

Project to support the monitoring of sustainable development objectives in Africa

NEWSLETTER N° 1

AUGUST 2018

Monitoring of the sustainable development goals in Africa



Context

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 objectives of sustainable development goals (SDG) by 2030 to address the environmental, social and economic challenges that all States of the world are facing. However, the measurement of the progress of countries in achieving these objectives requires an unprecedented number of statistical data: almost 232 indicators of follow-up have been retained by the United Nations at this date.

In order to meet this growing demand, national statistical systems must adapt and strengthen their capacities. In this context, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs decided to finance a project to support the follow-up of the SDG in Africa.

The SODDA project

The project to support the monitoring of sustainable development goals in Africa (SODDA) aims to meet the growing needs in terms of quality and availability of statistical data for the measurement of progress made under the SDG.

It is managed and coordinated by Expertise France, in partnership with AFRISTAT and INSEE, the project has for main objective to develop an integrated reflection on the indicators of monitoring of the SDG that the countries of francophone Africa can then develop internationally.

Its specific objectives are:

- To improve the quality of statistics and to promote good practices carried out by the statistical community of francophone Africa on the SDG;
- To accompany AFRISTAT in the pursuit of its efforts to strengthen its institutional capacity and its visibility in the region.

In order to be able to provide specific technical assistance and to generate concrete results, the SODDA project focuses on the follow-up of three SDG in particular:



SDG 2: eliminating hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture;



SDG 8: To promote sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all;



SDG 16: To promote the emergence of peaceful and inclusive societies for the purpose of sustainable development, to ensure the access of all to justice and to establish, at all levels, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

The main beneficiaries are AFRISTAT and African Schools of Statistics (ESA) - ENSAE (Dakar), ENSEA (Abidjan) and ISSEA (Yaoundé), IFORD (Yaoundé).



Project to support the monitoring of sustainable development objectives in Africa

NEWSLETTER N° 1

AUGUST 2018

Activities implemented



1st meeting of the Working Group on indicators of SDG monitoring, 5-6 January 2017, in Dakar, Senegal

In the framework of the project SODDA, Expertise France, with the support of INSEE and AFRISTAT, organised a first meeting of the Working Group on indicators for the monitoring of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), on 5 and 6 January 2018, in Dakar, Senegal. This working group is composed of AFRISTAT and representatives of National Statistical Institutes of AFRISTAT Member States (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Mali, Senegal, Chad, and Togo), ESAs and IFORD. The objective was to share good practices and to encourage the emergence of innovative actions to measure the progress made in sustainable development. The group benefited from valuable support of experts from INSEE, an active member of the United Nations Interinstitutional Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs indicators.



The working group will also ensure the follow-up and capitalisation of the activities planned under the SODDA project. It will also provide technical assistance to the countries for the follow-up of priority objectives with regard to AFRISTAT's national contexts and intervention areas.

Furthermore, the Dakar workshop allowed ESAs and IFORD to discuss different options for awareness raising on SDG issues among students. Indeed, improvement of training related to SDGs concerns all levels of education provided in the ASSs and IFORD. INSEE, through its experience from training on sustainable development (introduction of a sustainable development module in studies at ENSAE, ENSAI or Cefil), outlined at the workshop proposals on what could be a training on SDGs and expected benefits in ESAs and IFORD. During the workshop, the exchange between the participants made it possible to agree on the organization of an SDG awareness day in their respective institutions in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. A consensus on a generic framework for this awareness day including lectures and supervised practical work for the students has been reached. Technical assistance missions in the training centres should be organized at a later stage to formulate in a more specific way the education / awareness-raising mechanism to be put in place.



Steering Committee

The steering committee meeting that took place in Paris on June 28, 2017, was intended to present the project and define the role of the steering committee.

This committee is composed of a Chairman (a representative of the MEAE), a secretary (representative of Expertise France), a technical referent (representative of INSEE) and members (a representative of AFRISTAT, ENSAE, ENSEA, Iford, ISSEA, and the Member State presiding over the Management committee of AFRISTAT). Its role will be to validate the annual action plan proposed by Expertise France and to assess the state of execution of the activities of the past period.

This first meeting thus launched officially the project and validated its work program, budget and the schedule of activities.



Promote the processing of data on Governance, Peace and Security (GPS)

IRD-DIAL is actively involved in the development of statistics on Governance, Peace and Harmonized Security across Africa (GPS-SHaSA). This method consists of grafting specific modules on these topics into socio-economic household surveys. In order to help Ivorian statisticians to use the GPS data collected through this module, DIAL researchers organised a specific workshop from 9 to 13 October 2017 in their premises in Paris, France.

In cooperation with INSEE, this workshop aimed at training the participants in the development of a Policy Brief based on the processing of data collected using the GPS survey module. Thanks to the SODDA project, an AFRISTAT expert could also be involved in the training.

The training followed a two-stage approach, first with theoretical presentations on the GPS theme. In a second step, practical exercises were proposed to participants with GPS data from Côte d'Ivoire, resulting in the development of publications in the form of a Policy Brief.

A second GPS workshop was then held on the validation of methodological revisions of the GPS-SHaSA (Governance, Peace and Security - Strategies for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa) instruments. This workshop was held at ENSEA in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 27 and 28 November 2017. The GPS-SHaSA initiative aims to develop measurement tools, institutionalise data collection and to disseminate GPS statistics. This workshop was organised in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC), the Research Institute for Development (IRD) and INSEE.



Project to support the monitoring of sustainable development objectives in Africa

NEWSLETTER N° 1

AUGUST 2018

The workshop included technical discussions with a particular focus on the contribution of the GPS focal points within the NSIs who piloted the GPS-SHaSA methodology. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and validate the methodological revision of the instruments made during the pilot phases for collecting GPS data. AFRISTAT, via the SODDA project, also participated in the discussions. At the end of the workshop, the AUC proposed harmonised, consolidated, relevant and reliable instruments to the countries involved in the GPS statistics production process and to those interested in the project.



Improve the communication and visibility

The SODDA project aims in particular to increase the visibility of AFRISTAT and ESAs and to enhance their involvement in the monitoring of the SDGs at regional level.

To achieve this, a communication and visibility plan was elaborated by a communication expert mobilised through the project.

A first mission to Bamako, from 23 to 27 October 2017, made it possible to draw up an inventory of the current functioning of AFRISTAT in terms of communication and dissemination, and to take stock of its resources, needs and expectations in the perspective to enhance its visibility and capabilities.

Following this mission, it is planned that the SODDA project will support communication actions such as the redesign of the AFRISTAT website, the publication of a service offer, working documents and publications, the translation of media of communication in English or the use of new modes of communication such as social networks.



Upcoming activities



Data mapping

Upcoming, a workshop on data mapping for the SDGs will be organised as part of the SODDA project in early October, at the request of the members of the SDG working group. This workshop will be held over three days with the participation of the member states of the working group, AFRISTAT, ESA, IFORD, INSEE, Expertise France, PARIS 21 and CEA. The objective of the workshop will be to help countries to identify available indicators and eventually produce dissemination materials for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.



Food balance

Through this activity, the SODDA project aims to support the production of monitoring indicators related to SDG 2. Actions will complement the activities of AFRISTAT and FAO in developing food balance sheets in three pilot countries and disseminating good practices in Member States.

This support includes the recruitment of two national consultants to produce a national report of the national food balance analysis for the countries such as Guinea, Benin and Mali.



Redesigning the AFRISTAT website

This project is part of strengthening the visibility of AFRISTAT. It aims to redesign and improve the AFRISTAT website by complying with all relevant international standards in the field of ICT. To do so, the project intends to recruit a web design consultant.

Contacts:

Mme Beata SUSZTEROVA
Head of official statistics Unit
beata.suszterova@expertisefrance.fr

Mme Caroline GUIDEMANN
Project Manager
caroline.guidemann@expertisefrance.fr