Strategic Plan

National Statistical and Spatial System

2008-2013

Overview of the National Statistical and Spatial System (NSSS)

The period of protracted civil war in Liberia destroyed a large part of the country's infrastructure; much of the rest is dilapidated and needs repair. Economic activity declined precipitously while key institutions and organizations became dysfunctional and need to be reconstituted. The difficulties in rebuilding and reconstruction have been compounded by the loss of baseline data and the deterioration of the capacity to collect and analyze relevant statistics and other information critical for decision making.

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is a framework aimed at rebuilding statistical capacity and strengthening coordination across agencies responsible for collecting data. It specifically seeks to strengthen the capacity of the central statistics organization, LISGIS, and integrate all statistical activities within a national system. This strengthened system will coordinate programs to develop the necessary capacities and create the structures needed for effective collaboration in the generation, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of timely, reliable, and relevant statistics.

The NSDS framework currently incorporates the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and seventeen government ministries and agencies namely: Agriculture, Internal Affairs, Commerce, Health, Gender and Development, Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs, Transport, Education, Labor, Public Works, Water and Sewer, Central Bank, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, University of Liberia, Civil Service Agency and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission.

Objective

The over-arching objective of the NSDS is that by 2015 the national statistics system will be well-coordinated, harmonized and efficient with performance that is consistent with national, regional and international standards and responsive to the country's development agenda.

The NSDS incorporates five long-term strategic objectives:

1. Making statistics relevant to national and local development;

2. Developing an efficient capacity building plan for the Liberia National Statistical and Spatial System;

3. Developing a coordinated, harmonized and effective National Statistical and Spatial System;

4. Ensuring adoption and consistent use of relevant statistical methods and standards; and

5. Developing and managing an efficient information sharing system.

Advantages of the NSDS Framework

- Increased availability of quality data;

- Efficient use of resources;

- Coordination, harmonization and standardization of concepts and definitions for data collection, analysis and dissemination among producers;

- Raised public profile of statistics; and

- Reduced response burden on data providers.

A number of strategic activities have been planned and budgeted to develop statistics across the National Statistical and Spatial System, through a statistical Sector Wide Approach:

- Promote, coordinate and manage the National Statistical and Spatial System;

- Produce more reliable, accurate and timely statistics;

- Enhance the service provided to users;

- Realize staff potential;

- Improve organizational and institutional effectiveness; and

- Improve the profile of statistics in Liberia.

Cost of Implementing the NSDS Framework

The cost of the entire implementation process for the NSDS over its five-year life span is estimated at around USD$47 million. During the initial three years (corresponding to the PRS period), implementing the NSDS required at least US$32 million for the period commencing from 2008 to 2010.

Key Priorities

Key Priorities for LISGIS
- *Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey*
- *Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)*
- *Business Statistics*
- *The Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS)*
- *Environmental Statistics*
- *LiberiaInfo*
- *NSSS dedicated website*
- *Census*
- *Decentralization*

Agricultural Statistics
- *Crop Production Survey*
- *Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) Survey*
- *Crop Monitoring and Early Warning System (CMEWS)*
- *Development of Fishery and Agriculture Database*
- *Fishery and Livestock Surveys*
- *Household-based census of agriculture*

Fiscal, Financial, and Macroeconomic Statistics

- *National income*
- *Budget*
- *Debt*
- *Partner financing*
- *Money and banking*
- *Trade and Industry*
- *Balance of payments*
- *Consumer prices*

Other Key Statistics and Surveys

Health
Many key health statistics are collected through the DHS, CWIQ survey, and census. In addition, the MOH currently collects data on health services and disease patterns on a daily basis and publishes these quarterly in the *Epidemiological Bulletin*.

Education
The MOE requires regular data on school enrolments, gender, teacher-student ratios, literacy rates, and a range of other information. Some of this information can be compiled through the CWIQ Survey. To complement this data, the MOE recently completed its first school census providing core educational data, and plans to conduct a school census on an annual basis.

Gender
Some information on key gender issues can be generated through the CWIQ, DHS, census, and other survey instruments. The Ministry of Gender plans to supplement this by conducting sample surveys on gender violence and undertaking a mapping of women's organizations.

Labor
Although Liberia's unemployment rate is steadily falling as the economy recovers, it remains high, and continuing to reduce it is one of the highest priorities of the PRS. To provide critical information on these issues, the Ministry of Labor, with the support of LISGIS, the ILO and other partners conducted a Labor Force Survey in 2010 to be followed by a larger survey in 2012. The Ministry will also undertake an Occupational Injuries Survey and a Child Labor Survey, aiming to conduct both of these in 2011. They will compile annual statistics on formal sector employment via the proposed LISGIS annual establishment survey, and with LISGIS will jointly organize an informal sector survey.

Capacity Building

Institutional and infrastructural Capacity Building

There is a strong need to build institutional and professional capacity for the NSSS. Over the short-and medium-term, significant amounts of technical assistance will be required to rebuild key databases and survey instruments. To help build capacity for statistics and M&E during the PRS period, several specific steps are planned:

- Incorporating a coordinating unit for the NSSS in the LISGIS;
- Upgrading Statistical and management posts in the NSSS; and
- Decentralization of Statistical activities across the country.

Human Resource Capacity Building

The capacity of staff of statistical units in line ministries and agencies will be developed by:

- Conducting training needs assessment and analysis;
- Emphasizing investment in training;
- Enhancing on-the-job training;
- Ensuring performance-based promotions; and
- Improving job satisfaction, enrichment and delegation.

Strengthening Statistical Infrastructure

Statistical Infrastructure will be developed by:

- Improving Information Communication and Technology; and
- Standardizing and harmonizing Statistical production systems across the NSSS.

NSSS Strategic Plan Implementation

The success of the NSSS depends on building from the existing environment and past successes such as the:

- The amendment of the Statistical Act of 2004 to, for example review and revise the composition of the Board of Directors and the tenure of service of senior executives of the LISGIS;

- Coordination across the NSSS and among development partners including the creation of a donor group on statistics; and

- Following good practices, for instance:
  - ➔ Timely and accurate results of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census; and
  - ➔ Rebasing and publishing of economic statistical data.

Implementation of the NSDS framework is coordinated by LISGIS through a secretariat. The Director-General of the LISGIS chairs the NSSS Steering Committee. The LISGIS organizes regular technical committee meetings, workshops and trainings as well as leading on standardization of concepts and methods across the NSSS.

Routine statistical activities undertaken by the NSSS

Activity	Timing	Last conducted	Implementing Agency
Population and Housing Census	Every 10 years	2008	LISGIS
Demographic and Health Survey	Every 5 years	2007	LISGIS
Labour Force Survey	Every 3 years	2010	LISGIS /Labour Ministry
National Annual Accounts Surveys (NAAC)	Annually	2009	LISGIS
School Census	Annually	2009	Ministry of Education
Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)	On-going	2010	Ministry of Education
Agriculture Crop Survey (ACS)	Annually	2008 and 2009	Ministry of Agriculture/LISGIS
Market Information Surveys (MIS)	Monthly	2010	Ministry of Agriculture
Health Management Information Systems (HMIS)	On-going	2010	Ministry of Health
Human Rights Survey	Ad hoc	2010	Ministry of Justice/ LISGIS
Labour Market Statistics	Annually	2010	Ministry of Labour
Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire	Every 18 months	2010	LISGIS
National Establishment Census	Every 5 years	2007	LISGIS

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