**DFID: Economic Statistics Development Priorities**

**Who are DFID?**

- UK Department for International Development
- Leads on the UKs work to end extreme poverty
- A friend to International Statistics?

We are responsible for (amongst other things):

- Honouring the UKs international commitments and taking action to achieve the United Nations’ Global Goals
- Making British aid more effective by improving transparency, openness and value for money
- Targeting British international development policy on economic growth and wealth creation
- …
DFID’s Strategic Objectives

SO 1: Strengthening global peace, security and governance
– the “Golden Thread” of development. Better economic statistics helps contribute to building open economies, societies and governments

SO 2: Strengthening resilience and response to crisis

SO 3: Promoting global prosperity
– DFID’s Economic Development Strategic Framework has scaled up its work with £1.8 billion being targeted towards economic development.
– It is important for DFID to invest in improving economic statistics, allowing for better resource allocation and monitoring of economic development interventions/programmes

SO 4: Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable

SO 5: Delivering value for money

Why invest in Economic Statistics?

• Inclusive economic development is a key strand in eradicating poverty
• However, in many countries economic statistics are not of the quality required for evidence based policy making
• Better economic statistics are needed to enable better macroeconomic governance and policy making
• This will also allow DFID to make better decisions on how to allocate resources and monitor results of interventions
Why invest in Economic Statistics?

- The MDGs saw the focus of donor statistical support move towards household surveys focusing on health and education statistics to the detriment of other areas including economic statistics.
- This has meant that the robust collection and analysis of economic statistics in developing countries have stagnated, and in some cases declined, over the last 15–20 years.
- Overall there is a shortfall in funding for core statistical systems required to provide basic information for economic management.

How do DFID support Economic Stats

Centrally (UK) Managed Programmes

- DFID’s Research and Evidence Division (RED) have supported economic data initiatives of the IMF since 2001.
- IMF’s Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative (EDDI).
- Statistics for Results Facility (SRF) support to implement NSDS part of which will go towards economic statistics.
- Growth & Resilience Department - will support the improvement of jobs data and will most likely be working with the ILO, IMF or World Bank.
How do DFID support Economic Stats

Country offices:
• Direct support of statistical system strengthening (capacity building) which can include support to economic statistics
  – support will vary widely depending on office priorities, political economy etc
• Funding of surveys that provide vital source data
  – How sustainable is this?
• Some tax projects in country offices have components to improve collation of tax data e.g. Bangladesh, Pakistan

DFID’s Economic Statistics Programme

• Centrally (UK) managed programme
• Began implementation in May 2015
• Aims to improve the quality and availability of economic statistics by strengthening the capacity of national statistics systems.
• The programme now has three components
  – IMF’s Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative
  – UNESCAP’s Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
  – The World Bank WAVES programme: Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
Programme Priorities

- **Capacity & sustainability** – targeted technical assistance to strengthen national capacity; leveraging domestic resources.
- **Source data** – improvement in the quality and use of basic source data for economic statistics.
- **Quality & Standards** – support the implementation of the enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS) which sets more achievable standards for lower capacity countries; support the adoption of the 2008 System of National Accounts and other relevant standards.
- **Open Data** – improving data dissemination for more accountability.
- **Alignment & coordination** – with National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs); within national statistics systems; with other donors.

Thank you