Management of the Libyan Statistical System: constraints and avenues for strategic solutions

BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND CENSUS
TRIPOLI – LIBYA
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The beginnings of statistical work in Libya goes back to 1953 through the establishment of the Bureau of Statistics and Census. The main reason for its establishment was to conduct the first ever general population and housing census in 1954 after the independence in 1951.

The Bureau of Statistics and Census in its current form was formed according to Resolution No. (138) for the year 2012 issued by the Council of Ministers.

The Statistical Law was legislated in 1953 and was updated in 1963 and is still valid.

In 2014, a draft of an updated statistic law was prepared but has not been approved by the parliament yet.
Mechanisms of statistical work

- Based on its role as a National Statistical Office, the Bureau of Statistics and Census, has its legal personality.

- Responsible for the functioning and leading the statistical system in the country.

- The Bureau of Statistics and Census seeks to carry out the tasks entrusted to it and reach goals that would support the statistical work in Libya, through several axes.
The main axes

- Supporting statistical work through proposals to issue and amend laws regulating the statistical work.
- Organization of the structure of the Bureau.
- Building capacity of staff in all fields of statistics.
- Using technologies and the latest methods in statistical work.
- Raising Statistical Awareness.
- Continuing and maintaining the periodicity of conducting statistical works to provide data that would support the position of the public policy strategy within the country.
The reality of statistical work

- Although the Bureau of Statistics and Census tried since its establishment creating cooperation relations and coordination with all sectors of the statistical system, but a limited success is achieved.

- The integrated statistical work that can be called a national statistical system is subject to the mechanisms of creation, exchange and harmony between the components of the statistical system. This situation cannot be considered to exist which created great challenges for the Bureau to carry out its work.
The history of statistical work, according to the aforementioned reality, has faced great challenges, and these challenges have become more difficult since 2011 until today.

The absence of a national statistical system would constitute a major challenge in stable situations, let alone in times of conflicts, political division and multiplicity of governments.
The most important difficulties facing statistical work

- The lack of coordination between sectors due to the lack of mechanisms based on organized laws and the lack of compliance with the statistical law has always been the biggest challenge.

- The absence of official statistical awareness and the lack of reliance on data in drawing public policies has further marginalized the role and importance of statistics and the lack of funding.

- The political division and the abundance of political polarization led to an increase in the weakness and division of institutions in all sectors, especially institutions that are considered components of statistical work and the inability to communicate with them due to their different subordination to each government.
The most important difficulties facing statistical work

- The armed conflict during the last ten years significantly weakened the statistical work and resulted in difficulties represented in the
- Difficulty moving in some areas due to the security situation
- Difficulty working in some areas due to the dependence of the regions on different governments
- Difficulty working on statistical projects that may pose a danger to researchers and respondents, such as those related to violence or displaced persons, etc.
The most important difficulties facing statistical work

- The armed conflict and the permanent state of emergency has become a possession of all financial resources, and the statistical work no longer obtains any funding from successive governments.

- The Corona pandemic and its effects, which coincided with the armed conflict
In light of all these challenges, the Bureau of Statistics and Census tried to maintain what could be done to continue its work. In this context, it worked in two directions.

1- Dealing with the situation
2- Strategic planning to eliminate these challenges
Solutions to deal with the status quo

- In light of these challenges, the Statistics and Census Bureau tried to maintain what could be done to continue its work. In this context, it worked in various directions, including:

- Preserving the unity of the institution with one administration despite the different governments that follow it in the three regions, and it was more like personal coordination between branch managers than institutional coordination.

- The Statistics Authority has always distanced itself from political attractions and has always been committed to examining every step it takes so as not to be counted on one party over the other.

- Building partnerships with international organizations in conducting statistical studies and surveys, especially those related to humanitarian needs.

- The Statistics and Census Authority tried to overcome the effects of the Corona pandemic and adhere to the precautionary requirements by conducting interviews over the phone.
In 2016, the Statistics and Census Bureau, through its cooperation strategy with international partners, requested support from the Paris 21 group in order to carry out a comprehensive evaluation process for the statistical work in Libya to build a strategy that contributes to the formation of a national statistical system. Efforts culminated in the creation of the first strategy for the national statistical system with the participation of the National Statistical Fund The United Nations Population, with the participation of all national sectors that make up the statistical system in Libya.

This strategy was prepared for six years.

This strategy has been approved by the government but has not yet been implemented as a result of funding and what Libya witnessed from armed conflict 2019 and 2020.
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<th>SOLUTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Armed conflict in some areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wait till situation improved.</td>
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<td>• Use researchers from these areas.</td>
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<td>Divided institutions</td>
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<td>The Bureau Remained United</td>
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<td>(use regional offices in Benghazi in east and Sebha in south)</td>
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<td>Political Division</td>
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<td>Be professional and technical</td>
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<td>Lack of funding</td>
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<td>Work with local, regional and international organizations.</td>
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<td>COVID - 19</td>
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<td>Telephone data collection</td>
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