

A statistical capacity building indicator:

A proposal for the SSA (Statistical System of Afghanistan):

Reference to the STATISTICAL CAPACITY INDICATOR proposed by Paris21 (Statistical Capacity Building Indicators (SCBI) task team - <http://paris21.org/node/938>) and the IMF - DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK GENERIC FRAMEWORK

The base of the SCBI – Afghanistan is a questionnaire developed for the Quality Assessment Workshop: “How to produce good, reliable data for better decision making” held at the end of the inception phase: “of the project:

AFGHANSTAT–Twinning Project: Workshop on Data Quality Assurance (04.June 2013) for Ministries and CSO and on for CSO only (04.June 2013). The SCBI is calculated as a qualitative indicator attributing scores of +1, 0 and -1 to the answers positive, neutral and negative in the questionnaire and dividing by the number of (valid) responses. The questionnaire is based on the IMF DQA Framework taking into consideration the six major chapters and most of the sub-chapters. The questions are slightly modified to meet the conditions of the SSA. A qualitative questionnaire has been designed to avoid requesting too much detailed information usually very difficult and cumbersome to obtain. The result of the first survey results based on the questionnaires completed by Ministries’ and CSO’ staff will be the baseline for further targets.

The Questionnaire:

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators	Assessment	
			Yes (y)	Partial (p) / No (n)
1. Prerequisites of quality	Legal and institutional environment. The environment is supportive of statistics.	1.1. The responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating the statistics is clearly specified		
		1.2. Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate		
	Resources - Resources are commensurate with needs of statistical programs	1.3. Individual reporters' data are to be kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only		
		1.4. Confidential reporting is ensured through legal mandate and/or measures to encourage response		
2. Assurance of integrity	Relevance-Resilience cover relevant information in the subject field	1.1. The relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored		
		1.2. Processes are in place to focus on quality		
	Other quality management issues	1.3. Processes are in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program		
		1.4. Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the statistical program		
Transparency	2.1. Statistics are produced on an impartial basis			
	2.2. Choice of sources and statistical techniques as well as decisions about dissemination are taken solely by statistical considerations			
		2.3. The responsible statistics entity is obliged to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics		
		2.4. The terms and conditions under which statistics are collected, processed and disseminated are available to the public		

The questionnaire will be filled by representatives of the Statistical Sections (responsible for Data Collection, Processing and Delivery) and selected CSO staff from various fields of work. Answers should be y=(positive), p=(neutral) or n=(negative). This is not a randomly selected sample but rather a selection of identified stakeholders, future use of the questionnaire and the score of the SCBI should take care of this.

Evaluation:

6. Accessibility	Data accessibility- Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable manner	6.1. Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts)	0%	-7%	Group
		6.2. Dissemination media and format are adequate	-33%		
		6.3. Statistics are released on a preannounced schedule.	-17%		

		6.4. Statistics are made available to all users at the same time.	0%		
		6.5. Statistics not routinely disseminated are made available upon request.	0%		
	Metadata accessibility-	6.6. Documentation on concepts, scope, classifications and basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques is available and differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines or good practices are annotated.	17%		
		6.7. Levels of detail are adapted to the needs of the intended audience.	-33%		
	Assistance to users-Prompt and knowledgeable support service is available.	6.8. Contact points for each subject field are publicized	0%		
		6.9. Catalogues of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any changes, are widely available	0%		
				-20%	All

This means (for some dummy data and answers), that the last chapter/group 6. Accesability has a negative score of -7% (blue shading), the overall score is -20% (yellow shading), the score of individual answers are shaded in purple. All the scores range from -100 to +100. So the score increase is measured in comparable numbers of the scoring system, it is not on incremental increase on the baseline value. An EXCEL evaluation sheet has been developed which will allow for simple graphical description of response score and future development over time.

