Regional Report 2010-2011: Africa

IASSIST Report of the African Regional Secretary

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Africa is steadily improving in the area of data management and curation. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) continue to dominate statistical production with pockets of research institutions and academia contributing to statistical development. Within the last 12 months a number of initiatives at both the regional and country level have been realized. There is evident and continued support from the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) and International Household Survey Network (IHSN) in building capacities to enhance data management. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with IPMUS has also come up with an initiative aimed at preserving valuable census data at the regional level. With the unfolding developments, Africa will certainly have harmonized data repositories to support research and development. The challenge still remains on how this momentum is sustained.

Data Curation Progress Update

Since the last report more a number of countries have advanced in developing and updating their national data archives under this OECD funded project
http://www.ihsn.org/adp/index.php?q=nada-activities

National Data Archives (NADA) - 2011 Update

	Country	Surveys 2009 -2010	Surveys 2010-2011		Country	Surveys 2009 -2010	Surveys 2010-2011
1	Cote d'Ivoire	18	27	11	Niger	41	54
2	Ethiopia	80	92	12	Nigeria	23	24
3	Gambia	10	10	13	Senegal	22	29
4	Ghana	15	15	14	Sierra Leone	-	-
5	Guinea	-	18	15	Sudan	-	-
6	Lesotho	3	-	16	Tanzania	-	12
7	Liberia	9	12	17	Uganda	11	16
8	Malawi	3	8	18	Zambia	23	23

9	Mali	-	18	19	DataFirst	15	65
10	Mozambique	11	11	20	SADA	150	157

Above is the update on NADA developments. Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/282 Sudan and Tanzania http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/274 have recently launched their NADAs. DataFirst, at the University of Cape Town, is currently testing latest version of their National Data Archive data curation software, NADA 4.0. The new version developed by DataFirst's Director, Matthew Welch, working with the Accelerated Data Program and the World Bank, will be released in 2011.

Data Management Handbook

20100204 The Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), the apex body for the development of statistics in Africa, set up a group of experts made up of Statisticians, data management and geo-information experts to evaluate the major existing statistical data management platforms and compare their features so that member states and their partners can make informed decisions on the selection of platforms for statistical data collection, production and dissemination. The ECA aims to produce a handbook on major data management platforms used in Africa with input from this expert group.

Launch of the World Bank's Microdata Catalogue

20110514 The World Bank launched its microdata library in May 2011 to make data on developing countries available for research and policymaking including in Africa http://microdata.worldbank.org/ The catalogue provides free access to African financial, business, health, economic and human development data, both macro and micro, that had previously only been available paying subscribers. IASSIST member, Matthew Welch is on secondment to the World Bank to work on this project.

South Africa's Data Quality Project

This project is in its final year in 2010-2011. The project, based at DataFirst at the University of Cape Town continues work to advance the quality of national data in South Africa and other African countries, through this project which involves providing information on and improvements to national census and survey data and sharing data quality research output with the data user community. The project also plays a pivotal role as a point of liaison between data producers and data users in the region http://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/wiki/index.php?title=Category:DataFirst_and_Saldru_Mellon_Data_Quality_Project

Regional Data Management Training

A number of training workshops in the development of NADAs were conducted at both regional and county levels within the Africa Region. These were mainly supported by the ADP.

September 2010: A sub-regional training workshop on the NADA 3.0 was held in Bamako on 14-16 September 2010. The training was organized by the ADP in collaboration with AFRISTAT. Nine francophone countries attended this training
http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/250

September 2010: An ADP Microdata Management Toolkit Training workshop was held in Praia, Cape Verde, from 20 to 24 September 2010, for INEC staff. The training included a DDI production workshop where 11 national surveys were documented
http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/266

October 2010: IASSIST members Matthew Welch and Lynn Woolfrey provided training at a regional workshop on the usage and assessment of the International Household Survey Network's data management platform, the National Data Archive 3.0. The workshop was organised by the OECD/ World Bank ADP project in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2010. IT specialists and archive managers from the National Statistics Offices of Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Zambia, Swaziland, Nigeria, Southern Sudan, Liberia, Ghana, The Gambia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Malawi took part in the workshop
http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/268

December 2010: A Microdata management toolkit training and a DDI production workshop for the line ministries was organized jointly between ADP and ONS Mauritania in December 2010
http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/278

December 2010: A Microdata Management Toolkit Training and DDI Production Workshop was undertaken for line ministries in Morocco in December 2010) http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/277

December 2010: A Microdata Management Toolkit Training workshop and a DDI production workshop was held in Algiers, Algeria from 19 to 23 December 2010
http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/276

February 20110: Regional training on the documentation and archiving of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys" was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 7th to 11th of February 2011. Participants were drawn from 15 African Countries. The training was organized by IHSN and FAO http://www.ihsn.org/adp/?q=news/283

February 2011: Staff from RuralStruc, a survey research project undertaking data collection in Mali, Senegal, Madagascar, Kenya , Morocco received training in DDI metadata creation at DataFirst, at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

The African Association of Statistical Data Archivists (AASDA)

AASDA did not hold a meeting in 2010-2011 due to lack of funding. However, AASDA members were active at training workshops such as the Regional NADA training workshop in Kenya in October 2010. A number of the AASDA members have promoted data curation practices in the region. Notably, Ms. Lynn Woolfrey has played various parts in the cause for improved access to data. She was part of an expert group commissioned in 2010 to provide recommendations on a data sharing platform for the INDEPTH Network, a network of Demographic and Health Surveillance Sites (included sites in Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania). The establishment of such a platform will ensure the placing of unique and valuable African health data in the public domain. In addition she has promoted the work of African data managers to international communities of practice. Including presenting a paper on "skills development for data usage in Africa" at the 76th IFLA General Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden in August 2010, also presented a poster on the work of a DataFirst/OECD project to advance data curation in African countries at the 6th International Digital Curation Conference in Chicago, USA in December 2010. Ms Woolfrey made a presented a joint paper with Diego Iturralde of Statistics South Africa on 'Applications to Support the Curation of African Government Microdata for Research Purposes" at an OECD/Statistics South Africa/World Bank Seminar on "Innovative Approaches to Turn Statistics into Knowledge" in December 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Other members have also made presentations at different forums in support to better data preservation and dissemination practices within the region.

Through ADP and other support, Africa has gained a momentum in improving the individual country statistical value. With the increased interest and participation, a regional data archive may be possible within the near future.

AASDA welcomes all efforts geared towards improvements in data sharing and preservation of these valuable resources. I call upon all countries within the Africa region to join the association in promoting these best practices for a better Africa.