# IMPORTANCE OF DATA IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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# Table of Content

- Preamble
- Concept of development
- Concept of data and its uses
- Types of development
- Data driven-development
- Situation of data in developing nations
- Ways to improve data situation in developing nations.
- Conclusion

- **Development** is a process of improving the quality of all human lives.
- **Development** is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components
- **Development** is a multi-dimensional process involving reorganization and reorientation of entire economic, social system and human capacities in a country
- **Development** is critical and essential to the sustenance and growth of any nation.
- A country is classified as developed when is able to provide qualitative life for her citizenry.
- A developed country is more industrialized and has higher per capita income levels.

- Thus, Development has three equally important aspects:
  - ➢Economic development
  - ➢Social development, and
  - ➢Human development

- **Economic development** refers to all activities and government policies that enhance the spending capacity of the people in a country.
- Among the economic indicators are:
- ➢ Employment
- ➢ Inflation
- ➢ Gross domestic Product (GDP)
- ➢ Gross National Product  (GNP)
- ➢ Housing
- ➢ A citizen with sufficient income has confidence and trust in his country.

- **Social development** encompass all strategies and policies that improves the social well being of the people in a nation. Indicators of social development include but not limited to:
  - ➢ A healthy life
  - ➢ Acquisition of education, information and knowledge
  - ➢ Enjoyment of basic fundamental rights like freedom and security
  - ➢ Gender equality
  - ➢ Human Development Index (HDI)
  - ➢ Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
  - ➢ Life expectancy

- **Human development** constitutes all efforts of the government that empower people to pursue many different life paths.
- Investing in people and developing human capacities enables growth.
- Indicators of human development are:
  - ➢ Literacy rate
  - ➢ Care of the less privilege
  - ➢ Skill acquisition
  - ➢ Human Development Index (HDI)

# *Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)*

❑ These are goals set by the United Nations (UN) aimed at:

➢ protect the environment

➢ ending poverty,

➢ Ensure prosperity (development)for all by the end of 2030

➢ This initiative helps to motivate countries to achieve development for all nations without leaving any country behind.

# Measurement of Development Indicators.

## What is an indicator?
- Indicators are derived statistical quantities.
- It is used in measuring economic and social development of a nation with data.

## What is Data?
- **Data** is a set of values of subjects with respect to qualitative or quantitative variables.
- In its raw form, it is unorganized, but needs must be transformed, analyzed in order to be useful for policy making, monitoring and accountability and international comparison.
- It is an indispensable tool for national development, growth and planning.
- A government without viable infrastructure for information generation, dissemination and usage is severely handicapped in doing proper planning, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and projects and also in arriving at good decision with respect to their government policy formation.

# What is Growth?

Growth is said to occur when an economy's productive capacity increases and this in turn is based to produce more goods and services in successive time periods. Thus, economic growth is a desirable goal which leads to economic development. Consequently, development is meaningful only if there is improvement in the quality of life of people.

Timely, complete, accurate and reliable data is critical to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong, equitable development and is an essential ingredient for formulation of sound economic development policies. Thus, for economic management to attain its ultimate goals of sustainable economic development improved societal welfare, equity and other macroeconomic goals, must be based on the availability of timely and reliable statistical data.

**Data** are a prerequisite for measuring development indicators.

- Sources of data for computation of development indicators include, but are not limited to,
  - censuses,
  - sectoral surveys,
  - economic statistics, administrative data,
  - civil registration and vital statistics, citizen-generated data, environmental data, and remote sensing and geospatial data.

Development data are also compiled by international organizations and financial institutions to monitor the pace of economic and social development as well as status of the environment.

Data and Statistics provide essential insights for understanding the practicalities of the development process, the interactions and feedback among different systems, and the factors that should shape decisions.

Development is held back when the economic and demographic data that form the basis for decision making are lacking or insufficient to form a complete picture of what is needed.

A country should be able to provide a quality, adequate, reliable and accessible data. However, simply producing more data is not enough: but data must be transformed, analysed and used to be useful for policy making, monitoring and accountability. When data is not available, it is said to be scarce.

**Nigeria as a case study:**
**Statistical Systems for Data Production in Nigeria**

Basically, data could be obtained through a Census, Sample Survey and Administrative Records.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), established for Data collection and analysis, had developed three Statistical Systems to cover all the range of data required in Nigeria.

a. National Integrated Survey of Household (NISH)
b. National Integrated Survey of Establishment (NISE)
c. System of Administrative Statistics (SAS)

## a. National Integrated Survey of Household (NISH)

This systems allows the collection of data through the households and individuals. It uses a carefully designed master sample which is normally operated over a period of five years. Information obtained at household level could be through surveys as those of NISH or through census as those taken at interval of ten years.

## b. National Integrated Survey of Establishment (NISE)

Most economic Statistics are covered through this system. The coverage of the establishments or economic institutions could be on a sample or census basis. Coverage is also among sectors of the economy spanning manufacturing, distribution, hotels and restaurants, transport and professional services and so on.

## c. System of Administrative Statistics (SAS)

Administrative Statistics are generated from administrative records. These records are kept for various reasons ranging from regulatory to monitoring. The record could cover both economic and social data and could be partial covering of a sub-population or the whole population.

All these three systems NISH, NISE and SAS effectively and comprehensively cover all data requirements of the population.

Data generation is a joint venture among these three namely;
1. The producers (Statistical worker)
2. The users
3. The suppliers of information

Production of good statistics is only possible if the users carried out analysis of supplied data so as to bring out the understanding and quality of the data. Also, the suppliers of data need to cooperate in statistical surveys in giving out correct information which is vital to quality data for socio-economic growth.

Strong political leadership in developing countries is needed to promote the cause of data for development and ensures data are produced with high-quality standards, protecting privacy and confidentiality.

# Situation of data in developing nations

❖ **Big question:** are these datasets available for computation of essential development indicators?

❖ Many **developing nations** do have

✓ inadequate poverty data: income, expenditure, e.t.c
✓ Incomplete civil registration and vital statistics
✓ Lack of disaggregated data – by gender and disability
✓ Lack of effective legal framework
✓ Lack of financing/fund for quality data collection.

# Ways to improve data situation in developing countries

❖ **Make statistical laws, regulations and standard fit for evolving data needs**: Countries should develop or update national statistical laws and regulations, authorizing national statistical offices to adopt new modes of data collection, to encourage in partnerships with external organizations and to openly disseminate data from statistical system.

❖ **Improve the quantity and quality of financing for data:** Increase the transparency and accountability of financing for development data and statistics. Developing countries should budget for data and integrate data priorities into national development strategies. Public-private partnerships for statistics can offer countries more room for innovation and risk-taking than traditional funding modalities. The data philanthropy can donate data held by their corporations to the public sector. Through data philanthropy, governments might be better placed to track diseases, avert economic crisis, relieve traffic congestion and contribute to development in many other ways.

# Ways to improve data situation in developing countries cont'd

❖ **Increase efficiency and impact through "data compact" or other co-ordinated country-led approaches:** The establishment of data compacts for co-ordinating and harmonizing investments in data and support for statistical systems is a promising approach. Governments in developing countries need to play a strong leadership role in identifying the needs of their national statistical systems and raising adequate resources and support to address them through data compacts, strategic planning or other joined-up approaches.

❖ **Boost statistical capacity and data literacy through new approaches:** Developing countries should develop and pilot new, more comprehensive approaches to capacity development that go beyond the capacity to collect data and build the capacity of national statistical offices to play an evolving and multifunctional role in the data ecosystem and to improve the institutional and enabling environment for data and statistics. This includes improving data dissemination and promoting data literacy to spur the use of statistics and promote active user communities. Countries should continue to build capacity for "core" statistics, including censuses, surveys and administrative records which are essential in the national statistical system.

# Ways to improve data situation in developing countries cont'd

❖ **Invest in and use country led results data to monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goals:** Countries should formulate data policies and strategies that will meet theirs needs. For instance, Taxpayers want to know how their money is being used and the results it is achieving. This leads providers to monitor and report on the immediate outputs of the projects they have funded; for example, the number of people trained, facilities built, children educated, mothers reached during pregnancy, and households provided with safe water and reliable electricity.

## Conclusion

Many developing countries are stuck in a vicious cycle of low-interest and demand for quality data for policy making. Low-interest and demand result in weak statistical institutions with poor governance; lack of investment in staff, infrastructure and tools; low human capacity and highly fragmented statistical systems; all these shortcomings translate into low-quality data.

Therefore, improving sustainable development data is a task for all. Political leadership, combined with right institutional framework, financial, technical and human resources; and partnership among public and private data producers and users are crucial for data to enable development.

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