



IMF Statistical Forum

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Washington, 18-19 November, 2014



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policymaking

- **The recent financial crisis has revealed a number of weaknesses in economic and financial regulations including availability and utilisation of short-term statistics to identify economic and financial vulnerabilities and to take mitigating measures.**
- **In the current globalised economy, economic and financial shocks are transmitted easily from country to country and from region to region.**



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policymaking

- In this context, reliable national statistics are not only a national public good but also a global public good.**
- Therefore, development of short-term statistics should be considered as high priority, not only in developed countries but also in developing countries, and on-going developments in cutting edge statistical methodologies and introduction of new sets of data in developed countries should also consider the needs of developing countries.**



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policymaking

For the development of statistics in these countries, there is need for:

- Awareness at policy level on the importance of statistics for policy making;**
- Strong institutional framework for the development of statistics;**
- A clear National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);**
- Strong domestic and international financial support for the implementation of NSDS.**



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policymaking

Rwanda recognises the importance of statistics for policy making:

- In 2006, the government established the National Institute of Statistics, as an autonomous public institution with mandate to produce statistics and to coordinate and regulate statistical activities in the country.**
- Achievements of the NISR over the last 8 years of its existence are encouraging.**



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policy making

- **NSDS 1 (2009-2014) was successfully implemented and it achieved substantial progress, including carrying out the 2012 Population and Housing Census and two major household surveys (Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey and Demographic and Health Survey). Key economic statistics have been produced on time and statistics have been disseminated according to an Advance Release Calendar.**



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policy making

Short term data produced currently in Rwanda:

- **GDP (Quarterly);**
- **Consumer and Producer Price Indexes (monthly);**
- **Monetary aggregates and interest rates (monthly);**
- **External sector i.e. imports and exports (monthly) and balance of payments (quarterly);**
- **Agriculture seasons (3 times a year: seasons A, B and C)**
- **Business turnover (monthly)**

More improvement and more statistical coverage are planned in NSDS 2 (2014-2019), whose implementation started this year.



The use of Short-Term Indicators and Survey Data for Policy making

Challenges:

- Some missing short term statistics that require administrative systems (Labor, Sales, Permits (construction))
- HR Capacities: producers, users
- Statistics infrastructure (mainly IT systems)
- Structure of the economy (informal sector, agriculture, labor, etc.)



Round Table discussion

1. About statistical gaps:

- **Official statistics in African countries and many other developing economies have a lot of shortfalls, including the limited coverage, the regularity and the quality of data.**
- **For Rwanda, key missing statistics are labour statistics, some business statistics, and some administrative statistics.**



Round Table discussion

2. About relationship between official and private statistics:

- In Rwanda, the National Institute of Statistics is the only statistical authority entrusted with the mandate to produce official statistics, to coordinate all statistical activities in the country and to regulate other producers of statistics for quality assurance.



Round Table discussion

3. About the focus on issues at the cutting edge of official statistics and the danger of forgetting the needs of developing countries:

There is need for international support to developing countries to build robust statistical systems, able to produce all basic economic statistics timely and with good quality in the first phase, and then to move to more advanced statistics, which were discussed in this Forum.



Round Table discussion

4. About the priority developing countries should accord to statistics given all other development challenges:

Statistics are essential for planning and management of socioeconomic development, therefore developing countries should give high priority to statistics.

5. About a wish for one dataset that is presently not available:

- For Rwanda: Labor statistics.