

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

Foreword

On behalf of the KNBS, I wish to welcome all readers to this bulletin which is an initiative by the Bureau to keep stakeholders informed and engaged in the



Mr. Zachary Mwangi. Ag.
Director General, KNBS:

process of designing National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). This Strategy is expected to foster national statistical development and a data revolution, to support implementation of the second Medium Term Plan (MTP) of Vision 2030.

The leadership of KNBS is fully committed to the NSDS processes, and I appeal to all stakeholders to walk with us by supporting this process.

*In order to guide the process of evidence-based policy, planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation at all levels, a process to design a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)** has been started by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). The NSDS aims at building statistical capacity across the entire National Statistical System and meeting user needs. Stakeholders are entreated to play an active role in the design of this framework and in its implementation as it holds the prospect of driving a data revolution in the country. KNBS will publish this Bulletin to keep stakeholders engaged and informed about the progress of the NSDS design. The bulletin will be produced and distributed extensively on a quarterly basis.*

Where are we now?

The Bureau has begun the process of NSDS design. In this connection, a number of activities have been undertaken including the following:

- ♦ *The NSDS design team has been constituted with Mr. Benjamin Avusevwa as NSDS Coordinator.*
- ♦ *Sensitization and statistical advocacy have been and continue to be undertaken as a permanent activity of the process.*
- ♦ *Some Government officials have been sensitized and a Data User-Producer workshop was held in September 2013, to sensitize key stakeholders.*
- ♦ *Capacity has been built through a training workshop for statisticians across government and a training workshop for the NSDS design team.*
- ♦ *A road map for guiding the whole process has been designed, instruments for collecting information have been designed, sectors for the first phase of the NSDS process have been selected,*
- ♦ *and this NSDS Bulletin has been produced to keep stakeholders informed about the progress made. This Bulletin will be produced quarterly.*

“Driving a Data Revolution for Development”

Overview



Prof. Ben Kiregyera making a presentation during the user-producer workshop

Kenya has a history of strategic planning for statistical development. The first five-year Statistical Plan for the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), a government department in the Ministry of Planning and National Development, covered the periods 2003-2007. This plan was instrumental in the transformation of the CBS into a semi-autonomous Government Agency, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), by an Act of Parliament (the Statistics Act No.4 of 2006). KNBS core mandate is outlined under this Act that empowers the organization to be the principal agency of the government for collecting, analyzing and disseminating official statistical data in Kenya. The Act further empowers KNBS to be the custodian of official statistical information, establish standards and also promote the use of best practices and methods in the production and dissemination of statistical information across the National Statistical System (NSS).

The second plan covering the periods 2008-2012 was based on a comprehensive review of the previous Strategic Plan and lessons learnt. The process of designing the third plan, called the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has begun. While the first two plans focused on the Bureau, the third plan will cover sectors (government ministries, departments and agencies – MDAs, with KNBS and Counties as special sectors). International best practice requires that NSDS design process should

of the National Statistical System. It is fortuitous that the design of the NSDS has coincided with the design of Strategic Plans for MDAs and Counties. This coincidence creates an opportunity for inter-linkage between Sector Statistics Plans and Strategic Plans for MDAs. The design of the NSDS also takes place at a time when a new Constitution has come into force. The Constitution places a lot of emphasis on accountability which calls for evidence-based policy, planning, decision-making,



Economic Planning Secretary (EPS), Mr. Stephen Wainaina (left) follows proceedings during the User-Producer workshop

follow a sectoral (or bottom-up) approach whereby Sector Statistics Plan (SSP) is designed for each sector and the SSPs are used as building blocks for the overall NSDS. This approach leads to enhanced coordination

monitoring and evaluation at the centre and in the counties, and hence the need for comprehensive and quality data.

NSDS as a process and product

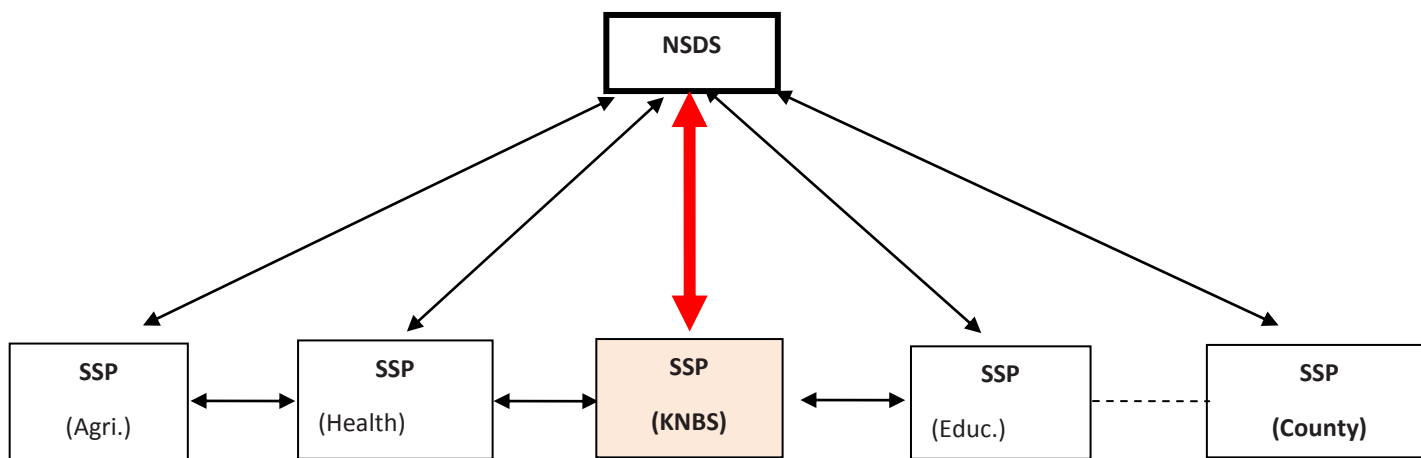
Current best practice demands that special attention is paid to the NSDS design process. As a **process**, the design of the NSDS will facilitate:

- (i) **Statistical advocacy** to create greater awareness about the importance of statistics and to enlist greater commitment among political leadership, decision-makers and development partners to invest in and use statistics.
- (ii) **Mainstreaming of key stakeholders** the process will be participatory, inclusive and use consensus-building approach to ensure stakeholder ownership.
- (iii) **Empowering statistical personnel** by exposing them to: more effective ways of communicating with data users; international statistical standards, concepts and frameworks; and experiences especially about NSDS processes in other countries, particularly those in our region; *and*
- (iv) **Broadening and deepening dialogue and coordination** between data users and producers, and among data producers.

As a **product**, the NSDS will be a living document that will be reviewed and updated periodically as provided for in its monitoring and evaluation plan to respond to changing user needs and environment.

Approach

The bottom-up approach that makes the NSDS design process participatory, leveraging specialized knowledge which is present in sectors and which enhances inter-sectoral coordination as well as coordination between the KNBS and the sectors, will be used. Using this approach, Sector Statistics Plans (SSP) will be designed and used as building blocks for the overall NSDS (*see figure*).



In order to take the process forward smoothly, an NSDS design structure has been established. It cascades from the Board of Directors of KNBS to an Inter-Agency Statistics Committee (IaSC), to NSDS design team and finally to Sector Statistics Committees (SSC). So far, an NSDS Design Team has been constituted.

Other ongoing activities

- ⇒ Development partners meetings on NSDS.
- ⇒ Preparation of the 2014 Economic Survey Report
- ⇒ 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS)

Look out for

- ⇒ 2013 Foreign Investment Survey (FIS) Report
- ⇒ Spatial Dimensions of Well-Being Report “from Counties to Wards”
- ⇒ Housing Report 2013



Eng. Peter Mangiti, Principal Secretary State Department of Planning during the official opening of the User-Producer Workshop



Participants following a training session at the User-Producer workshop

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