Lebanon and the GDDS

Banque du Liban

March 25, 2003

Lebanon and the GDDS

Agenda

1. Progress in GDDS National Action Plan
2. Set-up of a Lebanon Statistics Portal
3. Statistical Capacity Building

I- GDDS National Action Plan

Current Status of Projects

I- GDDS National Action Plan (1)

Achieved GDDS Projects

- **Posting of the Lebanese Metadata on the IMF website**
- Development of a **GDDS web page** on the BDL website

GDDS National Action Plan (2)

Ongoing GDDS Projects

- Implementing the **projects identified in the IMF Action Plan**

- **Seeking funds and technical assistance** from various sources to implement our national action plan.

- World Bank mission (2-14 December 2002) for the **development of social, demographic and labor statistics** into the GDDS: completion of socio-demographic **Metadata**

GDDS National Action Plan (3)

Ongoing GDDS Projects

- **Assessment of Statistical Capacity** with the assistance of "Paris 21 Partners"
- Implementing the **LebStat Portal**
- **Statistics on the services sector**
- **Developing statistics on the *Payment System in Lebanon, and on the real sector (industry, transport).***
- **Strengthening the statistical legislation of 19791980**

II- Lebanon Statistics Portal "LebStat"

Partners & Benefits

LebStat Portal

Description of the project:

This project entails the set-up of a Lebanon Statistics Portal ("LebStat") within the GDDS for Lebanon.

- This web-based application will link the various Ministries, Central Administration of Statistics, related agencies and the Banque du Liban, leading to the creation of a national statistical database that would be available on-line, interactively.
- LebStat will disseminate regular and timely statistics to users in Lebanon and the international community.
- The data would include all relevant, publicly available data and information on public finances, real, external, monetary, banking, financial and socio-demographic sectors.
- LebStat does not replace individual proprietary websites of Ministries and Agencies.

LebStat Portal: 2

Benefits

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

Beneficiaries

The general public, the 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.

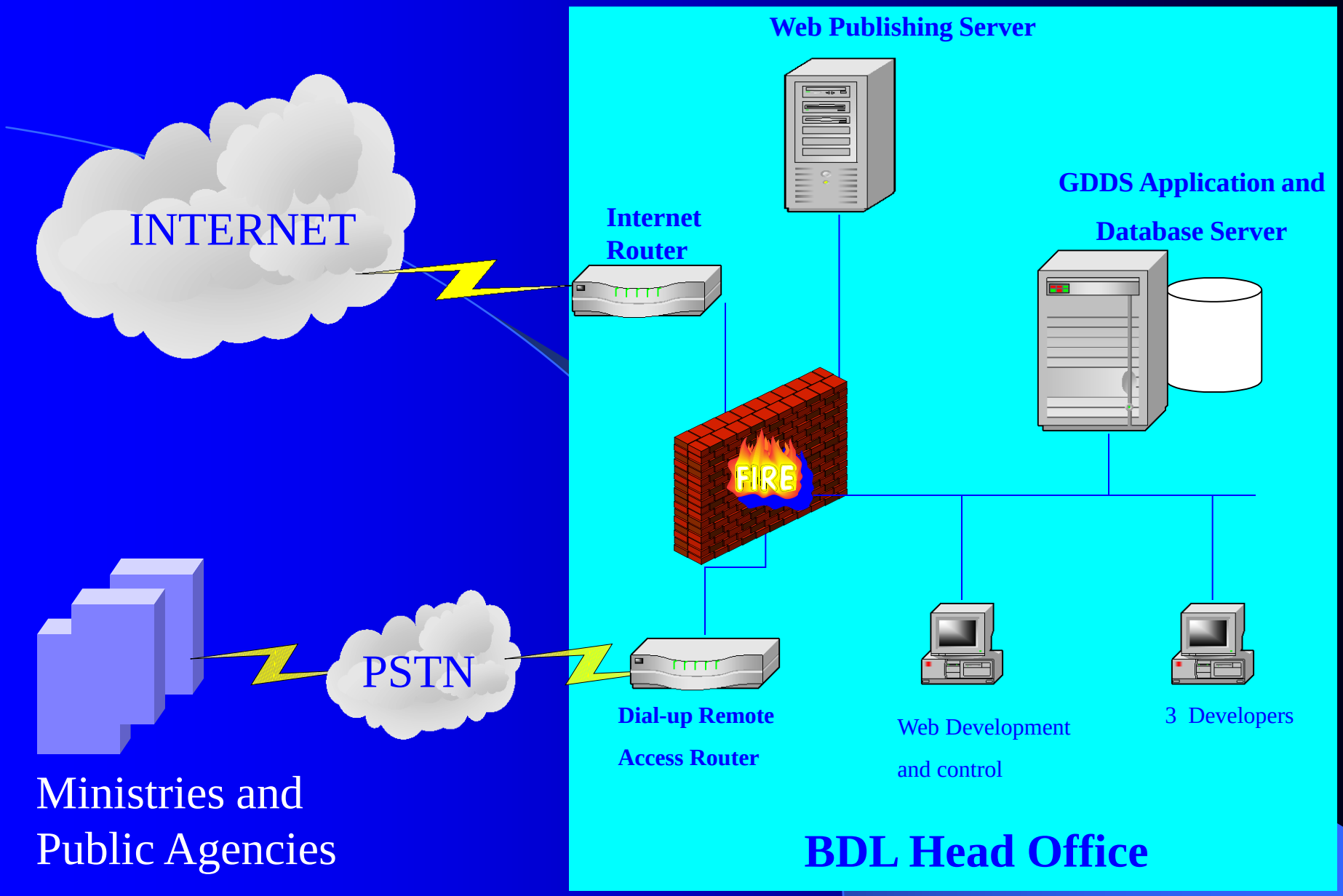
LebStat portal: 3

Responsible agency: **The Banque du Liban.**

List of agencies / ministries involved

Socio-demographic sector	Fiscal Sector	Financial & External Sector	Real & services Sectors
➔ Central Administration of Statistics	➔ Ministry of Finance	➔ Banque du Liban	➔ Central Administration of Statistics
➔Ministry of Social Affairs	➔ Higher Council of Customs	➔ Beirut Stock Exchange	➔Ministry of Economy
➔CRDP*		➔ Banking Control Commission	➔ Ministry of Industry
➔ Ministry of Public Health*		➔ Midclear*	➔ CDR*
➔Ministry of Interior*		➔ Association des Banques du Liban*	➔ Ministry of Culture
➔ Syndicat des Hopitaux*			➔CNSS (Social Security)*
➔ Ministry of Public Works*			➔Syndicat des Hoteliers*
➔ Ministry of Labor*			➔ Ministry of Tourism*
➔National Employment Office			➔ IDAL*
			➔Ministry of Transport
			➔Ministry of PTT*
			➔Minist. of Electricity*

**: to be integrated in a later stage*


Web Publishing Server
INTERNET
Internet
Router
GDDS Application and
Database Server
FIRE
PSTN
Dial-up Remote
Access Router
Web Development
and control
3 Developers
Ministries and
Public Agencies
BDL Head Office

LebStat Portal (4)

In this regard we have to define:

- **the parameters and specifications** of such a web-based application &
- **the periodicity and format of the data and information**.

Estimate the throughput, the volume of extant data for each agency disseminating data covered by the GDDS and the volume of data periodically transferred.

(For the new ministries & agencies involved in GDDS) Kindly fill the enclosed questionnaire.

III- Statistical Capacity Building

Questionnaire Content

Sustainable Statistical Capacity Objectives:

- In order to rebuild our national statistical capacity and prepare a medium term strategy, Statistical Capacity Building needs to take place.

- The application of the SCB indicators to data producing agencies help to assess the current statistical capacity to produce statistics.

- We are currently undertaking an ***assessment of statistical capacity*** within our Ministries and agencies, with the assistance of "Paris 21 Partners".

What are the SCB indicators?

- The SCB indicators measure the statistical conditions in a country.

- They are compiled using a standardized questionnaire which can be self-administered by data-producing agencies.

- The indicators can be used for:

1. **international comparative purposes** (level of data-producing agencies) –Annex I –
2. **national uses** (level customized to meet specific needs) –Annex II –.

SCB Indicators: Quantitative, Qualitative

- 16 quantitative indicators cover:
  1. resources (domestic & external budget, staff, and equipment),
  2. inputs (survey and administrative data sources),
  3. statistical products.

- 18 qualitative indicators focus on :
  1. institutional and organizational aspect,
  2. core statistical processes,
  3. statistical products.

System wide indicators

The indicators provide an overall view of the statistics of the country. The only information to be recorded is the type of statistics produced, the latest year to which they refer and the producing agency.

The UN classification of statistical themes was used to identify a list of statistics.

In Appendix I, the indicators are to be applied to three statistical outputs:GDP, population, and household income/expenditure.

- GDP provides an exhaustive measure of production (economic sector);
- the population are essential aspects of demography;
- the household income/expenditure is a basic measure for poverty (social sector)

Budget & Funding Indicators

- *Indicators provide assessment of the efforts required for self-financing.*

- *Access to regular funding is a major factor in providing some guarantees of continuity that is so vital to statistical operations.*

  Such continuity is assumed when statistics are viewed as public goods and are largely financed from the government budget.

Government funding: domestic budget and capital expenditure for statistical purposes.

If there is no specific budgets for the statistical activities - statistics are produced as part of other functions in ministries-: Calculate estimates of resources to take into account overall statistical activities (survey/administrative data design, data collection, editing, validation, processing, dissemination).

Budget & Funding Indicators: 2

The share of total resources that are externally financed would help to evaluate the dependency of the system. Continuity is not necessarily guaranteed when a significant proportion of financing comes from external sources.

Donor funding:

1. **Expenditure** during the reporting year and
2. **Technical Assistance expert working days** received by the country for statistical purposes from donor agencies and under partner agreements.
3. **Names of donor agencies**

Staff-related Indicators

While the employees constitute by far the largest cost, they represent the most valuable asset.

Statistical staff number refer to:

- **All staff in the data-producing agency involved in the production of statistics**, from collection through to dissemination (statisticians, economists, drivers, printing staff).
- **Include permanent and contract staff** recruited for longer periods.
- **Exclude temporary staff** in periods when large censuses or surveys are conducted.

Staff-related Indicators: 2

***Statistical staff turnover (%)*:** number of exits of statistical staff X 100 and divided by the number of statistical staff at the beginning of the year.

Exits include definite departures as well as leave absences of more than one year.

Statistical staff should be provided with facilities that enable them to perform their operations and that lead to productivity gains.

IT-related Indicators

Another measure of adequate facilities is the share of funding allocated to capital investment as important aspect of sustainability. A more representative picture of capacity would be provided by a physical inventory, such as:

ICT equipment:

1. *Main frame*;
2. *Internal network*;
3. Dissemination through *Internet*.
4. *PCs in use* for statistical work; exclude computers that are no longer in effective use.
5. Agency' website address.

Data-related indicators

Statistical outputs could be measured by timeliness, number of publications and press releases.

- *Data sources used*:

  Number of surveys and administrative data sources used during the year for statistical purposes; monthly survey counted as ONE, not 12.

- *Data releases*:

  Numbers of releases of statistical outputs of which publications CD-ROMs and websites releases. Monthly releases should each be counted as 12 releases.

Qualitative indicators

They cover:

1. Legal and institutional environment
2. Professional and cultural setting
3. Methodological expertise
4. Population to be covered and surveys
5. Skills & techniques to transform source data into statistical products
6. Assessment and validation of source data
7. Relevance of the statistics to social and economic concerns
8. Periodicity, timing, and consistency of the statistics
9. Methods used to ensure wide and relevant dissemination

Data related Indicators

(the majority of conditions specified in the level should be met)

Each indicator is evaluated against a four-scale assessment level:

- **Level 4** : Highly developed statistical activities
- **Level 3**: Moderately well-developed activities
- **Level 2**: Activities that are developing but still have many deficiencies
- **Level 1**: Activities that are underdeveloped

Ratings of 3 or 4 would not justify any external support.

Data related indicators

0.0 PREREQUISITES INDICATORS

0.1 Collection of Information & Confidentiality

Helps to show if the legal and institutional environment facilitates the production of statistics

Statistical law should **guarantee**:

- **Access** to public sector information.
- **Responsibility** to compile and disseminate information **free** from **political interference**.
- **Confidentiality** and non-disclosure of information supplied.
- There are **penalties for disclosure** of individual data & measures are enforced.

0.2 Effective coordination of Statistics

- Legal or formal coordination procedures of statistical work are implemented.
- Inexistence of data gaps & elimination of duplication of statistical effort.
- Statistical agencies use international concepts, classifications and methods and promote the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

0.3 Staff level and expertise adequacy

Shows if resources are sufficient & related conditions are adequate to promote productivity.

- **Number of staff is sufficient** to handle ongoing statistical activities.
- **Salary levels and work conditions** are adequate and competitive.
- Loss of skilled staff is manageable with no problem.
- Most staff is educated to the required levels and has adequate competencies.
- Important skills transfer has occurred as a result of technical assistance provided to the country.
- Freedom to directly recruit staff with the required educational background and skills.

0.4 Buildings, equipment and internet support adequacy

- Office buildings provide good physical security and fully protected computer facilities and procedures.
- The accommodation is adequate in space and is well serviced (lighting, power, heat, cooling, communications).
- Office furniture and equipment (computers, software, telephones,...) are adequate.

0.5 Planning, monitoring and evaluating measures implemented

- The MIS is used to monitor the performance of the agency in 7 areas: strategic planning, annual work programs, monitor budget exp. & revenues, projects performance in terms of cost and staff nb, cost of processing, staff participation in training & seminars, staff performance.

- Flexibility to redirect resources and to get access to budget funds.

- Periodical evaluation of statistical activity.

- Evaluation conducted by external agencies are well-integrated with the monitoring.

0.6 Organizational Focus on Quality

- Strong focus on quality.
- Quality reviews are conducted periodically, and innovation or suggestions are actively promoted.
- Strong focus on quality improvements, such as timeliness.
- Procedure manuals for collection, processing, and dissemination are kept up-to-date and are regularly used by staff.

Data related indicators

1.0 INTEGRITY INDICATORS

1.1. Independence of the statistical operations

Helps to show if the integrity and professionalism are protected and transparency measures are put in place.

- Professional independence is recognized as necessary for statistical operations.
- The techniques, content and timing of statistical releases are not subject to formal or informal approval by ministers or senior policy officials.

1.2. Culture of professional and ethical standards

Helps to show if the culture is amenable to quality work.

- There is effectively strong culture of professional practice.
- Absolute preservation of confidentiality. Professionalism promoted through staff training & users consulted.
- The professionalism of staff and integrity are supported by policies and written practices.
- The public is informed in advance about the terms and conditions of the statistical process.

Data related indicators

2.0 METHODOLOGICAL SOUNDNESS INDICATORS

2.1. International / Regional Standards

Helps to show if the concepts and methods used reflect good practice.

- **Internationally accepted concepts** are used and adjusted to national needs.
- The **scope of the statistical output** is consistent with standards.
- **International classifications and correspondence tables** are used to link macro aggregates with micro data and they are applied at a very detailed level of breakdown.
- **International statistical frameworks** are used.

Data related indicators

3.0 ACCURACY & RELIABILITY INDICATORS

3.1. Adequacy of source data

Helps to show if the source data available and techniques used are adequate for accurate and reliable statistics.

- The **source data** is of high quality and the entire target population is represented.
- **Survey design** capture all sections of the population & is regularly reviewed.
- The **business register** & population frame are of high quality.
- **Administrative sources** are close from those ideally required.

3.2 Response monitoring

Help to show if there is any process to monitor the quality of the collection & processing.

- **Response rates** to surveys and censuses are monitored, reported, and reviewed.
- There is an active process to use this information to promote **accuracy improvements**.
- **Statistically valid methods** are used for imputing and adjusting for non-response calculation and sampling errors.

3.3 Validation of administrative data

This helps to ensure that the source data is adequate in terms of coverage, sampling, response rate.

- **Easy access** to the administrative source & to additional data.
- Administrative data are **frequently used** for statistical purposes & accuracy is evaluated.
- **Changes** to the administrative systems are **identified** and **discussed in advance** by the staff.
- It is possible to **influence the planned changes**.

3.4 Validation of data sources and of intermediate and final outputs

Helps to show if measures are in place to maintain the relevancy of the products whether disseminated or used internally.

- **Effective** internal consistency checks are made for individual questionnaires.
- **Comparisons** are made with related datasets of earlier years and with data from other data sources.
- **Intermediate** data & statistical outputs are validated vs. other data.
- **Revision studies** are regularly conducted to assess data reliability

Data related indicators

4.0 SERVICEABILITY INDICATORS

4.1 User consultation

Helps to show if the characteristics of the statistics produced fit users' needs.

- Users and other experts from within and outside government are frequently consulted on data gaps, emerging needs, priorities and integrity.
- The consultation process influences decision-making.
- The data-producing agency is regarded by others as a professional, independent, & objective org.

4.2/4.3 Timeliness & periodicity of statistical output

- The statistical outputs are released well ahead of the time limits of the relevant GDDS recommendations & approach the SDDS.
- The frequency of the statistical outputs exceeds the relevant GDDS recommendations & approaches the SDDS.

Level 1: there is no regular program for release of the statistical output and the timing of future editions is uncertain.

Data related indicators

5.0 ACCESSIBILITY INDICATORS

5.1 Effectiveness of dissemination

This dimension deals with the availability of reliable, timely & comprehensive info. to users.

- Statistical outputs are released to all users and are produced in various media (publications, CD-ROM, diskettes, web sites, email, media releases, libraries).
- Statistical outputs are well designed and clear to follow, and charts and graphs are used.
- Interpretation of key data are provided in a detailed way.
- Seasonal and other analytical series are provided where appropriate.
- Revised data are clearly identified and explanations on revisions provided periodically.
- Advance release calendars are released.
- Products are released in accordance with advance release calendars.

5.2 Updated metadata

Helps to know whether users have access to clear metadata which enable them to understand the data properly.

- Information on concepts, definitions, classifications, methodology, data sources, accuracy, etc. is documented, available and freely accessible to users and kept up to date.
- Catalogs of data products are widely available and updated regularly.
- Data accuracy is made available at the time of release of the outputs

Results & Future Statistical Strategy

- The results from applying the SCB indicators can help countries in planning strategically toward sustainable statistical operations with the cooperation of both national authorities and external providers.

- By identifying the strengths and weaknesses, this assessment should facilitate planning of the activities required to reinforce the statistical operations.

- We would expect the questionnaires to be handed as soon as possible, **within 1 or 2 weeks**.

Results & Future Statistical Strategy: 2

- Apply for the Trust Fund for Statistical capacity building.
- This self-assessment would institutionalize a modern statistical system for generating adequate statistics that meet analytical and policy needs.
- SCB indicators promote a climate where the statistical information becomes an essential support for national policies and good governance.

Lebanon and the GDDS

… Thank you for your continued cooperation …