveness of international household survey programs;
- (v) Make improvements in data sets needed for MDG monitoring; and
- (vi) Improve the accountability for international statistics.

This paper reports on overall progress made toward the MAPS objectives and describes a strategy and future plans aimed at fully implementing MAPS.

III. Progress

17. MAPS, which is just two years old, is the principal strategy of the international community for coordinating efforts to improve statistical capacity. It has received widespread support. It has been endorsed by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD and by the UN Statistical Commission. The recent report of the Friends of the Chair to the UN Statistical Commission noted, "A number of initiatives to improve MDG indicators have been outlined in the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics. We recommend strong international and national support for its successful implementation."¹² Implementation of MAPS will require a strong international partnership, which is being coordinated by the World Bank and is supported by the Development Grant Facility. The MAPS Advisory Board, chaired by the OPC Vice-President, meets regularly and provides a forum for raising awareness of the need for urgent action and for developing and monitoring appropriate actions.

¹² Report of the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals Indicators (UN document CN.3/2006/15), paragraph 56.

18. Good progress is being made in working towards the principal objectives of the MAPS. Highlights are (Annex A has more details):

- Establishment of a partnership program funded through the Development Grant Facility to implement MAPS;
- The preparation of NSDSs by many developing countries;
- The 2010 World Census Program launched by the UN and supported by the Development Grant Facility;
- The establishment of the International Household Survey Network;
- Increased cooperation among international statistical agencies and development programs through PARIS21,¹³ UN regional commissions and working groups, and the MAPS Advisory Board;
- The agreement on a set of principles defining good practices by international statistical agencies.

19. The following sections discuss progress toward the principle MAPS objectives, and responses within the World Bank and by partners to increase the demand for data, mainstream statistical capacity improvements, strengthen global partnerships, and accelerate improvements in data.

A. Progress on establishing national strategies for the development of statistics

20. One of the key objectives of MAPS is the development and implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics - NSDSs. This sector-wide approach to capacity improvement in statistics was supported by the Board in 2002 and during the IDA14 replenishment negotiations. An NSDS provides a country with a strategy for improving statistical capacity across the entire statistical system, with targets, milestones, a

Box 1. The NSDS process in Bangladesh

A renewed focus to improve the capacity of the Bangladesh statistical system has been driven by three forces: the poverty reduction strategy (“Unlocking the Potential”), approved in October 2005; the Country Assistance Strategy, approved on March 29, 2005; and the IDA14 recommendation that all countries develop an NSDS.

The Bangladesh statistical system generates a substantial amount of data, but there are concerns about underlying data quality, the capacity to meet changing needs, and the ability of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to lead a comprehensive statistical system. To address these concerns, a three stage approach has been developed. First, short-term priority data needs will be met where these do not require institutional change. Second, a comprehensive improvement strategy will be developed, based on a wide consultative process (the government will apply for support for this process through the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building). Third, the strategy will be implemented with support from the Government and interested donors. It is anticipated that the Bank will support this operation through a STATCAP credit.

framework, and action plan. Good NSDSs have high-level support, are nationally owned, and prioritized according to user needs, including the needs arising from PRSs; they are also comprehensive, realistic, and appropriate to specific country circumstances. Box 1 describes the NSDS process in Bangladesh.

21. PARIS21 has provided an important focal point for advocacy and guidance on the NSDS process in countries and for improving NSDS quality. Several bilateral and multi-lateral partners have supported NSDS preparation, including the regional development banks (particularly the Africa Development Bank, through a special program), UNDP, the European Commission, France, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The World Bank has supported countries through the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), which has adopted streamlined procedures for processing applications for NSDS development. According to records maintained by DECDG, 22 IDA countries have developed new NSDSs since 2002. Eleven of these were supported by TFSCB. Of these, four – Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria and Tajikistan – sought to implement their strategies using the STATCAP lending program. Others are implementing NSDS components by mobilizing government and donor funds. Moldova, for instance, is planning to implement its NSDS as a priority action within the PRS.

22. What has been the experience with the NSDSs prepared since 2002? A review of seventeen of the twenty-two NSDSs produced by IDA countries finds a number of common characteristics.

- In almost all ownership by the government is clear; some NSDSs are prefaced with a foreword from the President or a Minister, and NSDS dissemination workshops have often been attended by high-level government officials. NSDSs which are being successfully implemented enjoy strong levels of political support.
- Most of the NSDSs reviewed include an assessment of the current statistical system, examining institutional issues such as the legal framework, levels and skills of human resources, coordination of the statistical system, and data production issues.
- In some cases, problems of line ministries and other sectoral agencies are not as systematically addressed as issues facing national statistical offices. A recent study on institutional arrangements for monitoring PRSs¹⁴ points to the cause: incentives to coordinate activities across sectors are lacking and there is a tendency towards territorial behavior, particularly in response to opportunities for donor funding. National statistical agencies have weak capacity to coordinate the statistical activities of line ministries and limited incentives to pursue this role.
- Most NSDSs included a plan to improve dissemination by publishing more timely statistics and using electronic methods such as websites, although only about a half of countries mention plans to provide calendars for the release of key statistics.

¹³ PARIS21 (PARTnership In Statistics for development in the 21st Century) is a partnership of statisticians and data users for improving the production and use of development statistics. The PARIS21 secretariat is housed in the Development Cooperation Directorate of OECD, Paris.

¹⁴ Beyond the Numbers: Understanding the Institutions for Monitoring Poverty Reduction Strategies (Bedi, Coudouel, Goldstein and Thornton), December 2005.

- The majority of countries systematically analyzed demand or assessed the extent to which user needs are being met. Most NSDSs mention the importance of providing better data for monitoring a PRS and the MDGs, with some including measures to meet these needs through additional data collection activities.
- There is variation in the way that the costs of implementing NSDSs are presented. Although most include a presentation of the costs of implementation and some propose increases in the levels of funding, very few compare costs to the existing budget or to expected levels of future recurrent expenditure and propose methods to fill the funding gap.

23. While the review of NSDSs reveals some weaknesses, in most cases the NSDS provides a good basis for improvements in the statistical system. Countries preparing and implementing NSDSs should expect to see improved statistical capacity, with better quality statistics that better meet the needs of their users. But it should also be noted that the preparation and implementation of an NSDS is an iterative learning process. Over the last four years the quality and effectiveness of NSDSs have improved, as knowledge about strategic planning has gotten better, and as countries have learned for themselves what works and what does not. In this sense there are parallels to the introduction of the PRS process.

B. Progress in implementing NSDSs

24. Implementation of NSDSs requires investment by governments and support from development partners. The approval in 2004 by Executive Directors of a specifically designed multi-country lending instrument – STATCAP – has helped provide countries with financial resources for this purpose, and in some cases has provided leverage for cofinancing. Since the first two projects were approved (Ukraine and Burkina Faso) Nigeria has used the approach within a larger program (\$15.6m of a \$140m economic reform project), and two projects are being prepared for Board presentation: \$20m credit for Kenya and \$1m credit for Tajikistan. In both cases there are co-financing arrangements with other donors: \$10.5m for Kenya, and \$4m for

Box 2. Burkina Faso: implementing the NSDS through STATCAP

Burkina Faso prepared a NSDS for 2004-09 with financial support from the TFSCB. Following adoption of this strategy in July 2003 by the National Council of Statistical Coordination, the government developed a project, – now financed by IDA through the STATCAP Multi-Country Lending Program – to implement key elements of this strategy.

During the first year the project laid the foundation for strengthening the statistical system. The legal status of the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) was evaluated, system-wide training programs were designed, dissemination and IT development plans were developed, preparations were made for the construction of appropriate offices for INSD headquarters, and regional statistical offices were created.

These institutional strengthening activities are complemented by a number of activities aimed at collecting better data for compiling national accounts and statistics relevant for agriculture and rural development, finance, transport, and health. INSD have begun preparations for the next population and housing census.

Tajikistan. Projects are also being developed with other IDA countries, including Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyz Republic, and Sri Lanka.¹⁵ Annex B lists World Bank support to IDA countries for statistical capacity improvement.

25. Other development partners are also actively engaged in helping countries develop and implement strategic development plans for statistical capacity. The African Development Bank, in part in response to weaknesses in national statistics identified through the International Comparison Program (ICP), is mobilizing resources for African countries to help develop and implement NSDSs. UNDP has helped a number of countries in developing their plans. Bilateral donors, such as the UK, support the approach with programs of assistance in specific countries. Annex B gives further details of the programs of other partners for Sub-Saharan Africa based on a survey of donor activities carried out by PARIS21 in 2005.

26. While good progress has been made, there remains a significant gap between the need for improvements and the availability of resources to implement plans. In some countries NSDSs have been developed but resources are not available for implementation. Take-up of STATCAP by countries has been slower than that required to make substantial impact in addressing global weaknesses in statistical capacity. Improvements in statistical capacity appear to receive low priority in the World Bank's country programs and there are few incentives for them to address shortfalls in statistical capacity.

C. Progress on increasing the demand for statistics

27. Improving capacity to collect and produce statistics is important, but statistics have no value unless they are used. Because of international development initiatives, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the drive to improve aid effectiveness, international demand for development statistics is high. World Bank initiatives, such as the IDA14 Results Measurement System, the results-based CAS, and the Africa Action Plan further intensify demand for reliable and timely statistics. At the national level demand has also increased, stimulated by the development and implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and the preparation of national MDG reports.

28. Because PRSs rely on official statistics for policy development, management of programs, and outcome monitoring, they might be expected to assess constraints caused by low statistical capacity and include plans for improvement. An analysis of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and PRS progress reports show this to be generally true, although proposals largely focus on improving estimates of outcome indicators from household surveys and administrative sources. Even though PRS guidance¹⁶ includes a discussion of the need for improving national statistical capacity to underpin monitoring and evaluation of PRSs and poverty analysis, PRSPs have not tended to include proposals for strengthening institutional aspects of statistical systems (such as legislation and management) that are vital for longer term sustainable improvement. Instead the incentives of

¹⁵ IBRD countries are also interested in utilizing STATCAP, for example, Argentina and the Russian Federation.

¹⁶ See A Sourcebook for Poverty Reduction Strategies, Chapter 5 "Strengthening Statistical Systems".

the PRS process seem to result in a focus on short-term actions – such as specific household surveys – designed to provide specific datasets for PRS needs. Even in countries where a plan for developing statistics existed before the preparation of a PRSP or a PRS progress report, the implementation of this plan is not often incorporated into PRS implementation (table 1).

Table 1. How PRSs address statistical capacity weaknesses

Number of PRS papers or progress reports written after NSDS developed	29
Number where data weaknesses are identified as a constraint	26
Number which contain proposals for improvement	22
Number where proposals for improvement are based on implementation of NSDS	14
Number which include improvements in PRS budget proposals	9

29. New demands have resulted in new datasets, and new datasets have resulted in new demands. For instance the “Doing Business” indicators and results of Investment Climate Surveys are now a widely used and important set of statistics – although they do not rely on traditional national statistical capacity. Poverty maps – the combination of census and household survey data to estimate poverty incidence and other characteristics at local and neighborhood levels – have stimulated intense policy debate in many countries and have led to more efficient targeting of services and resources. Datasets such as these illustrate the value of high quality and relevant data for the development process, and the relationship between data demand and supply.

D. Progress on mainstreaming statistical capacity issues in World Bank operations

30. Some progress has been made in mainstreaming statistical capacity programs in regular World Bank operations. Important changes include the availability of the STATCAP lending program and, following the IDA 14 replenishment, the dissemination of information about the statistical capacity of individual countries. Since late 2004 there has been a systematic review of all Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) by DECDG during the upstream review process, to provide support to country teams in identifying statistical capacity weaknesses and in considering appropriate CAS actions. With the advent of result-based CASs this process has been useful in highlighting often overlooked opportunities for helping countries to make improvements in their own systems, producing better statistics for national needs, and providing data needed for measuring CAS outcomes.

31. Despite the increased emphasis on the identification of statistical capacity issues in CAS documents presented to the Board since 2004, results have been mixed. Of the 26 full CASs approved since December 2004, fifteen do not identify statistical capacity constraints. Yet eight of these are IDA countries whose PRSPs include activities to improve statistical capacity. Among the eleven CASs which include statistical capacity activities, most propose the collection of data through household surveys for poverty monitoring and other uses, with only five proposing comprehensive improvement programs.

E. Progress on coordination and partnership

32. Although statistical systems are anchored in national statistical agencies, they are, by their nature, cross-cutting and often complex. It is common for important elements of the national statistical system to fall outside the authority of the national statistical agency. Development programs and projects funded by donors often have a specific sectoral focus. This causes some well-known tensions in support programs for statistics: line ministries and donors often need better data to support sectoral operations, but their needs may not correspond to the priorities identified by the national statistical agency. These tensions often reveal themselves in statistical programs which are ad-hoc and donor driven. Incentives to promote good coordination, dialogue, and compromise solutions are necessary if statistical programs are to efficiently meet the needs of all users and not be diverted or distorted by the demands of the highest bidder.

33. Information about activities for statistical capacity improvement carried out by development partners is not systematically collected through regular reporting channels. OECD countries report commitments of official development assistance by sector to the Development Assistance Committee, through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). Records in the CRS show a rise in commitments coded as “Statistical Capacity Building,” from around \$50 million and \$38 million in 2001 and 2002, to around \$57 million and \$103 million in 2003 and 2004. The CRS has limitations, however, caused by the difficulties associated with identifying statistical capacity improvement programs and projects: for instance many are small components of larger, often sectoral, programs and are not separately identified in the CRS, and the commitment values normally relate to multi-year programs.

34. To improve knowledge about support for statistical capacity improvement, in 2005 the PARIS21 Secretariat collected information from 54 development partners about their statistical capacity activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. From this, annual spending by development partners on statistical capacity improvement in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be around \$70 million a year in 2003 and 2004. Multilateral partners with the largest programs are the World Bank, the European Commission, and the African Development Bank. Bilateral partners with the largest programs are the United Kingdom and Norway. The exercise found that several partners are increasing support for regional organizations; funding to statistical training centers and for student scholarships is decreasing; and support for statistical capacity improvement is increasingly part of sector programs or budget support.

35. PARIS21 itself is a key mechanism for ensuring a strong partnership approach to statistical capacity improvement. Since 2004 it has focused its strategy on the implementation of MAPS and on advocacy of the need for good statistics to support development. An important part of its program is encouraging and helping countries prepare an NSDS. Actions are delivered or facilitated by the Secretariat, housed in the Development Cooperation Directorate of OECD, and through the wider PARIS21 partnership of international agencies and statistical producers.

36. The multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building has been replenished by several donors. Contributions from 2000 to date total around \$30 million, with the largest contributions from the UK and the Netherlands. Since 2004 it has been oriented toward supporting countries who wish to develop NSDSs in close coordination with PARIS21. Projects aimed at implementing elements of NSDSs have also been funded. Projects in IDA countries which have been financed by the Trust Fund are given Annex B.

37. The World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group recently conducted a review of TFSCB as part of the pilot review of global programs.¹⁷ The review, scheduled for discussion at an Informal Subcommittee of the Committee on Development Effectiveness on May 15, 2006, includes a number of observations about the Trust Fund. It makes several suggestions for improving Trust Fund management and expanding participation of key groups both within and outside the World Bank, to better support the implementation of the MAPS agenda.

38. The International Household Survey Network was created in late 2004 with the goal of improving international coordination and collaboration in the design, delivery, and dissemination of household surveys. The IHSN repository now contains documentation on over 2,500 household surveys, and over 700 documented datasets are available for World Bank staff to utilize. Plans for future surveys by international agencies are being collected and will be published in a system that will show these plans on a country by country basis. Better planning and sequencing of internationally supported surveys will maximize their effectiveness in providing comparable estimates and meeting priority needs. From 2006 a number of IHSN activities will be supported by the PARIS21 Secretariat through a grant from the Development Grant Facility.

39. There are other notable international partnership efforts underway aimed at improving the quality of statistics. The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the National Accounts is revising and updating the 1993 System of National Accounts. The UN Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) brings together the major international statistical agencies to discuss issues of common concern. The CCSA has been the focal point for the implementation of new standards for statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX). It has proposed a set of principles for international statistics, which addresses the MAPS objective of improving the accountability for international statistics.

40. There has also been a major partnership effort to improve data available for monitoring the MDGs, particularly through regular meetings of the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the MDGs. A major concern is the adoption of common definitions and standards and the use of improved interpolation and estimation techniques to fill gaps and create comparable data. This sometimes creates a tension between statistics reported internationally, and those used nationally. (A study undertaken by the UN Statistical Division on behalf of the Friends of the Chair on the MDG indicators found that only one-

¹⁷ Global Program Review: Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, March 8, 2006.

third of the 60 indicators included in the UN's MDG database were represented by at least two data points based on national data.¹⁸) The group has encouraged an active dialog with national statistical offices in developing countries because, above all, the quality of agency estimates for MDG monitoring relies on the quality and availability of national statistics, and the capacity of countries to produce them.

F. Progress on making better use of existing data

41. An important part of the strategy agreed by the Board in 2002 was to make better use of existing data, particularly data from household surveys and administrative records. The World Bank Institute has implemented a program aimed at improving household survey data analysis and the use for poverty diagnostics for policy making. The IHSN is maintaining an archive of household survey data and metadata. A major achievement has been the creation of a microdata management toolkit, which provides a simple method for electronically archiving survey documentation and data, converting these “metadata” to standard formats, and providing electronic access to these data for users. Work is also being done to help statistics producers preserve anonymity of respondents and to respect confidentiality concerns, by providing tools and best practice methods. These initiatives have been welcomed by many countries, particularly those with limited capacity and experience to manage these technical challenges.

42. Partners are also working to improve access to existing data and to make better use of those data to improve indicator estimates. A good example is DEVINFO, a data management system developed by UNICEF and UNDP to help countries collate and disseminate estimates of key indicators to a wide audience. Many countries use this system – 32 IDA countries, of which 22 countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Malawi and Tanzania have piloted a Web-based version. UNDP have successfully complemented this support with a “statistical literacy” training program, usually conducted in-country or regionally, on the use and interpretation of the indicators to assess progress to the MDGs. So far extensive training materials have been developed, training courses have been delivered for six African countries, and further programs have been planned for 30 countries worldwide by the end of 2006.

G. Progress on addressing short term data needs: a new pilot program to accelerate improvements

43. Because statistical capacity improvement programs require institutional development and change, results – in terms of improved data availability, quality, and use – take time. A pilot program for accelerating data improvements has been launched by the PARIS21 Secretariat, supported by the MAPS Development Grant Facility. The program is specifically designed to implement action 5 of MAPS: improving the measurement of the MDGs in the milestone years of 2010 and 2015. The pilot “Accelerated Data Program” (ADP) is focused on household surveys and censuses because they provide estimates of many MDG indicators as well as data for measuring vulnerability, rural devel-

¹⁸ Development Indicators Report of the Secretary General (E/CN.3/2006/14), paragraph 24.

opment, and access to services such as education, health, and infrastructure. While censuses and surveys are not inexpensive, in developing countries – where administrative systems may be weak – they often provide the quickest and most efficient way of obtaining key statistics and of measuring the impact of development on people’s lives.

44. The ADP program approach is determined by specific country circumstances. In some cases, improvements result from better use of existing data, and in others new or modified survey programs are needed. In all cases the first step is a comprehensive inventory of existing data and sources and a comparison against priority needs, particularly those arising from the PRS. Depending on the results the second step is an assessment of data quality and timeliness. Third, and only where appropriate, an improved data collection effort based on a continuous household survey program will be designed and implemented in partnership with the national statistical authorities.

45. Work is underway in six pilot countries in Africa,¹⁹ and programs will be started in at least six more pilot countries in other regions. The work program is designed to be consistent with existing statistical strategies and to build on existing national household survey programs in cooperation with development partners. The results of the pilot program will guide the scaling up of the ADP to meet the needs of all IDA countries.

IV. Results

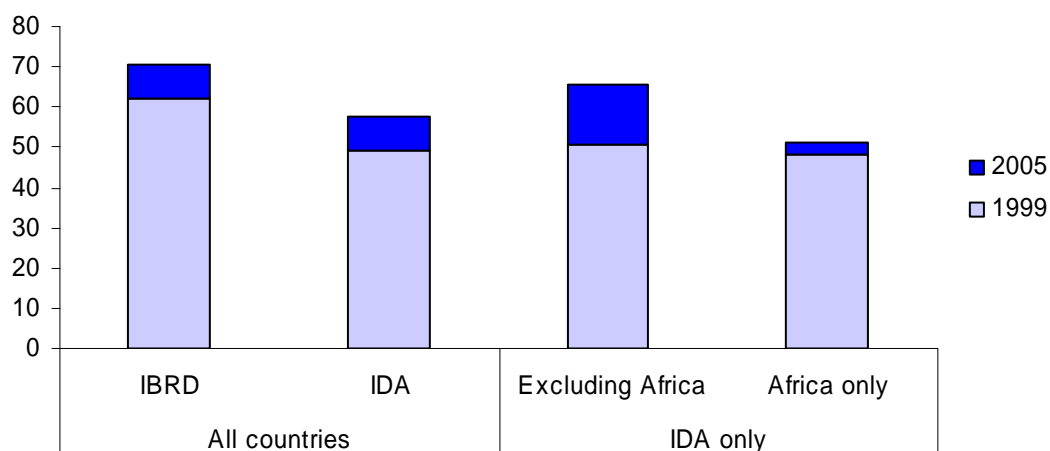
A. Measuring improvements in statistical capacity

46. The paper discussed by the Board in October 2002 included a new “statistical capacity score” based on publicly available information in international databases. The methodology was improved and the results presented to IDA Deputies in November 2004. Individual scores and the information that is used to calculate them are published on an external web site. Full details of the methodology are given in Annex C. Three aspects of statistical capacity are measured: adherence to internationally recommended statistical practice, the frequency of data collection, and data accessibility (the last aspect uses the availability of estimates of key socio-economic indicators in international databases as a proxy.) These measurements are combined with equal weight into a score on a scale of 0-100.

47. The score can be used to analyze differences and changes in statistical capacity. Figure 2 shows the average scores for different country groups between 1999 and 2005; according to the score, IDA countries have lower statistical capacity than IBRD countries, but improvements are seen in both groups. In IDA countries, however, change has been uneven, with African countries showing the least progress. One reason for this is the infrequency of household surveys that collect poverty data, compared to the rest of the world.

¹⁹ Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Niger.

Figure 2. Change in the Statistical Capacity Indicator 1999-2005

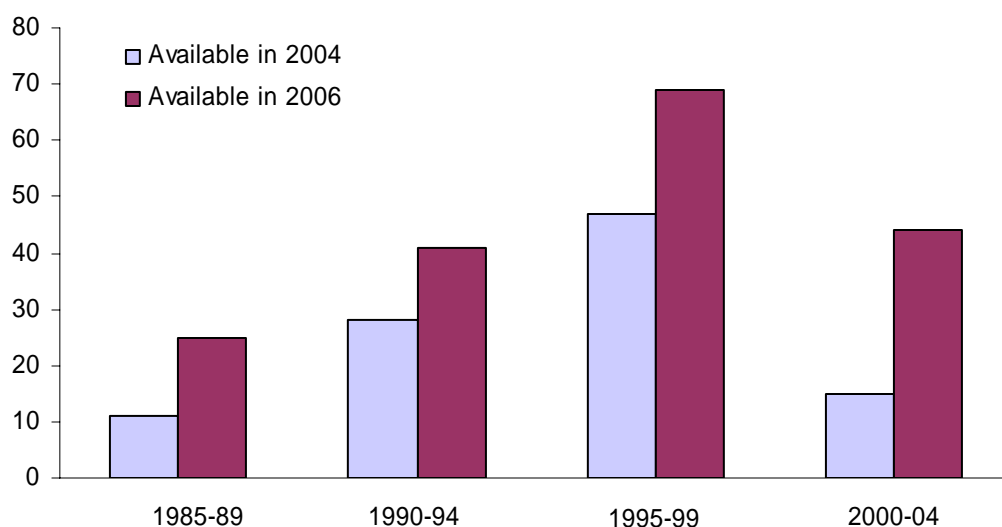


B. Improvements in statistics and their use

48. The International Comparison Program is an example of a successful effort to improve statistical data, in this case estimates of purchasing power parities (PPPs). PPPs are important to allow comparison of economic indicators such as gross domestic product and poverty levels between countries. Over 140 countries are participating in the 2005 round of the ICP which is the most comprehensive international price survey ever conducted. Coverage and reliability have improved significantly compared to previous rounds. The ICP also provides benefits for countries in terms of capacity improvement, for instance through improved price collection procedures for national consumer price indices, and through programs to improve the national accounts which provide ICP weighting patterns. The ICP is a good example of implementing global data improvements through a strong international partnership, with leadership from the World Bank.

49. There have been improvements in data availability of some key indicators, although there are still many gaps in international databases. Figure 3 overleaf shows the change in the availability of estimates poverty incidence based on the \$1 a day poverty line, an important indicator in the IDA14 Results Measurement System. The chart compares the availability of survey data in 2004 to the availability in 2006 by looking at data points relating to four previous periods. The improvements between 2004 and 2006 are the result of both an increase in the number of good quality surveys being conducted – reflecting improvements in statistical capacity – and the effort by the World Bank to document and analyze past surveys.

Figure 3. Number of developing countries with estimates of poverty incidence below \$1 a day for specific periods



50. STATCAP and other statistical capacity improvement projects tend to be long term and it is therefore difficult to assess results at this early stage. However there are improvements in data and in the use of data in countries where statistical capacity programs are being implemented, particularly those based on NSDSs. Box 3 gives the example of Kenya, which illustrates how better statistics and better analysis lead to improvements in development policy.

Box 3. Improvements in Kenyan statistics

The World Bank has been working with the Kenya Central Bureau of Statistics for a number of years, but since 2001 there has been a joint program of analysis of household surveys and population census results, following Kenyan interest in new methodology to produce small area estimates of poverty incidence.

These new statistics generated from existing data have been used extensively, for example to better target resource allocations to the poorest groups, and to stimulate debate and discussion in the media and among policy makers. They have increased demand for statistics from all stakeholders, including planners in Ministries and Parliament, development partners, and the public at large.

The Bank has helped Kenya develop a NSDS to help improve statistical capacity, and has developed a STATCAP operation to support its implementation. The STATCAP project will help Kenya better meet the increased demand for better and timelier statistics.

V. Issues and constraints

A. Incentives to prioritize statistical capacity improvements are lacking

51. Incentives for countries to allocate the resources needed to implement NSDSs and improve statistics appear to be lacking. Decision makers are often reluctant to allocate scarce resources for measuring development progress. When planning and budgeting systems do not require data on performance, for example, there is little interest in collecting and using statistics. If NSDSs are to be implemented they need to respond to priority needs and to receive appropriate attention as part of the development process. And programs aimed at strengthening budget management and fiscal accountability should reinforce the need for high quality statistics.

52. Within the World Bank there has been limited response by country teams to the recommendations of the IDA 14 negotiations on statistical capacity or to the simplified procedures offered by the STATCAP lending program. Even though outcome indicators are included in many results-based CASs, weaknesses in the country systems that produce many of these indicators are not fully recognized and incentives for improving statistical capacity through World Bank country programs remain low.

53. Appropriate incentives and advocacy would encourage statistical capacity improvement. The initiative of the Development Committee to urge support by development banks and donors is very helpful. The costs of poor quality data and weak statistical capacity are still not well understood by policy makers, even though there is good evidence available.²⁰ A systematic assessment process by the World Bank of statistical capacity and data quality, and the publication of reports, for instance through a bulletin board system, might be used to increase country demand for improved statistics. Requiring that statistical capacity and data quality issues be addressed through the CAS preparation process would reinforce their importance with World Bank staff and their national counterparts.

B. Financing levels are too low

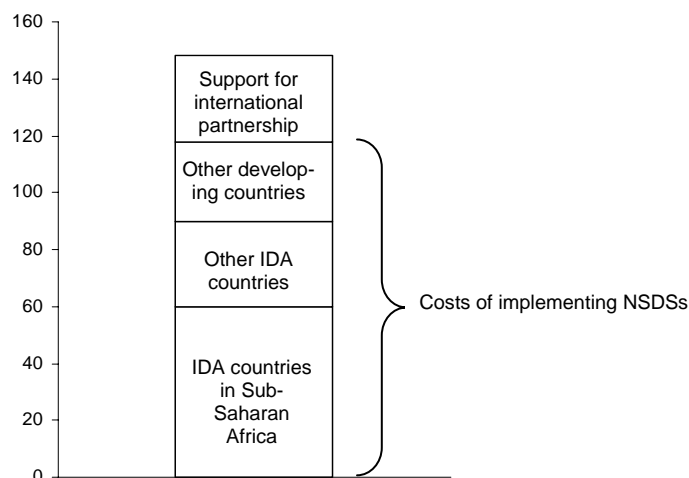
54. Funding needs for addressing both long-term statistical capacity and for improving statistical data in the short-term have been estimated and presented in a variety of forums, including the recent report of the UK-chaired Commission for Africa. STATCAP and the TFSCB have mobilized significant resources, but much more is needed. Additional resources have come from the Development Grant Facility and bilateral partners, but taken together this still falls well short of what is needed to make significant and widespread improvements in the quality and availability of statistical data. There are no resources specifically allocated for statistical capacity improvement by IDA.

55. The overall level of resources required is not high: full global implementation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics is estimated to require less than \$150 million a

²⁰ See “Measuring up to the Measurement Problem: The Role of Statistics in Evidence-Based Policy Making”, Scott (PARIS21), 2005.

year, of which implementation of NSDSs in all developing countries is estimated to be around \$120 million. Of this, IDA countries would require around \$90 million, and countries in Sub-Saharan Africa around \$60 million. (figure 4)

Figure 4. Estimated cost of implementing the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, \$ millions, per year, in addition to existing commitments



56. From the work of PARIS21 it is estimated that existing commitments result in disbursements of around \$70 million a year in Sub-Saharan Africa. Implementation of MAPS in IDA countries in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to require an additional \$60 million per year. Based on this a reasonable working estimate is that support for statistical capacity improvement work globally needs to be doubled from past levels.

C. Technical expertise is in short supply

57. Efforts to scale up statistical capacity improvements are also constrained by the availability of expertise in the field. Although the World Bank has improved its own capacity, it is not resourced or structured to be able to provide large scale technical assistance. In fact there are very few organizations that have the required skills and the mandate to provide technical assistance in priority statistical areas. One example is the IMF, which includes experienced national statisticians on its staff and which is able to advise member countries directly on areas of particular interest, such as macroeconomic and financial statistics. Further, the required skills and knowledge cannot readily be procured in large quantities, because they are localized to public sector institutions involved in producing official statistics.

58. One option under discussion is to facilitate “twinning” mechanisms, which would match statistical offices of developed countries with statistical offices in developing countries. A recent initiative by Canada aiming to provide technical expertise and institutional support through Statistics Canada is a good example of this approach. Long-term commitments are usually required, to provide predictable levels of demand for expertise over time. Careful management is also needed, to ensure that the provision of expertise is based on the demand of developing countries rather than the ability of statistical offices

in developed countries to supply. Building on past experience, such as the Afristat Observatory in Mali, which has been supported by France, other models such as the creation of regional centers of technical expertise supported through “twinning” arrangements should also be considered.

D. More rigorous statistical capacity and data quality assessments are needed

59. Currently, the World Bank does not make formal assessments of the quality and availability of development statistics against international norms and standards of good practice. The Country Performance and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), for example, does not explicitly evaluate the statistical system. In contrast the IMF makes periodic assessments of economic and financial statistics as part of its program of Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSCs). To provide additional incentives for adherence to good practices, the IMF established the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) to which countries can voluntarily subscribe by certifying that they adhere to recognized standards of compilation and reporting. The World Bank has collaborated with the IMF in the implementation of the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), which reviews a subset of social and demographic statistics, but does not require adherence to specific standards. This results in a situation in which data collection programs for social statistics are viewed as quasi experimental undertakings, designed on an ad hoc basis, with little concern for comparability over time or across countries.

60. A particularly important issue for the World Bank is assessing and improving the quality of data on debt. Several IDA countries lack adequate capacity to monitor and record debt stocks and flows, which undermines their ability to manage their debt. The lack of accurate and timely reporting constrains assessments of debt burden, creditworthiness, and the quality of economic management. The current status report²¹ could be strengthened by expanding it to include an assessment of data quality and management practices.

E. There are still unmet needs

61. Statistical capacity improvement through an NSDS is a nationally-owned and developed process. But because the NSDS is a careful, long-term approach it may not result in immediate improvements to the indicators often required by international users. Accelerating progress in the availability and quality of estimates of key indicators will require additional action, building on the pilot Accelerated Data Program already underway. Because these indicators are truly global public goods, it is appropriate for bilateral and multilateral donors to assume greater responsibility for sponsoring these specialized data collection efforts while using the opportunity to strengthen national capacity.

62. Improvements in data produced from administrative systems may require an even longer term approach than that covered by typical NSDSs. From a statistical perspective it is useful to improve these systems, but countries with weak statistical capacity often have weak public administration capacity as well; finding solutions to these wider public

²¹ Status of External Public and Publicly Guaranteed and Private Non-guaranteed Debt Information and Tables, November 2005.

sector problems is often considered to be outside of the scope of NSDSs. For instance, very few countries in Africa have vital registration systems, which in developed countries are often considered to be the most reliable source of demographic data – many European countries no longer conduct population censuses and others are phasing them out. A step-change improvement to demographic data results when vital registration systems are introduced. But vital registration systems are not created primarily for statistical purposes; they are designed for the registration of births, deaths and other vital events. The introduction of such a system, while important, is not usually considered to be part of a statistical development plan. Similar issues affect statistical development in other important areas, such as crime and access to justice, trade, transport, health, education, and agriculture.

VI. Future plans

A. Building on the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

63. MAPS enjoys wide international support as a simple, effective program to improve statistical capacity at national and international levels. MAPS should therefore form the basis for future work in statistical capacity improvement. Implementing MAPS will need continued strong support from the Development Grant Facility, continued promotion of statistical capacity improvement at country level, and resources for country level planning through the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building. The role of PARIS21 in implementing MAPS will be very important to promote better coordination and harmonization of international activities.

64. Particular attention should be given to helping more countries implement their NSDSs. Additional resources will be required. Based on the estimates made for MAPS, the total cost of implementing NSDSs in IDA countries will be around \$90 million per year in addition to existing commitments. Some countries have secured financing through IDA credits (including through the use of STATCAP and PRSCs), by pooling donor resources, or by utilizing smaller grant funds (such as TFSCB), but the resources available and the priority given to statistical work in Africa by countries and their development partners remain much too low.

65. Work is underway, as part of MAPS, to help countries prepare for the 2010 census but additional funding will be needed to carry out censuses on schedule. Countries will also require assistance to improve the design, planning, and delivery of surveys. The International Household Survey Network will promote the use of improved methods and will aim to better coordinate international efforts.

B. Mainstreaming statistical capacity improvement work at the World Bank

66. The World Bank has a crucial role to play, in particular to change incentives for both countries and development partners to prioritize this work. Through its actions the World Bank can help to ensure that monitoring systems build on and improve existing

statistical systems, rather than simply extract data for specific purposes. Within the World Bank much more could be done to mainstream work on statistics. Practical steps include:

- Stronger requirements for assessment of statistical capacity and data quality and dialogue between the World Bank and national authorities as part of CAS preparation and Analytic and Advisory Activities (AAA);
- Work to quantify the financial costs of weak statistics and the benefits of good ones;
- Review of national statistical development strategies in conjunction with poverty reduction strategies, to ensure that NSDSs support the monitoring requirements of PRSs and that PRSs consider the needs for improved statistical capacity;
- Provision of IDA resources to help countries to implement well-prepared and prioritized NSDSs;
- Promotion of statistical capacity improvement within sector-wide approaches, particularly by specifying and implementing system improvements within monitoring and evaluation plans and expected results frameworks.

C. Increasing the role of the World Bank in assessing data quality and statistical capacity

67. Even though the quality of development statistics is fundamental to the implementation of the results agenda, the World Bank does not have a formal process to assess the quality of social statistics and development indicators. To raise the profile of the statistics needed to measure social and economic development the World Bank could implement a program of formal data quality assessments and establish a public reporting mechanism, such as an electronic bulletin board, which would record countries' current practices, commitments to reporting schedules, and plans for improvement. These data quality assessments would provide the basis for targeted and coordinated assistance to countries' statistical programs. Subject to agreement with the IMF, such a program could be implemented within the GDDS, or it could be established independently by the World Bank in collaboration with other international statistical agencies.

68. This system could also be used to provide information for country planning processes, particularly results-based CASs. It is important that the capacity of statistical systems is well-understood, so that the lack of appropriate data can be assessed and appropriate action taken through policy dialogue with national authorities or IDA support for implementation of NSDSs.

D. Focusing on Africa

69. The statistical capacity of many countries in Africa remains particularly fragile. Official statistics are under used by policy makers, and many statistical systems fail to meet priority needs with statistics that are "fit for purpose." The problem has been widely recognized, for instance by the African Union and by the UK-chaired Commission for Africa. Stimulated by the International Comparison Program, the UN Economic Commission for Africa has hosted two Forums for African Statistical Development in 2004 and 2006 – FASDEV I and II. At FASDEV II, statisticians and PRSP coordinators from

African countries endorsed a Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF) (see Box 4) for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa, to accelerate statistical capacity improvement across the continent. Based on the NSDS approach, it is the response by African countries and institutions, with the support of the international community, to meet the data challenges of the results agenda by 2015.

Box 4. A Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity improvement in Africa

The RRSF is a broad framework based on MAPS to help African countries improve their statistical capacity. It is built around four specific objectives:

- (i) Better awareness of the role of statistical information
- (ii) Greater use of statistical information
- (iii) Enhanced quality and usability of statistical information
- (iv) Cost-effectiveness and sustainability in national statistical systems

Key recommendations of the RRSF are that:

- Countries prepare and implement a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);
- Countries review and update regulatory frameworks for statistics and ensure they are Consistent with the UN fundamental principles and international good practice
- Statistics users and producers maintain close dialogue to continuously assess needs
- Statisticians make better use of existing data sources, new technologies, and reduce the costs of data collection
- Statisticians improve data dissemination
- Statistical systems are properly funded and staff are better managed and trained

70. When implemented, the RRSF will provide a strong basis for improving statistical capacity in Africa. But there remains a need for short-term improvements to satisfy both international demand (for example, to better measure the MDGs in 2010 and 2015), national demand to monitor PRSs and other development policies, and the demand for regular indicator estimates for monitoring the World Bank’s Africa Action Plan (AAP). Consistent with the objectives of the RRSF, it is proposed to scale-up the pilot phase of the Accelerated Data Program in Africa (ADP-Africa) to bring about rapid improvements in the availability of key monitoring indicators.

71. To assess the level of resources needed for this scaling-up, table 2 summarizes an analysis of past survey and census programs and a projection of future needs of the 39 IDA countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Censuses and major household surveys are taken as a starting point; on average, they have cost about \$66 million a year but have not provided adequate coverage. Costs for future surveys and censuses have been estimated from similar surveys conducted in the past, using a “model” program of a population census every ten years, an integrated poverty survey twice in a ten-year period, comprehensive health surveys twice in a ten-year period, and smaller, annual surveys designed to collect data on labor market participation or other topics of special interest.

Table 2. Projection of likely costs of implementing household surveys and censuses at recommended frequencies

	Capacity score	Population (Million)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
● Angola	37	13.5	I	M				M
○ Benin	55	6.7		D	C, P			
● Burkina Faso	63	12.1				D, P		M
● Burundi	40	7.2	M					M
○ Cameroon	48	16.1		I, M			D	M
● Cape Verde	37	0.5	C	I				M
● Central African Rep.	37	3.9	M			C		M
○ Chad	55	8.6	M		P		D	
● Comoros	25	0.6	M		C			
● Congo, Dem. Rep.	38	53.2		M				P
● Congo, Rep.	38	3.8						P, D
● Côte d'Ivoire	80	16.8	M		P			
● Eritrea	38	4.4			D			
● Ethiopia	65	68.6	D, I				P	I, D
○ Gambia, The	53	1.4	M			C		M
● Ghana	57	20.4	C			D, P		M
○ Guinea	52	7.9	I		I			D
● Guinea-Bissau	28	1.5	M		P			M
● Kenya	60	31.9	M			D, P		I
● Lesotho	67	1.8	M	C	P		D	
● Liberia	20	3.4				C		
○ Madagascar	55	16.9	M	P		D		
● Malawi	60	11.0	D		P		D, I	
○ Mali	55	11.7		D, P		P		
○ Mauritania	55	2.7	C, D, I			P		
● Mozambique	67	18.8	P		P, I	D		
● Niger	60	11.8	M	C	P			D, P
○ Nigeria	50	135.6	M	I	P	D, I		
○ Rwanda	53	8.3	D, M		C	P		D
● Sao Tome & Princ.	32	0.2	P	C				M
● Senegal	73	10.0	M	P	C			D
● Sierra Leone	37	5.3	M			I	C	M
● Somalia	12	9.6						M
● Sudan	23	33.5	M					M
● Tanzania	62	35.9	I		C		D	
○ Togo	45	4.9	M					M
● Uganda	70	25.3	D		C, I			
● Zambia	63	10.4	C	D	I			M
● Zimbabwe	63	13.1			C			D

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
P	C	I		D	P	P	I		M
D	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
C	I		D	P	P	I		M	P
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
P	C	I		D	P	P	I		M
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
D	P	P	I		M	P	C	I	
D	I		P	C	I		D	P	P
C	I		M	P	P	I		D	P
D	P	C	I		D	P	P	I	
P	P	D	P	I		M	P	C	I
I	C	P	I		M	P	I		P
P	P	P	I		M	P	C	I	
I		P	P	C	I		D	P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
	M	P	C	I		D	P	P	I
P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
D	P	P	I		M	P	C	I	
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
M	P	C	I		D	P	P	I	
D	P	C	I		D	P	P	I	
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
P	C	I		D	P	P	I		M
P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
I		M	P	C	I		D	P	P
C	I		D	P	P	I		M	P
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
I		P	P	C	I		D	P	P
D	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
D	I		P	C	I		M	P	P
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D

Estimated cost (Million US\$):	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cost of the minimum survey/census program:	55.1	25.0	110.6	93.5	89.3	23.5				
Average annual cost 2000-2005:	66.2									

Allocation for other hh surveys:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Surveys only (no census):	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	156.0
Censuses only:	48.7	32.2	33.9	37.0	29.6	42.7	30.3	51.5	37.6	42.4	386.1
Total:	188.7	121.7	41.9	34.5	163.1	15.5	114.1	6.3	11.6	0.0	697.5
Total:	237.4	153.9	75.8	71.5	192.7	58.3	144.4	57.9	49.2	42.4	1083.6

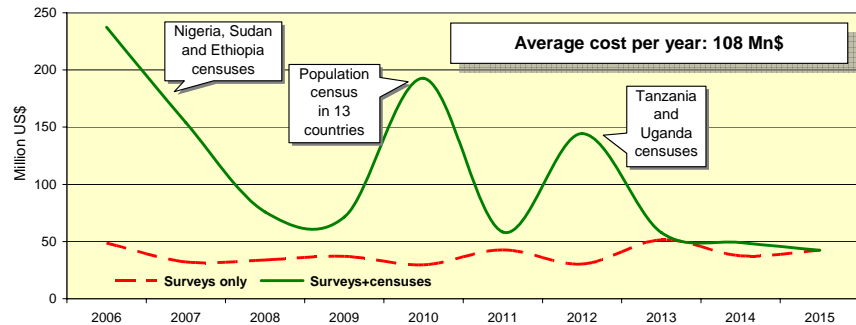
- Low statistical capacity; requires intensive additional statistical capacity building [14]
- Limited statistical capacity; requires significant statistical capacity building [11]
- Higher capacity; data collection only requires specialized capacity building [14]

Typical cost

- C = Population Census (assume annual pop. growth rate of 2%) \$1/person
- D = Demographic and Health survey (DHS) 1,900K
- I = Integrated or Living Standards Measurement Survey (IS/LSMS) 950K
- M = Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey (MICS Unicef) 340K
- P = Priority or Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey 550K
- Annual allocation for other household surveys (e.g., labor force surveys) 400K

Notes:
The table presents a prototype of a minimum survey/census program based on standard survey instruments. The proposed sequence of surveys takes into account the actual 2001-2005 survey program of each country. This proposed program is NOT based on actual country survey plans for 2006-2015.

To foster capacity building and to avoid over-burdening the national statistical systems, the proposed program includes only one nationwide survey per year (IS/LSMS/HIES surveys may require 12 months of data collection; two years may be needed to implement them).



Note that this model program does not take into account any existing plans of countries or of development partners, and is used in this context only to provide an estimate of the overall likely resource shortfall for these activities. It also excludes costs estimates for strengthening statistical infrastructure, administrative systems, and other data sources.

72. Substantially increased financing will be required if the ADP is to succeed in Africa. Support from the international community will be needed and, where possible, countries should increase their internal funding. The analysis in table 2 shows that a total of \$43 million a year, in addition to existing levels of support for this type of work, will be needed – \$23 million for surveys and \$20 million for censuses. The activities included in this cost are usually included in NSDSs, which are estimated to cost in total \$60 million a year²² to implement, on top of existing development assistance flows. It should be noted that these are averages, and financing needs in years with major censuses will be significantly higher. It is also worth noting that these amounts are relatively small compared to total flows of official development assistance, and relative to the high returns expected from better statistics in terms of more effective and better targeted development programs.

73. Implementation arrangements for ADP-Africa need to ensure a harmonized approach, with common standards and practices; the lack of harmonization of past international survey efforts has placed a significant administrative burden on countries, resulting in fragmented survey programs, inconsistent datasets, and an unsustainable burden on national statistical systems. For this reason strong international coordination is recommended.

74. The successful approach of the ICP is a good example. This international effort is coordinated centrally by the World Bank, with oversight provided through an international executive board and a high-level technical advisory committee, and implementation through a motivated group of regional agencies. For ADP-Africa, the partnership arrangements of MAPS provide overall leadership and momentum. The international MAPS Advisory Board can guide ADP-Africa strategy, with implementation supported through the World Bank's internal Statistical Capacity Building Committee and the MAPS Unit.

75. At the national level it is important that ADP-Africa should be implemented in each country as part of an NSDS or should directly support the NSDS process, so that the result is sustainable and aligned with the country's objectives. Short-term data extraction exercises have in the past left many countries with weak capacity. Incorporation of ADP activities within NSDSs will promote a harmonized and balanced approach, within an overall capacity development strategy.

76. If successfully implemented, the ADP-Africa will result in significant improvements to data availability, quality, and statistical capacity. Outcomes will include better and timelier data for measuring progress to the MDGs and to national development pol-

²² See section 4.6 of the Commission for Africa Report.

icy and poverty reduction strategies, as well as new data sources for analysis and research.

E. Sustaining the World Bank's role

77. The need to increase the focus on statistics is recognized by several groups in the World Bank. The DEC and OPC Vice-Presidents and the Results Secretariat have played a critical role over the past three years in raising data issues and maintaining the important link between the results agenda and the need for better statistics. With the support of OPC, MAPS was developed through the round table discussions on results, and a close working relationship is in place as part of the arrangements for MAPS implementation and governance. The IDA resource mobilization team has also played a key role through its advocacy for the IDA Results Management System and support for improvements in the underlying statistics.

78. Sectoral and regional teams are concerned with statistical issues. The Africa region supports a variety of monitoring and evaluation efforts, including the use of Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire – CWIQ – surveys. The LAC region has supported a regional program of technical assistance to support the analysis of living conditions through the MECOVI program (Mejoramiento de las Encuestas de Hogares y la Medición de Condiciones de Vida), in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank. The Human Development Network supports a program to improve education statistics, working closely with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics; works with WHO and UNICEF to improve estimates of mortality rates; and participates in the new Health Metrics Network supported by the Gates Foundation. There are also initiatives to improve statistics relevant for other sectors, such as infrastructure and rural development. The variety of initiatives within the World Bank underscores the need for strong coordination and the need to engage staff in sectoral units systematically in statistical capacity improvements.

79. During the period covered by this progress report, the focal point of statistical improvement work in the World Bank has been DECDG. This group has led the establishment of MAPS and the coordination of various statistical initiatives within the World Bank and with UN Agencies. For the past three years, the increased efforts of DECDG were made possible by a special supplementary budget. The group is now well staffed and positioned to address the more challenging issues raised in this progress report, along with meeting the increasing internal and external demand for data. But to accelerate or scale up the current level of activity will require that the groups accountable for this work within the World Bank are adequately resourced.

VII. Conclusions

80. This paper has reviewed the progress of statistical capacity improvements in IDA countries and discussed the major challenges and constraints faced by countries and their international partners in making faster progress. Reliable statistics are widely recognized to be the foundation of good public and private management and an important prerequisite for the results agenda championed by the OECD and the international financial insti-

tutions. The statistical capacity of IDA countries has improved in response to new demands for official statistics at both national and international levels. Progress has been made as a result of efforts by both countries and the international community. But progress needs to be accelerated. Countries, donors, and international agencies need to put a higher priority on statistical capacity within their overall development programs.

81. The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics will continue to provide the framework for the World Bank's program for improving the statistical capacity of developing countries and coordinating this work with other donors. The key element of MAPS is the preparation and implementation of comprehensive national strategies for the development of statistics. Mechanisms already exist for providing advice and resources to countries to help them develop or refine their strategies. Implementation will require additional national and international resources.

82. The Accelerated Data Program, another element of MAPS implementation, is a pragmatic and workable solution for accelerating improvements in key data areas. It will require the World Bank to expand its role and provide additional resources for implementation through a coordinated, international approach. The program is particularly important for Sub-Saharan Africa, where improvements are most needed, are most difficult to make, yet potentially provide the largest returns.

83. Countries appear to lack incentives to prioritize statistical capacity improvement within their development programs. Advocacy by World Bank country teams for better statistics, particularly emphasizing the importance of evidence-based analysis and the use of statistics in policy making and management, would help. Financial incentives in the form of additional IDA allocations for countries wishing to implement good national strategies for developing their statistical systems should be considered.

84. Several proposals have been made for mainstreaming work on statistical capacity improvement. Statistical capacity and data quality assessments could be prepared as part of advisory services to clients. The creation of a bulletin board system for monitoring country statistical capacity and the quality of development statistics would facilitate this work. National statistical development strategies should be reviewed in conjunction with poverty reduction strategies to ensure that NSDSs support the monitoring requirements of PRSs and that PRSs consider the needs for improved statistical capacity. Requiring that all results-based CASs include an explicit review of statistical capacity would help to raise the profile of statistics in the World Bank's country dialog.

85. The World Bank has played an important role in promoting better statistics, through support for international efforts such as PARIS21 and through specific financial instruments (notably the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, the STATCAP multi-country lending program and Development Grant Facility support for MAPS). The World Bank should continue to lead these efforts. But the key to success lies in maintaining an effective international partnership that draws upon the technical and financial resources of all partners, harmonizes their efforts, and establishes appropriate standards and goals, while recognizing the unique needs and capacities of each developing country.

Annex A. Status of implementation of Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

Action	Status
1. Mainstream strategic planning of statistical systems	Promotion of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) has been incorporated as a key theme of the work program of PARIS21, which is supported by the World Bank DGF and other partners. PARIS21 has developed a number of tools and guidelines to help countries who wish to develop an NSDS, including a list of “essentials,” and methodologies and good practice to help with the NSDS process. The World Bank’s multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building provides resources to developing countries who wish to prepare NSDSs. For instance, in Sub-Saharan Africa, some twenty countries have completed or adopted an NSDS, and a further ten countries are currently developing a strategy. Seven African countries have a “roadmap” for an NSDS. Only five countries are known to have no plans to develop an NSDS.
2. Prepare for 2010 Census round	The UN has created a World Program for supporting countries in the 2010 census round, which will provide advocacy materials, expertise, and revised and updated international standards. Financial contributions are provided by the World Bank DGF and by other partners. Major activities include the updating of the UN “Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses,” developing common standards for outputs, facilitating exchange of experience and advice, and assisting with data dissemination. The Program will focus on regional cooperation. The World Program does not include funding for census-taking operations themselves and based on experience during the last round (2000) there are likely to be considerable shortfalls.
3. Increase financing for Statistical Capacity Building	Resources are being raised at the country level from a number of sources, including grant programs of donors and the World Bank’s new lending program, STATCAP. However much more is required if financing is to be increased in all countries. So far, five countries have chosen to utilize the STATCAP approach: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.
4. Set-up an international household survey network	The International Household Survey Network (IHSN) was set up in September 2004. The work program focuses on coordination of international household survey programs, promotion of international standards and best practice, harmonization of data collection instruments, establishment of a central survey repository, and the development of tools and guidelines for improving survey documentation, dissemination, and preservation. The IHSN operates as an informal network, with a “virtual” secretariat at the World Bank. A Management Group oversees activities of the IHSN. The World Bank’s DGF will provide support for the IHSN work program from 2006, through a proposed new satellite program of PARIS21. Good progress has been made in setting up the central survey repository and tools for microdata documentation, dissemination, and preservation (the survey dissemination “Toolkit”). Over 2,500 household surveys are documented in the repository. All major international surveys are included, including Living Standards Measurement Study surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys of UNICEF, Demographic and Health Surveys, and Core Welfare

Action	Status
	Indicator Questionnaire surveys. Many countries have expressed interest in using the survey dissemination toolkit. Progress is also being made in the challenging areas of survey coordination and harmonization.
5. Undertake urgent improvement for MDG monitoring	A number of important initiatives have been implemented by UN agencies to help improve the data set for estimating indicators needed for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (and other development goals). For instance, UNDP has implemented a training program on statistical “literacy,” working in partnership with UNICEF and UN Statistics Division. In 2005, UN Statistics Division launched MDG Info, a software tool for accessing key indicators based on the DevInfo software first developed by UNICEF. Other agencies and international organizations are working to improve indicator estimates through the UN MDG Inter-Agency and Expert Group, and through programs to improve their own statistical methods and the statistical capacity of countries. In 2006, the World Bank DGF is supporting UNESCO’s Institute for Statistics and UN-Habitat to carry out special efforts to improve capacities to produce education and urban indicators (with grants of \$1.78m and \$0.2m respectively). A new initiative proposed for implementation through a satellite program of PARIS21 in 2006 is to pilot an Accelerated Data Program. Funding is being provided by the DGF for activities in 12 pilot countries, of which at least 6 will be from Africa. This program aims to provide comparable data estimates over a five year period, by utilizing existing data, improving existing systems, or, in some cases, providing co-financing for household survey activities.
6. Increase accountability of the international statistical system	Guiding principles for international statistical agencies have been agreed and posted on the UNSD web site. Most international agencies have expressed their support for these principles.

Annex B. Support for statistical capacity improvement in IDA countries

Country	NSDS status	World Bank ²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) ²⁴
Afghanistan	Completed	-	
Albania	Not yet started	Capacity Building and Sustainability of Agriculture Statistical Services in Albania (TFSCB, 2001)	
Angola	Initiated	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB, 01-02), Economic Management Technical Assistance Project (IDA/IBRD, 03-07)	Norway (Institutional Cooperation between Statistics Norway and Instituto Nacional de Estadística); EC (Support to the Development of Statistical System); Portugal (Support to the Development of Statistical Systems); IMF (GDDS Lusophone Africa); AfDB (ICP)
Armenia	Completed	-	
Azerbaijan	Initiated	-	
Bangladesh	Not yet started	-	
Benin	Initiated		Canada (Support for PRSP Monitoring); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Bhutan	-	-	
Bolivia	Underway	Strategic Plans for Statistical Development of Andean Community (TFSCB, 2004)	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Completed	-	
Burkina Faso	Completed	Statistical Master Plan (TFSCB, 2003); STATCAP (IDA/IBRD, 04-09)	Germany (Advisory Services to Ministry of Economics and Development and Ministry of Finance); Canada (Support for PRSP Monitoring); ILO (SIMPOC: Survey and Development of a Database on Child Labor); AfDB (ICP); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Burundi	Initiated		AfDB (ICP); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Cambodia	Completed	Poverty Mapping (TFSCB); Cambodia: Statistical Master Plan Finalization and Capacity Development (TFSCB, 2005)	
Cameroon	Initiated		ACBF (Capacity Building of Economic and Financial Management Project (CAMERCAP); Labor Market Information System); France (Technical Assistance); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)

²³ Bank activities are from the Bank's on-line database of statistical activities, and include projects financed by the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and operational projects since 2000.

²⁴ Activities of other partners have been obtained from the results of the PARIS21 Light Reporting System which has so far been implemented for Sub-Saharan Africa only, although there are plans to extend it to other regions. Activities which were active during 2004 and 2005 are reported.

Country	NSDS status	World Bank²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only)²⁴
Cape Verde	Underway	Statistical Master Plan (TFSCB, 2005)	Italy (Strengthening of the Statistical System of Ministry of Agriculture, Creation of Permanent System of Agricultural Statistics); Sweden (Development of Agricultural Statistics (Census)); EC (Support to the Development of Statistical System); Portugal (Support to the Development of Statistical Systems); IMF (GDSS Lusophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Central African Rep.	Initiated	Strengthening the National Statistical System (TFSCB, 2005)	AfDB (ICP)
Chad	Completed	Strengthening Institutional Statistical Capacity (TFSCB, 00-04)	France (Technical Assistance); AfDB (ICP)
Comoros	Initiated		AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Initiated	Accelerated Data Program	IMF (Multisector Statistics); AfDB (ICP)
Congo, Rep.	Completed	Strengthening the institutional and technical capacity (TFSCB, 2003)	ACBF (Statistical Capacity Building, Prospective Studies and Planning for Fight against Poverty (RESPEC)); IMF (Multisector Statistics); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Côte d'Ivoire	Completed	Building Local Capacity for Impact Evaluation in the Ivory Coast (TFSCB, 02-03)	Canada (Support for PRSP Monitoring); ILO (SIMPOC: Survey and Development of a Database on Child Labor); AfDB (ICP)
Djibouti	Completed	Capacity Building for the National Statistical Agency (TFSCB, 2005)	
Dominica	Not yet started	-	
Eritrea	Not yet started	GDSS Anglophone Africa	Norway (Cooperation between Statistics and Evaluation Office and Statistics Norway on Economic Statistics and National Accounts); Canada (Census Advisory); IMF (GDSS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Ethiopia	Initiated	GDSS Anglophone Africa; Accelerated Data Program	UK (Support to Agricultural Census); IMF (Multisector Statistics; GDSS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Gambia, The	Underway	Capacity Building for Economic Management (IBRD/IDA, 01-06)	AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Georgia	Not yet started	Measurement of the Non-Observed Economy (TFSCB, 2002)	

Country	NSDS status	World Bank ²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) ²⁴
Ghana	Initiated	Support toward the Development of Ghana Statistical Service Corporate Plan (TFSCB, 2005); GDDS Anglophone Africa; Accelerated Data Program	UK (Coordinated Support for M&E and Evidence-Based Policy Making; PRS Poverty Monitoring System); IMF (GDDS); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Grenada	Not yet started	-	
Guinea	Underway	Statistical Master Plan (TFSCB, 2005)	Germany (Assistance to the Poverty Reduction Strategy); UNFPA (Demographic and Health Survey); IMF (TA in Real Sector Statistics); UNDP (NSDS); AfDB (ICP)
Guinea-Bissau	Initiated		EC (Support to the Development of Statistical System); Portugal (Support to the Development of Statistical Systems); AfDB (ICP)
Guyana	Underway	Guyana National Statistical Strategy (TFSCB, 2005)	
Haiti	Not yet started	-	
Honduras	Underway	National Strategies for Development of Statistics for the Central American Countries (TFSCB, 2005)	
India	Underway	Karnataka Poverty and Human Development Monitoring System (TFSCB, 2001); Operationalizing the National Statistics Commission Strategy to Modernize Indian Statistical System (TFSCB, 2004)	
Indonesia	Underway	Increasing Access to Statistical Data for Local Policy Decision Making (TFSCB, 2002); Streamlining Data Flows from Regions to the Center under Decentralization (TFSCB, 2005)	
Kenya	Completed	Development of a Statistical Master-Plan (TFSCB, 2002); STATCAP (IBRD/IDA, proposed); GDDS Anglophone Africa	UK (Assistance to 1999 Population Census; Statistical Capacity Building to CBS; Capacity Development in National Statistics System); EAC (Establishment of EAC Statistics Database, II); IMF (National Accounts and Government Finance; GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Kiribati	-	-	
Kyrgyz Rep.	Completed	Strengthening Organizational Structure and Capacity of the National Statistical System (TFSCB, 2003)	

Country	NSDS status	World Bank ²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) ²⁴
Lao PDR	Completed	Strategic Statistical Development Project (TFSCB, 2005)	
Lesotho	Initiated	GDDS Anglophone Africa	EC (Assistance to the Bureau of Statistics); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Liberia	Not yet started	GDDS Anglophone Africa	IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP)
Madagascar	Initiated	Accelerated Data Program	EC (Programme Global de Rehabilitation du Système Statistique; Household Survey); US (Millennium Challenge Accounts); UNFPA (Demographic and Health Survey 3); AfDB (ICP)
Malawi	Underway	GDDS Anglophone Africa	Norway (Institutional Cooperation between Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, National Statistical Office and Statistics Norway); UK (Support to National Statistics Office; Preparatory Support to Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information Systems); UNICEF (Web Pilot, DevInfo); ACBF (Strengthening Statistical System); Germany (Advising Ministry of Economic Planning and Development); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Maldives	-	-	
Mali	Completed		Germany (Advising Ministry of Economics and Finance); EC (Appui Cellule Planification et Statistique); Canada (Support for PRSP Monitoring); Luxembourg (Statistical Capacity Building for Development); ACBF (Labor Market Information System); ILO (SIMPOC: Survey and Development of a Database on Child Labor); AfDB (ICP); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Mauritania	Initiated	Statistical Master Plan (TFSCB, 2005)	France (Technical Assistance); Germany (Implementation of the HIPC PRS); IMF (TA in Real Sector Statistics); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)); AfDB (ICP)
Moldova	Completed	Strengthening the National Statistical System (TFSCB, 2003)	
Mongolia	Underway	Strengthening the Institutional Statistical System (TFSCB, 2001); Measurement of the Non-Observed Economy (TFSCB, 2002); Strengthening the Institutional Statistical System in Mongolia (TFSCB, 2005)	

Country	NSDS status	World Bank ²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) ²⁴
Mozambique	Completed	Accelerated Data Program pilot	Denmark/Norway/Sweden (Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the National Statistical Institute (INE)); Italy (Support Project for the Development of the National Statistical System); EC (Support to the Development of Statistical System); Portugal (Support to the Development of Statistical Systems); IMF (GDDS Lusophone Africa); AfDB (ICP)
Myanmar	Not yet started	-	
Nepal	Underway	Measuring and Analyzing Poverty in Nepal (TFSCB, 2002)	
Nicaragua	Underway	Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Policy Formulation and Decision-Making (TFSCB, 2002); National Strategies for Development of Statistics for the Central American Countries (TFSCB, 2005)	
Niger	Initiated	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (TFSCB, 2005); Accelerated Data Program	EC (Renforcement des Capacités du Système Statistique National); Canada (Support for PRSP Monitoring); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)); AfDB (ICP)
Nigeria	Completed	Economic Management Capacity Building Project (IBRD/IDA, 00-05), Development of a Statistical Strategy and Master-plan (TFSCB, 2003); Federal Government Economic Reform and Governance Project (STATCAP) (IBRD/IDA, 04-11); GDDS Anglophone Africa	UK (Support Nigeria Census 2005; Economic Management Capacity Building Project (EMCAP); Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)); ACBF (Labor Market Information System); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Pakistan	Not yet started	-	
Papua New Guinea	Not yet started	-	
Rwanda	Completed		UK (Building Analytic and Policy Formulation Skills; Institutional Development for Establishment of National Statistical Institute of Rwanda; Support to Department of Statistics); EC (Institutional Support for Economic Management); Netherlands (Agricultural Statistics Survey); IMF (Multisector Statistics); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Samoa	-	-	
Sao Tome and Principe	Initiated		EC (Support to the Development of Statistical System); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)); Portugal (Support to the Development of Statistical Systems); IMF (GDDS Lusophone Africa); AfDB (ICP)

Country	NSDS status	World Bank ²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) ²⁴
Senegal	Initiated	Strengthening the Directorate of Forecasting and Statistics (TFSCB, 2002)	France (Technical Assistance); ILO (SIMPOC: Survey and Development of a Database on Child Labor); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Serbia and Montenegro	Not yet started	Formulation of a Medium-term Statistical Development Plan (TFSCB, 2001)	
Sierra Leone	Underway	Strategic Plan For The Statistical System Of Sierra Leone (TFSCB, 2005); GDDS Anglophone Africa	UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Solomon Islands	-	-	
Somalia	Not yet started		
Sri Lanka	Initiated	Development of Statistical Master Plan (TFSCB, 2005)	
St. Lucia	Not yet started	-	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Not yet started	-	
Sudan	Not yet started	GDDS Anglophone Africa; 2007 Census (through Multi-Donor TF)	UNFPA (Population Census); France (Technical Assistance); Netherlands (National Census); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Tajikistan	Completed	Strengthening the National Statistical System (TFSCB, 2002); Tajikistan Living Standards Survey 2003 & Poverty Assistance Update (TFSCB)	
Tanzania	Underway	Development of a Statistical Master-Plan (TFSCB, 2005)	Sweden (Population and Housing Census 2002); UK (Development of Economic Statistics); EAC (Establishment of EAC Statistics Database, II); UNICEF (Web Pilot, DevInfo); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Timor-Leste	-	-	
Togo	Initiated		AfDB (ICP); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
Tonga	-	-	

Country	NSDS status	World Bank²³	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only)²⁴
Uganda	Underway	Workshop - Participatory and Survey-based approaches to Poverty Monitoring and Analysis (TFSCB, 2001); Strengthening and Linking Quantitative, Qualitative and GIS based Poverty Monitoring (TFSCB, 2002); Development of a National Statistical Development Strategy for Uganda (TFSCB, 2005); PRSC/STATCAP (in preparation)	UK (Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision-Making; Assistance to Bureau of Statistics; Assistance to 2002 Population Census); Norway (Strengthening of Agricultural Statistics and Energy Statistics); EAC (Establishment of EAC Statistics Database, II); ACBF (Labor Market Information System); Denmark (Technical Assistance); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Uzbekistan	Not yet started	-	
Vanuatu	-	-	
Vietnam	-	-	
Yemen, Rep.	Completed	Statistical Master Plan (TFSCB, 2003)	
Zambia	Underway	GDDS Anglophone Africa	Canada (Assistance on Population Census 2000); ACBF (Labor Market Information System); UK (Support to Strengthen PRSP Monitoring Arrangements); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Zimbabwe	Underway	GDDS Anglophone Africa	IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP)

Annex C. Methodology used for calculating an indicator of statistical capacity

Rationale

The statistical capacity indicator provides a method of quantifying the statistical capacity of 144 developing countries, which enables comparisons between countries and over time.

Methodology

The indicator is based on a framework which uses information generally publicly available for most countries to assess three aspects of statistical capacity (statistical practices, collection activities and data availability) against appropriate benchmarks. 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 benchmark in all three aspects of statistical capacity.

The first aspect, *statistical practice*, is designed to measure capacity to meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in macroeconomic and social statistics. Benchmarks include the use of a recent base year for estimating national accounts base year, the use of the latest Balance of Payments manual issued by the IMF, recent reporting of external debt data, subscription to IMF’s Special Data Dissemination Standard, and recent reporting of school enrolment data reporting to UNESCO.

The second aspect measured, *data collection*, is designed to measure country capacity to collect relevant data at appropriate intervals. The benchmarks used are the periodicity of population and agricultural censuses, the periodicity of poverty and health related surveys, and the completeness of vital registration system coverage.

The third aspect, *availability*, measures capacity for making data available and accessible to users. The availability and periodicity of key socioeconomic indicators is assessed by examining the contents of international databases. Indicators used include income poverty, child and maternal health, HIV/AIDS, primary completion, gender equality, access to water and GDP growth. It should be noted that many international agencies estimate data that are missing from countries, and so the use of these data sources imposes limitations on the analysis. However the alternative – assessing data availability at national level – would be time consuming and costly, and is not felt to be cost-effective for this exercise.

See <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/csid.html> for further details and for scores on individual countries.

STATISTICAL PRACTICE

Indicators	1	0	Max.	Weight
1. National accounts base year	Within last 10 years or annual chain linking	Otherwise	1	10
2. Balance of payments manual in use	Balance of Payments Manual, the fifth edition	Otherwise	1	10
3. External debt reporting status	Actual or preliminary	Otherwise	1	10
4. Consumer Price Index base year	Within last 10 years or annual chain linking	Otherwise	1	10
5. Industrial production index	Produced and available from IMF	Otherwise	1	10
6. Import/export prices	Produced and available from IMF	Otherwise	1	10
7. Government finance accounting concept	Consolidated central government accounts	Otherwise	1	10
8. Enrolment reporting to UNESCO	Annual or missed reporting only once in the last 4 years	Otherwise	1	10
9. Vaccine reporting to WHO	Nationally reported data on measles vaccine coverage consistent with WHO estimates	Otherwise	1	10
10. IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard	Subscribed	Otherwise	1	10
<i>Maximum total score is 100</i>				

DATA COLLECTION

Indicators	2	1	0	Max.	Weight
1. Periodicity of population census	≤10 years		Otherwise	2	10
2. Periodicity of agricultural census	≤10 years		Otherwise	2	10
3. Periodicity of poverty related surveys (IES, LSMS, etc.)	≤ 3 years	≤ 5 years	Otherwise	2	10
4. Periodicity of health related surveys (DHS, MICS, Priority survey, etc)	≤ 3 years	≤ 5 years	Otherwise	2	10
5. Completeness of vital registration system	Complete		Otherwise	2	10
<i>Maximum total score is 100</i>					

AVAILABILITY

Indicators	3	2	1	0	Max.	Weight
1. Periodicity of income poverty indicator	≤ 3 years	≤ 5 years	> 5 years	Otherwise	3	5
2. Periodicity of child malnutrition indicator	≤ 3 years	≤ 5 years	> 5 years	Otherwise	3	5
3. Periodicity of child mortality indicator			National or international estimates available	Otherwise	1	5
4. Immunization indicator			Annual	Otherwise	1	5
5. HIV/AIDS indicator			National or international estimates available	Otherwise	1	5
6. Periodicity of maternal health indicator	≤ 3 years	≤ 5 years	> 5 years	Otherwise	3	5
7. Periodicity of gender equality in education indicator	≤ 3 years	≤ 5 years	> 5 years	Otherwise	3	5
8. Primary completion indicator			At least one observation in the last 5 years	Otherwise	1	5
9. Access to water indicator			National or international estimates available	Otherwise	1	5
10. Periodicity of GDP growth indicator	Annual	≤ 1.5 years	> 1.5 years	Otherwise	3	5
<i>Maximum total score is 100</i>						