



USER ENGAGEMENT FROM UBOS AND POLICY MAKING PERCEPECTIVES

*By: Mayende John
Director, Statistical Coordination Services
Uganda Bureau of Statistics*



CONTENT

- Introduction
- Who are users of statistics
- Why Engage Users
- Existing User Engagement Mechanisms
- Challenges



Introduction



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- Uganda Bureau of Statistics was established by the UBOS Act 1998 as the principal data collecting and disseminating agency responsible for **coordinating, monitoring** and **supervising** the National Statistical System (NSS).
 - UBOS Vision:
*To become a Centre of excellence in statistical production, development and **dissemination** in Africa*
 - Mission
*To coordinate and provide quality **demand driven statistics** that support policy, decision making, research, and development initiatives*
- Section 4 subsection 2 Part (iii-v) UBOS Act emphasize engaging with statistics users in the areas of guidance, training, coordination and cooperation in statistical production . **UBOS mission puts the users at the center of statistical production**



Introduction ctn'd



- To effectively implement the mandate, UBOS in collaboration with selected MDAs as well as Local Governments, develops and implements a Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD) to respond to the evolving demands and requirements of the NSS.
- The PNSD provides a framework for production of quality data and improvements in the statistical services delivery to meet the **user needs** in the country.
- The PNSD is developed in a **participatory Manner** that engages various statistics producers and users so as to enhance producing demand driven statistics.



Who are users of statistics



- User are the most important component of the NSS, and are the final consumers of statistical products. They constitute the demand side of the data supply chain. Hence for data to be relevant, it must address the users needs.
- Categories of users

Government users: Policy makers-president, cabinet ministers, technocrats in MDAs and local Governments and Parliamentarians

Non-government users: Researchers/Academia/Training Institutes, Private sector/investors, Civil Society Organizations, Media, International organisations and development partners, and the general public

Why Engage Users

- identify users' needs (Invite relevant users to participate in planning for data collection –censuses and hh surveys)
- Obtain feedback on data quality-(engage technical experts from MDAs, Development partners and CSO)
- set data priorities (evidence based decision making, MTEF, Planning etc)
- create awareness of the data available and data to be collected
- increase use of statistics-some form of statistical advocacy

- ❑ **UBOS engages with MDAs and Local Government authorities during the development and implementation of:**
 - ❑ Sector Strategic Plan for Statistics (SSPS) for MDAs as well as Civil Society Organizations
 - ❑ Local Government Strategic Plan for Statistics (LGSPS) for districts
 - ❑ **National Standard Indicator Framework (Minimum Set of Indicators for the NSS to priorities)**

- ❑ **PNSD Structures that promote intra and inter institutional collaboration and cooperation in statistical production:**
 - ❑ PNSD Inter Agency Committee
 - ❑ IAC Sub/Technical Committee - **NASTC, Governance, Gender, Standards ...**
 - ❑ MDA/LG Statistics Committees
 - ❑ Statistics Producer – User Forums/meetings –SESTAC (socioeconomic statistics technical committee which reviews and validates economic statistics, MFPED, UBOS, BOU, NPA)

- ❑ **Consultative workshops and Seminars**
 - ❑ Survey and Census consultations
 - ❑ Dissemination meetings
 - ❑ Press releases

ICT Platforms

- Email
- Website
- Social Media Platforms
- Mobile Device Applications (UBOS App)

Producing and Disseminating Statistical Reports

- Survey and Census Reports
- Brochures and Flyers with summarized statistics
- Abridged versions of survey/census reports
- Statistical Abstracts
- NSS Metadata Handbook**
- Compendium of Statistical Concepts, Definitions and Terminologies**

User Satisfaction Survey conducted periodically

Media

- Talk shows
- Newspaper advertisements
- Training of staff from media houses

Participation in celebrations of National Days and Activities

- ❑ Matching with Banners with/on statistics
- ❑ Prepare special brochures to commemorate the National Days
- ❑ Exhibitions at National Events

Africa Statistics Week Celebrations

- ❑ High level Breakfast meeting with parliamentarians
- ❑ Thematic discussions with key partners
- ❑ Corporate social responsibility activities (blood donations)

Bilateral meetings with key partners/stakeholders

- ❑ Chief Executive Officers of MDAs
- ❑ Members of Parliament
- ❑ Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Programmes
- ❑ High-level meetings with Potential Statistics Champions

High Level Government meetings

- Government Annual Performance review-UBOS provides data to measure performance
- Retreats for parliamentarians and minister-presentations

- Low appreciation of Statistics (unemployment, poverty figures)
- Demand for disaggregated data which is not available
- Lack of political will especially when statistics indicate the contrary
- Low levels of statistical literacy among users
- conflicting figures produced by different agencies (solved through coordination and data reconciliation)
- Packaging the appropriate materials for a diverse category of users
- Limited ICT coverage and access
- Low user feedback



Thank You!