



NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM (NSS)

NSDS Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- Why NSDS now?
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- NSDS Structure,
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- Coming Events.

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National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

Background:

The Government of The Republic of Sudan through the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has decided to embark on the preparation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) towards the strengthening of the National Statistical System (NSS) that will provide comprehensive statistics for the effective management of development outcomes and sound decision-making. This approach to statistical development is expected to be holistic in nature covering the entire NSS and all stakeholders, be country-owned and be mainstreamed into national development agenda as well as international goals such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and Mil-

lennium Development Goals (MDG's) including the second Strategic Development Plan (2012-2016). The NSDS is a framework for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire NSS for results-based management. It is a 5-year plan covering all Ministries/Departments/Agencies (MDAs), presenting priorities for statistics and building capacity needed to meet the priorities in a more coordinated, synergistic and effective manner. The NSDS will address issues of structure, sustainability and modification of relationships between key actors in the NSS, plus harmonization and implementation of planned activities financed by government and development partners. The

strategic plan is intended to galvanize all data producers to have the same vision and mission so that they pool together.



Dr. Yassin Elhag Abdin,
CBS Director General

Why NSDS now?

NSDS has become a new benchmark for statistical planning and adopts a strategic approach, which has been integrated within policy processes. It aims at reforming statistical issues across the NSS involving all stakeholders. As one of the resolutions of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), NSDS was to be prepared for all developing countries by

2006 with implementation taking place from 2007 with a view to producing better statistics for national and international use by the time of next Millennium Review in 2010.

The Strategic Plans for the different MDAs/sectors such as Health, Education, Agriculture, and Employment etc, will be done or reviewed and integrated into the overall NSDS. Sector/MDAs com-

mittees have been set up to develop implementation and funding plans with technical support given by consultants and CBS. The 5-year plans, Sector Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SSDS) will cover capacity building programme and statistical programmes towards strengthening the MDAs statistical management capacity and statistical delivery.

MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MDA COORDINATORS:

The meeting was initiated by the CBS DG and held on 3rd of Oct. 2011. The objectives of the meeting were to introduce the new approach to statistical planning by designing for the Republic of Sudan a National Strat-

egy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and to familiarize the appointed coordinators from the MDAs to the new benchmark of statistical planning. It was chaired by the representative of the Ministry of

the Cabinet. The activity also represented the involvement and mobilization of all the MDAs constituting the National Statistical System (NSS) in readiness for the preparation of the NSDS and SSDS.

"The NSDS should be inclusive, participatory and consultative" PARIS21

THE LAUNCHING SEMINAR:

The launching seminar for the preparation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) was attended by top policy people including 9 ministers apart from the guest of honor, the Honorable State Minister of the Cabinet, representing H. E. the First Vice President who

subsequently opened the seminar; others were 6 Under Secretaries and top officials of the CBS and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal government plus CBS Directors based in the 15 states of Sudan. The community of the development partners was also well

represented including the UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, FAO and EU and members of the diplomatic corps. In total about 175 participants, a part from the Ministers and the Under Secretaries, attended the seminar.

"The NSDS will be under the auspices of H. E. the First vice President" Said the State Minister of Cabinet



The State Minister of Cabinet, CBS Director General and UNDP Country Director addressed the NSDS Launching Seminar

STRUCTURES FOR THE PROCESS:

The Structural arrangements for the process have been established and some of these structures are already in place while some others are being established. The following structures are already in place, namely, the National Steering Committee with the National Statistical Council playing that role, the National NSDS Design Committee formerly the Follow-up com-

mittee, the Core Technical Team and some MDA committees (Ministry of Labour, Bank of Sudan, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Animal Resources and Fishery and the CBS). The others that are in the process of being formulated are those for

the Ministry of Health, Ministry of General Education, and the Ministry of Interior. The National Coordinating Committee on Statistics (NCCS), an Inter-Agency Committee; the National User/Producer Committee and the State Committees are in the process of being established. The National Coordinator has also been appointed.



The development partners attended the NSDS Launching Seminar

FIRST PHASE MDAs DETERMINED:

Ideally, all the MDAs should be covered but because the number of these is rather too large to be taken all at once for the sake of efficiency, therefore the process will be broken into phases. The first phase MDAs are a total of eleven (11). These are the MDAs that their committees have either been established or in the process of being put in place.

The MDAs that have been visited:

- Ministry of Labour;
- Bank of Sudan;
- Ministry of Finance and National Economy;
- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Planning;
- Ministry of Agriculture;

- Ministry of Industry;
 - Ministry of Health;
 - Ministry of General Education;
 - Ministry of Animal Resources,
- The only remaining is the Ministry of Interior.



*NSDS International Consultant,
Mr. Oladejo Ajayi*

COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED AND LAUNCHED INTO ACTION:

The CBS Committee for the formulation of the strategy was the first to be established after which the members were given detailed technical briefing and finally launched into action. Among those already briefed were the CBS representative on the committees of the MDAs to ensure link and assistance to the MDAs committees during the Strategy formulation stage.

STATE CBS DIRECTORS BRIEFED:

The Directors of the CBS based in each of the States of the Federation all attended the launching Seminar and the opportunity of their being around was taken to give them administrative briefing on the process of preparation of the NSDS. They are being prepared ready for the responsibility of guiding the State Strategies for the Development of Statistics. Further briefings have been planned for this group.

ADVOCACY BRIEFING:

The importance of advocacy in the NSDS process cannot be over-emphasized and so the management of the CBS took on this responsibility seriously of ensuring that the issues of improving the Statistical System are thoroughly understood by all stakeholders and so the message should be well delivered. For this reason the staff of the Training,

Public Affairs and Media Unit at the CBS were taken through advocacy strategy for half of a day on the 21st of Nov. 2011.



"The ability to execute the strategy is more important than the quality of the strategy itself"

"Advocacy, sensitization and dialogue with policy-makers and planners are believed to be very essential for the preparation of the NSDS" said UNDP Country Director



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WAY FORWARD:

The following activities are foreseen for the coming weeks:

- Visits to the states and to the MDAs will be completed and their various committees inaugurated. These of course will be dove-tailed with follow-up visits during which the committees will be assisted with exercise of assessment, visioning and strategizing;
- Assessment exercises follow immediately after the technical workshop;
- Reports of assessments will be submitted by the MDAs and discussed in the National Coordinating Committee on Statistics.
- Visioning and strategizing process will follow up the assessment and reports similarly submitted ;

-Monitoring of the process will be continued by the core technical team working with the Coordinator;

-Publication of the December NSS News Bulletin will be embarked upon.



The CBS Committee launched into action"

COMING EVENTS:

The following coming events have been slated for the month of December as part of the process and these are:

Technical Workshop on technical issues of the NSDS design process - On the 7th and 8th of December, 2011, Technical workshop will hold in Medani in Gezira State for the MDAs representatives, National NSDS Team and State CBS Directors . This is to empower the Committee members by giving briefings on the techniques of Strategic planning, assessment of current situations of the MDA/sector statistical systems, visioning and strategizing, implementation issues etc...

State visits will immediately follow the Technical workshop to meet the policy people of the state and appraise them of their role in the overall development of the National Statistical System. The states to be visited include: Khartoum, Kassala, Gezira, River Nile, North Kurdofan, Blue Nile and South Darfur;

National Consultative workshop for all Stakeholders will hold about the 20th of December, 2011 for a day. The purpose is to get all the stakeholders involved in the process and ensure that there is national ownership of this process and to establish their roles at the various stages of the design process and as well as during the implementation of the Strategies.

Meeting with the community of development partners as key stakeholders will be held also on 21st of Dec. 2011. This meeting is being jointly planned by CBS and UNDP who will facilitate the process.

"Statistics are the eyes of the policy maker"
Keith Muhakanizi