

The Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD) in Uganda is the framework for strengthening capacity and quality statistics production across the National Statistical System (NSS) to support planning, policy formulation and monitoring for results-based management. The PNSD describes the status of key statistical systems in the NSS prior to the PNSD design, the vision and mission of the Plan, including strategies for addressing the weaknesses, challenges and threats, as well as mechanisms for sustaining the best practices in statistical development in the NSS.

Uganda adopted the bottom up approach during the design of the PNSD, and emphasized mainstreaming of sector statistics in the PNSD. Implementation of the PNSD has been undertaken by the respective sectors. Implementation is focused on prioritized activities of the Sector Strategic Plans for Statistics (SSPSs). The 4th Quarter of 2008 ended with 16 agencies mainstreamed into the PNSD. The anticipated outcome for the PNSD is to develop a **“Coherent, Reliable, Efficient and Demand-driven NSS that Supports Management and Development Initiatives”**; to which all relevant data producing agencies will contribute. To ensure effectiveness and efficiency during the PNSD design and implementation, structures were set up (Inter Agency Committees, Technical Committees, Sector Statistics Committees and Producer – Producer Committees); Reports are prepared - Monthly progress reports, Quarterly reports from Institutional visits (monitoring) and the PNSD Bulletin, and the annual Review report. There is increased appreciation and demand for statistics among planners, and decision makers across the agencies.

Resources: Financial Support

The UBOS received and disbursed the second release of funding from DFID, with a supplement from the Government of Uganda to support implementation of activities in the Phase I and II Sectors (Oct 2008 – June 2009). Priority issues for the Phase I cover mainly statistical development: Standards, data base development, improvement of data collection tools, and analysis, and metadata development. Sectors in Phase II sectors will emphasise IT infrastructure development, inventory of data/data bases, infrastructure, GIS, Software, metadata, and training.

Achievements as at (Dec 2008):

- Re-tooling of agencies with the necessary IT infrastructure for better data capture and statistical management
- Dissemination of statistical products
- Recruitment of contract staff to support statistical improvement, and motivating existing staff through involvement in various statistical training and strengthening collaborations with key stakeholders
- Undertaking inventories for Data, IT infrastructure, software and GIS facilities.
- Upgrading of some sector websites with statistical information
- Harmonising sector work programmes.

Performance Level of MDAs:

At the PNSD - Annual review for Phase I MDAs (3-5 Dec, 2008) sectors assessed their performance levels to date in regard to level of statistical development. The outcome was;

Level One: Advanced Stage: **UBOS, BoU, MoH, MoES**

Level Two: Intermediate Stage: **MTTI, MAAIF, MoLG, UPF**

Level Three: Initial Stage: **Nil**

****[Sectors in the advanced stage have the necessary structures, clear funding mechanisms for statistics, and their data is demanded and used as compared to the intermediate whose structures are not well developed, and the data production is not harmonized across the departments, including inadequately managed information]*

Emerging Concerns from the PNSD Annual Review

1. Mismatch between planning and data production cycles

- There is need to streamline Statistical development programmes into the NDP, as a deliberate strategy within the NDP
- UBOS should spearhead the development of essential indicators for the NDP in collaboration with all the respective MDAs/sectors and highlight their data requirements.

2. Delays in implementation of activities due to stringent bureaucratic procurement processes

- Bureaucratic processes are part and parcel of government; thus Sectors must plan ahead of time ie. Prepare and submit procurement plans on time.
- Sectors should be sensitized to appreciate procurement processes to overcome this challenge.
- Contact persons should identify champions within their respective MDAs to make a case for better statistics in their sectors.

3. Sustainability of Sector Strategic Plans for Statistics

- Integration of SSPS into MDA programs through budgetary provision during Sector Review and Planning processes for each Financial Year (FY)
- Sector thematic papers should be submitted on time to feed into the NDP
- Need for continuous awareness creation for sector top management e.g. to update them on progress, available data for use etc.

4. Inter and Intra Sectoral collaboration for capacity building and systems development

- MDAs should be mobilized in teams to visit other institutions and share expertise and experiences
- Staff attachments could be taken on as learning points
- UBOS should strengthen its coordination function

5. Compliance and enforcements

- Current UBOS Statistics Act does not give UBOS clear powers to enforce any penalties in cases of compliance issues in the statistical development process.
- UBOS should speed up the revision of the UBOS Statistics Act considering the above.
- MOUs that bind sectors engaged in statistical production should be initiated to ensure standards.

6. Human Resource

- Most MDAs engaged temporary staff (contract, interns or volunteers) to facilitate the implementation of the Plans for statistical development.
- UBOS should consider establishing an attachment program for temporary staff to work in the sectors
- Organizational structures in some Sectors need to be reviewed to facilitate recruitment of statisticians.
- Capacity building should be done on a larger scale.
- Re-train MDAs committee members on the Logical Framework Approaches (LFA) so that they can identify the outcomes.

7. Data Archiving and back-up – Varies across Sectors; hence:

- UBOS needs to expedite its plan for training sectors in data archiving.
- Data management strategies should be developed in all MDAs.
- Adoption of new initiatives in statistical production and use should be considered.
- All respective MDAs must establish data back-up facilities, but also a Central back-up for ALL the MDAs should be established.
- All MDAs should budget for immediate data Back-up systems

8. Data Quality (especially at collection points due to limited capacity, inappropriate, and incomplete data collection tools). There is need to:

- Improve and harmonise data collection tools in all MDAs and provide training in data management
- Institute continuous training programmes
- Simplify data collection instruments and provide feed back to information providers.

9. Linkages between PNSD and Institutional Initiatives

- Through the PNSD, some MDAs embarked on initiatives that have enhanced the statistical development process.
- Share best practices, harmonise codes and standards.

10. Weak Management Information Systems (MIS) – *inaccurate statistics.*

- Sectors with MISs should address the problem from the source or data collection points.
- Quality control of data should be undertaken at all processing levels.
- There is need to strengthen MISs to inform both routine and policy making processes.

11. Weak Sector Statistical Committees (SSC)

- SSCs should be maintained as platforms for planning, information sharing, drawing membership and coordination within sector departments
- SSCs must include officers engaged in statistical processes across departments to increase commitment
- The role of the statistics Committees should be reviewed in terms of activities so that the scope is wider and enough to encourage participation
- SSCs should develop work plans that are cross-departmental, rather than those that are department-centric
- Improve the reporting format to include a column on stated objectives

The Critical path for statistical development

The critical Path was discussed in view of strengthening statistical development under the PNSD. Each Sector has been challenged to consider and plan for the issues outlined in the table below. The outcome of this process should yield quality statistics to inform development processes.

Critical Path for Statistical Development	Issues for Consideration
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of tools for data collection • Methods of collection • Competencies of the team collecting the data • Clear understanding of the data requirements • Linking tools to statistical requirements
Data Compilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies in the data compilation • Clear understanding of the data requirements
Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical competencies • Clear understanding of the statistical output
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting formats • Packaging of information for the different users • Clear understanding of types of outputs for the different users • Frequency for reporting
Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target group for data dissemination • Frequency for dissemination • Methods of dissemination
Data Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of data users • Statistical requirements of the data users • Training for the users

Training

A monitoring and evaluation training for PNSD MDAs in Phase II was conducted in December 2008 to enhance participants' skills for effective management and implementation of SSPs. The training was facilitated by the Uganda Management Institute (UMI).

Planned Activities

- Inter Agency Meeting, Feb 10 2009.
- Follow up on PNSD implementation in the sectors
- Constitute M&E teams in UBOS
- Review draft meta data from the sectors

Contact Persons

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