



Coordinating the National Statistical System Amidst Fragility

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The Context

- South Sudan faces considerable challenges in building a reliable and comprehensive statistical system.
- Years of conflict and underinvestment have led to significant gaps in data infrastructure, limited technical capacity, and difficulties in regular data collection across its vast and often inaccessible terrain.
- Many key indicators—ranging from population figures to health, education, and economic statistics—are based on fragmented or dated sources, impeding effective policy formulation.
- Efforts to improve data access and quality exist, particularly with support from international partners, but persistent insecurity, logistical constraints, and resource limitations remain formidable obstacles to the establishment of a robust national statistical system.



Governance Frameworks

- At independence in 2011, the Government of South Sudan provided for the establishment of the National Bureau of Statistics in the national Constitution (Art. 193), followed by a Ministerial Resolution that established statistics units across all MDAs.
- The National Parliament recently passed the National Statistics Bill in , legally grounding the Bureau's mandate.
- Ratified the African Charter on Statistics, though not deposited just yet.
- NSDSII is being developed.
- The Bureau has developed data sharing and protection protocol, essentially enhancing trust among stakeholders.



Coordination Efforts

- The Bureau has established synergies (inter-institutional coordination) within the NSS through establishment of Technical Working Groups, including Migration statistics TWG, Health statistics TWG, Gender statistics TWG, Food Security TWG, Macroeconomic TWG.
- The Bureau has organized data producers and users at both national and sub-national levels to generate information that meets their needs and priorities, promoting collaboration and transparency in data.



Coordination Strategy

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

- There is an increasing demand for statistics that calls for the strengthening of the National Statistics System (NSS). In response, the Bureau has developed the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), now in its second iteration.
- The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics II (NSDS II) is the pathway towards building statistical capacity, transformation, and modernization of a NSS to produce high quality data needed for running a modern, democratic state.
- The NSDS covers both the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and other producers of official statistics, including ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).



Coordination Strategy

Access to statistics

- Guaranteeing our citizens, experts, and policymakers unfettered access to statistics is paramount for national planning and development.
- In this respect, the Bureau is developing a repository system (IOM recently donated a server) to make statistics widely accessible.
- The Bureau is increasing its analytical and publication efforts—policy briefs, annual reports, journal outputs.



Data and Research Activities

- The Bureau is executing new national household surveys to update policy evidence (i.e., MICS7, HBS, Labor Force & Migration).
- The Bureau is planning the country's first Census since independence.
- However, we are dealing with a very difficult terrain.



Challenges

- Inadequate capacity to generate administrative records for analysis.
- Insufficient funding from the government.
- Lack of acknowledgement of the Bureau as the principal agent for data inventory and statistics producer.
- Fragmented efforts: limited coordination among partners.
- Insecurity (i.e., mother of most problems).
- Limited human resources capacity (thwarting our analytical ability).



Challenges



Challenges



Ethical Compliance

- The Bureau of Statistics is committed to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct and data quality in all its activities.
- **Statistical quality compliance**—All major quantitative research and data collection projects undergo rigorous review and approval processes to ensure methodological integrity and compliance with relevant guidelines and laws.
- **Human subject protection**—The Bureau collaborates closely with the National Ministry of Health to enforce robust human subject protection measures, ensuring that the rights and welfare of all participants are safeguarded throughout the research lifecycle.



Thank You!

