



# Country Progress Report on the Business Registers The Experience of Uganda

A PRESENTATION AT THE UN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON EXHAUSTIVE BUSINESS REGISTERS AND  
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BY

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ▶ **Introduction & Background**
- ▶ **Coverage of the UBR**
- ▶ **Updating of the UBR**
- ▶ **Types of Business Registers used in surveys and Linked to which database?**
- ▶ **Efforts in Strengthening the UBR**
- ▶ **Conclusion**



## ▶ Introduction & Background

# Introduction

## ▶ A Business Register:

**This is Is a record of all active business establishments in the economy.**

**It contains structural information about each business including the Name, Economic Activity, Location containing variables ranging from District to Village and the Geo Positioning System (GPS) coordinates Turnover, Capacity Utilization, and Business Tax Identification Number among others.**

## INTRODUCTION Ctn...

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**It is a comprehensive master list of businesses and companies operating in Uganda.**

**Basic pillar in the system of Uganda Economic Statistics which facilitate the collection, interpretation and dissemination.**

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**For the detection and construction statistical units**

**As a tool for the preparations and coordination of surveys**

**As a source of information for analysis of the business population**

**As a tool for mobilisation of administrative data**

**As an integration and dissemination tool.**

# BACKGROUND OF THE UBR (EVOLUTION)

- It is governed by the Statistics Act 1964 (Revised 1998) Strategic Plan 2002-2007(Latest Revision 2018/19 - 2019/20 referred to as *Extended Strategic plan for statistics*).
- Only internal user with specific Unique ID is allowed to access register.



1995/96

1989

2001/02

2009/10

2018/19

On-going

Collection - PAPI  
Data Capture and Storage – PC based Dbase IV , Excel and Stata  
Coverage – All sectors were covered except the Public Sector

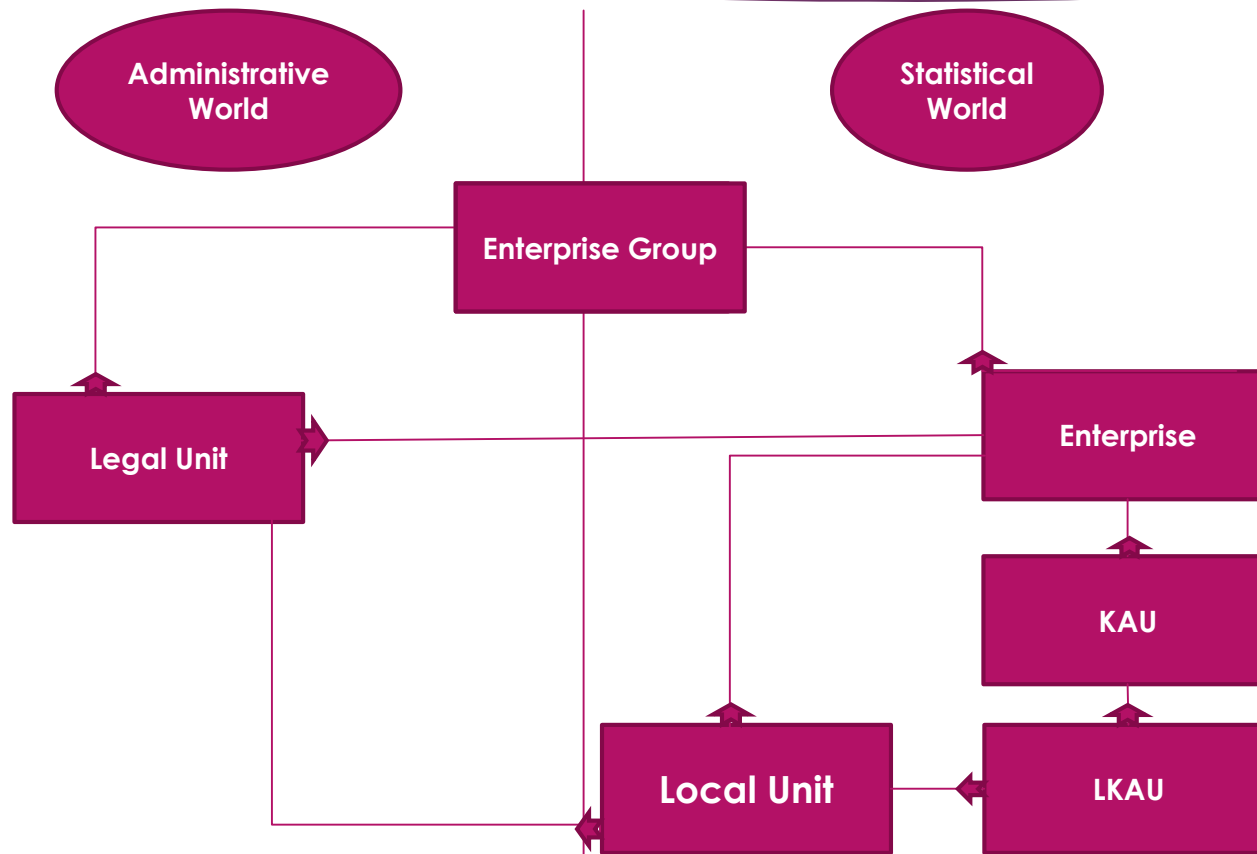
Data Collection - PAPI  
Data Capture and Storage – PC based Dbase IV , Excel and Stata  
Coverage – All sectors were covered except the Public Sector

Data Collection - PAPI  
Data Capture and Storage – Database Management System in Ms Access , Stata & Excel  
Coverage – All sectors were covered except the Public Sector

Data Collection - PAPI  
Data Capture and Storage – DBMS , Excel and Stata  
Coverage -All sectors were covered except the Public Sector

Data Collection - CAPI  
Data Capture and Storage – DBMS , Excel and Stata  
Coverage - All sectors are covered except the Public Sector

# Defining Statistical Units of BR





## ▶ Coverage of the UBR



# Coverage Of UBR

The industry classifications based on ISIC Rev 4 of the United Nations

Register comprises all of establishments/enterprises operating in fixed location within Uganda

Classifications by the Principal Activity of the unit (e.g. Retail trade, Wholesale of Agricultural products, Metal Fabrication, Accommodations etc. by the goods produced or services rendered)

## Data Items In UBR Frame(Main Variables)

Unique  
Business ID  
number

**Serves as the  
primary  
identifiers**

Company/  
establishment  
Name

**Created by a  
Gov't agency -  
URSB**

Contact  
information

**Such as Business  
name, postal  
and location  
address, Phone  
and others**

Legal status  
and equity  
structure

**Basic financial  
information and  
Ownership**

Activity and industry  
classifications

Company and  
establishment  
organisation  
structure

Censuses/ surveys  
control status  
indicators

# Updating The UBR Frame

The main objective of UBR is to provide censuses/surveys frame accurate, reliable and timely

## Quarterly Survey Updates

Existing Businesses which have **opened** and Existing Ones that have either changed Location or Activity

## Censuses/Survey Feedbacks

Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (**CAPi Architecture**)

## Administrative Data Source – Quarterly Updates

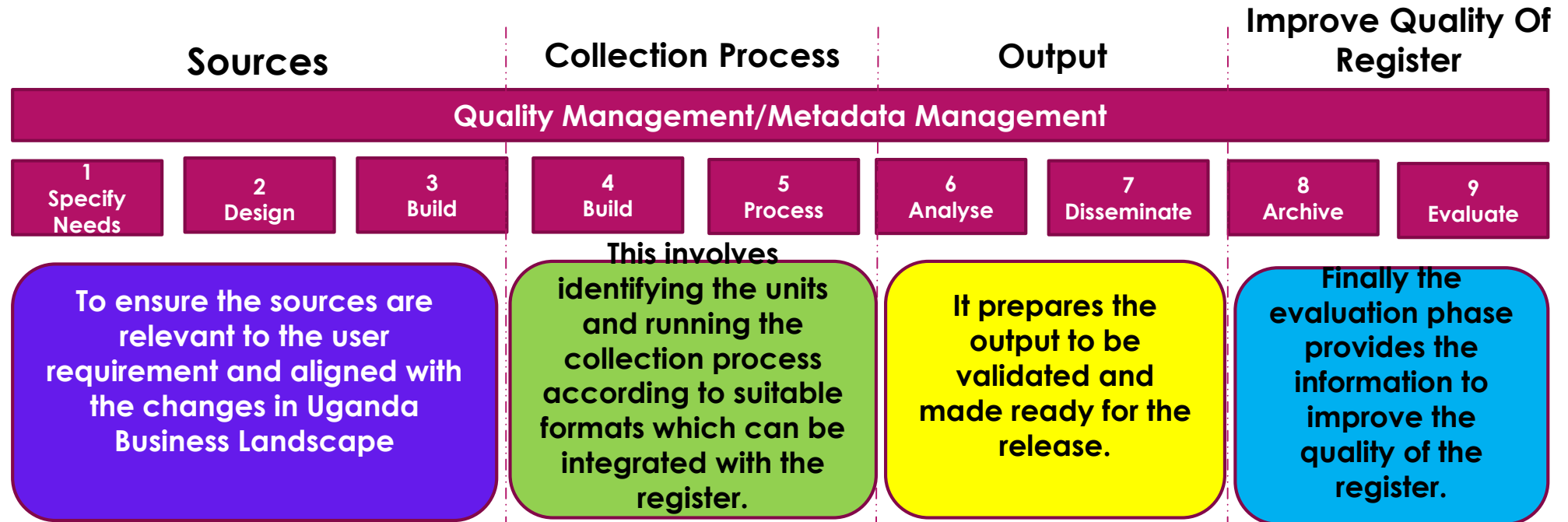
Higher Local Governments and Government Agencies (Regulatory Authorities)



## ▶ Updating of the UBR

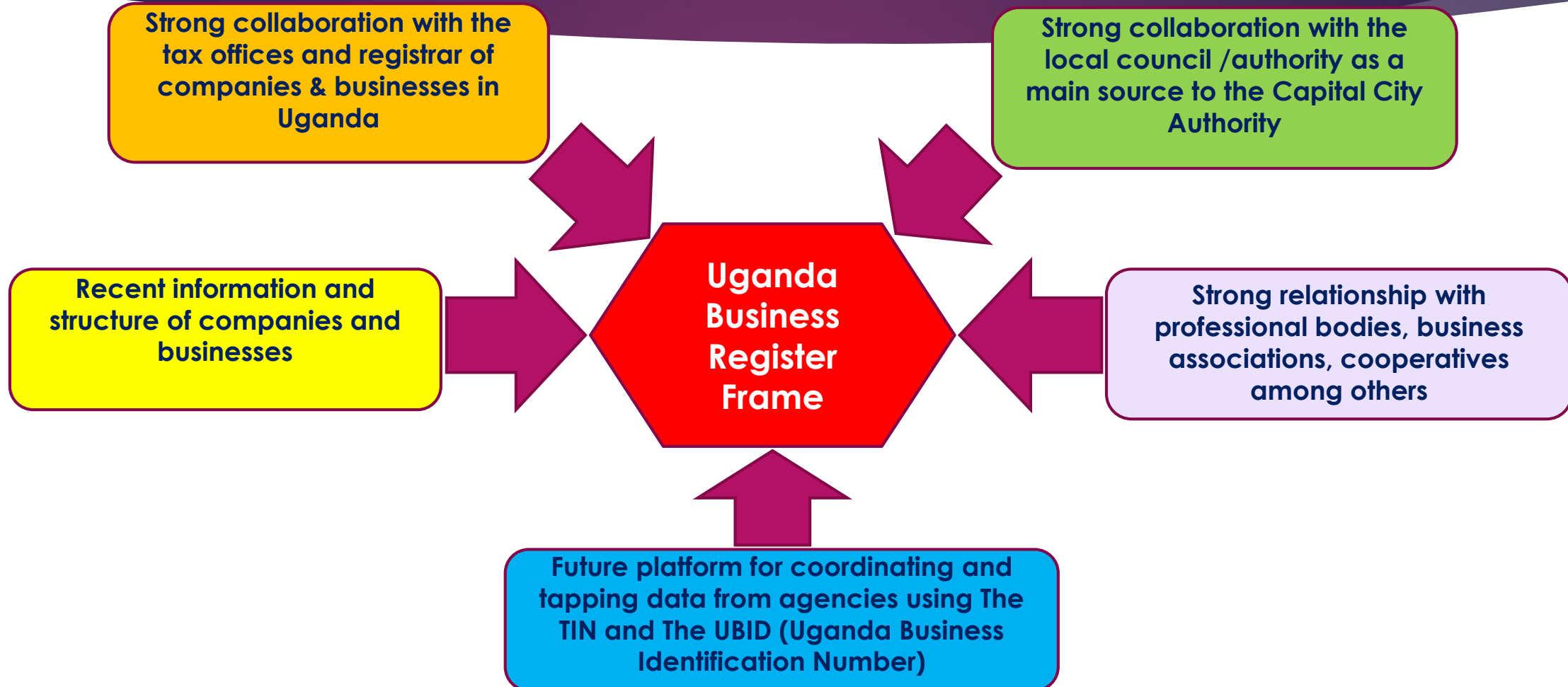
# Updating the UBR ctn.. (Business Process Model)

This is To Ensure The BR is a Living Database That is Updated Regularly



*The Generic Statistical Process Business Model makes it easy to standardise terminologies between processes and organisations*

# Enhancing And Improving The Use Of Administrative Data



# Types of Business Registers Used

- ▶ Several MDAs own and maintain their own registers for their use.
- ▶ Registration Services Bureau maintains a business register for all establishments in Uganda while
- ▶ Tax Authority also has a register for all taxpaying business establishments.
- ▶ UBOS has a Business Register for establishments

# Types of Business Registers Used

Source of Data/Type of Register	Type of Unique Identifier Used	Is it Linked?	To which Database
<b>Statistical surveys:</b>			
Uganda Census of Business establishments	Unique to the Survey dataset	No	Non
National Innovative Surveys	Unique to the Survey dataset	No	Non
Trade and Services survey	Unique to the Survey dataset	No	Non
Private sector investment survey	Unique to the Survey dataset	No	Non



# Types of Business Registers Used

Source of Data/Type of Register	Type of Unique Identifier Used	Is it Linked ?	To which Database
Uganda Revenue Authority ( Tax register)	TIN Number	YES	UBOS
Uganda Registration Services Bureau ( Register for Business )	Registration Number	No	Non
Ministry of Trade and Industry (Trade License register)	License Number	No	Non
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development ( Petroleum license register )	License Number	No	Non
Uganda Investment Authority (Investment License register)	Investment License number	No	Non

# Types of Business Registers Used

Source of Data/Type of Register	Type of Unique Identifier Used	Is it Linked?	To which Database
The public procurement and Disposal authority ( <a href="#">List of service providers register</a> )	Register for Suppliers	No	Non
Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration ( <a href="#">Passport register</a> )	Identification Number	No	Non
National NGO Board ( <a href="#">NGO register</a> )	NGO Registration number	No	Non
District local Governments ( <a href="#">Trade License registers</a> )	Trading License	No	Non

# Keeping The BR Up To Date

## Business Profiling

Business profiling is the method used to analyse the legal, operational and accounting structure of an enterprise and enterprise group



Profiling can be viewed as part of a broader, coordinated strategy for improving agency's economic statistics



The Business Register has a Model used to profiling Businesses listed by validating current status based on past status or previous status.

# Update of the Business Register

- ▶ Most of these registers are fragmented and not harmonized.
- ▶ To develop a comprehensive Statistical Business register involves linking together information from different sources/Databases.
- ▶ Through this linkage it will be possible to generate a Register including for the Oil and Gas sub sector.

# Update of the Business Register

- ▶ Currently, this linkage is NOT possible because of absence of a unique identifier to interlink these different databases.
- ▶ *Linking means data integration.*
  - ▶ *Data integration is defined broadly as the combination of data from different sources about the same or a similar individual or unit.*
  - ▶ *This definition includes linkages between survey and administrative data, as well as between data from two or more administrative sources.*

# Challenges in Building Statistical Business Register from Administrative Sources in Uganda

- ▶ Lack of Common Identifiers i.e. Businesses from Tax Authority have TIN Meanwhile those from Municipal Council (KCCA) have Coin.
- ▶ Lack of Key Variables for Statistical Business Register: Variables such as sales and employment which is a Measure of size of a business and serves as sampling Variables are lacking.
- ▶ High Death rate: The rate of death especially in informal sector is high.
- ▶ Update of Business Register: A good Business Register needs to be updated more Frequently i.e. if possible on Quarterly bases but this not possible due to lack of Funds.



## ▶ **Efforts in Strengthening of the UBR**

# Efforts in Strengthening the UBR

- ▶ **under Oil for Development Program** (Norwegian aid program),
  - ▶ UBOS has, since 2015 to date, been collaborating with Statistics Norway to build Statistical Business Register for Oil companies & eventually for all businesses in Uganda
    - ❖ Nov. 2015 the UBOS undertook a study mission to SN to understudy how the Business register system works in Norway.
    - ❖ The objective was to understudy how SN business register is structured and Updated.
    - ❖ *Learned that SN updates is register using the Bronos... register that is linked to other registers*



# Efforts in Strengthening the UBR

- ▶ **May 2016, had a Business Register mission from SN**
  - ▶ Objectives was to identify IT specifications to be used for developing a system/software that uses UBOS data sources and later bring on board other data sources.
- ▶ Hopefully by the end of 2022, UBOS will have functional business register with regular updates as plans are underway to have a live UBR
- ▶ The generic software for the Uganda business register is being developed in collaboration with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ghana Statistical Services, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and Statistics Norway
- ▶ There are plans to have a collaborative workshop to share Business Register experiences for Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Kyrgyz planned to take place in November 2019

# Conclusion

**To further the Country's progress by informing policymakers and Users**

**The business register is vital component in the censuses/surveys process as a Sampling Frame.**

**And seen necessary to go beyond providing information for GDP  
Compilation**