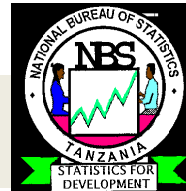




TANZANIA STATISTICAL MASTER PLAN BULLETIN- FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER, 2010



The Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) Bulletin provides a short overview of the latest developments and activities within the TSMP. The Bulletin will appear on quarterly basis and will be distributed by publishing it on the NBS and OCGS Websites and via emails. This Bulletin is for the first and second quarters of 2010

Background

Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) is a program which sets a comprehensive framework aiming at strengthening the National Statistical System (NSS). Increased demand of statistics for informed decision making as well as monitoring national and international development goals has compelled government to revisit the current statistical system and take appropriate measures that will ensure production of quality and sufficient statistics to its stakeholders.

Objectives of TSMP

The developmental objective of TSMP is to strengthen the National Statistical System in Tanzania to produce quality statistics for decision makers and for performance monitoring of national policies such as MKUKUTA and MKUZA as well as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Vision

TSMP **Vision** is “to be an efficient and well-integrated National Statistical System that produces quality statistics in an objective, timely and cost-effective manner for planners, researchers and decision makers”.

Methodology of Developing the TSMP

Tanzania Statistical Master Plan has been developed after extensive consultations with stakeholders, including the users and producers of statistics in order to assess the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges (SWOC) facing the current National Statistical Systems in Tanzania.

A Statistical Needs Assessment was conducted in 2007 using standard questionnaires applied to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The MDAs were assessed in terms of their institutional organization and capacity to deliver the required statistical products and services. The assessment checked the existence of Statistics/Management Information Systems (MIS) departments, manpower, equipment, software, routine products and surveys, institutional legal/policy, data sources, management and dissemination, and the status of data systems in the assessed MDAs.

The assessment revealed that the current system is facing challenges that affect production of quality statistics arising from the existing institutional framework and statistics act, human resource, fragile statistical infrastructure, uncoordinated data development programs

and dissemination and lack of better office space as well as inadequate working tools.

Basing on the statistical needs assessment, the Government of United Republic of Tanzania through National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar (OCGS) coordinate the development of a strategy of an efficient National Statistical System that will ensure provision of quality statistics for decision makers in an objective, coordinated, timely and cost effective manner.

Components of TSMP

The TSMP focuses on four components namely: Institutional Development, Human Resource Development, Development of Statistical Infrastructure, and Data Development and Dissemination.

Institutional Development:

Includes among others; revision of Statistics Act to provide for autonomy, better organizational structure, authority for coordination of statistical activities, access to micro data, reviewing NBS organogram reflecting its role in the NSS, enhancing profile and autonomy of NBS and strengthening collaboration between NBS and OCGS

Human Resource Development:

It involves development of human resource through skills upgrading, knowledge enhancement and improved incentives. It is therefore envisaged that long, short as well as professional courses will be conducted in order to build capacity and fill in identified gaps during the assessment across NSS. Moreover, various soft skills required for staff at NBS, OCGS and MDAs will be developed and training needs assessment will be conducted to enhance staff capacities in the NSS to meet the needs for producing quality statistics.

Development of Statistical Infrastructure:

NSS needs to be supported by adequate statistical infrastructure based on well defined concepts, definitions and international classifications and standards. Other areas for consideration under this component are to improve sampling frames for establishments and households based surveys, harmonized statistical concept and definition in line with international standards and classification schemes, business registers as well as development and effective usage of Spatial data systems.

Data Development and dissemination: It covers all issues related to enhancing production of periodic and

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routine data systems to MDAs and LGAs, strengthening or maintaining collection processing of social and

economic surveys, setting up of dissemination system and statistical databases operationalised.

STATUS OF TSMP DURING JANUARY-JUNE, 2010

Revising TSMP Strategic document

The TSMP Strategic Document was revised to take into account the advice received from cabinet secretariat so as it reflects the current statistical system and what will be implemented in the TSMP program. The TSMP Strategic Document and a draft of the Implementation Plan are in place.

Implementation of TSMP Preparatory Activities

In July, 2009, the World Bank (WB) and Government of Tanzania signed an agreement where WB funded priority activities that were identified and agreed between NBS and WB through a soft loan. The funds will be used as a preparation that will put in place conducive environment for the implementation of the main program when it takes off. The funds are known as Project Preparatory Advance (PPA). The agreed top priority activities to be undertaken in year 2009/10 are the following consultancies that will be procured include: Statistical Advisor; Preparation of Financial and Procurement Manuals; Legal Reforms; Human Resource Development and Monitoring and Evaluation.

In this regard, NBS and OCGS have prepared Terms of References (TORs) bid documents for the consultancies. Furthermore, some evaluations on Expression of Interests, Technical and Financial Proposals have been conducted. Consultancy services for the preparation of procurement and financial manual will be in place before the end of July, 2010..

However, due to the fact that most of the consultancies will be secured by August, most of the activities scheduled for 2009/10 have not been executed and agreement has been reached between Government of Tanzania and World Bank that the PPA duration have been extended for 18 months and will end on Dec, 2011. Consequently, the TSMP Implementation Plan was updated and now most activities will be executed from 2011/12.

World Bank Mission for STATCAP Project Preparation

The World Bank is among the leading development partners in the design and implementation of TSMP. It held a mission in the country from 7th -11th June, 2010.

The mission held meetings with NBS and OCGS to review the preparations of the STATCAP project and agree on a way forward action plan. The program design is based on the draft of Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) and is scheduled on the World Bank side that the project appraisal is planned to take place on October, 2010 and presented to the World Bank Executive Board in March, 2010 for the credit approval.

The Mission, NBS and OCGS agreed on a number of activities that need to be given top priority if the program has to be successfully negotiated and the credit be approved by the Bank's Boards, It include; Government Approval, preparation project operational manual such as financial and procurement manuals; the procurement plan; bidding documents for the year 2011/12 and formation of Sector Statistics Working Groups

Government approval of TSMP

Upon the completion of the design of TSMP, a cabinet paper was jointly prepared by NBS, OCGS and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. The cabinet Paper is a procedure of securing government approval. At earlier stages, the paper was endorsed by Cabinet Secretariat and Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee after incorporating the comments made at each seating. Finally, it was submitted to the Cabinet and the Government Approved the TSMP on 24th June, 2010.

DFID support on TSMP

DFID is also an active development partner supporting the development and implementation of TSMP. Recognizing its important role in this process, Government of Tanzania has signed an agreement with DFID where DFID has allocated funds to support the implementation of Tanzania Statistical Master Plan for the year 2009/10 as agreed in Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreed activities include: Strengthening of Agriculture Routine Data; Data collection for Consumer Price Index (CPI); Quality Assurance Consultancy for CPI and Bench marking of Gross Domestic Product.

In addition, DFID has revised its activities and now it has confined its activities to support project preparation activities. Thereafter, DFID will review its areas of support after the project preparation period.

For more details, please contact the persons listed below.

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