Encountering what counts

Statistics between progress and new challenges

On behalf of
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Capacity Building International
Germany

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1 | Statistics between progress and new challenges

A Foreword by Thomas Wollnik

Since our first reader on Statistics and Development came out in 2006, much has been done in order to improve qualified data collection, management and dissemination in developing countries, especially in Africa. National, regional and international institutions and organizations have initiated numerous workshops, seminars, conferences and capacity building measurements to achieve better statistical methods and systems.

Among the many efforts undertaken are endeavours to build up reliable data bases for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and their achievements as well as those of National Poverty Reduction Plans. Other important initiatives are efforts for better mainstreaming of statistics*, preparation and capacity building for the 2010 census round in African countries, preparations for the 57th Congress of the International Statistical Institute to be held in Durban, South Africa, in August 2009 and – of course – the development of an African Charter on Statistics.

This Charter is supposed to apply to all Member States and African Statistical Institutions and help clarify the critical roles of the African Union Commission, AUC, the African Development Bank, AfDB, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA as well as partner organizations outside the continent. This Charter will aim to serve as an advocacy tool of statistics, strengthen the coordination of statistical activities across the continent, promote adherence to international standards and professionalism in statistics, and ensure the production of a qualitative data.**

Increased networking of National Statistical Associations

In addition to all that, we are witnessing increased strengthening and networking of National Statistical Associations across Africa, as well as the establishment of new national associations. Nevertheless, despite these progresses, there are more and new challenges for statistics, coming up with changes and developments in modern global society. Environmental programs, climate change and the need for more gender equality to adress poverty and ensure social development for all are two major challenges. Statistics have to deal with these new developments, because only with reliable data and figures, effective policies and strategies can be designed and implemented to find solutions for the many

* See also InWEnt-Reader Vol. 2, Opening up the Closed-Shop, Mainstreaming statistics and linking them to daily life, Bonn, October 2007.

** The draft African Charter on Statistics was submitted to and validated by Representatives of National Statistical Offices during a meeting in Rwanda, June 2007 and is considered by the Conference of Justice, which was held in October 2008. It will be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2009. See also Chap. 6.

problems related to these developments. In the case of climate change for instance, more precise data on a regional and local level are urgently needed in order to make better forecasts. With regard to gender equality and social justice there is a need to "engender" statistics – meaning, that data should not just be disaggregated by sex but also be collected, managed and disseminated in such a way that they reflect the often different social situation and conditions of men and women, boys and girls. This includes taking into account the different impacts that many policies and/or budget decisions have for the life of women and men.

Another big challenge for statistics and statisticians is the situation of post-conflict countries, trying to rebuild their nation and their infrastructure. On one hand, they are heavily depending on reliable data to do so, on the other hand they are facing an enormous and extremely difficult task to get, manage and disseminate these data.

Insight into the current situation

This reader focuses on all the challenges mentioned above, trying to provide you with the actual state of discussions and with new proposals, initiatives and methods to better deal with these challenges. It gives an insight into the current situation in various countries and presents comprehensive efforts and best-practice examples for the three key aspects of environmental and climate change, gender and post-conflict situations. A last chapter deals with the question of whether specific African Statistics are needed and what has to be done on the continent to enhance the situation.

Dr. Luiz Ramalho,
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Environmental and Social Statistics

A platform for further discussion

Doing so, the reader also wants to serve as a platform for further discussion amongst statisticians, development experts, students and the interested public as a whole. Therefore, we welcome comments, suggestions and contributions and we would be glad to know about your experience with difficult issues such as statistics on climate change, gender statistics or rebuilding a National Statistical System after a war or conflict.

No time to lose

There is no time to lose, since these problems are global and affecting all of us. And it is obvious that the needs of society and demands for data have changed radically – with statistics generally evolving more slowly. InWEnt has implemented various capacity building instruments and trainings to deal with the key problems – efforts of which you can also read about in this publication.

These are efforts, dedicated to contribute to an improved and quick adaptation of new demands and challenges by statistics, thereby keeping statistics on the track towards progress.

2 | Measuring mother nature

Difficulties and requirements of environmental statistics

2.1 Searching the baseline: Environmental statistics in Africa

Given a growing relationship between conservation and poverty alleviation on one hand and new threats to the worldwide environment, such as global warming and climate change on the other, environmental statistics are becoming increasingly important – especially for Africa. The continent ranks among the regions of the world mostly affected by climate and other environmental changes. Therefore, environmental statistics have become a strategic instrument in the political decision process. Particularly the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations and the Millennium Development Goals emphasize the need for monitoring country progress towards ensuring environmental sustainability until 2015.

Weak, out-dated and fragmentized

But in many countries in Africa and in the developing world as such, data on the environment and climate are still weak, often out-dated and highly fragmentized. Different institutions collect data – but each one of them in their own way, without any set formula of compilation. Collaboration is often poor, exchange of data and information between the different institutions, agencies and ministries is insufficient.

In some regions, the figures on forest stand vary up to 30 per cent! Precise data on land use, air pollution, quality of drinking water, amount of waste or the degree of greenhouse gas emission are also not available in many countries. In some cases, people do have a certain notion of environmental destruction and damage, but concrete figures are lacking. In other cases, there is data on a certain phenomenon, such as deforestation and increasing fire wood demand. But there are either no or only insufficient methods and tools to further measure the resulting impact chains, such as land degradation, climate change with reduced rainfall and desertification, loss of farming land and increasing poverty of the rural population.

Where there is no data, there is no evidence – and only very little ground for environmental policies and decisions. Where data

A sound environment, like the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, is vital for human life and development. But conservation measurements are poor in many developing countries – also due to the lack of precise data. Photo: Hoegen

on the present state of environment, the baseline for future scenarios, is lacking, it is very difficult to come up with good forecasts and appropriate strategies for sustainable development. Monitoring conservation measurements or implementing environmental laws is also almost impossible without good statistics. Furthermore, the lack of data often leads to a lack of consciousness about the importance of conservation and sustainability in general – resulting in careless behaviour towards the environment. Reliable statistics on the other hand can demonstrate to politicians and the people alike how much they are all affected by water and air pollution, carbon dioxide emission or deforestation in their daily life.

– Statistics thereby raise awareness, contribute to behavioural change, increase the public demand and pressure for environmental policies and enable politicians to develop appropriate strategies for sustainability. Such strategies, based on sound statistics, can be integrated into national plans for development and poverty reduction. Establishing the capacity and institutions for more and better environmental statistics is therefore of outmost importance for developing countries – and especially Africa.

Duplication and fragmentation: The example of Ghana

Every now and then Michael Pappoe takes his afternoon drink at the Osekan Bar in the old part of Accra. Sitting there, close to the cliffs, he recognizes a remarkable rise of the sea level. "When I was a child, the waves never came up that high", Michael remembers. But apart from his memory, he has got very little evidence for this behavioural change of mother nature. Not that other Ghanaians wouldn't notice the rising sea level as well – but concrete and up-to-date figures on this phenomenon are as rare or inaccurate as on many other environmental issues in Ghana.

With annual growth rates of up to seven per cent, an elected government and a relatively stable parliamentarian system, the West-African country and home of the "Gold Coast" is often seen as a role model for other African countries. But economic growth, increasing urbanization and industrialization mean that environmental problems are growing too. Various environmental laws have been introduced since the early 90's. Implementation and monitoring still remain a problem. Environmental statistics are quite poor, as in many other African countries.

Proper planning seems impossible

"Fragmentation is the biggest problem that we have with regard to data and statistics on the environment", Michael Pappoe explains. He works as Assistant Programme Officer in the Chemicals Control and Management Centre of the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, in Accra. EPA was founded in 1994 and is the central agency for environmental planning in the country, with 360 branches across all regions which works on behalf of the government. But without proper statistics, proper planning is impossible.

Huge trees are amongst Africa's treasures. But more and more deforestation leads to land degradation and climate change. Photo: Akuzia

"It is difficult to know who has which information and which information is more reliable."

Michael Pappoe, EPA Ghana

"Many institutions are collecting data, but with different methods. The data are often not comparable", Michael Pappoe continues. And they are not easy to access: There is little collaboration between different data producers, many agencies are not ready to release their data to other users. "Whenever we are not the primary source of data, we encounter problems", Michael complains. He is also responsible for filling in the annual questionnaire of UNEP (United Nations Environments Programme).

The questions on water and water quality illustrate the difficulties. He has to struggle to get relevant data and figures from a long list of institutions – including the National Disaster Management Organization, the Meteorological Services Department, the Lands Commission, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority, the Forestry Commission, the Geological Survey Department, the Ghana Exports Promotion, the Ministry of Tourism – to name just a few. Michael Pappoe: "It is difficult to know who has which information and which information is more reliable."

Improve coverage

The lack of standardized methods for data acquisition and interpretation was also identified as a major problem of environmental statistics during an ECOWAS-Workshop in Nigeria in May 2008. Michael: "Almost all the countries had a similar problem." According to him and other experts it is therefore imperative that state and private stakeholders involved in data collection about different aspects of the environment are brought on board. A central Environmental Statistics Database has to be established which collects input from data producers and users to improve coverage. Sound statistical methodology for data acquisition and analysis should be developed or adopted to ensure sound baseline information acquisition.

A first step in this direction is already planned: A national workshop including different data producers and users in Ghana is to take place before the end of 2008 – a proposal formulated by Michael Pappoe together with Peter Takyi Peprah from the Statistical Service Ghana. He is equally aware of the strong fragmentation and other weaknesses faced by environmental statistics in Ghana – as in many other countries, as shown in the graph.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	Weaknesses
• A lot of Data is available • There are a lot of experts (highly trained personnel) • IT Facilities are available • Ratification of several International conventions	• Organizations are unable to cooperate well to share information • A lot of duplication of data collection • Lack of capacity • Lack of interest in the field
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Capacity Building programmes such as this (inWEnt) • A lot of available information from international organizations e.g. UNSD	• A lot of information is not up to date • Inability to picture the real issues

Source: InWEnt Course –Statistical Indicators for Environmental Policy in Africa 2007, The Case Study of Ghana, Presentation by Michael Pappoe, EPA.

Another initiative is a project for "Development of environmental indicators for State of Environment Report (SOE)", that is planned to be implemented with the financial support of the Spanish government. Ghana launched an SOE in 2005, giving an overview of the state of the nation's environment and providing a basis for a comprehensive data compilation of environmental resources. "However, use was not made of quantitative environmental indicators focusing on national needs as a basis for tracking

People are no longer allowed to take away sand from the coastal zones in Ghana – bricks have to be made on the spot.
Photos: Akuzia

environmental changes", as the draft proposal for the project on SOE indicators states. InWEnt also supports Ghana in improving its environmental statistics, within the framework of a proposed project to improve Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Time to act in Ghana

It is time to act. Major environmental concerns in Ghana are land degradation, coastal erosion, pollution of rivers and lagoons, deforestation, desertification and waste management. Pollution of water, for instance, is caused by mining activities, indiscriminate waste disposal, farming along river banks, indiscriminate defecation as well as pollution by manufacturing industries. The pollution does a lot of damage to aquatic life, causes poor water quality and toxic water sources.

Another, new area of concern are the oil reserves recently found offshore Ghana, close to Cape Three Points near Axim, Western Region, 60 kilometres from the port of Takoradi.* The area is surrounded by a lush green forest of biodiversity which was declared a forest reserve in 1949. What impacts will oil exploration have on the environment in the coming years? In which way will the people in the area, the animal population, plants, water and land be affected? These are open questions to which environmental statistics in Ghana must give reliable answers in the near future.

So far, Ghana's former "Gold Coast" is already very much affected by environmental changes. The coastal zone makes up 6.5 per cent of the country. Population density is much higher than in the rest of the country, with 263 inhabitants per square kilometre as against the national density of 67 per square kilometre. The coastal zone accommodates 25 per cent of the population and over 60 per cent of industrial establishments. It is also characterized by a high urbanisation rate with 51 per cent, compared to a national rate of 35.4 per cent – but here again, the data are old and taken from World Bank and EPA statistics from the year 1996.

Sand extraction is banned

Anyhow, this much is clear: Increasing population density in the coastal zone causes many environmental problems – one of them being coastal erosion, at an estimated average rate of five meters per year. The erosion is caused by several factors including hydro-geologic conditions like reinforcement of onshore waves due to wave refraction from adjacent headlands and man-made structures like breakwaters. Sand and pebble extraction is another problem, which is why sand extraction along the coasts is banned by the government to a large extent.

* The recent findings – after a 20-year search for the reserves – have caused a lot of discussion in Ghana, to which the oil might bring new and unexpected wealth, but which might also create new sources of conflict and disturbance. It is estimated by the UK firm Tullow Oil that there are about 600 million barrels of light oil offshore of Ghana.

"People know they should not throw their garbage in the sea – but what alternatives do they have?"

Peter Takye Preprah, Statistical Service

All along the beaches near Accra and beyond, huge amounts of garbage are washed on to the shore by the sea. Photo: Akuzia

Another big problem is the huge amount of garbage thrown into the sea by people and then washed on to the shore. Peter Takyi Peprah, working at the Health, Nutrition and Environment Statistics Section at Ghanas Statistical Service, established in 2002, knows about the problem. "People are also aware of the phenomenon and they know, they should not throw their garbage into the sea or use the coastal zone as their place of convenience", Peter explains. "But what alternatives do they have, especially those in poor dwellings along the beach, if we cannot provide them with waste collection and proper toilet facilities?"

According to Peter, there are no reliable and comprehensive statistics on the issue of waste in Ghana. The annual questionnaire of the United Nations Statistics Division, UNSTATS, contains questions concerning the tons of garbage waste disposed by the region. Peter: "But we do not have these data because each district has its own way to collect the garbage."

In Accra for instance, a private company is hired to collect the waste with trucks. The company is paid according to the number of journeys and transports completed. "So we do have an idea of the average amount of waste here in Accra", Peter concludes. But in rural areas it is more complicated. Individuals go to the dump side, burn their waste somewhere or dump it in the farm. To get data on the amount of garbage is very difficult in these cases. Even household surveys cannot provide statisticians with these figures, Peter continues : "People are not able to say how much waste they produce per month or per year."

Not aware of the extent of problems

The lack of data leads to a lack of awareness of many environmental problems. Waste, deforestation, lagoon or coastal pollution, surface mining or ozone depleting substances emitted by old cars or old refrigerators – a great deal of precise data is missing in Ghana and so people are not aware of the real extent of the problems. "We need more precise data to sensitize average people as well as politicians and decision makers to the damage that is taking place and to the need for environment protection measures", Peter concludes. Indeed, as he adds, better data acquisition requires strengthening the departments of environmental statistics within the National Statistical Systems.

→ Pollution of water bodies

Forecast of domestic pollution loads in coastal districts shows an alarming trend between 1994 to 2020. Under projected economic growth of 8.0 per cent per annum up to year 2020, 16 out of the 21 coastal districts will have 'high' and 'extreme' levels of domestic pollution by 2020. By the end of the same year 13 of the districts will have domestic pollution levels comparable to that of Accra.

Source: Statistical Indicators for Environmental Policy in Africa 2007, The Case Study of Ghana, Presentation by Michael Pappoe, EPA.

"If we had compiled figures on the effects of forest depletion or air pollution, politicians would pay more attention to environmental protection."

Peter Takye Preprah, Statistical Service Ghana

"Better data can raise awareness": Peter Takyi Peprah of Statistical Service Ghana (l.) and Michael Pappoe of EPA (r.) want to improve environmental statistics in their country. Photos: Hoegen/InWEnt

Peter: "We need to be a fully equipped entity – both in terms of human resources and equipment. And we would need at least three or four more statisticians in our section here, to do our work properly." To achieve more precise environmental statistics Peter Takyi Peprah also demands:

- to promote collaboration among stakeholders,
- to work with the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) Indicators* and have regular meetings among all stakeholders,
- to create awareness and disseminate available statistics, so that people not only know about environmental problems but about their effects and impact too.

In many cases the effects – for example of forest depletion or air pollution – are already very well known, as Peter continues. "But we do not have compiled figures so people can continue to ignore the problem. If we had the relevant figures on effects and could measure impact chains as well, then – I am pretty sure – politicians would pay more attention to environmental protection."

→ Source of cooking fuel:

Wood	53.5 %
Charcoal	30.6 %
Gas	9.5 %
Electricity	0.3 %

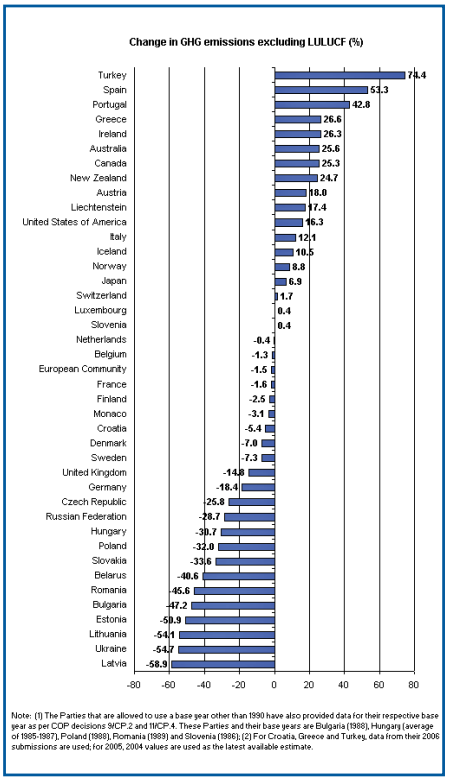
Source: Ghana Living Standard Survey, 2005/06.

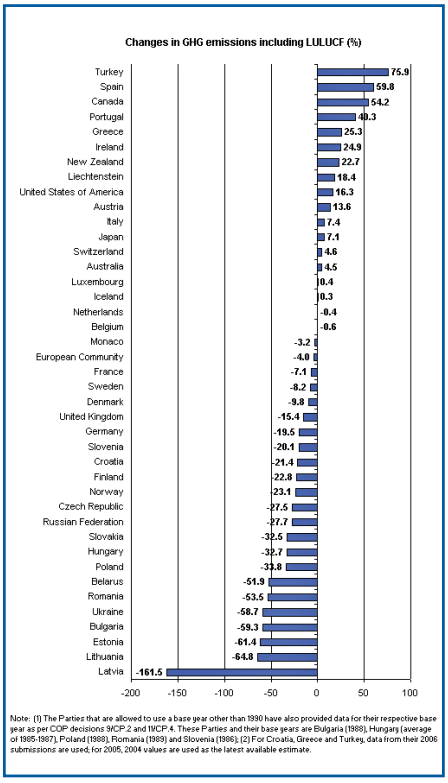
* As an example, see also Annex, p. 75, MDG Methodology for Carbon Dioxide Emissions, from: Draft methodology sheets for Environment Statistics and Indicators, Ghana Copy, Ecowas-Workshop May 2008, Abuja/Nigeria.

2.2 Urgent, but difficult to get: Data related to climate change

As climate change with its devastating impact on mankind and the environment becomes an increasing problem, more and better data on this phenomenon and its adverse effects is also needed. Statistics on greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere – such as CO_2, carbon dioxide, CH_4, methane, N_2=, nitrous oxide, PFCs, perfluorocarbons, HFCs, hydrofluorocarbons and SF6, sulphur hexafluoride – are especially important. As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states: "Accurate, consistent and internationally comparable data on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) is essential for the international community to take the most appropriate action to mitigate climate change, and ultimately to achieve the objective of the Convention."

Therefore, a special reporting system was installed: In accordance with Articles 4 and 12 of the Climate Change Convention, Parties to the Convention must submit national reports on implementation of the Convention, releasing information on





Source: UNFCCC. LULUCF = Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry: Total emissions and removals from activities relating to land use, land-use change and forestry (from the categories: forest land, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and other land)

Statistics on greenhouse gas emissions are getting more and more important – also for developing countries whose industrialized sector is increasing. Here: Harbour of Takoradi, West/Ghana. Photo: Hoegen

emissions and removals of greenhouse gases and details of the activities undertaken to implement the Convention. But the requirements for industrialized countries are different to those for developing countries. So called Annex-1 Parties (the industrialized states) are required to submit information on their national inventories annually, and to submit national communications periodically. But there are no fixed dates for the submission of national communications of non-Annex 1 Parties (developing and emerging countries). "Although these documents should be submitted within four years of the initial disbursement of financial resources to assist them in preparing their national communications", as UNFCCC states.

Many reports related to climate change are outdated

In fact, despite financial and technical assistance for Non-Annex 1 Parties in preparing these national communications and improving their statistics related to climate change, a lot of developing countries still lack the methods and means to collect accurate data. Many national reports to UNFCCC by the developing countries are outdated. "For us it is very difficult to measure the concentration of greenhouse gas in our atmosphere", William Kojo Agymenang-Bonsu from the National Climate Change Focal Point at the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, in Ghana explains.* "We do not get the data, because a lot of our industrial companies do not collect data on a regular basis or don't keep them for long. There are hardly any updates on older statistics related to emissions and a lot of gaps. The same is true for governmental institutions, collecting these kind of data."

Similar problems in other African countries

Statisticians in other African countries face similar problems. When it comes to climate change, information is mostly available on global trends. But there is hardly any precise data on the regional, let alone national or local level. Rainfall, average temperature per year – in many countries the meteorological data for different regions and climate zones do not exist, due to weak meteorological systems and few or old-fashioned observation stations. Until now so many countries have had to rely on global circulation models to design climate scenarios, making it rather impossible to get precise forecasts for regions and sub-regions. "We estimate that the rise of temperature in our region will be 4.5 per cent by the year 2080", William Kojo Agymenang-Bonsu from EPA/Ghana continues. This would lead to a rainfall decrease of 20 per cent. "But if we had local data, our forecasts would be much more precise and this might lead to more political action."

* Ghanas Enviromental Protection Agency was also host to the 2008 UN Negotiations in Ghana's Capital Accra.

Sources & availability of GHG data for non-Annex I Parties

Party	Data source	Data availability by year
Algeria	NCI (2001)	1994
Angola	NCI n.a.	–
Benin	NCI (2002)	1995
Botswana	NCI (2001)	1994
Burkina Faso	NCI (2002)	1994
Burundi	NCI (2001)	1998
Cameroon	NCI (2005)	1994
Cape Verde	NCI (2000)	1995
Central African Republic	NCI (2003)	1994
Chad	NCI (2001)	1993
Comoros	NCI (2003)	1994
Congo	NCI (2001)	1994
Côte d'Ivoire	NCI (2001)	1994
Democratic Republic of the Congo	NCI (2000)	1994
Djibouti	NCI (2002)	1994
Egypt	NCI (1999)	1990
Equatorial Guinea	NCI n.a.	–
Eritrea	NCI (2002)	1994-2000
Ethiopia	NCI (2001)	1990-1995
Gabon	NCI (2004)	1994
Gambia	NCI (2003)	1993
Ghana	NCI (2001)	1990-1996
Guinea	NCI (2002)	1994
Guinea-Bissau	NCI (2005)	1994
Kenya	NCI (2002)	1994
Lesotho	NCI (2000)	1994
Liberia	NCI n.a.	–
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	NCI n.a.	–
Madagascar	NCI (2004)	1994
Malawi	NCI (2003)	1990, 1994
Malaysia	NCI (2000)	1994
Mali	NCI (2000)	1995
Mauritania	NCI (2002)	1995
Mauritius	NCI (1999)	1995
Morocco	NCI (2001)	1994
Mozambique	NCI (2006)	1990, 1994
Namibia	NCI (2002)	1994
Niger	NCI (2000)	1990
Nigeria	NCI (2003)	1994
Rwanda	NCI (2005)	2002
São Tomé and Príncipe	NCI (2005)	1998
Senegal	NCI (1997)	1994, 1995
Seychelles	NCI (2000)	1995
Sierra Leone	NCI (2007)	1990-1995
South Africa	NCI (2003)	1990, 1994
Sudan	NCI (2003)	1995
Swaziland	NCI (2002)	1994
Togo	NCI (2001)	1992-1998
Tunisia	NCI (2001)	1994
Uganda	NCI (2002)	1994
United Republic of Tanzania	NCI (2003)	1990, 1994
Zambia	NCI (2004)	1994
Zimbabwe	NCI (1998)	1994

Note: NCI = initial national communication; NC2 = second national communication, INV = separate GHG inventory. The „–" symbol indicates that data are not available, because either the initial national communication is not yet available, or GHG data from the national communication have not yet been processed and included in the database, or the national communication does not contain GHG data.

Meanwhile, the scientific and political debate on environmental and climate change undoubtedly reflects the enormous need for a kind of statistical information which not only provides single figures, but also creates transparency about the driving forces and impacts of these changes. In particular, the extremely complex linkages between economic, social and technological development and their interactions relevant to climate change require a comprehensive and sophisticated level of scientific analyses. Therefore linking social, environmental and economic information comprehensively is essential to these types of analyses.

Challenging tasks

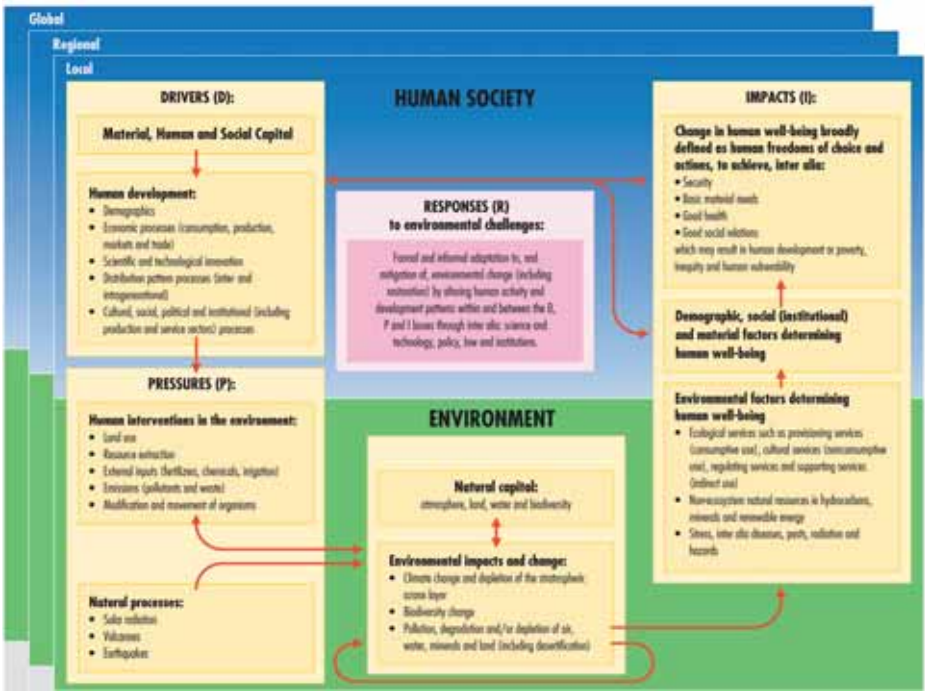
Statistical information systems dealing with climate change have to:

– provide new types of information and
– organize a complexity and multiplicity of information.

With regard to these challenging tasks, conceptual frameworks can be a powerful and efficient tool, helping to organize statistical information about the process of climate change in its economic, social and environmental dimensions respectively. Moreover conceptual frameworks can give guidance for the identification of specific information needs. Conceptual frameworks such as the Driving-Force/Pressure/State/Impact and Response framework (DPSIR) are nowadays widely used in the field of environmental statistics and environmental policy.

"Vital Statistics"

Seeing is believing: Data and figures together with maps and photos can help to better comprehend the impact of environmental and climate change: An atlas showing the dramatic effects of climate change has been unveiled by the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP. The publication entitled "Africa: Atlas of our Changing Environment," launched in June 2008, features over 150 maps, 316 satellite images and 319 ground photos taken in every country in Africa. The "before" and "after" photographs, some of which span a 35-year period, offer striking snapshots of environmental change across the continent.
→ www.unep.org/publications



Source: UNEP Global Environmental Outlook 4, 2007

Just to give one example: UNEPs "Global Environmental Outlook" makes use of the DPSIR in order to identify:

– the most important trends in environmental change (driving forces),
– the specific pressures exerted on the environment (pressure),
– the state of environment (state)
– the impact of environmental change on society, on economies and on ecosystems (impacts).

Such a sound analysis should help societies to identify adequate responses to existing or potential degradation of the environment (responses).

Forest decline and climate change

by Mugambwa Everest Kizito

District Environment Officers plant trees at Nabyewanga hill in Masaka District during their 2007 General Annual meeting organized by NEMA. Photos: Kizito

– Growing up in a peasants' home had many challenges but we did not feel so much pain because we had come to terms with our poverty. It was because at that time people had better ways of co-existing with the environment. I remember an open well called Kyaka (one that shines) where no one was allowed to carry dirty containers or else you could annoy the Kalinda luzzi (spirits that guard the well). Then I remember my grandmother's goat called Byeyunamuggagga (good things go to the rich) which she never used to tether from any where but where she was sure of enough grass. The old woman knew the carrying capacity concept.*

Today things have changed. Uganda ranks among those countries, where the environment, especially the forest is very much endangered. Meanwhile, it is widely acknowledged by the international community, that deforestation, which results in the immediate release of CO_2 emissions into the atmosphere, is a significant contributor to human-induced climate change.**

* "Carrying capacity" refers to the number of individuals who can be supported in a given area within natural resource limits, and without degrading the natural social, cultural and economic environment for present and future generations.

** In 2007, at the Conference on Climate Change in Bali, the issue of deforestation was very high on the agenda and governments adopted a major decision, which provides a mandate for governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders to stimulate action on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Under the process of the Bali Action Plan, discussions on this important topic are going on in 2008 – like at the Conference on Climate Change in Accra/Ghana in August 2008 - and 2009. For more information, refer to the website of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), www.unfccc.int

→ Uganda's forest cover

Vegetation Forest cover in (ha)	1990	2000	2005
Plantations – Broadleaved	18,682	15,326	13,881
Plantations – Pines	16,384	13,441	12,174
Tropical High Forest normal	650,151	533,350	483,072
Tropical High Forest depleted	274,057	224,822	203,628
Woodlands	3,974,090	3,260,138	2,952,807
Total	4,933,364	4,047,076	3,665,562

Source: National Forest Authority Uganda, 2006

In our country, wood-fuel takes a great fraction of the forests. According to the 2006/2007 State of Environment Report for Uganda (SOER), 92 per cent of Ugandans depend on fuel-wood for their energy needs. That leaves only 8 per cent on the other forms and you can imagine the pressure exerted on our forests. Deforestation accounts for up to 25 per cent of the global emissions of the greenhouse gases. The SOER suggests that the current forestland in Uganda is only 20 per cent of its original size in 1890.

The size of Uganda's forests has declined by 25.7 per cent between 1990 and 2000 and by 9.4 per cent since 2000 to date. It is said that over the last century, global temperatures have risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius and that if deforestation continues at this rate the earth could be 1 degree warmer by 2025 and 3 degrees centigrade warmer by 2100. Uganda's Department of Meteorology predicts that with only a two degree rise in temperatures, 90 per cent of Uganda's coffee growing land will no longer be fit for coffee growing. This example shows the strong linkage between the decline of forest and climate change. It also shows that precise environmental data – like those on forest for instance – are indispensable for good forecasts on climate change and its impact.

Alarming figures can also wake up people and lead to action. In Uganda, World Environment Day 2007 had the theme "Global Warming Is Real: Green Your Environment, Plant More Trees". It was celebrated at Nkaiga Primary School, Sub-county, Kasese District-Uganda on 5th June – a celebration that put theory into practice: With the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) taking the front seat, at least 10,000 trees were planted in different sub-counties of Kasese District.

That Climate Change is no theory could also be felt by Ugandans later on in the year, when between August and November 2007 Uganda suddenly experienced very heavy rains that were locally named 'Teso floods' as Teso region was the most affected.

Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water and Environment plants a tree at Mubuku Primary school during World Environment Day 2007.

2.3 Integration instead of single projects – the InWEnt approach

– Sometimes ambitious scientific approaches are not much in accordance with African reality. "We had an expert on Geo Information Systems, GIS, telling our participants in the course on Environmental Statistics to download one of his relevant maps", Dr. Bernd Gutterer, consultant and InWEnt-Trainer recalls. "Of course they can do that as long as they are in a classroom in Bonn, having access to fast internet lines. But how could they work with such a tool in Africa, with its still slow and sometimes backward IT-systems? The map consisted of 600 Megabytes!"

Practical solutions

So a major principle behind the InWEnt courses on Environmental Statistics and Statistics related to Climate Change is to come up with practical solutions that fit into the daily working conditions of African statisticians. Knowledge of environmental statistics should be transferable and integrated into national statistical systems.* Therefore the essence of the InWEnt approach is not to promote single projects or single capacities but to focus on institution building.

One key factor here is the exchange of experience amongst participants. In several case studies they present each other the state of environment and statistics related to the environment in their respective countries. This way they also offer each other ways in which to tackle the challenge of getting more precise, up-to-date and reliable data on the environment and the impact of climate change.

Exchange of experience is essential: Idy Niang from Senegal (l.) and Lassina Pare from Burkina Faso duringan InWEnt course on Environmental Statistics in Bonn. Photos: Hoegen

The essence of the InWEnt approach is to focus on institution building.

* See also: Interview with InWEnt –Senior Project Manager Uwe Singer, p. 22.

"Understanding the real dimension of the problems."

Participants share their experience with the InWEnt approach

„We need precise statistics to convince politicians"

– Most of our data are too old – with regard to our forest stand we rely on FAO data from 1981! But to convince politicians to take the right decisions, we would need precise statistics. We know, for instance, that the number of forest fires has increased, but the money spent on fighting these fires has been stripped down by the government. Before, one million US-Dollars was spent on this, now it is only half of it – while we would actually need around three million to effectively stop the destruction of our forest. If we could provide our decision makers with exact figures on how big the annual loss of forest is, they would be able to better understand and recognize the dimension of the problem – and give us the money that we really need. We also need clear instructions for the different institutions, collecting data, to publish this information and share it with each other. Even me, I sometimes only have access to certain figures because of my personal relation to someone within an institution.

Ethmane Ould Boubacar, Director of the Nature Protection Service within the Ministry of Environment, Mauritania.

„We cannot develop without protecting our environment."

– In the past we did not have centralized statistics on environment. The Ministry of Environment and our Institute – both of us we are collecting data. Now we need to cooperate and harmonize our statistics. This is of outmost importance also with regard to the climate change and the need for precise figures on its consequences on a national and regional level. In Cameroon we have founded a committee on climate change, members being government officials, statisticians and experts on environment. I will be the one in charge preparing the relevant documents for our director who is also a member of this new committee – so I will depend on reliable statistics. It is clear to me: We cannot develop without protecting our environment."

**Marie Antoinette Fomo,
Employee in the Division of demographic and social Statistics,
National Institute for Statistics, Cameroon.**

"We want to integrate environmental statistics into our national plans on poverty reduction."

– In Burkina Faso we have started a project – supported by the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP – to develop a system of Environmental-Economic Account.* We have started by analyzing how much we spend on environment protection, to what extend natural resources like forest, water and land are used and exploited, how many hectares of land are used for agriculture, how many are left for forest, what is the demand for water supply, etc. Of course thereby we are raising an inventory and we do not have a real Economic-Environmental Account as yet, but it is a first and important step. We are currently also working on programmes to get better data on climate change. We want to integrate environmental statistics into our national plans on poverty reduction.

Lassina Pare,
Statistician and Economist at the
Ministry of Environment, Burkina Faso.

"We need to improve and strengthen our structures with regard to statistics."

– Environmental Statistics is a new and very important task for the African countries. So far we only have very few experts specialized in this area. We need to improve on this and to strengthen our national structures with regard to statistics – especially statistics on environment. But this can only be done if we get more financial support. I was very impressed to learn that Burkina Faso is currently trying to build up a system of Environmental-Economic Account. I think we should also try to initiate a project like this in Senegal. People in our countries have to become more aware of the strong linkage between environmental protection and poverty reduction – good statistics definitely contribute to that.

Idy Niang,
Inspector at the Ministry of Environment,
Senegal, responsible for controlling
environmental standards in national companies.

* Environmental-Economic Account, EEA, aims to report the interrelations between the economy and the environment of a country in numerical terms. The method used is closely related to that of national accounts. One of the pioneers in EEA is Germany. See also: Walter Radermacher, President of the Federal Statistical Office in Germany, InWEnt Reader "Opening up the Closed-Shop", Bonn 2007, pp. 18.

"Fragmented data on environment make our work extremely difficult."

— Land degradation, especially in the North, and destruction of the mangroves along the coastal line are two major problems that we are facing in Cameroon. But so far, data on environment are published by different institutions and therefore are highly fragmentized, sometimes even contradictory. This makes our work as a non-governmental organization, trying to protect nature, extremely difficult. We need better and harmonized statistics on environment. Why? Because you can only fight problems like those mentioned above, once you know exactly about their dimensions.

Jonas Kemajou Syapze,
Director of OPED
(Organisation for sustainable environment and development),
Yaoundé, Cameroon.

"Reliable data can help us to raise this awareness."

— In our country, environmental awareness is not very high. People think this is only about planting trees and that's it. But we have to understand that environmental protection is much more complex. Reliable data can help us to raise this awareness – also amongst our politicians. To date, environmental policies and the fight against the consequences of climate change do not have priority in our country. But if we would have statistics and precise scenarios that would show us how little water and fruitful land we will have in the future unless we change our behaviour, then we might be able to influence politics. With precise data you are able to recognize your own concernment.

Severine Bationo/Kassono,
Ministry of Environment and Habitat,
Burkina Faso.

"Statistics on climate change are part of the system."

Dr. Uwe Singer is Senior Project Manager at the InWEnt Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics. He is responsible for the trainings on environmental statistics and statistics related to climate change. Before joining InWEnt in 2007 he worked six years in an interdisciplinary research project on "Global environmental change and resource management in Western Africa" at the University Bonn. The research area was located in Benin.

Mr Singer, what are the biggest challenges for Environmental Statistics in Africa at the time being?

Uwe Singer: One of the main problems, of course, is the lack of reliable and recent data. This does not only make it extremely difficult to analyze the present state of the environment in a lot of countries. It also hampers forecasts – e.g. when it comes to the impact chains of environmental and climate changes. To know, what environmental, socio-ecological or macro-economical consequences climate change will have in upcoming years, a lot of scientists and environmental agencies develop future scenarios – such as the "Allafia Benin (Wellbeing of Benin) 2025". These scenarios are based on existing data which build up their baseline.

Can you give an example for this?

Singer: So, for instance, you take the use of energy in a country: What will happen if we continue to rely mostly on fossil fuels, like coal, fire wood, gas and oil? Or – alternatively – how much will carbon dioxide emission be reduced if we use more renewable energy? These are the kind of scenarios – negative and positive – that are developed. But a scenario can only be as good as the data and baseline that it is built upon. And with bad or insufficient data you cannot develop a good scenario.

What instruments do we need to get better Environmental Statistics?

Singer: There are already methods to get better data on environment – like the so called GIS, Geo Information Systems. Based on remote sensing and satellite pictures, you get improved statistical information on a country's forest stand, for instance. Combined with additional information on population growth or economic development, remote sensing data can be modelled into more precise future scenarios. In some African countries we do find ambitious but limited projects on remote sensing and GIS, supported by international donors. And here we come to a second major problem: These projects are not integrated into the national statistical systems and policies. There is hardly any sustainable transfer of capacity and knowledge. African countries only have very few experts in remote sensing and GIS.

An effort to reduce climate change and the emission of carbon dioxide in a cost-effective way, is Emission Trading. One of its components is the Clean Development Mechanism, CDM – Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol. In which way improved statistics are also needed for this?

Singer: CDM allows e.g. an industrialized country, falling under a limit of carbon dioxide emission, to reduce its emission by implementing an environmental and emission-saving project in a developing country. The industrialized country can get Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) in return. But CDM is very controversial, because it is difficult to measure how many emissions are really saved. To get a climate protection project registered for CDM the so called PDD, Project Design Document, is needed. It develops a reference scenario or baseline, measuring the amount of emission without the climate protection project. This baseline is compared to the – reduced – degree of carbon dioxide emission forecasted for the scenario with the climate protection project. Another element of PDD is a detailed monitoring plan. For this and for a reliable baseline to measure the emissions, more precise data would definitely be needed.

Does all this mean we need a new kind of statistics for measuring climate change and its impacts?

Singer: No. Good environmental statistics have to be the basis for any statistics related to climate change. It is possible to have Environmental Statistics without data on climate change but not vice versa. Sometimes, the environmental data are there. But they have to be interpreted and analyzed in a new way to find out about the impact chains such as climate change. For instance, we might know the forest stand of a country. Now we need to find out exactly, how much carbon dioxide can be absorbed by how many hectares of forest. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Secretariat is actually conducting trainings on this in various developing countries. People e.g. also learn how to measure the degree of methane gas emission by relating it to the amount of cows and other animals in the country. They also learn to define which plants absorb how much carbon dioxide. But again: These are single workshops, the knowledge and the methods are not integrated into National Statistical Systems as yet. It is the same with the reporting system of UNFCCC, obligatory for those countries who signed the Convention. The data and information collected for these reports are so far not used in all cases for national policies and national strategies on environment protection.

What is the approach of InWEnt towards this situation?

Singer: We as InWEnt want to enable the participants of our trainings, to integrate environmental statistics and statistics related to climate change into the national statistical system. In many countries, we do already have the situation that data collection and dissemination is highly fragmentized and not harmonized. We do not need climate change statistics on top of that. What we need is an integrated system.

"We do not need climate change statistics on top. What we need is an integrated system."

How can such an integrated system be built up?

Singer: In every national statistical system a focal point on Statistics related to climate change should be developed. Someone in the field of environmental statistics should be in charge of collecting, analyzing and monitoring data relevant to climate change and its impacts from different sectors, such as the water and the agrarian sector amongst others.

3 | For women only? Not at all…

The overall need for gender statistics in modern societies

3.1 Background: Gender equality is indispensable for development

"The advancement of women and achievement of equality between women and men are a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and should not be seen in isolation as a women's issue. They are the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. Empowerment of women and equality between women and men are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all peoples."

Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995, Paragraph 4.

→ Quick facts on MDG 3:

- Of the 113 countries that failed to achieve gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolment by the target date of 2005, only 18 are likely to achieve the goal by 2015.
- Girls account for 55 per cent of the out-of-school population.
- Since 2000, the proportion of seats for women in parliaments only increased from 13.5 to 17.9 per cent. Women occupy at least 30 per cent of parliamentary seats in 20 countries, although none of these countries are in Asia.*

* See also Annex, p. 73, Fact Sheet on Goal 3, provided by "EndPoverty2015" for the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 25. September 2008.

Gender, i.e. the relationship between men and women in various social areas and the role of women in particular, has played an important role in the debate about development cooperation and development projects for several years now. There is universal recognition that gender equality and women's empowerment are necessary conditions to development.

And a series of United Nations intergovernmental resolutions provide a mandate for the development of policies on the advancement of women and gender equality as well as for the statistics required for the

Traditional statistics often neglect the issues and specific situation of women, especially when it comes to labour. Photo: Akuzia

development of these policies. These include the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discriminaion against Women I 1970, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and the Millennium Development Goals 2000 – especially Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

Many national governments have their own specific policy and legislative programmes to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality. However, data on this topic is often not available or lacks sufficient quality – on the international level as well as on national levels. Basic aspects of development related to gender or the outcome of gender-based policies can not be monitored in an appropriate way. For example, only some of the dimensions of gender equality and empowerment are captured by the three indicators under MDG 3. A lot of national statistics also lack the methods and means to collect gender-based data.

Certain important frameworks and methods traditionally used in official statistics are biased against women or men and thus women's or men's activities and preferences are not fully reflected. In addition

A lot of women may live in a household with fairly good income – without having any access to the money themselves.

the concept of the household, the basis for much policy-orientated data analysis, assumes a homogeneity of all household members. This approach is often justified by the assumption that within the household there is an equitable pooling of resources – but this is often not the case. A lot of women, especially in the developing countries, might live in a household with a fairly good income, without having any access to or saying over the money or property themselves. Thus, the number of women worldwide who can be considered as "poor" most likely exceeds the number given in traditional statistics. Use of the household unit in poverty analysis therefore renders divisions associated with gender invisible. It obscures gender inequalities in the distribution of resources within the household. Hence, it would be necessary to collect data on income and resources on a more individual level as well as on the level of the household unit.

Women's labour outside the analysis

Another example of bias in statistical concepts is the definition of what is economic. The traditional approach to the economy focuses on the monetised sector which can be represented in measures such as the gross domestic product. This ignores unpaid domestic labour i.e non-economic labour in the home, leaving a significant part of women's contribution outside the analysis. To understand the full provision of goods and services in a country, it is therefore important to have comprehensive data on all kinds of work.

Unpaid work, like that carried out by many women in housekeeping or home care is not usually measured – even though it contributes substantially to the GDP and the economy of a society. Photo: Akuzia

3.2 Much more than just disaggregating data by sex: The recent debate*

The recent debate on gender statistics has established the importance of having and improving gender statistics amongst statisticians and experts around the globe. Discussion of this topic has greatly intensified.** One of the main events in this regard was the Global Forum on Gender Statistics, held in Rome, Italy, 10 – 12 December 2007.*** The Forum revealed that many key players have come up with new initiatives on the issue. The World Bank, for instance, is currently developing an international action plan for the empowerment of women. It will consist of four main pillars: Employment, credit, markets/sellers and resources/property/land rights. And: "Gender Statistics will be essential for this plan as it is difficult to assess which policies work out without statistics", as Lucia Fort, Gender Specialist at the World Bank pointed out during the Rome Conference.

Statistics according to gender required: Many key players have come up with new initiatives on the issue. Photo: Akuzia

Lack of progress in gender statistics

Other major players have also responded to the general lack of progress in gender statistics: The United Nations has established a Gender Statistics Global Forum to promote the continuous assessment of global trends in the development of gender statistics and quicken the pace of development of statistics while the Statistical Commission for Africa (STACOM-Africa) has set up a standing Working Group on Gender Statistics. The Africa Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS) has developed the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), to focus on gender inequalities and the value of statistics in assessing and monitoring progress.

* Chapter 3 is mainly based on the Final Report of the Global Forum on Gender Statistics, Rome/Italy, December 2007 and on documents and papers prepared for the Work Session on Gender Statistics, Geneva, 6. – 8. October 2008, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE.

** For the state of debate on gender statistics a few years ago, see also InWEnt Reader "Better figures for a better life – Statistics and their contribution to development", Bonn September 2006, pp. 34: A new challenge: Gender and statistics.

*** The Global Forum on Gender Statistics was organized by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), the Italian Presidency of the Council of ministers, Department of Rights and Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Nations (the Statistics Division and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Economic Commission for Europe), in collaboration with the World Bank. Italy is one of the countries, which, in response to the Women's Conference in Beijing, 1995, has been very active in the development of gender statistics. The Forum was attended by over 120 participants, representing more than 50 countries, 18 UN agencies and several other international organizations and development partners. The Forum was held as part of the UNSD Global Gender Statistics Programme to enhance the capacity of countries to collect, disseminate and use quality gender statistics. See also box: Conclusions, p. 33.

Sound statistics might help her to have equal chances in the near future: little girl in West Africa. Photo: Ulrich Schiefelbein

The system of indicators underlying the AGDI-Index provides a framework for targeting improvements in gender statistics. Initiatives promoting the national statistical development include the design and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) being undertaken by many of African countries coupled with regional action spearheaded by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Development Bank (AfDB), the Partnership In Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), and the World Bank, in association with other development partners. Together these offer an ideal opportunity for advancing this area of statistics which should not be missed.

Raise awareness for differences and inequalities

Developing gender statistics in Africa has therefore also picked up in pace in recent past, as reflected for example by a High Level Policy Dialogue, in Kampala, Uganda*, as one of the outcomes of the STATCOM-Africa meeting. It is also widely accepted that having gender statistics means much more than just disaggregating data by sex. Gender statistics are strongly policy-orientated so they transport a much broader view of the type of data to be collected. Gender statistics can be used to present the different situation of men and women as well as that of different groups within society (like ethnic groups, for example), raise awareness and consciousness for these differences and often existing inequalities, provide the impetus for public debate and change and therefore enable decision-makers to develop appropriate policies to address and improve these situations.

Improvements in measuring economic and social life

Gender statistics is not a discrete or isolated field but a perspective that relates to all fields of statistics. Gender statistics have an important role to play in improving the whole statistical system, pushing it to describe more accurately and fully the activities and characteristics of the whole population and not only of men. The result of such efforts is often not just better information on women, but improvements in measuring the general realities of economic and social life. The experience made in India is a perfect example of this phenomenon.**

* The Kampala "International High Level Policy Dialogue on Gender Statistics: Gender Statistics For Social-Economic Development" in June 2008, was one of the first conferences on "engendering statistics" for Sub-Saharan Africa, jointly organised by UBOS, UNECA, AfDB, ACBF, UNFPA, DFID and InWEnt. See also: www.uneca.org. The conference was organized back-to-back with an InWEnt workshop "Measuring Progress: Statistics for MDG Indicators with Focus on Poverty and Gender" in Kampala/Uganda.

** See Box: Gender Statistics: Improving data on employment in India, p. 29.

Gender Statistics:
Improving data on employment in India

Since the mid-1980's, the Self Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) has worked tirelessly to promote the development of the Indian Government's statistics on informal employment. SEWA – particularly its founder Ela Bhatt and its national coordinator Renana Jhabvala – recognized the power of statistics to advocate the cause of its workers and to inform policies and programs to improve their situation. As Ela Bhatt put it: "…the employers used to say: 'Who are homeworkers? How many are there? Where are they? They are not there.' And they used to make fun of us – to ridicule us".

SEWA recognized that by collecting data on specific categories of homeworkers – bidi* rollers and later incense workers – they were able to convince authorities of the importance of these workers and to negotiate their inclusion in welfare funds. SEWA also used statistics to support the 1996 ILO Homework Convention and to stimulate efforts in India and more broadly in Southeast Asia to improve the conditions of homeworkers. The results of these efforts also included the overall improvement in national labour force data.

"The employers used to make fun of us: ‚Who are homeworkers? How many are there? Where are they? They are not there'."

Ela Bhatt,
Self Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA)

SEWA has not restricted itself to small research studies but has taken an active role in shaping national statistical policy. It has lobbied the Indian Government to set up commissions to study the problems of self-employed women, participated actively in the commissions once formed, collaborated with partners to do research studies, participated in the planning of surveys, and followed carefully decisions on data collection efforts that relate to their members.

90 per cent of workers in informel employment

These efforts have secured improvements in the livelihood of low income workers. Another result which is important to the field of statistics is that India is now a leading country in the development of statistics on informal employment. This achievement owes a lot to the close collaboration of the national statistical services with groups such as SEWA. The impact of these efforts on statistics goes beyond improving data on women in informal employment. As over 90 per cent of the country's workers are in informal employment, a result has been the improvement of data on the total labour force.

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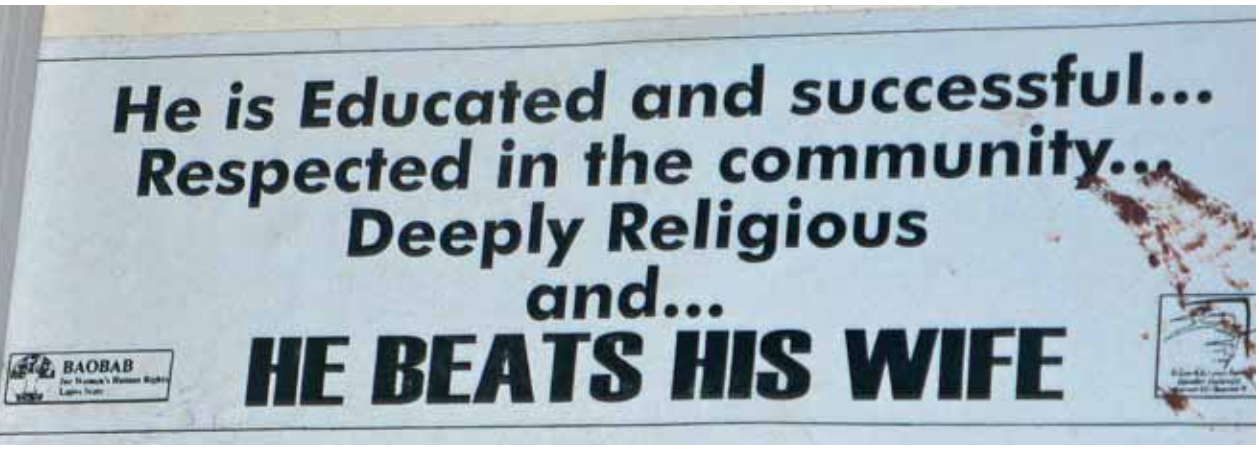
* Bidi = Indian cigarette.

Source: Why do we need Gender Statistics?, Chap. 2 of UNECE training manual "Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool", prepared as paper for the Work Session on Gender Statistics, Geneva, 6. – 8. Oct. 2008.



Violence against women is too often considered to be "normal" – even by the victims themselves. Photo: Akuzia

In addition, gender statistics have uses in areas of policy where gender is not the leading issue. They are therefore also relevant to the development of policies which are not overtly related to gender. Many policies that appear to have little to do with gender equality are actually affected in an indirect way by aspects of the relationship between women and men. Take for example the issue of violent crime. If domestic violence, of which wives are most often the victim, is not measured, then the overall statistics on violent crime in a country or system are incomplete and inaccurate. In this case domestic violence might not be considered in policy programmes.

"My husband slaps me and has sex with me against my will and I have to conform. Before being interviewed, I didn't really think about this."

Woman from Bangladesh

The participants of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, identified 12 critical areas of concern with regard to the situation of women and gender equality which demand specific data to provide a basis for policies, programmes and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation:

1. Poverty
2. Education and training
3. Health care
4. Violence against women
5. Effects of armed or other kinds of conflict
6. Economic structures and policies
7. Power and decision-making
8. Mechanism to promote the advancement of women
9. Human rights of women
10. Access to Media and female stereotypes spread by the media
11. Environment
12. Persistent discrimination of girls

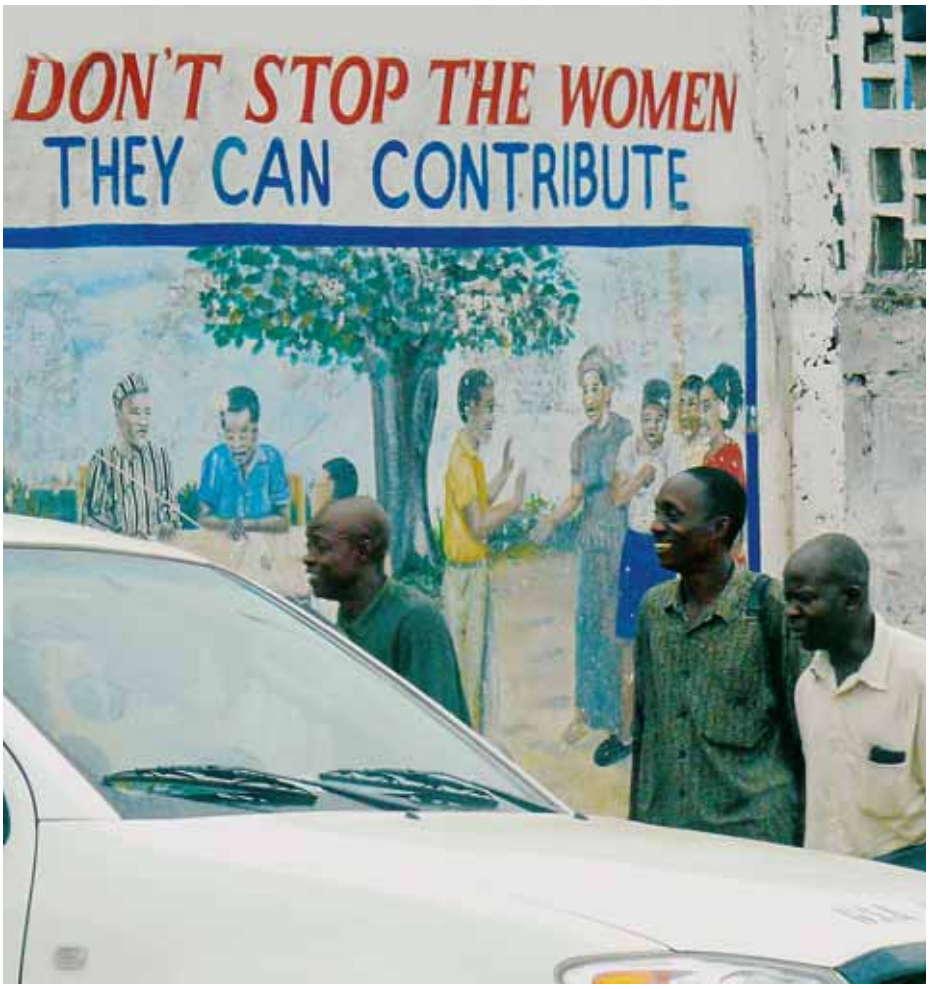
Yet many of these areas are still difficult to measure – as for example the whole topic of gender based violence (GBV). In some countries and cultures, domestic violence is still considered to be "normal" – even by the women themselves, which makes data collection based on surveys extremely difficult. "My husband slaps me and has sex with me against my will and I have to conform. Before being interviewed, I didn't really think about this. I thought this only natural. This is the way our husband behaves", says a woman from Bangladesh, being interviewed on the question of domestic violence during a WHO survey – and thereby making a typical remark.*

Careful methodological consideration is required

Asking questions on this extremely sensitive issue is therefore a difficult task – women might also be afraid to report on domestic violence. Careful methodological consideration therefore is required. Some National Statistical Offices, for example, add gender-sensitive questions to the usual questionnaire for socio-economic and household surveys – interviewing men and women separately on gender issues and on the issue of domestic violence, in order to get more straight-forward answers and avoid causing

* The training videos on gender statistics, prepared by UNECE and available at their website www.unece/org/stats/gender/training.htm are very informative. The quotation is taken from the video on Gender Based Violence.

conflict within the family. "If the men get curious about the kind of questions I asked the women, I just tell them, it's about women's issues", Gloria Akoto Banfo, responsible for gender statistics at the Ghana Statistical Service says. "Thereby I can avoid struggle and suspicion. Only if the men insist to really know about what is going on, I carefully explain the gender concept to them, thereby raising their awareness too. But cultural beliefs cannot be changed easily and a statistician has to take that into account." Apart from this, there is the other problem of lacking standards for gender-sensitive surveys. There are still no international guidelines to ensure comparability across countries.



"Don't stop the women" – educational advertising in Liberia, a country where achieving gender equality is still a big challenge. Photo: Akuzia

Discrimination may be double

Furthermore, some experts think that data collection has to go even further – meaning that gender-based data acquisition should be combined with other dimensions of social relations and groupings, such as class, ethnicity, religion etc. Because sometimes the discrimination may be double, for example if a women also belongs to a certain ethnic group, age or is disabled. In other cases, disaggregating data not only by sex but also by other social dimensions might lead to a completely different picture. Angela Me, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistics Section at UNECE, gives the example of unemployment in the UK: "When you look at unemployment by sex in the UK, women have lower unemployment than men. Women's total unemployment rate is a relatively low 4.2 per cent. When you disaggregate the data further by ethnic group, a different situation is revealed. Unemployment for women is well over five per cent for eight or nine of the major ethnic groups in the UK, and it approaches 20 per cent for Pakistani women. For Indian and Pakistani women, unemployment rates are higher than for Indian and Pakistani men."

Budget limitations and lack of institutionalization in statistical offices pose another problem to gender statistics. Often one person is responsible for gender statistics and, if they leave, the programme is put on hold. To have proper gender units which operate interdepartmentally within an institution is therefore another important requirement.

New initiatives and tools to promote gender statistics must also involve better methods to measure women's economic situation and their contribution to national economies – by establishing clear guidelines on the valuation of unpaid work, such as housekeeping or home care, for instance. The Philippine case is a good example, as Jessamyn O. Encarnacion from the National Statistical Coordination Board revealed during the Rome Conference on Gender Statistics. As he explained, one innovative technique used in the Philippines was to calculate an adjusted GDP incorporating women's unpaid work. The adjusted GDP reflects an eight per cent increase in women's share in the GDP.

A clearer picture on work situations

New methods like the Time Use survey* can also give a clearer picture of women's work situation and their contribution to national incomes. Also unemployment statistics have to include gender and many experts demand that labour and gender statisticians should work more closely together. Other important tools are:

Gender Budgeting: A tool that brings a gender equality perspective to the highest levels of financial decision-making. It challenges the traditional notion that financial decisions are gender-free. It is not a separate budget for women, rather it demonstrates how budget decisions have (different) impacts on men and women, boys and girls. New indicators have to be developed for gender budgeting. There is also a need for data on entrepreneurship and women-led businesses.

Gender Impact Assessment: This tool consists of several stages: First of all, the gender relevance of a policy is identified. Secondly, the potential impact must be conceptualized and operationalized. Thirdly, the impact must be analyzed and measured. Fourthly, the implications of the impact on gender equality, society and wider policy must be considered.

Women's groups in Africa figthing for gender equality. Photo: Hoegen

Gender Pay Gap: This instrument is related to the equal-pay-for-equal-work-value. Simply put, the GPG aims to capture the gap in income between women and men. This gap is usually expressed as the difference between men's and women's average income from employment, as a percentage of men's average income from employment. Differences exist, however, in the sources of data used to calculate this indicator, and as a consequence in the concept of income used and worker coverage. Also, there are differences in the way the indicator should be interpreted: namely whether the focus should be on differences in pay for work of equal value, in the overall position of women and men in the job market, or in take-home pay. As a result, estimates of the GPG tend to vary widely between countries, and their interpretation is unclear, thereby limiting their usefulness for comparisons across time and countries.**

* See also "Time Use Survey as a new solution", p. 36.

** For more details on the methods of GPG see also Annex, p. 77.

"We have to address key data gaps."

Conclusions of the Global Forum on Gender Statistics, Rome/Italy, Dec. 2007

Next steps

The Forum identified a clear need to engender data collection programmes. Population censuses are an important source of gender statistics and efforts are needed to improve the measurement of women's work, maternal mortality and other important indicators through censuses. In the area of engendering household surveys, we must improve the measurement of work and the informal sector, access to assets and resources, as well as health and poverty indicators. We should continue work on time use surveys and improve vital statistics as a key source of data by sex.

Data Gaps

The Forum recognized that it is important to address key data gaps. There is a need to develop standards and tools for the measurement of gender-based violence as well as improve existing tools for the measurement of women's work, in particular in the informal economy, the reconciliation between work and family and quality of work, as well as women's access to assets. Finally, there is a need to develop methods for the measurement of women and men's risk of poverty.

Training

International agencies should provide training to countries particularly in the specific topics identified above (gender-based violence, informal work, access to assets, and poverty). To ensure that training is continuous, there was a call to institutionalize gender statistics training at the regional and/or sub-regional levels. Finally, UNSD and Sweden have agreed to work together to issue the second version of Engendering Statistics as a UN publication.

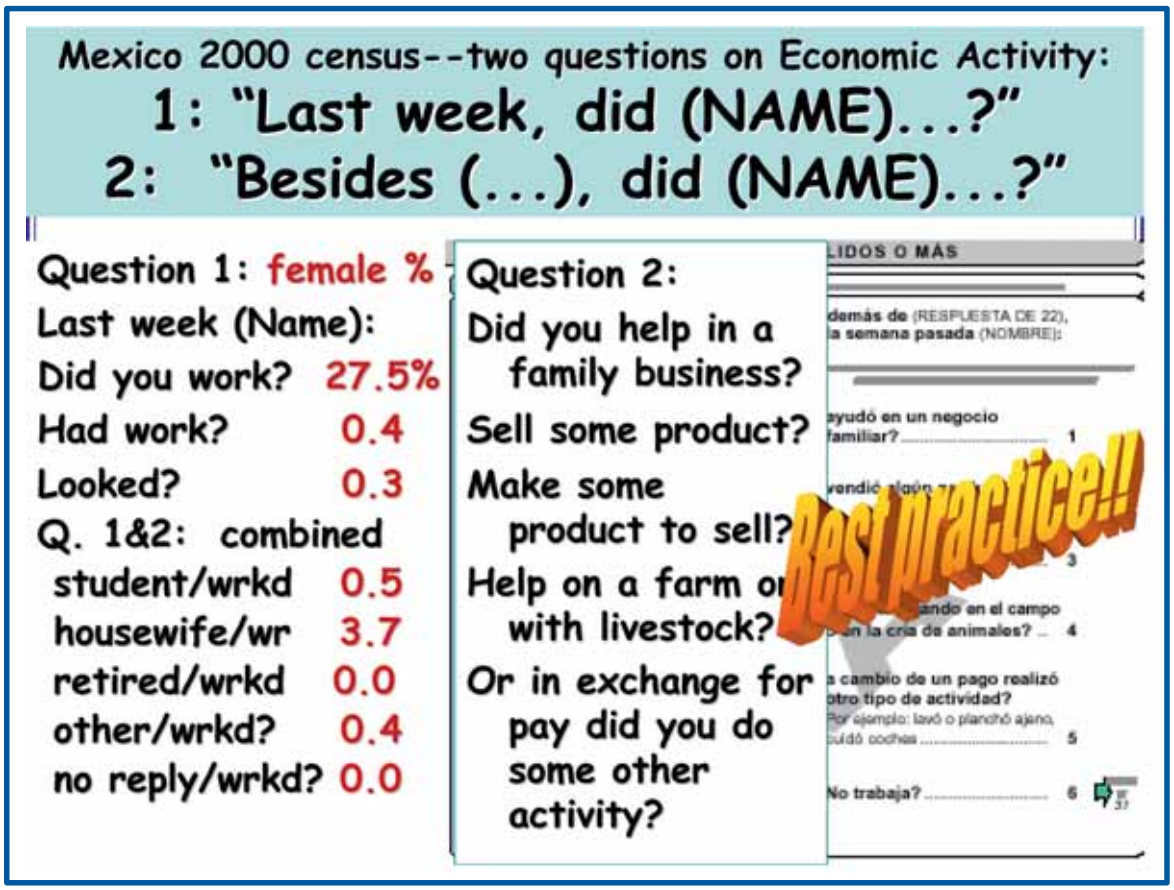
Other participants outside of national statistical offices need easy, user-friendly access to gender statistics and databases on gender, such as non-governmental and women's groups. Photo: Hoegen

UNSD was called upon to continue efforts to improve data dissemination and access to information on gender statistics and other information by:

1) committing to continuous and regular updating of the gender statistics and indicators database;
2) issuing Gender Info at regular intervals (one or two years);
3) creating a website on gender statistics and other information, including the database and develop a portal at a later stage, as well as 3) producing the World's Women 2010 capacity building programmes and initiatives to improve the financing for the development of statistics should also include a gender perspective.

UNSD should also develop standards and guidelines through the formal intergovernmental process (UN Statistical Commission) to ensure full involvement and commitment by national statistical systems and full mainstreaming of gender in the production and use of statistics.

Source: Final Report of the Global Forum on Gender Statistics, available at: http:unstats.un.org/unsds/demographic/meetings/whsops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/list_of_docs.html



Trying to obtain the correct economic activity status for women: an example from Mexico (Slide presented by Robert McCaa/IPSUM).

A cross-cutting issue

But gender statistics are not only related to national accounts, labour and economic statistics. They should be regarded as a cross-cutting issue, indispensable for almost all kinds of statistics. Environmental statistics should for example in the view of many experts include the category of gender because women – especially in developing countries – are much more affected by environmental changes, due to their traditional roles (e.g. they are the ones getting water outside, they are responsible for cooking and need cooking fuel etc.) All this has to be reflected by statistics as well.

Dissemination and easy access for decision-makers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), especially women's groups, to gender statistics and their results are also important because they ensure further gender and policy analysis. This is not the real job of the statistician – even though, as the experts of UNECE point out: "While national statisticians are not directly responsible for this step, they need to be aware that the way they present statistics can influence the analysis." Nevertheless, new participants are coming on board and getting involved with this second step of analyzing – protagonists usually outside of the national statistical service.

There are already different initiatives to make access to gender statistics easier. EUROSTAT, for instance, plans to enhance the dissemination of gender statistics with user-friendly websites and attractive publications. Another tool to improve access to key gender statistics and indicators at the global level is Gender Info 2007 – a new database of gender statistics and indicators in key areas of policy concern developed by UNSD in collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA and on the basis of the well-known DevInfo.*

Basic measures of women's socio-economic status

Another new tool which brings together a range of indicators on gender discrimination is the Gender Institutions and Development Database (GID-DB) of the OECD Development Centre.** Among the indicators are basic measures of women's socio-economic status as well as innovative institutional measures that attempt to capture selected aspects of women's social contexts, such as informal laws, customs and traditions.

* See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/genderinfo/default.htm

** See: www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en_2649_33935_39323280_1_1_1_1,00.html

From data to action

Sometimes small changes can have a big impact. In Uganda, like in many other countries, many girls – although registered in school – do not actually attend class during certain days and periods of the year. So far, statisticians only tried to capture the number of girls not attending class regularly, by for example interviewing parents during a household survey.

But no one asked why this is happening. Once related and more specific questions on the topic were added to the survey, it was found that a lot of girls are taken out of class because they have to help their parents in the fields during harvest time. This result led to a change of policy: School time tables were adopted and class finishes for example one hour earlier during certain periods, so that girls can attend class before going to the fields.

Girls are also taken out of class more often than boys because of their traditional roles, such as being responsible for home care. With the increasing HIV/Aid-rates in many African countries, the chance of a girl staying in school is diminishing because she might have to take care of some patient within the family.

Precise figures before coming up with a policy

Even though any immediate reaction to this is more difficult than in the case mentioned above, it would be of paramount importance to have precise figures on this phenomenon before also coming up with a policy adequately addressing this situation. This would again improve girls school education and thereby ensure more gender equality.

Girls are often taken out of school because they have to work on the field or fulfill other duties, like home care – gender statistics reflecting this can help to find solutions. Photo: Hoegen

Time use survey as a new solution

By Grace Bediako, Ghana Statistical Services and Dimitri Sanga, African Centre for Statistics*

The System of National Accounts (SNA) defines productive activities as activities that comprise goods and services supplied or intended to be supplied to units other than their producers, own-account production of goods retained by their producers, own-account production of housing services by owner-occupiers and domestic and personal services produced in a household by paid domestic staff. The SNA boundary excludes, inter alia, all household activities that produce domestic or personal services for own final consumption within the same household (except for paid domestic staff). These exclusions cover cleaning, servicing and repairs, preparation and servicing of meals as well as unpaid volunteer services to other households, community, and other associations.

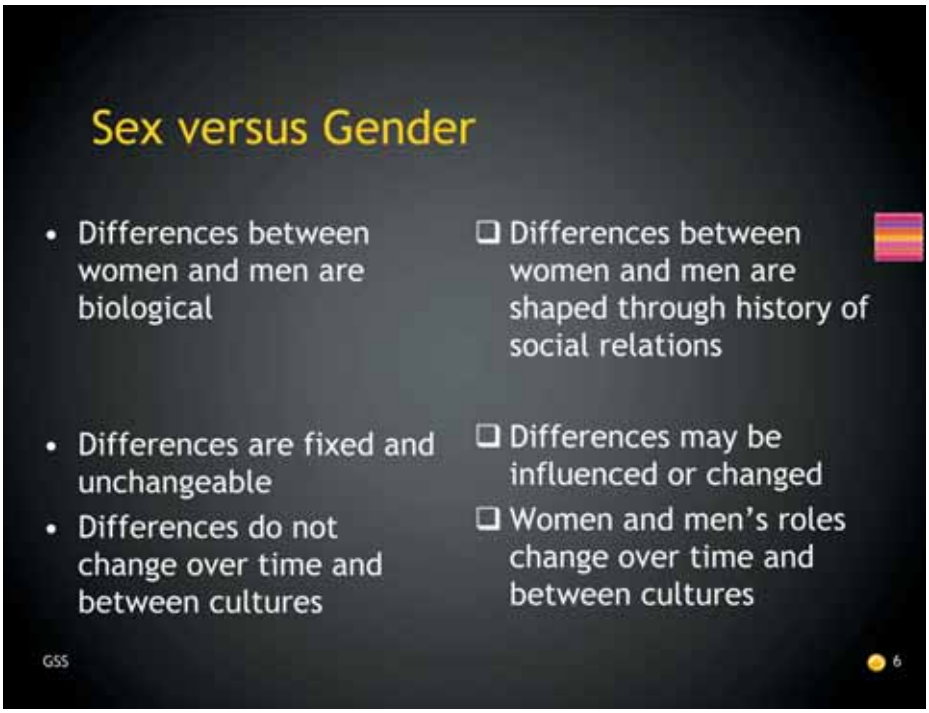
Dr. Grace Bediako,
Ghana Statistical Services.

Women are intensely involved in unvalued and invisible activities

Generally, only people who are engaged in SNA work are considered to be economically active. According to national accounts and labour force estimations, non-SNA activities are unvalued or invisible. There is considerable evidence to the effect that women are primarily and intensively involved in these unvalued and invisible activities. Satellite accounts on household production deal with the measurement and valuation of these activities. Time Use Surveys (TUS) constitute a first step in the production of satellite accounts on household production. Further, satellite accounts outputs can be used to feed a gender-aware macroeconomic model that can simulate the impact of several policy interventions on the well being of different segments of the population including women, men, girls and boys.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), through its African Centre for Gender and Social Development, has developed a conceptual and analytical framework to include gender perspectives into national development policies and programmes through its Gender and Macro economic Programme. Under this programme, the Commission has developed, inter alia, an Africaspecific Guidebook for integrating household production into national poverty reduction policies. This Guidebook is a compendium of methodologies and tools, which use time use surveys, national accounts and other national information as inputs in the process of engendering national planning instruments. Time use surveys are an important part of this programme as they constitute a major input in the development of gender-awareness macro economic models. The latter are computable general equilibrium (CGE) models that integrate both market and non-market activities, while distinguishing male and female workers throughout, in order to evaluate impacts of policy reforms on poverty reduction and the well-being of men and women.

* This text is an excerpt of an article, first published in the newsletter of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA, and the African Centre for Statistics, Vol. 2, Issue 2, June 2008. This African Statistical Newsletter is posted on ACS website: http://www.uneca.org/statistics



Presentation by Grace Bediako, Ghana Statistical Service: What is Gender Statistics? On the occasion of the International High Level Policy Forum on Gender Statistics, Statistics House Kampala/ Uganda, 9-10 June 2008

A pilot study has been carried out through the above-mentioned programme on the South African economy. Using the gender awareness macro economic model, fiscal reform in terms of trade liberalization was the first policy to be explored. Its impacts on male and female wage rates and participation in market and non-market work, as well as on overall economic performances and poverty reduction were assessed. Given the success of this pilot, a number of countries have been targeted, including Ghana, for the undertaking of time use surveys with a view to further develop gender awareness macro economic models.

A first step for the development of a gender-awareness model

The UNECA undertook a mission to Ghana in close consultation with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), to discuss and agree an action plan and detailed programme of work for the undertaking of a TUS as a first step for the development of a gender-awareness macro economic model. Moreover, the UNECA mission discussed capacity building needs in terms of the production and use of gender statistics including advocacy for gender mainstreaming into policies and programmes with not only the GSS but also selected Ghanaian Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and selected United Nations Agencies. The UNECA-GSS Team met with the Ministry of Women and Children, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports, the Institute for Local Government, the Gender Development Institute, and some United Nations Agencies based in Accra following the arrangements made by the GSS.

The Gender Development Institute (GDI), a non-governmental organization, was particularly interested in the project of conducting a TUS as it has already started advocating for this tool in Ghana. The GDI is convinced that the results of the TUS will strengthen its ongoing work on gender equity by providing evidence and shedding light on women's unpaid work, and it stands ready to embark on the project with all its resources. Moreover, the GDI needs support in gender audit, gender budgeting, and advocacy for its programmes including setting up gender clubs in schools and tailored sensitisation programmes for traditional leaders. The UNIFEM welcomed the project and expressed its willingness to support any project aimed at improving the production of gender statistics including the TUS. The UNIFEM also committed to work with the GSS on developing indicators to monitor aid effectiveness. The UNIFEM suggested the use of the Media and Women in Development Forum it has set up recently to help in terms of advocacy for the TUS.

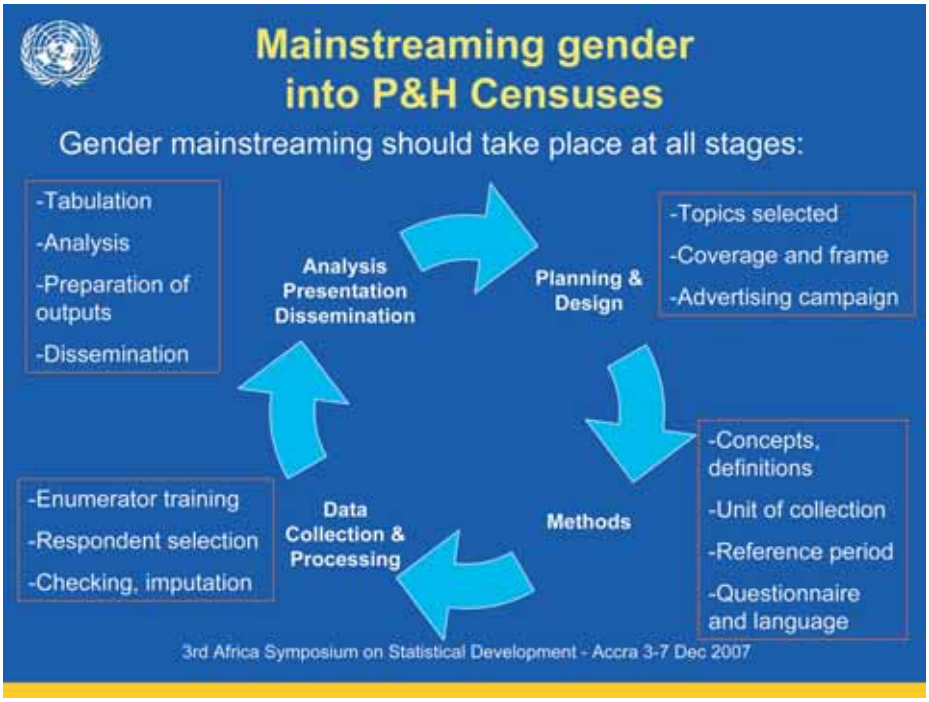
InWEnt and gender: Capacity building for the main actors in Africa

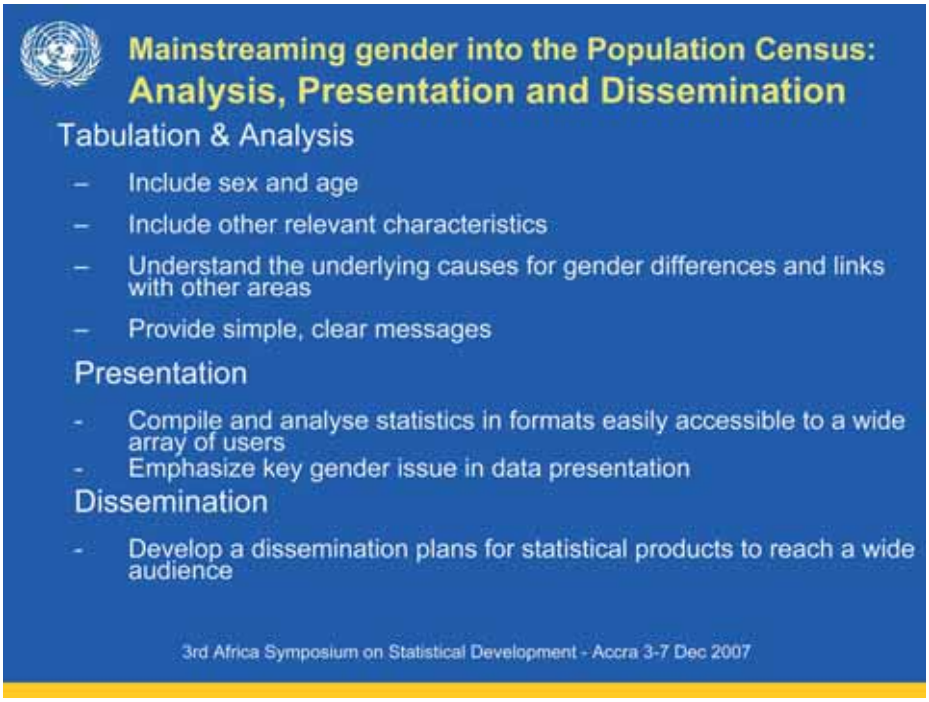
On the way to improved gender statistics, capacity building is crucial – an area in which the InWEnt Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics is heavily involved. Already one of the main organizers of the "International High Level Policy Dialogue on Gender Statistics: Gender Statistics For Social-Economic Development" in June 2008, in Kampala/ Uganda, InWEnt is also co-responsible for a follow-up Gender Statistic workshop in Addis Adeba, December 2008.

This workshop will present a strategy for implementing gender statistics training in Africa and at the same time show possible applications and uses in a specific sector of statistics: here population censuses. The workshop precedes the NSDS conference (UNECA), both organized by UNECA, in cooperation with AfDB, and InWEnt. The NSDS intends to provide the basic framework for official statistics in Africa as the reference framework for statistical training and for example MDG relevant topics such as gender.

The aim of the workshop is to exemplify the relevance and applicability of gendered statistical capacity building for the main actors of the statistical system in Africa. Proposals will also be made about how statistical training institutes can include GS in basic curricula and how NSIs can initiate a change process to mainstream gender-sensitive statistics.

The second aim is of more practical application to population censuses: To help the high-level managers of the NSIs to prepare arguments to convince their users (national and international – financing and use) and their own institutions (internally) to take on the challenge of gender. These should then be able to recognize that gender represents a substantial quality upgrading of the statistical information service as a whole.





Convincing institutions and users to take on the challenge of gender: Francesca Perucci, Statistics Division, DESA United Nations, described the need for Gender Statistics at the 3rd Africa Symposium on Statistical Development held in Accra in December 2007.

Collecting reliable data on gender-based violence

The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) is a first attempt to systematize management of reported GBV-related data across the humanitarian community.

The GBVIMS:

- provides a standard tool and methodology for data collection and analysis and to develop information sharing protocols
- improves the reliability of GBV-related information (trends and patterns) within humanitarian settings
- improves programmatic decision-making at local, country and global levels

Initiated in 2007, the project is currently in its pilot-testing phase. In December 2007, the International Rescue Committee led a small pilot test in Thailand. Since then, the inter-agency team (UNFPA, the IRC and UNHCR) have facilitated two technical consultations in May and August 2008 in Uganda and Kenya respectively. The team returned to Uganda in August 2008 for the second part of its multi-phased roll-out approach and intends to follow-up with the team there through off-site technical support and regular missions through 2009.

Women are often the victims of violence to a much greater extent than men – especially in conflict and post-conflict countries. Billboard in Liberia. Photo: Akuzia

→ What is the GBVIMS?

The GBVIMS has three components: an Excel spreadsheet to store and analyze reported incident data; a User Guide to explain the function of the Incident Recorder and to outline some of the core ethical and safety considerations and protocols for safe information sharing and data management; and on- and off-site technicalsupport from the three core project partners.

* Source: UNFPA frontlines, The Humanitarian Response Newsletter, September 2008, United Nations Population Fund, see: www.unfpa.org/emergencies/newsletter/frontlines_sept_2008.pdf

4 | Mission impossible?

Development of statistical systems in post-conflict countries

4.1 Starting from nowhere: Background

"The pace of development in any nation is contingent upon informed decision making, which is indispensably a function of factual data collected, analyzed and propagated for the sustainability and viability of the nation."

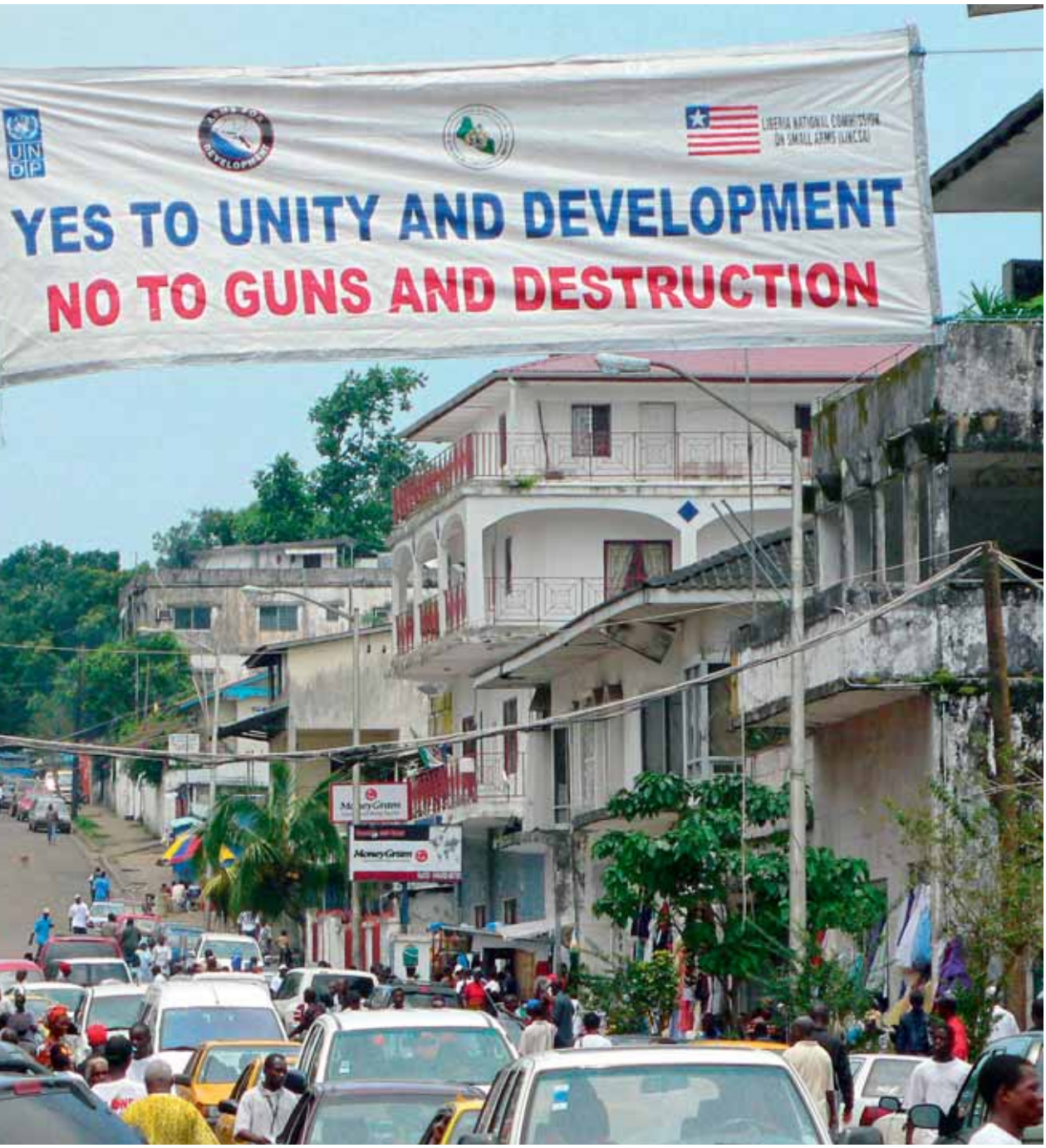
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia

Developing or reconstructing national statistical systems in a country deeply rotten through war and conflict seems at first glance to be a task almost impossible to fulfill. Post-conflict countries suffer from destroyed infrastructures – administrative structures no longer work, roads are in poor conditions, vehicles are rare, people and households in remote areas are difficult to access. How can censuses and surveys be conducted under such precarious conditions? Furthermore, in such a situation there is a lack or almost complete absence of staff properly trained in statistics – the remaining statisticians often being unqualified and de-motivated due to low salaries, poor equipment, lack of financial resources and with a huge number of other difficulties to face in their daily work.

Loss of public trust and confidence in state and other national or official institutions during wartime is another big problem. Likewise, mistrust between different groups of the population, due to earlier propaganda, violence and resulting trauma, can be a severe obstacle for statistical work – such as conducting censuses, surveys and interviews – especially in a country where the previous conflict or war was heavily determined by ethnic and other social tensions.

A country without any accurate data

One example is Liberia – a country without any accurate data on its population base or development programmes for the past 23 years, due to a long and devastating civil war. When President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf officially launched the start of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census at Monrovia City Hall in June 2007, she was fully aware of the atmosphere of mistrust, suspicion and fear that had been created in Liberia during the years of conflict. She therefore ensured her fellow citizens that:



"Yes to Unity" – the struggle to regain trust and confidence amongst people themselves and towards national institutions is a big challenge in post-war countries like Liberia. Photo: Akuzia

"The results of the census will not be used to punish people for belonging to any political party or ethnic group. The results of the census will not be used to discriminate against any group of people in the country because of the characteristics that make them different from other Liberians. Rather, they will be used to help government determine where it would be appropriate to build schools, hospitals, new roads, new markets and other infrastructure that will improve the quality of the lives of the people in Liberia." The president also had to convince the audience that the census was not a vehicle to impose taxes on people – but that it would help the government to fight poverty and unemployment, get information on the number of people of voting age so as to help electoral authorities to clearly demarcate constituencies within the country – among other important and political goals along the process of development and democratization.*

* "Remarks by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia at the Official Launching of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census", Monrovia City Hall, June 8, 2007, see Annex, p. 78.

"It is your right to be counted for development, education, health and elections, be part of the 2008 big count."

Census Promotion on LISGIS Website

Headquarter of LISGIS – Liberia Institute of Statitics & Geo Information Services in Monrovia. Photo: Hoegen

Like many fragile states, Liberia was heavily dependent on donor support to conduct the census– in terms of capacity building as well as financial support. The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, was one of the main supporters, providing money and experts to help Liberia in preparing a road map for undertaking the census in March 2008.

Geographic planning is one of the most important preparatory activities which have to be undertaken before conducting a census. So LISGIS recruited, trained and deployed 5 regional coordinators, 16 field mapping teams including 16 supervisors and 48 mapping assistants in all 5 regions and 15 counties in order to map the counties. 75 interviewers (5 from each county) were also recruited and trained in order to conduct the pilot census in 75 enumeration areas (5 selected from each county). One International census cartographic/GIS expert, a demographic and a data processing expert were also hired by UNFPA to train LISGIS staff as well as field staff for the mapping stage, the pilot census and data processing exercises. A data users and producers workshop was held to discuss and vet the census questions and indicators and their concerns were incorporated into the final version of the questionnaire. Indicators from previous censuses and those recommended by the UN were also considered. The UNFPA and USAID bought and delivered equipment including vehicles, mapping, data processing, GIS, computer, software and GPS.

Meanwhile, the Liberian Government released the preliminary results of the 2008 Population and Housing Census of Liberia which revealed an average population density per square mile of 93 persons as against that of 56 persons observed in 1984 – with annual growth rates in the capital, Monrovia, of over 5 per cent p.a. This can partly be explained by the impact of the conflict, during which the city offered better security than the rest of the country.* The data is still being processed and final results are expected at the end of 2009. Also to be published are reports on the experience gained in conducting the census in post-war Liberia despite difficulties and on further developing the country's statistical system.

Different methods – different figures

– The Liberian government in collaboration with development partners has also launched the results of the 2007 Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS). It was conducted among 6,824 households, 7,092 women aged 15-49, and 6,009 men aged 15-59 by the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and puts the current HIV/AIDS infection rate among Liberian adults aged 15-49 at about 2 per cent. HIV prevalence estimates were determined by interviewing residents and obtaining blood samples from a representative national sample of Liberian adults between January and April 2007. This is much different from the 2006 estimated rate of 5.7 per cent from sentinel centers. Still worrisome, preventive practices are still low as barely 22 per cent of the men and 14 per cent of the women had used a condom during their last sexual activity, according to the LDHS.

The LDHS is the first national survey to use population-based testing to determine HIV prevalence. This method provides direct information on HIV infection among adult women and men. Previous HIV estimates in Liberia have been principally based on the results of sentinel surveillance of the rate of HIV infection among pregnant women attending ten antenatal care clinics in urban areas. These estimates tend to be higher and cannot be directly compared to the LDHS results.

Source: African Statistical Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 3, September 2008, pp.2 and UNFPA.

* For more details concerning the preliminary results of the Liberian 2008 Census, see also UNFPA frontlines, The Humanitarian Response Newsletter, September 2008, www.unfpa.org/emergencies/newsletter/frontlines_sept_2008.pdf and: African Statistical Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 3, September 2008, pp.2, available at www.uneca.org/statistics

4.2 Overcoming the obstacles: Three country experiences

4.2.1 Southern Sudan: Rain and poor roads

By Daud Gideon*

Daud Gideon, participated in the InWEnt workshop "Measuring Progress: Statistics for MDG Indicators with Focus on Poverty and Gender", Uganda 2008.

Conflict in Southern Sudan started before Sudan got its independence from the British Government in 1956. The conflict started in 1955 until 1972 when the first conflict was brought by signing Addis Agreement. Again in 1983 the second conflict started and it is only in 2005 when the comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed which brought relative peace in the country.

The statistical system in Southern Sudan has been affected seriously by the armed conflict in the country. According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement CPA, signed in 2005, Sudan is one country with two systems. The same system applies to statistical system. So Southern Sudan is expected to develop its own national statistical system but it has to coordinate with northern Sudan. There are twenty five states in Sudan with fifteen states in the north and ten states in the south. This paper will focus on Southern Sudan alone.

Statistics during War

During the war there were no statistical activities since the main agenda of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/ SPLA) was to fight. In 1995 with an increase of humanitarian activities in Southern Sudan, a need to maintain a database for humanitarian assistance and forecast for humanitarian needs arose. At that time Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA) was established by SPLM/ SPLA. One of the directorates within SRRA was a database. The main function of that directorate was to maintain stock of humanitarian assistance delivered to Southern Sudan and provision of early warning system. For the early warning system they maintain and update data on rainfall and prices as key indicators for famine and drought, which is then used for estimating humanitarian needs. In 2004, the unit evolved into statistical bureau called New Sudan Center for Statistics and Evaluation (NSCSE) which was responsible for collecting, coordinating and disseminating all statistical data related to Southern Sudan. Despite of its youth, the NSCSE has initiated with the donor support, a number of activities, including a Multiple Indicators Cluster survey (MICS), establishment of sentinel site surveillance programme, compilation of trade statistics and publication of several statistical reports. Among those are "Towards a Baseline: Best Estimates of Social Indicators for Southern Sudan", "Interim Millennium Development Goals Report" and "Southern Sudan at a Glance".

In 2006, the Government of Southern Sudan issued a decree for establishment of Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE). The former NSCSE was transformed into SSCCSE with one additional function of conducting census as per the CPA.

Pre-census activities

The main activities during pre-census are: preparation and planning for census, mapping exercise and conducting Sudan Health Household Survey. According to CPA, census in north Sudan will be conducted and administered by Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) while in south it will be conducted and administered by SSCCSE. Planning for census includes agreeing on the questionnaire, identifying census dates and all technical and administrative issues between south and north Sudan requires high level of coordination. For that purpose, a technical working group was established to act as coordinating body. The planning for census started immediately after signing CPA in 2005.

* Daud Gideon Ali works as MDG Focal Point for Southern Sudan on behalf of UNDP and he is currently on secondment to the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation.

Poor banking system, poor road conditions

Mapping exercise was part of the preparation for the census. It started in Southern Sudan in 2006 and the method used was quick housing count. Mapping was used as basis for determining enumeration areas. Challenges faced during mapping are logistical difficulties, slow release of funds from the Government of National Unity in Khartoum, difficulties of transferring funds to various states in Southern Sudan as there is poor banking system in Southern Sudan and poor roads conditions.

The Sudan Household Health Survey (SHHS) was conducted in 2006. The survey was jointly carried out in southern and northern parts of Sudan. The total sample size in Southern Sudan was 10,000 households with 1,000 households in each of the ten states in Southern Sudan. The survey, the first authentic, scientific had provided a baseline data for Southern Sudan. The challenges faced during the survey were absence of sampling frame and logistical difficulties which was due to poor road conditions and unavailability of communication facilities. Table summarizing MDGs status is in the annex table.

The Census

The actual census enumeration started on 22nd April and ended on 6th May 2008. According to the CPA, the census would have been conducted much earlier but due to some difficulties it was delayed. In Southern Sudan a total of 13,000 people got involved in the enumeration. Numbers of challenges were faced during census implementation and are:

- Influx of internal displaced persons from northern Sudan and refugees from neighboring countries;
- Logistical difficulties as timing of census coincided with rains in southern Sudan;
- Poor physical infrastructure, poor road conditions and limited communication facilities;
- Lack of qualified and skilled personnel;
- Delay in releasing funds from the Government of National Unity and
- difficulties of transferring funds to various states in Southern Sudan.

Methodological problems

The method used for the Population and Housing census was de-facto. The census results will be used as basis for determining wealth and power sharing between the South and the North. The practical census method would have been de-jure, which is count of people according to their usual place of residence.

Here a typical war- and post-war problem comes into place, that of refugees and displaced people. It also shows the severe political implications that statistics and figures have – especially in a fragile state: There are about four million people from Southern Sudan who are currently in Northern Sudan. If the method of census was to be de-jure, then this people would have enumerated in Southern Sudan. It is important to note, that the result of the census will be used for determining number of seats in the next election in 2009 and also as a basis for wealth sharing. At the moment, the oil revenue is being shared equally between north and south.

Hard work for better data: Census vehicle in Warrap state.

Post-census Activities

A number of surveys and special censuses have been lined up in the post-census period. Agriculture and labor force censuses are among censuses to be conducted. The surveys are core socio-economic survey and budget household survey which will be used for development for Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, integrated system of household surveys and community survey. The total estimate cost of all these surveys is about 86 million US dollars.

Poor road conditions, almost complete destruction of infrastructure and therefore difficult access to remote areas are major problems in many Post-conflict African countries. Photo: Ulrich Schiefelbein

The Challenges

The challenges facing development of the statistical system are enormous and to mention few:

1. Lack of human statistical capacity to meet the urgent and continuous need for statistical data for planning and monitoring progress made in development and attainment of Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction.
2. Inadequate statistical infrastructure.
3. Low statistical awareness. With many and urgent development, government is spending less money in data collection activities. Lack of understanding on use of data for planning and programme design. Most of the plans and policies are made on ad-hoc basis. The budget allocation to various states is uniform and state planning is not based on data.
4. Lack of financial resources needed to fund statistical activities.
5. Absence of legal framework to guide statistical activities.
6. Lack of statistical standard, definitions, concepts and procedures.
7. Absence of statistical units within most of Government of Southern Sudan line-ministries and state ministries.

Conclusion

Despite all these challenges, the Government of Southern Sudan and particularly, the SSCCSE has capacity building and training programs for its staff however, the need for the training is still huge.

One of the milestones in development of statistical system in Southern Sudan was development of Statistical Master Plan. The document outlined all post census statistical activities up to the end of the interim period in 2010. The cost of conducting all censuses and surveys is about 86 million US$. Funding for these activities is not yet secured.

Statistical infrastructure and physical infrastructure is yet another challenge facing the Government of Southern Sudan. The government is trying to develop the infrastructure but this of course will take some time.

Status of MDGs in Southern Sudan in 2006

Goals and Indicators	SOUTHERN SUDAN STATES										SOUTHERN SUDAN
	Jonglei	Upper Nile	Unity	Warrap	NBG[1]	WBG[2]	Lakes	Western Equatoria	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	
Goal 1: Eradicate poverty and hunger											
Underweight prevalence (moderate and severe) (%)	39.5	35.6	42.9	33.6	41.6	37.2	19.0	21.6	25.2	33.6	33.0
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education											
Net attendance primary education %	9.7	22.8	4.3	7.7	5.7	8.7	11.3	44.9	43.0	13.9	15.8
Children reaching grade five (%)	34.1	44.0	13.2	72.2	14.0	75.7	83.8	45.7	45.9	59.9	46.9
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women											
Women aged 15-24 years who are literate (%)	2.1	1.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	4.5	6.8	6.7	2.5
Gender parity index (primary school)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.85
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality											
Under five mortality ratio [3]	107.8	110.1	82.2	175.6	165.0	134.0	114.1	192.1	141.4	117.6	102.0
Infant mortality ratio [4]	73.8	82.4	63.9	137.9	129.2	96.9	89.5	150.7	107.0	82.7	135.0
Measles immunization coverage (children aged 12-23 months) (%)	19.7	54.6	58.1	39.7	24.0	32.4	47.6	59.4	67.5	41.4	27.7
Goal 5: Improve maternal mortality											
Maternal mortality ratio [5]	1,861	2,094	1,732	2,173	2,182	2,216	2,243	2,327	1,867	1,844	2,054
Births attended by qualified health personnel (%)	13.5	32.4	0.0	16.8	24.0	29.5	47.3	20.8	27.5	19.3	10.0
Goal 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases											
Contraceptive prevalence among women aged 15-24 years (%)	0.1	4.5	2.5	2.9	5.3	3.6	2.8	1.4	7.5	4.8	3.5
Knowledge about HIV prevention (three correct ways) among women aged 15-24 years (%)	2.8	16.5	7.2	1.1	14.1	3.5	1.4	11.9	24.6	14.7	9.8
Under five sleeping under insecticide- treated net (%)	4.8	33.3	19.7	7.5	3.7	3.7	23.3	10.9	9.4	3.9	22.0
Anti malaria treatment (under five) (%)	26.9	56.0	72.2	41.3	41.6	37.9	33.3	45.9	56.3	58.5	47.0
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability											
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	22.2	60.0	57.1	61.2	48.8	37.2	67.4	35.1	36.6	59.3	48.3
Use of sanitary means of excreta disposal (%)	5.0	7.5	5.5	1.9	5.3	8.5	5.6	11.2	13.6	5.0	6.4

1) Northern Bahr el Ghazal 2) Western Bahr el Ghazal 3) Under five mortality ratio is per 1,000 live births 4) Infant mortality ratio is per 1,000 live births
5) Maternal mortality ratio is per 100,000 live births Source: Sudan Household Health Survey, 2006

4.2.2 Sierra Leone: Destruction and Demoralization

By Alimatu Musa, Statistics Sierra Leone*

Alimatu Musa, participated in the InWEnt workshop "Measuring Progress: Statistics for MDG Indicators with Focus on Poverty and Gender", Uganda 2008.

Sierra Leone is a small coastal country on the west coast of Africa. Between 1991 and 2001, Sierra Leone was besieged by a brutal civil war. The effects of this war were devastating, and the statistical system was severely disrupted. Vast tracts of the country were unreachable due to the presence of rebels, and normal statistical activities in these parts of the country could not be undertaken.

The end of the civil war found the statistical system in a very poor state and with very little data of any kind. This was due to the absence of staff and lack of buildings, vehicles and very low salaries. One of the main reasons was inadequately trained, unqualified and demotivated statistical staff, who in turn could not produce reliable and readily available official statistics. This was a cause for concern and therefore statistical capacity building and its related human resource development issues required urgent attention.

Restructuring the statistical system

In June 1998 an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Macroeconomic Statistics Mission undertook an assessment of the status of the country's macroeconomic database and of the technical assistance needs. This was with the view of restructuring the statistical system and developing the institutional capacity to compile quality statistics for informed economic policy formulation and development monitoring. At that time, Sierra Leone had a semi-centralized statistical system known as the Central Statistics Office (CSO) with three regional offices in the regional headquarter towns and the headquarters in Freetown (Sierra Leone's capital city).

As a result of the prolonged civil war, difficult political and economic situation, poor communication facilities, and demoralized staff on account of low salaries, the mission discovered that there was no effective coordination of the statistical system in the country. The overall coordination of statistical systems had almost disappeared even though the then CSO was mandated to carry out such functions. This subsequently led to the establishment of the National Statistical Advisory and Coordinating Council to institute effective statistical planning and coordination. This was one of the many recommendations of the mission.

The mission identified the following major institutional, capacity and statistical issues of high priority:

- Poor image of the then CSO and loss of public trust and confidence.
- Weak and ineffective leadership at the then CSO.
- Absence of planning, guidance, supervision, and control.
- Low staff morale and poor conditions of service.
- Depletion of trained and qualified statisticians and programmers, which cumulated in a lopsided organizational structure at the then CSO.
- Rundown physical infrastructure and facilities, including vehicles and equipment.
- Deteriorated and outdated statistical framework and infrastructure of business register, classifications and population studies.

How have we dealt with the challenges?

To deal with the challenges facing the statistical system in Sierra Leone, the then Ministry of Development and Economic Planning requested another mission from the Statistics Department of the IMF (Khawaja 2002 IMF Mission) to visit the former CSO with the following terms of reference:

- Assess the existing legal institutional structure and arrangements for coordination, data collection, compilation and dissemination of macroeconomic statistics focusing on the CSO including a review of the draft statistical legislation.
- Assess the adequacy of staff, financial and computing resources required for the statistical programme.
- Conduct a broad review of the methodological soundness, accuracy and reliability, serviceability and accessibility of national accounts statistics and of other main macroeconomic datasets.
- Prepare proposals through recommendations for statistical reform.
- Identify a work programme that sets specific short and medium-term objectives for restoring the statistical capacity in line with the authorities' commitment to use the General data Dissemination System (GDDS) as a framework to improve their statistical system.

* Alimatu Musa is Statistician attached at the Gender Unit of The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs.

The mission graded the legal-institutional framework for real sector statistics as weak because reliable statistics were either absent in the area or largely estimated using rudimentary techniques that may not have reflected the actual macroeconomic processes. The lack of credible and updated official statistics contributed, to a large extent, to the sad fact that Sierra Leone found herself at the very bottom of the UNDP Human Development index for consecutive years.

"The lack of credible and updated official statistics contributed, to a large extent, to the sad fact that Sierra Leone found herself at the very bottom of the UNDP Human Development index for consecutive years."

The conclusions and recommendations of the Khawaja, 2002 IMF Mission, led to the drafting and adoption of the 2002 Statistics Act, giving rise to what is now known as Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL), the establishment of Statistics Sierra Leone Council, the National Statistical Coordinating Committee, the National Census Advisory Committee, the appointment of a Statistician General and the successful commencement of the restructuring and reengineering process of Statistics Sierra Leone.

Clear vision an goals in a mission statement

Alongside the restructuring and reengineering process, Statistics Sierra Leone developed a mission statement which clearly spells out its vision and goals. This mission statement, stated below, gave rise to a felt need for a national Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS): "The mission of the Statistics Sierra Leone is to coordinate, collect, compile, analyse and disseminate high quality and objective official statistics to assist informed decision making, and discussion within the government, business and the media, as well as the wider national and international community. Our statistics will be relevant, have integrity and be easily accessible."

The 2002 Statistics Act established Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) as a corporate body for the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of official and other statistics. The institution serves as a focal point for national statistics and as a result, it has a very crucial role to play in the implementation and monitoring of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and other development related national programmes geared towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In their public comments, IMF staff has particularly commented on the inadequate capacity to monitor the PRS and the need to include more actual survey based statistics in the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) annual progress reports.

Statistical Strategic Masterplan for Sierra Leone

In 2004 Statistics Sierra Leone, with the agreement of the GoSL, requested a joint IMF/World bank mission to undertake an assessment of the roadmap required to put together a comprehensive Statistical Strategic Master Plan, which would form part of the commencement of a longer process of national statistical development in the country. The joint IMF/World Bank mission advised in their report that a statistical capacity building process requires several key steps including the following:

- Building commitment to change.
- Identifying key stakeholders.
- Assessing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Developing a vision and strategy.
- Preparing an implementation plan.
- Mobilizing resources.
- Monitoring and evaluation of progress.

Not only buildings are destructed after a war or conflict, but the whole infrastructure of a country, including its National Statistical System. Photo: Akuzia

Services to all stakeholders

The Strategic Plan, known as the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) puts in place strategic direction and processes for raising the profile of the statistical system in the country. The plan fosters capacity building for a broad range of statistical data and services to all stakeholders of official statistics in an effective, efficient and user-focused manner. The NSDS proposes and guides key changes in the methods used for statistical data production and dissemination to users. The NSDS includes a 5-year statistical work programme which prioritizes statistical activities towards monitoring the implementation and outcome of development strategies aimed at achieving national goals and targets that include progress and performance against the MDGs and Poverty Reduction. The plan is to be financed by the Sierra Leone Government and its development partners.

The NSDS has already been approved by parliament, and parts of the strategy have already been implemented. Part of the strategy was to integrate producers and users of statistics into a National Statistical System (NSS) so as to harmonize the production of official statistics within the country. The first stage of this integration process was to have statisticians placed in the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). In effecting this, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between Statistics Sierra Leone and eight ministries, for which eight statisticians were recruited. The ministries that signed the MOUs and have received the first wave of statisticians are as follows:

- Ministry of Health and Sanitation
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs
- Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Ministry of Transport and Aviation
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

In addition to the recruitment of statisticians into the eight MDAs, a National Statistical System (NSS) Steering Committee has been established to oversee the functioning of the National Statistical System. The NSDS requires substantial funds to implement the 5-year strategic plan, and funds are expected to come from the Government of Sierra Leone and its donor partners. So far, all the funds necessary for the implementation of the NSDS have not been secured, as a substantial amount of funding is to be received from the donor community.

Awareness of the importance of statistics

Inadequate publicity and advocacy has been a problem in the NSS for quite some time. This can in part be attributed to lack of capacity in the NSS to carry out advocacy as well as lack of good advocacy tools and materials. Due to this inadequate sensitization of the public, there is little awareness of the importance of statistics in the country.

Time for a new start: Several surveys have been done since the conclusion of the war in Sierra Leone.

This, however, has begun to change. The build up to the development of the National Statistical System (NSS) through the NSDS process has helped to sensitize many people in Sierra Leone about the importance of statistics. As part of the preparation of the NSDS document, several workshops were held between SSL and users/producers of statistics, wherein their input into the NSDS was captured through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. Also, SSL has held workshops with the media about the importance and use of statistics in media reporting. Moreover, SSL has made use of newsmakers to grace their functions, resulting in extensive media coverage.

Generally very high response rate

These efforts for publicity are especially important in a post-war country like Sierra Leone, because in many cases there is a lot of mistrust after a conflict situation. But fortunately, statistical activities in Sierra Leone have not been that much hampered by mistrust from the general populace. Whenever surveys are conducted, there is generally a very high response rate from respondents. Several surveys have been conducted since the conclusion of the war in Sierra Leone in 2002. In fact, a National Population and Housing census was conducted in 2004, which was widely regarded as a huge success by the international community. Subsequent to that, a few key surveys such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in 2005, the Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey conducted in 2007, and the Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2008 and currently under analysis, have all been very successful, and highly commended by the international community.

4.2.3 Mozambique: Strong, but too centralized

By Klaus Roeder*

Consultant Klaus Roeder has worked in Mozambique for five years.

— Sixteen years can be a long time, but it can also be short. The civil war in Mozambique ended in 1992 and the country has struggled since to develop in many areas: economical growth, agricultural improvements, health security, access to education, civil rights, employment security and trade organizations, improvement of infrastructure such as roads, access to common services as water and electricity, the development of a civil society, democratic public life, law security and enforcement, gender equality, protection of children and disfavored groups of people and many more.

Many things happen at the same time

Taking into account that most of human and material infrastructure of the country had been destroyed in a twelve year war, one can only imagine how huge the task has been and still is to lead the county into the 21st century. Statistics at its best, is meticulous bookkeeping of what is happening. And one of the central difficulties in an emerging nation is, that very many things happen at the same time. Would the most accurate bookkeeping be the most comprehensive one? Certainly not! The most difficult task would be to select the important information to be gathered from the less important and there the crucial problem arises: What is important and who is going to decide what is important?

Traditionally, the Statistical Office is considered a technical Institute, elaborating reports based on the requirements of politics. Looking at Mozambique, the situation of INE, the National Statistical Institute, the situation is exactly that: Politics requires information and INE delivers this information. Now one of the difficulties is: Who is the author of demand of information? Several actors enter the scenario:

- the Government,
- International Organizations,
- Donors (multilateral, unilateral and private),
- Investors and Business,
- the Public and others.

Discussing the role of government, a brief word is necessary about the political system: The country is ruled since the end of civil war by the FRELIMO party and this is not likely to change in the future. Contrary to most other neighboring African countries there is a structured opposition party RENAMO, but the parliamentary life is far from a transparent democracy. The unique trait of political life, if the verticality of decision processes, chief decides and this is transferred to the remotest corners of the country, at least theoretically.

Reduced access to information

FRELIMO seems to have a more transparent structure; RENAMO seems to be basically a one man show, although also FRELIMO is more of a club with economical and political ambitions than a party in the sense of democratic societies. The main reasons for this seem to be sociological particularities of African societies and very reduced access to information by a vast majority of Mozambican citizens.

Thus, the demand of politics or the Government toward statistics is, in theory, to accompany the development of the country and to improve knowledge of decision maker before and after political choices. In practice, public expenses depend heavily on foreign donors influencing heavily investment decisions. The bulkiest statistical tasks are mainly financed by international agencies: Census, Household Surveys, Agricultural Surveys, National Health Survey etc. More continuous work, like national accounts, education

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statistics, price statistics or economical and business climate surveys are also financed directly or indirectly by foreign sources but the budget is usually administered directly by national authorities: ministries or INE. The result delivered by these statistical tasks depends on the quality of expertise and regular investment and budget support, varying largely in quality and performance, most notorious if it comes to decentralized information.

Directed to satisfy planning needs

The political role of INE in Mozambique is not weak but reflects essentially the political system in Mozambique, centralized and directed to satisfy planning and administrative needs of the Central Government. This is one of the main reasons why concrete data on regional issues, for example on the regional agricultural sector and the availability of agricultural resources on a local level are very rare. It would be therefore recommendable to delegate the responsibility for the acquisition of regional data to the provincial governments – within a national framework.

The current situation is contradictory to the manifested political urge to transfer and decentralize control, but central powers are very hesitant to allow decentralization. Considering the much reduced level of information access in the places outside the capital Maputo, this reluctance is somehow understandable. The question remains, if the conviction of necessity to decentralize, which is essential to development is shared by the rulers or not.

The conviction of the necessity of information is likewise not shared by all, especially if it comes to dealing with not positive information. Household Survey and Census are essential to deliver information about crucial benchmarks of development and thus share a high interest level. Whereas an international community would like to see development gains spread to the largest possible portion of the countries population, a power conscious government might not think in the same patterns. The favoring and inequality among population groups is deliberate and part of politics. Statistics as theoretically neutral observers might report on this without much political reluctance but in practice will not do so.

Private organizations are less reluctant

Private or donor organizations are less reluctant not to speak out negative trends but might be considered to patronize. Typical examples were contradicting surveys on corruption published by consultancies close to the Mozambican government and a study published by USAID. In both cases, the methodology was not totally clear, but whereas the government report had a more technical approach (comparing the amount of complaints about corruption in different organizations and institutions) the USAID report related the phenomenon to the political structures in the country.**

Other examples were rather positive results about poverty reduction by researchers traditionally close to government and others being more independent. To the distant observer the statistical

Precise data on the provincial and regional level – e.g. in the agricultural sector – are still lacking. Photo: Roeder

**See : www.usaid.gov/mz/doc/misc/mozambique_corruption_assesment.pdf

Rehearsing the National Census in Mozambique in 2007: After many years of conflict, post-war Mozambique has developed a strong performance on surveys and censuses – and people agree to being interviewed. Photo: Roeder

office might be less involved in these tasks but in practice many of the work results have political implications. For example, the Census results imply the composition of election districts, implying elevated political awareness.

As a rather distant observer, I see several assets of the political system in Mozambique on its arduous task of development:

- A very strong performance on surveys and censuses
- A very liberal policy towards access to raw data by researchers and research institutes
- High performance on National Accounts and Price Statistics in accordance to a successful fiscal and inflationary policy in the country
- Very successful contribution to health statistics based on comparison of census data and mortality figures analyzing effects of malaria and AIDS.

Large room for improvements

On the other hand there are several shortcomings and large room for improvements. Describing these, it is clear, that the authority of decision lies in the hands of national decision makers and Mozambique has fared extremely well with responsible governments and administrators in the past. Any mentioning of shortcomings is only done to improve the reciprocal relationship between information and decision making:

- A large deficiency in knowledge about disparities in regional terms, especially if it comes to agriculture
- Shortcomings in observing economical development at the micro-level
- Inconsistencies in information about security and law enforcement on many levels
- Inconsistencies about health performance in various areas (especially AIDS, malaria).

The Statistical offices in Mozambique have done a tremendous job accompanying a stunning progress in the country as far as economic growth is concerned. The main reasonability for this can be attributed to the working political system. However, the future will show, if power can be shared with groups of Mozambican society so far disfavored and marginalized. This is not only a Mozambican task, the international community has shown many shortcomings in the recent past as far as taking a actions to avoid disasters in Africa. Statistics can only be as good as the political framework it is working in. The Statistical office will only recruit and maintain technical expertise if the work of the statistician as a bookkeeper or an analyst is cherished and valued.

A strong statistical system, as we can see in Mozambique, reflects a responsible attitude of government towards information management. The future of mankind in Africa and elsewhere depends on the deductions taken from information. Even bad news can be good news for the future, if the right decisions will be taken.

5 | Statistics go public

5.1 Why communication?

"The right to information has become one of the fundamental rights of the twentieth century citizen. In a society where information and the media play a considerable part, professional action of statisticians helps safeguard a fundamental human liberty. The working methods they use are complex, the data they deal with difficult to evaluate. An effort to explain to the public is necessary. This effort is required by democracy. All citizens must be in a position where they can understand and assess the policies followed by governments."

Lionel Jospin, former Prime Minister of France, 1989

Statistical information is much more than data and figures. It is power used for evidence based policy formulation and ensuring good governance. Done in the right, professional way it can ensure the right of citizens to exert democratic control over policies and their results. Thereby, statistics can be an important weapon for building and sustaining of democracy – if they are used properly. Statistics have no value if they are not used – but to be used, they have to be understood, not only by the experts themselves but also by the broader public.

Communication skills of statisticians

National Statistical Offices all over the world are supposed to provide the public with a high quality statistical information service. A sound dissemination policy and professional strategies for communicating statistics, i.e. data, figures, maps, graphs and all their implications, in a clear, understandable and user-friendly are prerequisites for that. Such dissemination and Public Relation (PR) policies must be backed by appropriate communication skills

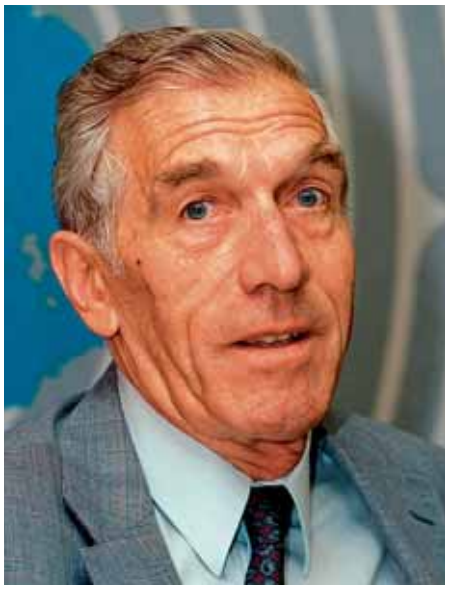
The right to information is a fundamental democratic right. Professional statistical work helps to safeguard it.
Photo: Hoegen

of the Statisticians. They have to take into account users needs and focus their analysis on questions of high interest.

Building up public trust

On the other hand, PR and sound communication and dissemination strategies are also in the own interest of the National Statistical Offices. They help building up public trust towards their work. "The level of trust determines the range of surveys that can be undertaken, the quality and cost of work and the resulting capacity to integrate data."* PR enhances the visibility of statistics, especially that of so called Flagship Statistics, such as Consumer Price Index, population census and Gross

* "The challenge of Communication Statistics", presentation of Len Cook and Clare Down, UK at the DGINS Conference, Copenhagen 26-27 May, 2005. Building up trust is even more important in fragile situations such as in post-conflict and post-war countries, see also Chap. 4.



"One cannot not communicate."

Paul Watzlawick, Austrian 1921 – 2007, a theoretician in communication theory

Domestic Product. If these key statistics are managed and communicated well, then there are consequential benefits for confidence in other statistics – leading to confidence in the system as a whole.

Paint a different picture

On the other hand: "The absence of good statistical information means that ideology, anecdote and experience will be extrapolated to paint a different picture than that which might be filled in robustly by good statistical information." *

An important gateway to the users

It is widely recognized, that media play an important role in this process of communicating with the public. Media are an important gateway to users: "The inter-linkages and relationships between the Statisticians and the Media can not be over emphasized in promotion of statistical information and services. Whereas Statisticians collect, compile and publish information and data, the media must as of necessity play an active role in effective communication of the information for the media has sufficient resources including expertise to do so."** Journalists therefore have been identified as key players in communicating statistical information.

How should Statistics be a good source for the journalists?

- Be available (via publications, website, press conferences, press releases etc)
- Be timely (Information delayed is information denied)
- Be relevant (make figures exciting, newsworthy, understandable and of current interest)
- Be reliable (good statistics that is not easily misunderstood, integrity)

* This argument is taken from the same presentation.

** For this and the recommendation in the box: How should Statistics be a good source for the journalists?, see: Dissemination of Statistics in Uganda, A paper for presentation to a media workshop on 3-5 February 2005, p. 2.

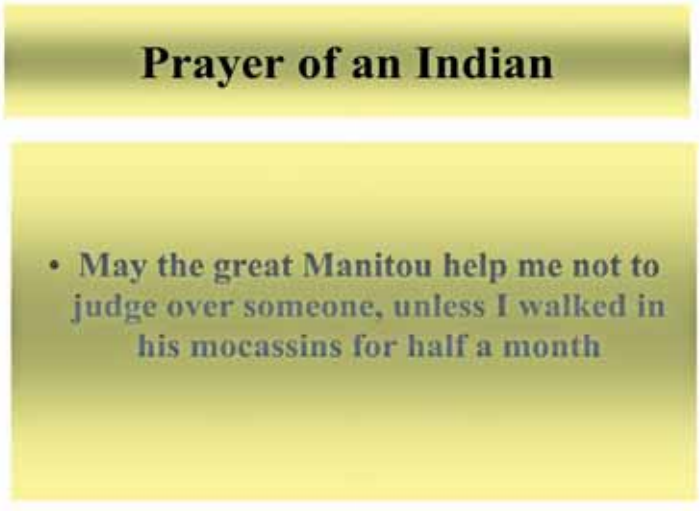
Researching, debating and putting oneself in the shoes of those on the other side: The exercises and role plays were extremely lively and dynamic. From left: Marfo Nkansah (Ghana), Joyce Urasa (Tanzania), Michael Pappoe (Ghana) and Mayasa Mwinyi (Tanzania).

5.2 Building bridges between users and producers

While the inter-linkages between statisticians and the media are more and more recognized, as mentioned above, both sides tend to have difficulties in communicating with each other. There are still a lot of cultural barriers as well as mutual stereotypes to overcome. Statisticians should recognize media contacts as an opportunity to better present their work and efforts rather than looking at it as an unpleasant disturbance. Journalists should recognize the value of statistics for their research and for a good journalistic story based on evidence rather than perceiving statistics just as "boring" figures.

Besides these cultural barriers, there are also different cultures of communication to deal with. Statisticians deal with data and figures, whereas journalists mostly deal with words and stories. Statisticians therefore must be able to present their figures in such a way, that journalists will be able to make stories out of it. At the same time, journalists also must be enabled to better understand statistics, in order to see the stories behind them. The need for more exchange and mutual training is evident.

InWEnt wants to support this process of improved communication and dialogue between statisticians and the media as well as other user groups, like representatives of civil society organizations, for instance. InWEnt therefore has initiated a completely new project: "PR and Statistics – Building bridges between users



Interview training: One of the highlights of the producer session within the InWEnt course: "PR and Statistics – Building bridges between users and producers". Photos: InWEnt

and producers" – a training based on the idea that people learn best, when they learn from each other.

Communication literacy closes the gap

While users should improve their so called "statistical literacy", producers of data should work on their "communication literacy". Thereby the gap between the two groups can be closed and everybody involved in this process can have an easy and effective walk on the bridge of communication. The concept of the course is multifold. In a first step, producers and users are split up in two separate groups – and stay in their respective groups throughout a preliminary e-learning phase as well as a classroom session afterwards. In a second step, both groups are brought together for a joint learning phase.

Producer Side

For the producers it is important to first become familiar with basics of PR. They also learn about the special needs of journalists and media. In addition to that, the bridge-building training supports statisticians and other data producers to improve their own communication skills. They have to write press releases, formulate key messages and present them in front of a radio microphone and TV cameras. This interview training session turns out to be one of the highlights of the course.

→ The difference between Advertisement and PR

- Through advertising you reclaim that you and your organization are just great.
- Through Public Relation you motivate others to say that you and your organization do a good job.

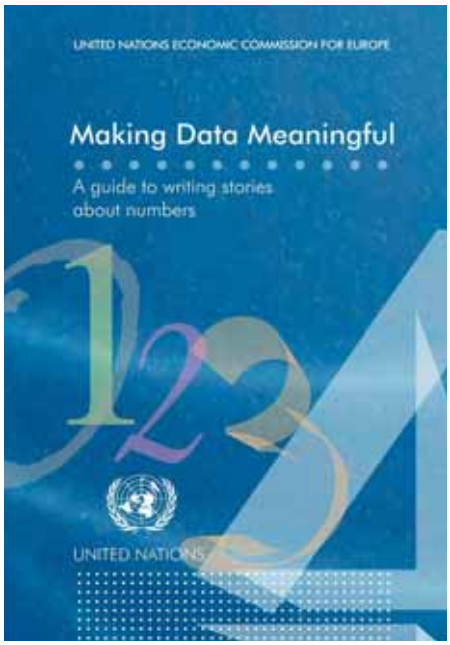
People learn best, when they learn from each other: Scene from the workshop "PR and statistics".

Another highlight is the final (real) press conference that the producers have to prepare and conduct themselves – on the topic of the course itself: the need for bridge-building between users and producers of data and the InWEnt training related to that.

Apart from this, producers are also made familiar with useful PR-tools other than press and media work. Quality data management and sound dissemination practice is another key element of the training on the producers side – since they are prerequisites for any communication strategy and policy.

User Side

On the user's side it is of outmost importance to work on their so called statistical literacy. While, of course, users should not (and can not) become statisticians throughout the training, they should nevertheless get a basic knowledge of what is behind all these figures, maps and graphs – and inform themselves about different statistical methods and their implications.



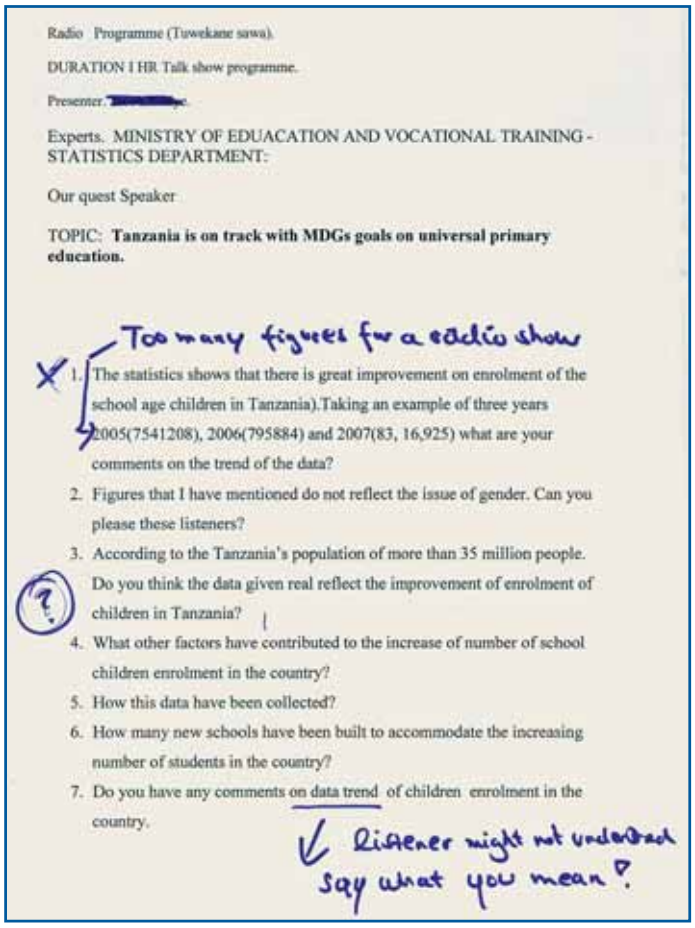
Useful guide: The UNESCO brochure tells how to make data meaningful by writing stories about numbers.

Peer learning and dialogue are crucial for the InWEnt training on PR and Statistics. Here: Participants of the pilote course in 2007/08. From left: Naita Hishoono (Namibia), Jacom Mwale (Zambia) and Maxwell Multo (Malawi).

At the same time it is very important for the users, especially the journalists, to use their own professional skills in dealing with statistics and make good reports and stories out of data. A series of exercises within the user session of the training is especially dedicated to this.

Joint Session

The joint session of the users and producers group – second phase of the training – is very much based on the concept of peer learning. This is in accordance with the idea of enhancing the dialogue between statisticians, journalists, representatives of ministries or banks, NGO-staff and other users. The design of the exercises during this phase gives all of them plenty opportunity for the exchange of ideas, learning experiences and thus for better mutual understanding. Peer learning and dialogue are crucial for the InWEnt training on PR and Statistics. Here: Participants of the pilote course in 2007/08. From left: Naita Hishoono (Namibia), Jacom Mwale (Zambia) and Maxwell Multo (Malawi).



Radio Programme (Tuwekane sawa).

DURATION 1 HR Talk show programme.

Presenter [redacted].

Experts. MINISTRY OF EDUACATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING - STATISTICS DEPARTMENT:

Our quest Speaker

TOPIC: **Tanzania is on track with MDGs goals on universal primary education.**

Too many figures for a radio show

1. The statistics shows that there is great improvement on enrolment of the school age children in Tanzania).Taking an example of three years 2005(7541208), 2006(795884) and 2007(83, 16,925) what are your comments on the trend of the data?
2. Figures that I have mentioned do not reflect the issue of gender. Can you please these listeners?
3. According to the Tanzania's population of more than 35 million people. Do you think the data given real reflect the improvement of enrolment of children in Tanzania?
4. What other factors have contributed to the increase of number of school children enrolment in the country?
5. How this data have been collected?
6. How many new schools have been built to accommodate the increasing number of students in the country?
7. Do you have any comments on data trend of children enrolment in the country.

Listener might not understand say what you mean?

Example of an exercise for journalists within the user's session: Radio Interview on MDG Statistics in Tanzania with trainers comments.

CONCEPT PAPER TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Purpose: Request for funding in agricultual development (2008-2011)

Key facts

Area	945,000 Sq Km
Population (Milion est)	39.4
Urban	23.1
Rural	76.9
Life expectancy(2002)	50
Population Growth Rate (2002)	2.9%
Aarable land	4.23%
cultivated crops	wheat, maize, and rice
Agriculture (2004)	46.4% of GDP
Literacy rate at year 2000	60%
Exch. rate: $ USD 1	Tsh 1,200
Inflation rate (FY07)	12%
Fiscal year	June to July
Per capita at PPP (Dec 06)	$320
GDP Growth (FY07)	5.3%
Corporate tax	15%
Personal income tax	15%

Example of a briefing paper that one of the groups designed for their minister of Baduna – are all these details, probably known by the Minister, really serve the purpose of briefing him for the World Banks mission?

Subgroup work is an important element of the joint session. Participants for example have to draft a briefing for their (fictitious) ministerial authority in order to prepare him or her for a meeting with a World Bank mission – with users and producers working together and using statistics for their briefing.

A change of perspectives

Other exercises require the change of perspectives, like the preparation of a press meeting on the question of whether a given country (example) has made progress with regard to MDGs or not - with producers playing the role of journalists and users playing the role of those responsible for the press conference. Another highlight comes at the end of the joint session, which is at the same time the end of the whole training: Users and producers have to prepare a final event: a presentation on a training course called "Census for beginners" in front of a "real" audience – students and other listeners interested in learning more about statistics. Thus, both groups, having learned in how to better communicate with each other throughout the training, finally combine their former and new skills and jointly use them for a communication towards a broader public.

In the shoes of those on the other side

A pilot course of "PR and Statistics – Building bridges between users and producers" was conducted in November/December 2007 at the InWEnt Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics in Bonn and in February 2008 together with the Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch/South Africa. Throughout this training it turned out that participants especially appreciated the practical approach and the method of peer learning, role plays and change of perspectives. All the exercises weres extremely lively and dynamic. They proofed the will of participants to really put themselves in the shoes of those on the other side – statisticians trying to understand journalists and other users way of thinking and vice versa.*

The pilot course also turned out to be a perfect proof for the assumption, that, yes, I a fruitful dialogue between producers and users of statistics is possible and former cultural and communication barriers can be overridden – to the benefit of the democratic society as a whole.

* For a detailed description and analysis of the InWEnt pilot course "PR and Statistics- Building bridges between users and producers" 2007/08 see Final Report, written by trainers Monika Hoegen and Daniel Byk, available at the InWEnt Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, Bonn. The whole training is conducted under the Project Management of Uwe Singer, InWEnt.

PR and Statistics: Lessons learned

"The Census gave me opportunity to practise the skills I learned."

"I have been moving all over the country coordinating publicity for the Uganda Census of Agriculture that has started effective 3rd October 2008. The Census gave me an opportunity to practice the skills I learnt in Bonn last November of giving short and conscience media messages especially radio. I was also able to brief my bosses with whom we have been hosted on over 20 radio stations across the country."

Rosemary Kisakye,
Senior Communications Officer
Uganda Bureau of Statistics

"Statistics that are not used, are of no use."

Trainer Daniel Byk

"A statistical story can be accurate and attractive at the same time."

Trainer Monika Hoegen

"We learned our websites were traditional and offered little information."

"Originally the face of our website had the NEMA mission, vision and core objectives. Then, there were links to various reports on status of Public smoking in the country; Environment Impact Study (EIS) of residual spraying of DDT to control Malaria etc. While at InWEnt we had a session that was dedicated to comparing our institutional websites with the Eurostat/Statec ones.

We learned that ours were traditional and offered little information to those who would access it for research purposes for example – we recommended that that it be re-designed. Since then, the face has latest news from the environment field and several other relevant links such as 'about us' (mission, vision all there), our services, our partners, news, archives of old reports, new reports, topical issues all in a user friendly manner."

Naomi Namara Karekaho,
National Environmental
Management Authority

6 Africa in the driver's seat

Towards more ownership of statistical systems and Data Management

"The concept of mainstreaming statistics is not well understood."

Ben Kiregyera is the Director of the African Centre for Statistics. He took over that position in July 2007. Before, he worked as as International Statistical Consultant and was Chairman of the Board of Directors, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, UBOS, on the Regional Reference Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa, (RRSF) 2006.* The African Centre for Statistics itself was established in August 2006, following the repositioning of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to serve Africa better. It is situated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mr. Kiregyera, what was the overall motivation for establishing the African Centre for Statistics?

Kiregyera: The UNECA is the first pan-African institution. It was established in 1958 with the mandate to support the economic and social development of its 53 member States, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. Following its establishment, ECA played a substantial role in Africa's statistical development. In particular, between 1970 and 1993, ECA, mainly through the regional cooperation programmes and also through its regular programme, assisted in developing capacity in various areas of statistical processes in African countries. The main regional cooperation programmes which were funded by UNDP and UNFPA included the African Census Programme, the African Household Survey Capability Programme, the National Accounts Capability Programme and the Statistical Training Programme for Africa. In mid-1990s, there was a restructuring of the organization and statistics was merged with other sub-programmes. As a result, statistics lost

* See also InWEnt Reader: Better figures for a better life – Statistics and their contribution to development, Bonn 2006, p. 21: Interview with Ben Kiregyera and p. 68: "Light Version" of the RRSF (original document published in Vol 2, African Statistical Journal, May 2006.

"The centre will assist countries to adapt international standards."

Ben Kiregyera,
Director of the African Centre for Statistics

visibility and the advisory services and technical assistance to countries declined.

Due to increased demand for statistics to support results agendas which countries have adopted including Poverty Reduction Strategies, MDGs and other national development plans, the need for enhanced support by UNECA to countries became apparent. This required beefing up of statistics at ECA, hence the establishment of the African Centre for Statistics.

Statisticians in Africa often complain that international statistical standards and requirements are not always in accordance with the situation and circumstances in Africa. Do you think that we need such thing as African Statistics or a special African statistical methodology?

Kiregyera: International statistical standards are important to produce quality data that are comparable across countries and African countries are committed to using them. However, there has been limited African participation in processes leading up to these standards and other international recommendations on statistics. As a result, some of these standards and recommendations do not fit well the specific conditions in Africa. Just to give you an example. For the 2010 round of population and housing census, the UN Statistical Commission approved Principles and Recommendations for this round of censuses. Being global, the Principles and Recommendations could not take on board all the issues African countries submitted for consideration, some of which were Africa specific.

The African countries mandated the African Centre to produce an Addendum to the Global Principles and Recommendations on the 2010 census after extensive consultations with countries. The Addendum has been produced. It gives a set of guidelines, definitions and issues pertaining to the census which are specific to Africa. For example, in addition to the core topics in the Principles and Recommendations, the Addendum recommends extra topics to be considered as core by African countries including age of mother at date of first child born alive and orphanhood (paternal, maternal and dual); the "Institutional Sector of Employment" and "Construction Materials (roof and floor)" are optional topics in the Global Principles and Recommendations – African countries have agreed to make them core topics; etc. There are also recommendations on how to plan and conduct the census, undertake data analysis and dissemination.

African countries have felt that a number of issues in census taking and management specific to the African region have not been adequately addressed. The African Centre has produced an Addendum to the Global Principles and Recommendations on the 2010 census after extensive consultations with countries. The Centre will continue to assist countries to adapt international standards, norms, classifications and recommendations to the African realities.

In which way could the African Centre for Statistics already help to improve National Statistical Systems, Data Collection, Quality Management and Dissemination in African countries? What have been your biggest successes so far?

Kiregyera: The African Centre for Statistics helps to improve National Statistical Systems in Africa in a variety of ways including the following:

- **Statistical advocacy:** aimed at mainstreaming statistics in policy processes and reforming National Statistical Systems to enhance the credibility and believability of official statistics. ACS with PARIS21 has been developing advocacy tools and also encouraging countries to celebrate African Statistics Day each year to create greater awareness in society about the importance of statistics to national development.

- **Improving data sources:** the Centre is mobilizing African countries to participate in the 2010 census by supporting the annual African Symposium on Statistical Development which focuses on census processes, production of guides on different stages of the census process, organizing training workshops on the census operation, etc. There are also plans in the works to revive civil and vital registration systems and improve administrative data sources.

- **Capacity building:** ACS organizes regional workshops on different areas of statistics, provides technical assistance and advisory services to countries and promotes statistical planning. It is in the process of reviving the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA).

- **Data management:** ACS has created a regional statistical base which holds country data. The database platform has been installed at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Secretariat and will also be installed in African countries. In addition, ACS produces an African Statistical Yearbook with national data.

- **Inter-governmental processes:** ACS provides the Secretariat to the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) which is the apex organ on all matters of statistical development in Africa. This commission was endorsed by the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in April 2007. Members of the commission are African countries represented by Chief Statisticians of the countries. The commission has established six working groups on various areas and these groups take forward the development of statistics in those areas.

The staff of the African Centre for Statistics. Photo: ACS

- **Platforms for sharing knowledge, best practices and expe riences:** In addition to workshops and seminars which are organized from time to time, the Centre has established the African Statistical Newsletter for purposes of sharing knowledge, best practices and experiences. The Centre also collaborates with the African Development Bank to produce the African Statistical Journal which also aims to share best practices and experiences.

What are the biggest challenges and obstacles for African Statistical Systems nowadays, in your opinion?

"Countries are beeing encouraged and assisted to mainstream gender in their statistical activities."

Kiregyera: The biggest challenges and obstacles are in the area of mainstreaming statistics* in national development processes. Statistics are invoked when it comes to monitoring and evaluation of development processes. But these are downstream roles of statistics. Statistics should also be playing up-stream roles of identifying issues and policy debate and development. Generally the concept of mainstreaming of statistics is not well understood. It means essentially that statistics is looked as a cross-cutting sector like gender which needs to be developed. In this sense, therefore, mainstreaming implies that statistics should be treated like other sectors with development indicators, a dedicated budget, etc. Because statistics is not mainstreamed, it is not seen as a priority of government and as a result, investment in its development has been scanty.

How do you deal with the new and very difficult areas of, first: Environmental Statistics, second: Gender Statistics and third: Statistics in Post-Conflict Countries?

* For the discussion on mainstreaming statistics, see also: InWEnt Reader: Opening up the Closed-Shop, Mainstremaing Statistics and linking them to daily life, Bonn 2007.

Kiregyera: New areas are being handled on a case by case basis. In the important area of gender, the StatCom-Africa established a Working Group on Gender which has, with partners, already organized a regional high level dialogue on gender statistics and is working with the same partners to organize further gender statistics workshops. Countries are being encouraged and assisted to mainstream gender in their statistical activities. The Centre is working closely with the African Centre for Gender and Social Development to engender censuses and sectors like agriculture, to undertake in selected countries time use surveys, to roll out compilation of the African Gender Development Index (ADGI), etc. On Post-Conflict Countries, the African Statistical Coordination Committee whose members include the African Union, African Development Bank, African Capacity Building Foundation and the ECA established a Working Group that is working on strategies to assist Post-Conflict Countries with their statistical development activities. The Centre is working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to improve the teaching of environmental statistics at statistical training centres and also to strengthen environmental statistical activities at National Statistics Offices. The Centre and UNEP organized a regional workshop on environmental statistics last year.

Do we need African statistics?

By Ben Kiregyera

— No, we do not need African statistics as such. What we need is to adapt international standards, recommendations and methodologies to the realities of Africa as exemplified above.

National and international statistics

There is a lot of concern at country level and internationally about the discrepancies between national and international data. Many reports produced at international level tend to use international data instead of country data even when the latter data exist. The Centre and other UN Regional Commissions have in recent past made assessments of the extent and causes of the discrepancies, and made recommendations which will be discussed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG indicators this month. A programme for harmonizing national and international statistics is contemplated.

Challenge of better coordination

At the regional level, the pan-African institutions have formed an African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) as mentioned above to coordinate the statistical work of the institutions. This Committee reports to StatCom-Africa. In addition, every year, the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) which brings together key donors and agencies discuss support to countries and this forum facilitates donor coordination. It should be emphasized that key stakeholders – countries, donors and international agencies and organizations agreed to work within the RRSF as the framework for coordinating statistical development in Africa. The Centre provides the Secretariat to all the above bodies.

One of the aims of the Regional Reference Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa, (RRSF), for which you were also responsible in 2006 is to root Statistics in African realities. Another one: to build up an African statistical culture. Are we on our way to achieve these goals, now, two years later?

Kiregyera: All statistical activities undertaken by ECA and other pan-African institutions, namely the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) use the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF). ACS provides the secretariat of the RRSF. In context of the RRSF, the institutions undertake statistical advocacy. Since RRSF was designed, the number of African countries undertaking various activities each year in celebration of African Statistics Day has increased significantly.

ACS has played a big role in this regard by getting countries to agree on the theme for each celebration, producing materials for the celebration (e.g. posters, communiqués, etc) in different languages (English, French, Arabic and Portuguese), etc. The AU recently spearheaded the formulation of the African Charter on Statistics which is to be used to advocate for statistics at the highest level of government. The overarching strategy for implementation of the RRSF at country level is the design of the National Strategy or the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Both the ACS and AfDB are assisting countries design their NSDS in a way that renders them country-owned and takes into account national realities. Many African countries now have an NSDS that is providing a framework for assessing user needs, coordination of statistical development and reporting, mobilizing and utilizing national and international resources.

A new powerful web-based tool

By Issa Ouedraogo

Some of the major challenges facing many African National Statistical Offices (NSOs) relates to their efforts to have more appropriate data management systems that will enable them improve their data collection, data analysis, data dissemination and reporting that will also inevitably support the overall vision of STATCOM. Many Africa countries are faced with difficulties in reporting to their stakeholders including Development Partners. It shows that, although significant space has been opening up for greater and more participation by many interested groups, the main objective remains largely unfulfilled. Inadequate institutional capacity, government commitment, collaboration, inappropriate policies and procedures have hindered the progress in this area.

To improve data management and provide a more user-friendly access to statistics, especially to statistics related to MDG and poverty reduction plans, several African countries used DevInfo (Development Information System), a software developed from the ChildInfo database technology, originally created by UNICEF various databases in order to measure development in a more appropriate way. While every system does have it advantages, it nevertheless turned out, that a new and improved data management system is needed, to put National Statistical Offices more in the driver seat. They have to be the masters of the data management, instead of international organizations.

An information hub that streams all data

Monitoring the progress of the MDG indicators requires the concerted efforts of the country's actors and stakeholders involved in the development process in any country. A data base in this process serves as the information hub that streamlines all data generated regarding development indicators in relation to MDGs and produces one commonly accessible information package. Of all these actors in monitoring the MDG indicators, National Statistical Offices had a bigger role to play as they are centres of data generation.

Issa Ouedraogo currently works as IT and Statistics Consultant for National Authorities in Ghana on behalf of CIM and InWEnt. Photo: Hoegen

Numerous advantages for the involved NSOs

The NSOs involved in the whole process have numerous advantages. These offices possess the biggest data generation capacity and they will be able to regulate the type of data that is actually required to monitor each specific MDG indicators.

The new, envisaged Data Platform (DP) would be a powerful web-based tool for data dissemination and management of time series data developed by the World Bank, that tries to overcome these deficiencies. The application can be easily downloaded, installed and setup for data administration and dissemination. The user can create reports, charts and maps on the available data and share it with other users in the public domain.

DP works on different platforms

Data Platform application can be installed on different platforms and it can work with different databases. Unlike similar databases out there, Data platform is based on Open Source Software. Data Platform displays the simplicity and power of this innovative technology which provides user-friendly features to access and present data in powerful presentations, available both on desktops and the internet.

... an efficient tool for information, dissemination and awareness raising ...

The World Bank and now African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank are currently using this system that provides all Bank staff and external users, easy online access to a wide range of development data.

Data on development indicators for a country or region is central to measuring and monitoring progress towards development objectives. Be they in the overall growth of the economy, health, education, gender, or other social or financial sectors. These development indicators, in the form of time series, help in diagnosis of development trends and for projecting outcomes. They also provide a basis for government officials, researchers, NGOs and other stakeholders, at federal or state levels, in formulating, promoting and implementing development policies. DP is a web-based tool for analyzing and disseminating this time-series information in a variety of ways (web-based tables, charts, maps, queries, web pages or create custom indicators) and share data make information more accessible for use in the Bank and for delivering information to countries and regions.

Vast collection of household surveys

Another aspect of DP is as a repository of a vast collection of household and other surveys on development related issues. (for the moment this is not handled by dp) DP, as a tool, is generic and can be used by countries for monitoring and evaluating their own development indicators. Based on country needs, DP could be a component of the Bank's and other donor's technical assistance agenda for use by countries in building their statistical capacity and for monitoring progress.

Efficiency by easy data exchange

The Data Platform can be an efficient tool for information dissemination, awareness raising, advocacy, alliance building, renewal of political commitments at the country level, and for building national capacity for monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to goals and targets.

It will help all stakeholders to prioritize issues within the national development debate. The DP's primary audience is the general public, civil society, media and policy-makers in the country. It delivers significant enhancements for easy access to information on human development. DP includes significant advancements in handling metadata. It conforms to standardized information sharing models for metadata storage and dissemination. These metadata standards help achieve efficiency by facilitating data exchange and harmonizing international and national data sets. It decentralizes data maintenance, lower the reporting burden on data producers and reduce duplication of effort. They foster use of more timely and better quality data. They shift the process of data distribution from „pushing" data to data users to providing options for data users to „pull" data from data producers as and when new data are published. They allow for data exchange among applications on a broad spectrum of platform. It is compliant with three international metadata standards for indicators, data sources and digital maps.

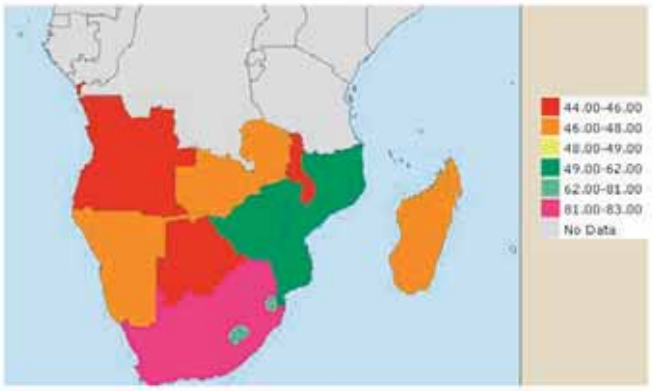
Royalty-free for all end users

The system can be deployed as a royalty-free to all end users, national statistics offices, donors, NGOs and civil society and

they can prepare reports and presentations using this common database platform. The system can be used in many African countries to help track the MDGs and other national priorities and will contribute in making a difference in tracking progress in human development indicators too.

The system will also serve as effective tools of broad-based development, poverty reduction and opportunity for all, if people in every corner of developing countries – and at all levels of society – have reliable and affordable access to them. Broadening the reach and affordability of these technologies and services is a complex and difficult challenge for many developing countries, requiring substantial investments that are often unaffordable for the public sector and unattractive to the private sector. It will also improve business competitiveness and increasing economic growth in Africa. It improves the quality of information of sharing between banks and their donors and the country offices.

Agricultural land in the Middle East and North Africa				
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Algeria	16.84	16.73	16.78	NA
Bahrain	14.08	14.08	14.08	14.08
Djibouti	72.52	73.38	73.38	NA
Egypt, Arab Rep.	3.35	3.44	3.42	3.49
Iran, Islamic Rep.	37.31	37.64	38.51	37.69
Iraq	22.91	22.91	22.91	NA
Israel	25.92	26.02	25.51	23.80
Jordan	11.58	11.62	11.38	11.74
Kuwait	8.47	8.64	8.64	8.64
Lebanon	32.16	32.16	32.16	NA
Libya	8.78	8.78	8.78	NA



Supposed to be user-friendly and easy to access – proposal for a web-based data platform.

Data for progress on MDGs

The deployment of DP under the leadership of STATCOM will go a long way to help African countries to produce evidence based decision making data for progress on MDGs and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other development indicators.

The Data platform can be further developed and customized to meet the requirement of the countries and more so to include all the innovations or other interesting features available in the other systems and consequently become the powerhouse of data management.

Data Platform has its own advantages over the existing databases as noted below:

- Is based on Open Source software meaning the source code will be available to an identified institution in Africa for further enhancement and update of technology
- A complete ownership of software by national statistical offices
- All the quality functions found in the other existing program could be integrated into DP making one power house for data management, data dissemination and reporting
- DP will be supported by two international institutions that will ensure its sustainability and integration to other regions work
- Institutions will have a sound base financial backing from major donors and more will be willing to encourage its usage.

Assistance, support and funding

The World Bank and AfDB as major donors and providers of statistical capacity buiding in Africa have interest to see progress in their member countries and play a leading role in its implementation and capacity building at the country level, providing technical assistance and the necessary support and funding. In line with this, ECA or STATCOM-AFRICA can take the lead and build partnership with the World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and other development partners such as InWEnt, DFID to support the implementation of DP in National Statistical Offices and to strengthen their capacity in maintaining their systems.

African charter paves way for professional data

by Pali Lehola*

Africa's national statistics agencies have, at the request of their respective heads of state, recommended a draft charter on statistics for the continent. This was undertaken recently after three days of intense meetings chaired by the African Union (AU) Commission, in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.

Establishing an African economic community

The draft charter will be presented to Africa's ministers of finance, economics and planning in October, for further consideration. AU heads of state and government will then be asked to ratify it when they meet next January. The African Statistics Charter has been developed against a background of programmes aimed at establishing an African economic community, which presupposes the availability of regular and reliable statistical data.

The main aim of the charter is to serve as an „ethical code building responsibility and an operational framework for statistical development in Africa, including the production, management and dissemination of data and statistical information at national, regional and continental levels".

Serving as an advocacy tool for development of statistics

More specifically, the charter aims to: serve as an advocacy tool for the development of statistics in Africa; ensure quality statistics that are comparable across countries and regions; promote professionalism and the fundamental principles of official statistics; strengthen the institutional and infrastructural capacity of statistical authorities; ensure their autonomy and independence from political interference in their operations and scientific integrity; serve as a professional code of ethics and good practices for statisticians; promote a culture of evidence-based decision making, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation; and contribute to the strengthening and effective functioning of an African statistical system.

Pali Lehola,
head of Statistics South Africa.

Six key principles of the charter

The charter embodies six key principles: professional independence of official statistical agencies; improved data quality; a legal mandate for data collection; appropriate dissemination of data; protection and confidentiality of sources of data; and co-ordination and co-operation between statistical organisations.

The principle of professional independence includes the right of statistical authorities to carry out their activities on a basis of scientific independence, regardless of political power or any interest group.

Scientific independence should be enshrined in law

This right should be enshrined in law, as it is in South Africa's Statistics Act of 1999. Statistical authorities and African statisticians are called upon to use clear and relevant methods of collection, processing, analysis and presentation of statistical data, and to make observations on erroneous interpretations and improper uses of the statistical information that they disseminate.

* Pali Lehola is South Africa's statistician-general and head of Statistics South Africa. This article was published on www.statssa.gov.za, June 21, 2007.

Facilitate correct interpretation

They are also enjoined to facilitate correct interpretation of the data by providing scientific information on the sources, methods and procedures that have been used. The principle of quality in African statistics receives considerable elaboration in the charter, with the dimensions of relevance, durability, accuracy, reliability, continuity, coherence and comparability, timeliness and topicality identified as particularly important.

The charter states that African statistics should be presented in a way that ensures internal coherence, in a time and in a way that enables comparison between regions and countries; for this purpose, it should be possible to jointly combine and use related data coming from different sources. „The concepts, classifications, definitions and methods developed and recognised at the international level should be used."

"The concepts, classifications, definitions and methods developed and recognised at the international level should be used."

The development of statistics that allow for comparisons between different African countries and between the various regions is a necessary condition for meaningful measurement and monitoring of indicators such as the Millennium Development Goals, and poverty reduction initiatives.

Long evolutionary process

The charter forms part of a long evolutionary process relating to socioeconomic development in Africa. Highlights of this process include:

- The adoption in 1991 of the Abuja Treaty, which aims to promote Africa's socioeconomic development;
- The adoption in 2000 of the AU Constitutive Act, which transformed the Organisation for African Unity into an integrated organisation for the continent's sustainable development; and
- The operationalisation of the AU in 2001, with the aim of promoting Africa's socioeconomic development, the implementation of which requires harmonised, coherent, and viable statistics.

It also takes account of the provisions of a resolution on the fundamental principles of public statistics, adopted by a special session of the UN Statistical Commission in 1994, and of the professional code of ethics adopted by the International Statistical Institute at its 45th session, held in Amsterdam in 1985.

By the time the International Statistical Institute moves to South Africa for its 57th session in 2009, the evolution of the charter should be more advanced – although, with its long ancestry, the African Statistics Charter could face the danger of becoming just another document expressing noble sentiments.

Growing Commitment

However, there is a growing commitment to its principles on the part of African statisticians and their organisations. This was demonstrated at the launch of the African Symposium on Statistical Development in Cape Town, and recently confirmed at the second such gathering, held in Rwanda. The African Symposium on Statistical Development next comes to South Africa in 2058, once it has been hosted in rotation by each of the member states of the AU.

By this time, statistical practice based on the provisions of the African Statistics Charter should be firmly entrenched as the basis for the continent's programmes of social and economic development.

Annex

UNITED NATIONS

END POVERTY 2015 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS *Make it happen*

High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 25 September 2008

FACT SHEET

GOAL 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

QUICK FACTS

- Of the 113 countries that failed to achieve gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolment by the target date of 2005, only 18 are likely to achieve the goal by 2015.
- Girls account for 55 per cent of the out-of-school population.
- Since 2000, the proportion of seats for women in parliaments only increased from 13.5 to 17.9 per cent. Women occupy at least 30 per cent of parliamentary seats in 20 countries, although none of these countries are in Asia.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

School doors have swung open for girls in nearly all regions, as many countries have successfully promoted girls' education as part of their efforts to boost overall enrolment. Girls' primary enrolment increased more than boys' in all developing regions between 2000 and 2006. As a result, two out of three countries have achieved gender parity at the primary level.

While there is evidence of some success, especially in enrolment at the primary level, gender disparities in education are clearly evident in some regions. Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia have the largest gender gaps in primary enrolment. At the current rate of progress, the Goal 3 target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015, remains far from being achieved.

Lack of access to water and sanitation has a major impact on women and girls. Women and girls in many parts of the world are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water, and children, especially girls, often do not attend school because their schools lack private and decent sanitation facilities.

Women have more income-earning opportunities than ever before. Overall, women occupy almost 40 per cent of all paid jobs outside agriculture, compared to 35 per cent in 1990. But almost two thirds of women in the developing world work in vulnerable jobs as self-employed persons or as unpaid family workers. In Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, this type of work accounts for more than 80 per cent of all jobs for women.

Women hold at least 40 per cent of the seats in five parliaments: Rwanda (48.8 per cent), Sweden (47 per cent), Cuba (43.2 per cent), Finland (41.5 per cent) and Argentina (40 per cent). Women constitute less than 10 per cent of the members of parliament in one third of all countries. Despite greater parliamentary participation, women are largely absent from the highest levels of governance. In January 2008, women accounted for 7 of the 150 elected heads of state and 8 of the 192 heads of government of United Nations Member States.

Despite some gains, violence against women remains an obstacle to the achievement of the MDGs. Studies show that incidents of gender violence can result in loss of household income equivalent to 25-30 per cent of the monthly income of poor households.

WHAT HAS WORKED

1. **Rwanda's** constitution, adopted in 2003, guarantees a minimum of 30 per cent of parliamentary seats and other leadership positions to women. Rwanda currently has the highest proportion of women parliamentarians in the world, with women constituting nearly 50 per cent of elected officials in the Chamber of Deputies and about 35 per cent in the Senate. In the Government Cabinet, 36 per cent of posts are occupied by women. In Rwanda, the gender gap in primary education reached its goal of zero in 2005, and the gender gap in literacy is close to zero. **Algeria** is another country where parity between sexes has been achieved at the primary school level, and where the proportion of girls exceeds the proportion of boys at the secondary and higher education levels.
2. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recently awarded $19 million to a UNDP-supported project using low-cost technology to boost the productivity and income of women farmers in **Burkina Faso, Mali** and **Senegal**, three Least Developed Countries in Africa. The project's centerpiece is a multi-functional platform

consisting of a diesel-run engine mounted on a steel frame, to which a variety of processing equipment is attached, including a cereal mill, husker, battery charger, and joinery and carpentry tools. Such "platforms" provide electricity for lighting and refrigeration, as well as mechanical power for agro-processing and pumping clean water. They also perform the milling and husking of sorghum, millet, maize and other grains, a tedious, time-consuming task that used to be performed by women and girls, with a mortar and pestle or a grinding stone, in addition to the time devoted to collecting firewood and fetching water. Women started devoting the hours freed every day, thanks to the platform technology, to literacy courses and income-generating activities, such as creating small agro-business enterprises. After a few years, a majority of surveyed women in platform-equipped villages have tripled their revenues. Some 94 per cent became literate, compared to 62 per cent of women living in villages without platforms.

3. Since 1991, a growing number of women's groups and civil society organizations from more than one hundred countries have taken part in the campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence", tackling all forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, sexual violence in armed conflict, and female genital mutilation/cutting. The "16 Days" run from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, through 10 December, Human Rights Day. Building on decades of work by women activists, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched in February 2008 a multi-year campaign to intensify action to end violence against women and girls, and ensure that policy makers at the highest level work to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

» Scale up actions, increase financial resources and support governments to accelerate the achievement of the MDG targets that equally benefit and empower women and girls, and ensure their access to education and health services, full and decent employment, and equal political participation and decision-making in all sectors.

» Support women entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas, including through improved access to property and economic assets, microfinance, agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, training and markets.

» Guarantee women's land and property rights through legal reforms.

» Raise public awareness to reduce girls' domestic responsibilities and prevent early marriage and pregnancy.

» Adopt comprehensive laws on all forms of violence against women and support awareness raising campaigns to prevent violence against women and girls.

» Increase funding to provide adequate services and access to justice and redress to victims of violence against women. Ensure a supportive environment to encourage the enrolment of girls in school and reduce absenteeism and drop-out rates.

» Hire more female teachers to act as role models and to promote girls' school attendance.

» Promote gender-sensitive curricula and provide gender sensitization programmes for teachers and school officials.

» Ensure that girls are provided with transportation to and from school.

» Provide separate school sanitation facilities for girls and boys.

» Enhance non-formal education for girls and women, such as vocational or skills training and literacy programmes.

» Ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and ILO Conventions on Equal Remuneration, Discrimination, Workers with Family Responsibilities, and Maternity Protection.

» Step-up efforts to implement decent work principles, such as social protection and freedom from harassment.

» Enhance the participation of women at all levels of government and their role in other decision-making positions in the judiciary, the private sector, civil society and the media.

Sources: *Committing to action: Achieving the MDGs*, Background note by the Secretary-General for the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations, New York, 25 September 2008; *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008*, United Nations; MDG Monitor Website http://www.mdgmonitor.org/, UNDP; *UNDP Annual Report 2008*; Women in National Parliaments Webpage http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm, Inter-Parliamentary Union; UNIFEM, http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/16days.php; UNite to End Violence Against Women http://endviolence.un.org/; and UNFPA http://www.unfpa.org/endingviolence).

For more information, please contact mediainfo@un.org
or see www.un.org/millenniumgoals

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MDG Methodology for Carbon Dioxide Emissions

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

Atmosphere | Climate Change | Core indicator

Methodologies: MDG

1. INDICATOR

(a) Name: Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.

(b) Brief Definition: Anthropogenic emissions, less removal by sinks, of carbon dioxide (CO_2). In addition to total emissions, sectoral CO_2 emissions can be considered. The typical sectors for which CO_2 emissions/removals are estimated are energy, industrial processes, agriculture, waste, and the sector of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF).

(c) Unit of Measurement: Annual CO_2 emissions in gigagrams (Gg).

(d) Placement in the CSD Indicator Set: Atmosphere/Climate Change.

2. POLICY RELEVANCE

(a) Purpose: This indicator measures the emissions of carbon dioxide which is known to be the most important, in terms of impact on global warming, anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG).

(b) Relevance to Sustainable/ Unsustainable Development (theme/ sub-theme): For about a thousand years before the industrial revolution, the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere remained relatively constant. Since then, the concentration of various greenhouse gases has increased. The amount of carbon dioxide has increased by more than 30% since pre-industrial times and is currently increasing at an unprecedented rate of about 0.4% per year, mainly due to the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation. Since the late nineteenth century, the mean global temperature has increased by 0.4-0.8°C and the sea level has risen by 10 to 15cm. A doubling of the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere is believed to cause an increase in the global mean temperature of 1.5 to 4.5°C. To appreciate the magnitude of this temperature increase, it should be compared with the global mean temperature difference of perhaps 5 to 6°C from the middle of the last ice age to the present interglacial period.

(c) International Conventions and Agreements: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force in March 1994 and as of 11 April 2007 has received 191 instruments of ratification or accession. The Kyoto Protocol to the Convention was adopted in December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. As of 6 June 2007, the Kyoto Protocol has received 174 instruments of ratifications, accessions, approvals or acceptances.

(d) International Targets/Recommended Standards: The Climate Change Convention includes a commitment by developed country Parties (Annex I Parties), including economies in transition, to aim to return emissions of CO_2 and other GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol to their 1990 levels by 2000. This was achieved: in 2000, GHG emissions from Annex I Parties were about 6 per cent below the 1990 level. The Kyoto Protocol sets individual emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties (developed countries, including countries with economies in transition), which should lead to an overall reduction in GHG emissions from developed countries by at least 5 per cent below the 1990 level in the first commitment period 2008 to 2012. Carbon dioxide amounts to about 80 per cent of total GHG emissions and therefore changes in CO_2 emissions determine, to a sizable extent, the trend for total GHG emissions.
The indicator is also used to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goal Nr. 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) and the associated target "Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources".

(e) Linkages to Other Indicators: This indicator is linked to many other socio-economic and environmental indicators, including GDP growth rate, energy consumption, environmental protection expenditures, and expenditures on air pollution abatement. Of particular relevance is the link to the CSD GHG indicator and to the CO_2 per capita indicator within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

3. METHODOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

(a) Underlying Definitions and Concepts: Greenhouse gases contribute in varying degrees to global warming depending on their heat absorptive capacity and their lifetime in the atmosphere. The global warming potential (GWP) describes the cumulative effect of a gas over a time horizon (usually 100 years) compared to that of CO_2. For example, according to the IPCC Second Assessment Report, 1995, the global warming potential of CH_4 (methane) is 21, meaning that the global warming impact of one kg of CH_4 is 21 times higher than that of one kg of CO_2. However, although the GWP values for methane is higher than for carbon dioxide, the volume of emissions is much greater for CO_2.

(b) Measurement Methods: CO_2 emissions are estimated from data on emission sources, which are mostly facilities where fuel is combusted to produce energy. Data on the amount of fuel used and emission factors for each source are applied in the estimates.

(c) Limitations of the Indicator: Carbon dioxide is only one of greenhouse gases and therefore CO_2 emissions are smaller than the overall GHG emissions. Data for developed countries, including economies in transition, are more complete and easier available than data for developing countries.

(d) Status of the Methodology: Developed country Parties to the Convention have been reporting CO_2 data as part of their GHG data submissions since 1994. The IPCC has published two sets of guidelines on methodologies for the estimation of GHG inventories and further elaborated this with guidance on good practice in 2000 and another guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry in 2003.

(e) Alternative Definitions/Indicators: CO_2 emissions can alternatively be measured on a gross instead of net basis in which case no account is taken of removal by sinks. CO_2 emissions can be also assessed on the per capita basis or per GDP basis, as in indicator 28 (a) of the MDG indicators "CO_2 emissions, total, per capita and per 1$ GDP (PPP)"

4. ASSESSMENT OF DATA

(a) Data Needed to Compile the Indicator: Greenhouse gas emissions data.

(b) National and International Data Availability and Sources: National communications from Parties to the Climate Change Convention, including both developed and developing countries, are available. In addition, developed countries submit their detailed GHG inventories, including CO_2 data, to the UNFCCC secretariat annually. At the international level, the UNFCCC Secretariat supports a database with GHG data based on annual data inventory submissions from developed countries and periodic submissions of national communications from developing countries.

Source: MDG Methodology for Carbon Dioxide Emissions, from: Draft methodology sheets for Environment Statistics and Indicators. Ghana Copy, Ecowas-Workshop May 2008, Abuja/Nigeria
See also: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/methodology_sheets.pdf

Current practises in the calculation of gender pay gaps

Among current efforts towards the development and use of a common measure of the gender pay gap in employment is the work being conducted by Member States of the European Union (EU) and EUROSTAT. The GPG is one of the Structural Indicators selected by the Lisbon Strategy –the action and development plan for the EU– to monitor the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. In addition, the GPG, broken down by private and public sector, age and education is also used as an indicator for monitoring progress in EU Member States in the implementation of employment guidelines to address gender inequality in the labour market. In this context, EUROSTAT has proposed to define the GPG as: "the relative difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees in the whole economy", and has noted that the calculation of the GPGshould be based on:

(a) Hourly wages including paid overtime and without non-regular payments
(b) Mean earnings
(c) Gross earnings
(d) Coverage of full and part-time workers
(e) Coverage of all employees regardless of number of working hours
(f) Coverage of all age groups
(g) Coverage of all industries of the economy

Work in this area by UNECE has focused on the development of an indicator of the gender pay gap in order to monitor differences in the income from employment that women and men take home. As a result, UNECE currently defines the GPG as the "Difference between average gross monthly earnings of male employees and of female employees as a percentage of average gross monthly earnings of male employees".11 Preliminary calculations of the GPG as such defined have been made available through the UNECE gender statistics database. The estimates of the GPG included in the database are based on various national and international ILO) official sources of income data.

The approaches currently used by EUROSTAT and UNECE to calculate the Gender Pay

Gap share several features such as the use of the same formula, the focus on paid employment and exclusion of self-employment; the use of average or mean earnings; and the suggested coverage in terms of working hours (inclusion of full- and part-time workers), age groups, and industries of the economy. The principal differences between the two approaches relate to the policy focus of the indicators; the type of income measurement used (gross hourly earnings versus gross monthly earnings); and the source of data (establishment survey versus any available source of data).

Links

- www.inwent.org
- www.inwent.org/imperia/md/content/bereich4-intranet/abteilung4-06/reader_vol.2-_inwent_statistics_division.pdf
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- http://unstats.un.org/unsds/demographic/mettings/whsops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/list_of_docs.html

Excerpt from: Report on gender pay gap: Data availability and measurement issues, prepared as paper for the Work Session on Gender Statistics, Geneva, 6. – 8. Oct. 2008, organized by UNECE.

Remarks by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

President of the Republic of Liberia at the Official Launching of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census 10:00 a.m., Monrovia City Hall June 28, 2007

The pace of development in any nation is contingent upon informed decision making, which is indispensably a function of factual data collected, analyzed and propagated for the sustainability and viability of the nation. As we come at this historic juncture to induct the Commissioners of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census (NPHC), we embrace this occasion with utmost optimism that socio-economic planning geared towards poverty reduction and the elevation of the social status of our people would be based on data representing the accurate and realistic conditions of our human population.

The launch of the 2008 NPHC marks a significant beginning in Liberia's post war reconstruction process by providing the means for a comprehensive empirical assessment of the country's demographic features and its reconstruction and development needs. Data generated from this complex and expensive nationwide exercise will give the Government and its development partners an objective and reliable picture of the population and housing of Liberia.

The last census in Liberia was conducted in 1984. The censuses planned for 1994 and 2004 did not take place because of the protracted civil war and volatile political and social situation in the country. What this means is that for more than 23 years, there has been no accurate data on the demographic variables of the country. All projections that have been made on the nation's demographic particulars are based on educated guesses and rough estimates from ad hoc surveys that do not represent the authentic picture of the population and housing figures of the country.

After conducting the last census in 1984, there have been considerable population shifts engendered by political and economic factors. Political events in 1985 were also attended by a similar pattern of population movements. Residents of several counties were compelled by the turnout of political events to venture into other parts of the country and provided the impetus for the movement of a significant number of previously permanent residents of Liberia to seek asylum into nearby countries.

The outbreak of the civil war at the close of 1989 that engulfed the country for the better part of fourteen years contributed immensely to large population shifts within and outside the country and precipitated the emigration of a little over 500,000 persons from Liberia. The war also led to the massive destruction of economic infrastructure in the country in both urban and rural areas, thus creating reasons for those who would not have otherwise moved away from their usual reasons habitats to relocate to other parts of the country.

"Let us be clear. The census has nothing to do with any plans to impose taxes on the people. The census will help Government and its development partners to know exactly how many person lives in each village/town, city, clan/township, district, or county."

Another round of civil unrest that broke out between 1999 and 2003 also occasioned massive internal displacement of people from various communities in the country and other waves of refugee movements across Liberia's borders with Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. Huge numbers of Liberians fled to several other countries by air and sea, while thousands of people are believed to have died. Since the end of the civil war, the UNHCR has facilitated the return of thousands of exiled Liberians; a lot of children have been born, and people have been moving in and out of the country.

A national population and housing census is an undertaken meant to provide information to policymakers, researchers and such other persons to help them develop programs and activities aimed at meeting the vital needs of the people and improve upon present delivery systems.

Let us be clear. The census has nothing to do with any plans to impose taxes on the people. The census will help Government and its development partners to know exactly how many person lives in each village/town, city, clan/township, district, or county.

"The results of the census will not be used to discriminate against any group of people in the country because of the characteristics that make them different from other Liberians. Rather, they will be used to help government determine where it would be appropriate to build schools, hospitals, new roads, new markets and other infrastructure that will improve the quality of the lives of the people of Liberia."

The exercise will also provide information on the number of persons that are of voting age so as to help electoral authorities to clearly demarcate constituencies within the country. That information helps government to carry out a fair representation of our people in decision making processes and structures within government. The results of the census will not be used to punish people for belonging to any political party or ethnic group.

The results of the census will not be used to discriminate against any group of people in the country because of the characteristics that make them different from other Liberians. Rather, they will be used to help government determine where it would be appropriate to build schools, hospitals, new roads, new markets and other infrastructure that will improve the quality of the lives of the people of Liberia. The census will help provide true and factual information about those who are working and those who are not, so that jobs will be created for the unemployed; so that we can substantiate or discredit the 86 per cent unemployment rate. The census will also provide information on the human resource capacities of the various parts of the country. This information is necessary in determining the number of trained people in the various professional and occupational fields at the various parts of the country.

The census will help Government to determine the number of houses in the country and their various conditions so that Government will know which strategies to adopt to improve the living conditions of the people.The census indicators would be centered on several socio-economic and demographic issues such as the fertility and mortality rates, migration trends and patterns, economic activity, education, housing and household amenities, and agriculture. Other issues that the census would seek to capture are levels of disability and orphan hood. All these counts and measures give this government a workable tool to foster the development and transformation of our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we convoke hear today, we are emboldened with further determination that this nation, in her nationalistic effort to lift her people from poverty and every form of human misery, would make further giant strides with the full implementation of the 2008 Census exercise. This census exercise, inter alia, would not only afford the opportunity our country to be a part of the 2010 round of National Population and Housing Censuses but would also provide up to date information on demographic, economic and social amenities needed by the masses as deliverables from their government effort at ameliorating poverty.

Moreover, it is hoped that the census would provide benchmarks on which monitoring and evaluation of various national and international goals such as the Millennium Development Goals, (MDGs) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) could be based. The Census would distribution among the various geographical stratifications of the country as well as per gender. We consider the census another milestone of this government undertaken by the many patriotic and professional Liberians who rather than make wild unsubstantiated utterances prefer to contribute to work positively to address the many wrongs and structural deficiencies that have characterized our country for too long.

For the good of our people and our common patrimony, and while invoking the support of the Liberian people, foreign residents and our friends in the international community, I wish to officially launch the 2008 National Population and Housing Census.

May God bless you and bless the Republic of Liberia!

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