PARIS21 Technical Session on Moving from NSDS Design to NSDS Implementation

Cameroon’s Experience on Constraints to Implementation of NSDS

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Introduction

I. Importance of NSDS

II. Development and implementation of NSDS in Cameroon

III. Constraints to development and implementation of NSDS

Conclusion

Recommandations
Observation:

- Different actors of development have gradually applied strategic planning and recommendations on elaborating annual programmes in economic and social development.
- Statistics have been developed to support more efficient development.

This leads to:

- At country level: willingness to develop national statistical systems, reflected the elaboration of documents framework.
- At regional and sub-regional level: initiatives to strengthen coordination of countries by technical and financial support.

For instance, the Programme Statistique Minimum Commun (PROSMIC) implemented by AFRI STAT for member countries.
Genesis:

- In the late 80s: onset of a financial and economic crisis in Cameroon
- This led to the financial support from the Bretton Woods institutions (IMF and World Bank) by the Government
- The support was through fiscal stabilisation and structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) adopted as a part of monitoring compliance with conditionalities and progress in measures.

Starting from:

The priority given to statistics by the government and its development partners in order to provide with a monitoring / evaluation method in implementing these programmes.
The importance of NSDS is recognized by the Government and the TFP in:

- Identifying statistics at the same priority as other economic and social sectors to benefit from institutional support and financial as well as human resources of the state and partners.
- Establishing a coordination framework for statistical activities by different actors (users and producers).
- Instead of focusing on partners’ supports to statistics, following the spirit of the Paris Declaration on the effectiveness of official development assistance (ODA).
II. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NSDS IN CAMEROON

Steps to develop and implement the first NSDS:

- In November 2008: organising CNS session to review and adopt a version to submit to the Government for the final adoption and implementation
- In July 2009: holding a consultation meeting between government and partners on financing NSDS
- In November 2009: adopting the first NSDS for the period of 2009-2013
- Each year: producing an annual report on the state of implementation discussed in CNS
- In 2013: evaluating and developing of the second NSDS for the period 2014-2017, following the approach by the Programme Budget in force in Cameroon since January 1, 2013.
Limitations of the NSDS approach

- Institutional backgrounds: ongoing revision of original texts
- Coordination of NSDS activities: re-organisation of CNS
- Human Resources: training programmes for SSS
- Mobilisation of financial resources: i.e. PARFI P/ UE Volet SSN, CRESS as an advocacy tool
- Lack of an evaluation mechanism at the level of use of data and degree of user satisfaction: further consideration

Palliative treatment to constraints of resources

Preparing annual priority programmes under the constraint of financial and human resources actually available
For Cameroon, the main difficulty encountered in the NSDS is a lack of financial resources. Also, the human and institutional constraints are not negligible.

The effort required to cope with constraints include:

- Annual sessions of CNS contributing to advocacy in statistics (opportunity to assess the implementation of NSDS)
- Capacity building to mobilise resources from national and partners’ budget
- Quality and variety of publications in several media channels as an advocacy method
- Use of advocacy tools as a means of solidating financial resources, such as a CRESS exercise
In the case of Cameroon, such recommendations could be taken as:

- Review of the institutional framework and reinforcement of coordination: new texts (Statistics Act and implementing regulations for adoption in 2013)
- Systematisation of the multi-annual programme consistent with national budget: exercise to conduct for the first time in the third quarter of 2013 for the period of 2014-2016
- Consideration of including development partners in the statistical programmes to mobilize resources provided by donors
- Regular meetings between government and partners for coordination and interventions
Thank you for your attention

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