



Task Team: Costing and Funding of NSDSs

Progress report and “mainstreaming” into the work of the PARIS21 Secretariat

Background

1. This Task Team was set up in 2004 with the objectives to address two frequently asked questions: firstly, how much will it cost to develop a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics; and, secondly, how can it be funded? The intention was that guidance on both costs and funding of NSDSs will complement the Guide for designing NSDSs. The Task Team is convened by the PARIS21 Secretariat and membership comprises: World Bank, IMF (Anglophone Africa GDDS project), UNDP, WHO/Health Metrics network and SIDA.

Progress report

2. The Task Team’s inception report reviewed existing sources on costs and analysed OECD/DCD’s Creditor Reporting System (CRS) to identify donor commitments of support to statistical capacity building. Five work streams were identified as follows, with brief progress reports against each. The first relates to the costing of NSDSs and the others relate to the funding of statistical capacity building.

(1) Costing of NSDSs: review the status of existing strategic plans and subsequent statistical programmes; develop a standardised method of calculating the costs of core statistical activities.

3. A consultant was engaged to review the available information on costs of NSDSs and investigate the feasibility of developing a standardised approach to calculating the costs of core statistical activities¹. The analysis focused on plans funded by the World Bank’s Trust Fund for Statistical capacity Building. The consultant concluded that the data presented were not consistent and that even after removing the (lumpy) costs of censuses there is considerable variation both between countries and between the various components of the strategies within countries. He concluded that: *“the evidence implies that a one size fits all approach to the costing of statistical capacity building that does not take local circumstances into account is not appropriate”*. This was supported by Task Team members, who noted that there cannot be a standardised approach but that countries and partners would be helped by access to information about the volume and cost of inputs used for different statistical activities in different countries. Task Team members will be asked to advise on which core statistical activities should feature in the database, within the following broad headings:

- Coordination and management of the national statistical system
- Production of regular population data (e.g. through census)
- Household survey program (including collection of data on poverty, education, health, agriculture, labour force)
- Economic statistics (national accounts, prices, production, trade, money and banking, employment)
- Production of statistics from key administrative systems (health, education)

¹“Strategic Planning – Costing and Funding” – paper by Roger Edmunds, June 2005



- Dissemination of statistical products at national and local levels

It is recommended that collation of this information should be part of the PARIS21 Secretariat's work programme, based on experience and information provided by NSDS design teams and on advice from the Task team.

4. The consultant was also asked to identify lessons that can be learnt from the strategic planning processes that he reviewed as part of the review of costs. His observations are consistent with the NSDS design Guide, including lessons on: readability of the documents; importance of country ownership, and building on existing work and processes; and the need to address change management and human resource implications, as well as wider organisational and institutional issues.

(2) "Light Reporting System" on donor support for statistical capacity building

5. This work was taken forward following the decision at the June 2005 Steering Committee meeting to develop a Light Reporting Mechanism (LRM) on support to statistical capacity building by donor agencies. To launch the process, the Secretariat began with a pilot exercise which covered ongoing activities in Sub-Saharan Africa during the period 2004-05. This work has been "mainstreamed" into the Secretariat's work programme and is reported on separately².

(3) Ask selected donor countries (funders and statistical agencies) what are the obstacles to supporting the development of national statistical systems in developing countries? What are the practical, political and financial constraints?

6. The LRM questionnaire asked for information on any general problems encountered. In their replies, donor agencies focused on obstacles affecting statistical capacity building in Africa (human resources, weak co-ordination of the national statistical system, insufficient donor collaboration, etc) rather than on any practical, political or financial factors constraining donor countries from supporting the development of national statistical systems in developing countries. These issues were discussed with individual donors during the course of collecting information for the LRM. It was confirmed that donors are increasingly moving towards budget support and putting control of decisions, including procurement, in the hands of partner governments. While statistics are seen to be important, support to statistical capacity building will increasingly be part of broader programmes according to priorities agreed with partner governments.

(4) Mapping of entry points for requests to donors: in country offices, headquarters, national statistical offices, etc.

7. The PARIS21 Secretariat is compiling a 'mapping' of contact points within donor agencies. This has been complemented by work to produce descriptions of partner agency programmes (LRM companion pieces). These companion pieces will be published following verification by the agencies concerned. Recognising the rapid turnover of staff in agencies it is proposed that this will be continually updated and maintained by the Secretariat, with information available on request.

² "Review of Support to Statistical Capacity Building in Sub-Saharan Africa – From Reporting to Collaboration" – PARIS21 Secretariat, February 2006



(5) Funding analysis: (a) Further analysis of CRS; (b) Comparison with information being provided to PARIS21 by donors; (c) In-depth case studies of actual funding received compared with CRS reporting; and (d) Comparison with information from selected recipient countries

8. An analysis has been carried out of the CRS covering commitments between 2001 and 2004 based on the Purpose Code for Statistical Capacity Building and word searches on "Statis" and "Census" (table attached). This continues to show an upward trend in support for statistical capacity building. We have investigated the 'lumpy' numbers which are highlighted in the table. The main factors behind these figures are: regional programmes (2001 and 2002) and support for the Nigerian Census in 2004 (EC); Nigerian Census and World Bank Trust Fund in 2004 (UK); a very large number of new projects in 2003 and 2004 (Japan); ICP Africa in 2004 (AfDB); and support for population censuses in Paraguay and Ecuador in 2001 (IDB). Separate information provided by Norway for 2000-2002 and UK for 2004 was reconciled with CRS data. Proposals for the future of the LRM include two areas of further work relevant to this TOR: verifying results of the pilot exercise in a few countries; and clarifying differences between the CRS and the LRM.

Next steps

9. Most of the work on the agenda of this Task Team has either been accomplished or taken on as part of the work programme of the PARIS21 Secretariat. One outstanding piece of work is to compile a database of information about the volume and cost of different inputs used for different statistical activities in the costing of NSDSs in different countries (paragraph 3 above). Developing and maintaining this resource both for countries and for partners assisting countries should also be part of the work programme of the PARIS21 Secretariat. The information should be based on experience and information provided by NSDS design teams following advice from the Task team on the core statistical activities to be included in the database.

10. Following the establishment of this resource as part of PARIS21's knowledge base the Task Team will have completed its work. The PARIS21 Secretariat is grateful to Task Team members for their comments and advice during the Task Team's life.

PARIS21 Secretariat
12 April 2006

Official Development Assistance for Statistics: Commitments, 2001-2004, in USD (000)

	2001				2002				2003				2004				Grand Total
	"SCB"	"Census"	"Statis + P21"	Total	"SCB"	"Census"	"Statis + P21"	Total	"SCB"	"Census"	"Statis + P21"	Total	"SCB"	"Census"	"Statis + P21"	Total	
EC	28,994	358		29,352	10,084	5,183		15,267	4,026	407	22	4,455	4,808	141,011		145,819	
United Kingdom	6,847	3,510	7,297	17,654	8,434	75	1,348	9,857	11,902	800	7,245	19,947	29,817	75	9,538	39,430	
UNFPA		3,225	3,187	6,412		16,730	1,866	18,596		12,288	2,026	14,314				0	
Norway	6,244	46	2,408	8,698	3,747	565	2,312	6,624	4,535	1,484	15,159	21,177	1,973		615	2,588	
Japan				0				0	18,834			18,834	16,543			16,543	
Sweden	6,103	3,869	306	10,278	7,992		2,240	10,232	266	1,265	1,598	3,128	22,000	1,375	4,731	6,106	
African Dev. Fund				0				0				0			3,156	25,156	
IDB		21,700		21,700				0				0				0	
United States		30	6,591	6,621	24	71		95	48	49	965	1,062	1,700	40	1,671	3,411	
Australia		1,777	1,557	3,334	458		3	461	3,930	1,027	1,027	5,983	263		603	866	
Denmark	316	222		538	681			681	9,052			9,052				0	
IDA				0				0				0	10,000			10,000	
IDB Special Fund				0				0				0	10,000			10,000	
France	1,375		1,259	2,634	945		930	1,875	600		863	1,463	1,103		814	1,917	
Italy		573	412	985	119		2,105	2,224	2,042		438	2,480			208	208	
Netherlands	90		869	958	424	392	1,843	2,660				0	441		1,225	1,666	
IBRD				0		4,800		4,800				0				0	
IDB Sp F				0	4,000			4,000				0				0	
Canada				0	195	96		290				0	2,690		922	3,612	
Switzerland		216	30	246		418	186	604	1,422		594	2,016			80	80	
Finland		898		898				0		1,130		1,130	124			124	
Spain			218	218	404		170	574	324			324	312			312	
Germany				0				0				0	327		1,006	1,332	
Portugal	493	29		521	4			4	155			155	370	164		534	
Austria			274	274			532	532	18		56	75	263			263	
New Zealand				0	69			69	36			36	355			355	
Greece				0			87	87			26	26			186	186	
Belgium	34		63	96				0				0			177	177	
Grand Total	50,494	36,454	24,470	111,419	37,579	28,329	13,622	79,531	57,189	18,448	30,020	105,657	103,090	142,665	24,932	270,687	567,293

Source : OECD / DAC, Creditor Reporting System

"SCB" is the official DAC / CRS code for Statistical Capacity Building

"STATIS + P21 " is based on a free text search with the words "statis" and "PARIS21" excluding CRS "SCB" activities

"Census" is based on a free text search with the word "census" excluding CRS "SCB" activities