

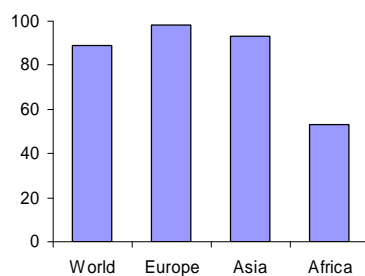
# The Role of the World Bank in Supporting Statistical Development in Africa<sup>1</sup>

## Background

While the World Bank is not a specialist statistical agency, nevertheless, the organization recognizes that 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<sup>2</sup>, where missing or unreliable data limit cross-country analysis and undermine efforts to implement global programs.<sup>3</sup>

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, 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 process, and for decision making by both the public and private sectors. Yet in Africa barely half of all residents have been included in a census in the last ten years (figure 1).

**Figure 1. Percentage of population included in a census in the last 10 years**



There has been a growing awareness within the World Bank of the need for better statistics to underpin improvements in development effectiveness. Statistical capacity improvement was first discussed by the Executive Board at an informal session on

<sup>1</sup> This paper has been compiled by Graham Eele, Senior Statistician, DECDG. It is based on material from a number of sources including a Progress Report on Statistical Capacity Development in IDA Countries, prepared for discussion by the Executive Board of the World Bank on May 16, 2006. The paper may be accessed through the World Bank's web-site, <http://www.worldbank.org/>

<sup>2</sup> See, for instance, the Report of the Friends of the Chair on MDG indicators presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission, New York, March 7-10 2006 (UN Document CN.3/2006/15)

<sup>3</sup> The recent debate over the accuracy of HIV/AIDS prevalence estimates is a case in point.

October 23, 2002<sup>4</sup>. This followed a discussion of statistics at the first Roundtable on Better Measuring, Monitoring and Managing for Development Results on June 5-6, 2002. The need for improved statistics was noted by the Development Committee on September 28, 2002. At the October meeting, the Board agreed that our support for the international statistical system should be expanded, to underpin the results agenda and 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 Bank should play a leadership role.

The constraints caused by weak development statistics were also highlighted during the negotiations leading to the fourteenth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the concessionary part of bank operations for the poorest countries. The IDA 14 Results Monitoring System<sup>5</sup>, 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 national level. This issue was presented to IDA Deputies in November 2004<sup>6</sup>, and recommendations were made that the Bank's Development Data Group (DECDG) should compile information on the statistical systems of IDA countries; prepare an annual note on progress being made in improving national statistics for the Executive Board; continue to assist countries prepare National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and initiate a pilot program to align and harmonize internationally sponsored household surveys, and make improvements in statistical practices consistent with national statistical development plans.

Improving national statistical systems has now become 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"<sup>7</sup> reviewed proposals for improving statistical capacity, and stressed the need for improvements in the capacity to interpret and utilize statistical data. This paper summarizes the main actions the Bank is taking toward improving the statistical capacity of the poorest countries with a specific emphasis on Africa.

### ***The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics***

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 Results held in Marrakech in February 2004. Known as the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), it is a time-bound, costed action plan to improve development statistics with a broad base of support in the international community. It aims to ensure sustainable development of national statistical systems, while bringing about rapid improvements in the availability and frequency of estimates of important outcome indicators, such as those in poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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<sup>4</sup> Building Statistical Capacity to Monitor Development Effectiveness: Information Paper prepared for the World Bank Board of Executive Directors, October 23, 2002.

<sup>5</sup> IDA Results Measurement System: Recommendations for IDA14, June 24, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> Measuring Results: Improving National Statistics in IDA Countries (DC2005-0017), November 2004.

<sup>7</sup> Accelerating the Results Agenda: Progress and Next Steps (CODE2006-0016), February 28, 2006.

MAPS provides the basic framework for the World Bank's program for improving national and international statistical systems in all regions. It identifies six key actions which the 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 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.

MAPS has received support from both the international development and statistical communities. It has been endorsed by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD and by the UN Statistical Commission. Implementation of MAPS requires a strong international partnership, which is being coordinated by the Bank and is supported by the funds from the Development Grant Facility (DGF). The MAPS Advisory Board, chaired by the World Bank, is meeting regularly and is providing a forum for raising awareness of the need for urgent action and for developing and monitoring appropriate actions.

Good progress is being made in working towards MAPS' principal objectives<sup>8</sup> including:

- Establishment of a partnership program funded through the Development Grant Facility to implement MAPS;
- The preparation of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) 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, UN commissions and working groups, and the MAPS Advisory Board.
- Agreement on a set of principles defining good practices by international statistical agencies.

### ***National Strategies for the Development of Statistics***

One of the key objectives of MAPS is the development and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). 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,

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<sup>8</sup> More information on the progress with the implementation of MAPS is provided in Annex A

a framework, and action plan. Good NSDSs have high-level support, are nationally owned, and prioritized according to user needs; they are also comprehensive, realistic, and appropriate to specific country circumstances.

PARIS21<sup>9</sup> has provided an important focal point for advocacy and guidance on the NSDS process for countries. Several bilateral and multilateral partners have supported NSDS preparation in countries, including the regional development banks, the IMF, the United Kingdom, and France. The 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 countries, four – Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria and Tajikistan – have sought to implement these strategies using the STATCAP lending program. Others are implementing NSDS components by mobilizing government and donor funds.

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 share the characteristic of 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. But in some cases, problems of line ministries and other sectoral agencies are not systematically addressed.
- 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.
- Some 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, although relatively few include 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.

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<sup>9</sup> PARIS21 (PARTnership In Statistics for development in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

While the review of NSDSs reveals some weaknesses, in most cases the NSDS provides a good basis for improvements in the statistical system. It should be noted that the preparation of an NSDS is an important 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 PRSP process.

Implementation of NSDSs requires investment by governments and support from development partners. The approval in 2004 by the Bank's Executive Board 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 co-financing. 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: a \$20m credit for Kenya, and a \$1m credit for Tajikistan. In both cases there are co-financing arrangements with other donors: \$10.5m for Kenya, and \$4m for Tajikistan. Projects are also being developed with other IDA countries, including Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyz Republic, and Sri Lanka.<sup>10</sup> Annex B lists World Bank support to IDA countries in Africa for statistical capacity improvement, together with associated support from other agencies, including the African Development Bank, UNDP, the UK's department for International Development, the European Union and other donors.

### ***Increasing the Demand for Statistics***

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 drive for development results, 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 have further increased 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.

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 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. PRSPs tend not to include proposals for strengthening institutional aspects of statistical systems (such as legislation and management) that are vital for longer term sustainable improvements. Even in countries where an NSDS existed before the preparation of a PRSP or a PRSP progress report, the implementation of the NSDS is often not incorporated into PRSP implementation (table 1).

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<sup>10</sup> IBRD countries are also interested in utilizing STATCAP, for example, Argentina and the Russian Federation.

**Table 1. How PRSPs 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 PRSP budget proposals	9

### ***Strengthening Coordination and Partnership***

Although most statistical systems are anchored in national statistical agencies, they are, by their nature, cross-cutting and often complex. It is not uncommon 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. Good coordination, dialogue, and a willingness to accept 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. The Bank is working closely with PARIS21 to address sectoral issues in statistical development and to identify how best they can be integrated into the NSDS process.

To improve knowledge about support for statistical capacity improvement in 2005 the PARIS21 Secretariat collected information from 56 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; that funding to statistical training centers and for student scholarships is decreasing; and that support for statistical capacity improvement is increasingly part of sector programs or budget support. It is hoped that this exercise will now be repeated on a regular basis in order to generate time series data on support to statistics.

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 2,700 household surveys, and over 700 documented datasets are available for Bank staff to utilize. Plans for future surveys by international agencies are being collected and will be published in a system which 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. A detailed work program for the IHSN has been developed and is now being implemented as a satellite PARIS21 activity, with financing from the Bank's DGF. Particular attention

is being given to supporting countries to document and archive surveys, with a view to much more extensive analysis and research.

### ***Making Better Use of Existing Data***

An important part of the strategy to improve statistics in Africa is to make better use of existing data, particularly data from household surveys and administrative records. The IHSN has made good progress in improving access to household survey datasets. A major achievement has been the creation of the *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. Recent workshops in West and Southern Africa, the latter conducted jointly with the SADC Secretariat, have introduced users to the Toolkit.

Partners have also been working to improve access to existing data, and to make better use of those data to improve indicator estimates. A good example is the work done by UNICEF and UNDP to develop a software tool, DEVINFO, to help countries collate and disseminate estimates of key indicators to a wide audience. Many countries have utilized this system, and Malawi and Tanzania have piloted a version which uses the web. UNDP have complemented this support with a large-scale “statistical literacy” training program on the use and interpretation of the indicators used to assess progress to the MDGs.

Because many statistical capacity improvement programs are aimed at institutional development, results – in terms of improved data availability and quality – take time. A program for accelerating data improvements has been launched using funding provided by the Development Grant Facility for support of MAPS. 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 **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 development, 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.

The approach being followed is determined by 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. 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.

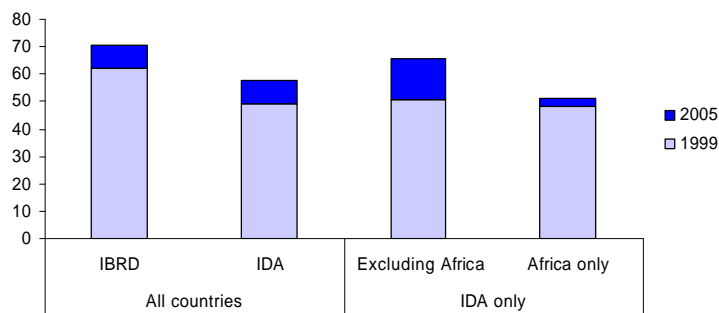
Work is underway initially in six pilot countries in Africa. The work program is designed to be consistent with existing statistical strategies and to build on existing national household survey programs in cooperation with development partners. The results of the pilot program will guide the scaling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

### Measuring Improvements in Statistical Capacity

In order to actually measure the impact of the different initiatives, the World Bank, in collaboration with other agencies has been working to develop a *statistical capacity score*, based on publicly available information in international databases. The methodology has been developed over two or three years and individual scores, and the information which is used to calculate them, are published through a web site. Three aspects of statistical capacity are measured: adherence to internationally recommended statistical practices, 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.

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, for the three components of the score. According to the score, IDA countries have lower statistical capacity than IBRD countries, and improvements are seen in both groups. In IDA countries, however, change has been uneven, with African countries showing the least progress, particularly for statistical practice and data collection frequency. One reason is the infrequency of household surveys that collect poverty data, compared to the rest of the world.

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

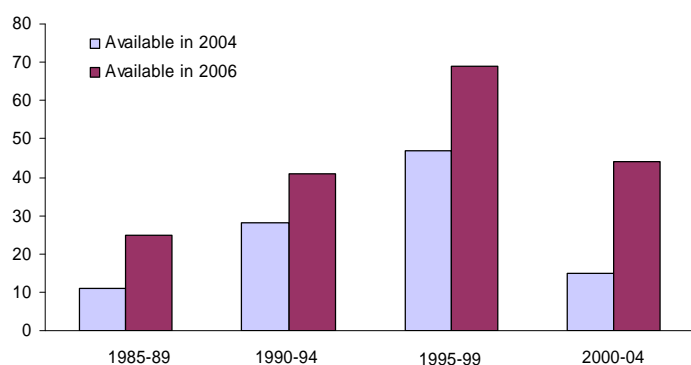




STATCAP and other statistical improvement projects tend to be long term and it is therefore difficult to assess results at this early stage. However there are improvements in data and in the use of data in countries where statistical capacity programs are being implemented, particularly those based on NSDSs. The **International Comparison Program (ICP)** is a particular example of data improvements, in this case improved 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 collection ever conducted. Coverage and reliability have improved significantly compared to previous rounds. The ICP has also provided 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 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 and the African Development bank in Africa.

There are also improvements in data availability. Figure 3 shows the change in the availability of estimates of income and expenditure surveys used to estimate the international \$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 four previous periods. The improvements over the last two years are the result of an increase number of good quality surveys being conducted – reflecting improvements in statistical capacity – and the effort by the 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**



## ***The Focus on Africa***

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 Commission for Africa. Stimulated by the International Comparison Program, the Economic Commission for Africa have 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 for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF), 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.

When implemented, the RRSF will provide a strong basis for improving statistical capacity in Africa. But there will remain 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 initial phase of the Accelerated Data Program in Africa (ADP-Africa) to bring about rapid improvements in the availability of key monitoring indicators.

To assess the level of resources needed for this scaling-up, 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. 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. The average cost is estimated at about \$43 million per year – \$23 million for surveys and \$20 million for censuses. For the 2010 round of population and agricultural census, the costs are likely to be substantially more.

Implementation arrangements for the ADP-Africa are expected to follow the approach of the ICP, and be incorporated into the partnership arrangements of MAPS to provide overall leadership and take advantage of the existing momentum. The international MAPS Advisory Board will guide ADP strategy, with implementation supported through the World Bank’s internal committee on statistical capacity (the Statistical Capacity Building Committee) and the MAPS Coordination Unit. International oversight will promote harmonization and coordination; in the past, the lack of harmonization of 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. A key objective is to establish a harmonized approach, with common standards and practices, which will be difficult to achieve if the program is implemented in different ways in different countries.

At the national level it is important that the ADP-Africa should be implemented as part of an NSDS 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. If successfully implemented, the ADP-Africa will result in significant improvements to data availability, quality and statistical capacity. Outcomes will include better and more timely data for measuring progress to the MDGs and to national development policy and poverty reduction strategies, as well as new data sources for analysis and research.

### **Data Standards and Quality**

With its broad range of interests in data on just about all aspects of economic and social development, the World Bank works with a number of other agencies to support the development and implementation of data standards and to improve data quality. One recent example is the work of the *Inter-Sectoral Working Group on National Accounts* (ISWGNA), where the bank has supported a revision of the SNA93 and the development of proposals for extending and updating the framework.

More generally, the Bank has been working with the International Monetary Fund to promote improvements in data quality and coverage by helping countries to participate in the *General Data Dissemination System* (GDDS) and to apply the *Data Quality Assessment Framework* (DQAF). The GDDS is a structured framework that countries participate in voluntarily. Its aim is to help countries improve the quality of the data and indicators produced and disseminated by national statistical systems. While it includes recommendations on the methods and procedures to be used to collect and compile official statistics as well as on the frequency with which key indicators are disseminated, the crucial point is that participating countries themselves decide on their own priorities for development and on the pace at which they propose to implement the recommendations.

The inclusion of socio-demographic statistics in the GDDS has undoubtedly broadened the extent to which it can be used to support statistical development, but has required the IMF to cooperate closely with the World Bank both to develop the framework and to support its implementation. As the GDDS was being developed, an early decision was taken to bring the World Bank into the process, since the IMF did not have expertise in any of the socio-demographic data categories. Since 1999, the Bank has cooperated with the Fund, first to develop the framework and particularly the socio-demographic parts of the GDDS guide and second to provide both technical and, in some cases, financial support to countries interested in participating. This has taken the form of *ad-hoc* arrangements responding to demand for assistance from countries and, more recently, in the development and implementation of joint sub-regional development projects.

Since its inception, the GDDS has proved to be popular, with more and more countries participating. By August 1, 2005, 79 countries were full participants in the GDDS and had posted their metadata. Table 2 shows the distribution of countries participating by World Bank region.

**Table 1: Distribution of GDDS and SDDS Subscribers by Region as of August 1, 2005**

	<b>Number of Borrowing Countries</b>	<b>SDDS Subscribers</b>	<b>GDDS Subscribers</b>
Africa (Sub-Sahara)	47	1	39
East Asia and the Pacific	21	4	8
Europe and Central Asia	30	19	6
Latin America and the Caribbean	32	9	17
Middle East and North Africa	21	2	5
South Asia	8	1	4
Total	159	36	79

The flexibility of the GDDS and the utility to countries in subscribing is indicated by the level of participation as shown in Table 1. In sub-Saharan Africa for example, more than 80 per cent of countries participate, while in Latin America and the Caribbean, a similar proportion subscribe to either the GDDS or the SDDS. In the least developed countries in particular, the GDDS seems to have been widely adopted as a framework to support the development of national statistical systems. It seems to be the basic characteristics of the GDDS that make it such a useful statistical development tool. First it is flexible and can be used by countries at very different levels of development. Second, countries retain control of the development process. Third, while not covering all areas of statistical activity it does focus on a number of priority areas and fourth, it provides a mechanism for bringing together different data producing agencies and does not focus on the national statistical agency alone.

### ***Priorities, Issues and Concerns***

Overall, our view is that the statistical capacity of IDA countries is improving to meet new demands for official statistics at both national and international levels. This progress has been made as a result of efforts by both countries and the international community. But this progress needs to be accelerated. The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics will continue to provide the framework for the World Bank's program for helping countries improve their statistical capacity. The key element of MAPS is the preparation and implementation of comprehensive national statistical development strategies. Resources and mechanisms already exist for providing advice and resources to countries to help them develop or refine their strategies. What we need to do now is ensure that all countries have access to the resources and the advice and work to coordinate all our efforts at the international level.

In the short to medium term, the Accelerated Data Program is a practical and workable solution to accelerate improvements in key data areas. It will require the Bank to expand its role and provide additional resources for implementation through a coordinated international approach. The program is particularly important for Africa, where improvements are most urgently needed, are most difficult to make, yet potentially provide the largest returns.

At the same time though we need to recognize that a number of countries appear to lack incentives to prioritize statistical capacity improvement within their development programs. The Bank with other development partners should consider additional financial allocations for those countries wishing to implement good national strategies for developing their statistical systems. In addition, more efforts are needed to create additional incentives for mainstreaming of statistical capacity improvement work at the country level. One option is consideration of statistical capacity and data quality assessments as part of our Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) and as part of our 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.

Among international partners the role of the World Bank has been seen as important, both through advocacy 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). For the future the Bank will continue to lead these efforts and to play a key role.

## 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 around \$0.9m a year toward 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 micro-data documentation, dissemination, and preservation (the survey dissemination "Toolkit"). Over 2,300 household surveys are documented in the repository. All major international surveys are included, including Living

Action	Status
	Standards Measurement Study surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys of UNICEF, Demographic and Health Surveys, and Core Welfare 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 African countries

Country	NSDS status	World Bank <sup>11</sup>	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) <sup>12</sup>
Angola	Initiated	Instituto Nacional de Estatística (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 Estatística); EC (Support to the Development of Statistical System); Portugal (Support to the Development of Statistical Systems); IMF (GDDS Lusophone Africa); AfDB (ICP)
Benin	Initiated		Canada (Support for PRSP Monitoring); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))
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))
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)
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 (GDDS 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)

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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 Bank <sup>11</sup>	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) <sup>12</sup>
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)	
Eritrea	Not yet started	GDDS Anglophone Africa	Norway (Cooperation between Statistics and Evaluation Office and Statistics Norway on Economic Statistics and National Accounts); Canada (Census Advisory); IMF (GDDS Anglophone Africa); AfDB (ICP); HMN (Support for Health Information Systems)
Ethiopia	Initiated	GDDS Anglophone Africa; Accelerated Data Program	UK (Support to Agricultural Census); IMF (Multisector Statistics; GDDS 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)
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))
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)
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)

Country	NSDS status	World Bank <sup>11</sup>	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) <sup>12</sup>
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)
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)
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)
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)

Country	NSDS status	World Bank <sup>11</sup>	Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only) <sup>12</sup>
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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
Somalia	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)
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)
Togo	Initiated		AfDB (ICP); UK (Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ))

<b>Country</b>	<b>NSDS status</b>	<b>World Bank<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>Other partners (Sub-Saharan Africa only)<sup>12</sup></b>
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)
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)