

GDDS plans for improvement, an example

International Monetary Fund

Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board

GDDS

Country name
Summary
Table I. Plans
for Improvement

Bank of [name of central bank] [Top](#)

	Timeframe	Technical Assistance, Financing Needs, Other Prerequisites
General Plans for Improvement		
Modify the Section 59 of the Bank of [name of central bank] Act to explicitly state the compilation and dissemination role of the central bank for both the monetary and external sector data.	Draft to Parliament in October. Background discussions with key members of parliament	Technical assistance requested from European Union.

Central Statistics Office [Top](#)

	Timeframe	Technical Assistance, Financing Needs, Other Prerequisites
National Accounts		
Use the results of 1999 informal sector survey to improve coverage adjustments for informal activities in future national accounts estimates	Medium term	Short term technical assistance from IMF.
Disseminate comprehensive national accounts statistics with a time lag of less than 2 years	Medium term	1 staff to be trained at U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Poverty

Construction of the Poverty Datum Line and Poverty Analysis that will be done following the availability of the 2002/3 HIES results.	Short term	Technical advice from the World Bank on monitoring poverty related issues.
Use of scanner to compile data and reduce errors.	Short term	Procurement to be in touch with Statistics Office/Labor Stats Division.
Carrying out the Core Welfare Indicator Surveys regularly.	Medium term	Request comments from UNSD.

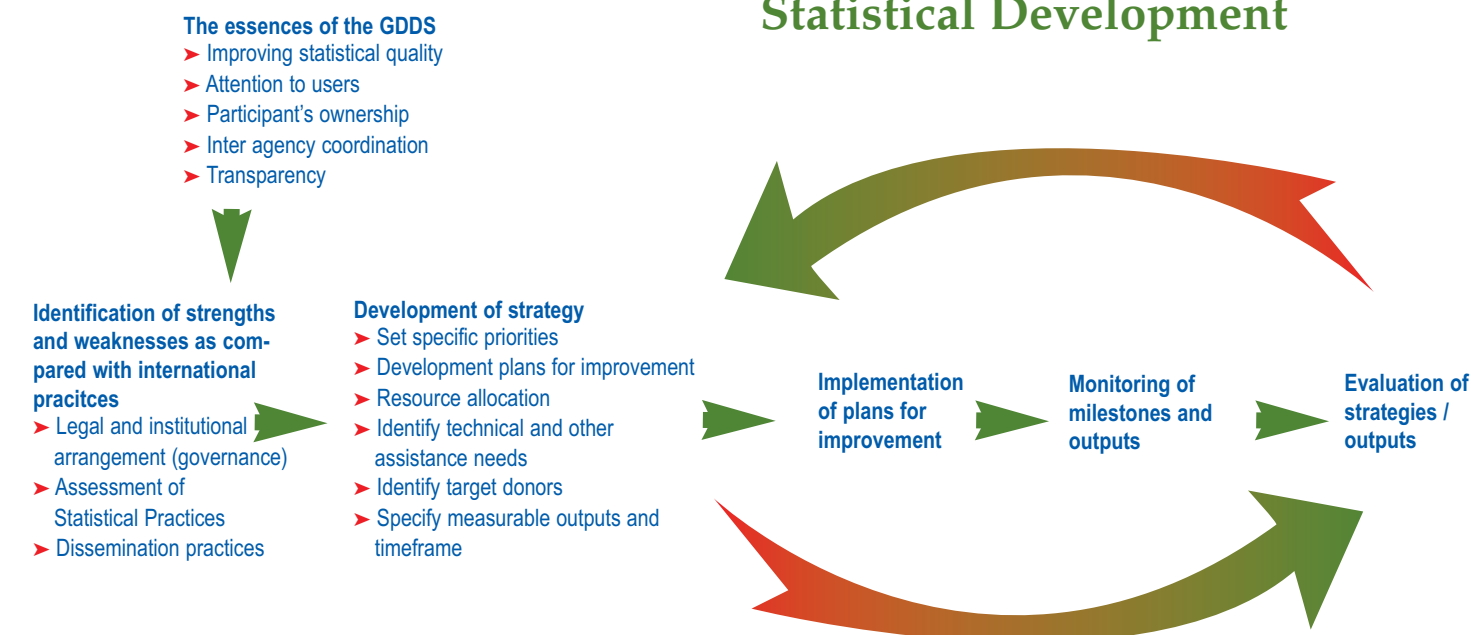
General Data Dissemination System

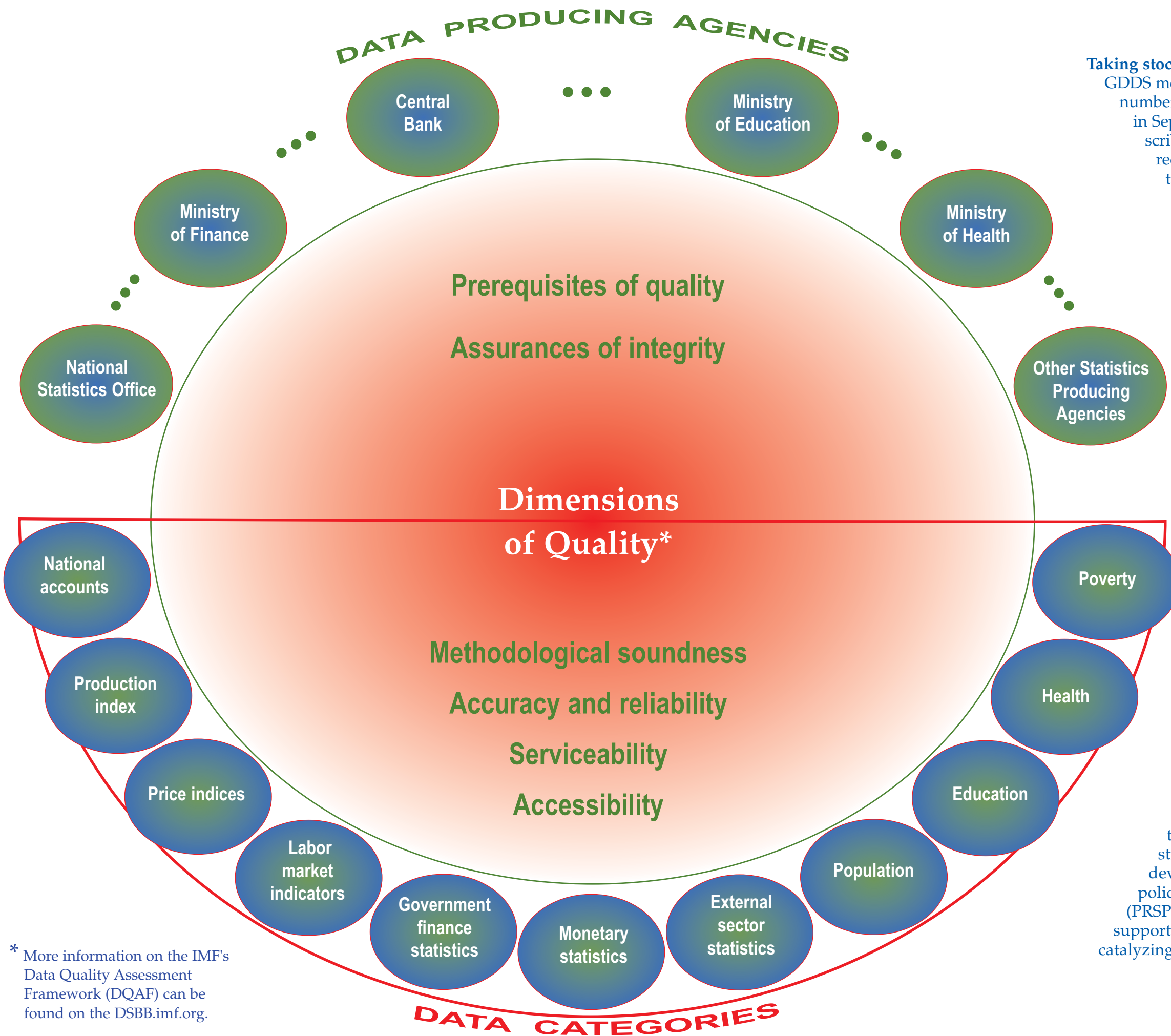
GDDS

A Factsheet

- **GDDS is a framework to develop national statistical systems** in producing economic and socio-demographic data. It gives countries a **management approach** that fosters sound statistical methodology, professional data compilation, and data dissemination practices. By diagnosing data quality issues and cataloging technical assistance needs, the GDDS guides users, notably national policy makers and donors, on how to address these issues. The GDDS thus serves as a vehicle for countries to gradually progress and graduate to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).
- The GDDS assists data-producing agencies to **take control of statistical development programs** in a structured manner. It recognizes that countries differ in their stages of statistical development and capacity to improve their statistical systems. Accordingly, it is based on national authorities' own priorities and timing to achieve the objectives at their own pace. To participate, a country adopts the GDDS as a framework for statistical development, appoints a country coordinator, and provides to the public a description of statistical methodology and dissemination practices (metadata).
- The GDDS is **well-recognized** around the world and has a large number of participant countries, with contact persons. It helps build an international community of officials in participating countries—within and across countries. The GDDS assists data-producing agencies to **coordinate effectively** among themselves, users, and the international community. The GDDS facilitates resource allocation and technical assistance collaboration optimally to complement national initiatives.

GDDS: A Management Approach to Statistical Development





Taking stock: Since May 2000, when the first nine countries posted GDDS metadata on the IMF's website (www.dsbm.imf.org), the number of participants in the GDDS has grown to 76 countries in September 2004 (excluding four that have moved on to subscribe to the SDDS—the data standard with more stringent requirements). Among the first 34 countries that began participating in the GDDS during 2000-01, 26 countries have made tangible improvements in terms of data coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of data they disseminate to the public.

Regional cooperation: The GDDS can help groups of countries to set up regional strategies for statistical development and for collaboration with international/regional organizations. Altogether, 34 countries participated in the first four regional GDDS projects in Africa and the Pacific. Of these, 29 are GDDS participants, and most of these now receive follow-up technical assistance by the IMF and by other donors, based on their strategic plans as laid out in GDDS metadata.

International donors use the GDDS as a platform for planning and evaluating their technical assistance programs in statistics. For example, in the context of the World Bank's Statistics Capacity Building (STATCAP) lending program, the GDDS metadata contribute to assessing, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating statistical programs across agencies and donors. It is also used by groups that promote advocacy for statistical development (e.g. PARIS21).

Going forward: Achieving the full potential of the GDDS framework in developing statistics relies on the support of the political process, senior-level national officials, statistical agencies, international organizations, and donor countries. The importance of good statistics for decision making is obvious; however, the recognition of the need to develop good statistics may not be sufficiently supported by appropriate resource allocation. The GDDS framework can assist in the advocacy for the development of statistics as a mainstream operation, for example, by incorporating statistical development program plans into the highest-level national policy papers, such as poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and country multiyear development plans. The IMF supports these efforts by providing technical assistance and by catalyzing assistance from other sources.

* More information on the IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) can be found on the DSBB.imf.org.