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**Standards in Social statistics: the capacity of national statistical systems
to adapt to the international standards, problems, challenges**

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Abstract:

National statistical systems have been faced with the demand for more timely and granular social statistics. Addressing the demand is a challenge given the availability of other information from less traditional data sources. Many statistical systems have gained trust by using statistical standards and they should continue to benefit from newer standards that result from the Sustainable Development Goals requirements and the availability of newer sources of data. Main challenges are lack of skilled personal and lack of resources (budgets and infrastructure). However, solutions are changing. Some of them are: the use of new technology, new frameworks, new sources of data, new partnerships.

Keywords:

national statistical systems, social statistics, statistical standards

1. Introduction:

National statistical systems have been faced with the demand for more timely and granular social statistics. Addressing the demand is a challenge given the availability of other information from less traditional data sources. In this context, a strong foundation in the generation of statistics is needed for national statistical systems to deliver social statistics that address the demands of the times. Statistical standards provide such a strong foundation especially for social statistics such as population statistics, poverty, gender equality, maternal mortality, informal sector.

Many statistical systems have gained trust by using statistical standards and they should continue to benefit from newer standards that result from the Sustainable Development Goals requirements and the availability of newer sources of data. Challenges faced by statistical systems are the same ones faced in the past. Main challenges are lack of skilled personal and lack of resources (budgets and infrastructure). However, solutions are changing. Some of them are: the use of new technology, new frameworks, new sources of data, new partnerships.

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2. Methodology:

Review of documents, Case Study

3. Result:

There is recognition of the need to transform national statistical systems so that they are able to provide statistical information to meet commitments made by Governments for the 2030 Agenda. The following strategic areas were identified by the global statistics community in a series of global and regional conferences in 2015-2016 for transformation to happen ; (a) coordination and partnerships; (b) communication and advocacy; (c) integrated systems for the production of statistics; (d) innovation through the use of new technologies and data sources; and (e) capacity-building and resource mobilization².

New technologies include those for data collection and data visualization, These include online surveys, use of computer assisted personal interviews, use of geospatial technologies. New data sources are administrative data, registers, big data, private sector data, data from Civil Society Organizations and Non-Government Organizations. Some new standards include quality assurance standards for using administrative data, frameworks that capture the multidimensional nature of social statistics (e.g., Multidimensional Poverty Index). With the covid-19 pandemic, many of these initiatives have been fast-tracked.

The national statistical systems of the Philippines, led by the Philippine Statistics Authority, and Mexico, led by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), are good examples that illustrate the success of initiatives that follow the suggested solutions to challenges. Mexico illustrates the positive impact of the use of geospatial technologies in the conduct of censuses while the Philippines uses such technologies to address censuses in conflict areas. Both have developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index to capture the multidimensional nature of poverty.

4. Discussion and Conclusion:

National Statistical Systems are in a better place now to address challenges of providing relevant information for policies and programs. Technology and information are many and varied .Traditional methods and tested framework should be augmented by new sources of information. Partnerships need to be forged as a means of implementation.

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