5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (World Bank)

5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices

Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)

• The World Bank has been working with the IMF on the Socio-demographic and Poverty modules of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). The framework provides countries with a flexible structure for the qualitative assessment of various aspects of the statistical environment and infrastructure in which the data are collected, processed, and disseminated. It also identifies areas requiring technical assistance. The income poverty and education modules have been completed. Modules for health and population are under development.

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing)

Statistical Information Collection and Processing

• The World Bank gathers macroeconomic data and projections at least once a year from its country teams in a process known as the Unified Survey. These data and projections are used for planning and evaluating Bank operations. They underlie work on creditworthiness and risk assessment and they are an important part of the Bank's external publications such as the World Development Indicators, the country and regional At-a-Glance tables, and Global Development Finance. These data are collected in a standardized way using the World Bank's country database system known as the Live Database (LDB). The LDB is an Excel based system which standardizes the management of macroeconomic information by organizing information into separate sheets by topic and utilizing indicator codes, common layouts, and a variety of formatting, calculation, and reporting tools.
• The Development Data Platform (DDP), a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system has integrated and streamlined time-series data management operations at the Bank, and has established a comprehensive platform to support the statistical data collection and dissemination functions of the Bank. Also, the software can be provided to countries to further the goal of statistical capacity building in these countries. The software developed in this project may be installed in these countries.
• The system has also incorporated micro data from household surveys allowing cross-country comparisons on key indicators by welfare status.
• A new web-based system, Data Platform (dp), is part of the DDP suite of products developed to help clients and partners to manage and disseminate their data based on their preferences and needs. It provides a framework for the use and management of quantitative data and their metadata. The system is especially useful for any organization with a need to publish statistical data on the web.

SDMX

• The BIS, ECB, EUROSTAT, IMF, OECD, UN, and the World Bank have set up a partnership to focus on establishing web-based standards for more efficient exchange and sharing of statistical information and metadata, which is called SDMX. As part of this effort, the Bank is involved in a Pilot Project in rebuilding the Joint External Debt Statistics through SDMX standards (see

). These statistics are a product of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics. They bring together data that are currently compiled and published separately by the contributing international agencies on components of countries' external debt and international reserve assets. This should facilitate timely and frequent access by a broad range of users to a single data set. These data are mostly from creditor and market sources, but also include information provided by the debtor countries to the Quarterly External Debt Statistics (QEDS) of the World Bank. The goal is to explore common e-standards and ongoing standardization activities that could allow us to gain efficiency and avoid duplication of effort in our own work and possibly for the work of others in the field of statistical information. We intend to do this by taking advantage of existing and emerging:
  o Exchange protocols, such as GESMES/CB which was implemented by central banks for exchanging time series;
  o E-standards, such as Extensible Markup Language (XML).

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes

Statistical Capacity Building

Ongoing work:
• The World Bank promotes statistical capacity building (SCB) mainly through financial instruments, advisory services, knowledge products, and partnerships. Our activities are centred around the implementation of the Marrakech Action Plans for Statistics (MAPS). Main financial instruments are loans and grants. Lending projects are mostly long term and comprehensive in coverage. The projects typically aim at improved economic and social information for policy making and poverty reduction by strengthening planning, statistical legislations, infrastructure, human resources, data collection, processing, analyzing, archiving, and dissemination. A multi-country lending program, Statistical Capacity Building Program (STATCAP), became operational in 2004 to make investments in statistical development easier and more effective. It is designed to be simple to initiate, plan and operate.
• A $32 million loan under STATCAP for a statistical capacity building program in Ukraine was approved by the Bank's Executive Board in 2004 and is currently being implemented. The loan includes finance for organizational and management reform, development of statistical infrastructure, modernization of computing infrastructure, technical assistance in various areas, and use of economic data in analysis and forecasting.
• In the Russian Federation as a part of the STATCAP facility a new $50 million Project for Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS 2) became effective in April 2008. The project is now under implementation as a follow up to the STASYS project which was completed in December 2006. For the STASYS 2 Project, the World Bank finances 20% of the above amount to (i) enforce further modernization of statistics

methodology in compliance with the international standards; (ii) strengthen development of modern design and technology for statistical data collection, processing, and dissemination; (iii) ensure enhancement of social statistics, and (iv) support human resource development in the statistical system.
• A STATCAP project for Tajikistan was approved in 2006, and currently under implementation. The project is being supported by co-financing from DFID and SIDA, as well as in-kind contributions from the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The mid-term review of the project was conducted in November 2008 with quite positive findings. . The project is moving on schedule and it is anticipated that all activities will be completed by the closing date of June 2011.
• The World Bank manages a multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB which aims to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems in developing countries. It supports: (i) NSDS projects assisting the preparation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and (ii) Statistical capacity improvement projects aiming at strengthening the capacity in key priority areas. TFSCB also funds participation of developing country representatives in meetings, seminars and workshops. It has financed a number of projects in the region and there are currently an NSDS and capacity building project in Armenia, and capacity building projects in Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan. In addition, participation of several staff of Moldovan National Bureau of Statistics in an international conference was recently funded.

• The World Bank Development Grant Facility provided grants to UNECE in the total amount of 950,000 USD to strengthen national capacity to improve gender statistics in Southern and Eastern Europe. These grants fall under the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics umbrella, and were used to finance the following objectives: (i) improve gender sensitivity of National Statistical Systems in order to increase availability, raise quality and improve access to data for developing, monitoring, and evaluating gender policies; and (ii) increase capacity of users to utilize statistics for policy making and how to judge the quality and availability of data at the national and regional level.
• The World Bank maintains a web site on Statistical Capacity Building which provides information on the financial instruments, including STATCAP and TFSCB, advisory services, databases, and reference materials available in support of statistical capacity building. See

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• The Development Gateway Foundation initiative, in which the bank works together with the DGF and the IMF, is aiming at the development of a portal website on development issues, from which users will be able to access information, resources and tools, and into which they will be able to contribute their own knowledge and experience

.
• The Country Statistical Information Database provides information on national statistical systems useful for assessing statistical capacity and monitoring progress in statistical capacity building in developing countries. The database contains information encompassing various aspects of national statistical systems and operations, such as statistical law, national statistical strategy, statistical practice, censuses and surveys, national statistical agencies and publications, , and World Bank statistical projects. It also includes a country-level composite statistical capacity indicator based on evaluation of countries against a set of criteria in the areas of statistical practice, data collection and indicator availability, consistent with international recommendations. In addition, the database allows for cross-country comparisons of selected indicators. See

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• The World Bank provides funding to PARIS21 from its development Grant Facility for the implementation of the Accelerated Data Program (ADP), jointly implemented with the World Bank Data Group. The ADP provides support to countries in the areas of microdata documentation, dissemination and preservation. The Russian Federal Service of State Statistics (Rosstat) was introduced to the software and practices promoted by the ADP.

• A new web-based tool called the "Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity (BBSC)" has been launched on the World Bank website. The tool will help strengthen the capacity of countries, especially IDA countries, to compile and use statistics with an overall aim of supporting the management of development results. Specifically, the BBSC: (i) presents key information on national statistical systems collected from national and international sources, including planning, funding, human resources, census and surveys; (ii) assesses countries' statistical capacity in key areas including institutional framework, statistical methodology, source data, data periodicity and timeliness through the use of a composite indicator, checklists, maps and charts; and (iii) allows users to provide feedback and updates easily and quickly with interactive features. The BBSC is available online at:

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New activities

There are two TFSCB projects in the pipeline: (i) project to support UNECE led training activities to improve the capacity of the National Statistical Offices in Central Asia and East European sub-regions in production and dissemination of economic statistics; and (ii) project to strengthen sub-national capacity for analysis of living conditions in Russia. In addition, it is anticipated that the TFSCB will provide funding to strengthen training programs for the national statistical offices of the Commonwealth Independent States in the coming year.