



Post 2015 Development Agenda challenges to Official Statistics in the Arab Region - Sudan case as a post-conflict country

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U.N and worldwide efforts have created a very high level of awareness on the use of official statistics for evidence based decision making and result-based development interventions. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have stimulated the national demand and international commitment for quality statistics ..

The U.N declaration “The future we want” defined a set of Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), guidelines to select targets , and indicators to monitor implementation at international, national and sub-national levels.

New challenges to official statistics in general and to the Arab Region in particular are inferred from the converging set of indicators and the international governance identified by the UN-HLP and the worldwide consultations , as concluded in the report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) which is bound to be adopted by the international community .

These challenges are : the requirement to report full geographical coverage for both national and sub-national levels ; higher frequency ; disaggregation at all levels ; international monitoring and evaluation system.

One serious aspect of these challenges is drawing statistics near political boundaries with the implications on integrity and trust. It might also raise concerns of sovereignty .

Keeping in mind the short time horizon for implementation, the readiness of the Arab Region to successfully address the challenges is broadly assessed . Detailed readiness assessment for Sudan as a post-conflict country is attempted and detailed analysis of its performance in achieving the MDGs is looked into.

It is tentatively suggested that the way forward is that a rapid growth in using computing technology and geospatial information systems is vital ; integrating it at NSDS level shall enhance the capabilities and upgrade the capacities of the Arab Statistical System .

Setting up an Arab Region Statistical System Governance level is a necessity to collectively address these challenges specially those of integrity and trust , and play down the concerns of sovereignty . The need for a wide regional collective consultations on the matter is called for . The recent ArabStat initiative is a good start to build on .

Key words : Official statistics , Sustainable Development Goals challenges , Sudan , post conflict country , ArabStat