

Official Statistics in the Arab Region: Viable Arab framework to respond to common challenges

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Abstract

To examine possible challenges that face Arab official statistics, one would not be surprised that much of the challenges to certain extent resemble those that either had faced or currently applicable to the context of African, Asian or even American and European official statistics. Although the environment is different in many aspects, yet to learn from best and worst practices in each specific area of official statistics is perquisite to launch viable coordinated efforts in the Arab region to catch up with well developed NSOs worldwide. The initiative that was supported by PARIS21 to develop National Strategies for Official Statistics (NSDS) was an opportunity for collective Arab framework to amplify potential gains in the pursuance towards greater public trust, relevancy, competitiveness and attractiveness of Arab official statistics.

There are many challenges facing the improvement of Arab official statistics including managing statistical priorities, utilizing statistics by users and meeting their demands, educating users, influencing decision makers and emerging of new statistical areas.

This paper examines the potential development of Arab framework that focuses on trust, relevancy, attractiveness and competitiveness to better respond to major challenges supported by best practices in each area.

Key words: Official statistics, relevancy, attractiveness, competitiveness