The World Bank and Statistical Capacity Building
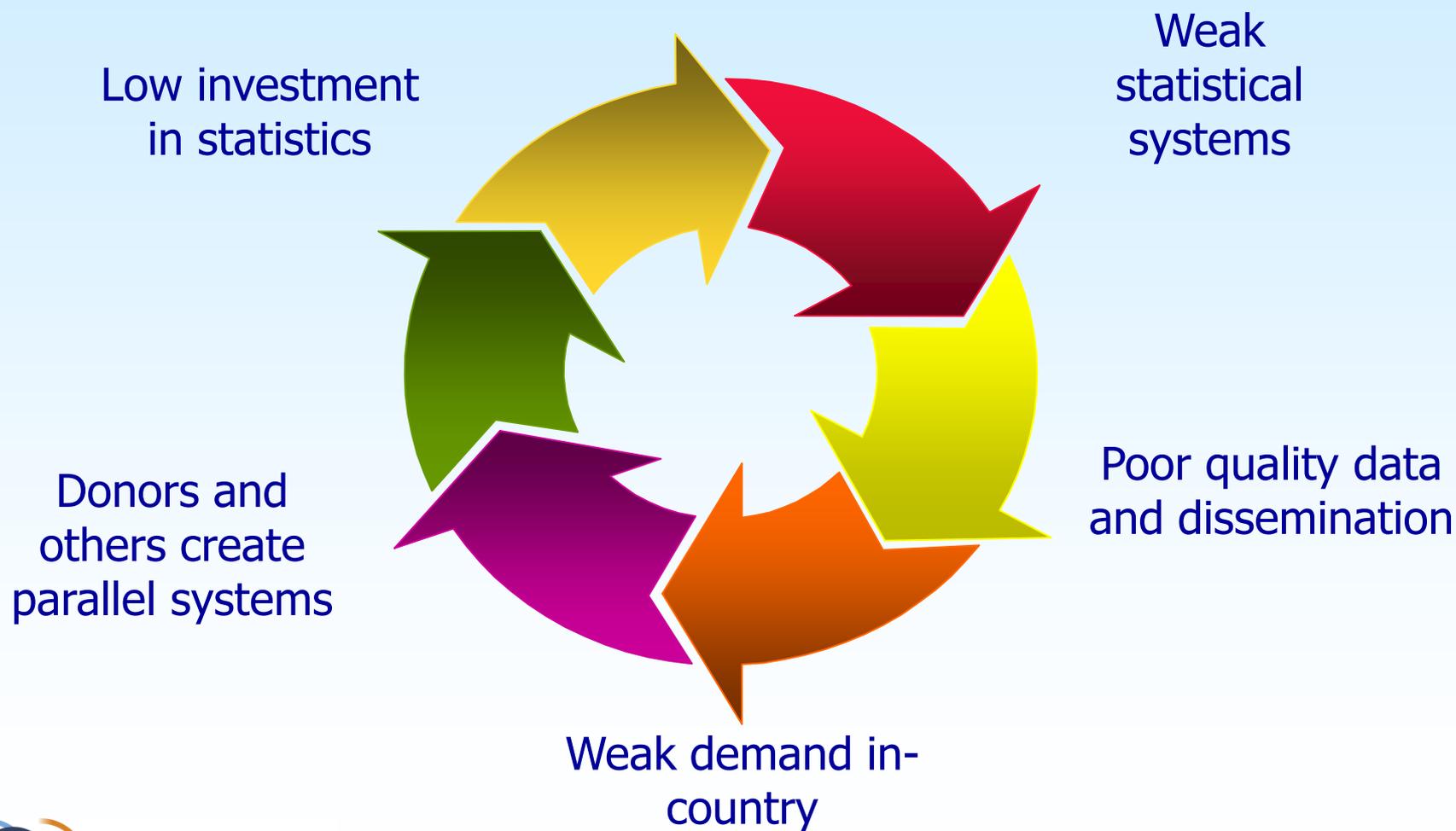
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Some Key Issues

- Statistical capacity improvement is not on top of the priority list,
- Overall levels of financing for capacity improvement in statistics remain low,
- Special interests of donors, often sectoral, tend to get priority – results in a piecemeal approach,
- Technical expertise is relatively scarce,
- Statistical offices not always in a good position to coordinate and harmonize donor programs.

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Resulting Vicious Cycle

Weak statistical systems

Poor quality data and dissemination

Weak demand in-country

Donors and others create parallel systems

Low investment in statistics

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New Approach

- Coordinate support for statistics through a "sector wide approach",
- Increase funding for statistics,
- Coordinate technical assistance to NSOs,
- Build on existing mechanisms and programs, with improved monitoring and feedback,
- Focus on implementation of country-owned strategies,
- Pool donor funding to support country-led programs,
- Target countries with weak statistical systems and with a commitment to change.

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Funding Options for Investment

- Government

- Bilateral donors

- Multilateral Development Banks

- Other multilateral donors

WB Programs for Supporting Statistical Capacity Development

- Existing programs
  - Regular lending operations, including the STATCAP program
  - Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)
  - General Data Dissemination System project (GDDS)
  - Accelerated Data Program (ADP)
- New initiatives
  - Statistics for Results Facility Catalytic Fund (SRF)
  - Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity
  - E-learning course

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Regular Operations and STATCAP

- STATCAP program provides framework for supporting implementation of NSDS with regular lending operations
- Active investment projects in OIC for building statistical capacity:
  - Burkina Faso ($10m)
  - Nigeria ($18m)
  - Tajikistan ($5.9m)
- Projects in development in OIC countries:
  - Nigeria
  - Kazakhstan
  - Indonesia
- See **www.worldbank.org/data/statcap**

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Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)

- Provides grants up to $400,000 for developing countries to strengthen the capacity of their statistical systems, in three ways:
  - Preparation of NSDS (fast-track approval)
  - Other statistical capacity building activities (approval twice a year, April/November)
  - Participation in international meetings (fast-track approval, but limited amounts available)
- Can be country-specific, regional or global
- Most projects implemented by recipient (e.g. national statistical office)

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Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)

- TFSCB projects in OIC:
  - Over 30 projects in OCI countries since 2005 to prepare NSDS and improve statistical capacity
  - There are other regional projects, including recently approved project "Household International Migration Surveys in the Mediterranean Countries"
- See **www.worldbank.org/tfscb**

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GDDS II Project: Social Statistics in Anglophone Africa, 2006-2009

- Funded by DFID
- Seven topics:
  - Agriculture, Justice and Security, Population, Labor, Health, Management, GIS
- 18 participating countries picked two topics each, including OIC countries:
  - The Gambia
  - Mozambique
  - Nigeria
  - Sudan
  - Uganda
- Projects were mixture of regional training events and visits to countries by subject specialists
- All materials at **www.worldbank.org/data/gdds**

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Accelerated Data Program (ADP)

To better use of existing microdata and to Improve data collection ADP has three tasks;

- Data archive
    - Inventory of existing datasets
    - Documentation
    - Dissemination
    - Cataloguing

- Improving quality
    - Assessment of data quality, and harmonization of data collection practices

- Data collection
    - Limited budget, only to "rescue" operations

SRF Catalytic Fund

- Multi-donor fund for large-scale investment in statistical development
  - Donors are UK (GBP 50m) and Netherlands (Euro 27.5m)
- Provides "catalytic" grants to help countries implement NSDSs
  - Promotes a Sector-Wide Approach and better aid effectiveness
  - Requires close alignment to statistical needs of national development policy
  - Grants normally expected to be in 5m–10m range

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SRF Country Selection

- Restricted to IDA countries,
- Pilot phase: the fund's governing Council agreed on five countries at its first meeting,
  - Afghanistan, DR Congo, Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria
- Applications from four pilot countries were approved,
- Process for future country selection not yet determined.

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Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity

- New on-line database
- Collects and presents key information on national statistical systems, to facilitate assessment of statistical capacity
- Includes all developing countries (but focus on IDA countries)
- Database **easy to update by countries**, through interactive features
- Uses existing assessment frameworks, including the African Statistical Development Index of UNECA
- Useful for self-assessment and monitoring of progress
- See **www.worldbank.org/data/bbsc**

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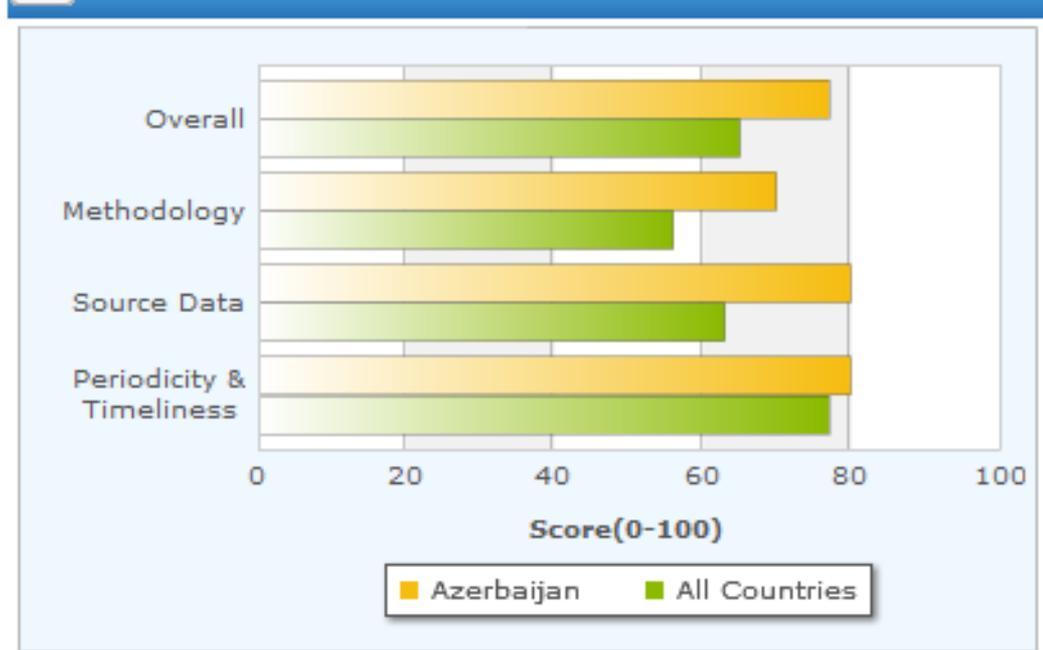DATA GROUP

Azerbaijan

Back | Feedback | Print | Excel

| OVERVIEW | INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK | METHODOLOGY & SOURCE DATA | PERIODICITY & TIMELINESS | PROJECTS |

Basic Country Information

Region	ECA
Population (in million)	8.6
Lending category	Blend (PRSP)
GNI per capita ($US)	2710

2008 Statistical Capacity Indicator (on a scale of 0-100)

Indicator	Azerbaijan	All Countries
Overall	77	65
Methodology	70	56
Source Data	80	63
Periodicity & Timeliness	80	77

Score Calculation

Statistical capacity at a glance

Bar chart: Score(0-100) comparing Azerbaijan and All Countries across Overall, Methodology, Source Data, and Periodicity & Timeliness.

Statistical System Information

Category	Sub-Categories	Country Information
Responsibility and organization	Legal status of NSO ⓘ	Agency status (independent government agency)
	NSO's autonomy in terms of spending decision ⓘ	NSO receives funds from government and accounts for spending them
Legal basis	Statistical legislation ⓘ	The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Statistics

Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity

OVERVIEW	INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	METHODOLOGY & SOURCE DATA	PERIODICITY & TIMELINESS	PROJECTS

Category	Assessment Criteria	Rating
Legal framework	**Adequacy of statistical legislation** There is a statistical law which takes into account the UN principles of official statistics.	✓
	Grade of the head of the National Statistical Office The hierarchical level of the head of the National Statistical Office is comparable to Minister (or senior political position) or highest (non-political) public servant.	✓
	Mechanism to make statistical system accountable There is an independent mechanism to make the statistical system accountable (e.g. national statistics council, board of directors, etc).	✓
Strategy/work plan	**Existence of an adopted national strategy/program for the development of statistics** The country has adopted a national strategy or a program for the development of statistics (NSDS).	✓
	Integration of NSDS into development policies and PRSP The above strategy/program is taken into account in the development policies and the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP).	✓
	Monitoring of statistical activities The National Statistical Office regularly produces reports on statistical activities.	✓
Coordination	**Effective coordination of NSS activities** There is a formal mechanism to coordinate statistical programs across data producing agencies which meets at least once a year (e.g. national statistical coordinating committee, etc).	✓
	Effective coordination of development partners There is an effective national mechanism to coordinate development partners' support for statistical development.	✓
User consultation	**Existence of assessment of users' needs** There is an assessment of users' needs based on the process of consultation with users within and outside government, including user satisfaction surveys.	✓

E-learning on Statistical Capacity

- An online and CD-ROM based self-learning course
- Provides knowledge and skills to develop and manage successful statistical development projects
- Targeted at managers and staff in national statistical agencies and international development agencies
- 12 modules, includes exercises, background reading, links to tools and resources
- Full course currently in English; some modules are available in French and Spanish on CDROM
- Translation of full course to French is underway
- Course is free: to receive CD-ROM or access on-line, send email to **invstatcap@worldbank.org**

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Content of E-learning

- Tools for assessing statistical systems
- NSDSs and managing NSDS preparation
- Legal frameworks, accountability, reporting, coordination, and management
- Data collection and dissemination
- Using administrative data
- Human resource development and management
- Costing and financing of statistical development
- Implementing statistical capacity building programs

Welcome to
Module 2
National Statistical Systems:
Activities, Principles, and Organization

Start Course

To begin the course click the menu button or select Start Course above

Organizational Models

The UNSD Handbook summarizes the various organisational models as follows. The illustration includes three different sets of relationships between the minister, the national statistical council and the chief statistician. Even though the presiding body is indicated as national statistical council in all three cases, in fact its role ranges all the way from that of a board of directors to that of an advisory board.

Click on the models below to read more.

Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Minister	Minister	
↓		
NSC	NSC → CS	
↓		
CS		

The chief statistician appoints the council. Their advice may be freely shared with the minister, but only the chief statistician is ultimately accountable to the minister.

Legend

Minister: Elected officer (generally a cabinet officer) responsible for statistical agency

NSC: National Statistical Council

CS: Chief Statistician