

## Statistics for Transparency, Accountability, and Results: An Action Plan

IEAG Gender Statistics Meeting  
New York  
October 5, 2011

PARIS21  
The World Bank

## Recap of Busan Forum Objectives

- High-Level Forum Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2000 delegates, ministerial participation
- Review of development progress & make new commitments
- Identify a limited number of key themes (e.g. Results & Accountability) for concerted action
- Implement key themes via “building blocks” which:
  - Are practically implementable
  - Are game changers
  - Have support from the highest political level
  - Can be adapted to specific country circumstances

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## An international commitment to building statistical capacity

- 2004 -- International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results endorsed the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS)
- The six point plan set goals for national and international statistical agencies
- MAPS focused attention on the need for better statistics and helped to mobilize political and financial support

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## MAPS results

- 71 low-income countries have produced strategic plans for the development of their statistical systems
- The International Household Survey Network has developed tools for documenting and preserving surveys and 55 countries have participated in the Accelerated Data Program.
- 98% of the world's population were covered by the 2010 census round
- Financial commitments to statistics have increased by 60 percent to \$1.6 billion between 2008 and 2010.

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## Praise for MAPS

- ❖ *Progress Since Paris*: Statistical Capacity Building showed “substantial progress” and “MDG statistics are becoming increasingly available in country”
- ❖ World Bank Independent Evaluation Group: “Significant progress achieved in supporting NSDS development...” MAPS, TFSCB, and PARIS21 have provided “a good overarching framework,” which has been “cost efficient,” and “have yielded important results”

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## Remaining tasks and new demands

- The IEG report noted limited progress on implementing national strategies
- Better coordination of donor support still needed
- Important gaps to fill in poverty, gender, and agriculture statistics.
- Increased demand for geo-spatial statistics
- Open data / open government initiatives are raising expectations for better statistics

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## Busan is an opportunity to renew the commitment to statistics

- Statistics are the essential foundation for the High Level Forum’s platform of Transparency, Accountability, and Results.
- Statistics support evidence-based decision making and managing for results
- Accountability requires objective measures of performance
- Transparency is increased when everyone has access to reliable statistics

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## Beyond MAPS – New Objectives

- I. Fully integrate statistics in decision making.***
  - Improve policy makers ability to use statistics
  - Involve statistical producers in planning, budgeting, and M&E discussions
- II. Promote open access to statistics***
  - Within government and to the public
- III. Increase resources for statistical systems***

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## Six Actions to support these objectives

- 1. Strengthen national statistical strategies**
  - Review, revise, and implement
  - Give priority to improving vital registration systems, statistics, integration of administrative data, sub-national data and geospatial information
- 2. Global summits to recognize statistical capacity needs**
  - Resolutions need to identify indicators and implementation strategy
  - Statistical activities prioritized/implemented with development country leadership
  - Summit follow up to report on statistical progress
  - Specific actions on Gender, Agriculture, Geospatial info.

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## Six Actions (continued)

- 3. Improve access to data at the national level**
  - Improve curation and accessibility of enterprise statistics, administrative data, & vital statistics.
  - Support legal frameworks for open data
  - Adopt new approaches using new technologies
- 4. Increase knowledge & skills to use statistics effectively**
  - Increase “statistical literacy” of citizens through school curricula and public information programs
  - Continuous upgrading of staff skills
  - Establish dialog between statistical producers and decision makers

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## Six Actions (continued)

- 5. Improve accessibility of data produced by international organizations and bilateral agencies**
  - Adopt common standards
  - Share research data, tools, and related outputs
  - Implement IATI data standard
- 6. Ensure financing is robust and funding mechanisms responsive**
  - Include new funding sources
  - Give higher priority to Stats and M&E in aid programs
  - Ensure governance / coordination partnerships are inclusive

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## A checklist for success at Busan

- **Adaptable to specific country circumstances**
  - ❖ Plan is based on a country-led, system-wide approach
- **Practically implementable**
  - ❖ The financial instruments exists, the in-country strategy document exists, implementing institutions are there
- **Encourages innovation and new directions**
  - ❖ Focus on “openness and accessibility” is more pronounced. Definition of “statistics” is much broader.
- **Can gain support from the highest political level**
  - ❖ Still much work to do

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## Next Steps

### Pre-Busan

- Continue consultations with statistical community
- Build political support and identify champions
- Identify one or two “quick win” initiatives that can be announced at Busan (Gender and Agriculture are candidates)

### At Busan

Seek plan endorsement  
Announce one or two specific initiatives to give implementation a push

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## Next Steps

### Post-Busan

- Identify remaining implementation steps guided by the following criteria:
  - ✦ Country-led implementation, broad international support
  - ✦ Identifiable, monitorable, & time-bound (some possible indicators are provided in the document)
  - ✦ Designate lead agency for global commitments
  - ✦ Emphasize country capacity development
- Confirm implementation steps at P21 Board meeting (April) or post-Busan Results Forum (tbd)
- Begin implementation

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