



IDA 16 AND AID EFFECTIVENESS

SUPPORTING ISSUE BRIEF TWO Strengthen Country Statistical and Results Measurement Systems

What are statistical and results measurement systems?

“Statistical systems” describes the way that a country collects, records, analyzes, stores and disseminates information about its population, including civil registration information and data on health, living conditions, economic conditions and education. An example of a statistical system that can be found in nearly every country in the world is the civil registration system, which records births, deaths and marriages, thus providing some of the most basic and vital information about a country’s population.

Well-functioning, reliable country statistical systems are a pre-requisite for results measurement systems, which are designed to show changes in a population and their living conditions relative to a specific program or intervention. Statistical systems provide program and project monitoring teams with baseline data, the starting point of any results measurement system. Baseline data allows us to see as complete a picture as possible of the current situation, and provides a reference point for project evaluation.

Why are they important?

Well-functioning statistical and results measurement systems make it possible to measure the impact and outcomes of poverty reduction initiatives. They give us insight as to whether programs and policies are working, what might need to be changed, and if they can be expanded. Equally as important, statistical systems have a key role to play in everyday life. Returning to the example of civil registration systems: registering a birth and obtaining a birth certificate are legal requirements for citizenship in most countries and allow an individual to enroll in school, sign an employment contract, own land, and inherit property.

How can they be strengthened?

To strengthen a country’s statistical and results measurement systems, we must first fully understand their current level of functionality, and then work with a country’s government to improve this functionality. Most importantly, statistical and results measurement systems should be country-owned to ensure their sustainability. Where possible, development partners in a country should commit to using a common results measurement system based on the country’s own.

How can parliamentarians be involved?

Parliamentarians should be aware of the statistical capacity in their country and constituent areas and should advocate for a seat at the table when governments plan their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics. MPs can work to improve the statistical capacity within their constituency by working with local officials, community-based organizations and local NGOs to understand what resources are needed (specific training, bicycles for local civic officials, registry materials, or computers).

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