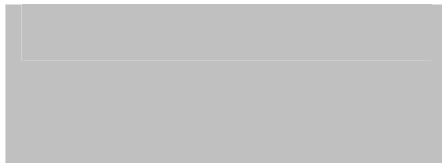


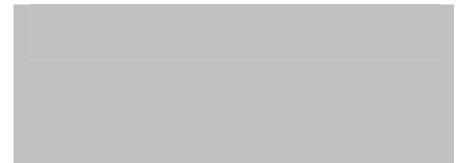


# **Forum on African Statistics Development (FASDEV-II)**

Addis Ababa, 6– 10 February 2006



# **FASDEV**



## **REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

### **FROM REPORTING TO COLLABORATION**

**Comments Received on the Draft Synthesis Report  
on the Light Reporting Exercise (Volume I)  
as of January 2006**

**PARIS 21**

**REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING  
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**FROM REPORTING TO COLLABORATION**

**Comments Received on the Draft Synthesis Report  
on the Light Reporting Exercise (Volume I)  
as of January 2006**

**January 2006**



**Comments Received on Synthesis Report on the Light Reporting Exercise  
as of January 31, 2006**

The document, "Review of Support to Statistical Capacity Building in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Reporting to Collaboration", was distributed for comments on January 20, 2006 to all 56 development partners who were contacted for information in September 2005. As of January 31, 2006, 16 partners sent comments.

Comments referring to Volume II of the Review are presented in a table, following the Introductory Note of Volume II. Due to printing constraints, additions/corrections to the tables in Volume II will be incorporated in the next draft of the report.

This Note refers to comments on Volume I of the report, which are presented in the table below. Most partners mentioned the usefulness of the exercise, both as a baseline for understanding who does what and where in SCB and as a "first step towards providing a vital tool for monitoring SCB efforts". Comments which could be easily incorporated in the report have been taken into account. It should be highlighted that Table 3 of Volume I has been revised to reflect the over-estimation of statistical elements of the EC's broader programmes. In light of this, the EC's support to SCB has been halved from US\$134 million to US\$67 million.

Concern was expressed about the aggregation and comparison of financing amounts provided by different partners. Most partners reported *the total commitment value of their current inventory of projects/programmes, which were either new or ongoing in 2004-05*. However, to address the mentioned concern, aggregate figures are not shown and a footnote has been added to tables 1 and 3 to reflect this. Further work will be carried out following the FASDEV meeting to address comparability between respondents and double-counting, for instance of funding channeled by bilateral partners through international and sub-regional organizations.

Due to time constraints, a number of comments will be addressed in the next draft of the report, namely:

- Explanation and differentiation of bilateral and multilateral partners' SCB support, in terms of nature of the work and flow of funds;
- Distinction between grant and loan;
- Presentation of annual estimates of partners' support

The following comments, referring mainly to the future of the Light Reporting Mechanism require discussion and agreement among development partners:

- the clarification of the definition of statistical capacity building, in terms of the nature of statistical activity and the source of funding support (e.g., treatment of countries' own funding vs. borrowing);
- agreement on information to be collected;
- provision of "ball-park" figures of approximate annual budget attributed to SCB; simplification of financing amounts by providing "indications of size instead of exact amounts";
- link LRE information to existing initiatives, such as International Household Survey Network and the World Bank's statistical capacity building indicators.



**Comments Received on Synthesis Report on the Light Reporting Exercise <sup>1</sup>**  
**As of January 31 2006**

No.	Development Partner	Received Questionnaire	Submitted Questionnaire	Comments
1	Canada	X	X	Will comment after review of document.
2	Japan	X	X	Impressive work.
3	Netherlands	X	X	Interesting data, despite flaws cited. In Way Forward include: (i) frequency and geo coverage of future LRE; and (ii) monitoring use of data -- done
4	Norway	X	X	Impressive and important work. Small change in section on Norway – done.
5	Sweden	X	X	Comprehensive and useful report. Results form very useful background material for those working in SCB. Report provides understanding of who does what and where. LRE highlights problem of data collection. For future, important to agree on information to be collected. Questions about amounts committed and disbursed could be simplified by allowing indications of size instead of exact amounts.
6	UK	X	X	Interesting report. The exercise is worthwhile and could be more so, if linked to existing initiatives, such as IHSN and WB's SCB indicators. Useful to consider how this could be developed in future.
7	US	X	No	Clarification that US statistical agencies that provide TA in statistics do so for most part on a reimbursable basis – incorporated. Too many acronyms
8	EC	X	X	Excellent initiative and good first step towards providing vital tool for monitoring SCB efforts. Over-estimation of statistical elements of broader programmes has been corrected in Volume I. Suggest that in future, instead of precise cost figures, a “ball-park” figure for the approximate budget attributed on an annual basis be provided.
9	World Bank	X	X	Extremely useful and important initiative and should be put to good use. Definition of SCB: (i) clarify nature of statistical activity; (ii) source of support of funding (treatment of countries' own funding vs. borrowing). Avoid double counting: e.g, grants of international organizations coming from bilateral donors should be excluded from bilateral donor support. Include a section explaining and differentiating between bilateral and multilateral donors' SCB support, in terms of nature of the work

<sup>1</sup> The comments presented here exclude those related to additions/corrections of a partner's data on support to SCB. These changes are presented in a Note in Volume II, following the Introductory Note.

No.	Development Partner	Received Questionnaire	Submitted Questionnaire	Comments
				and flow of funds. Section on WB support should distinguish between grant and loan; include few activities, such as CWIQ and LSMS, that are Bank's support to SCB. Exclude any aggregations or comparisons. Present annual estimates of partners' support. State that financing figures cannot and should not be aggregated until figures are rendered comparable. Mention intended audience, including national planners.
10	IMF	X	X	Very useful report. Emphasize in "Way Forward" how beneficiary countries and development partners can use this information to supplement GDDS. Info should be used to plan and coordinate TA. Regular updates of countries' metadata and plans for improvement will keep all development partners informed about improvements and future needs in statistical capacity.
11	ILO	X	X	Need to check if ILO-ACBF and ACBF AFRISTAT programs on Labour Market Information Systems in Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia are same program. If so, reduce each country by US\$300,000. Report sent to ILO units for comment.
12	WHO	X	X	Definition of SCB (includes epidemiology and demography, training and TA in capacity building). Measurement and Health Information Systems is responsible for data quality across all WHO programmes and supports M&E capacity. Its total annual budget is US\$5 million, with only a part for direct SCB support. Budget and work planning does not permit disaggregation and quantification of SCB component. Much of SCB work is done by country and regional offices (including AFRO office in Brazzaville). Found LRE cumbersome.
13	ECOWAS	X	X	Very useful work. Will review Volume II
14	EAC	X	X	Excellent findings. Discuss proposals during FASDEV meeting.
15	EASTC	X	X	Clarification on financing required and financing secured. No changes have been made.
16	CPLP	X	No activities	No comments