Country Progress Report on the Business Registers
The Experience of Uganda

A PRESENTATION AT THE UN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON EXHAUSTIVE BUSINESS REGISTERS AND TRADE STATISTICS, 11-13 JUNE 2019, NEW YORK

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
A Business Register:

This 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.
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.

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.

Only internal user with specific Unique ID is allowed to access the register.
Defining Statistical Units of BR

Administrative World

Statistical World

Enterprise Group

Legal Unit

Enterprise

KAU

Local Unit

LKAU
Coverage of the 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

Sources

1. Specify Needs
2. Design
3. Build

Collection Process

4. Build
5. Process
6. Analyse
7. Disseminate
8. Archive
9. Evaluate

Output

Quality Management/Metadata Management

This involves

identifying the units and running the collection process according to suitable formats which can be integrated with the register.

It prepares the output to be validated and made ready for the release.

Finally the evaluation phase provides the information to improve the quality of the register.

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

To ensure the sources are relevant to the user requirement and aligned with the changes in Uganda Business Landscape
Enhancing And Improving The Use Of Administrative Data

Strong collaboration with the local council/authority as a main source to the Capital City Authority

Strong collaboration with the tax offices and registrar of companies & businesses in Uganda

Recent information and structure of companies and businesses

Strong relationship with professional bodies, business associations, cooperatives among others

Uganda Business Register Frame

Future platform for coordinating and tapping data from agencies using The TIN and The UBID (Uganda Business Identification Number)
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Data/Type of Register</th>
<th>Type of Unique Identifier Used</th>
<th>Is it Linked?</th>
<th>To which Database</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Statistical surveys:</strong></td>
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<td>Private sector investment survey</td>
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<td>Uganda Revenue Authority (Tax register)</td>
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<td>Ministry of Trade and Industry (Trade License register)</td>
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<td>Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (Petroleum license register)</td>
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<td>Uganda Investment Authority (Investment License register)</td>
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<td>Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration (Passport register)</td>
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<td>National NGO Board (NGO register)</td>
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<tr>
<td>District local Governments (Trade License registers)</td>
<td>Trading License</td>
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</table>
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.
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