

=====
Statistical Support for Development Effectiveness And Results Measurement

Prepared by the African Development Bank

1 Introduction

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is involved in various activities aimed at building statistical capacity in African Countries in the context of the *Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa* (RRSF). The RRSF is a strategy for guiding statistical development in Africa and has been adopted by all stakeholders, including donors and countries, as Africa's tool for implementing the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) agenda. It focuses on strengthening national statistical systems to meet the data challenges for MDGs & the results agenda. Coordination of RRSF implementation is assured by the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC), led by AfDB & ECA and comprising also the African Union and ACBF. In addition to its statistical capacity building activities, the AfDB also ensures effective acquisition and dissemination of reliable and harmonized data on African countries both within and outside the Bank, in support of the results agenda and MDGs.

The budget for the Bank's statistical capacity building (SCB) activities for the period 2002-2007 is about US\$ 37 million¹ with the AfDB contributing approximately US\$ 28 million of the total budget. Other contributing partners include the World Bank (US\$ 3 million), DFID-UK (US\$ 1 million), Indian Trust Fund (US\$ 0.1 million), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF – US\$ 1 million), the Japanese Authorities (US\$ 0.665 million) and the rest by participating countries.

Prior to 2002, the Bank's activity in the area of statistics was limited to more or less the data collation for its flagship publications. On some occasions (e.g. The Gambia Social Dimensions of Adjustment Project), it has provided grants that covered also the implementation of statistical surveys. However, since 2002, it has significantly scaled up its activities in three main areas: (i) Statistical Capacity Building at the Regional, Sub-Regional and National levels; (ii) Statistical Support to the operations activities of the Bank; and (iii) Publications of statistical data. It is also increasingly advocating for increase support to country level large scale statistical projects such as Censuses.

2 Statistical Capacity Building

The statistical capacity building (SCB) program has recorded notable contributions to statistical development in Africa using its International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa) as a springboard. Through it, the AfDB provides financial and

¹ This does not include resources provided by AfDB to African countries to support statistical components in the Bank's investment projects and programs in the countries.

technical assistance to 51 African countries to strengthen their statistical capacities in the following areas:

(i) *Design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics*: The design of the NSDS is recognized and presented as the overarching action by the RRSF. The NSDS is a framework for coordination both across sectors and between donors, making donor assistance coherent and reducing transaction costs by setting out the objectives and results to be achieved and by establishing common mechanisms for implementation, monitoring progress, and reporting. The AfDB is supporting 15 African countries, financially and technically, to develop or update their NSDSs. Another seven countries are about to start this process with AfDB assistance. Overall coordination of NSDS work in Africa is assured by the ASCC Working Group led by AfDB. The Working Group will work very closely with Paris21 and the World Bank to ensure that all countries have up-to-date NSDSs in line with the MAPS & RRSF recommendation.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Paris21 and the Intersect Task Team, the AfDB has also prepared a manual on '*Mainstreaming Sectoral Statistics in National Statistical Systems*'.

(ii) *Generating Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Statistics*: Launched in 2002, the ICP-Africa is an ongoing initiative managed by AfDB and involving 48 African countries, 4 sub-regional organizations and other partners. ICP-Africa is part of the global comparison program managed by the World Bank and aimed at generating PPPs for cross country comparison of economic aggregates. The main report on the final results the ICP-Africa, entitled "*Comparative Outputs, Incomes and Price Levels in African Countries*" provides details of purchasing power parity (PPP)-adjusted real gross domestic product (GDP) expenditures, PPP indices, and price level indices for 48 African countries that participated in the 2005 ICP round. It's being printed in English and French and will soon be uploaded to the AfDB website.

These results relate to final household consumption expenditure; government expenditure, both collective and individual; and investment as well as net exports. "*Highlights of the results of the 2005 round of the International Comparison Program for Africa*" were already published in April 2008.

(iii) *Improving Price Statistics and National Accounts in Africa*: Through its ICP-Africa program, the AfDB is assisting countries to streamline and improve the timeliness and quality of their CPIs through wider coverage (urban and rural areas in some countries) and in-depth scope (more price items, improved staff capabilities, updated survey frames, use of internationally accepted data collection methods etc.). The AfDB is also assisting African countries in upgrading their National Accounts systems through on-the-job training and workshops on the implementation of SNA93.

(iv) *MDG Monitoring and Statistical Literacy Project*: The AfDB in collaboration with UNDP is helping to build national statistical capacity to improve monitoring of the MDGs in African countries by increasing access to data and building statistical skills within a large number of users across Government and Civil Society. Training workshops have been launched in five pilot African countries and work in other countries is expected to continue through 2008.

(v) *Improving Social Statistics*: The Bank is working with UNFPA to improve the UNFPA Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) required for generating poverty indicators in order to enhance trend measurement and cross-country

comparisons. The Bank is also contributing to advocacy work for use of census data and for resource mobilization for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa. Liberia is expected to be the first country to benefit from the Bank's financial and technical support in the preparation of their census.

(vi) Statistical Training: The AfDB is providing technical and financial assistance to 4 Statistical Training Centers in Africa to help them improve statistical training on the continent through improved curricula which is more relevant to African circumstances and in particular with respect to the production and use of official statistics. Furthermore, through its ICP-Africa program, the Bank has trained over 2,000 officials from 52 African countries, including a wide range of African consultants. The training is conducted through workshops, seminars and on-the-job training in such areas as price data collection and analysis, NSDS design principles, processing and production of national accounts data, etc.

3 Statistical Support to Bank's Operational activities

The staff of the Bank's Statistics Department (ESTA), as part of country operations teams, provides statistical support for Results Based-Country Strategy Papers (RB-CSP), Economic Sector Work, project and program design, implementation, monitoring & evaluation of development impacts. ESTA thus serves as the "statistical clearing house" for Operations documents to be submitted to the Board. It is fully involved in the design and implementation of many statistical programs

3.1 Country Programming: RB-CSP preparation and implementation cycle

ESTA carries out 3 main statistical activities which are to (i) ensure the availability, reliability and consistency of data required for preparing and monitoring the RB-CSP of each African country; (ii) participates in the RB-CSP preparatory mission and discussions with the government on the relevant baseline data that will be used to monitor the achievements of the RB-CSP; and (iii) ensure that the proposed remedial measures are being effectively implemented..

3.2 Project Cycle

Apart from participating effectively in the design, monitoring and review process of a project, the responsibilities of ESTA include, on a selective basis – (i) review of project document and ensure that baseline data are included in the document and monitoring and evaluation systems are provided for in the project so as to provide necessary data to measure project inputs, outputs and outcomes; (ii) coordinate the respective sector-surveys dictated by the RB-CSP pillars and generate data for baseline sector indicators; (iii) prepare and update, as necessary, standard guidelines and check-list for assessing project-specific indicators against established criteria; and, for preparation of project log-frames by the project team.; (iv) coordinate ad hoc-surveys, as necessary, on physical area specific outcomes of projects²;

3.3 Policy-Based Lending (PBL), PRSP and Institutional Support

The responsibilities of ESTA in their preparation include:

² For example, number of people with access to drinking water in the area; number of children vaccinated.

(a) **For the PBL in Partnership with Other Development Donors:** (i) participating in the preparatory statistical and economic activities to set up the statistical and economic benchmark data as well as the preparation and appraisal missions; (ii) working together with other members of the country team on the preparation and validation of the log-frame; (iii) providing guidelines and checklists on indicators and benchmarks for supervision and monitoring; (iv) Participating in the mission prior to the final completion review to update the statistical and economic benchmark data and monitor progress achieved; and.(v) Participation in the program completion review mission and contributing the text on data requirement and management for performance management.

(b) **For the PRSP Undertaken Jointly with the Country and Donors:** (i) participating in the preparatory statistical and economic activities to evaluate and set up the statistical and economic benchmark data for the preparation of the PRSP; (ii) participating in the preparation, major donor consultations and donor review mission; (iv) contributing to the preparation of the Results Framework to be adopted by donors for monitoring its performance; and,(v) participating in the assessment of the national statistical organizations for institutional support.

(c) **For Economy-wide and Sector-wide Institutional Support:** (i) participating in the preparation to evaluate capacity of national statistical services to generate data for the project; (ii) working with other members of the country team on the preparation of the log-frame and validating the log-frame; (iv) providing guidelines and checklists on indicators and benchmarks for supervision and monitoring; and,(v) participating in the mid-term and final review missions focusing on areas of support for national statistical organs.

In addition to the above functions, ESTA assesses the level of support required for the national or sector statistical system for adequate data generation. It gives guidance on proposing financing of such support as components of a project/program or as a stand-alone statistical project where necessary.

4 Standing Publications of ESTA

The Bank produces each year the following standing publications :

(i) **African Statistical Journal:** Since November 2005, the Bank, in collaboration with UNECA, publishes bi-annually *The African Statistical Journal* which is intended to foster improved communication and contact between analysts and policy makers and data producers in Africa. It is established also to serve as a research outlet and information sharing publication among academic and practicing statisticians mainly in Africa. The Journal aims to promote the understanding of statistical development in the African region.

(ii) **Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators** is intended to provide some information on the broad development trends relating to gender, poverty and environmental issues in the 53 African countries.

(iii) **Selected Statistics on African Countries**, presents data on major development indicators of African economies. The production of Selected Statistics is a collaborative effort between ADB and Statistical Offices, Central Banks in regional member countries and other international organizations.

(iv) **Compendium of Statistics on Bank Group Operations** presents data on operational activities of the Bank Group.

(v) *The ADB Statistics Pocketbook*, presents summary economic and social data on regional member countries and on the operational activities of the African Development Bank Group.

(vi) *The Wall Chart on MDGs* is an annual publication that provides summary data on the progress being made by African countries towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

5 Way Forward: Scaling Up the Bank's Statistical Capacity Building Activities

5.1 The work programme for the period 2009–2011

In view of the many remaining data challenges in Africa and given the need for timely and reliable data to support the results agenda and MDGs by 2010, it is clear that Africa needs a significant scale up of resources for statistical capacity building. In response to this challenge, the AfDB is currently finalizing a proposal to significantly scale up its support for statistical capacity building activities in African countries. The proposal is expected to be presented for consideration by the AfDB Board by end of the year. It aims to solicit seed funding from the Bank to support the continuation and significant scaling up of the Bank's statistical capacity building activities aimed at helping African countries to meet the data challenges for MDGs and results agenda. Donor funding is also being solicited to supplement the resources of the Bank and those of the countries.

This next phase of the Bank's statistical capacity building program lays special emphasis on improving social and poverty statistics in African countries in addition to the economic statistics. It takes into account the conclusions of the evaluation and the recommendations from an external assessment carried out by independent consultants.

The proposal includes the following

a. *Continuation of current activities* – scale up support to the countries and sub-regional organisations: (i) to update or design effective statistical development strategies; (ii) to improve the systems of national accounts, prices and economic statistics in general; (iii) to generate PPP statistics to facilitate cross-country comparisons; and (iv) through Statistical Training Centers, to train producers and users of statistics and strengthen the system of staff training.

b. *Improving social statistics, poverty monitoring and analysis*: Assist the countries to improve the quality and timeliness of statistical outputs with respect to population and housing censuses; household surveys; poverty PPPs, and MDG monitoring. The program will promote the use of a balanced mix of administrative records, censuses, and sample surveys.

c. *Improving statistics on ADF-XI focal areas*: Support for generation and dissemination of statistics on agriculture and rural development; governance; infrastructure; gender; environment; and climate change. Every effort will be made to sensitize producers of data on the need for gender-responsive statistics; moreover the program will ensure that gender is mainstreamed in the statistical legislation, structures, and work programs of NSOs.

d. *Data development, archiving, and dissemination*: Support to the countries to improve data processing, storage, and dissemination systems for statistical outputs. It

will also include critical support for the countries to exploit unused or underutilized existing data.

In addition resources, funds are being sought both internally from the Bank and externally from interested partners to execute Investment Climate Surveys (ICS) and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS).

These activities are also at the regional and sub-regional levels. The regional level includes activities related to developing and adapting appropriate statistical methodologies for national activities; sub-regional level activities include strengthening capacity of Statistical Training Centers and sub-regional organizations involved in statistical development.

The main bulk of these activities would be carried out by both short and long term consultants under close supervision by ESTA staff.