



Break-out group 1A

Session 1: Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of National Statistical Systems (NSS)



What are the main incentives for strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of your respective NSSs?

- The need to have legal frameworks and also to have government support for implementation and to enable NSOs perform their role as the coordinators of the NSS. A tool that can be given to government to provide the necessary resources only not to the NSO but to all the actors in the NSS to help them deliver on their policies and mandates. The legal framework therefore forms the foundation.
- Expand the range of data and indicators especially the ones related to the development indicators e.g. SDGs and improving the quality of the data that is collected and analysed
- Capacity building across all the sectors of the NSS – There is capacity within the NSOs but no capacity across the sectors that form the NSS
- Institutional framework – need for good infrastructure (buildings, equipment, etc.) to strengthen the operations of NSOs
- Creation of an enabling environment for easy communication within the NSS and the NSOs and all organs that are part of the system
- Need for internal networking internally (locally) and external networking with partners
- NSOs need independence – have their own premises to operate independently and not supervised by any other institution



What challenges and deterrents have you faced/do you expect to face in improving the institutional and organisational frameworks of your respective NSSs?

- Governments of developing countries and donors tend to pay attention to the provision of basic services rather than on statistical operations. Much attention is not given to statistics which is needed for monitoring of other issues.
- Challenges in aligning all indicators with NSS members.
- Political silence on statistical activities. Some countries have not been able to ratify the African Charter
- Problem on how to implement strategies prepared by NSOs. No legal backing to do so
- Negative or non-supportive perception of some sectors within the NSS. These sectors when pushed to produce some statistics tend to shift the responsibility on the NSO. Some sectors generate some variety of statistics but are never used.
- Capacity issues – lack of necessary capacity to operate. Quality of data cannot be assured if the NSOs does not have the right personnel with the necessary skills
- Lack of cooperation from key members of the NSS (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Central Banks). Lack adequate resources for NSOs to deliver on their mandates and also to strengthen the NSS.
- Lack of anticipation to address the overwhelming demands of data .
- The NSOs at the end of the day loses there members to other institutions after training



Have you identified in your group some success stories new initiatives or best practices related to the theme of session 1? Please explain shortly.

- Creation of a Pan African Institution to push forward the African statistical system (Botswana)
- Various sectors have a common understanding with the creation to interface management information systems with sectors electronically to produce data needed (e.g. Tax Revenue Service, CRVS, Ministry of Health, etc.) (Botswana)
- Development of the NSDS using the participatory approach has led to the improvement of data availability in the NSS. Interaction has made the NSO to identify the right people to contact. Annual user producer forums has led to improvement of the NSS (Gambia).
- User producer dialogues has improved the NSS (Botswana)
- NSDS 1 – Worked with the various sectors (equip sectors, building of statistical capacity, improvement of statistical infrastructure of the RSIM units). Partnerships with other NSOs and private organisations (Statistics Denmark, ONS,) to explore the used of Big Data and improve administrative data (Ghana)
- Establishment of a statistical office and training of staff (Somalia)



What kind of support is missing from bilateral and multilateral partners in that respect?

- Donor coordination – donors do not have direct line with the NSOs. Donors have their own priorities and prefer to work with other sectors than with the NSOs. National donors (e.g. Governments, private sector) are virtually missing and needs to be included (Angola)
- Countries when they go into bilateral agreements are to assign some amount of money or budget for statistical activities (international Regional level). This is not implemented in most cases. Precondition by donors who fund statistical projects e.g. forcing countries to open data including even geospatial data. Though data is a public good the standards and procedures for its use must be followed (e.g. confidentiality issues) (Ethiopia)
- Training support especially the long term ones including PHD which NSOs and sectors need is non-existent (Botswana)
- Funding for small island states. Seychelles categorises as high middle income country so no support is given but have its own challenges as a country and need support



Is there anything important that seems not to be covered in the handbook and/or was not discussed in session 1?

- Conflict and post conflict countries – how should states deal with such situations because the NSS is affected when conflicts occur delaying or halting statistical activities. How are statistical infrastructures protected in times like this?
- Different appellations of head of NSO. Is there going to be a common name? The Hand book will however use National Chief Statistician.