

REFERENCE REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



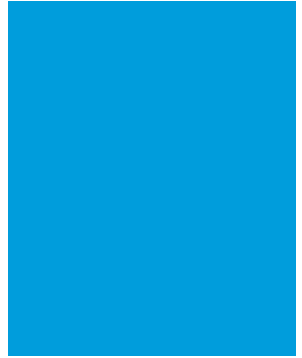
The Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa

Better Statistics for Improved Development Outcomes

Abbreviations

The roles of stakeholders in implementing the framework have been identified. Primary responsibility for implementation lies with the countries, the primary beneficiaries of the RRSE. Under the framework, national statistical offices will create awareness about and enlist support for the framework among key stakeholders, designate an official to coordinate framework implementation at the country level and liaise with coordinators at the sub-regional and regional levels, design and implement the development statistics. Sub-regional organizations will continue to assist countries in adapting global concepts to local conditions in sub-region. The

Political and Historical Background



Africa's Development Initiatives

1. At the end of the 1990s, the African heads of state and government took very important steps in calling for the establishment of an African Union, “with a view, *inter alia*, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it to play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalization.” They also launched the process

and the achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact. It includes sectoral development plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other national development plans; NEPAD; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The results agenda is data intensive and predicated on the notion that there is both the capacity to demand and effectively use statistics

Century [PARIS21], and the World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), held in Tunis in January and February 2005. They resolved that a new framework for statistical development in Africa should be put in place by developing a Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF), in line with the Marrakech Action Plan on Statistics (MAPS), under UNECA coordination.

11. The MAPS, a plan for improving statistics in developing countries, came out of the 2004 Marrakech Roundtable meeting for improving statistics when the Meeting identified better statistics as a priority of the results agenda. The MAPS contains six action areas: Mainstream strategic planning of statistical systems; Prepare for the 2010 Census Round; Increase financing for statistical capacity building; Set up an International Household Survey Network; Undertake urgent improvements needed for MDG monitoring by 2005; and Increase accountability for the international statistical system. The RRSF contains components relevant to each of the eight results

Demand for statistics

19. There is international consensus that statistics are a necessary part of the enabling environment for improving decision-making and development outcomes at all levels, supporting business and personal decisions, and facilitating research. For this reason, while recognizing the importance of demands from

22. African countries can be divided into four groups.⁴ The first group includes “vicious circle countries”; in these countries, statistics are of poor quality, and both the supply of and demand for statistics are low. The second group includes “data supply–constrained countries”; although statistics are weak in these countries, they are increasingly being used by policy-makers. The third group includes “data demand–constrained countries”; in these countries, the quantity and quality of statistics are improving, but they are not used for decision-making because decision-makers lack the incentives or the capacity to use them. In all three types there is to increase the demand statistics their quality, to improve linkages between available data national policy needs by enhancing dialogue between data users and producers. Countries should strategically move toward a fourth group, the “virtuous circle countries”, where statistics are improving and increasingly being used for decision-making. These two processes - the improvement of statistics and the use of statistics

inputs, outputs, impacts and outcomes. These strategies and frameworks are generally agreed on by all key stakeholders at different levels. They will have been designed in a participatory and inclusive manner, taking into account country

by international rather than national demand, which created some distortion of data production away from national priorities. To address this problem, priority should be given to meeting national demand for statistics.

25. The core set of outputs by national statistical systems should correspond to the highest priorities. These include data that are required for managing the economy and stimulating social development, such as data on GDP, prices, inflation, foreign trade, employment, and income, and health,

education, industry and agriculture; public sector institutions, such as the central bank; private sector institutions, such as chambers of commerce and industry; research and training institutions, including universities; and NGOs (see figure 2.1). In many countries, line ministries not only produce statistics by aggregating basic information collected by the local structures under their jurisdiction such as schools or health centers but often they conduct comprehensive data collection exercises. For instance, depending on country organization, the ministries of agriculture may have substantial delegated authority and technical capacity to conduct the general census of agriculture. While this works well in some countries, there is need for more clarity and coherence in the organizational set-up.

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41. Data are usually available in printed form and also increasingly in electronic form (diskettes, CDs, the Internet), but the quality and the quantity of the data are often inadequate. In many countries, gaps exist in critical indicators (including gender, poverty, environment, employment, wages and hours of work, energy, industr 4744-tes 461).-161(47So)12ome-161(47(data)i-tesar)10(e)i-teno

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of statistical data. Therefore, they also have an important stake in Africa's national statistical systems.

Figure 2.2. External Stakeholders in Africa’s National Statistical Systems

50. The AfDB has developed a formal strategic plan for improving statistical activities in the region which includes: coordinating ICP-Africa, which is active in 51 of the 53 African countries, funding about 80 percent of its activities and providing technical assistance; assisting member countries in developing their national strategies for the development of statistics; supporting countries

Problems, Constraints and Challenges

70. The assessment of external stakeholders identified the following problems, constraints and challenges:

- Some sub-regional organizations have inadequate staffing for their statistical activities.
- National data collected by sub-regional organizations are not always available or comparable. Communication between countries and some sub-regional organizations is inadequate.
- A decline in resources assigned to statistics and the organizational structure for statistics in UNECA has limited its capacity to promote statistical development in Africa.
- Statistical capacity building is not among the main sectors that bilateral donors support, and it is not identified as a cross-cutting theme of any importance.
- UN specialized agencies that are interested in doing statistical capacity

PART TWO

Objectives, Strategies, Implementation,
Monitoring, and Reporting

Objectives and Strategies

Objectives

75. The overall objective of the framework is to improve development outcomes and governance by strengthening national statistical systems in Africa. The framework includes four specific objectives.

Objective 1: Raise Awareness of the Role of Statistical Information

76. This objective aims to build a society that is statistically literate, thereby supporting demand for development of the national statistical system. Raising awareness aims to increase government demand for, use of, and investment in statistics.

Objective 2: Increase User Satisfaction by Enhancing the Quality and Usability of Statistical Information

77. This objective aims to ensure that data are relevant to user needs, accurate and consistent, and made available to users in a timeframe and form that render them useful and usable; that the quality of statistics is guaranteed by using

Strategy 2: Mainstream Statistics as a Cross-Cutting Sector in the Development Process (Supports Objectives 1 and 3)

90. In the formulation of the agenda for development at the sub-national and

- Conferring the power to collect data.
- Setting rules for compliance and statistical confidentiality to ensure that individual records are not accessed by unauthorized individuals or shared with political authorities or regulatory and tax agencies.
- Providing for data dissemination and access.
- Funding of statistical operations.

the development of statistics where general and sectoral statistics are to be provided for.

Strategy 5: Undertake Data Development
(Supports Objectives 3 and 4)

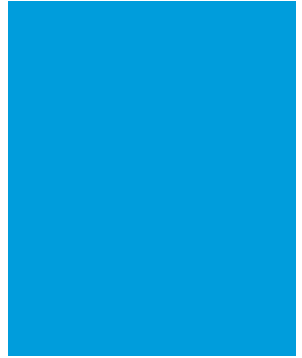
Strategy 6: Foster Coordination, Collaboration, and Partnerships
(Supports Objectives 2 and 4)

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accounts. These publications should be supplemented by placing the data on the national statistical office and line ministry web sites. Compliance with

for resources. It is important that the national statistical systems prepare clear, systematic, and transparent yearly and multi-year work programs to increase the persuasiveness of arguments for adequate funding. It is also important to obtain government support for at least a medium-term (five-year) national

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting



126. One of the lessons learned from the Addis Ababa Plan of Action is that a good framework is not all that is needed to achieve statistical development in Africa. Stakeholders have to take actions if the framework is to be implemented, and implementation has to be closely monitored and reported.

Implementation

12n. Endorsement of the framework by all stakeholders is essential to its success and should be pursued. National stakeholders (principally the Directors

- A strong statistics division, with a staff of 12 professional statisticians, 9 research associates and 4 administrative assistants to manage the activities of ICP-Africa. In addition, consultants are hired on a needs basis to assist the staff.
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147. *Annual report.* The sub-regional organizations will be required to produce reports, which the coordinator at the regional level will consolidate to produce an annual report for the region. If possible, reporting from bilateral and international organizations will be derived from the reporting that is proposed to be submitted to PARIS21, as required by FASDEV. In this case, no additional reporting from these organizations will be required to monitor the RRSF. It is hoped that the coordinator at the regional level will be able to obtain access to the PARIS21 database on an as-needed basis as it is developed or receive directly from the reporting organizations copies of the information they submit to PARIS21. The annual regional report will be distributed to members of ABSA and FASDEV who will make recommendations to implementing agencies.

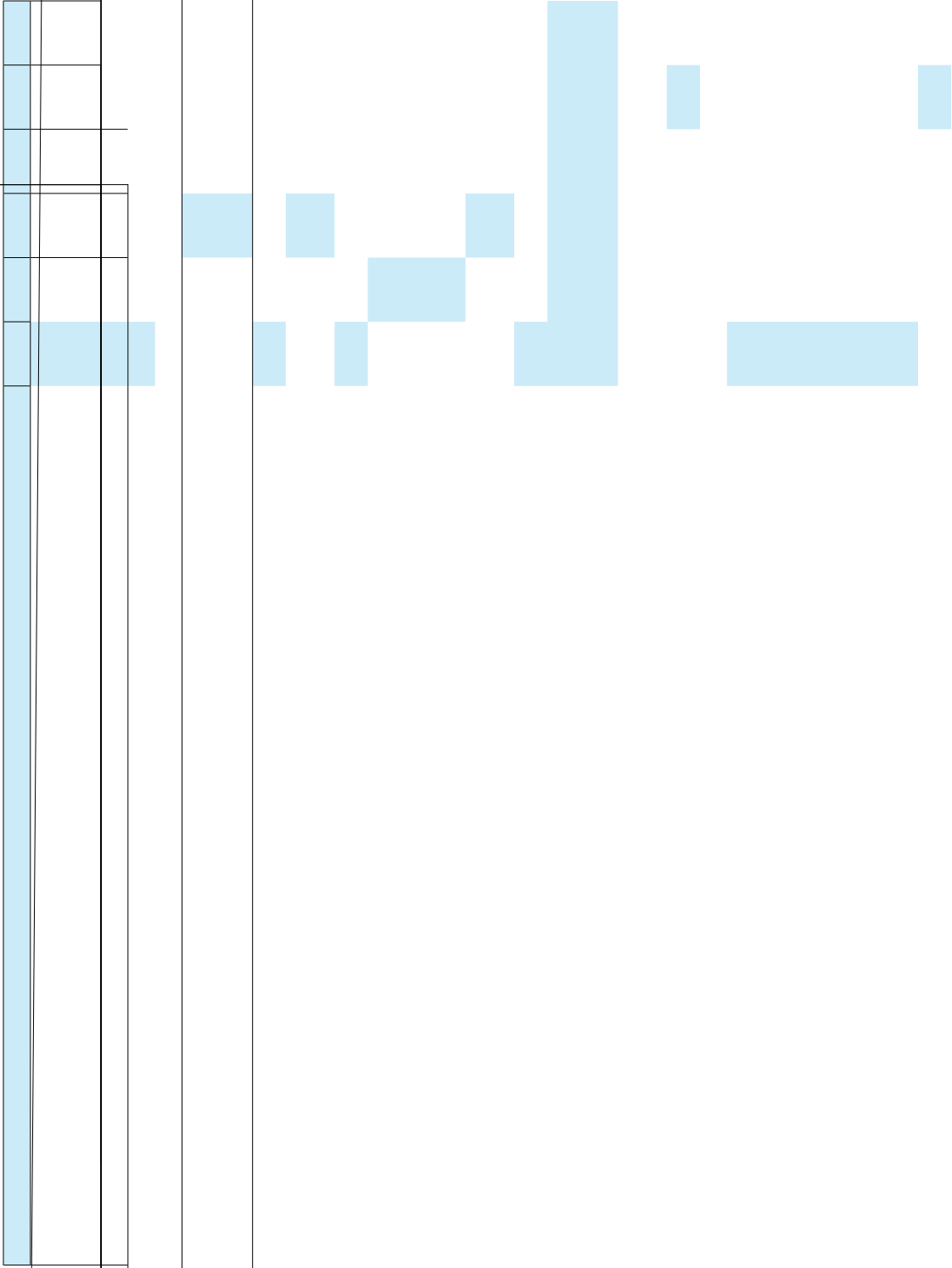
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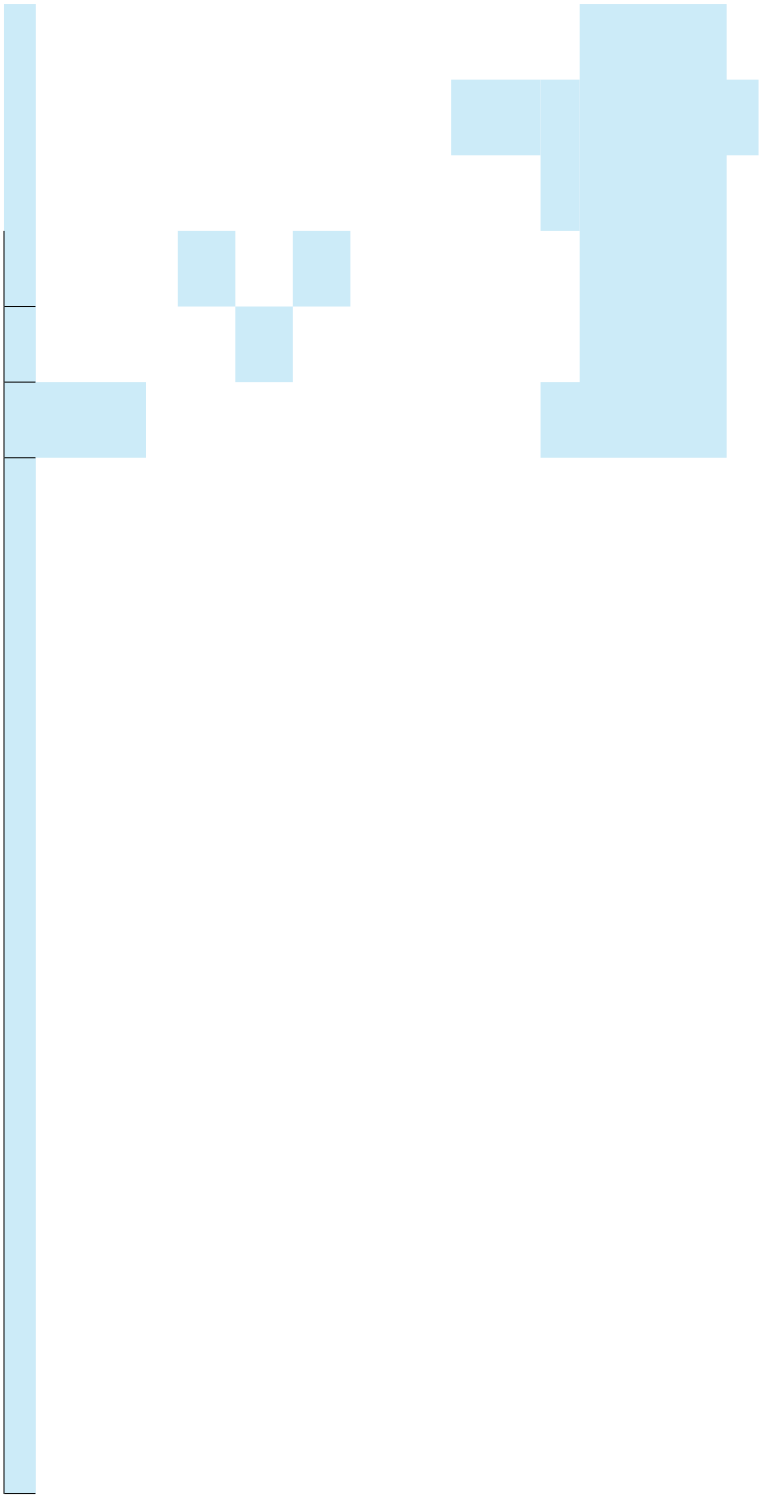
Critical Risk Factors and Mitigation Measures

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Table 5.1 Recommendations and Implementing Agencies

..... : National statistical office (NSO); National statistical council (NSC); Line ministries (LM); Sub-regional organizations (SRO); Regional organizations (RO); Development partners (DP). Implementing agencies are given in shaded cells.





Annexes

Figure A.1. African Economic and Monetary Unions

Regional Stakeholders

Regional stakeholders include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

African Development Bank

For details see paragraphs 50-52 of the report

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

For details see paragraphs 53-56 of the report

The African Union

For details see paragraphs 57-59 of the report

It has recently established a statistics unit to produce statistical products for its programs.

World Bank and UNDP

The range of their activities is the broadest of any of the UNDP

Annex B

Logical Framework for the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical

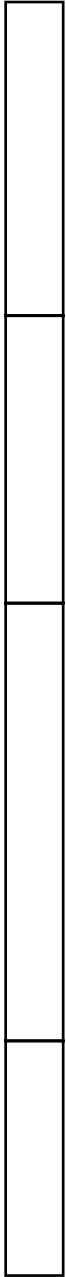
Measurable targets have to be defined by each country/stakeholder. The











Annex C

Effective Initiatives and Good Practices

Overall, statistics in Africa are deficient. But there are instances of effective initiatives and examples of good practices. This list of good practice is not comprehensive; it reflects only practices identified by the countries and organizations visited and for which sufficient details were available. Additional good practices may be found in a series of publications on best practices available on the Web site of the UN Statistical Division (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/>). Some of these practices relate to monitoring and evaluation.

Overall Strategy: Develop a National Strategy for

establishment of a National Statistical Coordinating Committee, which has

Chartered Institute of Statistics of Nigeria (CISON), offering courses leading to the award of a professional diploma and a postgraduate diploma in statistics. The Nigerian Statistical Association is working on getting Parliament to authorize establishment of the institute. The National Bureau of Statistics plans to promote greater use of the school by different agencies.

Strategy 10: Improve data analysis

Zambia illustrates how the coordination of data analysis by research centers

ministries, and institutions. It consists of a steering committee, a taskforce, and a focal point in all partner institutions. The idea is to reach broad consensus on the substance of the database. The lesson is that starting small may push the process along more quickly. Moreover, initiatives like this can be integrated into existing institutional frameworks.

Tanzania's socioeconomic database represents good practice for several reasons:

- It is government owned.
- It is fully institutionalized within the framework of the PRSP and the Poverty Monitoring System.
- It allows regular monitoring of the MDG indicators.
- It contributes to capacity building for evidence-based decision-making.
- It has contributed to building partnerships with UN agencies and between the government, the United Nations, and the private sector.
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A number of datasets are available on the National Statistical Institute Web site, which is organized into 38 economic and 24 socio-demographic themes.

situation, dissemination, follow-up of households and poverty, and agricultural statistics.

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Annex D

CODI-II

Addis Ababa, 4-7 September 2001
Resolution on statistical development in Africa
(Sponsored by Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa)

The Conference of Ministers,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Working Group on Strengthening

Aware of the progress made by a number of countries in preparing strategic plans for statistics, and that many National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are constrained in their operations due to the traditional civil service practices;

Appreciative of the important role of PARIS21 in promoting the use of statistics at the worldwide level with advocacy tools;

Recognizing the various initiatives undertaken by National Statistical Offices in data collection;

Recognizing further

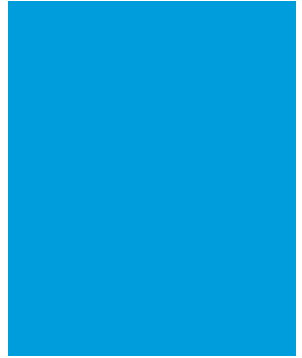
4. Recommends that
 - a. NSOs should become autonomous organizations with independent Boards of Directors;
 - b. NSOs should establish integrated information management systems that bring together data on social benefits, censuses, GIS, and household budget surveys to better equip users with information necessary for planning, monitoring and evaluation;
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6. To improve their partnership collaboration to facilitate synergy so as to

Annex F

FASDEV-I

Addis Ababa, 12-13 May 2004



4. Take advantage of any existing strategies at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels (such as PARIS21 initiatives, International Comparison Programme (ICP-Africa),

