

## Tracking Progress of the PARIS21 Partnership's Outputs and Outcomes 2008 Report

8 October 2008

### Introduction

The June 2008 Steering Committee meeting agreed to a three-tier programme of six-monthly, annual and 3-5 yearly monitoring and evaluation reports for PARIS21's 2007-10 work programme, as follows:

- 1) Six monthly reports on progress of the Secretariat's activities and outputs in its work programme agreed by the PARIS21 Steering Committee in November each year, including quantifiable objectives and targets for the Secretariat which will be set each year.
- 2) Annual reports on progress of the wider partnership towards its outputs and outcomes, in terms of the centrality of NSDSs, coordination, capacity building and availability of better statistics, all based on existing indicators.
- 3) Three-to-five yearly (next in 2010) evaluations of progress towards the partnership's goal and purpose, relating to the use of statistics to inform development policy decisions and implementation; and towards developing a culture of evidence-based decision-making.

This is the first annual report on progress of the wider partnership towards its outputs and outcomes. It follows the format of the baseline study report<sup>1</sup>. The relevant parts of the Logframe for partnership outcomes and outputs, with their Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) and Means of Verification (MoV), are considered below, after the overview.

### Overview

Subject to reservations of methodology and data availability, the report shows:

1. **Increase in number of countries who have (a) designed and (b) are implementing NSDSs.** The number of IDA-eligible countries implementing NSDSs has increased from 22 to 37 in the past two-and-a-half years. Accordingly the number of countries designing an NSDS or awaiting its adoption fell from 37 in 2006 to 23 in 2008. The biggest increase in countries implementing NSDSs was in Africa, where now 21 countries have NSDSs and the other 19 are either designing a strategy or planning to do so.
2. **Percentage of technical co-operation flows that are implemented through co-ordinated programmes consistent with national development strategies (NSDSs).** There is no satisfactory information to monitor this indicator. But for the volume of technical co-operation in support of statistical capacity building generally, PRESS 2008 results show

<sup>1</sup> "Baseline study for annual tracking reports on progress of PARIS21 Outputs and Outcomes", a room document at the June 2008 Steering Committee meeting.

disbursements increased from USD188 million in 2006 to USD204 million in 2007. For Africa, comparison with the 2004-05 Light Reporting Exercise (LRE), shows an increase in commitment values for most of the key development partners and recipients.

3. **Improved capacities to produce, analyse and use statistics in countries.** In 2007, the overall Statistical Capacity Indicator resumed its improvement since 2004 with increases for statistical practice and data collection. In 2008 the overall score went down slightly from 60 to 59, the same level as in 2005 and 2006, caused by reductions in the scores for statistical practice and for data collection.
4. **Strengthened national data available on the MDGs by 2010.** An analysis of six MDG indicators shows an improvement in 2007 in the information available on net primary education enrolment and gender parity in enrolments; as well as a remarkable increase in the number of countries with two data points on people living with HIV. In 2008 these improvements were maintained, while many more countries had at least two data points on the proportion of their population using improved water sources.

Generally the trend is positive, with some reservations, including: issues around criteria for the successful implementation of NSDSs that are considered in the 2008 NSDS progress report; inadequate data on the extent to which technical co-operation flows are implemented through coordinated programmes consistent with NSDSs; stalling since 2005 of improvements in the Statistical Capacity Indicator; and reduction in the number of countries that have regularly conducted poverty surveys since 2004.

Summary table						
Indicator	2006		2007		2008	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. IDA countries currently implementing an NSDS	22	28%			37	47%
2. IDA countries currently designing an NSDS or awaiting adoption	37	47%			23	29%
3. Estimated annual disbursements by development partners on statistical capacity building, based on projects/programmes active during 2006-08	\$188m		\$204m		\$164m <sup>2</sup>	
4. Overall Statistical Capacity Indicator for IDA countries	59		60		59	
5. Average number and percentage of developing countries with at least two data points for six MDG Indicators, excluding data modelled by agencies	92	56%	110	67%	116 <sup>3</sup>	71%

Sources: See relevant sections.

<sup>2</sup> Partial information pending full reporting of projects/programmes committed in 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Provisional, data will be updated in mid-October.

# 1

## **National and international statistical programmes of each PARIS21 Partner are centred on designing and implementing NSDSs**

**OVI:** Increase in number of countries who have (a) designed and (b) are implementing NSDSs

**MoV:** Annual PARIS21 progress report will show trend of NSDS design and implementation; peer reviews and NSDS Check List will provide a check on quality

The baseline study referenced above established a baseline for 2006 of the number of countries who have designed an NSDS and those in the process of doing so. The source was the preliminary progress report on NSDSs which was presented to the April 2006 Steering Committee meeting<sup>4</sup>. The OVI focuses on IDA-eligible countries, while the 2006 report covered 105 countries, including 40 that were not IDA countries and omitting 15 that were. The baseline information was adjusted to include the 15 missing IDA-eligible countries (based on information collated later) and to exclude the non-IDA countries. The 2006 baseline information has been amended to exclude recent graduates from IDA status (Albania and Indonesia) and is compared in the following table in a comparable format with the latest available information, which relates to September 2008.

Region	Number of IDA-eligible countries in Sept. 2008 compared with early 2006								
	No. of IDA countries	Countries currently implementing a strategy		Countries currently designing a strategy or awaiting adoption		Countries with existing strategy expired or without strategy and currently planning an NSDS		Countries without a strategy nor planning one	
		2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008
<b>Overall</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
Africa	40	10	21	27	17	1	2	2	0
Asia & Pacific	27	11	12	6	3	7	9	3	3
Latin America & Caribbean	9	0	3	3	2	6	4	0	0
Europe	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

Source: PARIS21 – NSDS worldwide report on progress and emerging issues, 2008 and Preliminary worldwide progress report on NSDS, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> “Preliminary worldwide progress report on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)”, April 2006. <http://www.paris21.org/documents/2302.pdf>.



Overall, the number of IDA-eligible countries implementing NSDSs increased from 22 to 37 in two-and-a-half years. Accordingly the number of countries designing an NSDS or awaiting its adoption fell from 37 in 2006 to 23 in 2008. The biggest increase in countries implementing NSDSs was in Africa, where now 21 countries have NSDSs and the other 19 are either designing a strategy or planning to do so.

The 2006 NSDS progress report noted that NSDSs were of variable quality, including for instance corporate plans for National Statistical Offices, and suggested use of the NSDS Essentials Check List through self-assessments and peer reviews to provide a common reference framework for the quality of an NSDS. This has not yet been taken up by many countries, nor has it featured prominently in peer reviews conducted so far. This will be rectified in peer reviews currently being planned. The 2008 NSDS progress report to the Steering Committee considers key issues for the successful implementation of NSDSs.

## 2

### ***National and international statistical programmes of each PARIS21 Partner are well co-ordinated across NSSs and between governments and donors***

**OVI:** Percentage of technical co-operation flows that are implemented through co-ordinated programmes consistent with national development strategies (NSDSs)

**MoV:** Development partner reporting system (PRESS); annual PARIS21 progress report for other aspects of co-ordination

The baseline study noted difficulties in establishing a baseline for this indicator. It recommended that the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) covering active commitments in the period 2006-08 should be used; concluding that, despite some “concerns about coverage..., it will be the best available information on development partner support to statistical capacity building”. PRESS shows the volume of technical co-operation in support of statistical capacity building generally, but “it does not capture the extent to which this support is implemented through coordinated programmes consistent with NSDSs”, as specified by the OVI.

PRESS shows commitment values for individual development partners and recipients, but the figures should not be aggregated because active projects/ programmes supported by development partners during 2006-08 may cover a longer period than 2006-08. To address this issue, an estimate of disbursements was calculated for each project/programme, based on its time period. The results show disbursements increasing from \$188 million in 2006 to \$204 million in 2007 before apparently tailing off to \$164 million in 2008. However, 2008 information is partial pending full reporting of projects/programmes committed (and starting to disburse) in 2008.

<b>Estimated Annual Disbursements by Partner, based on projects/programmes active during 2006-08 (USD million)</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>184.6</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>162.6</b>

Source: PARIS21 – PRESS Volume 1, table 2

<sup>5</sup> Partial information pending full reporting of projects/programmes committed in 2008.



In addition to this evidence that disbursements increased between 2006 and 2007, comparisons are made in the PRESS report between commitment values for Africa for individual development partners and recipients in PRESS 2008 and from PARIS21’s pilot Light Reporting Exercise (LRE) covering 2004-05. This comparison shows “an increase for most of the key development partners and recipients”, which is attributed to support to the 2010 population census round, more institutional development support (including NSDS) and, possibly, improved reporting in PRESS<sup>6</sup>.

While neither PRESS nor LRE can identify the extent to which support for statistical development is implemented through coordinated programmes consistent with NSDSs, an analysis of the PRESS data on statistical activities supported by development partners (PRESS Volume 2, table III) provides helpful contextual information. The PRESS statistical category which is closest to NSDS is *5.2: Statistical programmes, priority setting, relationships with users and respondents*. The table below shows that there were only ten projects and programmes that were reported as just targeting 5.2. But, most projects and programmes target multiple activities or groups of activities. Including projects and programmes that target both 5.2 and other statistical activities increases the number of interventions to 108 (16% of all projects and programmes) and \$99 million (11% of total commitments).

The broader category *5: Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics at national and international level* includes 178 projects and programmes and \$237 million of commitments (26% of the total in each case). Finally, strategic and managerial issues are mentioned as an objective in 380 projects and programmes (56%) incorporating multiple activities, with commitments of \$664 million (73% of total reported commitments).

<b>Support to statistical development according to statistical activity: number of interventions and commitment amount based on projects/ programmes active during 2006-08</b>				
<b>Statistical area</b>	<b>Number of projects/ programmes</b>		<b>Commitment amount</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>US\$ m</b>	<b>% of total</b>
5.2. Statistical programmes, priority setting, relationships with users and respondents	10	1%	22	2%
5.2 as part of multiple statistical activities	108	16%	99	11%
5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics at national and international level	178	26%	237	26%
5 as part of multiple statistical activities	380	56%	664	73%
<b>TOTAL all projects/ programmes</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: PARIS21 – PRESS Volume 2, table III

<sup>6</sup> PRESS Volume 1 – September 2008, table 10.

### 3

## **National and international statistical programmes of each PARIS21 Partner build statistical capacity**

**OVI:** Improved capacities to produce, analyse and use statistics in countries

**MoV:** Statistical capacity indicators (World Bank) compared with 2006/07; annual PARIS21 progress reports

The baseline study used the World Bank’s Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI)<sup>7</sup> for IDA countries with a population of over one million people for the years 2004-2007. It recommended that 2006 data (compiled towards the end of that year) should be used as the baseline to monitor progress over 2007-2010. These baseline scores are shown in bold in the table below.

The overall score combines three dimensions covering statistical practice, data collection and indicator availability, each of which is built up from a number of criteria against which each country is scored on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 would indicate that a country meets all of the criteria.

<b>Statistical Capacity Indicator for IDA Countries</b>				
Year	Overall	Statistical practice	Data collection	Indicator availability
2004	56	43	56	71
2005	59	46	57	74
<b>2006</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>75</b>
2007	60	49	55	75
2008	59	46	54	76

Source: DECDG, World Bank

In 2007, the overall Statistical Capacity Indicator resumed its improvement since 2004 with increases for statistical practice and data collection. In 2008 the overall score went down slightly from 60 to 59, the same level as in 2005 and 2006, caused by reductions in the scores for statistical practice from 49 to 46 and for data collection from 55 to 54. The drop in statistical practice occurred mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa because of a decline in the number of countries who have re-based their national accounts and consumer price indices in the last ten years. As one of the criteria under data collection, the indicator for poverty surveys has plummeted (from 70 in 2005 to 61 in 2008) because fewer countries have regularly conducted such surveys since 2004.

<sup>7</sup> A methodological “Note on Statistical Capacity Indicator” is available from DECDG of the World Bank. See also baseline study, footnote 1 above.

## 4

### **National and international statistical programmes of each PARIS21 Partner provide better statistics for immediate priority needs**

**OVI:** Strengthened national data available on the MDGs by 2010

**MoV:** Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG indicators

The baseline study reviewed the availability of country data in the MDG indicator database, reflecting work by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG indicators, which is reported to the UN Statistical Commission in February/ March each year. The assessment covers 48 indicators, and modelled data are not counted. However, comparison between the UNSC reports is not entirely straightforward because of the large number of indicators involved and volatility for several indicators between the numbers of countries shown as having at least two data points since 1990. The baseline study recommended that the reduced set of seven indicators monitored by DFID, based on data provided by UN Statistics Division from the MDG indicator database, should be used. We have since excluded the indicator for maternal mortality from this list because information is no longer available at the request of the responsible agencies.

Information for 2006 and 2007 and provisional information for 2008 is shown below.

<b>Number and Percentage of Countries with at least two data points for MDG Indicators, excluding data modelled by agencies</b>						
<b>MDG Indicator</b>	<b>2006</b>		<b>2007</b>		<b>2008<sup>8</sup></b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Population below \$1 (PPP) per day %	57	35%	57	35%	57	35%
Total net enrolment ratio in primary education both sexes	116	71%	123	75%	124	76%
Gender parity index in primary, secondary & tertiary level enrolment	130	80%	133	82%	133	82%
Children under five mortality rate per 1,000 live births	138	85%	138	85%	138	85%
People living with HIV, 15-49 years old, percentage	0	0%	98	60%	100	61%
Proportion of population using improved drinking water sources, total	110	67%	110	67%	142	87%
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>71%</b>

Source: UN Statistics Division

The table shows an improvement in 2007 in the information available on net primary education enrolment and gender parity in enrolments; as well as a remarkable increase in the number of countries with two data points on people living with HIV. In 2008 these improvements were maintained, while many more countries had at least two data points on the proportion of their population using improved water sources.

<sup>8</sup> Provisional