

Summary: In the case of Afghanistan, there has been a long standing conflict that has mutated into a new culture resulting from war. The posture of the agency has been, first to build an institution and strengthen its capacity and second, to build capability to produce statistics, and thirdly to run a census. Attempts at running a census under current conditions may not yield a successful census although, it is generally accepted that with a census an election would be more meaningful for Afghanistan.

Summary: Although Angola ended conflict seven years ago and blessed with oil and diamond resources, evidence suggests that a strategy for the development of statistics and pathways with clearer timeframes for implementation of any significant measures in statistics have as yet not emerged. There could be other difficulties such as capacity and capability of individuals to produce statistics, but Angola has as yet not used the space of seven years to address its statistical challenges post the bitter conflict of almost three decades.

Summary: Cambodia was hemorrhaged by years of misrule and genocide. Cambodia lost almost a million people over this period of time and in the process also lost its human resources and capacity to produce any statistics for close to three decades. Conditions for peace required that statistics are produced and the first thing that Cambodia did when an opportunity for peace emerged was to have a census, and in 1998 a census after three decades was conducted in Cambodia. This was followed by short term surveys and then finally, Cambodia focused on institution building. Ten years later Cambodia can affirm that it is on the right path on the development of statistics and successfully undertook a second census in 2008.

Summary: Rwanda has had over a period of time a low key sponsored ethnic conflict. This conflict simmered over a long period of time and often intermittently erupted into open ethnic wars. Surrounded by a complex set of political influences and international interests, the tensions reached boiling point and exploded into the fastest wave of ethnic cleansing, a full scale genocide that was executed in just under two months. Up to a million people were murdered in this period of time. The statistics office focused on preparing for the census subsequently and a census was conducted in 2002. This was a deliberate effort aimed at reconstruction and had as its mobilizing line genocide and or conflict specific statistics to deal with the consequences of the conflict. Rwanda has become one of the first countries on the continent to have a complete register of its population, which aims at addressing development matters of the country, with a prospect of the implementation of a smart card and building statistical capacity and capability in the country.

Summary: There are many challenges affecting statistical development in Somalia. The major challenges are absence of institutional infrastructure, such as a functioning NSO, failure to implement Statistical Act generating statistical independence, lack of financial resources required for implementing statistical programmes, lack qualified statisticians who are required for planning, conducting, analysis and dissemination of reliable and timely statistical data, lack of understanding and commitment by the politicians about the

role statistics could play in a conflict or post-conflict situation. Currently Somalia depends on NGO generated in conflict statistics.

In a post-conflict Somalia, rebuilding a national statistics system will most probably not be a priority for the government initially. It is important that development partners step in to provide support to rebuild the statistics system, especially in the area of capacity building particularly in the area of training of statisticians. Such support would enable Somalia, among other activities, to prepare for planning and conducting of a population and housing census as soon as conditions permit to do so.

Summary: South Africa has had a history of conflict for 352 years of which the last 48 were based on racial discrimination that officially only ended in 1994 with an election. The focus of the country immediately upon liberation was to conduct a census and saw the 1996 census as a nation building exercise. Subsequently focus was given to social statistics and further improvements of economic statistics. Statistics for monitoring dominated the production system in South Africa and provision of social services was monitored through census and survey instruments. Poverty, in particular relative poverty, remains one of the biggest threats in South Africa. Dedicated poverty statistics are being collated for the first time fifteen years after liberation. The statistics system has to gear up for an administration that has a national planning commission. In that regard statistics that are more relevant to planning than monitoring are more pressingly required.

Summary: One of the most recent and revealing of experiences is that of the Sudan, whereby a deliberate political process envisaged the role of statistics in the determination of peace. Not only is the Sudanese experience interesting, but it provides a refreshing blue print on how statistical processes can be positioned and function for conflict resolution. Sudan did not deny the political problem and its interplay with statistics. In fact they recognized the risk and deliberately created infrastructure to manage the political risk brought about by the interplay between statistics and politics. They created an unwieldy multiparty and multi-stakeholder for that would independently monitor the census. The genius of this formation could be witnessed at two difficult situations worth mentioning. The first was when the South wanted to pull out of the census and the second was in supervising the release of the results. There were many instances where the MOC had to play an advisory role, but these two situations stand up as the most potentially explosive and without an MOC of the stature as constituted, it is not very clear what would have the position of the statistics offices in the face of the powerful politics and conflict.

Summary: Mozambique is now a stable democracy that has conducted a number of peaceful elections and two censuses. It still remains poor however, it has managed to build a productive statistics institution, a dependable statistical framework and production system for the country, mobilized all institutions of the state to participate and created a defensible programme for statistical development.

6.1 Learning points from Sudan

In all the countries that were in conflict and are post conflict, a census was undertaken as the first building block towards peace. The case of South Africa, Cambodia, Rwanda and Sudan stand out. However, Sudan appears to have been very deliberate in stating that a census was a condition for peace. Having taken such an explicit position they provided a powerful independent structure to manage the political minefield that would allow the census to proceed without hindrance. The other three jurisdictions left the census to the technocrats. In retrospect it appears that it would have been desirable to act in the way Sudan did in the censuses of post-conflict South Africa, Cambodia and Rwanda in order not to leave a post conflict situation to be reversed. Countries emerging out of conflict usually give such attentive prominence to the writing of the constitution and other politically visible activities. It may well be that had Angola gone the route of Sudan, a census in Angola would have been long conducted. The case of Sudan provides important lessons for countries such as Angola, DRC, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The downside in the Sudan is that, there appears to be no effort for sustained support to the statistics offices of the nature displayed in the census. Whilst a body the size of the MOC was appropriate for the census, the absence of a programme of statistical collation and support subsequent to the census may render Sudan to loose an opportunity that had put the statistics system into the public domain under very trying circumstances. In this regard Sudan may have to learn from South Africa, Rwanda and Cambodia on how they generated conditions for sustainability.

6.2 Learning points from South Africa

South Africa's strong points in the post conflict situation, was to be outward focused in its statistical development programme. It also had the resources to mobilize for such an outward focused strategy. Combined with naiveté of newness and preparedness to learn, South Africa was able to stake its reputation claim in statistical competence within a very short space of time. South Africa did not wait to be reminded what role it could play and what influence it could muster on the continent in the world. Having been a beneficiary of world sympathy in its dark years of struggle, it went without saying that it would do the needful at any given opportunity. As a consequence of this attitude South Africa has gained a lot from other countries as it interacts with them. This could be an important lesson for better resourced countries such as Angola, DRC and Sudan who are generally better resourced. Secondly South Africa's political system has been despite very serious challenges to NSO leadership, managed to retain the same leadership to manage transition, lead innovation and bring about sustainability. Sudan, Angola and Rwanda could learn from the experiences of South Africa in this regard.

The downside of South Africa is that a deliberate strategy for the national statistics system as well as the work towards production of statistics relevant for planning have taken rather too long and opportunities for resolving the scourges of poverty have to an extent been lost.

6.3 Learning points from Rwanda

Rwanda post its debilitating conflict, focused on the census and post conflict statistics to inform policy requirements that would have to deal with conflict. It adopted a strategy to produce disability and orphanhood statistics in order to address the aftermath of conflict. Subsequently, Rwanda adopted a population register and successfully implemented it as one of the first few African countries to implement such a phase so rapidly and poise itself to moving into a smart card technology for citizens. South Africa whilst it has the longest history of a population register on the continent, it has however not moved to the level where Rwanda is, despite the fact that Rwanda only implemented this only two to three years ago. A smart card has been mooted in South Africa a decade ago, but nothing has as yet come out of the plan and Rwanda is poised to initiate implementation in the next six months in order to deal with issues of social security more confidently.

The downside in Rwanda is that the leadership of the NSO is not stable and Rwanda will require a more stable leadership at the NSO in order to manage transition and subsequently drive and sustain innovation and progress to the second stage of sustainability.

6.4 Learning points from Cambodia

Cambodia has been very systematic in matters statistical development. They ran a census after their conflict, established new statistical series for economic and social management and benefited a lot from being amongst friendly countries. They managed to make use of SEAP and other institutions of learning in the region. They are now building a useful national statistics system. Countries out of conflict can learn from Cambodia.

The downside in Cambodia is that it is rather resource deficient and depends heavily on donor funding. However it could learn from Mozambique, which despite its resource limitations has used its legislative framework and pre-eminence of the statistics system to mobilize serious resources for managing their statistics office and successfully coordinating statistics in the country.

6.5 Learning points from Mozambique

Being decimated by war, and unable to collect census information whilst engulfed in conflict, the statistics office in Mozambique continued to gather administrative records. These records were especially those about education and health. Mozambique became deliberate in assessing what possibilities existed for data collection and identified that at least data on health and education are possible to gather despite the war. These sets of information became handy in Mozambique in the post-reconstruction period.

What can countries that in conflict learn and do?

Countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, DRC and Iraq could benefit a lot from the experiences of the Sudan in how to set priorities around a census and mobilize support and assist and supervise it politically. The resource endowed countries together with Sudan can learn from South Africa how to very rapidly build a very strong statistics service by mobilizing resources and engaging strategically to derive mutual benefits and successfully depart from a post-conflict condition into a leadership position.

The selected learning points may now assist to draw a matrix or framework for best practice. Obviously conditions will vary and determine what course of action might have to be followed.

Below we present some elements of a framework that could be used to assess what statistics fragile, in-conflict and post-conflict countries can collect.