

Harnessing Dynamics of
Fragility to develop
Sub-National Statistical Systems
to
better meet post 2015 agenda

Fragility and post 2015 Agenda

- **Fact** : new, reliable, and accessible data will provide governments the capacity to design better policies and programs> This is part of the story, governments need capacities to analyze the data and capabilities to implement
- Fragile and conflict affected situations are circumstances that complicate economic development, ethnic tensions, vulnerability to natural disasters, or a confluence of these factors.
- public sector reform and public services are means of fragility remedies.

Fragility and post 2015 Agenda

- **Fragile situations need special attention if no one is to be left behind :**
 - Fifty countries and economies are currently on the fragile states list compiled by the OECD, .This is almost one third of the sovereign states of the United Nations
 - They are home to 1.4 billion people or 20% of the world's population (2015)
 - They are home to 43% of the world's people living on less than USD 1.25/day
 - World Bank projections estimates that two-thirds of currently fragile countries will fail to halve poverty by 2015
 - Fragile states will continue to struggle to finish the MDGs and face daunting obstacles if they are to deliver the new SDGs
- **The success of the post-2015 agenda as a whole rests on the pace of progress of the weakest performers :**

Fragility and post 2015 Agenda

- Selfish interest :
 - 54 % of the African countries are classified as fragile situation
 - My country Sudan is one of them and features in all lists since listing started 2005
- The post-2015 agenda represents a substantial leap in ambition over the MDGs, especially for fragile situations that are (left behind) weak in delivering MDGs
- *Left unaddressed, fragility will make it much harder to end poverty by 2030*

What Fragility ?

- There are many definitions and indices of fragility
- It is now widely accepted that fragility can be retraced to the weakness (and lack of legitimacy) of government institutions, a poor and unstable economic environment, and a divisive and non-inclusive political context.
- Statistical Community is generally adopting OECD definition with a combination of g+7 spectrum emphasizing Peace Building and State Building PSGs.
- The root of fragility is a sort of a blind spot obscuring the needs of already vulnerable populations in the national planning lens, specially so those living in remote areas.

What Fragility ?

- There are thus many sources of fragility that reinforce one another and trap fragile states in a vicious circle of underdevelopment. i.e Fragility is **multidimensional**
- The G+7 work on fragility proved to be effective its PSGs of is almost Goal 16
- **5 PSGs : Inclusive politics, Security, Justice, Economic Foundation and Revenues & Services.**
- **Goal 16:** Promote **peaceful** and **inclusive societies** for **sustainable development**, provide access to **justice for all** and build **effective, accountable and inclusive institutions** at all levels

Statistics and The Blind Spot

- In many African countries like Sudan, a factor related to supply and use of statistics played a decisive role in fragility by ignoring the de facto needs of vulnerable communities even if good statistics was not available.
- These countries were ruled after independence by ideological elite who were keenly enthusiastic to transform their communities along ideological lines and aspirations and as such were not interested in the ground facts of statistics.
- Statistics institutions suffered and statistics was trapped in the vicious circle of no demand no government resources and thus no supply and so on .
- The remedy is to replace this vicious cycle with a virtuous one

Dynamics of Fragility At work

- Post 2015 Agenda coupled with the international community recent success in driving and helping fragile countries to transform through decentralization and adoption of democracy to address the root causes of fragility, is a powerful factor in stabilization.
- Both processes are fortunately dependent on statistics and past adversaries are inclined to trust statistics, otherwise the alternative is conflict.
- This presents a unique opportunity to transform NSOs and NSS into decentralized entities to produce the statistics needed where it is to be used and can be financed.
- The extent of this success is so significant that those states are now termed States In Transition.
- Decentralization means more resources are now available for local governments, people demand equitable sharing of wealth and even socio-economic development.

Dynamics of Fragility At work

- **Experience of CBS Sudan in harnessing the dynamics of fragility :**
 - State's governments availed 50% of resources for the surveys to prepare State GDP on the understanding that this is a better criteria to get their proper share in the National Development Plan
 - When the central ministry of health could not meet its financial commitment with WHO for NCDs survey, CBS contacted the concerned states who new CBS is carrying out the field work and availed the resources needed
 - CBS with AfDB financial and technical support carried a HHS . The analysis is underway for the national and state level poverty line and other socio0economic indicators.

Dynamics of Fragility At work

- **Experience of CBS Sudan in harnessing the dynamics of fragility :**
 - Almost all states agreed to finance SHHS to get the indicators at one or the two level of governance knowing that to develop it you have to locate it.
 - All states met Part of the cost of designing their SSDS aligned to the NSDS by their local staffs and technical support of CBS HQ. In comparison not all central line ministries finished their Statistical strategies even though the cost is met by our partners UNFPA, UNDP and some CBS resources.
 - This trust is in part because CBS helped build the Statistics capacities of the staff of state government and its state's off ices. Recently CBS is undergoing restructuring whereby its state's offices will be developed to a full semi autonomous statistics office

**“Sound data represent
a key weapon
in the battle against poverty”**

Tadao Chino, former President, Asian Development Bank

**“An essential component
of any development planning is data.
Without data, a country’s efforts
to plan for future growth and welfare of its
people cannot be grounded in reality
and therefore may be severely flawed”**

Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Minister for Planning and National Development, Kenya

**“Information gives you
the power to make
the right decisions”**

Dr Roberto Tapia Conyer, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Health, Mexico

**“Whatever we do,
we are guided by figures”**

Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda

Dynamics of Fragility At work

- Official Statistics is more about politics than statistics as it is mostly in fragile states is seen as judgement of their performance and it is so.
- Their performance is a function of the extent of their use of statistics and in turn their capacity to use . Commitments like the previous slide statements is not a grantee of proper use of statistics.
- SDGs indicators are definitely more about politics than official statistics in the context of fragility as sub-national reporting may be seen as a sovereign concern.
- NSOs in fragile situations have no choice but to be involved in politics.

Recommendations for Fragile Situations

- **NSOs should :**

- Focus on building the capacity of the sub-national statistics office in line with the decentralization of government systems process.
- Implement program to build the capacity of sub-national offices and authorities in statistics analysis and research to serve local government need for planning and provision of services.
- Limited involvement in politics to the extent that make it possible to implement a well articulated plan to harness the dynamics of the roots of national fragility without compromising integrity.

Recommendations for Fragile Situations

- **International community may focus on :**
 - Technical and fanatical support to NSOs to build sub-national statistical capabilities especially in research and analysis.
 - Device ways and means to bridge the Digital Gap in access and use of ITC between developing countries NSOs and developed ones.
 - Give Goal 16 programs high priority in their technical and financial support to States in Transition to expedite its implementation by 2020.

Thank You