



Informing a Data Revolution

COUNTRY REPORT ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



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Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa
CCB	Congo Central Bank
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DEP	Direction des Etudes et de Planification (Studies and Planning Directorate)
DQAF	Data Quality Assessment Framework
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GPRS	Growth And Poverty Reduction Strategy
IDR	Informing a Data Revolution
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NSS	National Statistical System
ODSEF	Demographic and Statistical Research Institute for Francophone Communities
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa
SSP	Provincial Statistical System
TFP	Technical and financial partner
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
WB	World Bank

Introduction

The aim of this country study is to contribute to research that answers the call for “a data revolution” launched in 2013 by the high level panel established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide recommendations on the post-2015 international development agenda, following on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The aim is “to ensure that the statistical information necessary to eliminate poverty and monitor the progress of development is available to the right people, at the right time and in the right format.”

With a view to the adoption and launch of a new development programme by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, the project must draw up a road map for a data revolution by July 2015. PARIS21 therefore chose a multi-phase approach that includes questionnaires to be completed by certain countries, country studies like the one carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), workshops and other fora.

The present report was written after a workshop on the data revolution organised by the Ministry of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution on 29 and 30 September 2014 in Kinshasa, DRC through the National Statistical Institute (NSI) with the support of PARIS21. It includes an updated version of the draft report prepared at the end of the PARIS21 mission to Kinshasa from 25 August to 6 September 2014 in the framework of the “Informing the Data Revolution” (IDR) project, financed by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The draft report was studied and approved at the national workshop.

Therefore, after the in-depth country study phase and the PARIS21 questionnaire sent to the NSI in June 2014, this workshop constitutes the last phase of research on the issue of the data revolution in the DRC’s National Statistical System (NSS).

Let us remember that during the in-depth country study, interviews were conducted based on the questionnaire appended with (i) multiple national actors from the government, Parliament, the private sector and civil society; and (ii) several technical and financial partners. The aim was to evaluate the country’s statistical system in its current state as well as in terms of future needs in order to make a list of everything that the Congolese statistical system will need to participate in this data revolution.

The attendance of all of these actors and their active participation in the debates is a clear indication of their support for the PARIS21 initiative as well as the approach chosen for the data revolution. The workshop participants recognised that the adoption in 2012 of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2012/13-2017 marks an important phase for the DRC in developing its statistical system. They did however confirm the assessment made as part of the NSDS that, as things currently stand, the national statistical system is insufficiently equipped to monitor the implementation of the MDGs. We can therefore conclude that if the situation does not improve, that is to say if the data revolution does not take place, the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s statistical system will face significant difficulties monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that are proposed to take over from the MDGs after 2015.

After the introduction, this report is broken down into two main parts:

1. The workshop and
2. The updated report composed of six chapters that cover the National Statistical System, an evaluation of the main agencies in charge of producing data, managing the statistical process, interaction with the international statistics community, the development of the national statistical system over the next five years and participating in the data revolution.

1. THE WORKSHOP

1. Introduction

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution, from 29 to 30 September 2014, as part of the project called “**Informing a Data Revolution – IDR**” launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the **National Statistical Institute**, in collaboration with the **PARIS21** Consortium and the **OECD**, organised the Workshop on the Results of the IDR survey carried out in August 2014 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This workshop, which received financial and technical support from the PARIS21 Consortium and the OECD, brought together 60 experts from NSS member institutions and the DRC’s Technical and Financial Partners.

2. Main Objectives of the IDR-DRC Workshop

The main goals of this workshop were:

- to examine the DRC country-study report prepared by Senior International Consultant Luc Mbong Mbong with a view to seeking the country’s position on the results and conclusions of this report;
- to present the directions of the IDR Road Map and seek the country’s reaction;
- to present the Declaration on the IDR Road Map and seek the country’s reaction;
- to obtain from the country a list of the most useful innovations for achieving the Data Revolution.

3. Results Expected from the Workshop

- approval and adoption of the DRC country-study report;
- adoption of the IDR Road Map;
- approval and adoption of the Declaration on the IDR Road Map for a data revolution;
- approval and adoption of participant recommendations.

4. Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was marked by:

- the NSI’s welcome speech given by Mr **Arsène Wawa Sakrini**, the Workshop Works Coordinator, representing the Deputy Project Leader, who was unable to attend;
- the introductory speech by Mr **Trevor Fletcher**, IDR Coordinator;
- and lastly the speech by His Excellency the Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution, given by Mr **Mibulumukini**, Cabinet Director and personal representative of His Excellency the Minister, who was unable to attend. These addresses are presented in the appendix to this report.

5. Actual Work Conducted

Six highly informative presentations were made by the IDR PARIS21 team, covering:

- a) the conclusions and recommendations of the country-study report;

- b) the IDR project's progress report;
- c) the results of the IDR country studies;
- d) innovation work;
- e) the IDR Road Map;
- f) the IDR Road Map: alignment with national priorities

6. Adoption of the DRC country-study report, the Road Map and the Declaration

Following these presentations, which gave rise to fruitful discussions, the Workshop approved and adopted:

- the DRC country-study report, subject to the recommendations outlined below in point 7 being taken into account;
- the IDR Road Map presented by PARIS21;
- the Declaration on the Road Map for a data revolution.

7. Recommendations

Following these exchanges and after hearing and approving the Final Report, the following recommendations were made to the attention of both the Government of the Republic and the international community:

To the DRC Government:

- 1°. Ratify the African Charter on Statistics as soon as possible;
- 2°. Take ownership of the IDR project through sustained actions which support the Road Map for a data revolution;
- 3°. Through the NSI, take measures to implement the provisions of Decree n° 10/05 of 11 February 2010 creating the National Statistical System in DRC;
- 4°. In partnership with development actors, provide the DRC's National Statistical Institute with a modern, well-equipped building, as well as a website for archiving, sharing and disseminating data on a large scale;
- 5°. Set up a trust fund for the financing of statistics-related activities;
- 6°. Carry out managerial capacity building for statistics department managers including the Focal Points and the Departments of Studies and Planning within the framework of the IDR project;
- 7°. Through the NSI, develop an active communication partnership to foster synergies with the press and audio-visual media networks to disseminate statistics further and make them more available and understandable to the population, as well as inform on the importance of their use.
- 8°. Do all that is necessary to have existing data analysed and published;
- 9°. Regularly announce, via the NSI, the schedule for major statistics-related operations.
- 10°. Regularly publish the schedule for publishing the results of statistics-related activities (NSI and other links in the National Statistical System);
- 11°. Continue to improve cooperation between the suppliers, producers and users of statistics;
- 12°. Revitalise and improve DevInfo and IMIS software as well as other databases, in order to achieve structured metadata archiving;
- 13°. Develop and harmonise the content of the statistics teaching programme recently introduced in humanities studies, with the help of the appropriate NSS structures;

To the actors of the National Statistical System (State, parliament, private sector, civil society):

14°. Form a coalition for the data revolution;

To the actors of the International Statistical System:

15°. Continue to support statistical operations nationally, by fostering the national statistics production programme through the NSDS;

16°. Support the NSS to update the NSDS and align it with the needs of the data revolution (PARIS21);

17°. Support the NSS in advocacy for reinforcing statistical capacities;

18°. Create a Global Fund to support the National Statistical Systems of developing countries for improved governance of the data revolution and monitoring of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8. Closing

After reading the recommendations and a speech from PARIS21 given by Mr Trevor FLETCHER, the meeting came to a close with a speech by the Workshop Works Coordinator Mr Arsène Wawa Sakrini on behalf of the NSI. The text is appended to this report.

Kinshasa, 30 September 2014.

Vincent MAVINA MALEKA
Rapporteur

2. UPDATED COUNTRY REPORT

2.1 – The National Statistical System

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as in most Sub-Saharan African countries, the important role that statistics play in managing and implementing development policies is widely recognised. However, can we affirm that statistical data have always been used well to draw up these policies and monitor their implementation? Several questions should be asked when we are talking about the issue of how statistical data is used, especially on the eve of 2015, the horizon set for reaching the MDGs. Some of those questions include:

- What role should the national statistical system play (NSI and related industry units)?
- Under what conditions are the country's statistics produced?
- Are the statistical sources reliable? What is their relationship to the statistical production units?
- Do statistical production units have the necessary means (in terms of human, material and financial resources) to completely fulfil their role?
- Why are national statistical data, even where they exist, not the preferred data of national and international actors?
- Why do some users seem to reject using the statistical data produced and even sometimes prefer to supply their own data or use data produced outside of the NSS?
- Why does a statistics culture continue to be foreign to the country in the sense that everyone recognises the lack of a statistics culture among producers and decision-makers as one of the factors that inhibit production of statistics and limit good economic governance?

2.1.1 Use and recognition of the importance of statistics in national development policy

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is striving to use statistics better when drafting and implementing its development policy, part of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (DSCR), now in its second iteration. To mark its importance, the references and the results hoped for are expressed in terms of quantitative indicators that can be monitored and evaluated.

2.1.2 State of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) or the plan for the development of the National Statistical System

The country has adopted a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for the period 2012/13-2017 with an estimated cost of 674.6 billion Congolese francs. Financing for the action plan included in the strategy is not yet confirmed and relies heavily (80%) on external resources.

2.1.3 Legal mandate for statistics-related activity

The legal and regulatory framework for statistics-related activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is established by (i) Decree n° 10/05 of 11 February 2010 on the National Statistical System, which determines the concepts, fundamental principles of statistics-related activity, the role, missions and organisation of the DRC's statistical system.

It should however be noted that the legal and regulatory framework needs to be updated in light of the African Charter on Statistics adopted on 3 February 2009 and the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) adopted by African heads of state and government.

2.1.4 Organisation, coordination and management of the National Statistical System

Decree n° 10/05 of 11 February 2010 sets out the provisions to ensure the coordination of statistics-related activities. Article 4 stipulates that “the National Statistical System includes all of the public and private structures and bodies that produce and disseminate statistical data as well as the major users of statistics, in particular suppliers, producers and users of data and statistical research and training institutes.”

This decree, in Article 31 notes that “the National Statistical System is decentralised. Each of its national production structures reports to a ministry or specialised body. It is made up of:

- The National Statistics Council;
- The National Statistical Institute;
- Industry Statistical Departments, both public and private, and statistical training organisations including:
 - Industry Statistical Departments of the Ministries at both the central and the province level;
 - Statistical Departments of businesses and public organisations;
 - Organisations tasked with providing statistics training;
 - Cross-disciplinary structures created with the aim of facilitating certain statistics-related activities, particularly not-for-profit associations, research and survey companies;
 - Development partners.”

The decree indicates that the role of coordinator falls to the NSI. It should however be recognised that coordination is still poor due to the inexistence of a collaboration protocol between NSI and the industry units.

2.2 – Evaluation of the major agencies responsible for producing data

2.2.1 Human Resources

In general terms, the payroll of the Congolese NSS is small and qualified personnel constitutes less than 60% of the whole force. An assessment of human resources working in the NSS’s different branches is planned. This will make it possible to know evaluate the needs of the National Statistical System in terms of human resources.

The shortage of qualified personnel can be explained by the small number of statisticians trained in respected statistics schools and the lack of recycling of employed personnel. The NSI’s annual training plan is currently being negotiated.

2.2.2 Equipment and infrastructure

The problem of equipment and infrastructure facing the NSS is an acute one at the central, provincial and industry level due to insufficient budgetary resources. We can confirm that the infrastructure of the NSS, particularly the NSI, is not adequate for the mission it has been charged with.

With regards to IT material, the majority of the computers need to be replaced. The NSI does not have an IT master plan. The NSI does have its own internet site, which is currently not operational.

In terms of property infrastructure, the building that currently houses the NSI is no longer functional and is ill adapted to statistical work. **Construction of a building to serve as the NSI headquarters must be among the priorities for providing support to the NSS.**

2.2.3 Financial Resources

The financial resources available to the NSS are woefully insufficient. The amount of internal resources allocated to statistics-related activities is so low that it undermines production and certainly cannot guarantee future activity. Practically all of the capital investment and nearly 20% of working expenses in the budget are financed by external resources.

Being able to continue statistics-related activities and guarantee the regular delivery of statistical products in a timely way are directly tied to putting in place an appropriate financing system. To that end, the low proportion of internal financing reveals the extreme fragility of the current system which unfortunately makes it impossible to create a strategic plan for statistics-related activities.

As part of the current NSDS, the implementation of a shared trust fund for donor and public financing has been proposed; its temporary management, for a period of no more than three years, would be entrusted to one of the donors. A feasibility study for this fund should be carried out as soon as possible.

2.2.4 Commitment to quality

The NSS does not yet have a quality assurance framework but the Congolese NSS considers improving the quality of the statistical offer to be a priority. A strategic focus was dedicated to this activity in the NSDS 2012/13-2017.

2.2.5 Relationship with the users of data

The DRC has begun a national dialogue between producers and users of statistics. This takes the form of the Statistical Focus Group and is a forum of sharing information and experience.

Despite the existence of this group, there is still an unfortunate lack of a statistics culture among users and especially among decision-makers, constituting one of the factors that hinder statistics production. In this sense, it should be pointed out that the NSDS includes a strategic focus on promoting a culture of statistics at all levels.

2.2.6 Access to statistics and data

The Congolese NSS has fully understood the fact that statistical products are public goods while individual information is to be protected in keeping with the laws and regulations in place. Outside of NSS publications, the NSI does not regularly publish data on its site. Some partners have noted that even if this economic information is published on the NSI internet site, it also needs to be communicated to the entire population including those who do not have internet access.

In the interviews, points that have often been criticised are the failure to meet production deadlines, the lack of a publication schedule and the lack of regular publication of metadata.

2.2.7 Developing partnerships

The NSI has been successful in developing partnerships. Over the last three years, four public-private partnerships have been instituted with (i) AFRISTAT and DIAL for collection, processing, analysis and

dissemination of data and (ii) the Demographic and Statistical Research Institute for Francophone Communities for archiving and storing the questionnaires from the first population census in the DRC. The lack of partnerships in communications should be noted as a weakness in the field because it means that the NSS is without a true channel for dissemination (see 3.3).

2.3 – Managing statistical processes

2.3.1 Relationships with suppliers of data

The NSS relies on a vast network of data providers. There is not yet any general coordination of relationships with information suppliers outside of the relations established between the NSI and certain statistical departments in industry-specific ministries. The aim is to reduce the burden of statistical surveys on data suppliers by harmonising the schedules and the appropriate data collection questionnaires.

2.3.2 Managing data processes

The NSS will endeavour to follow as much as possible and sometimes adapt international recommendations and standards, and its participation in the IMF GDDS serves as a framework for respecting these standards. **It should, however, be noted that it is important to have a national framework for data quality evaluation.** Creating and using this framework constitutes the best response to the inadequate quality of the data noted in the NSDS.

2.3.3 Dissemination

The problem of disseminating data is a crucial one if the Congolese NSS is to build partnerships at the national, regional and international level. Without a proper dissemination policy, all the statistics produced may not reach the various users in a timely fashion, particularly users among national decision-makers. Currently, the NSI has not adopted a standard format for disseminating data, and because of the lack of partnerships with the media and more generally the lack of policies for disseminating statistical data, the reach of NSS dissemination is very limited.

2.3.4 Archiving and providing access to micro-data

The Congolese NSS suffers from a lack of an archiving and metadata system. As an example, the data from the last population census in 1984 are not stored digitally. This situation must be corrected because if the information collected is not stored securely, the country will lose some of its historical memory. This could be achieved by reactivating and improving the IMIS and RDCongoInfo databases that exist in the NSI for archiving, data sharing and for the implementation of databases in ministries and with some public and private departments.

2.4 – Interaction with the International Statistical community

2.4.1 Managing donor assistance

On average, donors provide 80% of financing for funds invested in surveys and censuses in the country. Among the main statistical operations carried out with the help of such backing are the population census done in 1984, the “Multisectoral Indicators Cluster Survey” (MICS) in 2010, the demographic and health survey in 2013 and a survey of households in 2012.

These operations are not generally carried out regularly in comparison to international standards. The data collected through all of the surveys constitutes a wealth of basic data that should be better used in analyses and thematic studies. Requesting assistance to make use of the data from existing surveys is therefore a priority for the NSI.

2.4.2 Participating in the International Statistical System

The NSS of the Democratic Republic of the Congo works closely with the International Statistical System.

Although it does not yet have a Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), the DRC has adopted the IMF General Data Dissemination System (GDDS).

Additionally, the country's participation in major regional, continental and global initiatives such as COMESA's harmonised price index, the DRC's regional strategy for the development of statistics, the International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa) in 2005 and 2011 and its role in drafting the African strategy for implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA) in 2008 should be noted.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo often calls upon the expertise of AFRISTAT and AFRITAC, thereby benefiting from the methodological advances of these institutions in various statistical fields (national accounts, price statistics, the informal sector, etc.).

2.5. – Developing the National Statistical System over the next five years

Development of the NSS from 2015 to 2019 is set out for the most part in the NSDS 2012/13-2017, but as noted above, this strategy should be updated to take into consideration the requirements of the data revolution. It will also be necessary to specify internally the relationship between the different links in the NSS (industry, province), and at the international level the role of the Congolese NSS as an important part of the statistical systems in the regional economic communities of which the DRC is a part, in particular ECCAS and COMESA, and thereby specify its place in the African and the international statistical systems.

In that regard, the country must ratify the African Charter on Statistics and participate actively in the work on the continent to implement the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

The updated NSDS should take into account the challenges that the international statistical system will face in the future, particularly monitoring-evaluation of the implementation of the post-2015 SDGs and their targets. SDG n°17 has two targets that concern data, monitoring-evaluation and accountability. According to target 17.8, by 2020 support for capacity-building in developing countries should be strengthened in order to increase significantly the availability of excellent quality, reliable data, delivered on time, that can be disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, geographic location, etc. Target 17.9 aims, by 2030, to build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress in sustainable development.

The SDGs and their targets include new issues (e.g. climate change, the environment) to which the Congolese NSS will need to pay particular attention when it comes to collecting, processing and analysing data.

List¹ of Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations Open Working Group at the 68th General Assembly, September 2014
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

2.5.1 Priorities for new statistics

The issue at stake is meeting users' needs in the most appropriate way while taking into consideration new requirements, particularly the SDGs. The main fields of focus chosen by the NSI over the next five years concern population and migration; macroeconomic statistics, short-term indicators and seasonal variations; and indicators related to SDGs. To that end, the NSI will grant highest priority to:

- coordinating the NSS, managing relations between users and suppliers of data as concerns improving the quality of data;
- digital infrastructure (server and bandwidth, digitisation of data and the interface for accessing data); and

¹ This new list replaces the one given in the draft report of 2 June 2014

- accessibility and distribution policy, support for users of metadata documentation as far as improving the use of data is concerned.

2.5.2 Priorities for strengthening statistical capacity

The main priorities for statistical capacity building during the next five years are as follows:

- developing tools/capacity: coordinating, strategic planning and designing methodologies, processes and flows;
- training personnel to develop new skills and capacities: strategic planning, defining needs and coordination;
- concerning information and communication technology: defining needs, evaluating, designing methodologies, processes and flows;
- in terms of statistical infrastructure: geographic information system, the sampling framework for household surveys and structures for databases;
- strengthening NSS coordination and management: establishing a career framework for statistical personnel and creating directives or protocol for data exchange.

2.5.3 Using innovation

During the mission, innovation needs were timidly expressed. This could be due to a lack of understanding of, or expertise in the subject. During the workshop this aspect deserves to be dealt with in great detail after the PARIS21 presentations. The innovation needs (not detailed) expressed for the next five years concern data collection, use and dissemination of data, archiving and storage of data, coordination and management.

To allow the NSS to function effectively, it must have a next-generation statistical infrastructure as well as the appropriate building infrastructure. In that respect, we hail the work done to restore and outfit all of the NSI provincial statistics production centres that serve all the actors in the provincial statistical system undertaken by the government with the support of the African Development Bank and the UNFPA, as well as the plan to construct a building to serve as the headquarters of the NSI with the support of the World Bank. It is also important to remember, however, how urgent it is for these buildings to be constructed; without them the NSS cannot truly work effectively. Completion of financing for the NSI building should be one of the top priorities for the data revolution in DRC.

2.5.4 Priorities in financial assistance for statistics

Priorities for financial assistance cover implementing the NSDS through the 2012/13-2017 Action Plan at a cost of 674.6 billion Congolese francs (675 million US dollars). Like the strategy itself, the action plan should be updated to include the new issues related to the data revolution. These priorities include improving the work environment with decent premises that meet modern standards for statistical production. We are beginning to see some examples of this in Africa. Today countries and development partners share the opinion that statistical data production should take place in a decent setting. We can cite Senegal, Mozambique, Uganda and Burkina Faso as examples of countries that have built the headquarters of their national statistics institutes to modern standards.

2.5.5 Priorities for technical assistance

The technical assistance that the NSS has requested from PARIS21 concerns:

- advocacy with technical and financial partners (TFP) for financing to update and implement the NSDS;
- documentation on experiences and best practices in implementing NSDS;
- analysing and publishing existing data.

2.6 – Participating in the data revolution

2.6.1 How can the country itself contribute?

First we must seek to understand what the data revolution consists of. This question was broadly discussed during the field mission. Some felt that in order to “create the data revolution” the main problems facing the national statistical system in the following areas must be solved:

- legal and regulatory framework;
- human, material and financial resources;
- relationship between basic data providers and data processing units;
- relationship between the NSS and users/decision-makers
- relationship between the NSS and both provincial statistical systems and regional and international statistical systems.

But these problems are all too well known and have not arisen overnight. Of course the solutions imagined aim to ensure reliable, quality production in a timely fashion but they can only form the basic prerequisites and are insufficient to allow a true data revolution to take place.

To carry out this revolution, we must have actors, a guideline and well defined goals. The revolution requires preparation and should not be improvised along the way because the phenomenon requires that national actors truly appropriate the process. The lack of reliable data, sometimes a complete lack, to monitor the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 1990-2015 and the level to which the principle targets were reached most certainly constitutes one of the catalysts for this revolution. The data revolution must therefore be recognised as calling into question our action as soldiers for development who are recruited from among the State, Parliament, the private sector and civil society.

The data revolution itself aims to transform the current situation in which the data produced are not always used efficiently for improving the well-being of the populations. It aims to provide a basis for the system in which these data make transparent management and an equitable division of resources possible. **The data revolution must be at the heart of good governance, and responsibility for it is incumbent on all the actors in governance at the local, national and international level.**

Undoubtedly, there have been some catalysts such as repeated difficulties for the national statistical system to monitor implementation of the MDGs, but that is not enough to set off this data revolution. A certain number of elements are necessary to provide a basis for this revolution and allow us to carry it out successfully. These are prerequisite for the data revolution but they are certainly not sufficient in and of themselves:

- creating an environment that is conducive to the production of data guaranteed by an appropriate legal and regulatory framework;
- efficient coordination of statistics-related activities by the NSI
- providing the NSS with adequate human, material and financial resources. In fact it should be pointed out that the lack of internal resources and the NSS’ heavy dependence on external

resources (about 80%) constitute major handicaps for strategic planning of statistics-related activities;

- human resources training to strengthen the capacities of different units within the NSS;
- creating structures to foster dialogue between basic data providers, NSS and users and using a participative approach when appropriate;
- respecting the concepts and rules of international standards;
- developing public-private partnerships;
- developing partnerships with the media in order to improve communication about and dissemination of the results of surveys and other statistical products;
- setting up a database with the possibility of facilitating general public access to it;

The data revolution itself will take place through **an improved statistics culture** that will allow the different actors to develop a statistics reflex in their work (reflection, decision-making, forecasting, etc.). Training and education can play an important role in creating a culture of statistics and it has even been proposed that statistics be introduced in the curriculum for the majority of professions.

The different segments of governance (State, Parliament, private sector and civil society) must form a **coalition for the data revolution by supporting the NSS, its current products and new statistics**. In order to do this, they must recognise that statistics – when they are reliable, which is at the heart of the debate over the independence of the NSS – are the tools that reveals the results of their activities, the tools to assist in decision-making, forecasting, steering and monitoring-evaluation. Statistical data also have the power to serve as an arbiter because they sanction the achievements of each actor, who as we all know, must be accountable.

By placing statistical data back at the centre of the issue of good governance, we can come to an understanding with all the national actors and can agree that statistical data have the virtue of serving good governance and subsequently that they play a role in implementing peaceful democracy. There can be no doubt that any actor in national governance who obstinately refuses to use statistical data has a hidden agenda, wishes to act without transparency, in short, aims at the very opposite of good governance.

The major concern at this stage is getting the data revolution operational and underway in the country. As the actors have been identified, what remains is to define the operating mode. The following steps can be taken:

Step 1. Building the coalition at the national level: there is indeed a leadership problem here. It is the responsibility of the Director General of the NSI to lead this coalition which must include (i) actors from the public sector (high-level managers in ministries and public bodies, central banks, public media, etc.) (ii) parliamentary leaders (National Assembly, Senate), (iii) the private sector (leaders of chambers of commerce and industry, agriculture, private banks, private media, etc.), (iv) civil society (NGOs, etc.) and (v) technical and financial partners.

Step 2. Action by the national coalition for the data revolution: the coalition must make sure that its work is carried out transparently and without seeking to take the place of existing state or private bodies. For that it must advocate and take effective action so that the necessary conditions for carrying out the data revolution are met. As an example, it must take action to make the NSS budget compatible with its mission, and at all the different levels where the budget is planned, examined and adopted, it must also be involved in implementing/executing the budget to ensure that the means requested are indeed made available to the NSS and also that the NSS is delivering the various products in the

necessary formats and within the timeframes set. Other examples concern the coalition's activity with regards to the use of school maps and health maps which are often ignored or forgotten when (i) it is time to allocate budget resources to priority sectors such as education and health and (ii) to decide the location of new infrastructures in the various regions of the country.

Step 3. The national coalition must become a link in the international coalition for the data revolution. As such, it must work to advance this revolution at the level of the regional, the continental and the international economic communities. Initially, the Democratic Republic of the Congo must send a clear signal, like a declaration, to the international community. Following that, the country must participate in all of the activities led by the international community to advance the agenda of the Data Revolution.

2.6.2 The country's needs in terms of this participation

The data revolution must be understood as an important initiative that aims to (i) fill the gaps observed in the decades from 1990 to 2015 dedicated to the MDGs and (ii) better prepare for monitoring-evaluation of implementation of the SDGs. We must accept that if we do nothing, the one thing we can be sure of today is that the NSS will remain incapable of delivering reliable indicators for the implementation of the post-2015 development goals.

Beyond the benefits that the country will gain from this initiative on the technical level, becoming a part of this data revolution must be **a political act. Therefore it is important that the country's participation stems from an adoption of the initiative at the national level.**

In the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the immediate needs include (i) ratification of the African Charter on Statistics, (ii) updating the national strategy for the development of statistics with a participative approach that encourages the contribution of all the actors in the NSS and the members of the coalition for the data revolution. Then, it must advocate boldly to bring together all the necessary conditions described in section 6.1.

Updating of the NSDS must take into consideration the results and recommendations of the data revolution workshop. The short- as well as the medium- and long-term needs of the data revolution must be specified.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Goals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo IDR Workshop

Appendix 2. Agenda of the IDR-DRC Workshop, Kinshasa 29 to 30 September 2014

Appendix 3. National Statistical Institute Speech

Appendix 4. Speech by His Excellency the Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution

Appendix 5. List of the institutions and people participating in the workshop

Appendix 6. List of the institutions and people met in the course of the in-depth country study

Appendix 7. Informing a Data Revolution (IDR) Project: Questionnaire – List of discussion points

Appendix 8. References

Appendix 1. Goals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo IDR Workshop

1. Comprehensive goals of the meeting

- Obtain feedback from the country / agreement on the report's conclusions
- Obtain feedback from the country / agreement on the directions of the IDR Road Map
- Reach an agreement in principle for the country to approve the Declaration on the IDR Road Map
- Obtain from the country the most useful innovations to achieve the Data Revolution

Presentation of the report and the conclusions of the IDR 4.2 session. Gather comments on the report

This should be focused on a certain number of questions to be chosen from among the following (depending on the time available) – the questions can be refined.

a) Questions based on the study

- Future needs in external assistance and support – main fields?
- Needs in terms of innovation over the next five years – what fields should be the focus?
- Developing and building national capacity – how to do it? In which fields in particular?
- Meeting new needs in statistics – what challenges will come with the SDGs and how should they be addressed?
- Governance of the national statistical system – what changes need to be made?
- The use of new types of data – What new types of data does the NSI imagine using in the next five and ten years?
- New partnerships in related areas
- (managing, collecting, analysing, disseminating, archiving) Processes – are these key fields for improvement?
- Resources (equipment, personnel, financing) – what are the main needs?
- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) – changes needed? When and how?

b) Specific questions raised in the IDR country study

- Financial resources – to what extent does the national statistical system (NSS) currently rely on donor support? How much (in absolute value, % of the total budget) comes from donors compared to the State budget? In which domains is donor support concentrated?
- To what extent are the current levels of financial resources available to the NSS insufficient (or sufficient)?
-

c) Questions concerning the workshop conclusions

With a view to implementing the DRC's NSDS

- Do we need new surveys and how can a 2010 or 2015 baseline be established?
- Do we need to pay closer attention to data quality?
- What role should new and leading-edge technologies play, particularly in data collection?
- To what extent does a serious lack of human and financial resources hinder action and what can be done about it?
- How can we create and disseminate disaggregated data?
- What should be done to make data more accessible, understandable and useable?

- How can good data be best used as a powerful tool to ensure transparency, accountability and good governance?
- How should the role of the private sector, both a user and producer of data, be improved and how to improve coordination between the government and non-governmental actors?

d) General questions

- Innovations – main fields of interest – delivery (gaps in data) or dissemination?
- Is there a problem of missing data within sets?
- Are the NSI data accessible?

Presentation of 4.3 Innovations

If possible, the workshop participants should propose the innovations that will be the most useful for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to meet the main challenges identified in the country report.

Appendix 2. Agenda of the IDR-DRC workshop, Kinshasa from 29 to 30 September 2014

29 sept. 2014

08h00	Guests arrive		
08h10	NSI Project leaders Arrive		
08h20	Representatives of the UN agencies, World Bank, IMF and AfDB arrive		
08h30	Secretaries General of public administrations arrive		
08h45	His Excellency the Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution arrives		
	Ceremony Starts		
08.50	Welcome speech by the NSI		
	Introductory speech by Mr Trevor FLETCHER (TF), PARIS21		
	Opening speech by His Excellency the Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution		
10.00	Actual Work Conducted		
10.00	Conclusions of the study	Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations of the study report	Luc MBONG MBONG (LMM)
11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.30	Discussion of the study	Gathering opinions and feedback from the country / agreement on the conclusions of the report	LMM + participants
13.00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14.30	IDR Activity Report	Presentation on the IDR project's progress report	TF, PARIS21
15.00	Country studies	Presentation of the results of all IDR country-study reports	TF, PARIS21
15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16.00	Innovation/Modernisation	TF, Presentation on innovation work by PARIS21	TF, PARIS21
17.30	<i>End of first day</i>		

30 sept. 2014

9.30	Declaration on the IDR Road Map	Presentation and discussion to reach an agreement on the Road Map Declaration	TF, Luc + participants
10.00	IDR Road Map	Presentation on the contents of the IDR Road Map report: examination and adoption of major points in the IDR Road Map document	TF, Luc + participants
11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.30	IDR Road Map, round table discussion	IDR Road Map: alignment with national priorities	TF, Luc + participants
12.30	Closing session		
		Presentation on recommendations	Rapporteurs
		Speech PARIS21	Trevor FLETCHER
		NSI Closing speech	WAWA Sakrini

Appendix 3. NSI speech

Ladies and gentlemen,

The NSI is very honoured that you accepted its invitation to take part in the workshop to present the results of the IDR study on the statistical data revolution it is organising, under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution, and I thank you for your presence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Two months ago, the NSI was honoured to be informed that the DRC was amongst the 3 African countries chosen to participate in a country study as part of the “**DATA REVOLUTION**” project launched in 2013 by the high-level group set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide advice on the forthcoming post-2015 international development agenda, taking over from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

In the first instance, this participation involved answering a questionnaire (which was done) on the general reference framework within which the Congolese statistical system operates, and, following this, answering the questions of an in-depth survey whose results will be presented during this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Beyond the results that will be presented to you, the workshop would like to see you make innovative suggestions and recommendations which will fundamentally revolutionise our understanding of and our behaviour towards the statistical tool in terms of its production, use, financing etc.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Looking over the proposed agenda, I realise that more time has been set aside for discussions than for tedious speeches.

So I wish you a productive meeting!

Thank you for your kind attention!

Appendix 4. Speech by the Honourable Minister of Planning and Implementing the Modernity Revolution

**Honourable Deputies,
Representatives of Development partners ;
Secretaries General;
Heads of the Departments of Studies and Planning;
Experts;
Distinguished guests;**

It is truly a source of great satisfaction for me to be here with you in the beautiful Sultani Hotel and to be presiding over the opening ceremony for the Workshop to present the results of the survey carried out in August in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the global initiative known as **“INFORMING THE DATA REVOLUTION”**.

I am aware of what an honour it is for our country to be one of the three African countries to be included in the sample for the in-depth IDR survey. Its aim is to propose innovations so that the statistical information necessary for eradicating poverty and monitoring development progress can be made available to the right people, at the right time and in the right format.

I must also, however, recognise that the IDR project is a vast and complex one that requires those who are in charge of implementing it to take into account the pertinent advice of experts:

- in terms of producing, processing, disseminating, using and archiving statistical data;
- as well as in terms of financing statistics-related activities.

It is with these people that the IDR project will be able to reach the goals its supporters have set forth, principally:

- improving production and use of statistics and
- producing a Road Map for the data revolution to support the development process after 2015.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are some of the people that I just mentioned. I know that this is not your first experience in the field of statistics. In the past, we have relied on your expertise to produce the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and you did a wonderful job there.

As you know, since 2010, the Government has invested, through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, in promoting the development of a statistical system in our country, in particular with the implementation of the key portion of this national strategy which is the second national population and housing census.

It is in this context that the country again calls upon your experience to supply innovative elements to include in the drafting of a Road Map for the data revolution to support the post-2015 global development process.

Before I conclude, I would like to recognise our partners present here, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the PARIS21 and OECD delegation made up of Messieurs Trevor FLETCHER and Luc MBONG MBONG, respectively the IDR Coordinator and the Senior International Consultant. They have come from Paris to take part in this exercise and assist the DRC in finding contributions and recommendations for a true statistical data revolution to serve development.

I wish you all fruitful discussions and every success in your work, and without further ado, I declare the Workshop for the presentation of the DRC’s IDR survey results officially open.

Thank you for your attention!

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Appendix 7. Informing a Data Revolution (IDR) Project : Questionnaire – List of discussion points

Organisation:.....Address:.....

People met

N°	Surname and first name	Position	Telephone	Email
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Questions		Answer
N°	Heading	
A.	Entire national statistical system (NSS)	
A.1	How much have statistics been used and how important are they considered to be in national policy development	
A.2	Status of the national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS) or the plan for development of the national statistical system	
A.3	Legal mandate for statistics-related activities	
A.4	Organisation, coordination and management of NSS	
B.	Evaluation of the National Statistical Institute (NSI)	
B.1	Effectiveness of NSI personnel	
B.2	Adequacy of the equipment available to the NSI	
B.3	Adequacy of the budget available to the NSI	
B.4	Commitment to quality	
B.5	Relationship with data users	
B.6	Providing access to statistics and data	
B.7	Developing partnerships	

C.	Managing and implementing statistical processes	
C.1	Relationship with statistical data suppliers	
C.2	Managing data processes	
C.3	Disseminating data and statistics	
C.4	Archiving and storage of data and metadata	
D.	Interaction with the international statistics community	
D.1	Managing assistance received from donors	
D.2	Participating in the International Statistical system	
E.	Developing the national statistical system over the next five (5) years	
E.1	Priorities for new statistics	
E.2	Priorities for statistical capacity building	
E.3	Other priorities	
E.4	Using innovation	
E.5	Priorities for financial aid for statistics	
E.6	Priorities for technical assistance	
F.	In your opinion, how should a revival of statistics happen in your country?	
F.1	At the level of basic information providers	
F.2	At the national statistical institute and the industry statistics department level	
F.3	For data users	
G.	Other helpful comments	

Appendix 8. References

- R1. Decree N°10/05 of 11 February 2010 on the National Statistical System
- R2. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2012/13-2017
- R3. Sustainable Development Goals (articles published on the internet)
- R4. General Assembly of the United Nations, 68th session: Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals