



# Case Studies & Best Practices from Uganda Bureau Statistics (UBOS)

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at

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- Background
- Introduction
- Status of Statistical Development in Uganda
- Institutional arrangements
- Best practices
- Challenges
- Conclusion

# Background

UBOS, (formerly a Govt Dept) was founded as a semi-autonomous body through the UBOS act of 1998 with following functions:

- Provide high quality central statistical information services;
- Promote standardization in the collection, analysis, and publication of statistics to ensure their uniformity in quality, adequacy of coverage, and reliability;
- Provide guidance, training, and other assistance to users and providers of statistics;
- Promote cooperation, coordination, and rationalization among users and providers of statistics and national and local levels.

**The UBOS has a 5-year Strategic plan; which among other things clearly spells out the following:**

- Actors in the National Statistical System (NSS)**
- New products in statistical production**
- Monitoring & Evaluation framework of the NSS**
- Building capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the production and management of data.**

- Providing high quality official statistical information services on social, environmental and economic conditions in the country.
- Promoting standardization in the collection, analysis and publication of statistics.
- Providing guidance, training and other technical support to other producers, users and providers of statistics.
- Promoting cooperation, coordination and rationalization among users and providers of statistics at national, regional and international level.

- Production and dissemination of official Statistics is the mandate of UBOS but MDAs also produce a variety of other statistics e.g. BOU-Monetary stats & BOP; Health and Education stats in respective ministries; etc.
- The Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD) has been developed to harmonize and integrate statistical activities in the National Statistical System (NSS).

The Bureau thus has two critical roles in the development of the NSS;

*(i) conducting national surveys and censuses under the long term census and survey programme, and regular data generally compiled from data from a number of administrative sources, (ii) coordinating, monitoring and harmonizing data production processes in the NSS.*

- Institutional arrangements for development and management of Statistics. Basically in 2 categories:

– Intra-organisational

- The UBOS Act for existence this provided for semi-autonomy as opposed to govt. dept.
- Board of Directors
- Board Committees
- Management Structures
- Steering and Technical Working Committees

## Institutional arrangements ...

- Inter-institutional
  - Cross-cutting
    - Legal framework
      - Parliamentary enactment
      - Statutory provisions
    - Broadening of NSO law to maintain the semi-autonomy and for more effective coordination of the NSS
      - Act to govern all Stakeholders on statistical matters
      - Commission/Board to have control over NSS
      - To provide for compliance



## Institutional arrangements ...

- Development of MOUs and SLAs
  - In the absence of binding legal instrument
  - Where the law is inadequate,
  - Where confidentiality is not provided for
- Harmonising concepts, definitions and standards
  - Development of a compendium
  - Use of UN fundamental principles
  - Meta data dictionary
  - Directory of Statistical Outputs
- Development of Statistical Master Plan (SMP)/PNSD
  - Develop sector-specific statistics plans
  - Establish National Steering Committees for various areas of statistics
  - Establish Inter Agency Committees
  - Establish Inter-Agency Sub Committees and Sector committees

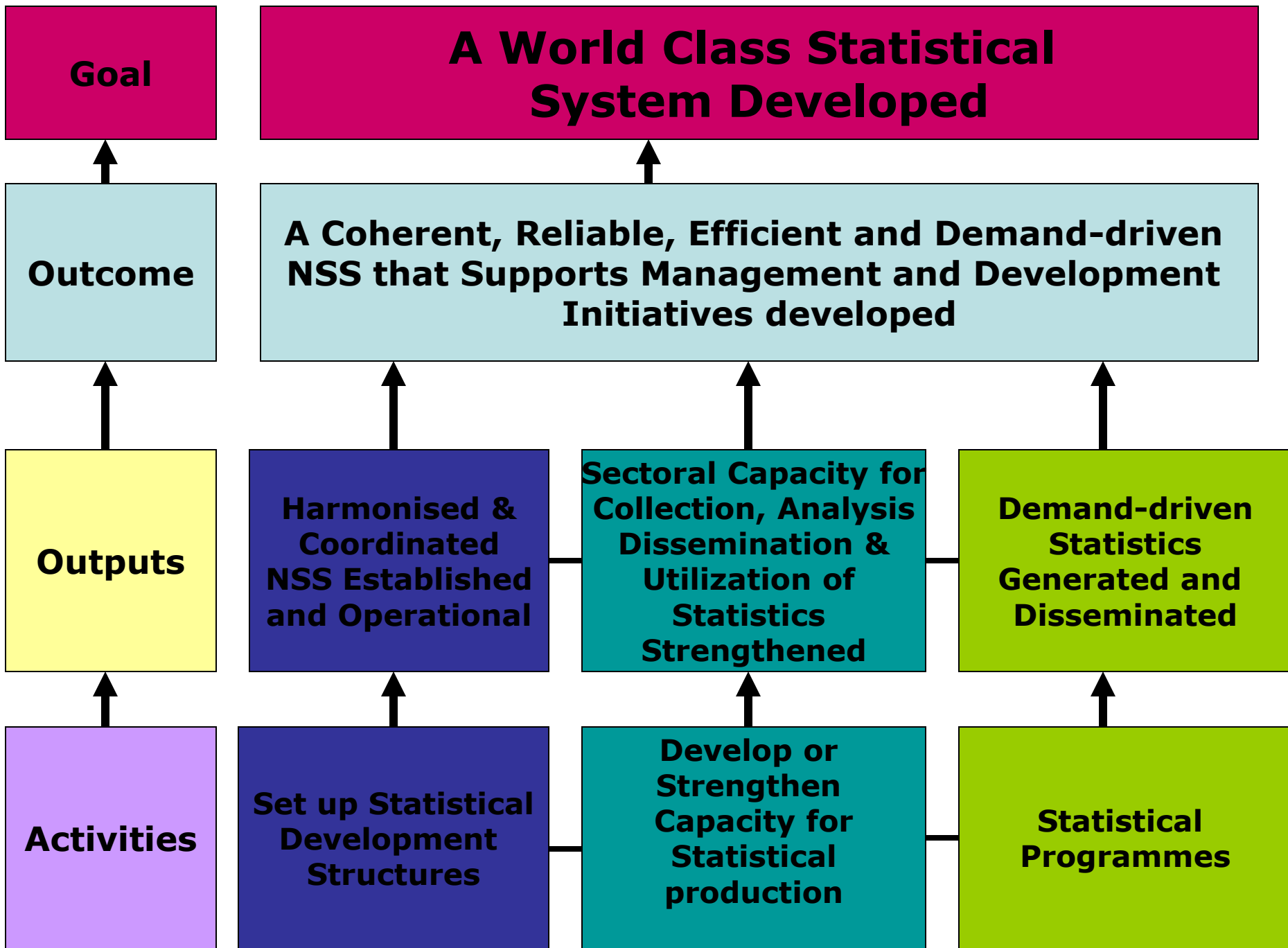
## Institutional arrangements ...

- Involvement of all other Users and Producers especially Civil Society, private sector, academic and research institutions
  - Data Producer Committees
  - Data Producers and Users Committees – plans for all censuses and major surveys are discussed with all major producers and users from inception to data dissemination
  - Donor Coordination Mechanisms
    - Mobilisation of funds
    - Lobbying government for increased funding for statistics
    - Supporting large statistical programmes

- Integration of a ‘**Statistics Sector**’ Chapter in the National Development plan and Budget.
- Mainstreaming of Sectors in the NSDS
- Integration of SSPS activities in the main stream strategic plan and MDA annual work plan e.g. BOU, MHLUD, MGLSD.
- Capacity building to compile, analyze and use statistical information.
- Collaboration in data analysis and report writing.
- Development of MDA statistics Web pages.

- Emphasis of; Common **Vision**, related **Mission** and **Strategic objectives**, Structures, and harmonised planning with MDAs in the NSS.
- Long Term Census and Survey programme
- Collaboration with country wide Universities for Capacity Building in Local Governments
- Participation in Africa Statistics Week – 19<sup>th</sup> November to publicize statistics

- Response to statistical reporting requirements;
  - National Development Frameworks
  - Millennium Development Goals
  - Data Quality Assessment Framework
  - GDDS and SDDS
  - UN Fundamental principles of Official Statistics
- Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for statistics *(following a logical framework approach see next slide)*



- In the delivery of statistics, UBOS faces the following challenges;
- demand for small area statistics to support the decentralisation policy and the ever increasing number of administrative units that require data for planning.

## Challenges (2)

- Increased data demand for; Quarterly GDP, Poverty, Water and Sanitation, Crime, Gender, energy, governance and environment statistics
- Parallel and incompatible data management information systems in sectors that limit data sharing; health, water, education, etc
- Proliferation of producers in the market economy
- Weak inter-institutional coordination
- Unclear sectoral mandates with regard to statistics



## Challenges (3)

- Ensuring standards and timeliness in submission of secondary data by the relevant government agencies (migration, education, health, crime, energy, labour and employment, and businesses)
- Poorly generated, delayed and incomplete returns from districts to the ministries.
- Lack of objectivity in data generated at the district level by planning functions.
- Limited information on Meta data – i.e. existing data, institution and form of storage especially for data generated outside UBOS.
- Improper use of information.
- Inadequate resources in light of increased data demands – this necessitates need for more efficient use of available resources

- NSOs vary in their set-up in terms of:
  - Laws for their set-up
    - Government departments
    - Autonomous agencies
    - Semi-autonomous agencies
  - Constitution of Commissions/Boards
    - Full-time members
    - Part-time members
    - Both core and non-core members
  - Management structures
    - The role of the Chief Executive
    - Number of departments/directorates/divisions
    - Operating guidelines

## Conclusion (2)

- Among the common requirements are:
  - Boards to be well-constituted and should be strong, technically competent and experienced management
  - Relationship between Board & Mgmt – Roles should be clear
- Involvement of key data Producers and Users of statistics - including the Donor Community – all their needs should be taken into account as the Strategic Plan is drawn up
- Ensuring an enabling legal framework
- Development of a strategic plan for the entire NSS
- Establishment of committees at various levels for value addition
  - National Steering Committee
  - Technical Committees
  - Inter-Agency Committees, etc

These could be standing Board Committees or for specific Censuses and/or Surveys



**END**



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**THANK YOU**