

The Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD)

About the PNSD

The continued interest and support for statistics to measure results and sectoral performance has invaluable raised the profile of Statistical development at national, regional and international level. The onset of the PNSD in Uganda has re-awakened the long extinct statistical systems in sectors. Subsequently, the design and implementation of Sector Strategic Plans for Statistics (SSPS) has prompted the revitalization of structures and functions for statistics production. Some institutions have officially mainstreamed the statistical function through the Public Service domain. ***The PNSD is Uganda's strategy for strengthening statistical development in the National Statistical System (NSS). The process of its development is based on wide consultation with key stakeholders and sectoral mainstreaming with emphasis on harmonization of effort.***

Progress

The Bureau is currently focused on the finalisation of SSPS in the 7 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) - "Sectors". in the second phase, and, implementation of the 9 Phase I SSPS. Although currently at different levels of development the PNSD phase II has significantly gained from the lessons and experiences of the Phase I sectors.

Phase I

The process of SSPS implementation has remained uneven across the sectors, and although the pace of implementation is relatively protracted, it is steady. Most sectors have undertaken;

- (i) Data, IT infrastructure and strategy, and GIS inventories,
- (ii) Infrastructure development,
- (iii) Advocacy for and publicity of statistics
- (iv) Enhancement of their website to include statistical information
- (v) Review of data collection instruments
- (vi) Skills development in statistical concepts, data analysis and monitoring and evaluation.

*In preparation for the second disbursement, sectors have developed workplans and budgets. Priority will be given to: ***data collection, human resource, and, database and meta data development.***

Phase II

- Seven out of the originally 10 targeted MDAs submitted their draft SSPS reports to UBOS.
- Session reviews for each sector, a Stakeholder's workshop for all sectors and a High Level seminar were conducted by UBOS.
 - The stake holders' workshop was intended to identify and discuss emerging issues; review the strategies; and generate recommendations to be endorsed by the Accounting Officers at the High Level Seminar. The workshop was ***graced by the Minister of State for Finance, General Duties/Planning Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.***
 - The High Level Seminar was the platform for discussion and endorsement of the recommendations for statistical development. The Seminar targeted Accounting Officers, Commissioners, Development Partners and Heads of the Phase II MDAs. The Seminar was ***presided over and chaired by the Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet.*** The issues and recommendations are presented in the Appended Table 1;
- All participating sectors presented their workplans and budgets to the UBOS Planning Committee for justification. The event involved Commissioners and Contact Persons for some agencies, or Chief Executives and the contact persons in the others to agree on priority activities and budgets.
- Draft MoUs were given to Phase II MDAs for review and comment as a precursor to SSPS implementation.

Cross Cutting

- A framework for monitoring implementation of Statistical activities in the NSS has been developed. The framework is currently being tested during institutional visits to Phase I sectors.
- The process of establishing a National Statistics Steering Committee (NSSC) has been revived.

Funding

- The next DFID disbursement to cover implementation for both Phase I and II sectors is scheduled for **July – December 2008**. UNICEF support continues to strengthen statistical awareness and publicity as a mechanism to promote its use in the monitoring and evaluation framework. The funding gap is still big and requires intervention and commitment by the government and Development Partners.

Proposed funding Strategies

1. UBOS and Accounting Officers to lobby government for a statistics development vote in the chart of accounts.
2. Sectors to reach out to their key sector lead donors,
3. Planning departments within Sectors to lobby for dedication of resources for statistics
4. UBOS to continue dialogue with donors through the quarterly UBOS-Donor Coordination meeting

Achievements

- Completion of seven Phase II Sector Strategic Plans for Statistics
- Increased appreciation of the PNSD and statistics development by Stakeholders
- Inventories of data, GIS, and IT strategy in the nine phase I MDAs
- Completion of consultations on the Long Term Census and Survey Programme
- Revision of data collection instruments for some sectors e.g. the Uganda Police Force, Agriculture etc
- Equipping of most sectors with basic IT infrastructure e.g. Computers, Photocopier, Printer, Scanner, LCD Projector, laptops, and physical infrastructure namely; work stations, chairs, desks etc.

Challenges

- Some sector workplans submitted to UBOS do not conform with recommendations of the Sector Statistics Committee.
- Slow pace at sector level to complete set tasks
- Limited capacity to source for funds to sustain production of administrative data
- Slow procurement procedures within sectors
- Lack of budgeting skills

Planned Activities

- Monitoring the implementation of PNSD activities for Phase I
- Finalising and printing all SSPs
- Follow up on the establishment of the National Statistics Steering committee with the Ag. Minister of State for Planning, MoFPED
- Support to sectors in the development of meta data, data bases and review of data collection instruments
- Development of the Statistical work programme for the NSS
- Meeting for Accounts Officers and the UBOS financial Audit team.
- Initiating process of statistical auditing.

Lesson learnt

- Synergy and collective effort among the respective sectors is crucial for mainstreaming and harmonization of activities and sustainable development of statistics in the NSS.
- The success of the PNSD depends on political and non political good will and the leadership in the sectors.

- The PNSD and SSPS development has illuminated the central role of agencies in national development.

Table 1: Issues and Recommendations for Strengthening Statistics

| ISSUES | RECOMMENDATION |
|---|--|
| Inadequate resources assigned to statistical development within the sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make SSPS integral tools for sector planning ○ Integrate the statistical functions within the main activities of the sector |
| Difficulties in raising the profile of the SSPS within the sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make SSPS integral tools for sector planning and performance measurement ○ Improve inter-sectoral coordination, networking and information sharing ○ Develop meta data for all products |
| Weak capacities for collection, analysis, storage, dissemination and utilization of statistics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporate the statistics function within sector HRD plans ○ Benchmark other sectors and MDAs that are doing better (best practices) ○ Make it mandatory for each sector to develop and manage a data base ○ Strengthen skills to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate statistics |
| Internal processes within MDAs slowing down the development and implementation of sector statistical plans (SSPs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve inter-departmental coordination, networking and information sharing ○ Enhance statistical literacy and analysis skills ○ Provide more funding for statistics – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocate for a vote in the finance chart of accounts specifically for statistics • Seek for support from development agencies |
| Implementation of SSPs is concentrated within the lead organisation/agency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve coordination within the sector to meet the requirements of key users ○ Disseminate the SSP widely, discuss and review it regularly within the sector |
| Data gaps and increasing data need | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular assessment of key user needs • Prioritise data requirements to fit within available resources <i>[based on sector mandate in development framework and internal requirements]</i> |

Upcoming Events/Workshops

- 2 weeks training in Monitoring and Evaluation, 1-11 July 2008
- 1 day Producer – Producer workshop 21 August 2008
- 2 Weeks Training in Statistical Concepts and Survey data analysis, October 2008 (DD)

Contact Persons

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