

SADC/WB Project on Statistical Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction Strategies

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1. Background

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a regional grouping of 13 states in Southern Africa². Its mission is "To promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper co-operation and integration, good governance, and peace and security, so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy".

The SADC Secretariat is implementing a Trust fund project to support statistical capacity building for poverty reduction strategies in Southern Africa. The purpose of the grant is to provide seed money for putting up structures for poverty monitoring in the SADC region. The sustainability of these structures lies with the Member States to incorporate their continued existence in their national budgets.

The life of the project is 18 months starting January 2005 ending June 2006.

2. Purpose of the Project

The main purpose of the project is to promote poverty reduction and economic development. This will be achieved by providing continued support to SADC Member States to generate, disseminate and use good quality statistics for the monitoring and evaluation of their poverty reduction strategies and to inform policy formulation. The project is directly linked to the RISDP cross-sectoral intervention areas, in particular statistics. The project support the implementation and monitoring of the RISDP in three main ways:

- a. Assists SADC member states to prepare and implement national strategies for the development of statistics and to gain better access to international resources for capacity building;
- b. Develop a cadre of experts in the region to support statistical capacity building and poverty monitoring;
- c. Develop a regional resource base and information network

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2: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

3. Project Components and Outputs

The project has five main components which, together with their main outputs include:

Coordination and Development of a Regional Resource Base

Under this objective Member States will get direct technical assistance from the Project manager by way of facilitation of statistical activities for poverty monitoring. Develop a regional database in support of statistical capacity building and poverty monitoring and supporting the Regional Indicative Development Strategy (RISDP) implementation. Establish a database on statistical expertise for access by all member states.

The main outputs of this component is an effective project management and coordination system in place and to have a regional resource database accessible to members states and others, The resource base will include a number of different sets of information, including:

- An inventory of regional staff with expertise and experience in statistical development and poverty monitoring
- An inventory of statistical capacity in member states
- A collection of national statistical development strategies and other relevant material
- Case study material on statistical development and poverty monitoring from member states
- Information on international and regional programs supporting statistical development and poverty monitoring
- Both data and metadata on poverty indicators in member states

Links will be maintained with the PARIS21 web-site and with collaborating agencies both within the region and elsewhere, such as Universities, Central Banks, donors etc.

Assist SADC Member States to develop, implement and monitor national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS)

In line with the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) the purpose of this component is to assist member states to prepare, implement and monitor national strategies for the development of statistics. This component will provide technical assistance to member states, promote the exchange of information and encourage the sharing of experience, both through workshops and the regional database. Particular emphasis will be placed on aspects of the strategic planning process such as improving links between the demand for and supply of statistical data, building links with national policy development plans and poverty reduction strategies and reviewing overall coordination and management processes.

The basic strategy will be to use the project as a strategic resource, providing advice and technical support to enable member states to get access to other funds, including specific applications to TFSCB, where appropriate.

The main output from this component will be for at least 10 member states to have an NSDS in place by the end of 2006. Assist SADC Member States develop regional expertise in areas related to statistical development and poverty monitoring. This component aims to improve the links between data and their use for policy and poverty analysis. It also focuses explicitly on building capacity to use poverty statistics more effectively, thus helping to create more long-term demand for the products and services of national statistical systems. Short training programs and dissemination workshops will be organised on poverty analysis and especially for poverty monitoring units, other policy analysts such as rural development coor-

dinators and statisticians responsible for the generation of poverty and poverty related data. These short training programs will be augmented by a mentoring and attachment program. The project will provide the technical inputs for the workshops, with member states taking responsibility for meeting the costs of provision of training facilities, etc.

Particular emphasis is to bring poverty monitoring units and similar agencies more directly into the scope of the project, thereby helping to improve links between statisticians and data users.

By the end of the project, a cadre of at least 20 regional staff will have been developed with the experience and expertise to lead statistical development activities and poverty monitoring in SADC member states.

4. Progress so far

A number of technical missions have been identified and logistics on identification of consulting firms are ongoing to carry out the assignments. These include:

- i. Regional training workshop on poverty analysis
- ii. Database development for poverty monitoring and monitoring of the MDGs, Malawi
- iii. Micro level estimates of poverty in Zambia
- iv. Database development for poverty monitoring (Lesotho and DRC)
- v. Review of the Statistics Act (Malawi)
- vi. Updating/development of a national business register (Swaziland, Zimbabwe)
- vii. Consolidation and dissemination of the Statistics legislation of Botswana
- viii. Development of a statistics governing document for the new autonomous statistics office
- ix. National workshop for the launching of the National Statistics Strategy (Zimbabwe)
- x. Review of agricultural system (Zimbabwe)
- xi. A producer/user workshop, DRC
- xii. Analysis of HBS, DRC Tanzania (Zanzibar)
- xiii. Development of a funding proposal for a joint informal sector and labour force survey, Swaziland
- xiv. Development of the Statistics Legislation, DRC
- xv. Poverty mapping Mauritius