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**Collaboration among Developing Countries, Partner States, and International Organizations in Building Statistical Capacity for National Accounts:
The UK DFID-Funded GDDS Project for Anglophone Africa**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) is funding the Anglophone Africa General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) project involves one funding agency (DFID), two executing agencies (IMF and World Bank), and 22 beneficiary countries. The evolution of the project through its first two phases provides important guidance on how to coordinate more elaborate technical assistance (TA) programs that may involve multiple projects, multiple funders, multiple executing agencies, and multiple beneficiary countries. A clear take away is that modularizing project design by the funding and executing agencies, in concert with country participation in module selection, provides clear advantages in country buy-in and matching of TA demand to the supply of expertise from the executing agencies. Moreover, TA can be better focused in its content and targeted to a small group of countries with similar needs and absorption capacity. The World Bank's experience with the source data and institutional capacity themes also demonstrates, however, that a modular approach requires standardization, not in which modules are executed by which agency for what country, but in the structure of the menu of modules available for countries to select.

¹ The views expressed herein are for discussion and are those of the authors—Robin Kibuka and Kim Zieschang, IMF, and Ronald Luttkhuizen and Barbro Hexeberg, World Bank, and should not be attributed to the IMF, the World Bank, their Executive Boards, or their managements.

II. HISTORY OF THE GDDS PROJECT

2. The GDDS Project Phase II, “Modules for Strengthening Statistics,” was initiated in September 2006 as collaboration among 21 Anglophone African countries plus Mozambique. The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the funding and broad oversight, while the IMF and World Bank are executing a technical assistance program to help the 22 client countries build statistical capacity consistent with their national priorities. Important among these priorities are the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 1993* and establishing production of the basic source data underlying the national accounts. The project was designed within the framework of the GDDS, with the IMF covering macroeconomic and financial statistics and the World Bank covering socio-demographic statistics. Phase II of the project funding covers the three and a half years beginning May 1, 2006 and ending October 31, 2009, the first four months for project design and the last 38 months for project implementation.² The project builds on the results of the DFID-funded GDDS Phase I project (2001–2006) for 15 Anglophone African countries. Phase I led to all but one of the countries participating in the GDDS establishing a foundation for systematic improvement of their macroeconomic and socio-demographic statistics. The DFID/IMF/World Bank GDDS Project provides important experience with some of the key features of a framework for successful collaboration on national statistical systems, including national accounts development among the countries of a region and multiple providers of technical cooperation resources.

III. THE GDDS PROJECT

3. As implied by its name, the GDDS project (comprising Phase I and Phase II) is framed within an overarching framework: the GDDS, a part of the IMF Data Standards Initiative (DSI).³ The GDDS is a statistical capacity building framework comprising descriptive information about existing or shortly forthcoming data series (metadata) and plans for improvement to enhance existing key statistical series or develop new series. The GDDS project has two goals— to build national capacity to compile and disseminate key data series as well as the metadata⁴ describing those series, and strengthen governance and decision-making in the private and public sectors through timely and transparent

² Originally programmed to end April 30, 2009, the project was extended for an additional six months with DFID’s agreement.

³ See Annex.

⁴ Metadata comprise information about data. There are two types: structural and referential. GDDS metadata are, with few exceptions, referential. Referential metadata are textual descriptions of the institutional, legal, methodological, and procedural context within which data series are compiled and disseminated. Structural metadata provide what database designers call “key variables” that place numeric and referential facts within a searchable grid and allow compatibly structured databases to be linked through the values of those key variables.

dissemination of high quality data. By design, the TA that the project has provided to participating countries strongly supports national statistical priorities, other key IMF surveillance and program objectives, World Bank operations, and DFID objectives.⁵

4. The GDDS framework (for details, see IMF, 1998) offered DFID an established international data transparency initiative to support with financial resources, and an opportunity to collaborate on statistical capacity building with the IMF and the World Bank, using their extensive knowledge of and operations within the participating countries. Moreover, the GDDS takes a holistic approach, which covers both macroeconomic/financial and socio-demographic statistics and emphasizes countries' and their development partners' collaborative efforts to undertake statistical development. The GDDS framework's emphasis on national interagency statistical collaboration—focusing on the role of the country GDDS coordinator⁶—allowed the project to exploit the TA synergies the Bank and Fund could provide to the various sectors of the national statistical system.

5. The project agreement is flexible, with formal separation of the DFID financing into three distinct budgets: a component for World Bank TA, a component for IMF TA, and a component for joint World Bank-IMF and regional activities, which, by agreement, is administered by the IMF. These arrangements permit each of the two executing agencies to follow its own operating procedures in implementing parallel elements of the project.⁷

6. The IMF, through the Statistics Department (STA), focuses on the overall GDDS and macroeconomic statistics issues and is responsible also for administrative aspects of the joint operations of the project, including for the regional advisor. The World Bank, through the Development Data Group, is responsible for socio-demographic statistical aspects of the project. Three staff—project managers based at the headquarters of the Bank and IMF, and a regional manager based in Nairobi—are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the project.

7. While DFID provides the bulk of the financing, the IMF and the Bank provide headquarters support and coordination of the TA extended to the countries participating in the project. Under the terms of Phase I, Fund staff travel costs were not covered by the project. During 2002-2006, most TA work was carried out by outside experts, while Bank and Fund staff provided supervision of mission work to ensure quality.

⁵ For details of the DFID objectives see <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/making-stats-work-dev.pdf>

⁶ All countries participating in the GDDS have to nominate a GDDS coordinator, whose role is to work closely with all the national statistics agencies in updating the metadata and plans for improvement. The latter provides a basis for prioritizing TA needs and in the formulation of rolling plans for reforms.

⁷ For details of the project, including financing and administrative arrangements, logistic, and project monitoring and evaluation as well as the roles of the participating entities see IMF, 2008.

A. The GDDS Project Phase I⁸

8. The GDDS comprises a set of metadata describing current practices in producing major macro- and socioeconomic indicators, and a set of plans for improvement indicating how those indicators are expected to develop. The principal goal of Phase I of the project was to assist the 15 African countries to prepare metadata and plans for improvement. This goal reflected the need to prepare the necessary background—mostly advocacy and developmental steps—to help participating countries to fulfill the participation requirements, as a minimum. Preparation of metadata and plans for improvement was followed by gradual shift in emphasis to the provision of TA to meet the developmental needs identified in the plans for improvement.

9. In the event, 14 of the 15 participating countries became participants in the GDDS, preparing metadata, including plans for improvement, and posting them on the Fund's Data Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB). GDDS participants also assign a GDDS coordinator, who brings together the work of all of the participant's national statistical agencies to prepare and update the metadata. In the project countries, these coordinators also served as contact persons for communication with project managers at the Fund and the Bank and the regional advisor for the prioritization and scheduling of TA and other project matters. Some of the project countries also created interagency technical committees for the discussion of issues of common interest, and some of these committees continued to function as coordinating bodies for the prioritization of reforms and requests for TA within a holistic approach.

10. The other key activities/outputs of Phase I of the project comprised

- Provision of TA in the four macroeconomic topics (national accounts and prices, balance of payments, government finance and monetary and financial statistics) and in socio-demographic statistics, including in some cases preparation of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). Assessment of the TA provided based on mission reports, feedback from the authorities, and project evaluation reports point to evidence of broadly successful progress.
- Workshops to foster cooperation at the national and regional levels. The workshops facilitated information sharing and problem solving in tune with regional requirements and administrative capacities, but not necessarily known to the project experts beforehand. In some cases, the collaboration fostered south-to-south technical assistance.

⁸ For details of Phase I of the project and the lessons learned that were incorporated in Phase II of the project see IMF, 2008.

- Cooperation between the Fund and the World Bank also increased significantly during the project. One major positive aspect of the project was the flexibility that allowed for TA missions to be better coordinated and for gaps to be filled as they became apparent. DFID, which received regular six-month progress reports made regular contributions, partly through some of its country resident advisors.
- The thrust of the three reviews of the project noted successful adaptation of traditional TA—short-term missions ending typically with report writing—which needed to be and was complemented with other methods (e.g., enhanced roles of the GDDS coordinators and the regional advisor to promote statistical awareness and national and regional coordination) to produce more effective results. Moreover, the GDDS provided a comprehensive strategic framework, which facilitated the prioritizing of reforms and TA needs. In some of the participating countries, the GDDS provided also an important foundation for the preparation of the National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDSs).

B. GDDS Project Phase II

11. The design of GDDS Phase II reflects the lessons learned during Phase I. Phase II emphasizes multi-country collaboration and technical assistance as well as workshops and meetings that are built around thematic “modules.”⁹ In addition to the Phase I countries, several others were added for this second phase, namely, The Gambia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa¹⁰, Tanzania, and Uganda, bringing the total to 22. The scope of Phase II’s thematic modules includes not only addressing the goals set in the GDDS plans for improvement developed in Phase I, but adding new data dissemination objectives. The dissemination objective for countries still developing statistical capacity is to release key data under the National Summary Data Page (NSDP) format of the IMF’s Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). For countries with a high enough level of statistical achievement, meeting most or all of the coverage, periodicity, and timeliness requirements of the SDDS, the dissemination objective is to support both the NSDP and an advance release calendar, fully meeting the transparency requirements for subscription to the SDDS.

12. Phase II’s modular approach allows for structured and coordinated implementation of TA activities over a defined period for each modular theme, but also takes account of complementarities and sequencing between the project developments across modular themes. First, the content of the TA actions for each module theme are defined by using a specific module checklist. Second, the framework also defines each module in relation to the other

⁹ Although the GDDS/DFID modular program design was independently developed, we are informed that a Statistics Netherlands initiative from the late 1990s, employed an early modular approach to delivery of technical cooperation resources.

¹⁰ South Africa participates as a resources provider (e.g., experts and conference facilities) in the project.

modules within a thematic framework that also defines the scope and content of the master project.

13. Phase I yielded the following major lessons about TA delivery: (a) the regional approach was useful in promoting the sharing of experience and creating beneficial peer pressure; (b) the effectiveness of TA is enhanced if it is more focused in content and better targeted to small groups of countries with similar levels of capacity building needs and absorption capacity; and (c) getting countries to participate in setting specific TA objectives and in assessing the outcomes contributes to greater ownership and accountability. From the executing agencies' perspective, Phase I also highlighted an opportunity to streamline project administration. Phase II thus employed module managers funded by the project to improve oversight by and reinforce accountability to TA providers. Phase II thus comprised a limited number of modules—eight for the Fund (on macroeconomic statistics and dissemination standards) and seven for the Bank (on source data, socio-demographic topics, and institutional capacity)—run by module managers as the main approach to TA delivery. Moreover, by design, TA modules promote information sharing through launch and concluding workshops for officials from countries participating in the relevant module to agree on and evaluate TA objectives, respectively. At the same time, the modular approach would also introduce efficiencies into the delivery of the TA by streamlining the often time-consuming process of agreeing on the terms of reference of individual missions.

14. The project management structure of Phase II continued from Phase I, except that experts have been hired as part-time module managers to meet the specific management needs of each module. Module managers are experts in the relevant fields and provide backstopping to short-term experts who deliver most of the module TA.

15. Between May and September 2006 DFID, the IMF, and the World Bank developed an initial menu of modules countries could consider under Phase II. Most participating countries opted into modules reflecting their national priorities through a questionnaire and interview process. The countries played an instrumental role in developing and choosing from the menu of modules thus promoting buy-in and ownership of their Phase II modules.

16. The module selection process culminated during a launch workshop that was held in September, 2006 in Cape Town, marking the real beginning of the Phase II project. All countries participating in the project attended the meeting and gave unanimous endorsement to the modular approach and the general framework of the project.

IV. THE MODULAR APPROACH TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE SNA 1993

A. The IMF national accounts module: improving compilation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

17. The national accounts module of GDDS Phase II is focused on implementing the 1993 SNA “integration framework” and has two objectives: (1) Achieve more effective use of

existing surveys and administrative data to compile and improve gross domestic product (GDP); and (2) rebase GDP with comprehensive new or unutilized household and establishment source data from, for example, censuses.

18. Time series on GDP are compiled by interpolating between benchmarks for the levels of key variables based on periodic censuses and comprehensive data collections. The interpolations between benchmarks—or extrapolations from the most recent benchmarks—use indicator series from high frequency survey and administrative sources. “High frequency” generally means “annual” in interpolation/extrapolation for countries in the process of building statistical capacity, and the epochs between benchmarks can span a decade or more. More advanced statistical systems contemplate quarterly interpolation/extrapolation between benchmarks compiled at quinquennial frequency.

19. National accounts sources thus comprise (1) data used for extrapolation and interpolation and (2) data that establish the definitive levels of important components of GDP and related national accounts indicators (benchmarks). The DFID Phase II national accounts module helps participating countries identify and fully use both types of source data that are more or less immediately available for compiling GDP within the *1993 SNA* integration framework. In countries where national accounts publication suffers from a long publication lag or a serious interruption in publication, the module priority is to re-establish extrapolation of existing benchmarks in a regular GDP time series. Once this is achieved, the series can be benchmarked to available comprehensive sources. The module may identify priorities for new source data development, but will stop short of undertaking work on new sources. Other topical modules in Phase II address some of the most critical needs for new source data. Source data for the *1993 SNA* nonfinancial corporations and household sectors are the subject of World Bank modules in the DFID Phase II project on, for example, agricultural statistics and population censuses. Source data on the *1993 SNA* general government and financial corporations sectors are the subject of IMF modules on government finance and monetary and financial statistics.

20. Improving the compilation of GDP requires staff time and resources for planning, implementation and data analysis. The NA module emphasizes the need for adequate planning and resource provision, and only those countries willing to commit adequate resources should participate. Technical staff—either statisticians or economists and clerical staff—are required for improving the compilation of GDP. The collection of data from underutilized sources and the improvement of existing surveys would require a minimum of two staff part time for a small economy and more in the case of a large economy. Management should express a commitment to providing these resources as work on the module begins and remain involved in continuing to identify statistical needs and priorities and for supporting their staff where needed (e.g. ensuring continued access to administrative data from other ministries). The management and organization aspects of institutional capacity are the subjects of a distinct World Bank module in the DFID Phase II project.

21. The NA module started with a regional workshop held in February 2007 covering:
- A review of the methodology for the use of survey data in the compilation of national accounts;
 - A review of current survey practice and shortcomings country-by-country to identify data needs and priorities related to surveys and available administrative data;
 - A review of technical aspects of rebasing the accounts (e.g. selection of a base period, data requirements for determining an appropriate base);
 - Setting specific module outcomes for each country and develop a work plan including well defined benchmarks (planning and sampling, follow-up, data analysis) and determine the timetable and tasks for follow-up bilateral technical assistance; and
 - Discuss the staffing and other resource requirements in greater detail.
22. Countries in the module then receive TA missions to address the priority issues that were identified in the workshop. Initially, the focus of TA has been on improving existing surveys and in exploring the increased use of administrative data:
- Developing a survey form that corresponds to data needs and the conceptual framework of the SNA 93;
 - Identifying administrative data that could be used to supplement information derived through existing surveys; and
 - For countries in a position to undertake the rebasing of the accounts, develop a framework for the rebasing exercise.
23. Two or three TA missions per country are the norm in this module. The module benefits from commonality between countries, so that experiences from one can be applied to another, both through the TA mission and through direct contact between country compilers.
24. A closing workshop will be held at the end of the module, confirming the achievement of the planned outputs and identifying common problems. The workshop will conclude with countries discussing future improvements.

B. The World Bank's modules on institutional capacity and source data

Institutional capacity

The main objective of the Module on Management of Statistical Services (NSSs) is to strengthen the organization and coordination of the National Statistical System.

There are two types of coordination:

1. Institutional coordination, this includes dealing with external NSS members (Statistics Council, formal relationships with other data producers and data users);
2. Technical coordination which is dealing with internal NSS data matters (coordination of methods, concepts, standards, data sharing and release etc.).

During the Launch Workshop, the concept of a statistical system was defined as the relations between the different institutions that are responsible for the production, dissemination and use of statistical information. The documentation of PARIS21 played an important role in defining the scope of work in this module. The result of this approach was that most countries were focusing on the institutional questions rather than to the management of production processes.

Source data: registers and frames as well as surveys

25. The World Bank's modules on Agriculture, Labor, Health, Population, geographical information systems (GIS), and Justice and Security cover source data and basic statistics. The Bank's approach systematically applied, with the countries' participation, a framework based on a standard statistical production model to structure project objectives and project tasks for each module. During the module launch workshops, the countries were invited to select their three main priorities and their work-plans under the module theme from a checklist designed by the module manager. The checklists, which presented dozens of options, were used to select these priorities. Countries were invited to relate each specific priority with one of six standard statistical production activities. This methodology allowed countries to identify their main questions and define these questions as part of a statistical production process at two levels: at the level of the (production) methods applied and at the level of the overall functioning of the national statistical organization. The module project design process allowed countries to understand the challenges in developing the theme statistics of the module in a technical and organizational context.

V. AN EMERGING FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COOPERATION PROJECTS

A. Taking the modular approach forward for multiple funder/multiple execution agency/multiple country projects

26. We turn in this section to some thoughts on a framework for standardized module design, based on learnings from DFID Phase II.

B. Topical theme dimension

27. A first order of business in harmonized definition of modules for statistical development is agreeing on a list of topical themes. The GDDS considers more than 20 macroeconomic and sociodemographic thematic domains within five data “sectors”: real, fiscal, financial, external, and sociodemographic. This thematic classification was developed for the Special Data Dissemination Standard in 1996. A more recently updated thematic structure is the Classification of International Statistical Activities, now in its 2005 version. The first three “domains” of this classification—Demographic and social statistics, Economic statistics, and Environment and multi-domain statistics—and their subtopics comprise an internationally recognized thematic classification for official statistics. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) maintains the classification, and the UN Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) has adopted it to track the statistical work of international organizations (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub/2005docs-6th/sa-2005-11-ECE%20Classification.pdf>).

C. Statistical production dimension

28. As noted in the discussion of the DFID II GDDS project launch, recent World Bank work has employed a modular, statistical production-oriented approach to organizing technical cooperation projects. The World Bank schema contains an element of precedence according to sequence in the production process; for example, registers and frames precede surveys, which precede integration frameworks, which precede dissemination. UNECE Domains 1-2, noted above under topical schema, in combination with Domains 4—Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis—and 5—Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics—of the aforementioned UNECE Classification of International Statistical Activities (as revised in 2005) pick up elements of this process dimension. The table below shows how the World Bank statistical production schema maps items from domains 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the UNECE statistical activity schema, and identifies the UNECE items covered by the various modules of the DFID Phase II project, organized by the World Bank process schema. We would note that there is essentially a one to one correspondence between the topical theme discussed above and the integration framework items in the process schema.

World Bank statistical production schema DFID Phase II modules	UNECE statistical activities schema
Institutional and organizational policy Management of systems module – World Bank	<i>Domain 5: Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics</i> 5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles; role and organization of official statistics 5.2 Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems 5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices 5.4 Management and development of human resources
Information and communications technology GIS module – World Bank	<i>Domain 5: Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics</i> 5.5 Management and development of technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing)
Registers and frames Population statistics module – World Bank Agriculture statistics module – World Bank	<i>Domain 4: Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis</i> 4.3 <i>Data sources</i> 4.3.1 Population and housing censuses; registers of population, dwellings and buildings 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers
Surveys Labor statistics module – World Bank Agriculture statistics module – World Bank Financial statistics module – IMF Government finance statistics module – IMF	<i>Domain 4: Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis</i> 4.3 <i>Data sources</i> 4.3.3 Household surveys 4.3.4 Business and agricultural surveys 4.3.5 Other administrative sources
Integration frameworks Population statistics module – World Bank Labor statistics module – World Bank Health statistics module – World Bank Justice & crime stats module – World Bank National accounts module – IMF Agriculture statistics module – World Bank Financial statistics module – IMF Government finance statistics module – IMF	<i>Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics</i> 1.1 Population and migration 1.2 Labor 1.4 Health 1.8 Justice and crime <i>Domain 2: Economic statistics</i> 2.2 Economic accounts 2.4 <i>Sectoral statistics</i> 2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries 2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics 2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics

World Bank statistical production schema DFID Phase II modules	UNECE statistical activities schema
Dissemination GDDS module – IMF (metadata and NSDP) SDDS module – IMF (metadata and NSDP) Population statistics module – World Bank Labor statistics module – World Bank Health statistics module – World Bank Justice & crime stats module – World Bank National accounts module – IMF Agriculture statistics module – World Bank Financial statistics module – IMF Government finance statistics module – IMF	<i>Domain 4: Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis</i> 4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing

Putting the DFID Phase II modules into this statistical production schema is useful for two reasons. First, the process scope of each module is evident using the schema. The Agriculture statistics module involves four components of the process: registers and frames, surveys, integration frameworks, and dissemination. The national accounts module is more specialized, involving only the integration frameworks and dissemination stages of production. The GDDS and SDDS modules are more specialized still, involving only the dissemination stage of production. Second, it further clarifies the scope of and relationship between each of the modules. This helps to coordinate the contributions the executing agencies make to the overall DFID Phase II project, maximizing complementarities and avoiding duplication by design.

D. Data quality dimension

29. The GDDS has been the organizing framework for PARIS21¹¹ initiatives since the GDDS Phase I project was initiated in 2001 (see “IMF General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) Project for Anglophone Africa,” IMF, October 2001). At about the same time, the GDDS also was associated with the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) through the Data Module of the Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes (data ROSC).¹² In 2002 the DQAF was used to develop of a set of statistical capacity building indicators for PARIS21. Indeed, PARIS21’s November 2004 guide on producing NSDSs

¹¹ Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. See www.paris21.org. See on this website “Statistical Capacity Building Indicators Final Report,” Lucie Laliberté, Chairperson, PARIS21 Task Team on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators, September 2002.

¹² The ROSC is a comprehensive evaluation program for public institutions, itself with multiple modules including the cited module on statistics, implemented jointly by the IMF and the World Bank. The DQAF has been implemented in xx data ROSCs covering yy countries (see <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/dqrs/dqrsroscs/>).

mentions the DQAF as well as the GDDS at multiple points in the text.¹³ The association between GDDS and DQAF has grown into a formal mapping with the Sixth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives in November 2005 (see, in particular, <http://www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=519>).

30. The DQAF organizes information about statistical inputs, outputs, and outcomes to assess the quality of the statistical system and the data it generates. By implication, the DQAF allows tracking capacity building achievement through an assessment of the outcomes organized by topical theme and by data quality dimension/element/indicator. Systematically presenting outcomes of the project using the DQAF gives the project donor/funder a clearer view of how effectively funds have been utilized and how successful the project has been.

E. Project Monitoring and Evaluation using all three dimensions

31. We borrow a figure from the paper in this Conference on implementation of the updated System of National Accounts to show the connection between modular project design and our standard theme/process/data quality structure. We note that compiling progress information in the process dimension allows the project execution agencies and the beneficiary countries to track the application of project resources and check passing of project milestones. As noted, compiling progress information in the data quality DQAF dimension provides indication to the funder and to the beneficiary governments how the project is affecting statistical outcomes. Structuring this information jointly by a standard theme/process/data quality schema allows one set of text information to be viewed or assembled for both project monitoring/execution and project evaluation purposes. This reduces the documentation overhead of the project for all participants—funders, executing agencies, and beneficiary countries alike—and thus reduces the cost of project coordination at the planning as well as the execution stages.

¹³ See "A Guide to Designing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)," PARIS21 Secretariat, November 2004.

Data Quality and Statistical Production Schema of a Common Information Base for Statistical Capacity Building for a Given Topical Theme

Data quality schema ↓		Statistical production schema →				
Data quality dimension	Data quality element	Institutional setting	Registers and frames	Surveys	Integration framework	Dissemination
0 Prerequisites of quality	0.1 Legal and institutional environment					
	0.2 Resources					
	0.3 Relevance					
	0.4 Other quality management					
1 Assurances of integrity	1.1 Professionalism					
	1.2 Transparency					
	1.3 Ethical standards					
2 Methodological soundness	2.1 Concepts and definitions					
	2.2 Scope					
	2.3 Classification/ sectorization					
	2.4 Basis for recording					
3 Accuracy and reliability	3.1 Source data					
	3.2 Assessment of source data					
	3.3 Statistical techniques					
	3.4 Assessment of outputs					
	3.5 Revision studies					
4 Serviceability	4.1 Periodicity and timeliness.					
	4.2 Consistency					
	4.3 Revision policy and practice					
5 Accessibility	5.1 Data accessibility					
	5.2 Metadata accessibility					
	5.3 Assistance to users					

Annex

The IMF Data Standards Initiatives: The SDDS and GDDS

The DSI was one of the Fund's responses to the 1990s' economic and financial crises in emerging economies. It was informed by the important lesson from this episode that poor and/or delayed economic and financial data have serious and costly consequences for the economic well-being of individual countries and for the international financial system as a whole. A part of the initiative focused on "building statistical capacity" in countries that have tended to lack established statistical traditions, in other words, providing timely and reliable compilations of economic/financial data and dissemination of such data to users and policymakers. Under the DSI, the Fund introduced the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and the GDDS. The former—intended largely for countries enjoying or seeking access to the international capital markets, with rigorous compilation, data-reach, and timeliness standards, and dissemination commitments for each participant—was approved by the IMF Executive Board and established in 1996. In contrast, the GDDS—which was established in 1997—emphasizes the capacity building aspects, including plans for improving the statistical framework, and therefore is focused mainly on the preparation and dissemination of "metadata" (i.e., descriptions of how and from what sources statistics are compiled). It has also clear, but less challenging, goals—on the coverage of data, as well as periodicity and timeliness associated with the publication of data prepared by the national authorities. Countries process, at their own pace, the basic data dimensions for the GDDS system—core data categories and indicators. Participation in both the SDDS and the GDDS is voluntary, but there are expectations about performance and adherence for countries that choose to subscribe/participate in these systems. For the SDDS performance is mandatory and monitored. However, the GDDS is not strictly speaking a "standard" and is not monitored. To date, over the 12-year life of the DSI, the number of countries taking part in the SDDS has grown, now reaching 64, and those participating in the GDDS has also grown, now totaling 91.

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