

How do we build the pyramid?

Strategies for better metadata management

Sharing Best Practice in the Dissemination of
National Development Indicators

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Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

What is metadata?



Introduction

- The Ghana Statistical Service is the central agency charged with the production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics in the Ghana.
- The sector ministries are also setup to produce official statistics relevant to their work programmes.

Introduction (cont'd)

- There is increasing demand for statistical information, including metadata by users.
- Some of the metadata include:
 - *Simple operational definition*
 - *Rationale for use*
 - *Method of computation*
 - *Sources of data*
 - *Periodicity of measurement*
 - *Limitations*

Justification for metadata

- To provide stakeholders with guidance on the definitions, rationale, concepts and sources of the data for the indicators.
- Intention - not to provide an exhaustive amount of information, but to provide a reference point and guidance for stakeholders.

Static or dynamic?

- Just as the indicator list is dynamic and will necessarily evolve in response to changing national situations.
- So will the metadata change over time as concepts, definitions and methodologies change.

Sharing good practices

Metadata should;

- Provide relevant and robust measures of progress towards targets.
- Be clear and straightforward to interpret and provide a basis for international comparison.
- Be broadly consistent with other global list.

Sharing good practices (continued)

Metadata should;

- Be based to the greatest extent possible on international standards, recommendations and best practices.
- Be constructed from well-established data sources, be quantifiable and be consistent to enable measurement over time.

Value of metadata sharing

- Greater exposure to metadata.
- Metadata reusability.
- Metadata longevity.
- Possibility for future research collaborations.

Consultation process

- Should take into account national development priorities in consultation with stakeholders within the National Statistical System (NSS), the list of indicators and the availability of data.
- National Statistics Offices (NSOs) should work collaboratively to help build ownership and consensus on the selected indicators.

Metadata documentation

Good metadata is needed to;

- Increase credibility of indicators.
- Properly analyze data.
- Build institutional memory.

National or International metadata?

- Existing National data sources and reporting systems should be used where possible, particularly where there exist a National Statistical System (NSS).
- International data sources should be consulted for validation and in the absence of national sources.

Why Metadata dissemination?

- Growing demand for metadata.
- Potential to add much value to existing data.
- But requires:
 - Enabling legislation
 - Formal policy/procedures
 - Technical capacity to prepare data for dissemination

Ghana Metadata Project Highlights

- Inaugural meetings to discuss core indicators.
- Series of consultative meetings with stakeholders in the NSS to agree on indicators and metadata.
- Metadata for development indicators training workshop for stakeholders in the NSS.

Ghana Metadata Project Highlights (continued)

- Workshop by stakeholders to compile National Development Indicators.
- Draft Metadata Handbook.
- with 64 indicators
- Re-hosting of GhanaInfo Database.

Ghana Metadata Project - future plans

- Review and finalization of the draft Metadata Handbook.
- Disseminate Metadata Handbook.
- Create awareness through statistical literacy workshop.

Ghana Metadata Project - future plans

- Will be with the Production Unit of RDC (i.e. mainstream into GSS' activities)
- Constant review of the indicators (with the involvement of stakeholders)
 - *Add new indicators*
 - *Take out indicators no more useful*
- Constant training of managers and stakeholder on new developments

Challenges

- Lack of statistical infrastructure in many of the sector ministries for effective statistical production.
- Weak coordination among players within the NSS.

Conclusions & recommendations

- Building trust amongst statistical partners is an important step in coordination and cooperation.
- Have a network of focal points for data exchange.
- Improve the accessibility of country data site (24/7).

Conclusions & recommendations (continued)

- Greater clarity is needed about how to successfully have multitude of databases that co-exist.
- Documentation and preservation are a MUST, even if you don't disseminate metadata.
- Good metadata of past helps improve the quality of future metadata.

Conclusions & recommendations (continued)

- The need for statistics, including metadata at the international, national, regional and district levels require that several aspects of the statistical production should be coordinated, collaborated and harmonized.

Thank you

