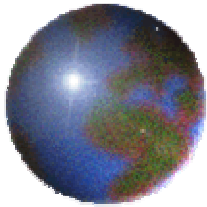


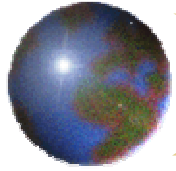


***Building Statistical Capacity:
Lebanon, the GDDS and
'ArabStat'***



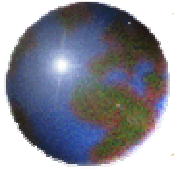
Dr. Nasser Saidi

@ Economic Research Forum 10th
Marrakech December 16-19 2003



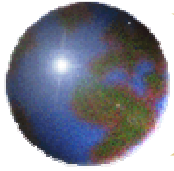
Building Statistical Capacity: Agenda

- ✿ Statistical Capacity: Infrastructure & building blocks
- ✿ GDDS/SDDS as a framework for Statistical Capacity Building
- ✿ Lebanon & the GDDS: ‘LebStat’
- ✿ A Regional Initiative: ‘ArabStat’



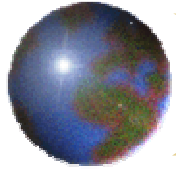
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (United Nations)

- ✦ **“Principle 1:** *Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens’ entitlement to public information.”*
- ✦ Official statistics and efficient statistical systems are an integral component of ‘good governance’



Lebanon & GDDS

- u **Project initiated by the Banque du Liban with the assistance of the IMF and the WB**
- u **Goals:**
 - u **Rebuild Statistical capacity in a post-conflict situation that destroyed Lebanon's statistical infrastructure**
 - u **Development of overall Statistical Systems & dissemination practices**
 - u **Improve macroeconomic management**
- u **Multi-Sector approach:**
 - u **Economic, financial, monetary, real & socio-demographic statistics**

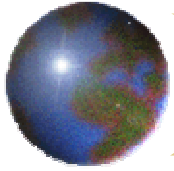


Lebanon Statistical Capacity Building

2 Phases:

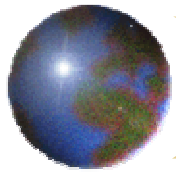
- ✦ **Survey National Statistics and GDDS compliance:**
 - ▣ National Multi-Sector Statistics Survey undertaken with assistance from IMF and WB
 - ▣ National Statistics Committee established
 - ▣ National Statistics Action Plan

- ✦ **Re-Build Statistical Capacity:** National Statistics Committee undertook national self-assessment using PARIS 21 SCB questionnaire



GDDS Objectives

- ✦ Rebuild the Statistical Infrastructure:
 - ✦ Institutional capacity, production and dissemination of information: strengthen Agencies 'Central Administration of Statistics' (CAS) and rebuild stat capacity in Ministries & government agencies.
 - ✦ Prepare and implement a statistics development strategy
- ✦ “Mise à niveau”: GDDS implies complying with international standards
- ✦ GDDS provides a Structural Framework for improving statistics



GDDS Dimensions

1. Data

Coverage

Periodicity

Data

Timeliness

Reliable, Comprehensive & Timely

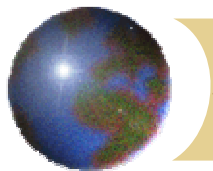
2. Quality of data:

High priority

3. Integrity of data:

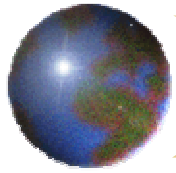
Confidence of users

4. Access by the public: Ready and equal access



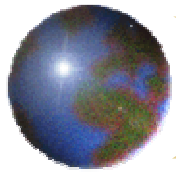
What is the Action Plan?

PARTS	TIME FRAME
1. Legal Framework	ONGOING
2. Data Dissemination	IMPLEMENTED
3. Real Sector Statistics	ONGOING/ 2003-2004
4. Government Finance Statistics	IMPLEM./ONGOING
5. Monetary & Financial Statistics	2003-2004-2005
6. Balance of Payments Statistics	ONGOING/2003-2004



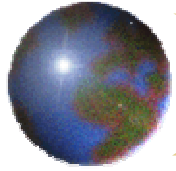
GDDS & SCB Progress: 2002-2003

- ✦ Initial Multi-Sector Statistics Survey and Report
- ✦ Development of National Action Plan
- ✦ Establishment of National Statistics Committee
- ✦ Posting of Metadata on official websites (BDL, CAS) and GDDS compliance
- ✦ SCB self-assessment questionnaire & survey
- ✦ Launch of 'LebStat' project



Weaknesses according to Action Plan

1. Need for a revised Statistics Law to replace and update inadequate 1979 statistics legislation
2. Necessity for inter-agency collaboration: abolish 'information islands and protectorates' attitude
3. Reliance on private, nonofficial estimates: absence of official, reliable sources of stats during 1975-1990, led to proliferation of private producers of stats and information without quality standards
4. Real Sector Statistics & Price Indices: priority area given the absence of National Income data



Strengths according to Action Plan

Ø Monetary & Financial Statistics:

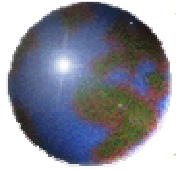
- ➊ 1. Comprehensive and timely.
- ➋ 2. Dissemination in line with standards

Ø Foreign Trade Statistics:

- ➊ 1. Broadly appropriate methodology
- ➋ 2. Timely dissemination of data by Customs

Ø Balance of Payments Statistics:

- ➊ Reliable, but need for more surveys in services sector

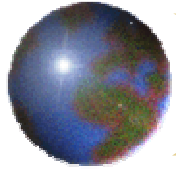


Statistical Capacity: Building Blocks (PARIS 21)



Statistical Environment:

- Legislation
- UN statistical standards & methodology
- Ensure political & governmental commitment
- National Statistical Office: public good aspect
- Develop medium & long term development strategies



Statistical Capacity: Building Blocks

✦ **Data Production**

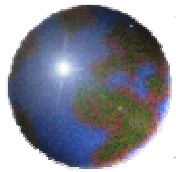
1. Identify needs and obtain feedback of private & public data users
2. Improve & consolidate institutional coordination
3. Cooperate regionally & internationally

✦ **Infrastructure:** Invest in ICT and IS Networks

✦ **Human Resources:** improve staff motivation, incentives & training

✦ **Financing:** develop domestic resources, lower donor dependence and improve coordination

✦ **Raise statistical Awareness:** analyze & disseminate statistics & information



SCB Indicators: PARIS 21

Quantitative

Resources

Inputs

Statistical Products

Qualitative

Institutional

Prerequisites

Integrity

Methodological

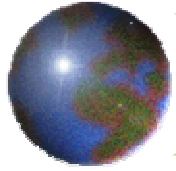
Soundness

Accuracy

Reliability

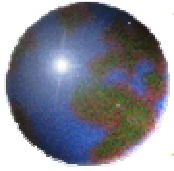
Serviceability

Accessibility



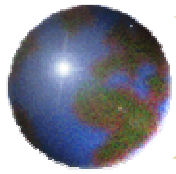
Statistical Legislation: Key Elements

- ✦ List functions of statistical system, including collection & dissemination of information for economic & social policy making, and satisfy requirements of domestic & international users, in accord with scientific technical standards
- ✦ Provide legal power to collect information
- ✦ Establish professional independence from political intervention
- ✦ Ensure confidentiality of individual information
- ✦ Provide for coordination of statistical activities



GDDS Benefits: Short-Term

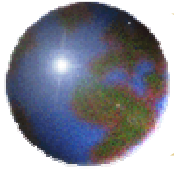
- ✦ Improve monitoring, decision-making, & implementation of economic and social policies
- ✦ Provide evidence-based policy-oriented statistics, including for supervision, monitoring and policy evaluation
- ✦ Build-up strong areas: monetary, financial
- ✦ Focus on weak areas: real sector, socio-demographic
- ✦ Communication and Dissemination result in better information, accountability and transparency



Benefits: medium & long-term

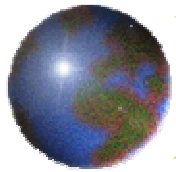


- ✦ Basic element in Good Governance
- ✦ **LebStat Portal:** National data depository, Centralized database management system
- ✦ Basis for developing an ‘ArabStat’ project



Use of ICT: Lebanon Statistics Portal

- ✦ Entails the set-up of a Statistics Portal (“**LebStat**”) within the GDDS for Lebanon
- **Web-based application** will link relevant Ministries, Central Administration of Statistics, related agencies and the BDL, leading to the creation of a national statistical database that would be secure and available on-line, interactively.
- **Web dissemination:** **LebStat** will disseminate regular and timely statistics to users in Lebanon and the international community.
- **National Electronic Data Archive:** data would include official & publicly available data and information on public finances, real, external, monetary, banking, financial, labor and socio-demographic sectors.

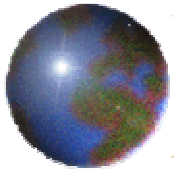


LeStat Portal

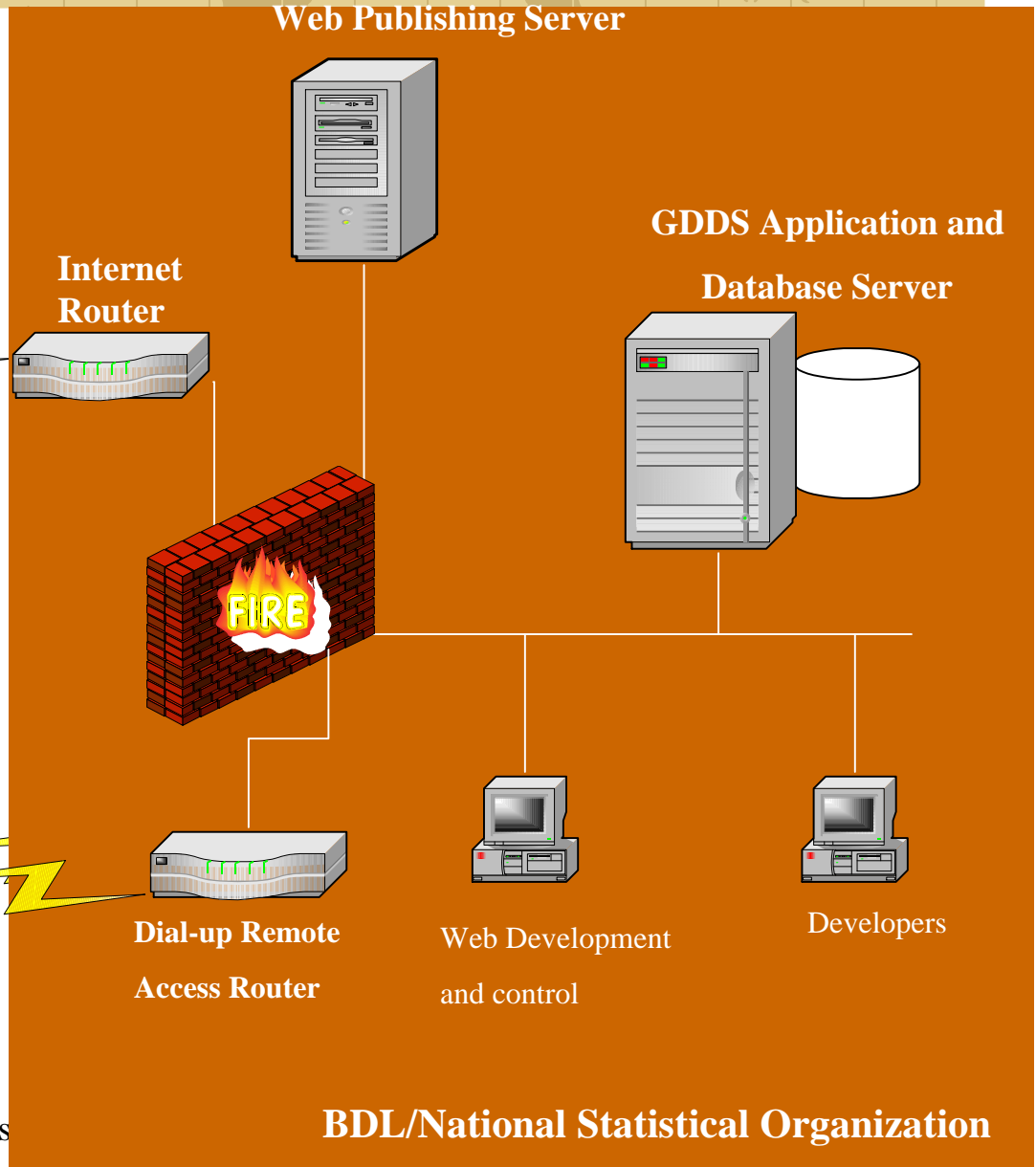
Benefits

- **LeStat** will facilitate coordination among the data compiling agencies
- **LeStat** will harmonize and unify disclosure and reporting formats and procedures.
- Provide unique opportunity for adopting internationally accepted methodologies.
- Improve dissemination of information and regular reporting on the Lebanese economy, and improve transparency.

Beneficiaries: General public, banking and financial markets, international organizations, trade and economic partners, national statistical agencies, academia, research organizations, other users of data and the providers of financial and technical assistance.



LebStat Portal

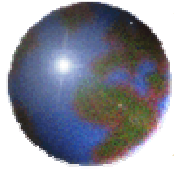


Dr. Nass

17 December 2003

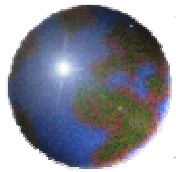
Capacity

20



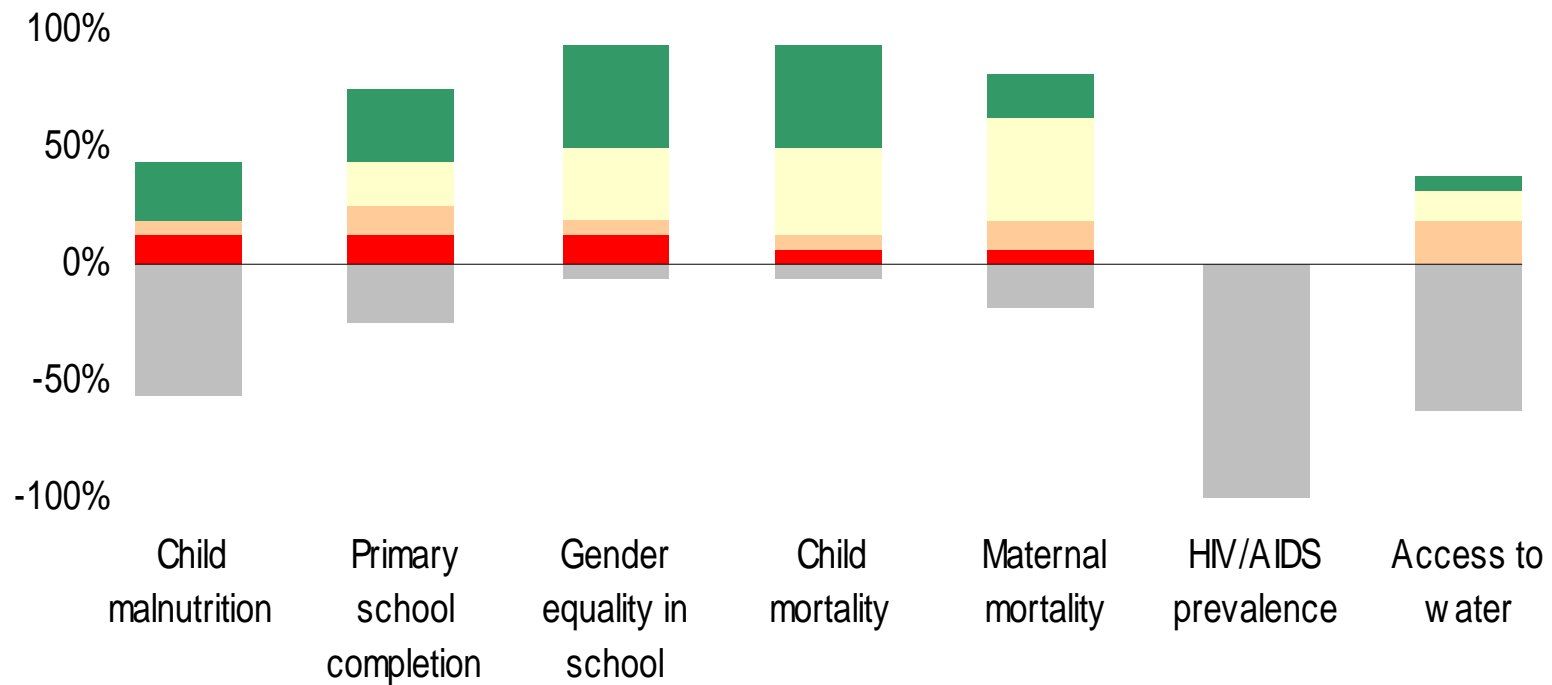
ARABSTAT: a Proposal for Regional Statistical Capacity Building

- ✦ **Objectives:**
 - ✦ Assist Arab countries entry & compliance with GDDS and SDDS: only 5 countries in GDDS (Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Yemen), only 1 in SDDS (Tunisia)!
 - ✦ Assist national authorities in building national statistical capacity
 - ✦ Reduce Region's Data Gap (see below)
- ✦ **Benefit from Economies of Scale and Scope:**
harmonization of statistical legislation, development of NSO's, Information Systems and national data depositories
- ✦ Overcome constraints from small size and insufficient resources of many countries in region

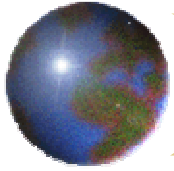


The MENA Data Gap (WB)

Middle East and North Africa

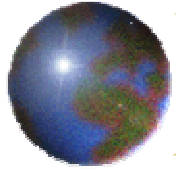


1	Likely
2	Possible
3	Unlikely
4	Very unlikely
..	Insufficient data



'ArabStat' elements

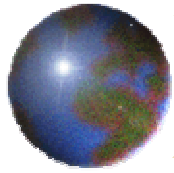
- ❖ Adoption and Implementation of International data frameworks: UN, IMF, WB
- ❖ Implementation of Assessment & Reporting frameworks: GDDS, SDDS & other
- ❖ Use modern ICT and IS network as basis for modernizing national statistical systems
- ❖ Framework for Regional and International cooperation & coordination: PARIS 21, UN Statistical Commission, EuroStat



ArabStat: a Regional Public Good

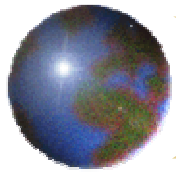
- ✿ Establish & improve regional systemic and institutional cooperation
- ✿ Vehicle for donor resources and coordination
- ✿ Improve regional investment climate
- ✿ Improve public and private governance
- ✿ Instrument for reducing MENA data gap

∴ ArabStat can be a *Regional Public Good*



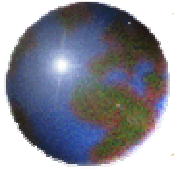
Building Statistical Capacity: Some Conclusions & Suggestions I

- ✦ Lebanon & the MENA countries face a ‘data gap’ and require substantial investment to build statistical capacity
- ✦ Modern ICT and web-based network solutions are efficient technologies for inter-agency coordination, modernization of statistical systems and info dissemination
- ✦ ‘LebStat’ will provide Lebanon with a tool for harmonization and coordination between data providers, & wide low-cost dissemination



Building Statistical Capacity: Some Conclusions & Suggestions II

- ✦ Lebanon's experience shows that GDDS compliance provides an efficient structural framework for improving national statistics
- ✦ MENA countries should cooperate with the PARIS 21 group to build statistical capacity
- ✦ The 'ArabStat' project can be a 'regional public good' facilitating entry into GDDS/SDDS, building statistical capacity, reducing the MENA data gap and improving 'good governance'



Building Statistical Capacity: Lebanon, GDDS & ArabStat

Thank you!

Q & A