

The Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD)

Other 7 sectors integrated into the implementation process!!

Over the past 16 months UBOS in collaboration with 7 other sectors¹ developed Sector Strategic Plans for Statistics (SSPS) under the second phase of the PNSD process. The PNSD is Uganda's strategy for strengthening statistical development under the stewardship of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). The PNSD process benefited greatly from the existing structures and relations between UBOS and key stakeholders, particularly data producing agencies. The PNSD presents an assessment of the NSS status, and the strategic issues to be addressed over a 5-year implementation period. It also provides a framework for the development and ownership of statistics in the country. It has been developed in a phased manner and to-date, 16 agencies including UBOS have designed sector strategies specifically for statistics. The initial 9 are already implementing while the new seven are yet to begin in the last quarter of this year.

Progress

UBOS in collaboration with the sectors concentrated on;

- Fine tuning SSPS documents for printing.
- Consolidation and harmonization of sector work plans and budgets for Phase I and II sectors. This was preceded by vetting by the UBOS planning committee during which sector contact persons justified their planned activities.
- Initiation and signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between UBOS and the Phase II MDAs.
- Institutional visits to phase I sectors to monitor progress across the participating sectors.
- Documenting the PNSD events. This was done by the UBOS Communication and Public Relations division.
- Undertaking Statistical Inventories – the Ministry of Tourism, Trade, and Industry (MTTI), and, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) undertook and disseminated their findings.

Findings from Institutional visits to Phase I sectors

There was steady progress in the implementation of SSPSs. The UBOS initiated a regular monitoring exercise in form of institutional visits mainly to;

- establish whether the targeted results and outputs were clear and planned activities were systematically focused to achieve the set targets/goals.
- establish whether funds disbursed to the beneficiaries (MDAs) are being used for their intended purpose,
- Identify and document the emerging issues such as best practices, challenges, and potential obstacles if any, and
- establish whether the existing structures, resources (financial, human resources etc) and leadership is adequate and provides a sustainable and enabling environment for attaining coherence, effectiveness and demand driven statistics within the sector.

1 Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development (MFPED), Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), DENIVA, and Uganda National Council for Science & Technology (UNCST).

A monitoring schedule has been developed to track progress on the implementation of activities by MDAs in Phase I. Monitoring teams constituted of two to four members that visited the implementing MDAs on appointment and interacted with the respective focal point persons.

Findings

The findings revealed that most of the sectors had undertaken 70 percent of their activities by the end of the second quarter (2008). Activities specifically related to Data development, IT infrastructure and GIS inventories; infrastructure development, advocacy for and publicity of statistics, enhancement of MDA websites to include statistics, revision of data collection instruments and skills development in statistical concepts, data analysis and M&E had been conducted. In particular, the monitoring exercise provided the findings outlined in the table below;

Strategic objective	Output
Statistical Advocacy	All the sectors held at least one workshop with key stakeholders and Senior officials including; Permanent Secretaries and Commissioners in the respective line ministries. This has strengthened awareness and improved the attitude, demand and use of statistics.
Organisational and Institutional Development:	Most Sectors recruited contract staff while others got through the Public Service to support statistical activities. Sector statistics committees were conducted but not consistently across all the sectors.
Physical and Statistical Infrastructure Development	Most sectors acquired computers, soft ware, printers, photocopiers, LCD Projectors and scanners to improve on the working environment for statistics generation and processing. This has improved efficiency in the compilation and storage of improved statistics.
IT Architecture, Training, Hardware and Software Policies	Most of the sectors embarked on enhancing their websites, acquiring software, and undertaking inventories of their statistics and management information systems. Some sectors conducted various IT training for statistical management, strengthening linkages with other agencies.
Dissemination of statistics	A number published and disseminated findings from various studies and surveys. This component enhanced partnerships, sharing of information, and created a stream of networks, and opportunities in the sector.
Human Resource Development and Management	Training was conducted in monitoring and evaluation, data base administration, basic statistical packages (STATA and CSPRO), basic statistical skills, sampling techniques, sample survey, database design and data management, Financial programming and policy, Desk top publishing, etc The trainings were conducted in groups or individuals in collaboration with UBOS. This has created a positive impact on statistical management within the statistical outfits in the sectors.
Statistical Development Programmes	MDAs conducted reviews of their data collection instruments, compiled inventories of their statistics, updated analysis tools (GIS), review of master frames for economic and social statistics (UBOS), and surveys in others etc.

Training

1. 2 officers –from the UBOS and Uganda Police Force attended a GIS Strategy Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya
2. The Senior Communications and Public Relations Officer attended a Media Course, Strengthening Statistical Communication with the Media, Cape Town, South Africa
3. The PNSD Coordinator supported sector mainstreaming to INE, Maputo, Mozambique.
4. 4 MDAs officers participated in the INwent Training on Gender and MDGs, Sheraton, Kampala

Funding

The drive and capacity to mobilise resources to sustain production of administrative data is still low across MDAs. However, parliament has pledged to support the PNSD in order to improve data provision by key producers through UBOS.

Challenges

- Monitoring implementation and expenditure in the sector.
- The drive and capacity to mobilise resources by sectors for statistical activities
- Undertaking data inventories in sectors
- Decentralised procurement of IT infrastructure has implications for inconsistencies in specifications, cost etc.
- Some activities in the original workplans had to be adjusted to suit the changing demands in the sector.

Planned Activities

- Routine monitoring of the implementation of PNSD Activities.
- Printing of SSPs.
- Conduct a Producer-Producer meeting.
- Follow up on the establishment of the National Statistics Steering Committee with the Ag. Minister of State for Planning, MoFPED now that UBOS has a new Board of Directors.
- Support sectors in the development of meta data.
- Initiate discussions of the Uganda Meta data dictionary
- UBOS Act (1998)- Hire consultants to review and develop concept notes on the following:
 - Certification of official statistics
 - Zonal Offices
 - Common Statistical Cadre.

Upcoming Events/Workshops

- One-week training in Monitoring and Evaluation
- One-day Producer – Producer workshop
- Two-weeks training in Statistical Concepts and Survey Data Analysis
(Target: Ministries, Departments and Agencies)

Contact Persons

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