BARRIERS TO AN EFFECTIVE NSDS DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

Uganda’s Experience

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Introduction

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics is the mandated by the UBOS Act No 12 of June 1998 to:

Develop and maintain a National Statistical System (NSS) through:

1. Production and dissemination of official statistics.
2. Ensuring collection, analysis and publication of integrated, relevant, reliable and timely statistical information.
3. Co-ordination, monitoring and supervision of the NSS.
The NSS Composition

The NSS constitutes of;

- All organizations & Units in Uganda that produce and disseminate official statistics.
- Policies, principles, procedures; and practices that govern statistical production.
- Actors (producers, suppliers, users, academia and development partners).
Uganda’s Vision 2040
“A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years”.

National Development Plan III
The goal of this Plan: “Increased Household Incomes and Improved Quality of Life of Ugandans”.

The goal will be pursued under the overall theme of Sustainable Industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and sustainable wealth creation.
NDP III objectives

1. Enhance value addition in key growth opportunities;

2. Strengthen the private sector to create jobs;

3. Consolidate and increase the stock and quality of productive infrastructure;

4. Enhance the productivity and social wellbeing of the population; and,

5. Strengthen the role of the state in guiding and facilitating development.
NSDS III (2020/21 – 2024/25)

The NSDS III has been developed in collaboration with: Line Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Local Governments (LGs), Private Sector and NGOs.

**Vision:** Striving to become World Class National Statistical System

**Mission:** To provide quality statistics and statistical services to support national and international development agenda

**Theme:** Agenda for Innovation, Modernisation and Transformation of the National Statistical System.
The NSDS III (2020/21 – 2024/25) is pitched at the level of strategic outcomes at the national level, to which both UBOS, other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as Local Governments (LGs), the private businesses, civil society organizations, and other NSS partners will contribute.

The NSDS III is hinged on four strategic goals:

1. Strengthen coordination, cooperation and partnerships in the NSS
2. Increase statistical capacity in the NSS
3. Strengthen systems for data production and development in the NSS
4. Enhance dissemination, uptake and use of statistics.
BARRIERS TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NSDS

The following are some of the barriers that have been identified from the NSDS I and II and planned to be dealt with in NSDS III:

1. **Weak legal framework**: in sufficient provision in the legal framework (UBOS Act) to support enforcement of the reforms in statistical processes across all Government MDAs and HLGs.

2. **Weak Governance of the NSS**: A number of key issues identified that needs redress are not attended to because of having a NSS steering Committee that can not enforce anything on all government MDAs & LGs because they are mainly technical officers at managerial level.
3. The NSS is not adequately representative because it is largely biased towards state statistics producers. Non-state actors were not part of the NSS under the first and second NSDS.

4. Inadequate Financing for Statistics in the NSS (in MDAs, Local Governments and NSO inclusive).

5. Lack of Adequate Capacity in MDAs and HLGs for Data Generation, Management and Use.

6. Weak Administrative Data Systems in MDAs and HLGs and yet reporting on NDP3, Africa Agenda 2063 and the SDGs require enormous data beyond those from surveys and censuses only.

7. Limited Coordination of community generated data and Big data.
RECOMMENDATIONS TO BARRIERS ABOVE

1. **The UBOS ACT of 1998 is scheduled for review and update in addition to use of rules and guidelines like those on surveys and Censuses for all MDAs/CSOs/HLGs in the NSS to address the gap in the legal framework.**

2. Constituting an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister to replace the previous one represented by directors / Commissioners to steer the NSDS III implementation.

3. **The current NSDS/ PNSD III has been expended to bring on board CSOs, Private sector and other non-state actors and take care of their interests.**
4. Establishment and furnishing of Statistics units / departments in all government Ministries, Departments and Agencies institutions to address the issues of inadequate infrastructure and funding.

5. Revitalising the Statistician Cadres under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and posted to all government institutions to address the human resource gaps for statistics development and production.

6. Automation of administrative data systems in Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Local Governments to increase on statistics from administrate data.
7. The NSDS III has embraced the use of non-traditional data sources to bridge the existing data gaps. For example a toolkit has already been developed to guide the production of Citizen Generated data in the NSS.

8. Inclusion of budget line for statistics in all budgets and work plans for Government Institutions by the ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

9. Inclusion of budget line for statistics in all programmes being supported by development partners in government institutions. This is being enforced through the UN Country group chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator’s office.
Thank You